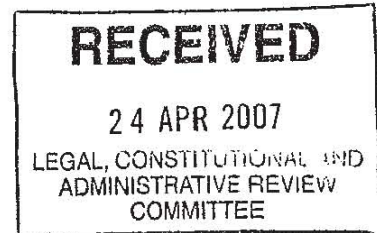


Zoe Picton

From: Anu Ezra
Sent: Tuesday, 24 April 2007 4:12 PM
To: LCARC
Subject: Submission to hands on Parliament
Attachments: V_M201!.doc



<<V_M201!.doc>>

Ezra Anu
Indigenous Special Projects Coordinator
Community & Cultural Development Branch
Cairns City Council
Phone: 0740443235 Fax: 0740443830
Email:

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Response to LCARC - *Hands on Parliament*

Formal recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (pages 5-6)

The political parties need to be active in recruitment of members and candidates especially recruitment to the Australian labour party. Seeing that the Australian Labour party is endorsing the hands on parliament.

There also needs to more community consultation in regards the preamble having an Indigenous focus. If that is difficult than there needs to be more public discussion and media coverage or even to the extent to have a referendum about that particular topic where real community support can be measured.

Political Parties (pages 6-10)

The political parties need to be more active in recruitment of members and candidates especially recruitment to the Australian labour party. Seeing that the Australian Labour party is endorsing the hands on parliament. Queensland Indigenous people have been avid supporters of the Australian Labour sine time immemorial and from when they were given the right to vote. So it would be foolish for Labour Party not to actively recruit from their indigenous constituency.

Enhanced and inclusive civics education (pages 10-13)

I support the current civic education process, which encourages Queensland Education to support the Citizenship education. With greater emphasis taught at schools on history of Indigenous social structures and political governance structures current and past.

Youth participation in local government processes (pages 17-20)

Principal of High schools located in DOGIT communities to encourage youth group to participate as youth councils and as youth advisory groups.

Australian Electoral Commission voter education activities (pages 20-21)

The voter education to continue and should be conducted prior to any election. The education should continue to upper secondary schools. ECQ to have dedicated page on their website for Indigenous voter education.

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Electoral Commission Queensland voter education activities (pages 21-23)

I noticed that Indigenous radio was not mentioned. A regular segment could be encouraged to speak on the importance of enrolment and representation of view why it is important to have political representation or your views heard by your delegate. Also a discussion how you can vote and what party most favours your views. Also more in your face posters in front of shops at schools and at regular place of meeting. The message needs to be in a language the people can easily understand.

Employment and training in democratic institutions and processes (pages 23-25)

The Mayors of Town and community need to be guided closely by departmental officers where there is a need for their CEO who has too much control of the community is dedicating the Council. The legislation needs to reflect that the CEO needs to be only in the background.

Leadership training (pages 25-26)

Leadership training needs to be more of hands on rather than in a classroom. Some of the activities would be leadership exercises used by military. This would bring out the leader in a community member who would rather be passive. Getting the community person to give speeches and encouraging them to attend Community development courses through TAFE or in certain universities.

Enhancing local government participation (pages 26-27)

I think a regular workshop of council members from different communities and for them to share what is working what is not. Also for them share their stories of achievement. What best practice methods they use and how they have come to that. People learn from practical experience rather than putting theory into practice. They can then take that learning back to their community.

Evaluation of participation in local government (page 28)

As being indicated evaluation can be measured by surveys and also by other qualitative methods to determine who is participating in local government.

The role of community leaders (pages 31-33)

The partnership unit is not engaging appropriately with discrete communities. The senior Officers who are supposed to engage with Indigenous leaders are not skilled appropriately. Therefore they are not engaging properly with indigenous leaders of the communities. The partnership units within the department of communities are so much top heavy and the community would want to know who is really doing the job? Who are they really partnering with and what are they bringing to the table.

Government appreciation of cultural differences (pages 33-34)

This question brings to highlight the difference between Indigenous and non-indigenous cultures and how much importance is placed on them. An example of the two men who were buried in the mine at Beaconsfield in Tasmania. And the family who was lost in Torres Strait. The media place a great emphasis on the miner than on the family who was lost at sea for two weeks. So there is that difference in culture and who is most important for the Australian public.

Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Assembly (page 37)

This recommendation is generalisation of point of view which does not reflect the view of the Torres Strait community. A generalisation should be backed by statistics before any recommendation can be made.

Greater autonomy in the Torres Strait (pages 37-38)
More consultation is required

Dedicated seats (page 38)
This recommendation is biased and should be further investigated