

Weekend Australian, July 25-26, 2020, p. 7.

“Teen could not cope in adult jail.”

The 19-year-old son of Connie Moses-Penny died in custody on 11th July, 2020. The teenager’s big sister, Jacinta Miller, had begged for someone at Serco’s Acacia Prison to help her brother. She said that when she visited her brother he had visible marks on his body that showed he was hurting himself.

Jacinta told SBS News, “Serco were aware he wasn’t coping because you could see it, the physical signs were there.” However, The Weekend Australian writes that her brother was left unsupervised by Serco in the hours before his death.

Paige Taylor reports that on average there were 108 Indigenous kids in prison in WA every day compared to a daily average of 41 non-Indigenous girls and boys. Also, 13 per cent of the Indigenous adult population in WA jails had spent time in youth detention.

Connie Moses-Penny said her son was busy and making progress when in the hands of juvenile case workers. In juvenile detention in November 2019, her son had been presented with a certificate congratulating him for his good work. But months later, after he turned 19, he fronted an adult court for the first time. And in May, 2020, he was sentenced to an adult jail.

In WA the recidivism rate amongst juveniles was 53 per cent last year.

And remember, many, if not most, Indigenous juveniles in detention should not be incarcerated at all.

Note: Stanley’s funeral will be held at Fremantle cemetery on August 13, 2020 at 1pm.

Comment: The trial of Graham X was delayed for more than three years, by which time the 15-year-old boy was 18-years-and -8-months of age. After the guilty verdict in November 2006, Graham X spent 4 months in the remand section of the notorious Berrimah prison, during which time his daughter was born. On 22nd March, 2007, only two days before his 19th birthday on 24th March, Graham X was sentenced by Chief Justice Brian Martin to seven years incarceration among violent psychopaths in Berrimah prison. The fact that he served much of the full seven years in punishment cells for maintaining his innocence is a testimony to his courage. Not surprisingly, after his release Graham X remains deeply scarred by his experiences.

Teen could not cope in adult jail

PAIGE TAYLOR
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS
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Stanley Inman was proud when he completed a series of tasks and counselling under the supervision of a juvenile justice worker.

The Indigenous teen had been in trouble but he had earned a clean slate.

To mark the occasion Stanley received an oversized laminated certificate, dated November 11 2019, with “Congratulations” in large type at the top. In the days since Stanley took his own life in a prison storeroom, his mother Connie Moses-Penny has had reason to read and re-read the certificate and wonder what might have been.

“That was a great day when he got this,” Ms Moses-Penny told The Weekend Australian.

“He was smiling.”

But within months Stanley was in an adult court for the first time. He pleaded guilty to burglary offences committed in February, when he was no longer a juvenile, and on May 1 he was sentenced to adult jail.

He died in custody on July 11 as amendments were finalised for the Closing the Gap national agreement to reduce Indigenous incarceration rates by at least 30 per cent for juveniles and by at least 15 per cent for adults by 2031.

Western Australia has an especially parlous record: more than 4 per cent of the Indigenous adult population in WA is in jail, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures this year.

Last year there was a 6 per cent decrease in the number of Aboriginal boys and girls in WA’s only juvenile detention centre but on average there were 108 Indigen-



Teenager Stanley Inman died in an adult prison

ous kids in prison in WA every day compared to a daily average of 41 non-Indigenous kids.

And while the proportion of young people who reoffended fell by 6 per cent, recidivism among juveniles in WA was still 53 per cent last year. The path to adult jail from juvenile detention is well worn. Of the current population of adult prisoners in WA, 12.6 per cent have spent time in youth detention.

Stanley’s mum said he was busy and productive when in the hands of juvenile case workers but he was not coping in adult jail. His big sister Jacinta Miller tells how she phoned the privately-run Acacia Prison twice in the days before he died by suicide pleading for someone to help him.

Wearing the telltale marks of self harm, Ms Miller said Stanley was apparently left unsupervised in the hours before his death.

“When they finally have the inquest in two years or something we are going to see CCTV of him walking into a storeroom and not coming out,” Ms Miller said.

“How does that happen when they knew he was a suicide risk?”
INQUIRER P14