

Dear Secretary

I am pleased to input into this Inquiry.

The ability of Indigenous people to determine local, regional and national representation is crucial, and the current bill etc will deny these fundamental rights in, inter alia, decision making.

Indeed Indigenous Australians have endorsed the need for a national body reflecting their values and aspirations - with primary roles of advocacy, representation and policy advice. Such implied rights are critical to improving their well being but paternalism is definitely not !

And any replacement for ATSIC must be decided in consultation with Indigenous people and be consented to by them. Please ensure your report endorses this principle strongly.

Yours sincerely

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