

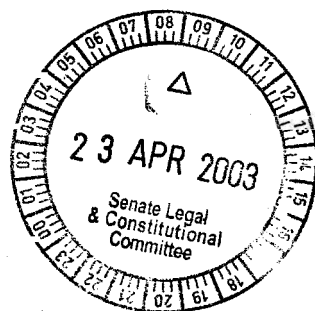
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43 Durham Street,
Stanmore 2048.

16th April 2003.

(02) 95163828

Mr. Peter Hallahan,
Senate - Legal Constitutional Committee
Room S161
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600.



Dear Mr Hallahan,

My colleague and I are deeply concerned at the possible proposal to abolish the position of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, as well as those of Race Discrimination, Sex Discrimination and Human Rights Commissioners.

In particular we feel that Aboriginal people would be particularly disadvantaged, it is vital that they continue to be represented strongly, to prevent further discrimination. (It is serious enough that there exists no specific Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the Federal Government)

Up to this point the Commissioner has been responsible for achieving a number of significant reports in this area, to name only a few

eg a) Annual Native Title Report to the federal Parliament 1995 continuing

b) Review of Aboriginal deaths in custody (1991-1996)

c) National Indigenous Legal Studies Curriculum (1998) Rev 2002 2003.

It would be a major backward step to form a "general" position for these various areas, thus seriously lessening and diluting the important impact that all of them should rightly have

I await a reply at your earliest convenience

Yours sincerely
Jane Harris
and
(pp.) Joyce Page -
