

Webinar Chat Log: Black Witness with Amy McQuire

00:15:45 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): Welcome all - Hayden from the Australia Institute here! Thanks for joining us today.

00:16:48 fred engels: Greetings from Mandjoogoordap - Noongar name meaning 'meeting place of the heart'. Also known as Mandurah WA from the word 'mandjar', meaning 'trading place

00:19:34 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): Use the Q&A function to submit questions for Amy to answer, you can also upvote other's questions you'd like answered.

00:20:12 John Hanley: nguununubbu Marumba from Chapala-Yugarapul lands of Brisbane

00:24:24 Claire Grealy: Glad to be listening, on Dja Dja Wurrung country, Central Victoria

00:30:37 Jane Lewis: Also honoured to be hearing these systemic issues raised - from the lands of Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin nation in Melbourne

00:30:52 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): A little reminder, the chat has options for 'all panellists' or 'all panellists and attendees'. Choose the latter option to send your contributions to everyone.

00:34:21 Cathryn Murdoch: Police investigating police cant continue - and yes they accident we say murder thank you for this opportunity today

00:35:40 Klaus Kaulfuss: I believe there've now been 440 plus Aboriginal deaths in custody since the Royal Commission handed down its recs three decades ago! Remembering ALL victims but especially at this time 17 years after 17 y.o. TJ Hickey's killing in custody and the corrupt investigation and farcical coronial process which followed. #NoJusticeNoPeace

00:39:10 Owen Allen: Thanks Amy, Knowing the Wotton family of palm island I was very angry about that whole incidence. Meanwhile there is a chronic challenge in Cape York and towns like Mareeba around a small number of indigenous families who show up as dysfunctional, criminal and 'the face of' indigenous life. Here is a recent rally report. Meanwhile governments seem more interested in how to divest people of land than instituting adequate comprehensive support of families, education etc to interrupt the inter-generational dysfunction. <https://www.theexpressnewspaper.com.au/latest-news/sick-and-tired-of-crime>

00:40:42 Owen Allen: I'm in Nadjon-Ji Country, Atherton Tablelands, Qld.

00:40:54 Bonnie Chew: As an Aboriginal woman I have always been troubled by the 'system'. I'm trying to do my bit by being an Indigenous Independent Prison Visitor. It is certainly not the solution as we shouldn't have to have our men and women in the prison system! If you're interested in being a volunteer in Victoria, we need more mob giving voice to those who don't have one. <https://www.corrections.vic.gov.au/volunteering/independent-prison-visitor-scheme>

00:41:23 Claudia Craig: Wonderful to hear such a passionate and inspiring speaker as Amy McQuire persisting with the necessary questions of injustice in this country. Thank you Amy!

00:43:25 Owen Allen: Yes, I would like to see the prison system be largely replaced by something else. My preference is towards a recompensable justice system. Also I support this initiative. <https://www.justicereforminitiative.org.au/>

00:44:03 Barbara Flowers: A fantastic webinar thanks Amy. You're a terrific advocate. Looking forward to reading your book.

00:44:55 Ahmad Masri: that sound so familiar to me...

00:45:09 Cathryn Murdoch: Thank you Amy CNS, racial profiling, lack of duty of care in completing welfare checks whilst in custody and systemic racism are all important factors.

00:45:38 Klaus Kaulfuss: The Police are the elephant in the room.

00:46:05 Susan Doyle: Thank you Ebony and Amy for this discussion of an unacceptable and unforgivable treatment of Aboriginal people in their country. This is just so wrong, it has to stop. 🖤💛❤️ Susan, living on Gumbaynggirr

00:46:32 Ahmad Masri: last night, I had a police sergeant screaming at me on the phone, trying to intimidate me and put words in my mouth. I'm speechless...

00:46:33 melina smith: It's run by predominantly Anglo-Australians at an executive level Ebony!

00:46:33 Barbara Flowers: 1991 was so soon after the Fitzgerald Inquiry and yet police behaviour still seemed in a 19th century colonial mentality.

00:47:35 Sean Burke: In 1987, Narooma High School was burned down and 3 young men from Wallaga Lake Koori Village were illegally arrested, verballed with threats to their families into signing statements and convicted. They were innocent and spent time in gaol. Following release, one of them had his conviction quashed but none of the police had any repercussions.

00:48:03 Klaus Kaulfuss: Until Police/Jailers are held accountable - charged and found guilty

00:48:48 Joanne Law: Great point to raise about the importance of stories of strength and resistance and providing a more balanced story. Not hiding the terrible things but not allowing the story to be just about the problems. It is great to hear from so many more aboriginal leaders these days.

00:49:01 Klaus Kaulfuss: of their crime and jailed NOTHING will change

00:49:24 Owen Allen: Ahmad, leaves me speechless and upset to read that. Have my silence be your support.

00:50:16 Barbara Flowers: Do you have connection with the Innocence Project at Griffith Uni?

00:50:24 Zainab Clark: Listening to from Melukerdee land Palawa nation of lunawittra/Tasmania. Thank you so much Amy and Ebony... for bringing this into an online forum and calling out the reality of this tragic reality that affects so many lives. Applaud your passion and perseverance to fight for Kevin and all Aboriginal people who face injustice on a daily basis. Things HAVE TO CHANGE... especially with police attitudes and re-investment in cultural programs for young offenders, instead of incarceration. Keep up the great work!

00:50:43 Bianca Hunter: The apathy of many Australians in the face of what can only be described as genocide is really appalling. Thank you Amy for amplifying the voices of First Nations people, and those who are the victims of injustice.

00:51:16 Klaus Kaulfuss: Derek Bromley has had his parole refused because he refuses to accede to the system's requirement ...that he states he is guilty when he is actually innocent. Shame on this system.

00:51:19 Barbara Flowers: Will we be able to read the chat stream later? I want to listen to Amy and read the chat as well... too messy....

00:51:50 Robert Moles: Thank you Amy information about Derek Bromley is available at <http://netk.net.au/BromleyHome.asp> - he has been prison for over 37 years, and is over 13 years past his non-parole period - he cannot be granted parole, he is told, because he does not show remorse. See how people like Bromley are said to be the cause of their own difficulties - despite the fact that there is overwhelming evidence to show he is not guilty!

00:51:50 Sean Burke: <https://wealli.com.au/product/trauma-trails/>

00:52:33 Barbara Flowers: I tried cutting and pasting... that doesn't work either. Sorry to miss so much good stuff in the chat dialogue....

00:53:16 Joanne Law: Is a lot of the problem because one of the major perpetrators of violence against aboriginal was and continues to be the Australian / State Governments? If so how can we help to change these institutions created by governments?

00:53:18 ANNETTE SIMPSON: Agree with Barbara Flowers, too hard to follow the chat and focus on the speakers.

00:54:17 Klaus Kaulfuss: police investigating police is definitely a practice which needs to cease. police media also plays a major role in influencing public opinion when it comes to incidents involving First Nations People including deaths in custody

00:55:25 Emily Ings: Yeah look at the awesome work Tangentyere WOMen's Safety group are doing, and the beautiful job they did in inviting Kerry Anne to listen and learn.

00:55:46 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): Seems to be a broad interest in having the chat publicly available afterwards...I can look into this if there is a wide interest?

00:55:54 Cathryn Murdoch: Agree Klaus and then we step past the media and the police investigating police into the cover up, lies, evidence that goes missing or is not examined and more

00:56:36 David Alexander: Yes, the ability to read the chat later would be excellent.

00:56:41 John Hanley: we have different quota systems within the government system, what is the quota for the % of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island People at say the 3rd or 4th top tier within the Qld Police?

00:58:42 Klaus Kaulfuss: Definitely agree that it would be good to have the chat publicly available along with this fantastic webinar later.

00:58:47 Bibiana Chan: My organisation hosts monthly Flower Pop-up Stall in Willoughby, Sydney. We handed out stickers with 'Black Lives Matters' and 'Live in Harmony' around our circle logo to little kids. We need to plant the seeds in the heart of children - 'Black Lives Matters'!

00:59:48 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): For further reading - here is Amy's excellent Saturday Paper piece

<https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/law-crime/2020/06/06/there-cannot-be-432-victims-and-no-perpetrators/15913656009926>

01:00:14 Barbara Flowers: Court proceedings and the justice system are ossified and not appropriate for so many situations, especially in relation to sexual violence against women, and the treatment of indigenous people. e.g. aboriginal women were made available for free sex on many remote grazing properties in the 19th century, yet there was never a rape charge in any of those situations.

01:00:43 Fred Sim: What Amy spoke about with media definitely has a close parallel to what is happening in America with black lives.

This episode of Scene On Radio is a great listen into media "objectivity" from the American perspective:

<https://www.sceneonradio.org/s4-e11-more-truth/>

01:01:11 Klaus Kaulfuss: if just one of the recommendations of the RC had been fully implemented and abided by ...that arrest be the LAST resort ...maybe many lives would not have been lost

01:02:08 Owen Allen: Leadership is everything. without champions until the culture has transformed, reforms will continue to be dropped by cultural prejudice.

01:02:10 Fred Sim: Where we shine the light on and importantly, how we shine the light. Who has a platform and who we give our time and attention to

01:02:55 April CS: IndigenousX

01:02:58 Klaus Kaulfuss: Allan Clarke's podcasts are excellent

01:03:31 Cathryn Murdoch: The Indigenous Social Justice Association in Melb & Syd campaign to stop deaths in custody, for justice and to support families and communities everyone's participation is welcomed.

01:04:47 Sean Burke: Here's Amy's fundraiser for Kevin:
<https://au.gofundme.com/f/help-wrongfully-convicted-aboriginal-man-move-on>

01:05:29 David Adams: thanks for your effort Amy

01:07:06 Klaus Kaulfuss: @ISJAMelb for Twitter

01:07:40 Wayne Riley: I have been working on concept I call the ARCC. An Aboriginal Restorative community Co-Operative where Aboriginal people take control of their destinies haven g all the services accommodation and learning all in one place, within each town or mob. I need to find some influential people to take an interest in this concept. I do believe it has considerable life changing concepts to assist in restoring the Aboriginal Community into the future.

01:09:14 Joanne Law: So sad and disrespectful the way the statement from the heart was reacted to. Shameful

01:09:22 Anthea Balfour: educating on white supremacy power structures is one of the keys to really defining what is going on. i feel like what we see now are symptoms &

consequences of the bigger issues that befall colonial systems that are yet to be properly addressed.

01:09:22 C.Moore Hardy Hardy: Not so much a questions, this is to say a THANK YOU SO MUCH for your voice and work... We all need this Treaty to happen and I hope we get it soon.

01:09:35 Bibiana Chan: Hi Wayne, I think this is a great concept, it is the anthropological way - return 'the power' to the people.

01:09:43 Anthea Balfour: thank you so much Amy & Ebony

01:09:47 ANNETTE SIMPSON: Thank you Amy for all your efforts.

01:09:55 Sean Burke: <https://au.gofundme.com/f/help-wrongfully-convicted-aboriginal-man-move-on>

01:10:01 Alex Kelly: <https://au.gofundme.com/f/help-wrongfully-convicted-aboriginal-man-move-on>

01:10:23 Jane Lewis: Amy for PM!!!

01:10:25 Cathryn Murdoch: Amy you are amazing - I will do all I can to support and we will buying your book and contributing to the go fund me In Solidarity Cathryn

01:10:25 Virginia Mansel Lees: Thanks you Amy for a wonderful presentation - nothing will change until police and custodial staff start being charged and jailed as any other person is

01:10:33 Alex Kelly: Also consider supporting NIYEC: <https://chuffed.org/project/learnourtruth> Support the campaign to #LearnOurTruth in School

01:10:40 David Alexander: Thank you Amy, clear and well spoken. Excellent to listen to and great info and things to think about.

01:10:43 Robynne Burchell: Thank you very much for hosting this important discussion Ebony, and thank you Amy for your tireless work

01:10:45 Owen Allen: Robbed of potential - a lot of that going around.

01:11:00 Sean Burke: Thank you so much Amy, a wonderful webinar,

01:11:01 April CS: sounds great

01:11:04 Lynette Saville: Thank you for all youhave done and I am sorry

01:11:07 Hayden Starr (Australia Institute): Thanks to all for joining us today! I'll look into adding a transcript of the chat to the webinar recording when it is uploaded to youtube.

01:11:09 Rachana Gupta: Thank you for a great discussion

01:11:18 Barbara Flowers: Great convo. thanks heaps.

01:11:29 Helen McWaters: Thank you - great discussion

01:11:32 Maggie Cowling: Congratulations Amy, and thanks for a great session

01:11:36 Alex Kelly: Maximum respect - such a powerhouse. Thank you Amy.

01:11:47 Ahmad Masri: thank you