

Lot 1 Eian St,
Wentworth Falls 2782
18.7.04

The Secretary,
Select Ctee on the
administration of Indigenous affairs
Parliament House Canberra,



Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to submit a short
submission to the Ctee Inquiry on the
administration of Indigenous affairs.

I am gravely concerned that the
Government is systematically reducing
the independent voice of aboriginal
people. Indigenous people must have
genuine involvement in decision-making
which affects their lives and their
communities.

There needs to be a National Indigenous Representative body which reflects the views, values and aspirations of aboriginal people and which is open & accountable to local people. The abolition of ATSIC without a blueprint of a new body is incorrect protocol and deeply offensive to the many many aboriginal people committed to making their communities supportive and strengthening of culture & family.

The replacement of ATSIC is a priority and must be implemented through informed consent of aboriginal people.

The new structure must be resourced to function well and enabled to respond to local & regional community needs & issues.

Yours Faithfully,
Mary Waterford.