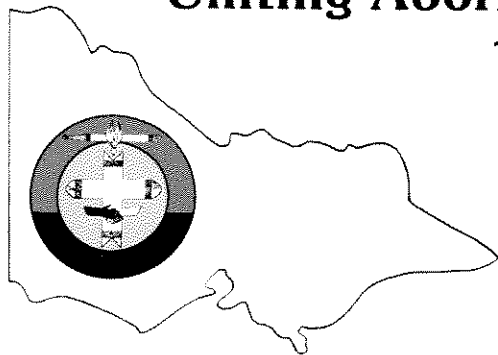


Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress



The Uniting Church in Australia
Victoria State Committee

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Telephone (03) 5241 5700 Fax (03) 5241 5711

Submission No. 114

Date Received

RECEIVED
11 OCT 2005

BY: ABIA

5th September 2005

Standing Commission on
A.T.S.I Affairs
The House of Representative
Parliament of Australia

Re: Inquiries into Indigenous Employment

My name is Vince Ross and I write to firstly commend the Government for taking positive steps to address the issues relating to the deficit surrounding Indigenous employment. For the past thirteen years I have held the position of Director for the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress in Victoria. I'm from the Madi-Madi Clan of the Murrumbidgee Area in N.S.W and for many years have worked and supported the self determination, self management concept. I'm convinced that if Indigenous people are given the opportunity to manage our own affairs you will see that we are capable of delivering a positive outcome. In the following paragraphs you will see that our organization is focused toward freeing Indigenous people and empowering us to make positive changes and create our own pathways. In my view there are two very important issues that need to be addressed that will allow Indigenous people to move away from welfare. We need to be made welcome in our own country, and for non-Indigenous to spend time with us and really hear what we are saying. I'm of the opinion that this nation will never reach its fullest potential until it recognizes that white Australia has a proud black history and moves forward to address the current imbalances.

One way forward for Indigenous people is to develop their own enterprise through Cultural Education Tourism, this will provide a way to establish employment and a strong financial base. Narana Creations is doing some forward planning toward linking with the Aboriginal Experience Super Highway in N.S.W which we believe will open up many opportunities for creative Cultural Tourism. This vision that's been out there for some time now has the potential to break down any structure that paralyses our ability to think beyond past negative experiences and move toward true self determination. The U.A.I.C.C in Victoria is focused on "Taking control of the present to start shaping the future." Our present situation spells out very clearly that if we put the right structures in place and work in partnership with others then a positive result will be achieved. .

I strongly believe the time is right for Indigenous Australians to brush off the shackles that have bound us for too long, and take self determination serious with an attitude that will help start an avalanche of opportunities.

In Geelong Narana Creations is marking out a pathway for other Indigenous organizations to follow in the tourism industry that provides them with a workable model and one that gives ongoing financial stability for our future

Finally we would like to invite interested people who wish to see an exciting Indigenous enterprise in operation to visit our centre. We are open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on Saturday.



Vince Ross

C.E.O Narana Creations

Director Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress