

Achieving Justice and Equity for Indigenous Victorians: A Report Card

Leading up to the election the Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group have produced a paper entitled: **Towards a Framework Agreement Between the State of Victoria and the Traditional Owner Land Justice Group**. This document outlines how Traditional Owners would like to see their aspirations in relation to land justice achieved. Concurrently, the Victorian Aboriginal state wide and peak organisations have released a document entitled **A Fairer Victoria for Aboriginal Communities: A Framework for Action**. This document outlines a framework for achieving a fairer Victoria in the areas of health, education, child and family welfare, juvenile justice community services and the law. Both these documents have as their starting position an understanding that Indigenous communities have been dispossessed and marginalised by the process of colonisation and that these fundamental injustices need to be addressed by government. The following questions are drawn from those two documents and have been developed to help voters assess how responsive political parties are to Indigenous justice issues and disadvantage.

Party	How would you promote the self determination of Indigenous people?	What are your policies for implementing land justice in Victoria?	What will you do to build the capacity of Indigenous organisations and communities to overcome the effects of marginalisation and racism? Health? Education? Justice system? Employment? Building resilience in youth?
Liberal	No comment received	No comment received	No comment received
Labour	Self-determination recognised in relation to child and family welfare New local-regional representational Arrangements being implemented in new year	Through native title negotiated processes and land management agreements	Governance training. Ongoing partnership arrangements with peak and state-wide Indigenous bodies.
Greens	Recognise and support the establishment of appropriate Aboriginal Nations representative bodies, responsible for: return of land, management of cultural heritage, policy and policy implementation.	Recognise and support the land rights of Indigenous Australians and support and recognise inalienable Aboriginal Title. The Greens support the direction of the proposals recommended by the Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group.	Endorse the recommendations of A Fairer Victoria for Aboriginal Communities . Support culturally appropriate and fully resourced health, housing, training and education as each community itself determines. Support solutions developed and implemented by local communities. Committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities and organisations to improve opportunities and the general welfare and health of all Indigenous people.
Democrats	Committed to creating the economic, social, cultural and legal framework that will enable Indigenous people to determine and manage their own lives and futures. Key points underpinning the policy are co-ordinated service delivery and regional autonomy, improving the efficiency, community safety and development, cultural heritage, education and economic development, addressing unfinished business.	Implementing a native title regime that more effectively meetings Indigenous aspirations for land justice and sustainable and economic and social development	Recognise Indigenous community organisations and programs as the most appropriate bodies to tackle social, economic and political disadvantage in Indigenous communities; also improve efficiency of Government service delivery though agreed targets; Health: creation of regional health partnerships between governments, Aboriginal organisations and communities; funding and provision of education and placement for the Indigenous Health Workforce; increase access to and the provision of Primary health care services; implement long term programs especially in family violence and substance abuse. Justice: crime prevention programs, sentencing alternatives; Education, employment & youth: improving education and training opportunities; supporting Indigenous schools; encourage peak organisations in the private sector to establish targets and/or strategies for employing more Indigenous people; changes to the CDEP.



MEDIA RELEASE

23 November 2006

ANTaR Victoria Releases State Election Report Card and Asks Parties to “Get Real”

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation in Victoria today released its ‘report card’ on the major parties’ policies concerning Indigenous people and real reconciliation. The Liberal Party has no policy listed on its website despite informing ANTaR Victoria that the policy was released yesterday.

“Despite some improvements in recent years it would have to be said that Victoria is still failing to deal comprehensively with recognising Indigenous self-determination, land rights and addressing disadvantage” ANTaR Victoria Chairperson, Jill Webb said today.

“We are pleased that the Greens are closest to our campaign position paper **Get Real: Towards a Framework for Real Reconciliation** and have endorsed the *Victorian Traditional Owners Land Justice Group (VTOLJG)* and *Victoria's State-wide and Peak Indigenous NGO's Framework for Action* documents”.

“We call on the next State Government in Victoria to ‘get real’ and develop a cohesive State-wide strategy to deliver justice and address disadvantage for Indigenous people in Victoria. We believe that the next Government must enter into high level negotiations with traditional owner groups and state-wide and local Indigenous community controlled organisations and ensure that self-determination, human rights, cultural respect and anti-racism education form the basis of creating a fairer Victoria for Indigenous people.”

For information on ANTaR Vic’s Get Real Campaign visit <http://www.antarvictoria.org.au/Aframeworkforrealreconciliation.htm>

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