

## **SUBMISSION FOR THE VOICE:**

### Summary of the Local and Regional Voice Proposal

## **The proposal**

A regional level governance structure that would:

- be designed and led by communities
- provide advice to all levels of government about what's important in communities and in the region
- work in partnership with all governments on local priorities
- provide local views to the National Voice.

The proposal for the voice is a step in the right direction but not sure how it will be implemented in Tasmania without the need for an inquiry into the Aboriginality of those currently in power through the TAC. Many Aborigines in Tasmania are not recognized as Indigenous by the TAC who govern who is and who is not based on the Mollinson books and the Tasmanian Archive records which have been tampered with and altered. This resulted in many being unable to trace their ancestry and has attributed to the rifts in Tasmanian. The TAC base their recognition on 6 families using a Maori model and anyone who does not fit into these families is not recognized. In 2002 there were a group of individuals who challenged the TAC and were successful in obtaining Aboriginal status but are still not included by TAC. There are many stories of one family member being recognized but another not, so in Tasmania it begins with recognition or the gap will never close.

## **Important features**

Each Local and Regional Voice could:

- provide ways for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations in the region to get involved and have more of a say. This includes Traditional Owners and all other residents

Again this begins with recognition in Tasmania and one voice in theory would help close the gap. For this to be achieved we all need to begin to recognize one another and stop the divide. TAC need to embrace the process and become more inclusive to other organisations to allow the voice to proceed.

- allow for local priorities to be addressed at the local level

Local priorities will never be addressed in Tasmania without inclusion.

- have an agreed way to work together in partnership with governments.

TAC have been offered many times to sit at the table with other groups and it always ends badly or they refuse to attend as they see themselves as the custodians of all of Tasmania and disregard many groups at local levels.

What do Local and Regional Voices mean to you? Finish these sentences:

- With Local and Regional Voices, I can have a say without prejudice without being questioned on my Aboriginality.
- A Local and Regional Voice could help me by ... Inclusion
- A Local and Regional Voice could help my community by...Inclusion

Membership for the National Voice could happen in two different ways:

- Members could be selected by Local and Regional Voices.

This would need to be closely looked at in Tasmania as the only members that could be selected would be members of the TAC. Whilst it was stated at the consultation that anyone could be selected including individuals this will never happen in Tasmania without a fight from TAC.

- Elections held for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people could elect National Voice members directly.

Again the elections would be from TAC as no other parties in Tasmania are recognized and 2 representatives from TAC would not be a local or regional voice for Tasmanian Aborigines.

Either membership option would have a link to Local and Regional Voices.

Members would represent their state or territory as well as the Torres Strait Islands.

## Important features of the proposal

The National Voice could:

- consist of up to 20 members, with gender balance of members
- include Youth and Disability Advisory Groups to ensure the voices of these groups are heard
- connect with Local and Regional Voices to provide views from local communities
- work with existing bodies, structures and organisations
- advise on national matters important to the social, spiritual and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This would be an acceptable and ideal model, but local communities in Tasmania would find it difficult to get past the TAC to have a say.