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REPORT CONFIRMS OUR PEOPLE NEED TO HAVE SAY

The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples says the latest Government program review confirms that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must have a greater say over service delivery to our communities.

Congress Co-Chairs, Mr Les Malezer and Ms Jody Broun were responding to the Department of Finance Strategic Review of Indigenous Expenditure.

"This document confirms two important findings: firstly that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must be involved in decision making and implementation of services for those services to be effective," said Ms Broun.

"Secondly, that a new approach is needed built on flexibility and working in equal partnerships with communities," she said.

The Congress received a copy of the Department of Finance report today and will be reviewing the issues and recommendations that it raises.

"The Congress must play a fundamental role in any new approach to decision making about services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," said Congress Co-Chair, Les Malezer.

"This is an opportunity to ensure that there is full transparency, accountability of programs and engagement with communities."

"We will now engage with our members, Ministers and parliamentarians on a more detailed response to these issues," Mr Malezer said.

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