

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

**Inquiry into the Administration of Indigenous
Affairs**

Submission No: 245

**Mr Cecil Fisher
32 Maenporth Street
LEICHHARDT QLD 4305**

**Work Telephone:
Fax Number:**

Email:

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PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON
NATIVE TITLE AND THE ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER LAND FUND

REC'D: 15/2/05

FROM: Cecil Fisher

AUTHORISED FOR PUBLICATION

SECRETARY: 

Cecil Fisher

32 Maenporth St

Leichhardt.

6 February 2005.

The Senate Re A.T.S.I.C.

Senate Standing Committee. Submission
from Cecil Fisher Re A.T.S.I.C. N.A.C.
N.A.C.C. 1974 TO 2005.

Sir I Cecil Fisher was one of the first
Elected Representatives for Brisbane Q. & A.
Area which took in Brisbane Gold and
Sunshine coast areas Gympie Cherbourg
Murgoo, Wondia, Kungaroy, Bell, Dalby,
Churchilla, Miles ~~Wendamba~~, Helidon, Laidley
Kowood, Rosewood Ipswich and surrounding
areas in these Areas. 1974 we the National
~~Consultative~~ Aboriginal Consultative Committee
went to Canberra to meet the then Prime
Minister Geoff Whitlam - when Whitlam's
Time expired we then met Prime Minister
Malcolm Fraser.

We were Elected in as ~~to~~ consultative
Committee representing Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Island people; After arriving
in Canberra we also met Barry Dexter, Sect
Aboriginal Affairs Charles Perkins, Percy Knight
Johnny Moriaty all Aboriginal affairs people.
The Government gave us a legal advisor John
Evans who advised us we were elected in
as a Congress of people for the Aboriginal and

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Jones Strait Island people. 2 of our Elected members were from the Jones Strait Island this caused friction within the Government who started threatening us stoppage of pay and other benefits Travelling ect. as the first elected Aboriginal Jones Strait Reps we didnt have any benefits just straight pay. We the original Jones Strait Reps worked from our Houses used and paid for our own phone car petrol to travel met our own accommodation on our area travels to get to the people in our areas. Because of the lack of thought from the Government some of us faced hardships. our 3 three years was extended to 4 four years for Government to do research into the N.A.C.C. At the end of our Term 4 four years the Government changed the name from N.A.C.C. National Aboriginal Consultative Committee to Nation Aboriginal Council. They also changed the boundaries thereby making it almost impossible to win for us. They took Cherbourg one of this area these were my voters (Black) first past the post no preferences. they also took Joojoolah Gympie out of this area. this area was then called Brisbane Regional Area. They the Government upgraded this Area, Office, staff car phones Higher usages Area Allowance 10,000 year. They didnt look or talk about any ~~Reimbursement~~ Reimbursement of the N.A.C.C. Members pay or Allowance ect. Even though this N.A.C.C. had better conditions pay ect I dont believe they received any better

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consideration by the then Government and was only still consultative committee after their N.A.C. (I was coming to an end the Government had yet another Inquiry into N.A.C. they the Government decided to establish another Body A.T.S.I.C. Aboriginal Jones Strait Island Committee, all three Bodies were Elected by Aboriginal and ~~and~~ Jones Strait people. This A.T.S.I.C. Body in each area had more people in each area 12-14 in areas. Chair ~~Commissioner~~ Commissioner and ordinary Council Members. Chair and Council looked after their areas. Commissioners joined together in Canberra to Elect chair to hold meetings and take to the Government. After 31 years I still believe the Council of Commissioners and areas councillors are treated as ~~consultative~~ consultative councils to be treated with contempt by the Government. These councils should be a part of Aboriginal affairs. This body besides advising should be able to make ~~the~~ Decisions that the Government Implements. I am not talking about the Councils spending Money from the Finance Area, but advising and Government Implementing the advise. at least one meeting a year by the whole Elected Body 3 Day to Reverse and look at future Events and put together a Report to Government. A.T.S.I.C. and their people.

Cecil Fisher

A.T.S.I.C.

Brisbane Regional Council

Brisbane Q.L.D.

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Carl Fisher Ave
OAH-NATIONAL
ABORIGINAL ~~YEAR~~
WALELDER YEAR, 2004

Senate Committee, R.E.A.T.S.I.C.

I was Elected as a N.A.C.C. Member 1973 to 1976 but was given to 1977. I and my fellow N.A.C.C. Members wasn't given any loyalty or fair play by the then governments (b. whitlam Labour) Malcolm Fraser Liberal. We were Elected by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. After N.A.C.C. N.A.C.C. was Elected by the National Aboriginal and Island people then came 2000 year and A.T.S.I.C. was formed again Elected by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. Because of Lack of Communication by Government and A.T.S.I.C. peoples Council this committee hasn't been the Ideal organization. But the Government must also accept their share of blame. So I think that we the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people can't Elect a proper representative committee is preposterous. The Body or Bodies to now take the Reversal should be Elected not Selected like ~~N.A.C.C.~~ N.A.C.C. or Dodoors Mob. I don't say this new body should handle Monies that can stay in A.T.S.I.C. or A.T.S.I.S. but this new body should be a part of the Government body and should be given the respect it Deserves. Their decisions and Information provides

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should be assessed and acted on, not treated
just as a consultative as been happening in
the last 30 years. These Elected people have
learn't a lot since N.A.C.C. N.A.C. Now
A.T.S.I.C. and cant be Ignored by Government
when the Aboriginal and Torres Strait people
~~learn~~ expect them to represent them to
Governments. We the Aboriginal are tired
of being treated as Jackie Jackies and
expect better service and understanding
from Governments, A.T.S.I.S and other
Government Bodies. We the Aboriginal Torres
Strait Island know you the Government
have selected two other Bodies to be
Advisers (Mick Dodson) and
frankly the Aboriginal people had no
say in these selections these bodies are
being forced on us. You Government hold
the purse strings as you always did
but you dont hold our minds and our
opinions and its about time we the
Elected Aboriginal ~~people~~ Torres Strait
Island people were given a say over
our future Elected people not selected
by Government. Hoping the Secretary or
Chair Read My two books and letter
and add them as my submission to
your committee to try and understand
and give my Aboriginal and Torres
Strait people a better deal not selected
deal.

Sincerely Cecil Fisher
A.M. O.P.M. National Male Elder
2001