



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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- . 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.

The Government's Aboriginal Secondary Grants and Aboriginal Study Grants schemes were also assisting Aboriginal students to make the most of educational opportunities.

Senator Carrick said he welcomed the statement by the Chairman of the National Aboriginal Education Committee, Mr Stephen Albert.

He said the establishment of the NAEC had opened lines of communication which would allow Aboriginal people to convey to the Government their views on Aboriginal education.

ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BY THE MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS, THE HON IAN VINER

Tomorrow, July 8th, is National Aborigines Day, inaugurated more than 20 years ago by one of Australia's outstanding citizens, Sir Douglas Nicholls. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum in which over 90% of Australians voted in favour of changing the Constitution as it affected Aborigines. One change enabled them to be counted in the Census. The other change gave the Commonwealth Government concurrent powers with the States to make special laws for Aborigines.

It is then an appropriate time to talk about the state of Aboriginal affairs in Australia today.

While it would be unfair and wrong not to acknowledge that we have come a long way in the past 10 years, it is nonetheless accepted by everyone interested in Aboriginal affairs - not least Aborigines themselves - that we have not come nearly far enough.

It is indeed heartening, however, that in this area of human affairs there is a shared concern by all political parties and a strong body of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, ready to rise and speak with real authority and understanding.

But, what is it like to be an Aboriginal Australian today? I can tell you: It's pretty tough.

For instance, the national average life expectancy for Aboriginal men is 50, for women 47. The death rate for Aboriginal women in certain age groups is still 10 times greater than the national average; for men, it is five times higher than average.