

**Gregory, Noel (SEN)**

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**From:** Chris Ridings [tutu@atu.com.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2002 3:44 PM  
**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)  
**Cc:** Judy MacGregor-Smith  
**Subject:** (Fwd: PH, NG) Reconciliation Inquiry submission

The Secretariat  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Room S1.61, Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretariat

Given the short deadline, my submission is not as comprehensive as I would prefer.

Is it possible, therefore, for the submission deadline to be extended over the summer to optimise opportunities?

I have found the present Government's response inadequate in progressing towards national reconciliation despite some good signs in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) initiatives in trialing whole of government approaches in ten sample communities, and an increase in the number and quality of agreements being negotiated, such as indigenous Land Use Agreements.

However, the public have felt denied information as to where this process is going and what are to be the milestones along the way.

I submit that the Government provide a continuing, adequately resourced formal reconciliation process with long-term strategies, targets, benchmarks and monitoring.

What is required is a process with its goals and priorities open to public examination with specific timelines outlined.

I understand that these may vary according to circumstances but in such cases the public would need to be informed openly.

I submit that the Government present to the public its ranking of priorities in implementing aspects of Reconciliation

Regarding practical forms of Reconciliation, I submit that Government input consider the HEETH poverty-busting Principle (i.e. Health, Education, Employment, Transport and Housing) addressing within these 5 areas simultaneously in consultation with State Governments and Territories ways and means aboriginal communities may be brought to similar levels of care as with the non-indigenous population.

As far as possible, members from aboriginal communities should be appropriately trained to be resource persons working within their own communities with non-indigenous support.

This, to me, is part of the Reconciliation process.

I regret that it is impossible for me, given the short time limit, to spell out more of the National Strategies to advance Reconciliation, but it seems to me at this given point in time to request the Government to show to the people some positive steps that it is carrying out the people's wishes that Reconciliation not only be advanced, but to be clearly seen that it is being advanced.

May God bless you as you process all submissions and I await to hear further.

Yours faithfully

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9/12/2002