



**NATSILS**  
National Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Legal Services  
*TRUE JUSTICE FOR OUR PEOPLE*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5 August 2021

### **NATSILS Media Release - NATSILS welcomes dedicated funding for Justice Policy Partnership in opportunity to see real change for our people**

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS) welcomes the announcement of new funding under the Closing the Gap Agreement announced today. While long overdue, the announcement of dedicated resources to commence the historic Justice Policy Partnership, that aims to address the ongoing overincarceration of our people and deaths in custody, is an opportunity for government to commit to real change for the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This year marked 30 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, yet disproportionate overincarceration pervades and our people continue to die in custody at alarming rates.

NATSILS has continually expressed to Governments the need for dedicated national justice targets and resourcing in order to address over incarceration and deaths in custody, and has for many years called for practical and necessary [policy and law reform solutions](#).

*“We remain hopeful that dedicated funding and resources required to influence systemic and structural changes will lead to real and long lasting change for our people. We have known for years that nationally coordinated justice policy reforms across Australian governments are urgently needed to reduce over-incarceration of our people. The solutions from countless inquiries and Royal Commissions are clear - now we need strong political commitments with sufficient public funding to match.” - Priscilla Atkins, NATSILS Chair*

NATSILS and our members welcome the announcement of \$9.3 million to provide additional coronial inquest support for families of those who have lost loved ones in custody. Coronial inquests serve the important function of identifying any systemic flaws or failures that contributed to deaths and as such are of significant importance to our people.

NATSILS stands with families and communities who have demanded answers and change, and acknowledges their ongoing advocacy and fight for justice and accountability.

## END OF RELEASE

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