



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

18 APRIL 1991

JOINT STATEMENT WITH THE MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS, ROBERT TICKNER

The Government has given further consideration to its historic initiative to address the process of reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community.

We have been heartened by the response to our previous announcement in December and the discussion paper that was issued. The Minister has spoken to or been in contact with leaders of political parties at the Federal and State levels, Aboriginal leaders and organisations, the churches, business, trade union, and community organisations.

It is evident that many people have read the discussion paper, and are coming forward to express their support.

On the basis of assurances of support for the general thrust of the initiative from political parties, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and community organisations, such as the major churches, we are to proceed forthwith in drafting legislation to establish the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation.

The Council, when established, will be responsible for setting the broader approach to the reconciliation process and its eventual outcome. The Council members, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, will have a significant role to play in developing and overseeing the awareness and education campaign which will be the cornerstone of the reconciliation process.

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