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Senator Trish Crossin
Chair
Senate Inquiry into the Administration of Indigenous Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

28th July 2004

Dear Senator

**Re: TOR –
(b) the proposed administration of Indigenous programs and services by
mainstream departments and agencies; and
(c) related matters.**

I am pleased to have the opportunity to make the attached submission to your inquiry.
In it you will find that I posit the following:

1. That government departments are not the appropriate mechanism through which to direct programs for Indigenous Australians living in remote communities.
2. That there is a need for a structure that allows the Aboriginal people who live in remote communities to have direct input to policy formulation which affects their lives
3. That the existing structures in the Northern Territory are not delivering programs that allow a participatory framework and tend to favour particular groups in a community rather than the community at large.
4. There should be a greater accountability back to the community on the activity surrounding the use of land owners money received by way of royalties.
5. The hall mark of success in programs for remote living Aboriginals lies in social development which will then inspire economic development and improve health, education, housing and the other social determinants of ill health.

I point out that my views on Aboriginal affairs are formed following contact with remote living Aboriginal people and especially those on the Tiwi Islands with whom I have developed a close relationship after working for the Tiwi Health Board.

My comments are not intended to be directed to the urban Aboriginal population although in some instances these may be comparable.

Yours sincerely

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Principal

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