

disability, housing & community services

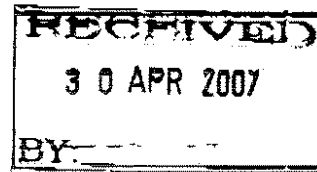


dhcs | ACT

Mr Guy Barnett
Committee Chair
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
The Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

department
of disability,
housing &
community
services.

community partners



Dear Mr Barnett

I refer to your letter of 2 April 2007 inviting the Chief Minister and the ACT Government to make a submission to the Parliamentary inquiry into the *Native Title Amendment (Technical Amendments) Bill 2007*. The Chief Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

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There has been minimal involvement by the ACT Government in native title issues in the past. Only three native title claims have been brought before the Federal Court in the ACT and to date no determination has been made that any native title rights exist in the area.

The common law and the *Native Title Act 1993* probably together extinguished native title over large parts of the land of the ACT.

In relation to the current inquiry, there is a need for any system that is put in place to encourage open communication, early information exchange and transparency when dealing with Indigenous people and representative bodies.

I look forward to the final report from the inquiry in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nic Manikis".

Nic Manikis
Director
Office of Multicultural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
24 April 2007

File no:

