



CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Conference delegates note:

1. concern for the health and well-being of persons deprived of their liberty and detained in police cells, institutions of juvenile justice, immigration detention facilities and prisons
2. evidence of a strong commitment to improving standards within prisons around Australia
3. evidence of barriers imposed by sub-standard facilities, inadequate resources and lack of capacity to respond to identified needs
4. inconsistencies in commitment to improving standards across the nine jurisdictions in Australia
5. the lack of joint Commonwealth and State cooperation to ensure national standards for the protection of people held in custody
6. examples of best practice that are not yet applied throughout Australian prisons
7. the high correlation of alcohol, drugs and crime and the effectiveness of harm minimisation
8. the negative health impact of incarceration on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, vulnerable groups, family members and on the general community
9. the continued over-representation of Indigenous peoples in custody and the need for Indigenous models of care
10. the epidemic communicable diseases prevalence and incidence in prisons and the associated risk to the general community is a matter of national public health concern
11. the negative implications of an expansion of commercial confidentiality in the area of access to prison health documentation.

Conference delegates recommend a national approach is required to determine and implement minimum standards and best practice guidelines.

The objectives of a national approach will include:

12. prison health care that is individualised, confidential, available as of right and culturally appropriate for each individual
13. incarceration as a last resort
14. innovation in development and implementation of sentencing options.

Delegates recommend the following proposal for action to meet the stated objectives.

AGENDA FOR ACTION

15. The Commonwealth Government assumes a leadership role in establishing minimum national standards to support the health and well-being of people deprived of their liberty.
16. An independent national standards and monitoring Authority be established.
17. The National Authority will promote and oversee the implementation in full of the *Standard Guidelines for Corrections in Australia*.
18. The National Authority will promote the implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the 1997 Ministerial Summit into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody as a matter of urgency.