

OUCOMES OF CONSERNS FROM MER ISLAND JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Inquiry into Policing in Indigenous Communities:

Q.1) What is the relationship between the police and people in remote Indigenous communities?

- A. 1) Community members look up to local police members for guidance in public matters. State police are usually called in for major matters.
- A. 2) Relationships haven't changed from previous years due to lack of understanding by community members in regards to Roles and Responsibilities of the State Police.
- A.3) Relationships will not differ between communities because all communities may have similar needs.

Q.2) How are policing currently delivered in Indigenous communities?

- A. 1) Our community gets untimely visits from State Police when minor or major incidents occur. When an incident gets reported by the community police to the State Police in Thursday Island there is a delay in response from when the incident had occurred and reported.

Q.3) What changes should be made to improve the delivery of policing service to remote Indigenous communities?

- A. 1) Demand that state police visit on a regular basis, recruit state police to train local police on a long term basis with PLO's out in the community.

Q. 4) How can the community help police to deliver service to the community?

- A. 1) State police and local community police should work together with support in every aspect of policing, police work and duties.
- A. 2) Current situation – The community hardly expresses their rights of support to help police deliver service to the community. Reason being:
- Cultural effects
 - Family ties

Q. 5) What is the most cultural appropriate, timely and effective way to resolve complaints against police by Indigenous community members?

- A. 1) All complaints against police or other indigenous community members must go through the local community police.
- **Minor** – Local community police

- **Major** – When a community member reports an incident to the state police it must be reported at the same time to the local community police.

Q. 6) Does the current and planned level of surveillance and monitoring of people in detention provide a safe and accountable custody environment?

A. 1) Currently there is only one in a number of watch houses on Thursday Island in the Torres Straits.

- Surveillance Cameras
- Monitoring
- Well secured

Q. 7) What are the issues in regards to police detention in the Torres Strait Islands, given that there is only one watch house in the Torres Strait?

A. 1) All communities through out the Torres Strait should have their own watch houses in case serious incidents occur.

Q. 8) What can be done to keep people out of custody?

- Counseling programs
- Employment opportunities
- Training programs
- Workshops on a regular basis
- Activate Justice group
- Community meetings