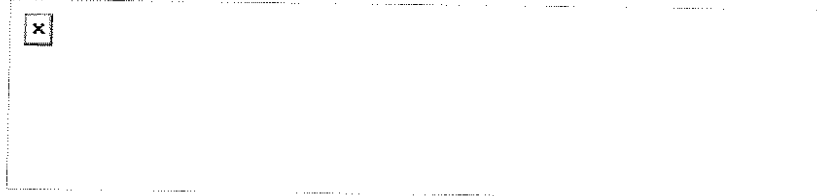


**Drinkwater, Cath (SEN)**

**From:** RaTS of Warranambool [ratsw@reedpca.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 24 February 2005 5:06 PM  
**To:** Committee, Indigenous Affairs (SEN)  
**Subject:** ATSIC Submission Points 2005



24 February 2005

The Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on the Administration  
Of Indigenous Affairs  
Parliament House, Canberra  
ACT 2600

Email: [Indigenous.Affairs@aph.gov.au](mailto:Indigenous.Affairs@aph.gov.au)

Dear Secretary,

We understand that the Senate Committee will not be meeting in Melbourne at the end of February as previously arranged. We therefore request that the following points be submitted to the Committee in addition to that supplied in our submission of 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2004.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Reed  
Convenor R.a.T.S.  
6 Curtin Court  
Warrnambool, Vic. 3280

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE  
ADMINISTRATION OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

REC'D: 24/2/05

FROM: RaTS of Warranambool

RECOMMENDED FOR PUBLICATION:

SECRETARY: [Signature]

24/02/2005

## **SUBMISSION**

### **Senate Inquiry on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs**

#### **1. The Need for an Elected National Indigenous Representative Body**

- We wish to reinforce the view put forward in our submission of July 2004 that there is a basic need for an Elected Indigenous Representative Body to address the needs of Australia's Indigenous People at National Level.
- We believe that the establishment of the National Indigenous Council as a government-appointed body is a backward step which cannot serve this purpose and will in reality only serve as a mouthpiece for government policy.

#### **2. The Effects of Withdrawal of ATSIC Funding on Indigenous Communities**

- ATSIC currently provides funding in specialist areas such as employment, housing and infrastructure to many Indigenous Communities. The funding of organisations such as Indigenous Legal Services and Native Title Representative Bodies is also a responsibility of ATSIC which is of vital importance to Indigenous development.
- The devolution of responsibility for these functions to mainstream government departments would remove them from control of an Indigenous organisation and hand them over to bodies which lacked any knowledge or real understanding of their needs.

#### **3. The Need for Community Consultation**

- We submit that there is a need for widespread consultation within the Indigenous Communities before any move is made either to reform the existing structure of ATSIC or to replace it by another elected body.
- We believe that such consultation will require a considerable period of time, possibly well over a year, and that the present structure of ATSIC should be retained and continue to carry out its present roll during that intervening period.