

Dear sir/Madam,

I am writing to submit my sincere gratitude for the Tasmanian Aboriginal centre and the programs and services that this community organisation has provided for me and the many other families that I know. I cannot express how much this organisation has impacted on my life and that of my own children's, but I'm going to at least try.

The TAC has been a major employment source for many of my community members and family too, providing my father, many uncles and aunties and cousins with gainful employment opportunities as well as ongoing training and education.

There have been many times in my life that I've needed help, my kids have needed support, and it's been the ongoing connections with family and community through TAC services and programs that has secured our relationships and enabled us to reach our full potentials as Aboriginal people here in Tasmania. The opportunities to be mobilised and the ability to access country and sacred places is a significant necessity for Aboriginal people. Without the support from TAC these precious things would be lost from me and my mob, we'd be missing from our history and that would be a tragedy.

My understanding and socialisation of culture came from the influences of the TAC and I cannot express how vital it is that this influence on the Tasmanian Aboriginal community is. Nowhere else is there, here in the state of public services a more culturally safe place for my people to access services.

Is it really possible for the original Tasmanian Aboriginal community based health service which has grown from a dynamic Aboriginal community, is it really endangered, simply because a misinformed person is seduced by propaganda and false accusations?

If there was never a TAC, there would have been nowhere for Aboriginal people to go. We would be lost to a world that we could never fit into.

Sincerely,

Rachel Gibbins. (Maynard)