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Zoe Picton

From: Julie Toomey [J]
Sent: Thursday, 7 June 2007 9:58 AM
To: LCARC
Cc: Colleen Matthews
Subject: Hands On Parliament
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Attachments: Response to Hands on Parliament.doc; Consultation Paper FINAL.pdf

Please find attached the Department of Communities (Office for Youth) response to Hands on Parliament: Interim evaluation of the implementation of recommendations made following a parliamentary committee inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' participation in Queensland's democratic processes.

If you require any further information, please contact Iona Cominos from the Office for Youth on 3008 8631.

Regards
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Response to *Hands on Parliament: Interim evaluation of the implementation of recommendations made following a parliamentary committee inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' participation in Queensland's democratic processes*

Provided by: Office for Youth, Department of Communities

Contact: Michael Tansky, Director, Office for Youth, 3008 8650, michael.tansky@communities.qld.gov.au

The Office for Youth, Department of Communities undertakes a number of initiatives which contribute to increasing Indigenous young people's participation in democratic processes as referenced throughout the *Hands on Parliament* document. The table below provides further information about these initiatives and identifies the page numbers in the *Hands on Parliament* document to which these initiatives relate.

Initiative	Relevant <i>Hands on Parliament</i> page numbers	Information about the initiative
Queensland Youth Parliament	pp.15,27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Youth Parliament is an initiative of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). • Using a Queensland Parliamentary model, the program provides a forum for young people from across the state's 89 electorates to debate local and statewide policy and legislation and advocate for change on youth issues. Indigenous young people are among the participants each year. • The Queensland Government has funded YMCA Youth Parliament since 1996. In 2006-2007, the Department of Communities provided one-off funding of \$30,928 for the 12th YMCA Youth Parliament. • The Office for Youth is exploring potential models for an Indigenous Youth Parliament in 2009, at the direction of the Minister for Youth and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.
Young Indigenous Leaders Forum	pp.19,26,31,33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2004, the Department of Communities has hosted the Young Indigenous Leaders Forum as part of the <i>Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan</i>. Other initiatives under the Action Plan include the Reconciliation Business Forum (organised by the Department of State Development and Innovation) and the Reconciliation Awards for Business (organised by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet). • The Forums are held in Brisbane and Cairns and bring together 20 young Indigenous people aged 18-25 years to learn about leadership, develop

		<p>leadership skills, connect with other young leaders, discuss community issues and gain knowledge of business within the private, public and community sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date, 120 young Indigenous people have participated in the forums. • Participants in the Brisbane forums are presented with a certificate of participation at the Reconciliation Business Awards ceremony and attend the Reconciliation Business Forum. • The Office for Youth is currently examining the forum initiative to identify potential options for building on the model and linking with other relevant developmental programs, including the Indigenous Youth Parliament proposed for 2009.
Expansion of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award into Indigenous communities	pp.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office for Youth administers The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Queensland. • The Award provides young people with an opportunity to develop their skills, interests and self-confidence through a structured program of non-competitive activity. • The Office for Youth is implementing a trial expansion of the Award program into four Indigenous communities – Inala, Mornington Island, Cherbourg and Weipa. • Seed funds are available to support a non-government organisation in each community to deliver the Award program as a Licensed Operator, with the aim of increasing participation by Indigenous young people.
Queensland Youth Council (former State Youth Advisory Council)	pp.15,19,34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Queensland Youth Council provides a forum for the exchange of information and views between young people and the Queensland Government to assist the development of policies, programs and services that impact on the lives of Queensland's young people. • The Queensland Youth Council comprises 20 young people from across the state (2 per departmental region) who meet twice per year to advise the Minister for Youth on current and emerging issues of importance to young people. Members are also active in their regions throughout the council term. • Youth members hold the position of council Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister for Youth has identified priority issues for the current 2005-2007 term of the Queensland Youth Council including prevention and early intervention, volatile substance misuse, youth homelessness, diverting young people from the youth justice system, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and volunteering. • Three members of the 2005-2007 term of the Queensland Youth Council are Indigenous. • The current term of the Queensland Youth Council will end in September 2007. • The Office for Youth is currently exploring options for establishing regional youth forums as a means of improving linkages between the Queensland Youth Council and young people at the local level across Queensland.
Queensland Youth Charter	pp.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Queensland Youth Charter</i> outlines the Queensland Government's commitment to engaging with young people in the development of policies, programs and services which impact on the lives of Queensland's young people. • The charter was endorsed by Cabinet in 2002, with a second edition published by the Department of Communities in 2006. • The charter aims to guide Queensland Government departments and agencies in effectively involving young people in the business of government. • In 2006, the Office for Youth facilitated a cross-government reporting process, requesting feedback from departments and agencies about their implementation of the <i>Queensland Youth Charter</i> in 2005-06. • The Office for Youth is currently collating the results from this reporting process which will be presented to the Premier in 2007.