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BY:.....ATSI.....

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In 1987 land was leased from the Rockhampton City Council to build a Cultural Centre, with funds allocated from the Bi Centennial Authority.

The Centre was opened by the then Prime Minister Robert Hawke in April 1988. As the Centre progressed a Conference venue was added. In 2000 a 4 Star Motel was built on site with a loan/grant from ATSIC.

A community Radio Station was positioned on site in February 2005 due to the Radio Station operating poorly and funds not being accounted for, additional funding was not allocated. The Radio Station is now being Administered by the Dreamtime Cultural Centre.

The Centre is a PTY LTD Company operated by an Indigenous CEO under a Board of Directors comprising Indigenous and Non Indigenous Directors.

This Centre we believe, is well respected in the wider community as a well operated Organisation and we believe there is no other Organisation like Dreamtime in Australia that is completely operated and run by an Indigenous CEO who has been at the helm since 1987.

During the above period, training of staff has been paramount. Dreamtime has been a training ground and a launching pad for staff to move on to other areas of employment in the wider community with the experience they have gained.

The Centre has a total of 16 full time/ part time and casual staff members with the majority being Indigenous. An ascension plan is in place for most positions at the Centre.

There is no doubt racism rears it's ugly head especially in the Motel complex. To overcome this, an Advertising campaign funded by the Commonwealth is proposed to support and promote Indigenous Culture. This could be targeted especially in schools. Ongoing financial support for the Culture element of the Centre is vital to ensure the continued employment of Indigenous people in the Hospitality and Tourism areas.

We would like to propose the CEO, Frontline Manager and Motel Manager, who are all Indigenous, meet with the Committee to highlight the issues mentioned. This would be much appreciated.