

Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the statements made about the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc. by one Leslie Dick. I will confine my remarks to the most obvious factual inaccuracies as follows:

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc. has no decision-making power nor any influence over the timing of the elections for the statutory Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania whose elections are conducted by the Tasmanian Electoral office.

Mr Leslie Dick applied to the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commission alleging race discrimination against him by the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc. and in September 2003 Commissioner Dr Jocelynn Scutt dismissed that claim.

It is incorrect to say that the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre gets 15 million dollars and more annually from the Federal Government because of land that has been handed back to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Lands Council.

It is incorrect to say that the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre tells the Federal Government that there are 22,000 people of Aboriginal descent in the state but provides services to only 300 TAC members.

Other matters relevant to the inquiry will be addressed in our written submission to the inquiry.

Heather Sculthorpe
CEO
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc