

# Recommendations

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## Chapter 1: Towards a reconciled Australia: An agenda of hope

### Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Australian Government work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to develop a national strategy to ensure the full implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- 1.2 That the Australian Government introduce legislation into Parliament to require the Attorney-General to provide a formal response to the annual *Native Title Report* and the *Social Justice Report* within a set timeframe.

## Chapter 2: Constitutional reform: Creating a nation for all of us

### Recommendations

- 2.1 That all Australian political parties commit to and participate in the constitutional reform process in good faith to progress recognition of the unique place and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- 2.2 That the Australian Government place constitutional reform on the Council of Australian Governments agenda as a national priority.
- 2.3 That the Australian Government establishes and fully resources a formal process to guide progress towards a referendum that:
  - Includes a commitment to:
    - improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
    - ensure the adequate protection of human rights for all Australians
    - ensure a solid foundation upon which to build a reconciled nation.

- Seeks to achieve and maintain bipartisan support, and has a strong focus on public education and facilitating popular ownership of the issues.
  - Includes a strategy that facilitates engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community.
- 2.4 That the Australian Government adequately resource the provision of advice and assistance to the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians including in relation to leadership and engagement, ambassadorial outreach, and technical advice.

## Chapter 3: From community crisis to community control in the Fitzroy Valley

### Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Australian and Western Australian Governments respond to the priorities identified by the Fitzroy Futures Forum. Further, that those responses should be made with and through mechanisms agreed by the Fitzroy Futures Forum.
- 3.2 That the Australian and Western Australian Governments provide immediate funding to drug and alcohol services, mental health services, rehabilitation services and law and culture programs in the Fitzroy Valley.
- 3.3 That the Australian and Western Australian Governments provide ongoing funding and support for the Fitzroy Futures Forum. Further, that the roll out of the Council of Australian Governments Remote Service Delivery Partnership work within this established community governance framework.
- 3.4 That the Australian Government provide adequate resources to the Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services to enable him to fulfil his statutory responsibilities in the 29 priority communities.
- 3.5 That the Australian Government work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to develop a national engagement framework that is consistent with the minimum standards affirmed in the *United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Further, that the Australian Government commit to using this framework to guide the development of consultation processes on a case-by-case basis in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that may be affected by a proposed legislative or policy measure. This framework will also require the development of regional and local engagement plans.

- 3.6 That the Australian and state/territory governments implement necessary reforms to both their structures and workforce to ensure they have the capacity to engage effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These reforms should include:
- (i) The introduction of national uniform legislation to mandate the use of *Identified Positions/Criteria* for all positions in the public service that have any involvement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, organisations and communities.
  - (ii) That relevant officers have the appropriate skills and cultural competency to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.
  - (iii) That targeted education and training programs are developed with accredited training providers to facilitate the development of appropriate skills and cultural competency.
- 3.7 That the Australian Government accelerates efforts to consolidate and streamline programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with an aim to ensure:
- (i) That funding grant programs are simplified and are pooled where multiple grants come from multiple government entities.
  - (ii) That local communities have certainty of long term core funding.
  - (iii) A greater role in planning and decision-making over funding at the community level.
  - (iv) Greater flexibility to respond to local needs.
- 3.8 That the central role of effective governance structures is acknowledged by governments and respected as a form of community empowerment. Where effective governance structures and processes are in place these should form the basis of government engagement with communities. Where governance structures and processes require further development communities and organisations should be appropriately supported in this process.
- 3.9 That community governance structures and processes should be developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and appropriately supported by governments, with the aim of empowering them to take control of their own identified issues and aspirations. Communities, in engaging both internally and externally, should be guided by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in exercising the right to self-determination; the principle of free, prior and informed consent; the right to participate in decision-making; and good faith.

