



Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales

Ref:A2274312

27 NOV 2017

Ms Anne Hywood
General Secretary
Anglican Church of Australia
General Synod
Suite 4, Level 5
189 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Hywood,

Thank you for your correspondence received 3 October 2017 regarding the Anglican Church General Synod's concerns over rates of incarceration and youth suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Rest assured, the NSW Government shares the Church's concerns regarding these concerning statistics.

While we acknowledge there is more to be done, recent criminal justice reforms, including new sentencing options and revised parole and drivers' licence disqualification laws, will lower incarceration rates of Aboriginal people and are complemented by a \$236 million rehabilitation package.

With regard to youth suicide rates the NSW Government has a range of programs targeting Aboriginal youth suicide prevention, including funding for community-based suicide prevention programs for young Aboriginal people and funding for building capacity in the Aboriginal health workforce to respond to mental health issues.

On a national level, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) will consider issues affecting Aboriginal people when considering the new Closing the Gap agenda. I encourage you to raise your views through the public consultation process, which will be led by the Australian Government.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me about these important matters.

Yours faithfully,

Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier

CC: The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs