



ALS

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited

CUSTODY NOTIFICATION SERVICE

- Legal advice for Aboriginal people in police custody -

ALS IS CONCERNED that Aboriginal peoples' fundamental rights are respected when they are taken into custody.

The Custody Notification Service, or CNS, is an open phone line staffed by ALS lawyers 24 hours per day, every day of the year.

By law, Police must contact the ALS whenever they have taken an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person into custody.

The ALS lawyer will provide the Aboriginal man, woman or juvenile in custody with legal advice and check that they are OK.

Set up in 2000 in response to NSW legislation implementing recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the CNS operates in NSW and ACT taking around 300 calls every week from police stations in NSW and ACT. That's more than 15,600 calls a year.

CNS helps Aboriginal people exercise their legal rights.

CNS: who you gonna call? is a short and exciting drama on the operations of the CNS. It describes what happens when an Aboriginal person is taken into custody, their rights while in custody, and how Police in NSW, by law, must contact the ALS.

The short film was made to promote awareness and understanding of the CNS. Feedback to date has been very positive. Since its premiere in June 2010 it has been shown to children, young people and adults. Each target group has described how they learnt something new through watching the drama.

The drama was filmed on location in Redfern NSW and was made possible through staff and actors giving their time. We are also grateful for financial assistance from Legal Aid NSW through the Cooperative Legal Service Delivery (CLSD) Program.

We encourage you to share this DVD to raise awareness of the CNS and an Aboriginal person's rights when taken into custody.

There are two versions of the film – a short version (2 minutes) and a longer version (9 minutes). The DVD also has captions available for the hearing impaired.

If you would like further information about the CNS or would simply like to provide feedback on the film, please contact our Community and Media Relations Officer on 02 8303 6699 or info@alsnswact.org.au.

