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21 December, 2012

Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples  
SG. 64, PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

***Re: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012***

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) welcomes and supports the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Bill 2012*.

ACL supports the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of Australia. ACL hopes this bill is successful as a first step to a referendum to recognise indigenous Australians in Australia's Constitution. It is hoped that this bill, coming five years after then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology, will continue the process of reconciliation.

In September 2011, ACL made a submission to the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians supporting an amendment to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the preamble of the Constitution.<sup>1</sup> ACL commends this bill as a way of assisting the success of a future referendum.

Sincerely,

**Nick Overton**  
**Acting Chief-of-Staff**

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Christian Lobby (30 September, 2011), *Re: Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians*, <http://www.acl.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/110930-ACL-Submission-on-Constitutional-Recognition-of-Indigenous-Australians.pdf>.