

An office for advocacy and accountability in Aboriginal affairs – Submission

Submission from: Tony Walley

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Attention: Aboriginal Policy Unit – DPC

As an Aboriginal man, who is passionate, driven and supportive of any system that improves the social, economic, cultural and human outcomes for Aboriginal people, I welcome any proposed specialised Aboriginal Accountability & Advocacy-type unit/office.

However, what the concern and cynicism is from many of our people are the...

- already pre-conceived ideas,
- the Aboriginal 'purple circle' that already exists within ministerial / political ranks,
- those who already have the 'ear' of Minister Wyatt,
- who in the Aboriginal community have ready access in the corridors of DPC – and therefore the structure, unit or body is fate accompli, especially around representation, Aboriginal leadership, and a Minister's hand-picked group (a captain's pick type scenario),
- and therefore those Aboriginal people who are genuinely interested in providing input to the Minister's discussion paper are wasting their time!

This is not a criticism, it is fact there are 'community drums beating' about who the minister already and actually listens to, who has regular access to him, who claims to speak for the people, and those very likely to be part of the Minister's voice!

I genuinely believe we can have such an 'advocacy body/office/unit' but it must be truly open, transparent, accountable; and judged on performance, ethics, and ministerial integrity that listens to the masses (and ultimately the community's voice of reason) and not some elitist group who have the *ear* of the Minister but not the *heart* of our people.

I genuinely hope this consult is not just another bundle of words and a manufactured process – but something that is meaningful, accountable, robust, and truly represents the voice of all Aboriginal Western Australians.

Regards,

Tony Walley