



## PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT No. 83

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### ABORIGINAL ARTS BOARD

Aboriginals have been given full responsibility for developing their own programs in the arts under a new Government policy to revitalise cultural activities through the Australian Council for the Arts. Artists and craftsmen from remote centres, towns and cities have been appointed to the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Council. The Board's Chairman, as previously announced, is the Aboriginal author and artist, Mr Dick Roughsey, of Mornington Island.

The members of the board are:-

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| Mr Raphael Apuatimi | Skilled traditional dancer from Bathurst Island. Actively involved in dance groups in the Northern Territory.  |
| Mr Albert Barunga   | Leading Aboriginal councillor at Mowanjumb in Western Australia and member of many Aboriginal committees.  |
| Mr Harold Blair     | Noted tenor engaged as a music teacher with the Victorian Education Department. Sponsor of the Harold Blair Holiday Scheme for Aboriginal children from outback areas.     |
| Mr Ken Colbung      | Co-ordinator of Aboriginal Cultural Enterprise Society, Perth. Active in fostering the arts in the Aboriginal urban communities.   |
| Mrs. Kitty Dick     | A leader in ceremonial life among the women of Weipa in north Queensland.  |
| Mr Chicka Dixon     | Waterside worker of Sydney and manager of Aboriginal pop groups performing in Clubs. Central figure in Black Political Movement. Leader of Aboriginal delegation to China. |
| Mrs. Ruby Hammond   | Foundation member of the South Australian Aboriginal Art Co-operative and actively engaged in community development projects.  |

Mr Tim Leura Jabaldjari	Outstanding traditional artist of the Pintubi/Walbiri School at Papunya in Central Australia.
Mr Eric Koo'oila	Authority on ceremonial life at Aurukun in Queensland. Guide to anthropologists Ursula McConnel and Donald Thomson.
Mr Albert Lennon	A leading member of the Pitjantjatjara group of north-west South Australia.
Mr Mick Miller	School teacher of Cairns. Member of Association for Cultural Education of Children of the Peninsula. Has great knowledge of north Queensland where he is well known.
Mr Wandjuk Marika	Tribal leader at Yirrkala in Arnhem Land. Known for his deep understanding of traditional life.
Mrs. Vi Stanton	Part-Aboriginal deeply involved in giving encouragement in arts and craft activities to Northern Territory Aboriginal women. Vice-President of Northern Territory Aboriginal Development Foundation.
Mr Terrence Widders	Armidale Teachers College. Involved in country programme for the revival of interest in traditions. Trainee film maker.

The decision to place control for the arts in the hands of Aborigines is intended to stimulate indigenous Australian arts and lead to the preservation of many art forms almost lost since the settlement of Australia by Europeans.

The Board will investigate ways of involving Aborigines in a wide range of cultural activities in the visual arts, performing arts, film making and literature. Projects aimed at the preservation of Aboriginal Art, crafts, dance and music will be sponsored in communities throughout central and northern Australia.

Assistance will be given also to establish community museums where cultural property can be housed safely and where the younger generation can be taught an appreciation of their own heritage in accordance with traditional custom.

Inter-community visits will be supported to assist local groups to share the music and dance which have been handed down to them over many thousands of years.

Craftsmen will have new opportunities to use their traditional skills to develop independent enterprises. Workshops will be arranged for those wishing to experiment with new art forms such as weaving, leatherwork, pottery and batik.

The Board will study a form of quality control and a system

of orderly marketing for arts and crafts.

An intensive program is underway for Aboriginal theatre in urban communities. Support will be offered to extend this to the country where increasing numbers of Aboriginals are becoming interested in theatre as a form of expression.

Sponsorship will be available also to Aboriginal authors and film makers. Subsidies will be provided for publications so that Aboriginals can express to the wider community something of the richness of their culture.

The new board will sponsor the first National Seminar on Aboriginal Arts to be held in Australia. This is planned from 21 to 25 May at the Australian National University in Canberra.

About 200 people have been invited. They will be predominantly Aboriginals. The recommendations of the seminar will largely influence the board in its future policy planning for the stimulation and revitalisation of Aboriginal arts throughout the country.

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