

**RESPONSE OF THE SPEAKER TO A RECOMMENDATION OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS**

**INQUIRY INTO LANGUAGE LEARNING IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES –
*OUR LAND, OUR LANGUAGES***

March 2013

Most recommendations in the committee's report were addressed to the Government. Recommendation 3 was expressly addressed to the Parliament.

Recommendation 3 – Parliamentary recognition of Indigenous languages

The Committee recommends the Commonwealth Parliament demonstrate leadership in the recognition and valuing of Indigenous languages by:

- considering how to incorporate Indigenous languages in the Parliament House building and in the operations of the Parliament, and
- encouraging all Members of Parliament to:
 - ⇒ be aware of and recognise the Indigenous language groups local to their electorate;
 - ⇒ where, possible and appropriate, acknowledge traditional owners and utilise language names for places and landmarks; and
 - ⇒ support schools and community groups in their area to recognise, value and where possible utilise Indigenous language names.

AGREED.

When indigenous artefacts or references are used in Parliament House, including exhibitions relating to Indigenous affairs, accompanying signs or documents will be expressed in the relevant indigenous language or languages, in addition to English text.

Further, the Speaker agrees that this recommendation should be referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure to consider how best to further respond to all the aspects raised by this recommendation.