



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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NATIONAL ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Minister for Education, Senator Carrick, on March 17, 1977, announced the establishment of the National Aboriginal Education Committee.

All members of the Committee - a full-time Chairman and 18 part-time members - are Aboriginal.

Senator Carrick, in making the announcement of the establishment and membership of the Committee, said that the establishment of the Committee followed a recommendation to the Government by the Department of Education, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Schools Commission, after consultation with the Commission's Aboriginal Consultative Group.

There follows the text of a statement by the Minister for Education, Senator The Honourable J.L. Carrick:

It is now almost ten years since the 1967 Referendum widened the Commonwealth Government's responsibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands people. This period has seen the growth of more interest and activity in Aboriginal education than ever before with Commonwealth funds developing programs and helping education authorities throughout the country to make special efforts for Aboriginal people at all levels of education. In all these activities there has been some consultation and involvement of Aboriginal people.

In 1974 the Schools Commission appointed an Aboriginal Consultative Group to assist it in obtaining representative views from Aboriginal groups and communities. Later, in October 1975, my Department, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Schools Commission agreed that a permanent advisory group should be set up. Consultations between them, and with the Aboriginal Consultative Group, led to a proposal for establishment of a National Aboriginal Education Committee, with a wholly Aboriginal membership. The Government has accepted that proposal.

The Committee will be responsible for providing my Department and me with informed Aboriginal views on the educational needs of Aboriginal people and appropriate methods of meeting these needs. Its advice will be available also to the Minister and

Department of Aboriginal Affairs and other authorities concerned with education of Aboriginal people. It will assist the Department of Education and other agencies in monitoring existing programs and in developing programs and policies and will be able to undertake and promote investigations, studies and projects on which to base its advice.

This Committee will be attached to and serviced by my Department.

The establishment of the Committee places significant responsibilities in the hands of Aboriginal people. I trust it will contribute to policy initiatives which will serve to redress the educational imbalance which Aboriginal people experience and which will recognize the culturally plural nature of Australian society. I hope these initiatives will foster education programs and activities which would assist Aboriginal people to live satisfying lives, sharing in and contributing to the total Australian society.

The Committee is headed by a full-time Chairman with eighteen part-time members who will provide a range of expertise in this area of education and an invaluable understanding of Aboriginal needs and problems.

The proposed members have been carefully selected to form a team balanced as far as possible in terms of factors including geographical location, educational specialisation, and variety of community experience. A large number of people nominated for the Committee and it would be my strong hope that those who did not achieve selection this time, would re-nominate in future. That so many well-qualified people have shown their interest augurs well for the success of the Committee.

Chairman

The Chairman is Mr Stephen Albert, a tribal member of the Bardi people of Western Australia; he has been appointed as Chairman of the Committee for a period of three years. He is highly educated and cultivated in Aboriginal society, and qualified to hold a position for which a deep appreciation of the needs of Aboriginal people is essential.

Mr Albert has lectured to school students and trainee teachers. He has been a member of the Regional Council for Social Development in Alice Springs and was a member of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement in Adelaide. He is a qualified tradesman and

is currently undertaking studies at the South Australian Institute of Technology. He lectures in the Community Learning Unit at the Aboriginal Community College. His experience of traditional Aboriginal education and contemporary Australian education will be of great benefit to the Committee.

Membership of the Committee

Other members of the Committee will normally be appointed for part-time terms of two years. Half of the initial members are being appointed for one year, and half for two years. This is being done so as to allow for progressive changes in membership while ensuring a degree of continuity in the Committee's work. All members will be able to seek re-appointment at the end of their initial term.

Members

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| NSW | Mr K.J. Gilbert | - Community Organiser, Department of Aboriginal Affairs. |
| | Ms B.J. Kennedy | - Teacher Aide, Department of Education. |
| Vic | Mr C.J. Bourke, B.Com., B.Ed., T.P.T.C. (Vic) | - Director, Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs, Monash University. |
| Qld | Mr L.M. Malone | - Classroom Assistant, St Michael's School, Palm Island. |
| | Mr J. Hamilton | - Visitor to Schools, Department of Education. |
| SA | Mr P. Hughes, Dip.Teach. (Primary) | - Executive Officer, Department of Aboriginal Affairs. |
| | Mrs I. Norvill | - Community Development Worker, Department of Community Welfare. |
| WA | Mr L.A. Tucker | - Liaison Officer, Education Department. |
| | Mrs M.L. O'Brien, T.P.T.C. (WA) | - Primary School Teacher, Education Department. |
| Tas | Mrs P.E. Cameron | - Community Worker, Flinders Island. |

- NT Mr D. White - Malluk Malluk tribesman, Teaching Assistant, Department of Education.
- Mr K. Rogers - Wandarang tribesman, Teaching Assistant, Department of Education.
- TSI Mr G. Passi, Teach Certif. (Qld), Diagnostic Testing and Remedial Teach.Cert. - Schools Supervisor, Queensland Department of Education.

Other Members Representing Specialist Education Areas

Pre-school Education

Miss V.J. Farrell, Child Care Cert. (WA) - Tutor, WA
Pre-School Board

Secondary Education

Mr J.R. Budby, Sec. Teach. Cert. (NSW) - Advisory Teacher,
Queensland Department of
Education.

Adult Education

Mr P.E. Stewart, Teach.Cert. (Qld) - Education Adviser
(Outstations), Department of
Education, NT.

Technical Education

Mrs N.D. McNamara, Dip.Tech. (Bus.Admin.) Dip. Teach.(Tech)
Lecturer, Flinders Street College
of Further Education, SA.

Tertiary Education

Ms M. Valadian, MBE, B.Soc.Stud.(Qld), M.Ed. (Hawaii),
M.Soc.Welfare (NY) - Consultant
Social Worker.

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