

HAROLD BLAIR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN'S PROJECT

President:
HAROLD BLAIR
115 Whitehorse Road, Deepdene

Hon. Sec.:
R. G. PETTETT
45 Hosken Street, North Balwyn
857 7249

Wednesday, 10th May,
1967

The Prime Minister,
Mr Holt,
Dear Sir,

Recently I believe that you received a letter from Mr Stan Lavery, Director of the Aborigines Advancement League, and in that letter I have no doubt that he sought publicity of a personal kind from yourself, on mass media (TV), if possible.

I would like to endorse his comments to the utmost.

It seems to us that for the very first time (probably since the last war) all political parties, the thinking public, and all organisations in Australia connected with Aboriginal Affairs are really united on the question of a Yes vote for Aborigines at the coming referendum.

This Yes vote will have, of course, far-reaching implications, as you are well aware. It is extremely important for Australia to rid herself of the stigma attached to our

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previous handling of Aboriginal Affairs. Already many overseas countries are watching eagerly for publicity in this country, to see just how we feel about our own minority group.

New Zealand is the closest to us, and already there have been comments there on television and in the newspapers.

It would appear that now is a golden opportunity for all community leaders, and particularly yourself, to declare whole-hearted support for the Yes campaign. There seems to be no antagonism at all, just the usual amount of apathy. This last is what could be so dangerous. What would happen if there was a No vote due to sheer ignorance!

Please support us by making a public statement as soon as possible. People need all the time left before 27th May to consider the subject.

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Publicity needs to be front-page + top viewing time, now, we feel.

Please excuse me for any impertinence, if indeed there appears to be any in this letter. This is an absolutely vital question to all of us, as Australians.

If you think that either a casual, private audience with yourself, or perhaps with Mrs Goble, MLA for Mitcham, would be of assistance to you in any way, I would be delighted to provide myself alone, or a small group of key people working for a Yes vote, to discuss the subject with you.

As I myself am a novice at writing to Prime Ministers, I am not sure if you need to check myself, as a correspondent, to make

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sure that I am not just a crank!

If it would be of assistance, I am in fact Val + Peter Hiskens' niece (Fairbairn Rd., Toraraki), and although they have nothing to do with this campaign, I'm sure that they would be happy to tell you of my reputable character.

Yours most sincerely,

(Mrs) Jan Merton,
Public Relations Director,
52, Milne St., Templestowe.