



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**

Feedback form

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

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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?

1. Because there are not enough Indigenous members or ministers in Parliament for Indigenous people to vote for their own race.

2. There are not enough Indigenous members for Indigenous people to vote for. Indigenous people are afraid to voice their opinions because they think the Anglo-Saxon system ministers would disregard their views as not important or unnecessary.

The effect of what the white governments did in the last 200 years is "the stolen generation". Another reason why Indigenous people might not want to be involved in Parliament is a lack of initiative. E.g. "If I vote for a Indigenous member standing in Parliament will my vote count?"

3. Historical events i.e. stolen generation
limited level of numeracy / literacy

Indigenous people were not educated about parliament and the system of democracy.



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?

4. Yes.

Don't know - Don't care

no impact at school (older - younger)

Education needs to be contextualised or focused on manual ways
culturally appropriate.

5. Mentoring with parties

Quotas in various seats

Recruit people into parties

Youth Parliaments.



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?
8. 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?

6. Yes

7. Yes. Because if there were bodies representing Indigenous people in Parliament, it would make more Indigenous communities who would like to be involved, get involved.

8. The representative body for Indigenous people should have Indigenous people on the body, so that Indigenous people would know that their own representatives would understand their views and opinions. The form of direct input would be to talk about community issues and resources, so that changes could be made. The representative body would receive a progress report on what matters were raised and how far issues were solved in Parliament.



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

9. Yes

10. Yes. Because it lets Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders know that they are being represented in Parliament, that their views and opinions are being heard.

11. (1) Members of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assembly should be selected if they were on existing bodies. (2) The specific role would be to consider matters of significance to Indigenous people, considering bills before Parliament, ascertaining community views on certain proposals relevant to Indigenous people and devising appropriate modes of consultation and monitoring the progress of political parties in improving representation of Indigenous people in their ranks.

11. (3) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Assemblies could have input into Queensland Parliament by reporting to parliament on matters of significance to Indigenous people, reporting to parliament on bills being considered by Parliament, requiring ministers to respond to reports of the Assembly and asking questions or notice of ministers.

(4) Asking questions to ministers and the raising of community issues by Indigenous communities.

(5) There should be two separate Assemblies to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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?

12. Yes

13. Yes because it would provide avenues for issues specifically relevant to Indigenous people to be raised and considered in the Parliamentary process and ensuring the voices and views of Indigenous people are represented when government makes laws and regulations affecting the lives of our Queenslanders.

14 (a) There would be 3-4 dedicated seats to represent Indigenous people

(b) There should only be Indigenous issues raised.

(c) Divide the state into Indigenous electoral districts with one member for each electoral district.

(d). Yes

15. Yes.



STRATEGY 5: CHANGES TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

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?

16. yes

17. yes

18. yes



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 best achieve enhanced participation of Indigenous peoples in the democratic process in Queensland?

19. Indigenous people could be educated in how to participate in the democratic process in Queensland, by learning how the system works for the community.

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