

1.4 Significant Issues in the Torres Strait

Cultural Identity

- Recognition and respect as a distinctive people.
- Preservation of customs, laws and language.
- Relationship to land and sea.

The Regional Political Framework

- Self-management.
- Rights rather than handouts.
- New relationship with Commonwealth and State governments.
- Effective institutions and processes.
- Fair representation within political structures.
- Relationship with Papua New Guinea - the Torres Strait Treaty.
- Security on international border.

Social Well-Being

- Acceptance by the wider community of Islander values and practices.
- Fair access to culturally-appropriate health services, education and training, employment, housing and physical infrastructure.
- Community development planning as a means for community empowerment.
- Status of women.
- Effective crime prevention strategies.

Economic and Natural Resources

- Raising Islanders' incomes and standards of living.
- Financial independence rather than reliance on government.
- Greater participation in sustainable industries such as fisheries and tourism.
- Environmental management and planning.
- Improvement of physical infrastructure to assist industries and enterprises.
- Maximising Islander employment in the service sector.
- Control of land and sea.

