



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

This article was originally published in printed form. The journal began in 1973 and was titled *The Aboriginal Child at School*. In 1996 the journal was transformed to an internationally peer-reviewed publication and renamed *The Australian Journal of Indigenous Education*.

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NATIONAL ABORIGINES WEEK

1977

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE TO MARK NATIONAL ABORIGINES WEEK

The Chairman of the National Aboriginal Education Committee, Mr Stephen Albert, said in a statement to mark National Aborigines Week that the establishment of the NAEC was a watershed in the development of the Aboriginal peoples.

Mr Albert said the NAEC had already taken on a range of important studies as advisers to the Commonwealth Government.

The Committee was anxious to get on with the job of expressing the views of Aboriginal people and of assisting the Commonwealth Department of Education and other government agencies in the development of programs and policies for Aboriginals.

He said the establishment of the NAEC indicated a recognition by the Government that Aboriginal children and adults faced serious educational disadvantages and that Aboriginal people deserved the chance to participate more fully in educational policy making at the highest level.

While there had been problems in the past caused by lack of consultation the NAEC was hopeful that these could now be overcome.

The NAEC was also confident that the Commonwealth Government would provide sufficient resources to allow the Committee to meet the responsibilities the Government had set it.

Mr Albert said the NAEC had taken on a number of major investigations on the Government's behalf. These included:

- . An evaluation of the Black Community School in Townsville in co-operation with the Commonwealth Department of Education, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Queensland government departments.
- . Giving its views on the nature of an evaluation of early childhood services to Aboriginal children.

- . Discussions with the New South Wales Aboriginal community on future self management of some pre-schools by Aborigines.
- . Consultation with Commonwealth Government agencies on electoral education for Aboriginal people.
- . Mr Albert said these projects were simply a start to the work the NAEC anticipated doing.

The NAEC wanted to take an active role with other Aboriginal organisations and communities in carrying out programs essential for the advancement of Aboriginal people.

STATEMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,
SENATOR CARRICK, TO MARK NATIONAL ABORIGINES DAY

The Commonwealth Minister for Education, Senator Carrick, said the Government strongly supported the National Aboriginal Education Committee in the work it had already begun.

Senator Carrick said in a statement to mark National Aborigines Day the NAEC promised to be one of the Commonwealth Government's most successful initiatives.

The Committee had already committed itself to a number of valuable tasks which could bring about long-term improvements in Aboriginal education.

Senator Carrick said that it was important that Aboriginal communities and organisations should give the NAEC all possible support and the evidence so far showed that the Committee was receiving such support.

The Commonwealth Government, for its part, would stand behind the Committee in its efforts to meet the responsibilities the Government had given to it.

Commonwealth funds had already stimulated curriculum innovations, had provided additional equipment and teaching materials, teacher training and in-service programs and the employment of special staff including Aboriginal teaching assistants and remedial, resource and other specialist teachers.