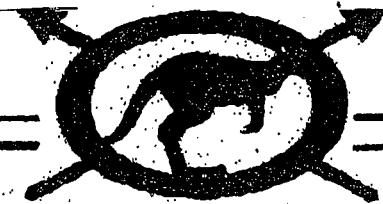


NOONGAR LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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RECEIVED
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2nd April 2005

Submission No. 15
 Date Received 12-4-05

ATT: Ms Cheryl Scarlett
 Inquiry Secretary
 Parliament of Australia
 Standing Committee on Aboriginal
 & Torres Strait Islander Affairs
 Parliament House
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Dear Committee Members

I thank you on behalf of the Noongar Land Council Aboriginal Corporation members for allowing us to make a submission to the Committee on Indigenous employment and training.

1. I am the C.E.O. and Registered Public Officer of the Noongar Land Council (AC). We have been de-funded by A.T.S.I.C. since 2000, yet we continue to survive with the financial help of the Aboriginal International Friendship Foundation Inc, a Registered Charity for Aboriginal people of the same address, 26 Drake St, Osborne Park, 6017 in the State of Western Australia. I am also the Administrator & spokesperson of the A.I.F.F.Inc which is the Metropolitan Noongar Circle of Elders.

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2. We have complained to Senator Vanstone's Office re our lack of funding only to be told by the Senator's advisor on Indigenous Affairs , a Mr Russell Patterson, that the decision stands not to fund the N.L.C.A.C. by the Indigenous Affairs Minister despite her office being fully informed about the facts, and the urgent need to fund this organization that needs to hire Legal, Anthropological and Administrative staff to fight for our Land Claims presently in the Federal Court. I have been giving my time free of charge as an advocate for the Noongar people to fight these claims against the Crown in Court.
3. I am not a Lawyer, however I have been elected to do this work for the Noongar Elders and Traditional owners, and I do believe that a complete miscarriage of Justice continues to be the case by our own Minister refusing to fund the N.L.C.A.C. This fact the Committee should make enquiries about if it is serious in addressing the issues of Employment and Training of Indigenous people, on Noongar Land here in the South West of Western Australia.
4. Generally speaking, Aboriginal people should be given control of their own affairs that includes Finance, because without money nothing is possible. We have been badly served by the Commonwealth Agency (now defunct) A.T.S.I.C. This was sanctioned by the Commonwealth Government., This Organization was a corrupt agency that never benefited the Indigenous person, except for Government ("Jacky's) - black people employed by the Government to oppress other black people, that's our view. There are no runs on the Board so to speak or achievements that A.T.S.I.C had made for Indigenous people, the funding of 1.2 billion a year went to run A.T.S.I.C and pay it's friends and associates. Little money flowed on to the people it was intended for. The results speak for themselves.
5. For example the Wiluna Community here in Western Australia (Martu) desert people had two viable businesses. The Emu Farm and Desert Gold Orange Farm. The result after millions of dollars being spent (stolen) absolute decimation, nothing left. All gone closed up by A.T.S.I.C. Administrators and former accountants.

A \$10 million plus funded by the Commonwealth Government organizations to promote C.D.E.P. in the Perth Metropolitan area, and what have they achieved in the past? Not very much at all. This is the type of corruption and incompetence that needs to be examined by the Standing Committee and remove these former A.T.S.I.C. personnel or you will never achieve any reasonable outcome for Indigenous Employment.

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6. The emphasis must be on outcomes of jobs or Training achievements to get jobs. The reporting of these outcomes must be mandatorily checked and not allowed to be a "snow job", which these corrupt individuals do what they want to do, make as much money for themselves and their company with complete immunity and lay the blame on the Aboriginal people for incompetence or lack of knowledge of how to run a business

7. I attach a Newspaper report from Western Australian newspaper's journalist, Mr Neil Prior, dated 24.2.05 to illustrate my point, that even Deloitte staff, a highly reputable Accounting Firm Company cannot be trusted, The same thing happened to the Noongar Language and Culture Centre.

A.T.S.I.C.

closed down the Noongar Language and Culture Centre; where A.T.S.I.C's own Noongars or Aboriginal Jacky's fleeced the place and so A.T.S.I.C did not want an enquiry because it was not in their best interests, as their chosen crew were stealing with immunity from A.T.S.I.C. but successfully had the Federal Court wind up this organization without much fuss, dead and buried! We request an inquiry into this important issue and hope the Committee takes a careful note of these people and have them removed from our affairs in the future. These people have been leaches and we inform you they are not interested in assisting us in any way only themselves.

8. There is probably about 80% Aboriginal people on Welfare and Unemployment, those are the true facts. Therefore, C.D.E.P. should be retained but the outcomes must achieve the goals set. Training Programmes in all aspects being all types of trades or working with the land; i.e.: agriculture, horticulture, perma-culture, fish farms, marron farms etc, should be totally supported and properly funded and the outcomes assessed regularly. Aboriginal organizations should be directly involved and in full control of their projects. We are sick of corrupt people that blame us for projects that are purposely funded to fail and they rip us off with their mates legally.

9. The Multicultural or Australian business will generally not employ Aboriginal people, due to fear or other Racist reasons or generally because Aboriginal people have not been trained for this work, and may also have a criminal record. So therefore, on the job training must be supported and properly funded to achieve the desired result. The lack of secondary education, illiteracy and loss of hope to get work must be reversed as a concept, because one must be equipped and capable of doing this type of work with confidence, which can be achieved through Adult Education Programs, with set outcomes to get people job ready in a cultural appropriate and monitored way.

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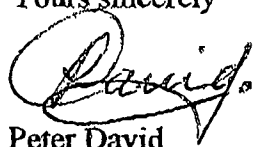
10. The problems faced by most Aboriginal dysfunctional families is substance abuse and domestic violence and feuding between other families. This point I have made to the Hon. Senator Ellison and the M.H.R. for Stirling in Western Australia, the Hon. Micheal Keenan at a meeting before the last Federal Election here in Balcatta, a suburb of Perth. Once again the Senator was very supportive and Mr Keenan agreed to assist us in setting up the Noongar Security Service to attend to these problems. But, of course, it seems to me it was all talk. I wonder if the same applies to this Standing Committee. Is it a waste of time making a submission to the Howard Government? Who has such an appalling record and has an equally appalling Senator overseeing our Affairs?
11. I hope not, because until the Aboriginal people are given the true responsibility and control over their own funding and affairs, nothing will be achieved to make us self determined and successful with the help of all Government agencies assisting this Cause, Reconciliation is a forgotten dream, invented by the oppressor to make themselves feel good, that's our opinion.
12. In real terms, it is Diplomatic genocide, because no jobs means welfare, 'the Dole' dependency, and the poverty trap. It is no wonder so many Aboriginal people are in prison currently and many younger and middle-aged Aboriginal men and women rebel in society and hate the white man's unjust system implemented by them for our benefit? No, it is for their own racist benefit to continue to steal our wealth and through their corrupt system to keep us illiterate, untrained and poor in our own Country, almost as if we were aliens, not black Australians with citizenship rights granted to us by Law and passed by Federal Parliament, It means nothing to us in real terms, because we know when we are being purposely oppressed by corrupt individuals and agencies of the Crown. We want to know, is there finally going to be a change to reverse this disastrous trend.

I attach documents in relation to future prospects for which we would need funding to implement Programs. Perhaps you may pass it on to the relevant Government Agency that may be responsible to implement these programs of benefit to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia. Since we have had big problems with ICC in Perth. This new (Indigenous Co-ordination Centre) seems to be the same mob as A.T.S.I.C here in Perth. They are absolutely hopeless to deal with, no help whatsoever, and the filling in of the Application for "The Submission" had to be done at our expense by a Doctor of Business and she had trouble doing the Submission how would Aboriginal people, in a Aboriginal Organization be able to do these submissions to be part of these newly thought of programs? No Chance! So I ask the Standing Committee to consider the question of "real access" or are we forever going to be working with not for profit "big organizations such as Mission Australia or the Salvation Army" or the many Churches funded by the Commonwealth because they employ full time people to fill in these Tenders and Submissions to get money from the Federal and State Government without any problem. Whatever happened to the idea of a better more user friendly

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approach of helping Aboriginal People help themselves without people like Mission Australia and the Salvo's million dollar charities. We believe in self determination with whole of Government help, rather than putting up all sorts of barriers and obstacles, may achieve a far better outcome for all concerned. I would like to know why does a Government re-employ A.T.S.I.C type people in an Indigenous Co-ordination Centre that is supposed to replace an organization for the better or is this another charade set-up by Senator Vanstone we have to put up with? What are these people doing or getting to co-ordinate? Their wages? For no effort, or care, for the Indigenous person and organization they are supposedly there to assist? Seriously, the Committee should investigate this I.C.C staff and management and perhaps, make some positive changes in these types of Commonwealth funded Government agencies there to assist us access Government funding programs.

Thanking you
Yours sincerely



Peter David
C.E.O. Noongar Land Council

