



WOMEN'S
L E G A L
S E R V I C E
S A I N C

19th August 2004

The Committee Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts & Audit
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members

RE: INDIGENOUS LAW & JUSTICE INQUIRY

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the Recommendations of the Aboriginal Women's Gathering held in Port Augusta on the 9th and 10th August 2004.

The women present asked that the recommendations be provided to the Inquiry today by the Women's Legal Service and the women asked that these recommendations be taken into account.

Yours faithfully
Women's Legal Service (SA) Inc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marilyn Wright".

Marilyn Wright
Acting coordinator / solicitor

Recommendations from Nuttbush Gathering Day 1

1. That government departments and the Minister listen and acknowledge the recommendations coming from this Gathering:

The representatives at this Gathering include the following:

* (list of some of the participants attached)

2. That an acknowledgement of our concerns about mainstreaming and the demolition of ATSIC be made and that the state takes up these issues with the Commonwealth.
3. That self-determination for Aboriginal people be considered paramount.
4. That representatives of all communities (such as Marree, Nepabunna Oodnadatta, Hawker etc.) be employed to address the needs of women in their community.
5. That recognition of ownership and an acknowledgement be given to the significance of Land and cultural issues pertaining to Aboriginal people.
6. That an acknowledgement be made about the complexities of Aboriginal family structures and the impact of external forces such as colonisation and government policies.
7. That an acknowledgement be given to the diverse and multicultural nature of Aboriginal nations and language groups and women's voices be listened to, and that a 'focus group' within communities be formed to send representatives to any future gatherings.
8. That resources be provided forthwith for grassroots services in a cultural context including:
 - a. Domestic and Family violence
 - Safe houses for women and children, respite centres
 - Women's shelters
 - b. Health
 - Prevention programs for alcohol and drugs
 - Identify women with experience from within our communities and provide funding for boys and girls camp (funding made available to continue connection with land and culture)
 - Mental abuse funding
 - Family recovery in an appropriate cultural context
 - c. Education
 - That issues of racism, discrimination, physical and mental abuse and violence towards Aboriginal children be made a matter of priority in schools

In areas and locations identified by our women

- That cultural awareness programs be provided on an ongoing basis
- That Aboriginal languages be taught in schools
- That resources and mentoring support be provided for Aboriginal children

d. Housing

- Safe houses and shelters (as above)
- That culturally appropriate, affordable, accessible and liveable housing be provided in all areas, including rural and remote areas and for youth, in consultation with families and Aboriginal community organisations and service providers
- Housing be provided for the disabled and the elderly in consultation with families and Aboriginal community organisations and service providers
- That local communities be involved in a culturally appropriate way prior to the allocation and planning of housing, taking into account safety issues through a form of self governance
- That more community and cooperative housing be made available

e. Justice

- That an Aboriginal Women's Legal Service be funded to address domestic / family violence, family issues including residence and contact issues between grandparents and grandchildren and legal issues arising from the above such as health, education and government departments.

Recommendations Day 2

1. That an advisory structure for Aboriginal women be set up that represents the diversity of all Aboriginal women, as outlined by the diagram.
2. That The Nuttbush Gathering recommends that the Premier appoint Aboriginal women to the Premier's Council for Women that are selected by a representative forum of Aboriginal women from across South Australia.
3. That:
 - Juanella McKenzie
 - Georgina Williams
 - Raylene Warren, and
 - Veronica Milera

Attend the National Gathering in Adelaide on 19 and 20 August 2004.

Regina McKenzie, Janice Rigney are nominated as proxy delegates if any of the other women are unable to attend.

4. That regular newsletters be distributed to Aboriginal women across SA providing feedback on progress toward implementing the recommendations and addressing the key issues identified over the last two days.

* Participants of Women who attended the Nuttbush Women's Gathering		
1	Dulice Wilton	Adnyamathana
2	Ester Kite	Arubunna
3	Judy Johnson	Adnyamathana
4	Rosemount Dixon / Williams	Narungga
5	Deanna Newchurch	Narungga
6	Georgina Williams	Narungga / Kaurna
7	Doraleen Warrior	Kokatha / Wirangu
8	Janice Rigney	Boandik / Meihtank
9	Tracie Turnbull	Meintank
10	Collen Roberts	Dieri
11	Sasha Hannes	Dieri
12	Noreen Gibbs	Dieri
13	Teresa Waye	Dieri
14	Judy Brown	Antakarinitja
15	Janelle Brown	Dieri
16	Regina Mckenzie	Luritja / Southern Arrernte/Adnyamathana
17	Maria Amos	Arabunna
18	Deidre Mohomed	Western Arrernte / Adnyamathana
19	Eileen McHughes	Ngarrindjeri
20	Sandy Wilson	Ngarrindjeri

21	Sharon Meagher (Austin)	Adnyamathana
22	Minie Walters	Ngarrindjeri
23	Valerie Fuschtei	Wangkangurra
24	Raelene (Hannes) Warren	Deire
25	Veronica Milera	Arabunna
26	Nardine Milera	Arabunna
27	Heather Stuart	Luritja / Adnyamathana
28	Vivianne McKenzie	Luritja / Adnyamathana
29	JosephBowie Perry (Iomi)	Arygun / Iama / Karenas
30	Ruby Abdulla	Mirning / Ngarrindjeri
31	Edith Wilson	Ngarrindjeri
32	Joan Glennie Abdulla	Ngarrindjeri / Banagala
33	Ruby Roachford	Ngarrindjeri
34	Dorothy Shaw	Ngarrindjeri
35	Eunice Aston	Ngarrindjeri / Tangkald
36	Rita Lindsay	Ngarrindjeri
37	Kerry Rogers	Arrente
38	Beryl Anderson- Forbes	Arrente
39	Darlene Allen	
40	Tania Blake	