



**Submission to the
Standing Committee on Community Development:
Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal people
as Tasmania's First People**

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The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Community Development (the Committee) regarding Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal people as Tasmania's First People.

The Committee is asking for submissions on steps that can be taken to progress towards a successful recognition of Aboriginal people as Tasmania's first people. This submission will make recommendations ACL believes will ensure the greatest likelihood of a successful amendment.

ACL supports the recognition of Australia's indigenous peoples in the Tasmanian Constitution. This is not only a powerful symbolic step towards reconciliation, but it also remedies the very real oversight of not honouring this state's first people in its foundational document. It will also send a strong message of affirmation for seeing similar amendments made to the Federal Constitution.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Tasmanian aboriginal community must be thoroughly consulted in this process.
2. The Tasmanian aboriginal community should clearly understand the symbolic rather than practical nature of this amendment. This is the first step in a process of recognition and therefore expectations surrounding the change need to be realistic.
3. Constitutions from other Australian constitutions that already have recognition of first peoples should be consulted as potential frameworks on which to model changes to the Tasmanian constitution.
4. The text should be simple, straightforward, and clear. It should achieve the single aim of recognising Aboriginal people without inserting rights-type provisions.

Yours Sincerely



Mark Brown
Tasmanian State Director
Australian Christian Lobby