



PRIME MINISTER  
CANBERRA

22 MAY 2008

The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Nelson

I am writing to you in regard to the Joint Policy Commission. As I indicated to you in our discussion today, I am anxious that efforts to develop new solutions to remote Indigenous housing be advanced as a priority.

As you know, I have been firmly of the view that the Commission must be above day to day political interests and that the only politicians on it should be you and I. I have also been clear that the working group under the Commission be made up of technical experts so that real outcomes can be delivered as soon as possible.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Government has accepted a number of your nominations, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that there is little chance of us reaching complete agreement in the near term on membership of the Commission and its working group so that work can commence as a matter of priority.

I have therefore decided to establish a National Policy Commission comprising a membership similar to that outlined to you in my letter of 9 May 2008, so that new work can begin on Indigenous housing as soon as possible.

Notwithstanding this setback, I look forward to your positive contributions to better policy and programs to deal with the challenges of delivering Aboriginal housing in remote communities.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Rudd