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Sent: Sunday, 25 July 2004 6:30 PM

To: Committee, Indigenous Affairs (SEN)

Subject: Submission for Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs

Dear Sir/ Madam

I would like to express my thoughts as an ordinary Australian of long Anglo- Celtic heritage (3rd Fleet).

Aboriginal Australians must have their own elected body to represent them and look after their affairs.

We cannot go back to the old ways of pretending their opinions and beliefs and actions are not as real and valid as our own.

We must look to the future when we will be one people of indigenous and migrant origin sharing a culture that we must lay the foundations for now.

This will be by allowing both peoples equal opportunity and education to learn to experience and respect what each other brings to the new Australia.

For our (white) part this will be by sharing our knowledge and teaching others to use that knowledge rather than just giving them a handout.

Possibly eventually Aboriginal people may teach us how we can live here successfully in harmony with the land.

They wont do that if we go back to treating them like children or expecting them to act "white".

Thank you for you attention

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