

Native Title Report

2003



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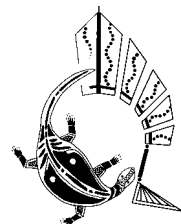
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In researching and preparing this year's report, the Commissioner received valuable assistance from numerous people across Australia. The Commissioner would like to record his grateful appreciation for the time and information made available by officers from: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, Arnold Bloch Liebler, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Cape York Land Council, Carpentaria Land Council, Central Land Council, Central Queensland Land Council, Chalk and Fitzgerald, Commonwealth Government, Commonwealth Parliament, Federal Court of Australia, Goldfields Land and Sea Council, Gurang Land Council, Indigenous Land Corporation, Kimberley Land Council, National Native Title Tribunal, Native Title Services Victoria, New South Wales Government, New South Wales Native Title Services Limited, Ngaanyatjarra Land Council, North Queensland Land Council, Northern Land Council, Northern Territory Government, Queensland Government, Queensland Indigenous Working Group, Queensland South Native Title Representative Body, South Australian Government, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council, Tasmanian Government, Torres Strait Regional Authority, Victorian Government, Western Australian Aboriginal Native Title Working Group, Western Australian Government, Yamatji Marlpa Bana Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation, and the Yorta Yorta Nations.

About the Social Justice Commission logo

The right section of the design is a contemporary view of a traditional Dari or head-dress, a symbol of the Torres Strait Islander people and culture. The head-dress suggests the visionary aspect of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commission. The dots placed in the Dari represent a brighter outlook for the future provided by the Commission's visions, black representing people, green representing islands and blue representing the seas surrounding the islands. The Goanna is a general symbol of the Aboriginal people.



The combination of these two symbols represents the coming together of two distinct cultures through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commission and the support, strength and unity which it can provide through the pursuit of Social Justice and Human Rights. It also represents an outlook for the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice expressing the hope and expectation that one day we will be treated with full respect and understanding.

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Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission



30 January 2004

The Hon Philip Ruddock MP
Attorney-General
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Attorney

I am pleased to present to you the *Native Title Report 2003*.

The report is provided in accordance with section 209 of the *Native Title Act 1993*, which provides that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner submit a report regarding the operation of the *Native Title Act* and its effect on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.

This year's report discusses the right to development and its implications for the native title system. The report examines whether the native title negotiation process at a State and Commonwealth level contributes to sustainable development for Indigenous people.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Jonas". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr William Jonas AM
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Social Justice Commissioner



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