

SWAN VALLEY NYUNGAH COMMUNITY

ATSIA./InqryIndigEmplmnt14.4.05

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 13 APR 2005

BY: ATSIA
 14 April, 2005

Submission No. 14
 Date Received 13-4-05

The Secretary
 Standing Committee on Aboriginal and
 Torres Strait Islander Affairs
 House of Representatives
 Parliament House
 Canberra ACT 2600

Inquiry Into Indigenous Employment

In response to your letter of 24 March, 2005, we say that the only way there can be positive outcomes for our Community is to:

1. Recognise the damage done by the Gallop Government in removing us from our Homes and land (See WA Government Upper House Inquiry - Reserves (Reserve 43131 Bill 2002);
2. Recognise that our Community, described to the Inquiry as 'one of the best Aboriginal Communities in Western Australia', was a positive example of what can be attained by Aboriginal People through self-determination;
3. Recognise that the Western Australian Government, and many other Governments, do not want success stories unless they fit in with the white perception of 'success';
4. Recognise that Aboriginal People are perfectly capable of looking after themselves when given the autonomy and support they require.

Our Community was successfully caring for ourselves and for others. We designed and built our Community to Aboriginal standards, using alternative energy mechanisms and culturally appropriate designs. We had ongoing programmes of training, education, health and preparation of our children for their future. We were making headway in our own way and at our own speed and this was proving successful.

Until such time as your organisation and all Government agencies treat us as equals, recognise that we are the Owners of the Land and that we carry the Culture and Knowledge, then nothing will improve.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

for:

Swan Valley Nyungah Community