Aboriginal leaders want swift Federal action

Federal and State ministers in charge of Aboriginal affairs will meet in Perth in July to discuss a co-ordinated programme.

Mr. G. M. Bryant, M.L.A.,(Vic), will ask the Federal Government to form a select committee to examine the Aboriginal question.

These moves followed the swearing-in of the new Federal Government.

The general secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, Mr. J. H. Brown, yesterday put forward a comprehensive Aboriginal policy program.

"The program," he said, "must be based on the principle of non-interference with the rights of the Aboriginal people to their own culture and way of life."

Mr. Bryant, who was once a member of the Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, said that the new government had a unique opportunity to make a real change in the status of the Aborigines.

"We must ensure," he said, "that the Aborigines are given the same rights as other Australians."