

Use the sources provided to answer Question 11.

Constitutional recognition of Indigenous peoples

1982	1988	1995	2008	2009	?
Canada	Norway	Finland	Ecuador	Bolivia	Australia

An Indigenous Australian's view of Constitutional recognition

'What I would like to see within the Constitution . . . is a very broad, encompassing principle of equality and equal rights that recognises Aboriginal People as having unique rights as well as human rights and citizenship rights – a broad principle but one that also recognises our unique position in Australia.'

Ms Thomas, extract from Transcript of Evidence,
Reforming our Constitution: A roundtable discussion,
House of Representatives, Canberra, 2008

- 11 The Australian Government is considering the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution.

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To what extent can government initiatives like this address the social justice experiences of Indigenous peoples in Australia and other countries?

The social justice experiences of Indigenous peoples is currently poor. With government initiatives like this, it would help 'Close the Gap'. Initiatives for equality and equal rights would help improve education levels and health levels. Unique rights as well as human rights and citizenship rights will give them more opportunity to practise their cultures and renew the spirits of their traditional ways. It will also give confidence for them to stand up for what they believe in and chase their dreams. This will drop the criminal statistics as well.