

## PRESS RELEASE

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre/Corporation has called for a forensic audit of those claiming Aboriginality in Tasmania after the latest Census showed yet another increase in the State's population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Corporation's, Trudy Maluga said the number of people identifying themselves as Aboriginal or Islander had increased from the previous figure of 19,000 to over 23,000. "That figure will be higher when the Australian Bureau of Census and Statistics estimates the truer number using its own methods which last time saw the figure increase from 19,000 to 24,000. With over 30,000 people not stating their indigenous origin this time around, the final figure is likely to be closer to 30,000" Ms Maluga said.

Ms Maluga said, "It is widely known that Tasmania came closest to wiping out all our people than any other State in Australia. Yet today we see Australia wide the proportion of Indigenous people is 2.8% whereas in Tasmania it is 4.6%. How is that physically possible?"

"We have to suspect some kind of wrong-doing when we see that the North West and West of Tasmania has an Indigenous proportion of 7.2% whereas in the north and south of the State it is in the 3% range, much closer to the national norm. In the 1800s all the official correspondence showed that all our ancestors had been removed from those parts of the State so where did all these Aborigines come from? We have never seen any explanation for that", Ms Maluga said.

"With the amount of Aboriginal money going into the Circular Head region in recent years with no explanation of this gigantic increase in its Aboriginal population, we consider a forensic audit is the only way to get to the bottom of this possible fraud", Ms Maluga said.

Trudy Maluga  
Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation

