

8 Cowper St
Glenelg 5045
21.7.04

The Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the
Administration of Indigenous Affairs

Dear Sir/madam,

I write to you as a member of ANTAR.
Thank you for the opportunity to give my
views regarding the Committee's inquiry on
the ATSIC Bill 2004, and proposed
related changes to the administration
thereof.

Since we all agree, I hope, that
indigenous Australians have an inalienable
right to self-determination, human
rights and First Peoples' status,
it would appear that the proposed
changes get dangerously close to
denying these rights. Indigenous
Australians are only going to be offered

an advisory role, and while this might look good superficially, it can surely not replace the value of actual decision making.

The changes also contradict the Government's own Review of ATSIC, a review which endorsed the need for national elected Indigenous representation.

I realise that these are thorny issues, and do not lend themselves to simple answers, but I feel very strongly that a paternalistic attitude can only be counter-productive and a source of further discord.

Yours sincerely
Anne Parnis