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2012 HSC - Aboriginal Studies
Band 5/6
Sample 2 Question 21(b)

Traditional and contemporary expressions of heritage and identity are vital for the socioeconomic status of Aboriginal people. To ensure the socioeconomic status of Aboriginal people rises substantially with the near future, government, local, state and national, must ensure their approach is culturally sensitive and provides ~~for~~ Aboriginal people ^{with} health, housing and criminal justice services that express their heritage and identity. The Indigenous community of the Dharawal people in the Illawarra are correcting their services to incorporate areas of heritage and ~~and~~ identity.

As previously stated, (Aboriginal people) in order for the socioeconomic status of Aboriginal people to substantially rise, authorities must look to express the heritage and identity of Aboriginal people. The area of health is one service that must incorporate tradition into Aboriginal services, due to the disgusting mistreatment, or lack thereof, ~~in the~~ ^{in the} health of Aboriginal people in the health service. Since colonisation Aboriginal people have been denied basic health services until recent years. And even

now, Aboriginal people are hesitant to visit a hospital ~~as~~ as a reminder of their families mistreatment still haunt them. In order for the health of Aboriginal people to improve, the health systems must ~~often~~ relook particular areas to incorporate a culturally sensitive practise. In the Dharawal community in the Illawarra, this is already beginning to happen. The Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service (AMIH) located near Shellharbour hospital is a culturally sensitive, Aboriginal maternity ward for young mothers and their babies. The service ~~pride~~ pride Aboriginal mothers with a sense of security, and also expresses heritage and identity, by using local Aboriginal artists to decorate the walls and rooms. The AMIH is ~~test~~ testimony to how important traditional and contemporary expressions of heritage and identity are, because since the opening ~~at~~ in 2009, AMIH has seen a significant decrease in infant mortality rate in the Dharawal region.

Aboriginal people have ~~an~~ upheld thousands of years of traditional heritage and identity, despite the forced removal

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of children from their homes and the
distruction and dispassession of land. Traditional
expressions of heritage and identity are just
as important as contemporary due to the
roots of Aboriginal tradition. Unfortunately,
the socioeconomic status of Aboriginal
people in the area of housing, is considerably
lower than other Australians. The Dharawal
Community has attempted to resolve this situation
by placing Aboriginal people with diverging
backgrounds, in the same small community
group. This has caused outstanding problems for
the traditional expression of heritage and
~~ident~~ identity has clashed with contemporary
expressions. Authorities must realise that before
colonisation, some Aboriginal tribes had ~~these~~
disagreements with others, and this, in
some circumstances, is still continuing today.
To assure that the socioeconomic status of
Indigenous people improves in the area of
housing, mainly 'white' ~~An~~ authorities must
look at the traditional heritage of Indigenous
communities, and this was clearly
exemplified with the Dharawal
community of the Illawarra.



Tick this box if you have continued this answer in another writing booklet.

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Criminal Justice is one area where Aboriginal people are highly over represented and this is mainly caused due to years of racism and deprivation towards Aboriginal people. To ensure that the importance of traditional and contemporary expressions of Heritage and Identity are upheld, the criminal justice system must incorporate a culturally sensitive system that understands the laws and regulations of traditional Heritage and Identity. The Dhauwal people of the Illawarra have introduced 'circle sentencing', a different way of handing down the law of Aboriginal offenders to make sure they do not reoffend. 'Circle sentencing' allows an elder of the community to assist in the passing down of justice above the offender, the use of traditional elders brings great shame upon the offender and their families, and hopefully make them think twice about reoffending. This is a perfect example of using traditional heritage and identity in a contemporary situation and will work to improve the socioeconomic status of Indigenous

people.

From the information previously discussed, it can be seen that traditional and contemporary expressions of heritage and identity ~~are~~ are extremely vital to the socioeconomic status of Aboriginal people. In the hope that the status will improve, authorities must look at all socioeconomic indicators and discuss the ways in which traditional and contemporary expressions of heritage and identity will improve them, to ensure Aboriginal people's heritage and ~~their~~ identity stays part of Australia's history and future.

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