



The Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on the  
Administration of Indigenous Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

It is a privilege to be able to comment on your Committee's Inquiry on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2004 and proposed changes to the workings of Commonwealth Indigenous affairs policy.

The rights to self-determination by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders must be preserved

Indigenous Australians have agreed that there is a need for a body at national level; where their standards and values are reflected. This body should provide opportunity for advocacy and should be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples.

The Current bill will severely reduce these rights. Indigenous people must be able to decide on their own representation to the body which makes decisions which affect them and their communities.

Mainstreaming as a policy, will reduce the involvement in decision making of the people affected by these decisions...

Any body replacing ATSIC must issue from consultation with informed indigenous people. This is a principle which should be endorsed by the Committee.

Olive Ackland. Rachel Kronenberger (Rev.). Heather Hase. Joy O'Farrell.  
Heather Pover. Gwenda Tinkler.

Social Issues Committee  
Uniting Church Coburg Congregations  
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