

Submission to Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Constitutional change will be dominated by the votes of non-Aboriginal people. Yet the major impact of these changes will be felt directly by Aboriginal people. For this reason our responsibility is to reflect what they are seeking.

From our contacts with Aboriginal people, RECOGNITION is simply NOT anywhere near enough! Aboriginal people want much, much more and rely on ALL of us to support them in achieving their goals.

There are two main areas of demand:

- 1. Inclusion in the constitution of an entrenched right to self-determination. (In the NT this is currently denied to them by the Intervention and the removal of powers by the NT Government). Self-determination was promised by the Australian Government 1975 when it ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.*
- 2. Inclusion in the constitution of a framework for incorporating treaties as they are (eventually) negotiated.*

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