

INQUIRY INTO OVERCOMING INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE

Name: Sister Mary Macgowan and Sister Esmey Herscovitch

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Redfern 2016

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Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney 2000

Dear Members of the Committee,

We wish to make a submission to the Inquiry on Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage in NSW.

We believe the following are important in any attempt to overcome disadvantage:-

Those attempting to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people need to do so with respect, with consultation and dialogue however much time may be needed for consultation and dialogue. The wisdom, knowledge, and experience of the elders, leaders and the whole community need to be an integral part of the consultation and dialogue.

Services and facilities need to be culturally appropriate; only Aboriginal people can advise on this.

Aboriginal people often know what is needed in their communities and have ways of organisation that may be different from western ways and methods.

Where government agencies and others are involved a sense of partnership and equality needs to be established.

Aboriginal people need to be an integral part of any process, inquiry, and consequent decisions and arrangements.

Aboriginal people involved in the inquiry need to be representative of Aboriginal people across the state and should be nominated by them.

Re consultation and dialogue time must be allowed for this; this need for time cannot be emphasised enough. Following meetings with government personnel or others – leaders, elders, and the whole community need time to process, engage with each other and interact over an extended period until consensus is reached.

This is lengthy operation but it is a means of uniting Aboriginal people as one eventually as they are a community-oriented society.

We look forward to outcomes that will benefit Aboriginal people in NSW but also ultimately benefit the whole community.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. McGowan'.

(Sr) Mary McGowan

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E. Herscovitch'.

(Sr) Esme Herscovitch