



"Live Jesus in our hearts forever"

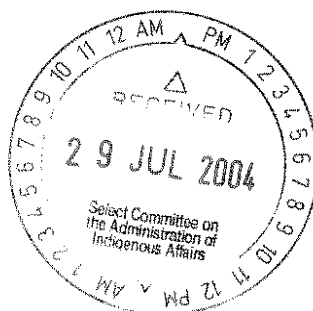
Christian Brothers

St Francis Xavier Province

(Queensland and Northern Territory)

Province Leadership Team

21 July 2004.



23 JUL 2004

The Secretary
Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Indigenous Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in relation to the **Committee's Inquiry on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Amendment Bill 2004** and possible related changes to the administration of Commonwealth Indigenous affairs policy.

I believe that it is essential that any body of people be permitted to have significant input into what concerns them and that impacts significantly on their lives. Therefore there is a need for Indigenous Australians to have their own National Representative Body. A body that they will feel confident knows and respects their culture, and is accountable to them, as well as being accountable to the Australian government.

Any proposal to revert to the failed model of paternalistic mainstream type of service delivery is not the way forward.

To determine the best way forward, it is important that whatever replaces ATSIC be planned and executed in consultation and negotiation with Indigenous peoples. After all, it is their lives and issues that this body will be asked to address.

Yours sincerely

(Brother) Barry Buckley cfc.

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