

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre says Tasmania “must act immediately on the findings of the Royal Commission into Youth Detention in the Northern Territory because many of its recommendations are the same as those made in 1990 by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody”.

Heather Sculthorpe, CEO of the TAC, said the Premier has put rights issues onto the back burner: “Premier Hodgman should close Ashley Youth Detention Centre, fund proper youth diversion programs including early intervention programs to avoid the expulsion of children from schools and overcome youth illiteracy, and investigate the treatment of Aboriginal prisoners where cultural rights are being denied routinely. The underlying findings of the NT Royal Commission are the same as the findings made by the earlier Royal Commission nearly 30 years ago. It is a disgrace that prisoners rights are still being ignored and Aboriginal children are still being locked up, largely because of the absence of properly funded early interventions”.

“We would hope for an early response from the Premier, but his track record does not give us cause for hope”, Ms Sculthorpe said.

Heather Sculthorpe
CEO
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre