

Dear Joint Select Committee,

Uncle Bill Nicholson and myself made the attached submission to the Prime Minister's Constitutional consultation process, but it seemed to not receive any consideration.

Our view was that whilst the word sovereignty was bandied around by all and sundry, no real effort had been made to explain the nature of traditional Aboriginal sovereignty and how it might relate to present day Australian sovereignty.

As you will see, we conclude that our Constitution is a sterile document that says nothing about who we are as a people and a culture. We accordingly suggested that a referendum be held seeking to insert two in-principle clauses in the Constitution. These would affirm both the nature of our plural democracy and the special place of our Aboriginal heritage in our national identity.

Once these referendum questions are approved and inserted into the Constitution as basic principles, the rest will flow.

Yours Faithfully

(Dr.) Jim Poulter