

Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Progress Report

October 2014

© Commonwealth of Australia 2014

ISBN 978-1-76010-102-2

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia License.



The details of this licence are available on the Creative Commons website: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/au/

Printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra.

Committee membership

Committee members

Mr Ken Wyatt AM MP, Chair Senator Nova Peris OAM, Deputy Chair The Hon Shayne Neumann MP The Hon Christian Porter MP Mr Stephen Jones MP Senator Bridget McKenzie Senator James McGrath Senator Rachel Siewert Western Australia, LP Northern Territory, ALP Queensland, ALP Western Australia, LP New South Wales, ALP Victoria, NATS Queensland, LP Western Australia, AG

Committee secretariat

Ms Toni Matulick, Secretary Dr Jon Bell, Principal Research Officer Ms Erin Pynor, Senior Research Officer Ms Kimberley Balaga, Administrative Officer Mr Cale Woods, Administrative Officer

Committee address

PO Box 6100 Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Phone: 02 6277 3544 Fax: 02 6277 5719

Email: jscatsi@aph.gov.au

Internet: http://www.aph.gov.au/jscatsi

Duties of the committee

- (1) On 2 December 2013, the Parliament agreed that a Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples be appointed to inquire into and report on steps that can be taken to progress towards a successful referendum on Indigenous constitutional recognition, and in conducting the inquiry, the committee:
 - (a) work to build a secure strong multi-partisan parliamentary consensus around the timing, specific content and wording of referendum proposals for Indigenous constitutional recognition; and
 - (b) consider:
 - (i) the creation of an advisory group whose membership includes representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to assist the work of the committee;
 - (ii) the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians; and
 - (iii) mechanisms to build further engagement and support for the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across all sectors of the community, and taking into account and complementing the existing work being undertaken by Recognise; and
- (2) the committee present to Parliament an interim report on or before 30 September 2014 and its final report on or before 30 June 2015.

Table of contents

Committee membershipiii						
Duties of the committee	V					
List of recommendations	ix					
Chapter 1	1					
Achieving constitutional recognition	1					
Disqualification from voting (section 25)	2					
Recognition of languages	3					
Power to make laws with respect to people of any race (section 51(xxvi)))4					
Power to make laws with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islande						
Timing	11					
Appendix 1	13					
Background	13					
Role of the committee	13					
Activities in the 44 th Parliament	14					
Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians	14					
Activities in the 43 rd Parliament	14					
Appendix 2	15					
Recommendations of the Expert Panel	15					
Appendix 3	17					
Public hearings and participants	17					
Appendix 4	23					
Private briefings and participants	23					