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13 January 2017

ALRC Incarceration Inquiry  
Legal Assistance Branch, Attorney-General's Department  
3-5 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600

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ABN 42 335 622 126

Sent via email: [ALRCIncarcerationInquiry@ag.gov.au](mailto:ALRCIncarcerationInquiry@ag.gov.au)

**Confidential and Without Prejudice**

Dear Sir/Madam

**ALRC inquiry into the incarceration rate of Indigenous Australians—Support for VALS submission**

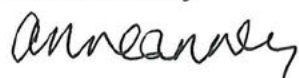
Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) would like to take this opportunity to support the submission on the draft terms of reference to this inquiry made by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS). We also note our support for the submission by National Legal Aid, of which VLA is a member.

With regard to the VALS submission, VLA endorses in particular the need to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and community are given a voice to contribute to this inquiry, including through the shaping of its TOR. To this end, we support the VALS view that this inquiry should not be limited to legal issues, but needs to wholly consider the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people coming into contact with the legal system.

We encourage the ALRC to strongly take into account the experience and expertise of VALS (and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services individually, and collectively) in their provision of holistic legal assistance services which fully appreciate the context of intergenerational trauma through colonisation and racism.

We will be working with VALS to submit to the inquiry. We encourage the ALRC to support VALS and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations to make submissions in ways that capture the expertise, experience and voice of community.

Yours faithfully



**ANNIE TINNEY**

Chief of Staff

Office of the Managing Director

Copy to: Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service