

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to provide a brief submission on behalf of myself and my immediate family, husband Tim Foster, sons Matthew and Michael Foster, their respective partners Tamika Hales and Grace Shearing and our 3 grandchildren.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Inc (TAC) has been an instrumental part of my life from the age of 12. The services they have provided for me and my family have helped us to become better people and has given us a the means to change our lives.

From my Aboriginal father and Aboriginal stepmothers involvement 35+ years ago when our family had great hardship and un-wellness, the TAC have been at the forefront of ensuring that my family as well as thousands of others had a voice that was heard.

From supporting my family through the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, of which my step brother was the recipient of the Tasmanian enquiry, through to the Stolen Generation enquiry and compensation to which my Step family were all a part of, through to the array of services that my immediate family have had access to today.

My immediate family have grown strength and overcome transgenerational hardship because of the opportunity the TAC has given to them, by building the strength of a community, and access to land culture and heritage as well as the service provision of legal and health.

As a young person living in Cygnet, I never had access to such programs, as they didn't exists and I truly believe that no other organisation has given such opportunities as the TAC has done over the 40+ years of existence.

I can proudly say my grandchildren aged 5,2 & 2 have a passion for who they are because of their access to the Aboriginal Children's Centre and the TAC programs. They know who they are and have built great relationship and resilience by being part of such programs.

I must say however, that my family have not had the opportunity to access other organisations as they seemed very 'closed' to those who are not part of their regional groups. Whereas the TAC has an open membership and this means you don't have to be a part of their 'in group' to access their services.

I do hope this enquiry finds that there has been an endeavour by other organisations setting themselves up as Aboriginal organisations and are falsely claiming to meet the needs of the Aboriginal community, by contrast the TAC has always had open meetings for any Aborigine to attend, this is not true for other organisation. I firmly believe there is duplication of services that have been setup to undermine the great work of the TAC.