

Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement

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P e t i t i o n

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives in Parliament assembled:—

The humble citizens of the Commonwealth respectfully showeth that while the aboriginal people of Australia suffer under disabilities social, economic and political, your petitioners are concerned and anxious on their behalf, requiring that they be adequately fed, clothed and housed and given such securities as are the people of all races who have come to live in this country. These disabilities in important respects are not remediable without the Commonwealth Government accepting responsibility for the care of the aboriginal people throughout Australia.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Commonwealth Government make provision for an alteration of the Federal Constitution by means of a Referendum to be held at an early date, in order to:

(1) Delete the words in Section 51 (xxvi) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth ("OTHER THAN THE ABORIGINAL RACE IN ANY STATE") which now gives power to the Parliament of the Commonwealth to make laws for the peace, order and good government of "the people of any race, OTHER THAN THE ABORIGINAL RACE IN ANY STATE for whom it is deemed necessary to make laws", and

(2) Delete Section 127 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth which reads "In reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth aboriginal natives shall not be counted".

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

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