

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS — CUSTODIAL NOTIFICATIONS SERVICE

185. Hon Alison Xamon to the Leader of the House representing the Attorney General:

I refer to the success of the New South Wales Custodial Notifications Service (CNS) in dramatically reducing Aboriginal deaths in custody in that State, and I ask:

- (a) will the Government fund and implement a CNS to ensure Aboriginal people who are taken into custody have immediate access to appropriate legal assistance;
- (b) if yes to (a), when; and
- (c) if no to (a), why not?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

(a)–(c) The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Ben Wyatt, and I have written to Senator Scullion and the Commonwealth regarding the offer of funding made last year and have received a positive response.

The Government and Department of Justice are actively working on the details of such a service, including scaling up the costs and identifying a suitable operator.