

**TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of certain citizens of Australia

draws to the attention of the House:

The eighth Annual Prime Minister's Report on the Government's Close the Gap Campaign and the Close the Gap Steering Committee's 2016 progress and priorities Report. These reports indicate that:

- **Constitutional recognition of Australia's First Peoples is essential to their well being**
- **Many targets were not met and only modest gains in progress were achieved in many areas**
- **Greater Indigenous control of programs at the local level is required**
- **A target to reduce levels of Indigenous incarceration needs to be included in the Close the Gap campaign**
- **An enquiry into institutional racism in the health sector is required**

We therefore ask the House to:

- **Move urgently to recognize Australia's First Peoples in the Australian Constitution and to remove racist elements in the Constitution**
- **Act to make meaningful consultation with local communities compulsory in regard to programs which affect them, fund them adequately and draw on successful models**
- **Provide the necessary funding for effective Aboriginal Legal Services and Justice Reinvestment Programs**
- **Provide the final two years of recommended Gonski funding to Aboriginal education programs**

Petition No. 1157-1665