

Use the sources provided to answer Question 11.

2012 HSC - Aboriginal Studies
Band 5/6
Sample 2 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?

Initiatives like the proposed referendum to an extremely large extent address socially justice issues, such as ~~the~~ inequality in Australia and around the world. They highlight the 'unique position' of Indigenous people, giving them a strong legal standing which in turn, promotes equality. Through including Aboriginal people in the constitution, and removing racist sections, socially Aboriginal people will be seen more commonly as equals. This would have an outstandingly positive impact upon their socioeconomic status, and ~~prevent~~ stop suffering due to social justice issues.