

2 Osric Court,
Ashburton, 3147
Victoria



26/7/04

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to say how much I believe Australia has an obligation to respect and protect the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands people to self determination, human rights and First Peoples status and the inherent rights that flow from that status.

Central to the enjoyment of these rights is the ability of Indigenous people to determine who represents them locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Indigenous people themselves must alone have this right, as well as the consequent right to make free and informed choices for themselves, their families and communities.

The current bill and proposed administrative arrangements will deny these fundamental rights.

The wholesale return to mainstream-focused service delivery will be a backward step to a failed paternalistic approach to Indigenous affairs.

I beg you not to support these changes,

Yours sincerely,

Marie Gammon