

Australian Future Directions Forum

Indigenous Disadvantage tops List of Issues

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A forum of about 90 people working in various sectors of the community has named Indigenous disadvantage as the number one issue Australia needs to address.

The Australian Future Directions Forum met for three days in the Yarra Valley in Victoria to discuss what Australia might look like in the next 15 to 20 years.

Jason Glanville from Reconciliation Australia says there were a number of issues covered at the forum but each had an Indigenous component.

"In the end there was about 11 major issues discussed, all the major obvious national issues around the economy, the environment, globalisation, education but the Indigenous theme actually ran through all of those discussions," he said.

The forum wants the Federal Government to create what it calls a "relationship agreement" with Indigenous Australians.

Mr Glanville says the idea for the agreement will be presented to the Prime Minister.

"It's a mostly symbolic gesture that would allow us to talk in really honest and open terms about where we've come from as a nation and what we need to do to make sure we build a better and more prosperous nation for everybody."