

Media Release



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*.

HANDS ON PARLIAMENT – Public input sought on Indigenous Queenslanders and democratic processes

Indigenous Queenslanders and other interested persons should get their submissions to the Parliament by **28 March 2003** to have their say on Indigenous peoples' participation in Queensland democracy.

“There has been lots of interest and positive feedback presented to the committee so far but we need people to put their views in writing and send them to us so that these views can be considered in the next stage of the committee's inquiry”, says Karen Struthers MP, the Chair of the Queensland Parliament's Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee (LCARC).

In addition to inviting submissions from the public, the committee invites all people to attend its public meetings, which will be held in **Ipswich** (4 April), **South Brisbane** (7 April), **Deception Bay** (9 April), **Cleveland** (11 April), **Toowoomba** (2 May), **Thursday Island** (7 May), **Cairns** (8 May), **Weipa** (9 May), **Gold Coast** (16 May), **Roma** (19 May), **Charleville** (19 May), **Rockhampton** (11 June), **Mackay** (12 June), **Townsville** (16 June) and **Mt Isa** (16 June).

LCARC has previously released an issues paper which contains ideas on possible strategies to increase Indigenous peoples' participation in parliament and governance in Queensland, including:

- enhancing participation in existing processes through civics and voter education and political party encouragement;
- giving a representative body direct input into parliament;
- establishing an Indigenous Assembly; and
- dedicating seats to Indigenous representatives.

“Now it is up to the community to share their views on how Indigenous people want to be represented in democratic processes, what strategies will be effective and what won't work”, says Ms Struthers.

People who want details about the public meetings can contact the secretariat or visit the committee's website.

Ms Struthers is available for interviews.

For further information contact: Karen Struthers (Chair) on 3216 6389 or Fiona Simpson (Deputy Chair) on 5443 7995. For background information, contact Sarah Lim at the committee secretariat on 3406 7909 or go to:

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Committees/LCARC/LCARCHandsonParl.htm>.