



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON
REGIONAL AND REMOTE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

Mr Patrick Walker
Director-General
Department of Indigenous Affairs
PO Box 7770
Cloister's Square
PERTH WA 6850

Cc: Ms Jennette Ward
A/Assistant Director
Policy and Coordination

Dear Mr Walker

Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities

As you know, the Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities conducted public hearings in Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Broome from 24 - 26 August 2009 as part of the committee's ongoing inquiry process.

During these hearings the committee undertook to seek information in response to queries or issues raised with us. The committee is writing to you seeking further information relating to issues that are likely to fall within the responsibility of the government of Western Australia. These issues are detailed in the attachment to this letter.

The committee appreciates that while not all issues are the responsibility of the Department of Indigenous Affairs, we would appreciate your assistance coordinating a response.

The attached document gives a summary of each issue, together with relevant excerpts from the Hansard transcript of the hearing. Page references for the transcript are also included to allow the evidence to be read in context. The page references are hyperlinked to the relevant transcript. The transcripts can also be found at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/indig_ctte/hearings/index.htm

We note that the Department of Indigenous Affairs has already provided a submission to the committee and invite you to appear at the committee's public hearing in Perth on 9 October.

The committee secretary, Ms Toni Matulick, has been in contact with Ms Jennette Ward in your department. Your response on the issues raised in the attachment would be appreciated in time for the committee's public hearing in Perth on 9 October 2009. To confirm your attendance at the Perth hearing, or if you require further information, please contact Bill Bannear in the committee secretariat on 02 6277 3079, or bill.bannear@aph.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion
Chair