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# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES

Compensate Stolen Generation

End the NT intervention

Action: close the gap

Indigenous Australians have a unique relationship with the land, and their rights and obligations as c

## PRINCIPLES

The Australian Greens believe that:

1. The Australian Constitution must recognise the prior occupation and sovereignty of Indigenous peoples.
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a strong cultural and spiritual connection to their lands. Their rights and obligations as owners and custodians must be respected.
3. Australia must comply with international agreements and laws that recognise the rights of Indigenous peoples including the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a right to self determination and to be equal partners in the development and implementation of public policies, programs and services.
5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right to retain, and benefit from, their intellectual property and heritage rights invested in traditional knowledge and in their lands, waters, in accordance with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
6. Where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been dispossessed from their lands, they have a right to redress through measures that assist them to acquire, own and/or manage their lands, and to improve their social, cultural, spiritual, economic and environmental wellbeing.
7. All Australians, including those living in remote communities, have an equal right to access to health, education, training, housing, community infrastructure, employment support and services.
8. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should have the same life expectancy as other Australians.

9. Australian governments must recognise the continuing effect of past treatment of peoples and provide restitution to the stolen generations.

## AIMS

The Australian Greens want:

1. A treaty that recognises the prior occupation and sovereignty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enshrined in the constitution.
2. Government institutions' policies which respect the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to self-determination, improvement of their social and economic conditions, to participate in decisions that affect them and to determine their development policies.
3. Protection for cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including their cultural traditions and customs, including language, and to maintain, protect and promote manifestations of their cultures.
4. Equality of access to essential services and development opportunities.
5. Equality of outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on all major issues including housing, community safety, employment and living standards within a decade, and in 25 years within a framework which acknowledges the diverse aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
6. Culturally appropriate and community controlled health, housing and infrastructure services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
7. Increased resources in both community-controlled health services and mainstream health programs to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's health.
8. Family violence and abuse addressed through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led initiatives, Aboriginal Women's Legal Service and other specialist services.
9. Genuine opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and economic development in rural, regional and urban communities.
10. Culturally appropriate education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples integrated into curricula and supports families and children to engage with the education system.
11. An education system which enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access education systems where they choose to do so, in their own language, consistently and equitably.
12. Support for and recognition of the establishment and operation of appropriate local government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative bodies elected by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in all levels of government and other institutions.
13. Culturally appropriate services and resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples addressing cultural aspects and community priorities. These services to employ qualified community workers.
14. Qualified local-language and cultural interpreters available in courts, hospitals, clinics and other public services.

needed.

15. Youth programs to be treated as an essential service in remote communities.
16. Rescinding of the Stronger Futures legislation.
17. The compulsory quarantining of income support revoked and any other measures against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
18. Fair compensation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples where property have been withheld.
19. Effective heritage protection laws and bodies that:
  - a. protect all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage including
  - b. respect customary law restrictions;
  - c. guarantee access to significant sites by people with cultural connections
  - d. ensure that heritage decisions are made by the relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
  - e. ensure items of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage are protected by their custodians.
20. A fair and effective native title system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples consistent with international human rights law.
21. The rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to sustainably hunt, fish and gather in accordance with traditional cultural practice.
22. Full implementation of the recommendations of the following:
  - a. Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families (1997);
  - b. The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (1991);
  - c. The NT Coroner's (1998, 2002), WA Coroner's (2004) and SA Coroner's (2005) reports on related deaths;
  - d. The Ampe Akelyernemane Meke Mekarle (Little Children are Sacred) Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2007);
  - e. The HREOC Social Justice Reports The Senate Community Affairs Committee (2008 and 2009); Suicide (2010) and Hearing (2010); and
  - f. Report on the Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Review (2007) with the Social Justice Commissioner to be responsible for the recommendations and implementation as part of annual reporting.
23. Comprehensive strategies to address the impacts of climate change on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
24. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in regional and remote areas to achieve self-determination.
25. Long-term, re-current, sustainable funding for a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ranger Program for IPA's and NT determined areas.

**POLICY CATEGORY:**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

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