

Submission No.	60
Date Received	



**Government
of South Australia**

Ref: 08MAA0241T

RECEIVED
28 AUG 2008
BY: ATSLA

Mr Richard Marles MP
Chairman
Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
PO BOX 6021
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Marles

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry into developing Indigenous enterprises.

I welcome the inquiry and understand the importance that self employment can play in reducing economic disadvantage of Indigenous Australians. It is a critical first step along the path to self employment and business development. In South Australia we have recently created an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Aboriginal Workforce Development which is looking at place-based approaches to increasing employment through training and case management.

As you would be aware the COAG Indigenous Reform agenda includes a reform element on "Economic Participation and Welfare Reform" to contribute to the COAG target on closing the gap in Indigenous life outcomes, particularly halving the gap in employment outcomes. The relevant working group has been looking at Indigenous business and maximising economic return on Indigenous assets and will soon be making some recommendations to COAG about possible directions for further reform.

South Australia has been contributing to the reform proposals and I have provided some examples of what South Australia is doing that may be of interest to you. These examples are provided in Attachment 1.

Some of the more promising enterprises that have the most potential to succeed are those that are built around promotion and preservation of Indigenous land and culture such as arts, tourism and bush foods.

The intention of both the Australian and South Australian Governments to change the way Native Title is managed should also have an impact on the capacity for communities and individuals to develop sustainable Indigenous enterprises.

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If you would like any further information about programs in South Australia please contact Ms Colleen McDonnell, Senior Policy and Programs Officer, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division on

Yours sincerely

Hon Jay Weatherill MP

MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND RECONCILIATION

8/8/2008