

# **TOWARDS MUTUAL BENEFIT:**

## **AN INQUIRY INTO ABORIGINAL CUSTOMARY LAW**

### **IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

A sub-committee of the Northern Territory Law Reform Committee was formed to inquire into Aboriginal Customary Law in the Northern Territory.

The Terms of Reference of the Inquiry are as follows:

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

To inquire into the strength of Aboriginal Customary Law in the Northern Territory.

To report and make recommendations on the capacity of Aboriginal Customary Law to provide benefits to the Northern Territory in areas including but not limited to governance, social well being, law and justice, economic independence, wildlife conservation, land management and scientific knowledge.

To report and make recommendations as to what extent Aboriginal Customary Law might achieve formal or informal recognition within the Northern Territory.

In conducting this Inquiry, the sub-Committee should have regard to the following:

- the views of Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory, particularly those who are custodians of Aboriginal Customary Law
- the extent of existing arrangements accommodating Aboriginal Customary Law in the Northern Territory and other jurisdictions
- previous reports and research into Aboriginal Customary Law, including the reports of the Statehood Committee (NT), the Australian Law Reform Commission (1986) and the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody; and
- other public submissions

The Committee is to report to Government by 30 June 2003.

If you have any queries in relation to this Inquiry, the Executive Officer of the Law Reform Committee may be contacted at the following e-mail address: [lawreformcommittee.ntag@nt.gov.au](mailto:lawreformcommittee.ntag@nt.gov.au).