



Tasmania

PREMIER

18 NOV 2002

Senator N Bolkus
Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Nick,
Dear Senator Bolkus

Thank you for inviting the Tasmanian Government to make a submission to the Inquiry into Progress Towards National Reconciliation, currently being undertaken by your Committee.

I note that the terms of reference for the Inquiry deal specifically with the Commonwealth Government's response to the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Final Report and Roadmap for Reconciliation and to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner's Reports. The Tasmanian Government does not intend to provide a formal submission commenting on matters that relate to the Commonwealth.

However, I would point out that the Tasmanian Government has a strong commitment to Aboriginal reconciliation and has been actively promoting the reconciliation process both within Tasmania and nationally.

As you would be aware the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed at its 3 November 2000 meeting to a new approach to addressing social and economic disadvantage in Aboriginal communities. This approach will be based on partnerships and shared responsibilities with indigenous communities, programme flexibility and greater coordination between government agencies.

The Tasmanian Government supports the objectives of the COAG Framework on Aboriginal Reconciliation. We are working with other jurisdictions to implement the new approach endorsed through COAG. For example, in the area of service provision, Tasmania is well advanced on developing its own framework for improved service delivery to indigenous communities. This framework will be consistent with the objectives and principles of the COAG approach.

Tasmania *Together* is the 20 year overarching social, environmental and economic plan for Tasmania that was developed through broad consultation with the community. It contains 24 goals supported by 212 agreed benchmarks that provide the framework for both government and non-government decision making to achieve a shared vision of Tasmania by the year 2020.

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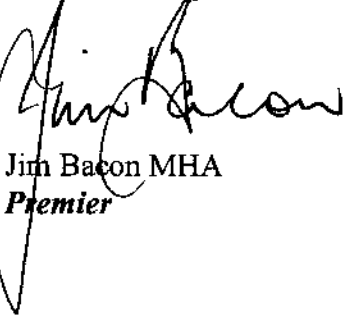
One of these goals (Goal 10) is specifically targeted at improved outcomes for the State's Aboriginal community. This goal includes 14 benchmarks that directly contribute to the reconciliation process.

Addressing Indigenous family violence is a high priority both within the COAG framework and for Tasmania. To build upon the recently released Indigenous Family Violence Project Report – ya pulingina kani - the Government will be working with the Aboriginal community and Commonwealth agencies to identify strategies for tackling the problem in this State.

There are a number of other practical ways in which the Government has been working to advance reconciliation in the State. I would be pleased to provide the Committee with further details on these and the initiatives outlined above if it would assist with the Inquiry.

Thank you again for again for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Bacon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jim Bacon MHA
Premier