

From: David Allen [<mailto:straal19@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2004 3:58 PM
To: Committee, Indigenous Affairs (SEN)
Subject: Senate Inquiry submission: Abolishing ATSIC

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Committee's Inquiry on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2004 and proposed related changes to the administration of Commonwealth Indigenous affairs policy.

I am appalled at the massive propaganda campaign that has been directed against Aboriginal People, Communities and Organizations.

Almost all Australians want Aboriginal People to have a fair go in this their own country. However, as each issue is discussed, it is accompanied by such a vehement and vindictive propaganda campaign that Australians are forced to agree that a fair go is due, once this particular issue has been resolved.

The list of issues that can be generated is endless. The future for Aboriginal People and for Australia's self respect is very bleak indeed. The campaign against ATSIC is a prime example.

We supply them with drugs and accuse them of being dealers. We deny them right to manage their own affairs and say they are incompetent. We deny them adequate funding for Housing, Education, health etc and say they are corrupt.

Each accusation that we make against our Aboriginal Brothers, Sisters and Ancestors comes back to haunt us, undermining even further our credibility, our love and our adherence to truth. These accusations corrupt us to the core.

We need to establish Freedom of Religion in Australia, applying it to Aboriginals as well as to the new comers.

We need to establish a system of ethics in our constitution. This would be based on Truth, Sustainability and Fairness, reflecting the values that enabled Aboriginal societies to survive for tens of thousands of years.

Yours Sincerely
David Allen (0419) 268583