

Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

**MSDUK**<sup>TM</sup>  
minority supplier development

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BY: ATSIA

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8<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Submission to the Standing Committee Inquiry into developing Indigenous enterprises

Dear Committee Secretary,

The House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry into developing Indigenous enterprises is a very welcome development. MSDUK seeks to provide input to your Inquiry via this submission.

It is with some pride and satisfaction that MSDUK provides this submission. For the past year we have been encouraging and assisting a group of Australians in their aims to build an Australian version of the Supplier Diversity model. They undertook to keep the MSDUK abreast of developments in Australia. Our offer was to support them where possible.

MSDUK has been in operation since July 2006. Today we have 40 corporate members – including some of the largest UK and Global corporations. We have 300 minority owned businesses registered with us on our database. MSDUK's primary objective is to provide a direct link between our corporate members and minority owned businesses.

We are also aware that the NMSDC and CAMSC are providing assistance to the development of the Australia initiative.

Due to the nascent nature of our Supplier Diversity initiative here in the UK, our example provides a contemporary contrast to the many decades of experience that the NMSDC has in the U.S. Of particular interest to your Inquiry may be the way in which MSDUK has worked with, and been endorsed and supported by the NMSDC in New York. This has been a very interesting and effective exercise in "global collaboration".

Having observed how the Australians have built a good working relationship with the NMSDC, CAMSC in Canada and ourselves here in the UK – I would suggest that the prospects of a professionally managed and successful introduction of the model into Australia are very positive indeed.

MSDUK does not have first hand knowledge of the history and prospects for Indigenous Australians and their communities. From what we have gathered over this past year, it would seem that the environment that exists in Australia today is most conducive to a Supplier Diversity type of development.

Besides having a professional interest in the development in Australia as Director of MSDUK, I personally have an academic interest. My PhD studies were specifically on minority entrepreneurship and subsequently led into the study of Supplier Diversity examples around the world.

Finally I wish to re-iterate the MSDUK endorsement of, and commitment to the Supplier Diversity developments in Australia.

My office remains open to further enquiry if you wish.

Yours Sincerely

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Director

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