



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE*

BACKGROUND

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Education Consultative Committee (T.A.E.C.C.) was established in March 1979 as a result of prior consultation between the Tasmanian Education Department, the Tasmanian representative to the National Aboriginal Education Committee (N.A.E.C.), Mrs Patsy Cameron and Aboriginal organisations throughout Tasmania and the islands.

The Committee was elected by the Aboriginal community and consists of twelve Aboriginal people - three each from the north-west, southern and northern regions and one each from Flinders and Cape Barren Islands, and the Tasmanian representative to the N.A.E.C.

It was formed in response to a need for increased Aboriginal involvement in the area of Aboriginal education in Tasmania.

The committee's function is to advise the Minister for Education and his department on the educational needs of Aboriginal people in Tasmania and to suggest appropriate ways of meeting these needs.

It meets every three months.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- a) To provide the Tasmanian Minister for Education, the Minister for Social Welfare and the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs and their officers with a reliable expression of informed views on the education and training needs of Aboriginal people.

* Members - Mr Clyde Mansell (Chairman); Mrs Molly Mallett; Ms Suzanne Maynard; Mr Albert Deverell; Mr Lawrence Padmore; Mrs Lois Farley; Mr William Mansell; Mrs Leonie Dickson; Mrs Rosemarie Nicholson; Ms Pat Torres; Ms Kaye Price; Ms Sue Findlay. (one vacancy).

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- b) To advise and consult with education, training and welfare authorities regarding the effectiveness of current programs and projects involving Aborigines. Such programs should ensure that Aborigines have access to appropriate education.
- c) To consult with and advise other state, commonwealth and non-government authorities involved in educational and training programs for Aborigines; the National Aboriginal Education Committee; the Council for Aboriginal Development and the National Aboriginal Conference; other government and non-government agencies involved in Aboriginal affairs; the Aboriginal organisations and communities.
- d) To advise and monitor the content and reference material used in Tasmanian schools in relation to the culture and past and present history of the Aboriginal people of Tasmania.
- e) To be directly involved in the planning and implementation of new policies and programs in the education and training of Tasmanian Aborigines.
- f) To undertake or promote research studies and projects in education deemed relevant by the Aboriginal people.
- g) to undertake that all research studies and projects relevant to Aboriginal education are not carried out without the prior approval of, and consultation with local community groups of this Committee.
- h) To undertake or promote programs which will increase the knowledge and understanding that non-Aborigines have of Aborigines.
- i) To provide for the Aboriginal people of Tasmania, resources and information relevant to Aboriginal education and training.
- j) To produce reports on Aboriginal education and training.
- k) To undertake any other activities which will help meet the needs and aspirations of the Aboriginal people of Tasmania.
- l) This Committee should be representative of the Aboriginal people in Tasmania.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has been a very busy and exciting one for me and all other members of the Committee; it has been one of establishment for the Committee with regards to the Education Department and the community at large, but in particular, the Aboriginal community. Liaison with other State consultative groups and the national committee has taken up a lot of the Committee's time this year, all of whom have provided an ongoing consultation and support. I feel that the Committee has encountered some problems throughout the year such as members being elected and then pulling out of the Committee and the nomination and replacement of those members also being cut back by the School Commission which made it harder to hold the program that had been planned for the year.

Programs planned for next year are:

1. Teacher-aide Training

A pilot scheme has been proposed, whereby, initially one Aboriginal would be given in-service training in a State primary school as a teacher-aide, under the National Employment Strategy for Aborigines (N.E.S.A.).

2. In-service Seminars

A submission has been made to the State and Regional Services and Development Committee for three regional school-based seminars and one state-drawn seminar to be held in 1980.

3. Aboriginal Education Kit

The development of an Aboriginal education kit is proposed for use in schools. A working party has been formed to develop a proposal on what areas to develop.

4. Aboriginal Liaison Officer (South)

A part-time liaison officer will be appointed in early 1980. It is hoped that the person will provide an important link between home and the school.

5. Curriculum Development Officer

A submission has been prepared for the appointment of a curriculum development officer who would be involved in preparing material on Tasmanian Aboriginal history and culture, both past and present for use in schools.

6. Island Meetings

Since the committee was established to consult with the Aboriginal community, meetings are rotated to the different regions. Next year it is planned to hold at least one meeting on Cape Barren or Flinders Island providing finance is available. All meetings are open to any member of the Aboriginal community and people are invited to attend the meetings and take part in discussion.

It is with anticipation that I look forward to next year and feel that the work undertaken by the committee this year will begin to show over that period and the 1980/81 financial year.

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CHILD LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT: THEORY INTO PRACTICE

organised jointly by

Tasmanian College of Advanced
Education (Newnham)

and

The Launceston Teachers Centre

Key Speakers: Professor Ray Cattell, Head of the Linguistics
Department, Newcastle University

Mr Graham Little, Principal Lecturer in the School
of Teacher Education, Canberra C.A.E.

Mr Walter McVitty, Senior Lecturer in Librarianship,
Melbourne State College

Dr Robert E. Rudegeair, Senior Lecturer in the School
of Communication Disorders, Lincoln Institute of
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