



Safe Custody

*Working together to ensure safe custody
and create safer communities.*



www.atsils.org.au



Whenever an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander adult or child is in custody, it is critical that police make every effort to **contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (QLD) Ltd (ATSILS)** and ensure the person detained is able to speak with an ATSILS Lawyer or Court Support Officer about their situation.



FREE CALL 1800 012 255

ATSILS legal staff can be contacted 24/7 on this state-wide free call number (24hrs, 7 days).

Working Together

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd - (ATSILS) enjoy a good working relationship and are committed to creating safer custody outcomes for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people throughout Queensland. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by both the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Executive Officer of ATSILS underpins the working relationship.

Ensuring Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients have timely access to ATSILS culturally responsive legal services when detained is fundamental to the MoU and in line with recommendations 223 and 224 in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report. The MoU also requires members of the Queensland Police Service to familiarise themselves with their obligations under legislation, such as the *Police Powers and Responsibility Act 2000* (PPRA), the Service policy, such as the Operational Procedures Manual (OPMS) in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and in particular the role of ATSILS. *Key obligations and operational procedures can be found by visiting the ATSILS fact sheet page at: [ATSILS Fact Sheets](#)*

About ATSILS

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) (ATSILS), leads in the delivery of innovative, professional and culturally competent legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and their families throughout Queensland. ATSILS is a non-profit, community-based organisation contracted by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department (AGD) to provide these highly specialised services across criminal, civil and family law jurisdictions.

ATSILS have a role to assist in:

- Juvenile Cautioning and Conferencing Referrals
- Police Interviews
- Alcohol and Drug Diversion
- Murri Court
- Difficult Clients

Protecting Legal Rights: A person held in Police custody has the Right to:

- Obtain legal advice – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (QLD) Ltd
- Medical Attention
- Meals and Refreshments
- Have a support person present during questioning or when given records of interview
- Consult with a guardian, relative, friend or independent person