



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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NOTICE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS INQUIRY INTO ABORIGINAL ACCESS TO LEGAL AID

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator the Hon. F.M. Chaney, has requested that the Committee inquire into and report on the access of Aboriginals to legal aid with particular reference to :

1. the special needs and demands of Aboriginals for legal aid;
2. the extent to which the legal needs and demands of Aboriginals are being met by Aboriginal Legal Aid Services and other legal and counselling agencies;
3. the costs and benefits (economic and social) of Aboriginal Legal Aid Services; and
4. the means of meeting the special needs and demands of Aboriginals for legal aid in the future.

As part of its inquiry the Committee will be seeking submissions from Aboriginal groups and organisations concerned with the access of Aboriginals to legal aid including the Aboriginal Legal Aid Services. It will also be inviting written submissions from representatives of Commonwealth and State Government departments, Legal Aid Commissions, Law Reform Commissions, the courts, Law Societies, University Law Faculties and others interested in the inquiry.

Some of those making submissions to the inquiry may be asked to be appear before the Committee at public hearings to be held later in the year to give supporting evidence to their submissions.

The Committee would be pleased to receive submissions from any other individuals or organisations interested in the access of Aboriginals to legal aid.

It would be helpful if those proposing to lodge submissions with the Committee would notify the Secretary to the Committee of their intention as soon as possible.

This is the second matter which has been referred to the Committee during the 31st Parliament. The first reference, received from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on 16 March 1978, requested that the Committee inquire into and report on Aboriginal health.

The Committee recently completed its inquiry into Aboriginal health and proposes to table the report during the forthcoming period of parliamentary sittings.

The Committee is aiming to complete the inquiry into the access of Aboriginals to legal aid and report to the Parliament before the end of 1979.

The membership of the Committee is as follows:

Mr P.M. Ruddock, M.P. (Chairman)
Mr A.C. Holding, M.P. (Deputy Chairman)
Mr S.E. Calder, D.F.C., M.P.
Mr J.S. Dawkins, M.P.
The Hon. D.N.Everingham, M.P.
Mr P.D. Falconer, M.P.
Mr J.R. Johnston, M.P.
The Hon. R.C. Katter, M.P.

Inquiries and written submissions should be addressed to The Secretary, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600 - Tel : 062 72 6770 - reverse charges.

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