
Justice

Part B: Justice preface (JP)

The information available on interaction of Indigenous people with specific parts of the criminal justice system is of varying quality. The most important reason for the poor quality of Indigenous data is the reluctance of some justice agencies to explicitly ask for a person's Indigenous status. A number of agencies, however, have recently moved to rectify this situation.

For instance, the Queensland Government will be collecting statistics on the level of Indigenous representation in the criminal justice system, based on ABS questions from July 2003. Western Australia is also intending to introduce questioning on Indigenous status (based on the ABS standard question) over the next year, and NSW will continue to collect this type of information. This is consistent with the ABS' preferred method of identifying Indigenous clients via a standard set of questions that endeavour to facilitate self identification.

Another source of Indigenous data is the Australian Institute of Criminology, which produces a number of statistical and analytical reports on the involvement of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system, particularly in relation to deaths in police and corrective services custody.