



Floria Simpson MP
Deputy Chair VOICES + VOTE
Suite 1
CNA MEMORIAL + 1st AVE
LIAROOCHYDURE 4558

Dear Miss Simpson,

"URGENT"

RE: VOICES + VOTES

After bringing my group of young people to your Voices + Votes workshop at Sunshine Coast University this morning, I felt compelled to write you.

You see the issue of Aboriginal people voting is one that has long been close to my heart. I am very pleased that your committee is addressing this issue in relation to the young people. I commend you for this action.

Of all the peoples in this country the Aboriginal people are the least enrolled to vote, the least represented in government and ^{have} the least understanding of the system.

After speaking to Renae Giskes at the workshop, I was most impressed to hear that you are out reaching to areas where there is a high number of Indigenous People and in particular Young Indigenous People.

This then brings me to the reason for my letter. I know and understand how important it is for my people to vote, I know and understand how important it is for my young people to vote. The young ones are my grandchildren's future.

The issues for my people are thick and complicated. We need to understand, participate and ultimately represent our ~~people~~ political systems in the mainstream.

I feel it is imperative that when you go to these areas eg: Charters Towers, Townsville, that you have a motivated Aboriginal person on your workshop team. I know that this will ensure greater attendance and participation from local Murris.

Charters Towers is my home town and I know these people. They are very shy, they have extreme fear of mainstream institutions let alone the Political Arena. They need linking and liaising to support, nurture and earn their trust and understanding.

I offer this advice because I can see how successful your Inquiry could be and how important it is to my people. I would hate for this opportunity to pass them by. I know that if Aboriginal people could understand the Political System and how it can change their lives, they would vote young & old.

In closing I would like to pass onto your and your team my gratitude for your warm welcome and the opportunity for our young people today. They came away feeling positive and involved. They are a capable young Leadership

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group, involved in many things, but I know that today, actively participating in the Political System was an exciting and self building morning for them. Thankyou.

We wish you the best of luck and success for Voices & Votes.

Yours Faithfully,

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C. Fletcher.

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