



NATSILS

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER LEGAL SERVICES**

MEDIA RELEASE

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**NATSILS welcomes the announcement of a royal commission into the shocking treatment of youth
in detention in the Northern Territory**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services expresses shock at the horrifying images of mistreatment aired on the ABC Four Corners program at the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre last night. NATSILS welcomes the swift action to call a Royal Commission into the treatment of children in detention.

“It is shocking to see this sought of mistreatment of children in detention in 2016, 25 years after the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody” said Wayne Muir, Co-Chair of NATSILS.

“We welcome the announcement of a Royal Commission by the Prime Minister this morning. We await the release of the terms of reference and call on the Government to consult with our members in the Northern Territory, NAAJA and CAALAS, to ensure that the inquiry is broad enough to address the underlying culture in the justice system that so disproportionately affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Northern Territory and around the country”

“This issue is symptomatic of the need for a new approach to the criminal justice. It costs \$350,000 per year to keep a young person in detention in the Northern Territory, with the horrific images that were broadcast last night it is without question that this money should be reinvested into programs that rehabilitate children rather than expose them to abuse.”

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