4 January 2017

ALRC Incarceration Inquiry  
Legal Assistance Branch  
Attorney-General Department  
3-5 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600  
Email: ALRCIncarcerationInquiry@ag.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the draft Terms of Reference in this matter published on 6 December 2016.

It is this Council’s submission that the Terms of Reference should be extended to deal with the following:-

• The adequacy of funding and resources generally available to solicitors and other lawyers who work within ATSI Legal Services to properly represent their clients; and

• The adequacy of interpreters available to lawyers representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly in remote areas especially in North Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

I worked at the Aboriginal Legal Service in Brisbane from 1976 to 1980 and I have maintained an interest in that service since that time.

I am aware from my constant contact with lawyers working with the Aboriginal Legal Service both in Brisbane and in other places of Australia, including discussions with them at criminal law conferences, that the resources available to those lawyers to properly represent their clients are of a significant inadequate standard.
I request that these issues be included in the ALRC Terms of Reference.

Yours faithfully

QUEENSLAND COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES

TERRY O’GORMAN
VICE-PRESIDENT