

**SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN
SERVICES AND AUSTRALIA/US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

SUBMISSION

Submission No: 98

Submittor: Aboriginal Heritage Support Group

Contact: Ms Joyce van der Sman

Address: PO Box 10031
Gouger Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000

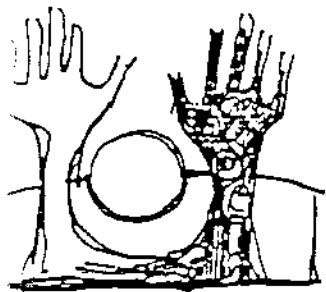
Tel:

Fax: (08) 212 6226

Email:

No. of Pages: 1

Attachments: No

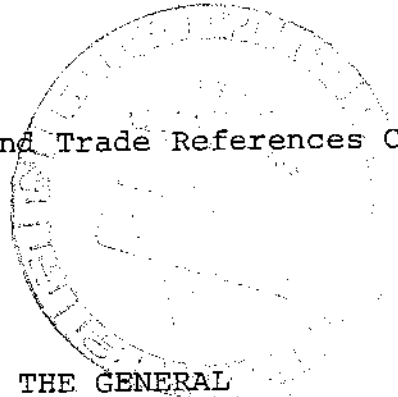


ABORIGINAL HERITAGE SUPPORT GROUP

P.O. BOX 10031, GOUGER STREET, ADELAIDE, 5000 FAX: +61 8 212 6226

4th April, 2003

The Secretary,
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade References Committee,
Suite S1.57,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600



SUBMISSION ON THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES

We submit that the General Agreement in Trade and Services is detrimental to the social welfare of Aboriginal people.

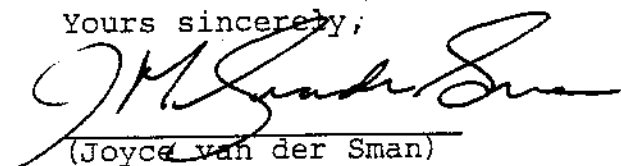
This agreement gives further control over essential services to foreign and Transnational Corporations who do not see that their obligations include the vulnerable citizens of this country.

Australia's Indigenous people are among the most disadvantaged of any of the world's peoples in terms of health, life expectancy, employment rates, and quality of life.

Experience has shown that large Corporations give lip-service to social and environmental responsibilities, but in effect do very little in that direction. In terms of equal access to education, water, health services and power, the reality for Aboriginal people is that they are becoming more disadvantaged rather than less. The G.A.T.S. agreement would continue this trend by allowing these services to become even further controlled by foreign Corporations than they already are.

We hold grave fears about this Agreement and we strongly urge you to stop negotiating G.A.T.S.

Yours sincerely;


(Joyce van der Sman)