

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you wish further information about the Aborigines or about the Petition for a Referendum, consult the secretary of one of the organizations listed below.

### ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED TO THE FEDERAL COUNCIL.

Organisation	Secretary's Address
<b>QUEENSLAND:</b>	
Aborigines' and Torres Strait Islanders' Advancement League	Box 435, P.O., Cairns, Nth. Queensland.
Aborigines' Advancement League, Qld.	89 Longman Terrace, Chelmer, Brisbane.
State Council for Advancement of Aborigines and T.S. Islanders	19 Myrtle Street, Buranda, Brisbane.
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES:</b>	
Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship	Box 2672, G.P.O., Sydney.
Association for Assimilation of Aborigines, Armidale	12 Handel Street, Armidale.
Redfern All Blacks Football and Social Club	27 Caroline Street, Redfern.
N.S.W. Teachers' Federation	Federation House, 166 Phillip Street, Sydney.
Aborigines' Advancement League, Newcastle	Trades Hall, Newcastle.
South Coast Aborigines' Advancement League	37 Osborne Parade, Warilla.
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA:</b>	
Aborigines' Advancement League, Inc.	53 Myall Street, Kensington Gardens.
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA:</b>	
Association for the Advancement of Coloured People	90 West Street, Bassendean.
<b>NORTHERN TERRITORY:</b>	
N.T. Council for Aboriginal Rights	Box 122, G.P.O., Darwin.
<b>VICTORIA:</b>	
Aborigines' Advancement League	56 Cunningham St., Northcote.
Council of Aboriginal Rights	Box 1585P, G.P.O., Melbourne.
Australian Aborigines' League	22 Cardigan Street, Carlton.

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## FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT

### PETITION FOR A REFERENDUM TO REMOVE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ABORIGINES FROM THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.

#### THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION AT PRESENT PROVIDES:—

##### Section 51 — Legislative Powers of Parliament:

"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 laws."

##### Section 127 — Census:

"In reckoning the numbers of people of the Commonwealth or of a State, or other part of the Commonwealth, *Aboriginal natives shall not be counted.*"

The Council maintains that these examples of racial discrimination should be removed.

Aborigines are people, despite Section 127, and they have the right to peace, order and good government under the Commonwealth Parliament.

**Section 51, Clause XXVI:**

Means that laws with respect to Aborigines are the responsibility of the States, apart from those living in the Northern Territory.

The effect of this clause is that there is little uniformity in the laws governing Aborigines in the States and Territory.

**RIGHTS ENJOYED BY ABORIGINES ON SETTLEMENTS & RESERVES IN 5 STATES & THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.**

	N.S.W.	VIC.	S.A.	W.A.	N.T.	QLD.
Voting Rights (State)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Marry Freely - - -	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Control Own Children	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Move Freely - - -	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Own Property Freely	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Receive Award Wages	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Alcohol Allowed - -	No	No	No	No	No	No

Such variations and inconsistencies can hardly be justified and must cause a great deal of confusion. Consider, for example, the case of an Aboriginal transferring from a settlement in N.S.W. to one in the neighbouring State of Queensland.

The types of benefits should depend on the degree of education and integration enjoyed by the Aborigine and not on the State or Territory in which he resides.

The Federal Government has no power to make laws with respect to Aborigines and yet must try to defend in the United Nations and other International bodies the varied assortment of Rights and Restrictions practised by the States.

This clause has been used to justify the practice of not paying Federal Award Wages to Aborigines. These awards should apply to all workers in the relevant industries.

The only practical way in which these variations can be removed is for the Commonwealth to Possess and Exercise the power to make laws with respect to Aborigines.

**Section 127 — Census:**

Implies that Aborigines are not people or at least not people of any account.

Apart from its institutionalized insult to Aborigines, this section has some practical implications.

I. Reimbursements to the States of money collected as Income Tax are based on their populations as obtained in the Census. The States thus receive no reimbursements for the Aborigines in their communities but are expected to provide basic services such as Education, Housing and Hospitals. On the other hand, the Commonwealth collects Income Tax from Aborigines in the States, but has no power (under Section 51) to make laws to assist them and cannot under Section 127, reimburse the States with this money.

This anomaly can be corrected by deletion of Section 127.

II. Aborigines may now vote at Federal Elections, but are not counted in the Census, which is used to fix electoral boundaries. The exercising of this right will increase the size of the electorate and so decrease the effectiveness of their vote. Both Queensland and Western Australia probably lost a seat in the House of Representatives because of this section.

III. Australia has a responsibility to educate Aborigines and integrate them into the economic life of the community. This responsibility is recognized by both the Commonwealth and the States. It is difficult to see how this responsibility can be met if accurate information is not obtained as to how many Aborigines are living in each locality.

**FOR BOTH MORAL AND PRACTICAL REASONS, SECTION 127 MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSTITUTION.**