

EDITORIAL

I am sure you would wish me to bring to your attention the terms of reference of the House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry into Aboriginal Education. The Committee has been requested by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to inquire into and report on all aspects of Aboriginal education with particular reference to:

1. *The educational needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people including the effect on these needs of environmental, social and cultural factors.*
2. *Means of promoting wider and more effective participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people at all levels in the development and implementation of appropriate programs and curricula.*
3. *The most effective methods of providing appropriate education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people at all levels, having regard to the expressed needs of the Aboriginal communities and organizations and to the respective responsibilities of - a) the State, Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments; and b) Aboriginal communities and other agencies administering Aboriginal education programs.*
4. *The effectiveness of funding arrangements, including a) whether the best use is made of available funds; and b) whether present priorities as between States Grants and Grants-in-Aid are appropriate.*
5. *The effectiveness of existing programs and special support schemes including a) Aboriginal student assistance schemes; b) enclave support schemes; c) independent Aboriginal schools; d) bilingual and bicultural education programs; and e) pre-employment and vocational training courses.*
6. *The recruitment and training of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal teachers and teacher assistants.*

The Committee is seeking the views of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community groups and individuals, educational administrators and teachers, government departments and agencies, and others interested in the delivery of education services to Aboriginal people. The Committee will conduct public hearings and visit Aboriginal communities, schools and other educational institutions in all states and the Northern Territory.

The closing date for submissions is early July. See inside back cover for address.

My very best wishes to you all.

B. A. Satter