BOURKE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY WORKING PARTY

Submission to the Senate Inquiry "The value of a justice reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia"

March 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party would like to thank the members of this Senate Inquiry for taking the time to read our submission. The Chairperson Mr Alistair Ferguson, is available for any further comments and points of clarification that you might require on the following email address

The Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party is a recognised community governance structure which government agencies and non-government service providers alike engage and work closely with the local Aboriginal community to address the systemic disadvantage of Australia's First People.

In October 2012, The Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party Chairperson approached Sydney based Just Reinvest Inc. to discuss its NSW based Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People Campaign (The Campaign). Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party had initiated this work by approaching Ms Sarah Hopkins, Chair of the Campaign's Strategy Committee. Since that time, Alistair, Sarah and other members of the Campaign have been working closely to develop a local Justice Reinvestment Implementation Plan for Bourke NSW. This Bourke Justice Reinvestment Implementation Plan forms the basis of our submission to this Senate Inquiry.

Please note that while The Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party is currently focusing its justice reinvestment planning on Aboriginal young people, we are committed to reducing the over-representation of all Aboriginal Australians in the criminal justice system. We feel the best way to address this over-representation is through adopting a Justice Reinvestment Policy. The Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party is eager to develop a local Justice Reinvestment strategy, which will provide both the NSW and Federal Governments with a compelling case as to how and why Justice Reinvestment works.

Yours in Unity,

Alistair Ferguson
Chairperson
The Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party