

Coombs to head new Aboriginal council

Aust
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DR COOMBS

Dr H. C. Coombs yesterday announced his retirement as governor of the Reserve Bank, and the Prime Minister, Mr Holt, named him as the first chairman of the Council for Aboriginal Affairs.

Dr Coombs was also named the first chairman of the Australian Council for the Arts.

He will start work immediately on his new appointments, although his retirement from the bank will not be finalised until the middle of next year, Mr Holt said in the House of Representatives.

The decision to set up an office of Aboriginal affairs was announced in September, following the referendum on the status of Aborigines.

"The Government wishes to have continually available to it the best advice on Aboriginal affairs it can get on a national level, and it has decided the new office should serve a Council for Aboriginal Affairs, which will have two particular functions.

"It will advise the Government in the formulation of na-

tional policies for the Aboriginal citizens of Australia.

"It will consult with the Commonwealth departments and authorities whose activities have a bearing on Aboriginal welfare," the Prime Minister said.

The new council will consist of a chairman and two members.

The chairman's will not be a full-time appointment, but he will devote a large part of his time to its affairs, he said.

Some time ago, Dr Coombs had told Mr Holt and the Treasurer, Mr McMahon, that he wanted to step down after 18 years as governor of the Reserve Bank.

Mr J. G. Phillips, at present deputy governor of the bank, will succeed Dr Coombs.

**NUGGET COOMBS IS
SAD — PAGE 3.**