

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. 6

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

These government initiatives only address the social justice experiences of Indigenous people to a marginable extent. As represented in the table above, individuals are able to see that more countries are forming this unification within their country between the Non-Indigenous and Indigenous people. Australia is slow to establish this and although Indigenous Australians are continually asking for it to happen, it is always being put off. Government initiatives need to address the different inequalities faced by Indigenous Australians when it comes to different employment, health and education opportunities. If these were expressed to everyone then the Constitution may be able to finally recognise the Indigenous people of Australia. When addressing these differences, they should go to extensive measures and see the statistical change as benefiting them all around once they have been included with examples from countries that already have.

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