



**Legal, Constitutional and
Administrative Review Committee**

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The Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee is a committee of the Queensland Parliament with a broad range of law reform responsibilities. The committee is established under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.

Media Release

HANDS ON PARLIAMENT - BOOSTING INDIGENOUS INPUT

An all party parliamentary committee is looking at how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their issues can be better represented in Parliament.

The Queensland Parliament's Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee (LCARC) is seeking input from all Queenslanders on how to ensure the voices of Queensland's Indigenous people are heard in the state's democratic process.

The inquiry stems from a Queensland Constitutional Review Commission recommendation that LCARC inquire *into the possibility of special representation for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders*.

LCARC Chair, Karen Struthers MP, says "the committee has chosen to look much more broadly than just special representation by exploring a range of other options which might help to address the current under representation of Indigenous people in Parliament."

An issues paper about the inquiry was released today and is available on the internet as well as in hard copy.

Ideas discussed in the issues paper include increasing civics and voter education programs for Indigenous people, creating mechanisms for direct input of Indigenous bodies to Parliament, and introducing dedicated seats in Parliament.

Ms Struthers says, "Everyone is encouraged to obtain a copy of the issues paper and have their say on this important matter. It's particularly important that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people share their views. The committee invites comment on the ideas discussed in the issues paper and other suggestions."

Submissions to the inquiry close Friday, 28 March 2003.

For further information contact: Veronica Rogers at the committee secretariat on 3406 7909.