

ATSIC NSW EASTERN ZONE

Submission to the

**Australian Senate Select Committee on the
Administration of Indigenous Affairs**

**Inquiry into the ATSIC Amendment Bill,
Mainstreaming of Indigenous Programmes,
and Related Matters.**

July 2004

The Hon Senator Crossin, Chair
Senate Select Committee on Indigenous Affairs
Senate Wing, Level 1
Room 107
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

2nd August 2004

To the Honourable Senators,

This submission is from the ATSIC NSW Eastern Zone which is comprised of the Kamilaroi and Many Rivers Regional Councils. The submission is the product of extensive consultations within this Zone, culminating in a three day conference at which the two Councils were represented along with a number of key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service agencies (see Appendix One). This submission registers our serious concerns with the import of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2004*. The fact that the Bill was tabled in the House on the anniversary (May 27th) of the referendum that recognised the existence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has not gone unnoticed. It represents either extreme insensitivity or a calculated insult.

This submission reflects the feelings of a broad cross-section of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the combined Regions and, as such, reflects the mood and thinking of a significant portion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of this country. Australia has a proud boast of being an inclusive and just political entity that has strong commitments to the rights and responsibilities of all people in its modern democratic society. We therefore request that your Committee acknowledge the wishes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the Many Rivers and Kamilaroi Regions with respect to the method of elected representation and the provision of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

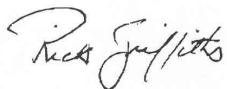
Included with this submission are copies of the Regional Plans developed by both Councils and their most recent Annual Reports. The Regional Plans were developed in consultation with the various communities across each region and represent the expressed wishes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in these Regions. One of the outcomes of this

process has been a Family Violence Action Plan which entailed further community consultation (a copy is enclosed to assist the Committee appreciate the importance of the work being done at the regional level.)

As the traditional owners of this land, we believe that we have a right to a national voice; in particular, a voice in determining the way our people are allowed to develop and take their place in this nation. We have a unique heritage that encompasses not only our traditional ways, but also the Australian traditions of universal suffrage and the Westminster system of government. We respect both ways and believe the way forward lies in connecting the past with the present in a positive vision for our future.

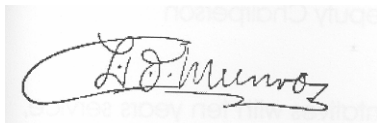
We are the original Australians. This is our land. This is our voice.

Yours Respectfully,



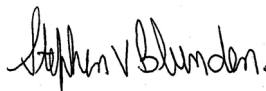
4th August 2004

Rick Griffiths, NSW ATSI Eastern Zone Commissioner



4th August 2004

Lyall Munro, Chairperson, Kamilaroi Regional Council



4th August 2004

Stephen Blunden, Chairperson, Many Rivers Regional Council

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Introduction

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have long been subjected to the control of government agencies. The creation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) finally enabled a democratically elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice to be heard both nationally and internationally. Moreover, ATSIC provided a transparent platform where the collective rights and aspirations embodied in self-determination could be expressed. For over 200 years the first peoples of this country were subject to the paternalistic and assimilationist policies and programs of federal governments that have come and gone. Yet we are still here.

The Bill to abolish ATSIC is a step back into the draconian past of mission mentalities overlorded by bureaucrats whose bottom line is economic expediency. ATSIC has been held responsible for the plethora of mainstream government agencies failures. These agencies have now been handed the policies and programs that ATSIC developed into resounding successes.

Purpose

The purpose of this submission is to articulate to the Senate Select Committee justifications as to why the Bill to abolish ATSIC must be rejected. As mentioned, this submission is the work of the ATSIC NSW Eastern Zone and key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stake holders within the Zone.

The submission concurs that changes are needed to the current structure, but in doing so it reiterates the successes of the elected arm. The submission also highlights the anticipated problems associated with the loss of corporate and cultural capital resulting from the appropriation of ATSIC resources and staff by government agencies.

The submission also provides models of governance for the consideration of the Committee, the common and dominant theme is democratic representation.

The ATSIC NSW Eastern Zone

The ATSIC NSW Eastern Zone is comprised of the Many Rivers and Kamilaroi Regional Councils. The Many Rivers Region¹ covers 64,000 km² of NSW, extending from the Queensland border at Tweed Heads to the Hawkesbury River, and west to the ridges of the Great Dividing Range. It comprises two wards; Northern Rivers and Gattang.

The Region is the third largest of the ATSIC Regions by population with more than 35,500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people². It is, however, the fastest growing ATSIC

¹ ATSIC Many Rivers Regional Council, *Annual Report, 2002-2003*, Coffs Harbour.

² 32,529 as at the 2001 census.

Region in the country. The area is expected to grow with a projected figure of 50,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by 2011. The fact that over 50% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is under 19 years of age presents a variety of challenges, especially for housing, education, families, health and employment.

The Kamilaroi Region³ covers an area of over 105,000 km² of NSW and stretches from the Queensland border south to the upper Hunter River. It comprises three wards; Gamilaroi to the north east, Tingha to the north west and Quirindi in the south. The population, according to the 2001 census, was 12,825 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.

Throughout 2003 and 2004 the ATSIC Many Rivers Regional Council and Kamilaroi Regional Council and staff consulted with organisations and communities within their respective Regions. The end result being two comprehensive Regional Plans (copies included). The plans prioritise the concerns and needs of the communities in their respective regions.

The Many Rivers Regional Councils' Regional Plan defines 10 key action areas which underpin the following four core priority areas:

- Youth;
- Elders;
- Family; and
- Capacity building for individuals and organisational governance.

The Kamilaroi Regional Councils' Regional Plans' four core areas are:

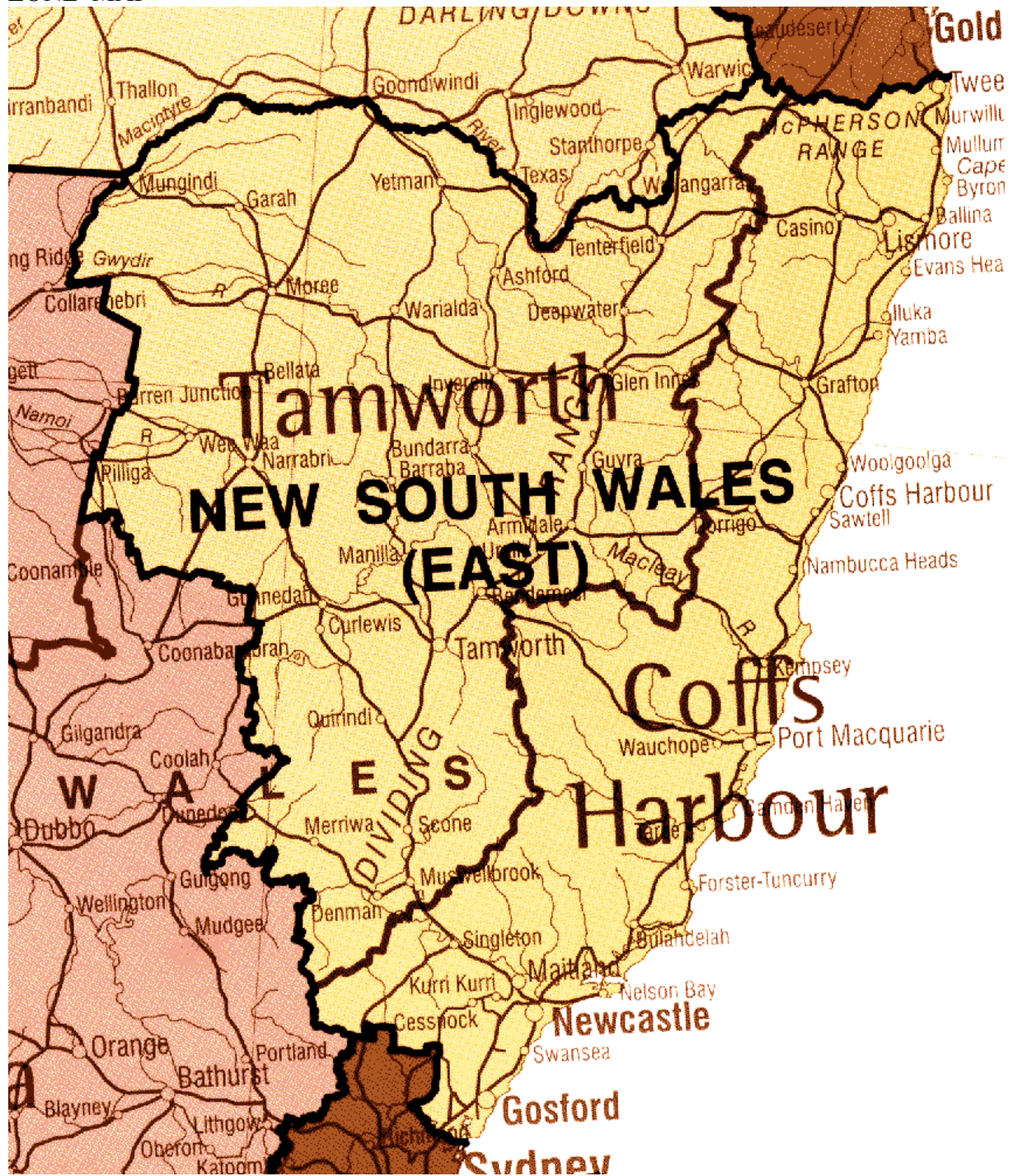
- Participation;
- Skills development;
- Access; and
- Support and development.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the Zone are deeply concerned about the future of their organisations, communities, and families without a means of elected representation.

In tendering this submission we implore the Committee to seriously consider the excellent work that has been achieved for our people by ATSIC Regional Councils and the ramifications inherent in the loss of these bodies through the enabling of the *ATSIC Amendment Bill 2004*.

³ ATSIC Kamilaroi Regional Council, *Annual Report, 2002-2003*, Tamworth.

ZONE MAP



Process

This submission is a link in the continuing examination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander political affairs at national, state and local levels. It is presented in response to a succession of political decisions which have culminated in the establishment of a Senate Select Committee with the charter to report on:

- The provisions of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2004*;
- The proposed administration of Indigenous programs and services by mainstream departments and agencies; and
- Related matters.

This submission takes in all three terms of reference, as it is a matter of critical importance to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of our Regions to have a determining voice in the manner in which policy is developed and services provided to our people.

After discussions between the two Regional Council Chairmen and the Zone Commissioner, it was determined that a meeting would be held in Grafton as it is a central point between the Regions, over the three days of July 20th to July 22nd. The councillors from both Regions extended invitations to other concerned Aboriginal agencies to ensure the widest possible consensus.

The delegates to the meeting were fully aware of the political circumstances, and were further prepared by reading the key submissions and papers from the ATSIC Review Panel, as well as statements released by both major political parties. The collective knowledge at this meeting is worthy of respect.

Through a process of workshops and reviews, this submission has evolved. It represents the viewpoints of the delegates from the two ATSIC Regions.

RESPONSES TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Item a) The provisions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill, 2004

Responses to item a)

- a. Non-Indigenous Australia needs to recognise that this land and its people existed long before colonisation and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right to be recognised as sovereign peoples. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have never ceded sovereignty to any other authority.
- b. There is a continuing paramount requirement for regional and national representation.
- c. The meeting was unanimously opposed to the abolition of the nationally elected body, ATSIC. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people require a directly elected national representative body.
- d. The mainstreaming process has been introduced with undue haste leading to insufficient time for thorough consultation.
- e. The meeting regrets the fact that the good work of the ATSIC Review Panel has been totally ignored and that \$1.5M has been wasted by government in the process. The Review Panel did not recommend the abolition of ATSIC.
- f. The meeting accepted that there have been problems with ATSIC, but the learning curve has been brief and has produced valuable benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Australian Federal political system has had over 100 years experience and is still far from perfect.
- g. The lack of understanding and indifference in the broader community regarding the abolition of ATSIC is to be deplored. It is not appreciated that there are twelve pieces of legislation (see appendix two) involved in this process. The *ATSIC Amendment Bill* will silence the democratically elected national voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, thereby widening the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the non-Indigenous majority. The ATSIC Amendment Bill is rejected totally.
- h. The manner in which this Bill has been presented to the public has created a level of ignorance and misrepresentation, and borders on propaganda.
For example, Gary Hardgrave MP stated in Parliament that ATSIC had failed in education and health. However, ATSIC never had the responsibility for education, and health was transferred from ATSIC in 1995.
- i. Recent attention brought to the issue of family violence has resulted in a misconception that ATSIC is in some way to blame for family violence.
- j. The wider community needs to look at the issues from the viewpoint of being an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian. We are the first people of this land and must be recognised as such.

- k. The meeting sees advisory boards as unrepresentative and totally rejects them. The present moves to establish an appointed advisory board is a return to the paternalism and tokenism offered by mainstream Australia in the past.
- l. The Bill may have a veneer of appeal for some Australians, but it is not in the best interests of the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- m. The Bill does not offer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people any opportunity to be part of the decision-making processes with regard to determining their own development.
- n. In a world where this country goes to war in Iraq to impose ‘democracy’ on that country, even though they have not sought to adopt the concept, it is hypocritical to abolish the democratically elected voice of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The loss of ATSIC is seen as a step back to the “mission manager mentality” The current government should be ashamed.

Elected processes must take precedence over appointed governance, particularly in policy making.

Recommendations in relation to item a)

- 1. There was overwhelming support for a 12-month moratorium on the passage of legislation in order to allow for consultation and education processes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. There must be provision of resources to carry out this task.
- 2. The meeting contrasted traditional consultative Aboriginal community management with the hierarchical western system. This led to a demand that the Government allow time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to adjust to the principles of Westminster government. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want to be part of a democracy through participation in the electoral process.
- 3. The delegates clearly stated that their major concern was the need for a national, elected voice and continual regional government.
- 4. Advisory boards are not representative of the people. They should not be taken as the true voice of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- 5. At the heart of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity is the community. This has various interpretations but at the basic level, it is a group of people with shared interests and responsibilities. Each community must be empowered to establish its own method of interacting with the broader society.

The community comprises four elements.

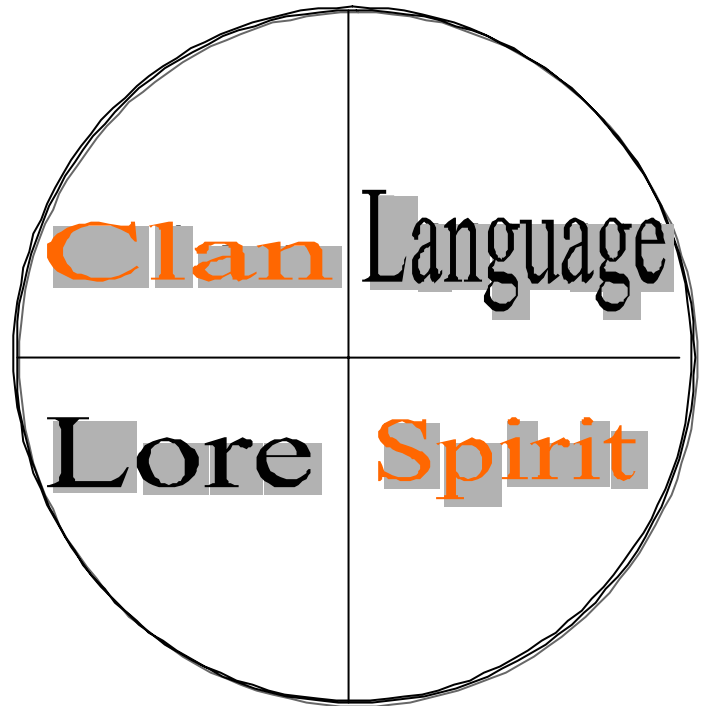
Clan – the close group with whom there are direct relationship ties.

Language – the larger group with common ties of land and language.

Lore – The traditions that rule a way of life.

Spirit – The universal element that binds us all.

These are the elements of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person that unite (and sometimes divide) them.



6. For communities, the prime method of interaction with government service providers is through the Regional Council which has established regional priorities through the 'Regional Plans'. This structure must remain in place.
7. Direct election of regional bodies should remain, augmented by the introduction of compulsory voting through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Electoral Roll to be managed by the Australian Electoral Commission (issues of compliance to be determined). An interim measure could be to use the NSW Aboriginal Land Council rolls. Compulsory voting will give the elected bodies greater validity and respect.
8. In conjunction with the Regional Council elections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should directly elect their representatives to the national body.
9. The current ATSIC Act, if it is to proceed, needs to incorporate budgetary provisions that quarantine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander funds.
10. Commonwealth grants to states/territories related to funding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs should have conditions attached ("tied grants") that the spending must follow policies of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected bodies, both at regional and national level.

Item b) The proposed administration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services by mainstream departments and agencies

Response to item b)

- a. The meeting was unanimously opposed to ‘mainstreaming’. All delegates agreed that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander bodies must be retained as service deliverers. The reasoning is as follows:
 - i. Community controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service workers and organisations have the appropriate understanding to deliver culturally suitable service.
 - ii. The existing service providers have a body of corporate knowledge that best serves their clients.
 - iii. There would be a loss of community knowledge and networks by mainstreaming.
 - iv. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities take time to build trust with the service providers, a trust that mainstream agencies may not have.
 - v. Decisions will be made by non-Indigenous staff with no knowledge or background understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

With regard to the model of management of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs proposed by the Federal Government:

- b. It is unworkable and cumbersome.
- c. The model uses the term ‘one stop shop’ in reference to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Co-ordination Centres. In reality such matrix-structured arrangements always suffer from the split loyalties of those who have to answer to more than one body. The experience already is that the divisions within the ICCs are causing confusion to people who have to deal with them (as well as the staff themselves). Staff in these centres are continuously having to refer clients to others within the building when previously, as ATSIC centres, they could have helped the client.

Julie told the Regional Councils’ Grafton meeting about her recent experiences dealing with the new Indigenous Coordination Centre (ICC). As a Manager of an Indigenous Program previously funded by ATSIC/ATSIS, she was used to quick and easy access to the officer within her regional ATSIS office that was responsible for the program. Julie was easily able to obtain answers from this person and/or the Regional Manager of ATSIS over such things as the progress of her funding submission. However, the same officer, now working within the ICC could not give Julie a decision on a fairly straightforward matter. The question now had to be referred to the officer’s superior in head office, Canberra. The officer explained that he no longer had delegatory power, and neither did the Manager of the ICC. Local decision-making power, it seems, was at an end.

- d. There will be a lack of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff at senior levels.
- e. A matter of great regret is the loss of corporate knowledge and networks resulting from the loss of elected representatives..
- f. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel alienated by the proposed arrangements.
- g. The model is top heavy and introduces too many layers of decision making with the inevitable outcome that the quality of decisions will suffer.
- h. This meeting said it is a gross insult to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that this government has seen fit to lump Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander management under a grab-bag ministry such as DIMIA This downgrades the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their own country.
- i. Tendering for service provision will greatly disadvantage both the existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers and the clients they serve.
- j. The model clearly lacks a process of independent monitoring to measure outcomes of government agencies and their service providers.
- k. We unanimously oppose the abolition of Regional Councils (Schedule 3 of the Bill – effective 1 July 2005)
- l. If Regional Councils are abolished, their assets should remain with the regionally-elected body. The same applies to ATSIC assets at the national level.

With regard to ‘whole-of-government’ approach and abolition of ‘silos’ for service delivery coming out of the Prime Minister in Cabinet office, the following comments were made:

- i. *“If you’re emptying all the silos of grain, we become multi-grain. In other words, this is another form of assimilation”*
 - ii. *“This is just a cost shifting and cost-saving exercise”*
- m. The method by which the ‘whole-of-government’ approach filters through to state/territory and local government is not clear.
- n. Anecdotal evidence is already surfacing that bureaucrats within New South Wales departments can not see how this process can work. It would be reasonable to assume that the same applies in other states.
- o. The system of ‘quarantining’ funds is not clearly defined when all sources of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander funding are considered.
- p. We are opposed to the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation/consultation on Federal bodies and agencies.
- q. The meeting believes that administration through a multi-layered structure as proposed by the present government, introduces too many dissociative bodies between the peak body and the people they represent.

Other points to be made in relation to item b):

Monica told the Grafton meeting of the Regional Councils of her cousin, Mandy, who was removed from her parents at 2 years of age in 1972 by state welfare authorities. Mandy's parents had taken her to the local hospital one morning, as she was showing signs of 'flu. The doctor on duty diagnosed Mandy's condition and sent her home with her parents, with the instructions that usually accompany the diagnosis of flu. However, that night Mandy's condition worsened. Her parents took her back to the hospital. This time Mandy was seen by a different doctor, who diagnosed her as suffering from pneumonia. The hospital policy at that time was that any child who presented to a hospital twice within 24 hours should be considered for notification to the welfare authorities, as this was an indicator of child abuse. The doctor notified the welfare authorities. Mandy was immediately removed from her parents; her parents' explanation for her condition was not believed. Despite their efforts over the years, Mandy's parents were unable to locate her. Finally, when she became an adult, Mandy tracked down her parents. Monica, who presented this story, is convinced that had Mandy been taken to an Aboriginal medical centre, an Aboriginal health worker would have discerned that Mandy was not being abused, but that the first doctor had misdiagnosed her condition.

- a. As a means of strengthening the present arrangements between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and State and Territory governments, the welcome trend toward partnerships needs to be backed by legislation.
- b. The Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies (AIATSIA) is a treasury of knowledge and must retain its independence.
- c. Training is an essential element in the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at all levels. Our leaders need formal training in all aspects of governance and management. Our senior people working within government and NGO agencies need training related to their tasks.
- d. We need to work together to open pathways for our younger people to participate and contribute to the betterment of their communities. They need to become engaged in the process.
- e. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have experience as contributors to the decision-making processes yet are under-represented at all levels in this society. More needs to be done to encourage and support women in their desire to contribute to the betterment of their communities and at the state and national level.
- f. Current practices by the present Federal Government in relation to the elected representatives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are discriminatory and disrespectful.
- g. The use of the term '**experiment**' to define a democratic effort is disrespectful and echoes the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who, for over 200 years have been subjected to a string of social, cultural and political experiments, which all seem to be primarily for the benefit of the social and governing majority. **No more experiments.** We want to be allowed to make this elected system work for the good of all.

Recommendations in relation to item (b)

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues must be a standing item on the agendas of all government bodies that have control over budgetary decisions related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.
2. The delegates at this meeting support the suggestion from ATSIC that our national elected body should have legislated rights to inclusion on all government bodies that make economic, political and welfare decisions concerning the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Those bodies must have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues as a standing agenda item. This would cover COAG and MCATSIA under the present structure.
3. Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations should be able to tender for service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
4. The Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA) represents a success story. It is well-run with a good internal audit mechanism. The OEA has kept programs “on the straight and narrow” and greatly assisted with risk management. The OEA should be adequately funded to be able to audit State and Federal government departments and agencies running Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs.
5. The OEA should remain within ATSIC or the new national elected body. It should, as much as possible, employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This version of OEA would show Australia that the national elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander body was complying with best practice management of its resources and governance.
6. Regional Councils (or their replacement bodies) should have a legislated mandate to make and implement decisions within their region.
7. AIATSIA must retain its independence.
8. Training programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and managers already in place need to be supported and encouraged.
9. CDEP must always be administered by community controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers.
10. Aboriginal legal services must not be tendered out to corporate law firms with no history or understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture or issues.
11. Aboriginal medical services must always maintain their independence as health care providers and must not be tendered out.
12. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will stand firm against the Governments push for assimilation. We will go to sleep tonight as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and we will wake up tomorrow as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We will not go away.

Item c) Related matters

Recommendations in relation to item (c)

1. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Electoral Roll

There was a unanimous call from the Grafton meeting for compulsory voting at the regional and national level. This would require the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Electoral Roll to be administered by the Australian Electoral Commission.

On the issue of compliance with compulsory voting, the meeting agreed that the details could be left until a later date. One suggestion that was well received was that acceptance as a CDEP participant could be tied to compulsory voting.

Community education in civic matters is an essential ingredient.

The issue of defining and administering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for placement on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander electoral roll was not discussed at the Grafton meeting due to a lack of time.

2. Models of governance

A system of parallel government with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people assuming full responsibility for their own domestic affairs was considered as the ideal model. This is a target that could be achieved through a federal referendum to amend the Commonwealth Constitution. As with the republican debate, the issue would need great attention to detail. Structure and management would need extensive debate. Funding could be based on a set proportion of a national index such as GDP. This may be seen as 'rent' for the occupation of the land.

Fundamental to any such change would be a treaty, enshrined in the Australian Constitution, between all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia and the Commonwealth of Australia.

This meeting did not wish to create an adversarial attitude toward white Australia. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have had to be adaptable over more than two hundred years of colonial rule. In return, they ask for formal recognition of their status as the first people and the traditional owners of this land.

We repeat; we totally reject the model currently being imposed by the Federal Government. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nationally elected representative body must not be subject too the control or whim of any political party.

Appendix three proposes three models of governance. These models were discussed in only a general way at the Grafton meeting. No single model was endorsed other than

the unanimous agreement that national and regional elected bodies must exist for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, together with compulsory voting.

The two Regional Councils believe that if ATSIC is to be abolished, and before an elected replacement model is implemented, an extensive consultation process is required with communities and organisations in the Regions. The democratic process then needs to be taken to State and Federal summits before any one model is recommended.

Conclusion

WE WISH TO CLEARLY STATE:-

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be democratically represented by their own people in their own body at the regional and national level;
- Regional plans must form the basis of all policy decision making; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be the prime source of service provision to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This submission requests that the Senate Select Committee conduct public hearings within the Zone at Tamworth and Coffs Harbour to better hear the opinions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from the ATSIC NSW Eastern Zone.

Appendices.

Appendix One- Attendees at the zone meeting at Grafton, 20th-22nd July, 2004.

Name	Organisation	Title	Contact
Monica Kapeen	Darkinjung CDEP	admin assistant	darkinjungcdep@westnet.com.au
Tamara McDonald	Mindaribba LALC	secretary	CDEPMLALC@Bigpond
Julie Perkins	Many Rivers ALS	Manager	02 6643 4866
Lance Manton	Kurrachee CDEP	Human resources	kurrachee@nrg.com.au
Clyde Williams	Koori Radio	Broadcaster	cw125378@bigpond.inet.au
Barry Duncan	Central Coast		
Nita Roberts	Bunjum Aboriginal Co-op		PO Box 24 Wardell
Russell Kapeen	Kurachee CDEP		PO Box 3 Coraki
Lawrence Roberts	Bunjum Aboriginal Co-op		PO Box 24 Wardell
Vernon Heron	Nungera Co-op	Housing officer	02 6645 3468
Angela Cowan	Yarrowarra Corp		02 6649 2669
Maria Wilson	Yarrowarra Corp		02 6649 2669
Loma Poulson	Forster CDEP	Manager	PO Box 384 Foster
Stephen Bung	Guri – Wa Kempsey		PO Box 115 Kempsey
Hector Ritchie	Guri – Wa Kempsey		PO Box 115 Kempsey
Des Sikov	Forster LALC		PO Box 384 Forster
John Clark	Purfleet/Taree LALC		02 6552 4106
Manul Ritchie	Purfleet/Taree LALC		02 6552 4106
Robert Vidler	Yabur Yalgun Coop	General Manager	yabyul@nop.com
Kevin Freeburn	Yabur Yalgun	Treasurer	yabyul@nop.com
Fay Griffiths	Kamilaroi ALS		
Ivy Smith	Kamilaroi ALS		
Noel Lockwood	Guri Wa Kempsey		
Malcolm Webb	Many Rivers ALS		
John McKenzie	Many Rivers ALS	Newcastle	02 4921 8815
Brian Johnstone	NSWALC		bjohnsto@alc.org.au
William Johnstone	NSWALC	CEO	
Kelly Pipe	Mindaribba	Youloe – Ta	024956 8288
Rick Griffiths	ATSIC NSW Eastern	Commissioner	02 4909 4646
Lyall Munro	Chairperson, Kamilaroi	Regional Council	02 6766 7966
Stephen Blunden	Chairperson, Many Rivers	Regional Council	02 6648 5800
Des Williams	Many Rivers Deputy	Chairperson	02 6648 5800
Trevor Kapeen	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800
Jim Budd	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800
Louise Campbell	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800
Ruth Campbell	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800
Beverly Dargin	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800
Peter Smith	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800
Tim Torrens	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800
Jim Wright	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800
Gordon Griffiths	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800
Gerald Bradshaw	Many Rivers	Councillor	02 6648 5800

Eddie Briggs	Kamilaroi Councillor	02 6766 7966
Doug McGrady	Kamilaroi Councillor	02 6766 7966
Margaret Cutmore	Kamilaroi Councillor	02 6766 7966
Roger Knox	Kamilaroi Councillor	02 6766 7966
Gregory Livermore	Kamilaroi Councillor	02 6766 7966
Albert Denison	Kamilaroi Councillor	02 6766 7966

Coffs Harbour and Tamworth ICC staff.

Andrew Riley
Sharon Monaghan
Michael Bible
John Daniels
Jan Vidler
Joyce Berry

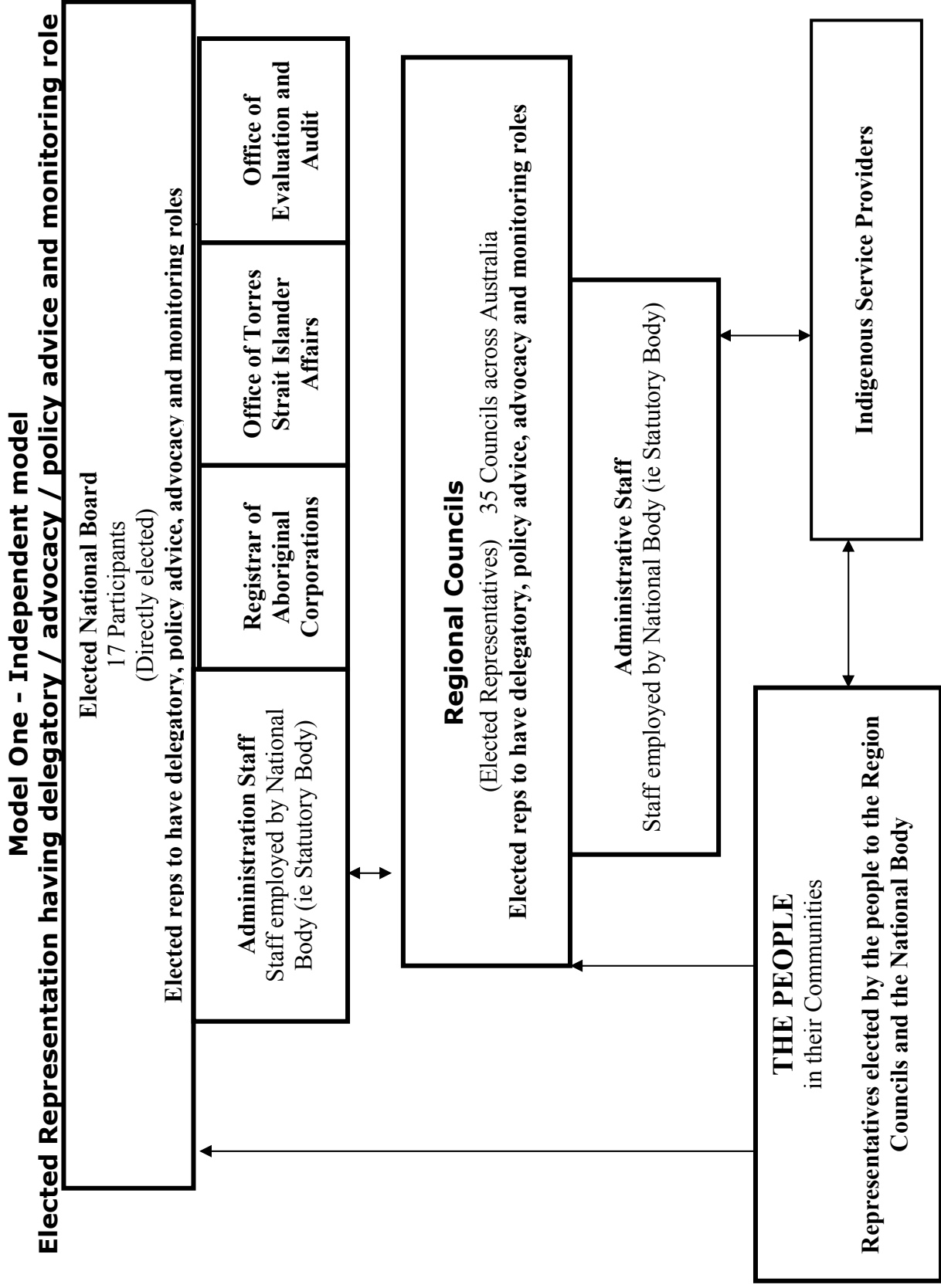
Invited delegates unable to attend.

Honorable Mark Latham MP
Senator Aden Ridgeway
Nambucca Heads Shire Councillor Martin Ballangarry
Kyogle Shire Deputy Mayor Patsy Nagas
Aboriginal Medical Research Council

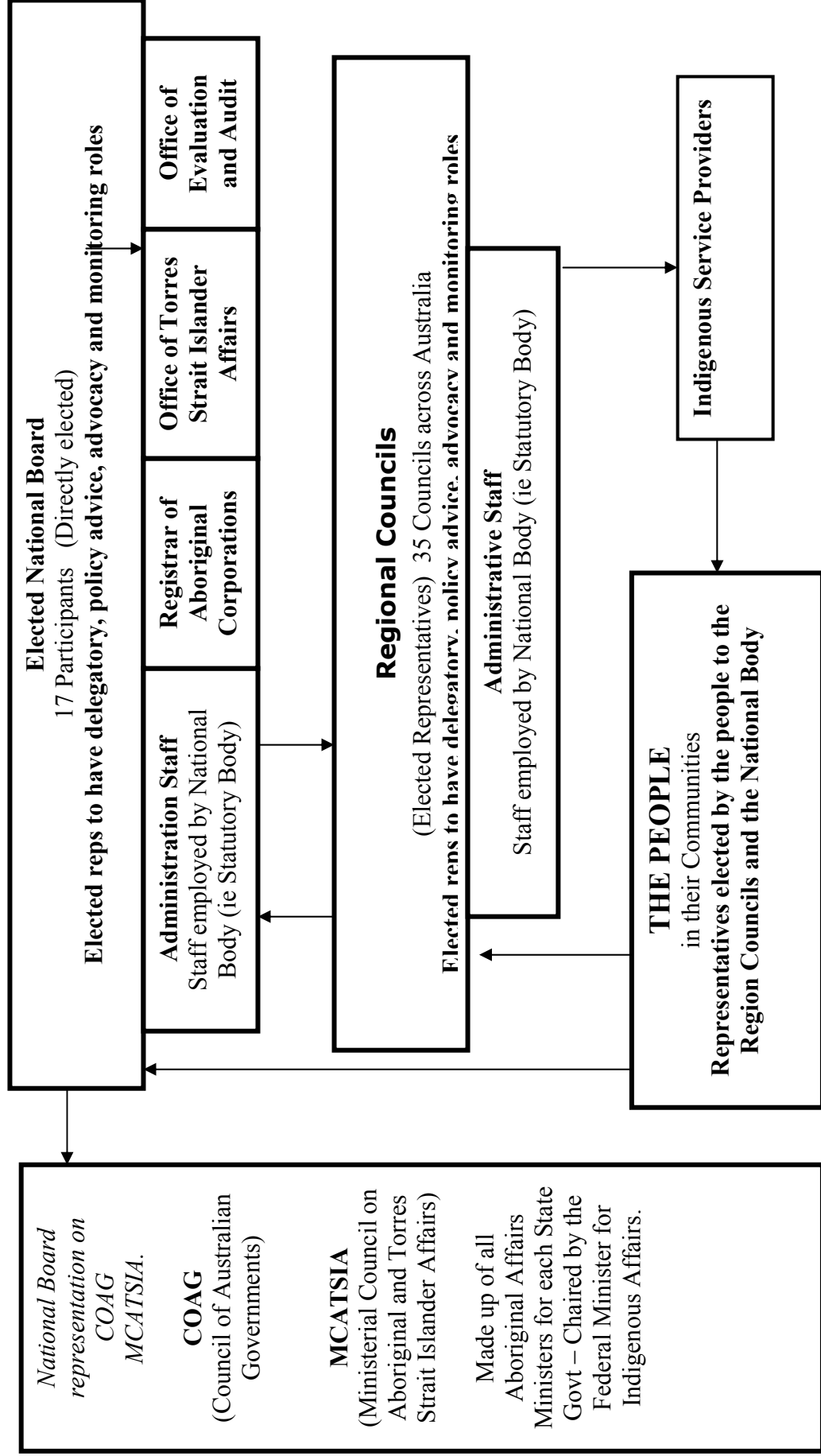
Appendix 2 – Associated Legislation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976
Aboriginal Land (Lake Condah and Framlingham Forest) Act 1987
Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Act 1989
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986
National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992
Native Title Act 1993
Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973
Social Security Act 1991

Appendix 3 – possible models



Model Two - Delegatory model
Elected Representation having delegatory / advocacy / policy advice and monitoring role



Model Three – Totally independent model

