

LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

# HANDS ON PARLIAMENT

A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES' PARTICIPATION IN QUEENSLAND'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

ISSUES PAPER - DECEMBER 2002

#### LEGAL, CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

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### **Feedback form**

This feedback form can be used to make a submission. Alternatively, submissions may be made in another form such as a letter.

Mail to: The Research Director Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee Parliament House George St Brisbane Qld 4000

Fax: 07 3406 7070

Email: lcarc@parliament.qld.gov.au

#### BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

- 1. What are some of the reasons that Indigenous peoples are underrepresented in the Queensland Parliament?
- 2. What are some of the reasons that Indigenous people might choose not to be involved in Queensland's Parliament and government?

3 What factors make it difficult for Indigenous people to participate in Queensland's system of democracy? 40% worthing Date - which you do UMANE IN C 18 5 -MITIN NMUNA LACIN 3 mil C Ciril 2.21 5 C-Y-C そはいうこう C.J. OWN C. WATCONT ( 1.1 - Unde  $\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{R}_{i})$ 1217 12 UNAS NO N SV 101 16 Southeray 11 LIK : Ot 1 11. 10 1) 1-1 \$ 1-17-15-1 -i.H. Ene C3-6-E CR. NO CLEV-V t 10 C .....) (JDC 12 1- Wester 1,-20 4.01 V 1 0.1 12 cin CAOV the me. c 1. ...? .1 1.4 C ...



#### STRATEGY 1: ENHANCE PARTICIPATION IN THE EXISTING PROCESSES

- 4. Is more civics education and voter education targeted specifically to Indigenous people necessary?
- 5. What other strategies might promote greater participation by Indigenous people in the existing democratic process?

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#### STRATEGY 2: DIRECT INPUT INTO PARLIAMENT

- 6. Would avenues for bodies which represent Indigenous people to have direct input into Parliament enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples in the Parliament?
- 7. Is it a good idea to enable bodies which represent Indigenous peoples to have direct input into Parliament? Why or why not?
- If a representative body with direct input into Parliament was to be established how should it operate? For example:
  - Who should be on the representative body?
  - · What forms of direct input should the representative body have?
  - What else would be necessary to ensure Parliament considered matters raised by the representative body?

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STRATEGY 3: AN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ASSEMBLY

- 9. Would an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly contribute to the participation of Indigenous people in the democratic process in Queensland?
- 10. Is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly a good idea? Why or why not?
- 11. If an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly was to be established, how should it operate? For example:
  - How should members of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly be selected?
  - What would be the specific role and functions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly?
  - How should the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly have input in the Queensland Parliament?
  - What else would be necessary to ensure the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly contributed to representation of Indigenous people?
  - Would one Assembly be appropriate, or should there be separate Assemblies for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders

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#### STRATEGY 4: DEDICATED SEATS

- 12. Would dedicated seats enhance the participation of Indigenous people in the democratic process in Queensland?
- 13. Are dedicated seats a good idea? Why or why not?
- 14. If dedicated seats were to be introduced, how should they operate? For example:
  - · How many dedicated seats should there be?
  - In what ways, if any, should the role and functions of members in dedicated seats differ from members in other seats?
  - · How should members in dedicated seats be selected?
  - Should people who vote for members in dedicated seats also be able to vote for members in their general electorate?
- 15. Should there be a referendum about the introduction of dedicated seats?

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STRATEGY 5: CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS	STRATEGY 5:	CHANGES TO	THE ELECTORAL	PROCESS
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- 16. Should Queensland's electoral system seek to achieve representation of minority groups in Queensland?
- 17. Should the electoral system be reviewed to ensure that it is the most effective electoral system to represent the diverse interests of the Queensland community?
- 18. Would a different electoral system be likely to ensure greater representation of Indigenous peoples?

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#### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 19. What other strategies could be used to enhance the participation of Indigenous peoples in the democratic process in Queensland?
- 20. What strategies or combination of strategies would <u>best</u> achieve enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples in the democratic process in Queensland?

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