



Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Media alert

The Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples today tabled its final report in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

This report is the culmination of consultations and discussions around Australia on the topic of constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and builds on the work of the Expert Panel which reported to government in January 2012.

During its inquiry, the committee held 15 public hearings, consulted with constitutional law experts and held community forums. The committee received 139 submissions.

At all times, the committee has sought to hear the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and believes that in order to achieve constitutional recognition, the support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is crucial.

The committee recommends that a referendum be held on the matter of recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution, and that it be held at a time when it has the highest chance of success.

The committee puts forward three options which it considers would meet the dual objectives of achieving constitutional recognition and delivering protection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from racial discrimination.

The committee is proud of its achievement in that it has met the objective of building a secure strong multi-partisan parliamentary consensus around the timing, specific content and wording of referendum proposals for Indigenous constitutional recognition.

The report is available on the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jscatsi>.

Contact:

- For copies of the report, please contact committee secretariat on 02 6277 3583.
- For comment, please contact the Office of the Chair Mr Ken Wyatt AM MP on 02 6277 4707, and the Office of the Deputy Chair Senator Nova Peris OAM on 02 6277 3004.