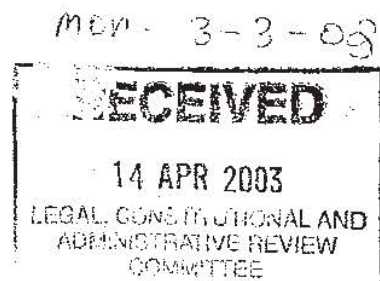
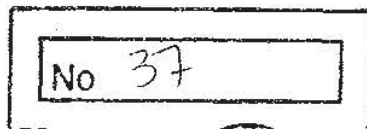


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Com 12A



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.

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](mailto:lcarc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

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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. Racism - Lack of education
2. Don't like bureaucracy, couldn't be bothered, lack of information, nothing gets done
3. We weren't allowed to vote years ago until the 1960's, why should we now. You've already messed up our country and were not going to have any part of messing up our future - lack of education, resentment, lack of trust



### 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, so that we can participate effectively in the Democratic Process

5. Visits to Parliament, develop mentoring programs;  
Recruit more Indigenous people  
Provide support and greater involvement





## 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 we could provide regular reports to parliament which are significant to Aboriginal & Islander people.

We could also speak to Parliament on bills directly affecting Indigenous interests & seek reports from the Government on aspects of all their policies, programs and service delivery relevant to Indigenous People

8. Establish a joint parliamentary / community Committee voted in by our People.

Before a bill is passed by Parliament it is considered by our Committee. Direct input into Parliament by our People would inform Parliament members & assist Parliament to consider the interests of our People effectively

Citizens can present information by registering on a presenters list / question period; if Parliament does not respond to representative body our people would think they don't care about us again!! Ministers are required to answer or respond to our recommendations

### 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 it would allow our diverse interests of Indigenous people to be represented and would provide a formal direct means of submitting issues relevant to Indigenous People to the Q.L.D. Parliament.

11. Election at the same time as the General Election, a appointed from existing bodies, & <sup>maybe</sup> then voted in by parliament to existing dedicated seats (how many?). Considering matters of significance to Indigenous People, considering bills before Parliament, community views, monitoring progress. By Submitting issues relevant to our people & help raise greater public awareness of issues relevant to our people. By Monitoring progress, up dates.

• Just one would be fine to start with + Plan if the Assembly worked out we could have one in each state.



#### 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. It would give us the chance to raise relevant issues from throughout different parts of Qld. that are significant to Indigenous people.

14. • one seat each for each major areas of Qld.  
• They shouldn't necessarily but the members of dedicated seats should only ask about matters of Indigenous people  
• They could be voted in at election time through the A.L.C. elections from each major area.

• Yes.

15. I'm not yet quite sure about that question

Yes

No



#### 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. It was viewed in 1990, so yes I believe it should be reviewed again.

18. I believe dedicated seats would be a great idea. 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. Let the Indigenous People of Australia know that you're having this inquiry and ask for their views.

20. We need representatives of the minority groups so that their interests & views are known.

