

INQUIRY INTO OVERCOMING INDIGENOUS DISADVANTAGE

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people with disability

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Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Fax transmission

To	The Director		
Fax	02 9230 2981		
From	Sonya Price-Kelly – Senior Advocate	Phone	9370 3100
Date	15 August 2008		
Subject	Supplementary Submission to Closing the Gap Inquiry		
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Message:

Please find attached People with Disability Australia and the Aboriginal Disability Network's supplementary submission to the Legislative Council Social Issues Committee Inquiry into Closing the Gap - Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage and its interim Report.

If you have any enquiries regarding this fax please contact 9370 3100.

Yours sincerely

Sonya Price-Kelly
Senior Advocate – Systemic Advocacy

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Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Committee Members

**Legislative Council Social Issues Committee Inquiry, Closing the Gap –
Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Response to Interim Report**

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the *Interim Report of the Standing Committee on Social Issues Inquiry into Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage*. For the purposes of this supplementary submission People with Disability Australia (PWD) and the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW (ADN) present this as a joint submission.

Focus of the Interim Report

PWD and the ADN acknowledge the substantive nature of the Committee's interim report and how it has considered issues for Aboriginal people with disability living in NSW. However we are concerned that within the *Summary of Issues for Consideration* there is no specific mention of the needs of Aboriginal people with disability as they relate to the theme areas. As highlighted in both our original submissions Aboriginal people with disability have significant unmet needs in relation to effective service delivery, their representation as a group, environment and infrastructure, health and wellbeing, education, employment, housing, incarceration and the criminal justice system and a range of other issues.

Given the approach of the Committee to cluster together the issues raised in its *Interim Report* we are concerned that there is a risk of losing the critical focus and emphasis of issues affecting Aboriginal people with disability in terms of the implementation strategies that are developed in response to this Inquiry. This is a continual frustration for PWD and the ADN.

Recommendations to the NSW Government

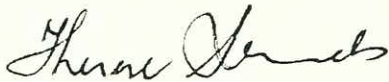
Given that 37% of the Indigenous population are people with disability or people living with a long term health condition it is our view that all recommendations arising from this Inquiry must incorporate an inclusion strategy for Aboriginal people with disability.

Funding representative organisations of and for Aboriginal people with disability should be a priority recommendation of this Inquiry. Such funding must allow for both individual and systemic advocacy as without these mechanisms the voice of Aboriginal people with disability will continue to be unheard and their needs unmet. This is essential to ensuring the effective representation of the views of Aboriginal people with disability.

In terms of specific recommendations for the NSW Government to key issues highlighted in the *Interim Report*, we refer the Committee to the detailed recommendations outlined in the Aboriginal Disability Networks *Telling It Like it Is Report*. This Report was submitted with the ADN's first submission to the Committee, but is also available at www.pwd.org.au/adnsw

We would welcome an opportunity to appear before the Committee to inform it in greater details of the unmet needs of Aboriginal people with disability living in NSW. For further information please contact Damian Griffis at the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW on 02 9370 3100 or damiang@pwd.org.au

Yours sincerely



Therese Sands
A/Co-Chief Executive Officer
People with Disability

15/8/08



Damian Griffis
Executive Officer
Aboriginal Disability Network