



THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT
JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
Telephone 02 6277 4615 ~ Facsimile 02 6277 2220 ~ E-mail jcpa@aph.gov.au

Indigenous Law and Justice Inquiry

The Public Accounts and Audit Committee, chaired by Mr Bob Charles MP, of the national parliament in Canberra is looking at the legal aid services available to Indigenous Australians.

The Committee is sending this questionnaire to Indigenous councils and community groups. You can make your concerns known to the national parliament and suggest ways to improve legal services for Indigenous Australians. The Committee hopes you can complete and return this questionnaire.

By post to:

The Secretary
The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2601

Or by fax to: (02) 6277 2220

Alternatively you can simply give us your comments on issues about indigenous law and justice that are important to you or your organisation.

We like to post all responses on our website where they can be viewed by all Australians. However, if you wish, we can keep your responses confidential and they will only be viewed by the Committee.

After looking at all the questionnaires it receives the Committee will hold meetings around the country. It will then write a report to the national parliament, suggesting ways the government can improve legal aid for Indigenous Australians.

You can download extra copies of this questionnaire from our website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jpaa/atsis/index.htm>

1. Please provide your name.
2. Which organisation do you represent or work for and where is it located?
3. Please tell us briefly what your organisation does.
4. Is there a legal aid service of some kind near you? What is it?
5. Are there any private solicitors near you? Are your organisation's members able to pay for their services?
6. Can you tell us about any times your organisation's members or clients needed legal aid but were unable to get it?
7. Can you tell us about any times that your organisation's members or clients needed translators when dealing with the legal system? Were they able to get translators?

8. Can you tell us about any times that legal aid workers were unable to spend enough time with your organisation's members or clients?

9. How have your organisation's members or clients obtained legal aid—in person or by phone or some other way?

10. Can you tell us about any times your organisation's members or clients were particularly satisfied with the legal aid they received?

11. Can you tell us about any times your organisation's members or clients were not satisfied with the legal aid they received?

12. Can you tell us about any difficulties Indigenous women have in getting legal aid?

13. Can you tell us how the legal aid needs of Indigenous men and women are different?

14. Can you tell us whether your members or clients prefer dealing with an Indigenous legal aid service rather than a mainstream legal aid service?

15. Can you tell us about any cooperative programs or agreements between your organisation and your local legal aid service?

16. What suggestions could you make to improve the legal aid services available to Indigenous Australians?

17. Are there any other issues relating to legal aid for Indigenous Australians that you would like to mention? Please attach extra pages if you need more space. We will read whatever you send us.

Thank you for your comments!