



## **'Indigeneity' and the proposed GST Changes**

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**Available for Immediate Distribution**

Discussion arising from the recent GST review submission by the Yothu Yindi Foundation to the Productivity Commission should be welcomed, if it leads to addressing the greater needs of any disadvantaged people.

National Congress Co-Chair Rod Little commented that 'any change in the GST distribution system that improves on meeting the needs of people who are truly disadvantaged regardless of their location is sensible. I would agree that an allocation system cannot be based simply on an outdated calculation that associates all Aboriginal people as being disadvantaged and therefore automatically deserving of greater financial support.'

There is a concern, however, that if the focus shifts from a discussion about GST changes addressing need, to a divisive debate about the definition of Aboriginality itself, this will end up dividing our people. National Congress does not wish to see debate return to the days of Aboriginal people having their Aboriginality questioned and classified.

There are several factors that contribute to disadvantage, one of which is residing in remote communities. Others include poverty, English as a second language, disability and lack of opportunity.

**ENDS**

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