

National Aboriginal Conference



**Sub-committee
on the . . .**

MAKARRATA

**(formerly the Treaty of
Commitment)**

**What you think
about it
is important**

For many years some people have been saying that the Government in Canberra should have an agreement with the Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders.

This Agreement would mean that the Government agrees that Aboriginals owned Australia before the white people came here.

This agreement would mean that the Government would do some special things for the Aboriginals.

The white people call an agreement like this a 'Treaty of Commitment'.

The National Aboriginal Conference had a talk about it and decided it should have an Aboriginal name.

The National Aboriginal Conference said 'Makarraṯa' was a good name.

This is a Northern Territory Yolnu word which means 'things are okay again after a fight'.

The National Aboriginal Conference has set up a special committee to ask Aboriginals what they would like to see in the **Makarraṯa**.

The people on this committee are Lyall Munro, of New South Wales; Jim Hagan, of Queensland; Peter Minyipirriwuy, of the Northern Territory; Lois O'Donoghue, of South Australia and Cedric Jacobs, of Western Australia.

These people will be coming to visit you shortly and again later this year.

They want to know what **you** think should be in the **Makarraṯa**.

This leaflet is to ask you to think about the **Makarraṯa** and to talk about it with your friends before the committee comes to your community.

There are lots of things which could go in the **Makarraṯa**. These could be fishing rights, land rights in the States, the protection of
Aboriginal
sacred sites, languages,
law and culture.

If you talk about it in your community you might get more ideas.

It is up to the Aboriginal people to decide what they would like in the **Makarraṯa**.

Please talk about it and find out from your N.A.C. member when the Makarraṯa committee is coming to your area.

When the **Makarraṯa** Committee has talked to the Aboriginal people and has lots of ideas on what should be in the **Makarraṯa** it will go to Canberra to talk to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Prime Minister.

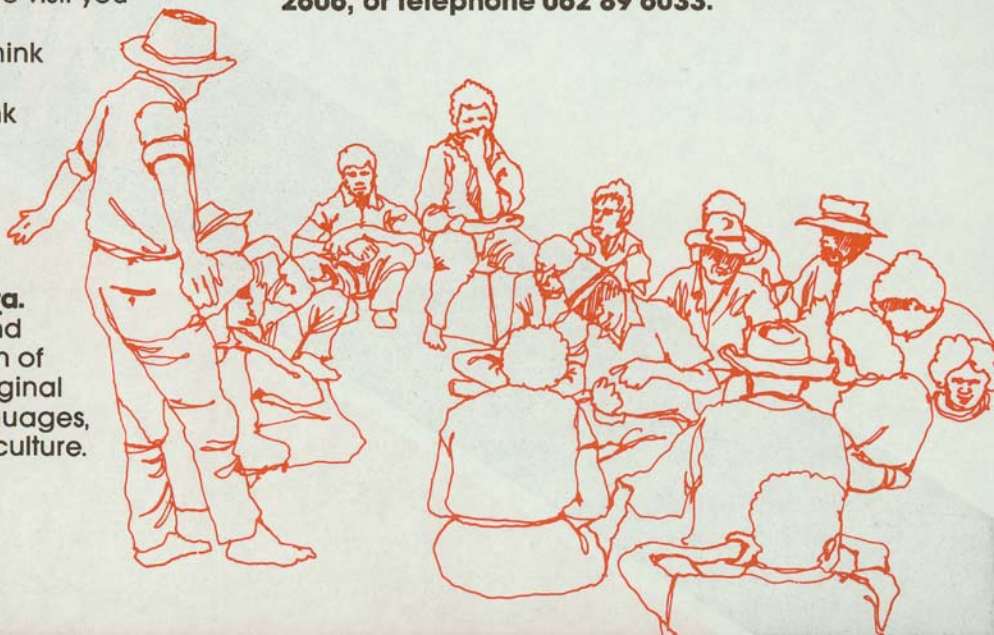
These Ministers say the N.A.C. is the right organisation to do this job.

They will listen to what the N.A.C. Committee says about the **Makarraṯa**.

The Committee will only know what you want in the **Makarraṯa** if you tell it, so please come to the meeting when the Committee is in your area.

If you cannot come to the meeting please tell your N.A.C. member what you think should be in the **Makarraṯa**.

If you cannot get in touch with your N.A.C. member you should write to the N.A.C. Secretariat at: P.O. Box 259, WODEN, A.C.T. 2606, or telephone 062 89 6033.



National Aboriginal Conference Documents

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(formerly the Treaty of Commitment) : what you think about is important.
(a330260_a.pdf)

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