

TOWARDS EQUAL CITIZENSHIP FOR ABORIGINES

TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED:—

The Petition of the undersigned citizens of the Commonwealth respectfully sheweth:—

THAT, in view of the fact that the Commonwealth Constitution discriminates against the Aboriginal people in two Sections (as set out below), it thereby limits their right to "peace, order and good Government under the Commonwealth Parliament", and

THAT such discriminations in effect give support to other laws and regulations which deprive Aborigines of equal wages and employment opportunities and deny them the right to own and develop their remaining tribal lands, and

THAT they have an inferior legal status compared with other citizens of the Commonwealth.

Your petitioners humbly pray that the Commonwealth Government remove Section 127 and the discriminatory words in Section 51 (as underlined), by the holding of a referendum at an early date.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

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Address

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Section 51: "The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order and good Government of the Commonwealth with respect to:—

Clause xxvi: "The people of any race, other than the aboriginal race in any State, for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws."

Section 127: "In reckoning the number of the people of the Commonwealth or of a State, or other part of the Commonwealth, aboriginal natives shall not be counted."

This Petition should be returned to P.O. Box 59, Coburg, Vic. or to person from whom it was received.

Authorised by Mr. Stan Davey, general secretary for the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement, on behalf of 34 affiliated organisations from all Australian States and Northern Territory.