

Diz Home Improvements PTY LTD

Submission No. 23

Date Received.....

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Submission

to

Parliament of Australia

House of Representatives

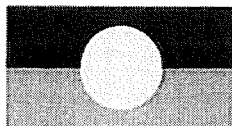
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**House Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islanders**

Inquiry into developing Indigenous Enterprise

Submitter: DOUGLAS DELANEY
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NSW Aboriginal Housing Office
Award Winner 2003
"Employer of the Year"



NSW State Government Aboriginal
Business & Employment Awards
2003 Winner - "Emerging Business"

Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Increasing Indigenous Business Opportunities

Prior to offering comment on this important Initiative, the question we put is, "what has happened to the **Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, (RCIADIC)?"**

Whilst Diz Home Improvements has always promoted and championed RCIADIC as the ultimate document, the States, or at least New South Wales, seems to have ignored the Principles enshrined in the Recommendations, (which are patently relevant) and if applied and implemented would find the aspirations of Aboriginal Australians are being met in line as recommended by the Commission. For example in 2001, under the stewardship of Premier Bob Carr, the government released the *Aboriginal Participation in Construction Guidelines*, which addressed, in particular, Recommendations 307 and 326, yet as from January, 2007, these have replaced by a watered down version which makes no mention of RCIADIC. It is hoped that this Committee has not lost sight of the implications of RCIADIC Recommendations and outcomes that can be more positively achieved through implementation.

Employment and Training Initiative.

Previously (21-06-2004) a Submission (copy enclosed) was tendered by Diz Home Improvements to the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee's Inquiry into Indigenous training and employment outcomes.

Since that time the company has expanded its operations which include contracts with Lend Lease/Delfin and the Ropes Crossing Project. The developers have allocated five Lots to Diz Homes for housing construction, the first of which is nearing completion. Lend Lease/Delfin are keen to participate in opening up employment and training opportunities to the vast numbers of Aboriginal and Islander people in Western Sydney. We are hopeful of securing an additional fifteen lots which certainly will be of immense benefit to the Indigenous Community of the area in the longer term.

Aboriginal Education Initiative

Diz Homes is in the process of establishing an Aboriginal Education Centre of Excellence in the Mt Druitt/St Mary's area. The Centre will provide educational assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in all phases of education from early childhood to tertiary entrance and beyond. Tutorial assistance will also be provided in Vocational Training in particular the Trades or TAFE Compliances. All of the above will contain strong elements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture, Customs and Practices.

The cost of the establishment of the Centre has been explored and will be funded from profits gained through the Lend Lease/Delfin, Ropes Crossing Project. In fact the Developers, along private sector entities will be invited to contribute where appropriate.

The personnel engaged at the Centre, in the main, will be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander professionals in Education or Trades as applicable..

Aboriginal people associated with Diz Home Improvements are excited with your Committee's Terms of Reference, and particularly the statements made by Ministers Jenny Macklin and Craig Emerson in their joint Media Release of 24 June 2008.

Diz Homes Chief Executive, Doug Delaney will be appearing before the Committee on Friday, 25th July 2008, and will provide further information as required.

Thanking you for the opportunity to contribute to this worthy initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Delaney
Chief Executive
Diz Home Improvements

15th July, 2008.

Terms of Reference

The Committee shall inquire into and report on opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to grow small and medium-size business. This shall include Indigenous controlled enterprises and business in which Indigenous people are joint venture partners.

In particular, the Committee will focus on:

1. whether current government, industry and community programs offering specific enterprise support programs and services to Indigenous enterprises are effective, particularly in building sustainable relationship with the broader business sector;
2. identifying areas of Indigenous commercial advantage and strength;
3. the feasibility of adapting the US minority business/development council model to the Australian context; and
4. whether incentives should be provided to encourage successful business to sub contract, do business with or mentor new Indigenous enterprises

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- Section 1 -** Aboriginal Deaths in Custody – Response by Governments to the Royal Commission – Volume 3 – Recommendations 307 & 326
- Section 2 -** Aboriginal employment policy as Endorsed by the Aboriginal Housing Office of New South Wales
- Section 3 -** Inquiry into Indigenous training and employment outcomes (August 2004 Submission to Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee)
- Section 4 -** Diz Home Improvements Aboriginal Enterprise Participation Strategy 2004 - 2008
- Section 5 -** Correspondence between Diz Home Improvements and NSW Department of Commerce
- Section 6 -** Ropes Crossing Building Program in partnership with Delfin Lend Lease