This Commission recommends that the Commonwealth Government take the following steps in view of the mandate given to it in the recent referendum to assume responsibility for overall Aboriginal Welfare in Australia.
To ratify Convention 107 of the International Labour Organisation (I.L.O.) "concerning the protection and integration of indigenous and other tribal and semi-tribal populations in independent countries", and to make Convention 107 the basis of its approach to Aboriginal welfare.

To establish a portfolio (Minister of Aboriginal Affairs) to be held by the Minister of Repatriation. The Department of Repatriation has the administration and facilities appropriate to meeting the most urgent needs of Australian Aborigines as a whole.

Within the proposed Department of Aboriginal Affairs:

(A) Institute a nation-wide survey of the Aboriginal people and/or co-ordinate the study being carried out by various organisations both government and otherwise. This could be done through the Institute of Aboriginal Studies. The material and knowledge gained could be prepared at three 'levels':-

   i) An "academic" level, for further academic study, etc.

   ii) A "practical" level suitable for study by Government personnel and others interested and active in Aboriginal Affairs.

   iii) A "popular" level, suitable for general public reading but covering the same basic material.

Such information could be distributed through a "Source of Information Bureau". It would be a valuable facility to aid research, the formation and guidance of policy for both State and Commonwealth Governments, and general public information.

As a basic unit of such a program, the Commonwealth Government could encourage, enlarge and subsidize the work being carried out by the Monash University Centre for Aboriginal Studies.

(B) Set up a "National Arts Council" as separate from the Institute of Aboriginal Studies. This body could:-

   i) Subsidize research into the art and craft of Aboriginal people and collate material now available and research already carried out.

   ii) Assist in the re-establishment of the previous culture, cf. N.Z. Maori Project. This should be done particularly for the Victorian Aborigines, and in those areas in which the past culture has disappeared either completely or in part.

   iii) Institute culture-widening opportunities for Aborigines such as exchange programs, giving opportunities to Aboriginal students, leaders, housewives, etc., to study beyond their local areas.

   iv) Encourage Aborigines to initiate, plan and own co-operatives dealing with tourist activities.

(C) Establish a training program to assist the economic improvement of the Aboriginal people. This program, set up within the Commonwealth Department or through the facilities which already exist in the various States (assisted by the Commonwealth Government) would be concerned with

   i) Developing and administering Aboriginal co-operatives.

   ii) The principles and practice of community development.
iii) Enabling Aboriginal children to take proper advantage of the existing provisions for education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

(D) Appoint an Aboriginal Lands Commission to examine the needs of Aborigines in respect of tribal lands and farming opportunities.

(E) Arrange for membership of the Commonwealth Public Service of social (or welfare) workers amongst Aborigines in the various States. This would facilitate:

i) Training. A Commonwealth training scheme could be introduced for social workers amongst Aborigines through the School of Pacific Administration, which would provide a fuller training than is practicable for the separate States with their small staffs.

ii) Transfers from State to State. This would ensure continuity of employment for social workers employed in States which have few opportunities for advancement, and opportunities for promotion which are denied within the existing small State divisions.

To provide for the greatest possible degree of Aboriginal representation at all levels in the foregoing proposals and in all other activities concerned with Aboriginal welfare.