



Your Ref:
Our Ref:
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The Research Director
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/ Madam,

HANDS ON PARLIAMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Participation in Queensland's Democratic Process.

Legal Aid Queensland recognises the challenges that Indigenous people face when trying to access and participate in the governmental and political processes of Queensland. To start to redress the disadvantage that Indigenous people have when accessing legal services, Legal Aid Queensland has developed an Integrated Indigenous Strategy. This Strategy is aimed particularly at Indigenous women, who are the victims of alarmingly high rates of interpersonal violence.

Legal Aid Queensland only has general comments to make on the Committee Inquiry and believes that the legacy of community disempowerment and dependence left by historical government policies underpins the barriers to Indigenous people actively participating in the democratic process.

That said, it is important to realise that both groups of and individual Indigenous Queenslanders do participate successfully in the democratic process. This is through their participation in interest groups and through respected community leaders that lobby senior levels of government and politicians very effectively.

If you would like any further information, please contact Ms Helena Wright, A/Coordinator, Integrated Indigenous Strategy Unit on (07) 3238 3205.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HODGINS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER