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| Submission No. .... 20 ..... |
| Date Received .....          |

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The Secretary  
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18-Jul-08

RECEIVED  
21 JUL 2008  
BY: ...ATSIA...

Dear Sir/Madam,

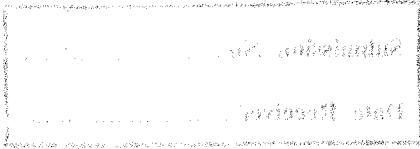
In this, my submission to the Standing Committee's Inquiry into Developing Indigenous Enterprises, I particularly want to comment on Terms of Reference (3) "The feasibility of adapting the US minority development council model to the Australian context."

I have been involved with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for more than thirty years. I know many of these people have suffered as a result of alienation from their families, their land and their culture - and I appreciate that Prime Minister Rudd's apology to the Stolen Generation has signalled a new and positive era in relation to reconciliation.

I believe that the real work of reconciliation in Australia involves ensuring that every Indigenous Australian has access to all that our society has to offer. This means that, in addition to dealing with the very obvious issues of health care, education and housing, it is vital to provide opportunities which will redress disadvantage and support the development of economic independence.

It is my belief that the Supplier Diversity model referred to in this inquiry will facilitate the development of economic independence. Whilst the proponents of this model go to some lengths to emphasize that it should not be seen as the only solution to Indigenous poverty, I do believe that, if managed properly over the long term, it will make a significant difference to the financial situation of many Indigenous Australians.

This model is about helping people to help themselves, fostering skills, it is seen as a 'hand up' not a 'handout'. It is obvious that one of the major attractions of this model is its simplicity. The aim is clear. To encourage corporate Australia to conduct business with Indigenous owned businesses. The peak body for this Supplier Diversity Council will have one goal - to increase the amount of business conducted between its members and accredited Indigenous businesses.



As an individual and as an Independent Councillor with the City of Sydney I am totally committed to supporting this Supplier Diversity model. At the 2007 NSW Local Government Association Conference I tabled a motion "that the NSW Local Government Association investigate ways to assist and encourage member councils to adopt the principles of supplier diversity in their procurement policies and practices..." This motion was unanimously endorsed. Clearly it will facilitate the future involvement of Local Government in any developments relating to the US Supplier Diversity model.

In my opinion, in order to ensure the long term success of this model, it is crucial that local, state and federal governments participate in the generic operation of the model. This means that agencies, departments and councils must become members of the nominated peak body.

I personally look forward to participating in the development of this Supplier Diversity model.

Sincerely,

Marcelle Hoff