



Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Constitutional Recognition

Chair: Hon. Michael Mischin MLC (ph 9301 1896)
Deputy Chair: Ms Josie Farrer MLA (ph 0419 757 182)

MEDIA ALERT
3 February 2015

INQUIRY UPDATE

INQUIRY INTO THE APPROPRIATE WORDING TO RECOGNISE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Constitutional Recognition was established by the WA State Parliament on 2 December 2014. The Committee's terms of reference require it to '...consider and report on the appropriate wording to recognise Aboriginal people in the constitution of Western Australia.' The Committee has been directed to report back to the Parliament by Thursday, 26 March 2015.

The Committee hopes through its Inquiry process to be able to recommend to Parliament a set of words with the capacity to inform, inspire, and unite Western Australians in the spirit of reconciliation.

The Committee will examine various forms of words including those adopted in other jurisdictions and those proposed in the Constitution Amendment (Recognition of Aboriginal People) Bill 2014, which was introduced into the Parliament by Ms Josie Farrer MLA, on 11 June 2014. The Committee will also examine issues of law relevant to constitutional amendments in order to ensure that the recommendation made to Parliament is legally sound.

Other mainland states have provided constitutional recognition of Aboriginal Australians as the first people of our country. Make no mistake: this is important. Recognition, acknowledgement and acceptance are necessary steps to true and lasting reconciliation...

Ms Josie Farrer, MLA (Member for Kimberley) *Hansard Parliamentary Debates*, 26 Nov 2014

The Committee is currently considering the submissions received and may proceed into a series of public hearings throughout the latter half of February. The submissions received to date have been posted on the Committee's website and details of the hearings will appear if and when the schedule is confirmed.

The Committee members are:

Chair: Hon Michael Mischin MLC (North Metropolitan); Deputy Chair: Ms Josie Farrer MLA (Member for Kimberley); Hon Jacqui Boydell MLC (Mining and Pastoral); Mr Murray Cowper MLA (Member for Murray-Wellington); Ms Wendy Duncan MLA (Member for Kalgoorlie); Hon Dr Sally Talbot MLC (South West); and Mr Ben Wyatt MLA (Member for Victoria Park).

Further information regarding the Inquiry and the Committee is available on the Committee's website: www.parliament.wa.gov.au/jscacr (click on "Current Inquiries" and follow the Inquiry link).