**Australian Shadow Report Delegation Opening Statement**

**Justen Thomas**

My name is Justen and I am an aboriginal man with an intellectual disability. I am talking on behalf of my indigenous brothers and sisters with disability who are more likely to get imprisoned than anyone else in Australia

I have been kept in prison before over false allegations. I waited to find out what would happen to me for 12 months.

While I was waiting it was very traumatic for me. The services in prison are not good. A lot of the staff are not trained to deal with people with disability. Then people with disability do not get the help they need. It is very unsafe for them.

My time in prison still affects me today. My record stops me from getting a job and travelling to places. it feels like I am living a life sentence.

Australia needs to change the way the justice system works so that Indigenous people with disability get a chance to live a better life.