

01-025-039.

File Number 10.655.

Black Community School - College of Aboriginal Education.

9/73 - 10/86

FOLIO	OFFICER	BRING-UP DATE	OR	ACTION COMPLETE	FOLIO	OFFICER	BRING-UP DATE	OR	ACTION COMPLETE
1	DD								
1	MR BIRNESS								
2	COOF								
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4/5	DIR								
6	COOK								
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11/6	CBO	3/7/81							

RETIREE
 INACTIVE

01-025-039.



TELEPHONES:

File 01
DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL
AND ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT,

ID. 655

BOX 5620. M.S.O.

TOWNSVILLE. Q. 4810

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:

14th May, 1981.

The Director,
Dept. Aboriginal & Islanders
Advancement,
P.O. Box 133,
NORTH QUAY,
BRISBANE, 4000.

CONFIDENTIAL

Re: Black Community School, Townsville

Your Ref: ID/655

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL
AND ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT

18 MAY 1981

I refer to your correspondence of 27/4/81.

The Black Community School is funded through the Townsville Commonwealth Education Department who believe the school provides an alternative style of education for black primary students.

Special problems experienced by Islander children attending mixed schools are lack of parent/teacher contact; teacher attitude; ability of teachers to cope with islander children, and parents who have been educated in the Torres Strait not comprehending the normal education system and its requirements.

The Black Community School has a regular attendance of thirteen pupils. Two teachers are employed at the School but the position of Principal/teacher is currently vacant. The majority of Islanders in Townsville would not, under any circumstance, support a Black Community School. However, it is felt that a school with State Education Department facilities, constant funding and stable staffing would attract a larger number of pupils and more community support than is currently received. The general facilities of the Black Community School are far below that of any State School in every respect.

The Townsville aboriginal population has never expressed a desire for a separate school and appear satisfied with mixed schooling. This could be attributed to a lesser language problem than experienced by islanders; the employment of aboriginal teacher aids; and a better understanding of the education system by parents and students.

Some aboriginal leaders in the region consider the Black Community school a backward step in community race relations. On the other hand, some islanders believe that bad student experiences at school lead to poor adult racial situations and attitudes within the community.

...2/.

There could be a need for special instruction for Torres Strait pupils and parents who have moved to Townsville, but perhaps this could be best provided by extending the existing State Education framework, rather than introducing segregated schooling.

A. M. ...
.....
MANAGER.

RTI RELEASED

- 1 MAY 1981

Dr. N. R. Scott-Young,
Member for Townsville,
40 Gregory Street,
North Ward,
TOWNSVILLE Q. 4810

Dear Dr. Scott-Young,

Thank you for your letter of the 9th April 1981 referring to correspondence you have received from the Director of the Black Community School Council of Townsville.

I have recently heard from the Director and consequently have advised him that the Aitkenvale Reserve is required for Departmental purposes and therefore I am unable to accede to his request.

Yours sincerely,



(K. B. Tomkins)
Minister for Water Resources and
Aboriginal and Island Affairs

RECEIVED
- 1 MAY 1981

Dr. N. R. Scott-Young,
Member for Townsville,
40 Gregory Street,
North Ward,
TOWNSVILLE Q. 4810

Dear Dr. Scott-Young,

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I have recently heard from the Director and consequently have advised him that the Aitkenvale Reserve is required for Departmental purposes and therefore I am unable to accede to his request.

Yours sincerely,

(K. S. Tomkins)
Minister for Water Resources and
Aboriginal and Island Affairs

*Original Copy Also
New 6/1/81*

See letter below

5726

27th April, 1981

The Manager,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islanders Advancement,
BOX 5620 M.S.O.,
TOWNSVILLE Q. 4810

Re: Black Community School - My letter 15/4/81

Further to my letter under reference I wish to advise that the Honourable the Minister for Education in a recent letter to the Honourable K. B. Tomkins, M.L.A., mentioned inter alia -

"The Black Community School is recognized by my Department as an approved school under the Education Act and, as such, receives normal State grants in addition to funding from other sources.

In July 1980 the School Council approached my Department with a request to lease an Education Reserve in Garbutt, Townsville. Unfortunately, the land in question is needed for Technical College purposes and so it was not possible to agree to this request.

The Black Community School has been established and operational since August 1973. Accordingly, it would clearly seem to have the support of the families served by it."

I should appreciate your urgent response and any substantive comments you may be able to make upon the statement in the final paragraph. No doubt the School is supported by the families it serves, but the number of families, number of children, the quality of education, the pupil/teacher ratio, etc., probably represent a better scale by which any application for additional funding can be measured, viz a viz competitive requests for grants and/or assistance.


DIRECTOR

1D-655



Land Administration Commission

IMPORTANT!
When replying quote this number:

Res. 10804

RK

Department of Lands

Telephone 224 0515 Ext. 7739 773

When telephoning or calling please ask for

Mr. Weis

Brisbane

All communications to be addressed to
The Secretary,
Land Administration Commission
P.O. Box 168
Brisbane North Quay 4000
Telegraphic Address
"Landcom"

13th April, 1981.

Dear Madam,

Re: School Reserve R.511,
Portion 107, Parish of Stuart.
Yar Reference: JM:50.

With reference to your letter of 20th March, 1981, I wish to advise that this Department's involvement in your request concerning issuing a Special Lease over the abovementioned Reserve must await receipt of advice from the Education Department.

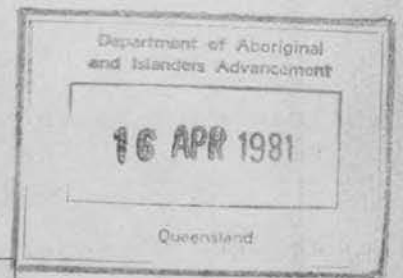
Yours faithfully,

B/C The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islanders Advancement,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000.

Acting Secretary.

Copy of letter and plan herewith
for your information.

[Signature]
Acting Secretary.



The Director,
Brisbane Community School Council,
CRANBROOK. Q.

COOR



Res 10204



DEPT. OF LANDS

14395 25MAR81

BRISBANE

31 MAR 1981

Black Community School Council

149 Boundary Street,
South Townsville
P.O. Box: 1026
Phone: 72 3128

Director's Address:
23 Hibiscus Street
Cranbrook
Phone:



JM:SO

20th March, 1981

The Acting Secretary,
Land Administration Commission,
P.O. Box 168,
BRISBANE, QLD, 4000

Dear Sir,

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL SITE

On behalf of the Black Community School Council I make application for the issue to my School Council of a special lease over Portion 107, Reserve R511, School Reserve, County of Elphinstone, Parish of Stuart situated in Shannon Street, Onoonba, Townsville. The site is shown outlined in red on the attached plan. A copy of this application has been sent to the Director of Education for his information. Portion 107 has not been developed for school purposes and the existing Onoonba School on Reserve R311 is large enough to serve the community needs of the suburb of Onoonba. The Townsville City Council has informed me that there is unlikely to be any further residential development in the Onoonba area.

If the Commission grants the lease, funding for the erection of the Black Community School will be sought from:-

- The Schools Commission
- The Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs and
- The Aboriginal Development Commission

An early reply to our request would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
E.K. MABO
DIRECTOR

Bronwyn M. Patton

Copies to Director of Education, Brisbane
District Land Agent, Townsville
Regional Director of Education, Townsville



Park, Recreation & Drainage Res.

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Res. for Sewerage
Purposes.

Park Res.

School Res

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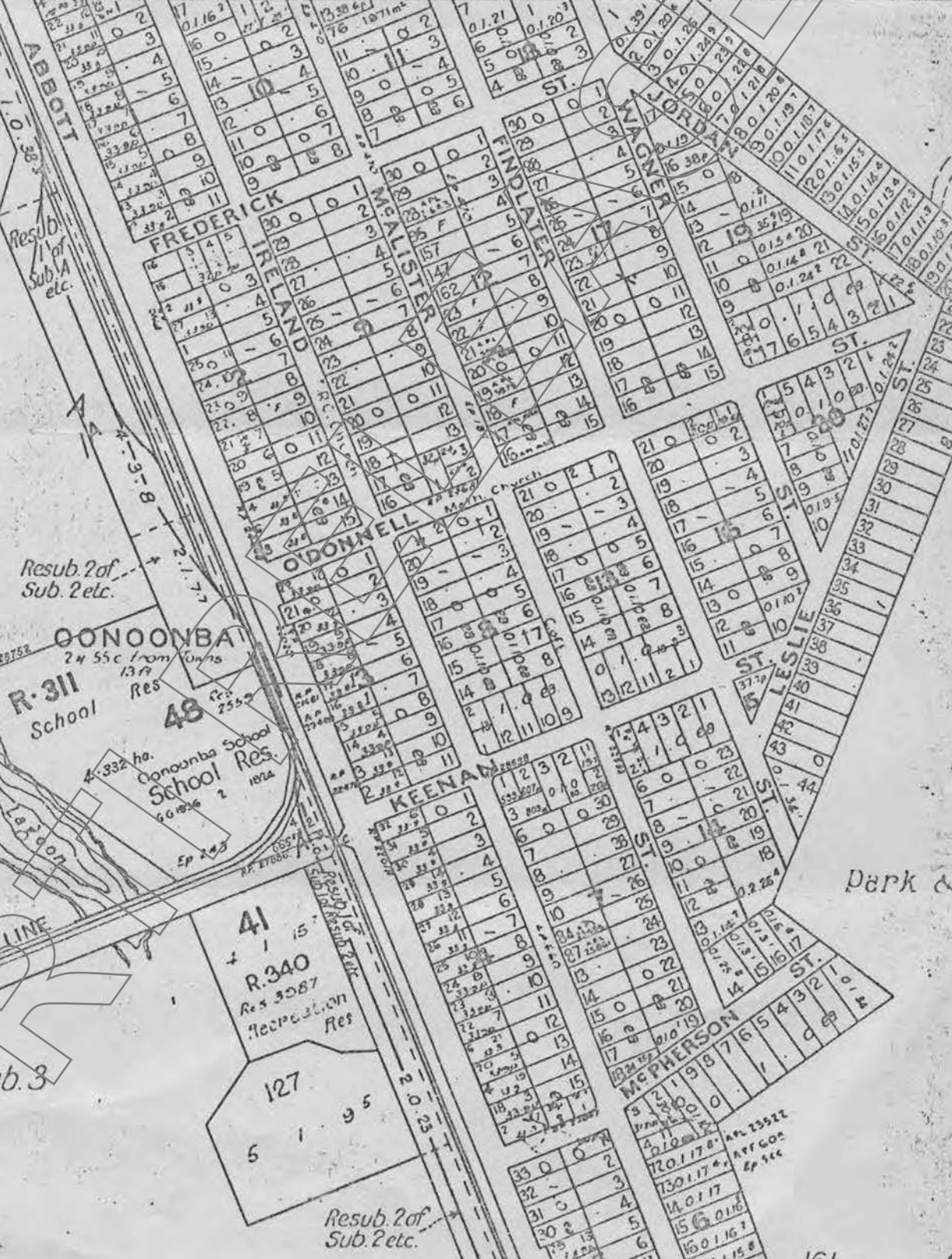
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ID-655



15 APR 1981
Minister for Water Resources
and Aboriginal and Island
Affairs

40 Gregory Street,
North Ward,
TOWNSVILLE, 4810

9th April, 1981.

Hon. K. B. Tomkins, M.L.A.,
Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and
Island Affairs,
Land Administration Building,
130-148 George Street,
BRISBANE.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed copy of a letter from the Director
of the Black Community School Council in Townsville.

I consider that the facts set out in this letter are
reasonable and request that consideration be given to
some sort of funding and land allocation so that these
children can be assisted to get a better knowledge of
spoken English.

Yours faithfully,

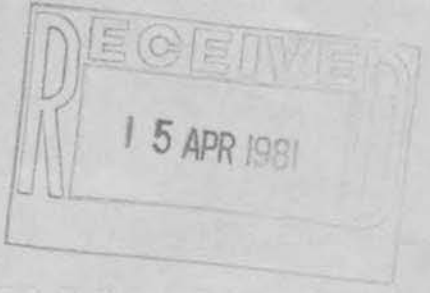
N. R. Scott-Young
N. R. Scott-Young.
Member for Townsville.

B/c: Director of Aboriginal
and Islanders Advancement

.... Forwarded, by direction, for
preparation of Ministerial reply,
please.

Gayhesser

Acting Private Secretary
15/4/81



RTI

cool



Black Community School Council

407 Boundary Street
 South Townsville
 P.O. Box: 1026
 Phone: 72 3125

Director's Address:
 23 Hibiscus Street
 Cranbrook
 Phone:

10th March, 1981

Queensland Minister
 for Aboriginal and Island Advancement,
 Parliament House,
 BRISBANE.

Dear Sir,

This letter is a form of an official application from the above School Council, seeking your approval for allocation of five (5) acres of Aboriginal Reserve Land, which is situated between Ross River Road, and Charles Street in the Townsville suburb of Cranbrook.

We propose that if we are allowed a long term lease, or purchase of this land, we would like to establish a permanent School Building on this site.

Since the School's establishment eight years ago, we have been operating out of rented premises. Our first six years were spent in Catholic premises in South Townsville, until the Parish desired the Building for their own use.

Since then, we have been operating in an old, dilapidated dwelling house in Boundary Street, South Townsville. This building has been condemned by the City Council, and the owners have been urging the School Council to obtain another building. Unfortunately, however, there is nothing else available which would provide adequate accommodation for our School.

We hope, that you, as our Minister may be able to assist us in our plight to search for permanent accommodation.

We are currently catering for thirty students with ages ranging from six (6) years to twelve (12) years old, both Torres Strait Islander, and Aboriginal children.

These children whom we cater for are those who normally speak "Meriam Mir" or Torres Strait pidgin, as their Mother Tongue, and who would have tremendous difficulties in understanding instructions in Standard English in normal State School situations.

Our Black Community School provides a bridge in which these children are instructed in their own mother tongue, and gradually introduced into standard English at the two (2) final years of Primary education.

During the past years, we have had considerable success in enabling students to flow into State Secondary Schools, with noticeably fewer problems.

If we are able to acquire a permanent site for our School, we would also be able to cater for children who are coming from traditional areas such as Palm Island, Cape York and Torres Strait Island, who lack first hand knowledge of the highly competitive urban school in Townsville, and other major centres.

- 2 -

Our School will provide an atmosphere similar to their home environment, and gradually introduce them into the State Secondary School for completion of their education.

This method would overcome the existing problems of children returning home after three (3) months of schooling in State Secondary Schools.

We, as the parents of these children, know why there is a high drop-out rate associated with our children from High School, because we have been through the System ourselves; as a result, we are considerably illiterate in both our own language, and in English.

The above School Council is endeavouring to ensure that we do not produce another generation of illiterates by assisting indigenous children, particularly those from Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula to retain their own cultural identity together with in-depth studies of Contemporary Australian Cultures which would enable them to integrate effectively as citizens. They could then be proud Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in our multi-cultural Australian society.

We are hoping that you, as our Minister in the Government of Queensland, will make this possible for us by allocating five (5) acres of the Reserve land for our use as a School site. This undoubtedly will enable us to educate our children in an environment more suited to our needs. Furthermore, it will enable us to maintain our Cultures and traditions which are unique and exclusive to the State of Queensland.

We have no one else to turn to in order to seek assistance of this nature. We therefore rely heavily on you to assist us in this, our difficult, but very important task.

We will patiently await your reply in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

E. K. Mabo (Director)

R. Doolah

M. Sailor

Ms. Gibas

BMP

CC Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
 Queensland Premier
 Leader of the Opposition - Queensland
 Queensland Minister for Education
 Commonwealth Minister for Education
 Queensland Aboriginal and Island Education Consultative Committee
 National Aboriginal Education Committee
 Queensland Director General of Education

Item ID

Page 14 of 117

813.

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ID-655



15 APR 1981
Minister for Water Resources
and Aboriginal and Island
Affairs

Office of the Minister for Education,
Brisbane, Q'ld. 4000.

15 April 1981

Dear Mr. Tomkins,

I refer to a letter which you have received from the Black Community School Council, a copy of which has been sent to my Department.

The Black Community Schools is recognized by my Department as an approved school under the Education Act and, as such, receives normal State grants in addition to funding from other sources.

In July 1980 the School Council approached my Department with a request to lease an Education Reserve in Garbutt, Townsville. Unfortunately, the land in question is needed for Technical College purposes and so it was not possible to agree to this request.

The Black Community School has been established and operational since August 1973. Accordingly, it would clearly seem to have the support of the families served by it. It would therefore be beneficial if it could establish itself in a more permanent location.

Yours sincerely,

W.A.M. GUNN
Minister for Education

B/c: Director of Aboriginal
and Islanders Advancement

... Forwarded, by direction, for
preparation of Ministerial reply
please.

Gambusia
Acting Private Secretary 16/4/81

The Honourable K.B. Tomkins, M.L.A.,
Minister for Water Resources and
Aboriginal and Island Affairs,
BRISBANE.

16 APR 1981

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COOR



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CONFIDENTIAL

15th April, 1981

Mr. A. Wattridge,
Manager,
Dept. Aboriginal & Islanders
Advancement,
Box 5620 MSO
TOWNSVILLE.

Dear Mr. Wattridge,

Re: Black Community School - Townsville

To bring my file up to date, I would appreciate your furnishing as a matter of urgency, an up to date report on the operations of the above facility.

Information available to this office indicates the school has major administrative difficulties and students are at risk due to quite serious health problems.

I await your early advice.

Yours faithfully,

Director

*Am Bunter
Typed materials below*

8101

13th April, 1981

Mr. D.J. O'Rourke,
Regional Director,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
G.P.O. Box 2453,
BRISBANE Q. 4001

Dear Mr. O'Rourke,

I refer to your letter of the 26th March 1981 regarding Mr. E.K. Mabo's letter to the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs seeking land for the Black Community School Council, Townsville.

As the land concerned is required for Departmental purposes it is not possible to assist the Council.

Yours faithfully,

B/c
The Manager,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islanders Advancement,
Box 5620 M.S.O.,
TOWNSVILLE Q. 4810

For your information. A separate reply to Mr. Mabo has been forwarded by the Minister and I attach for your information a copy of Mr. Mabo's application.

DIRECTOR

Any current information on the Black Community School would be appreciated.

DIRECTOR....13/4/81

14 APR 1981

The Honourable J. Bjelke-Petersen, M.L.A.,
Premier of Queensland,
BRISBANE Q. 4000


Dear Mr. Bjelke-Petersen,

I refer to your letter of the 24th March 1981 referring to an application by Mr. E.K. Mabo of the Black Community School Council, Townsville for a portion of land currently held by this Department. Attached is a copy of my reply to Mr. Mabo.

I am advised that the Black Community School, which is wholly funded by the Commonwealth, has had a doubtful history and has not demonstrated a satisfactory stability in the past.

Concern exists that the organization is effectively an alternative school providing an education at variance to the Government's policy of integration.

Yours sincerely,


(K.B. Tompkins)

Minister for Water Resources and
Aboriginal and Island Affairs



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Premier of Queensland,
BRISBANE Q. 4000

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Concern exists that the organization is effectively an alternative school providing an education at variance to the Government's policy of integration.

Yours sincerely,

(F.B. Taskins)
Minister for Water Resources and
Aboriginal and Island Affairs

*Signed Copy above.
AD. 16/2/81*

14 APR 1981

Mr. E. K. Mabo,
Director,
Black Community School Council,
23 Hibiscus Street,
CRANEROCK Q. 4814

Dear Mr. Mabo,

Reference is made to your letter of the 10th March 1981 in which you requested the grant of a portion of the Aithenvale Reserve upon which to establish a permanent school to be administered and staffed by your Council.

The Aithenvale Reserve is required for experimental purposes and I am unable to accede to your Council's request.

Yours sincerely,



(K. B. Tomkins)
Minister for Water Resources and
Aboriginal and Island Affairs

RECEIVED
14 APR 1981

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Director,
Black Community School Council,
23 Hibiscus Street,
BRABROCK Q. 4214

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Yours sincerely,

(E. S. Tuckie)
Minister for Water Resources and
Aborigines and Island Affairs

RELEASABLE (4)

APW
C.R.O.

Signed *[Signature]*
16/3/81, 202

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS 

294 Adelaide Street, BRISBANE, QLD. 4000

G.P.O. Box 2453, BRISBANE, QLD. 4001

Telephone: 229 5988

Telex: 41763

In reply please quote:

Mr. P.J. Killoran,
Director,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islanders Advancement,
P.O. Box 133,
NORTH QUAY. QLD. 4000

Dear Mr. Killoran,

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Peter Baume, has recently received a copy of a letter from Mr. E.K. Mabo to the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs concerning the Black Community School in Townsville. I attach a copy of the letter for your consideration.

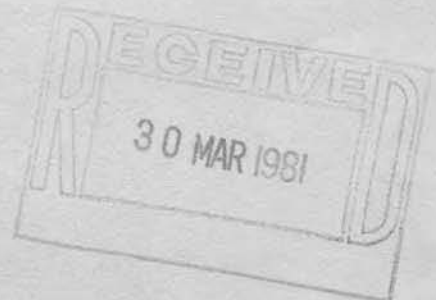
As the request for the allocation of reserve land lies within the area of State Government responsibility, I should appreciate your urgent advice on the matters raised in Mr. Mabo's application.

Thank you, in advance, for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

D.J. O'Rourke
Regional Director - Queensland

26 March 1981



944

Black Community School Council

Boundary Street,
South Townsville
P.O. Box: 1026
Phone: 72 3128

Director's Address:
23 Hibiscus Street
Cranbrook
Phone: :



Your reference: EKM
BMP

11th March, 1981

Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs,
Box 17,
MODEN, A.C.T., 2606

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a copy of our application to the State Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. We would appreciate if if you would liaise with him on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

E. K. Mabo (Director)

Enc.

RTI RELEASED

Black Community School Council

149 Boundary Street
 South Townsville
 P.O. Box: 1026
 Phone: 72 3128

Director's Address:
 23 Hibiscus Street
 Cranbrook
 Phone:

10th March, 1981

Queensland Minister;
 for Aboriginal and Island Advancement,
 Parliament House,
 BRISBANE.

Dear Sir,

This letter is a form of an official application from the above School Council, seeking your approval for allocation of five (5) acres of Aboriginal Reserve Land, which is situated between Ross River Road, and Charles Street in the Townsville suburb of Cranbrook.

We propose that if we are allowed a long term lease, or purchase of this land, we would like to establish a permanent School Building on this site.

Since the School's establishment eight years ago, we have been operating out of rented premises. Our first six years were spent in Catholic premises in South Townsville, until the Parish desired the Building for their own use.

Since then, we have been operating in an old, dilapidated dwelling house in Boundary Street, South Townsville. This building has been condemned by the City Council, and the owners have been urging the School Council to obtain another building. Unfortunately, however, there is nothing else available which would provide adequate accommodation for our School.

We hope, that you, as our Minister, may be able to assist us in our plight to search for permanent accommodation.

We are currently catering for thirty students with ages ranging from six (6) years to twelve (12) years old, both Torres Strait Islander, and Aboriginal children.

These children whom we cater for are those who normally speak "Meriam Mir" or Torres Strait pidgin, as their Mother Tongue, and who would have tremendous difficulties in understanding instructions in Standard English in normal State School situations.

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If we are able to acquire a permanent site for our School, we would also be able to cater for children who are coming from traditional areas such as Palm Island, Cape York and Torres Strait Island, who lack first hand knowledge of the highly competitive urban school in Townsville, and other major centres.

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We have no one else to turn to in order to seek assistance of this nature. We therefore rely heavily on you to assist us in this, our difficult, but very important task.

We will patiently await your reply in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

E. K. Mabo
E. K. Mabo (Director)

R. Doolah *R. Doolah*

M. Sailor *M. Sailor*

Ms. Gibas *M. Gibas*

BMP

CC: Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Queensland Premier
Leader of the Opposition - Queensland
Queensland Minister for Education
Commonwealth Minister for Education
Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Education Consultative Committee
National Aboriginal Education Committee
Queensland Director of Education

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10.655.

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File 01

Office: EXECUTIVE BUILDING
100 GEORGE STREET
BRISBANE, 4000
Postal: P.O. BOX 1443
BRISBANE, 4001
Telex: 41418
Telephone: 224 0414



PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT
BRISBANE
24 MAR 1981

24 MAR 1981
Minister for Water Resources
and Aboriginal and Island
Affairs

Dear Mr. Mabo,

I am directed by the Honourable the Premier to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 12th March, 1981, and enclosure thereto, concerning your Council's application for an area of land situated in the Townsville suburb of Cranbrook.

The contents of your letter and its enclosure have been noted by the Premier and will receive consideration.

Yours faithfully,

(SGD.) U. D. THORNE

Acting Secretary.

Mr. E.K. Mabo,
Director,
Black Community School Council,
23 Hibiscus Street,
CRANBROOK. Qld. 4814

B/c: The Honourable the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs.

By direction, for advice please. Copies of letter under reply and enclosure thereto are attached.

B/C Director of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement

Forwarded, by direction, for preparation of Ministerial reply please.

Moira Beazley
Private Secretary
25 3 1981

U. D. Thorne
Acting Secretary,
Premier's Department.

24 MAR 1981

26 MAR 1981

Coor.

Black Community School Council

149 Boundary Street,
South Townsville
P.O. Box: 4026
Phone: 72 3128

Director's Address:
23 Hibiscus Street
Cranbrook
Phone:

Your reference: EKM
BMP

12th March, 1981

Queensland Premier,
C/o Parliament House,
BRISBANE.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a copy of our application to the State Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, for allocation of five (5) acres of Aboriginal Reserve Land in Cranbrook. We would request that your policies in terms of allocating Reserve lands to Aboriginal organisations be waived on this occasion due to the importance of the work carried out by the above School Council.

We wish to have your support in this matter, and hope to have your reply concerning this.

Yours sincerely,



E. K. Mabo (Director)

Enc.

Black Community School Council

149 Boundary Street
South Townsville

P.O. Box: 1026

Phone: 72 3128

Director's Address:

23 Hibiscus Street

Cranbrook

Phone:

10th March, 1981

Queensland Minister,
for Aboriginal and Island Advancement,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE.

Dear Sir,

This letter is a form of an official application from the above School Council, seeking your approval for allocation of five (5) acres of Aboriginal Reserve Land, which is situated between Ross River Road, and Charles Street in the Townsville suburb of Cranbrook.

We propose that if we are allowed a long term lease, or purchase of this land, we would like to establish a permanent School Building on this site.

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During the past years, we have had considerable success in enabling students to flow into State Secondary Schools, with noticeably fewer problems.

If we are able to acquire a permanent site for our School, we would also be able to cater for children who are coming from traditional areas such as Palm Island, Cape York and Torres Strait Island, who lack first hand knowledge of the highly competitive urban school in Townsville, and other major centres.

- 2 -

Our school will provide an atmosphere similar to their home environment, and gradually introduce them into the State Secondary School for completion of their education.

This method would overcome the existing problems of children returning home after three (3) months of schooling in State Secondary Schools.

We, as the parents of these children, know why there is a high drop-out rate associated with our children from High School, because we have been through the System ourselves; and as a result, we are considerably illiterate in both our own language, and in English.

The above School Council is endeavouring to ensure that we do not produce another generation of illiterates by assisting indigenous children, particularly those from Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula to retain their own cultural identity together with in-depth studies of Contemporary Australian cultures which would enable them to integrate effectively as citizens. They could then be proud Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in our multi-cultural Australian society.

We are hoping that you, as our Minister in the Government of Queensland, will make this possible for us by allocating five (5) acres of the Reserve land for our use as a School site. This undoubtedly will enable us to educate our children in an environment more suited to our needs. Furthermore, it will enable us to maintain our Cultures and traditions which are unique and exclusive to the State of Queensland.

We have no one else to turn to in order to seek assistance of this nature. We therefore rely heavily on you to assist us in this, our difficult, but very important task.

We will patiently await your reply in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

E. K. Mabo
E. K. Mabo (Director)

R. Doolah *R. Doolah*

M. Sailor *M. Sailor*

Ms. Gibas *M. Gibas*

BMP

CC: Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Queensland Premier
Leader of the Opposition - Queensland
Queensland Minister for Education
Commonwealth Minister for Education
Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Education Consultative Committee
National Aboriginal Education Committee
Queensland Director of Education

The Honourable W.A.M. Gunn, M.L.A.,
Minister for Education,
Old Treasury Building,
Queen Street,
BRISBANE Q. 4000

Dear Mr. Gunn,

I have attached for your information a copy of a letter received from the Director of the Black Community School Council together with my response.

I would be grateful if you would study this request and provide me with your comment so that I might write again to Mr. Mabo informing him of my decision.

Yours sincerely,

(K. S. Tomkins)
Minister for Water Resources and
Aboriginal and Island Affairs

Mr. S. E. Sabo,
Director,
Black Community School Council,
P.O. Box 1086,
Tusculum, Tenn. 37160

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of the 15th March 1961 concerning a grant of land at Athensville for the permanent establishment of a school to be administered and staffed by your Council.

I write now to inform you that the Queensland Department of Education acts as Consultant to my Department in all matters pertaining to education and consequently I have sought the advice of my colleague, the Minister for Education, the Honourable W. B. Dunn, M. A., before proceeding further in the matter.

I shall write to you again as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(S. S. Tomlin)
Minister for Water Resources and
Agriculture and Land Affairs

I have attached photocopy for reading.
K.S.
27/12/61



*Minister for Water Resources
and Aboriginal and Island Affairs*

POSTAL P.O. BOX 181
NORTH QUAY
Q. 4000

OFFICE LAND ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING
135-149 GEORGE ST
BROSBANE

TELEPHONE 227 5426

Mr. E. K. Mabo,
Director,
Black Community School Council,
P.O. Box 1026,
TOWNSVILLE Q. 4810

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of the 10th March 1981 concerning a grant of land at Aitkenvale for the permanent establishment of a school to be administered and staffed by your Council.

I write now to inform you that the Queensland Department of Education acts as Consultant to my Department in all matters pertaining to education and consequently I have sought the advice of my colleague, the Minister for Education, the Honourable W.A.M. Gunn, M.L.A., before proceeding further in the matter.

I shall write to you again as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

(K. B. Tomkins)
Minister for Water Resources and
Aboriginal and Island Affairs



764,
File 01

*Minister for Water Resources
and Aboriginal and Island Affairs*

B/C Director of Aboriginal and Islanders
Advancement

Forwarded, by direction, for preparation
of Ministerial reply please.

Gayther

Private Secretary
19 3 1981

M. Gumbel

POSTAL: P.O. BOX 181
NORTH-QUAY
Q. 4000

OFFICE: LAND ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING
130-148 GEORGE ST
BRISBANE

TELEPHONE: 229 5426

①
ID. 655

RECORDED
19 MAR 1981

23 MAR 1981

DD

R

R

Black Community School Council

149 Boundary Street
South Townsville
P.O. Box : 1026
Phone : 72 3128



Director's Address :
23 Hibiscus Street
Cranbrook
Phone :

10th March, 1981

Queensland Minister,
for Aboriginal and Island Advancement,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE.

Dear Sir,

This letter is a form of an official application from the above School Council, seeking your approval for allocation of five (5) acres of Aboriginal Reserve Land, which is situated between Ross River Road, and Charles Street in the Townsville suburb of Cranbrook.

We propose that if we are allowed a long term lease, or purchase of this land, we would like to establish a permanent School Building on this site.

Since the School's establishment eight years ago, we have been operating out of rented premises. Our first six years were spent in Catholic premises in South Townsville, until the Parish desired the Building for their own use.

Since then, we have been operating in an old, dilapidated dwelling house in Boundary Street, South Townsville. This building has been condemned by the City Council, and the owners have been urging the School Council to obtain another building. Unfortunately, however, there is nothing else available which would provide adequate accommodation for our School.

We hope, that you, as our Minister, may be able to assist us in our plight to search for permanent accommodation.

We are currently catering for thirty students with ages ranging from six (6) years to twelve (12) years old, both Torres Strait Islander, and Aboriginal children.

These children whom we cater for are those who normally speak "Meriam Mir" or Torres Strait pidgin, as their Mother Tongue, and who would have tremendous difficulties in understanding instructions in Standard English in normal State School situations.

Our Black Community School provides a bridge in which these children are instructed in their own mother tongue, and gradually introduced into standard English at the two (2) final years of Primary education.

During the past years, we have had considerable success in enabling students to flow into State Secondary Schools, with noticeably fewer problems.

If we are able to acquire a permanent site for our School, we would also be able to cater for children who are coming from traditional areas such as Palm Island, Cape York and Torres Strait Island, who lack first hand knowledge of the highly competitive urban school in Townsville, and other major centres.

- 2 -

Our school will provide an atmosphere similar to their home environment, and gradually introduce them into the State Secondary School for completion of their education.

This method would overcome the existing problems of children returning home after three (3) months of schooling in State Secondary Schools.

We, as the parents of these children, know why there is a high drop-out rate associated with our children from High School, because we have been through the System ourselves; and as a result, we are considerably illiterate in both our own language, and in English.

The above School Council is endeavouring to ensure that we do not produce another generation of illiterates by assisting indigenous children, particularly those from Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula to retain their own cultural identity together with in-depth studies of Contemporary Australian cultures which would enable them to integrate effectively as citizens. They could then be proud Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in our multi-cultural Australian society.

We are hoping that you, as our Minister in the Government of Queensland, will make this possible for us by allocating five (5) acres of the Reserve land for our use as a School site. This undoubtedly will enable us to educate our children in an environment more suited to our needs. Furthermore, it will enable us to maintain our Cultures and traditions which are unique and exclusive to the State of Queensland.

We have no one else to turn to in order to seek assistance of this nature. We therefore rely heavily on you to assist us in this, our difficult, but very important task.

We will patiently await your reply in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

E. K. Mabo

E. K. Mabo (Director)

R. Doolah

R. Doolah

M. Sailor

M. Sailor

Ms. Gibas

M. Gibas

BMP

CC: Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
 Queensland Premier
 Leader of the Opposition - Queensland
 Queensland Minister for Education
 Commonwealth Minister for Education
 Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Education Consultative Committee
 National Aboriginal Education Committee
 Queensland Director of Education

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AND ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT

SAO/SDR/wg

BRISBANE

MEMORANDUM:

TO THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT MATTER:

ENQUIRY BY MR. EDDIE MABO, PRESIDENT OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL COUNCIL

On 15th November, 1979, Mr. Mabo called at this Office seeking an interview with the Director or Deputy Director to discuss matters relating to the operation of the Black Community School Council in Townsville.

Mr. Murphy was unavailable and Mr. Mabo was interviewed by the Senior Administration Officer.

The caller was requesting an indication from the Director or the Minister as to the possibility of land being acquired on behalf of the School Council for the purpose of erecting an education facility.

Mr. Mabo was particularly interested in seeking from the Department an indication as to whether approximately 20 acres of the Aitkenvale Hostel Reserve on the Charles Street side could be negotiated for.

The Black Community School Council is funded for its normal operating costs, including staff salaries, transport and rentals, through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Schools Commission has indicated that funding would be available for the erection of buildings and activities areas, provided the Council had title to a block of ground.

Mr. Mabo pointed out the difficulties the Council has experienced in acquiring a suitable area central to the participating family population.

The Council, at the present time, has 40 full time primary school age students, plus a further 20 children who do not attend regularly and 10 regular pre-school children. The Council has been operating in rented premises at 41 Nelson Street, South Townsville for the past seven (7) years.

It was indicated to Mr. Mabo that the information he gave would be brought to the Director's attention at the first opportunity and that no indication of action or outcome could be suggested at this stage.

RECOMMENDATION:

The State Department of Education has in the past experienced some difficulty with the Black Community School, in addition to which you may have alternative uses for the Departmental land at Aitkenvale.

/2.....

As the Community School is operating almost wholly outside the ambit of State Education and is wholly funded by the Commonwealth, it is felt that they should secure further assistance from this source and consequently, the allocation of Departmental land is not recommended.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

19 November, 1979.

Letter prepared below for your signature.

RTI RELEASE

1D/655

5698

20th November, 1979


Mr. E. Mabo,
President,
The Black Community School Council
41 Nelson Street,
SOUTH TOWNSVILLE 4810

Dear Mr. Mabo,

This will acknowledge recent representations made to my Senior Administration Officer, Mr. S. Rogers, in regard to the needs of your school in terms of land.

I regret it is not possible to assist you with your request.

Yours faithfully,


Acting Director

SAO/SDR/wg

1D/655

5698

19th November, 1979.

Mr. E. Mabo,
President,
The Black Community School Council,
41 Nelson Street,
SOUTH TOWNSVILLE

4800

Dear Mr. Mabo,

On 15th November, 1979 you called at the Head Office in Brisbane of my Department seeking an interview with me. Your request relating to the needs of your school in terms of land has been conveyed to me.

I have to advise you that after giving due consideration to your proposal, that your application does not meet the guidelines operating for this Department to provide assistance in the manner you propose.

As the Community school is operating wholly outside the ambit of State education and is mostly funded by the Commonwealth, it is felt that you should secure further assistance from that source.

Yours faithfully,

DIRECTOR

ID/655
IF/660

HP:CB
GE 4

Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
Townsville, Q. 4810

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL
AND ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT
26 APR 1977
QUEENSLAND

22nd April,

77

Roberts, Leu & North,
Solicitors,
P.O. BOX 1003,
TOWNSVILLE, Q. 4810

Dear Sir,

Re: T. Willmet & Sons Pty. Ltd.
-v- Black Community School
T. Willmet & Sons Pty. Ltd.
-v- United Torres Strait Islanders
Co-operative Trading Society.

With reference to your letter of 19th April, 1977, your
reference LAW:JLB, you are advised that the above organisations
are not funded by this Department.

Yours faithfully,

.....
MANAGER.

B/C The Director,
D.A.I.A.,
BRISBANE, Q. 4000

For your information.

[Signature]
MANAGER.....22-4-77

ROBERTS, LEU & NORTH,
Solicitors

—
GEORGE VIVIAN ROBERTS

—
IAN HOUGHTON ROBERTS
COMMISSIONER FOR AFFIDAVITS FOR
NEW SOUTH WALES

—
GRAHAM HOUGHTON ROBERTS
COMMISSIONER FOR AFFIDAVITS FOR
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

—
PETER ANDISON ROBERTS
COMMISSIONER FOR AFFIDAVITS FOR
VICTORIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA

—
DAVID ROBERT GLASGOW
COMMISSIONER FOR AFFIDAVITS FOR
TASMANIA

—
RODNEY CECIL BARNES,
B.COM., LL.B.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS—
"ROBLUNOR"

TELEPHONES—
71 5013, 71 5014
71 5015, 71 5016
71 5017

YOUR REF.
OUR REF. LAW:JLB

52-56 Denham Street,

P.O. BOX 1003

Townsville, 4810
NORTH QUEENSLAND

19th April, 1977

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islander Affairs,
Alroy Chambers,
537 Flinders Street,
TOWNSVILLE. 4810

Dear Sir,

Re: T. Willmott & Sons Pty. Ltd. -v- Black Community School
T. Willmott & Sons Pty. Ltd. -v- United Torres Strait Islanders
Co-operative Trading Society

We write to advise that we act on behalf of the Plaintiff in this matter and the abovenamed debtors are indebted to our client for the total sum of \$123.83 being as follows:

Amount owing by Black Community School	\$ 67.82
Amount owing by United Torres Strait Islanders Co-operative Trading Society	66.01
	<u>\$123.83</u>

We understand that the abovenamed Defendants are Government Funded and we would be pleased if you would make payment or satisfactory arrangements for payment of the said amount within ten (10) days from today's date so as to avoid the institution of any legal proceedings.

We look forward to hearing from you.

20 APR 1977

Yours faithfully,

JKB:LP

1D/655

5726

29th January, 1976.

The Acting Secretary,
Land Administration Commission,
Department of Lands,
George Street,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposed Reserve for Education and Recreation
Purposes in the Paluma Dam Area - Your Letter
of the 15th December, 1975 Ref. 75/37266 Towns.

This matter has been referred to the Officer in Charge of the Regional District Office at Townsville for his comment. In response he has verbally advised that the Executive of the Black Community School Council is in a constant state of change and that under the circumstances it would be better if the organisation was able to demonstrate sufficient stability before being made the recipients of such considerable assistance. At this stage therefore, this Department would not be prepared to recommend that the area be made available.

It may also be advisable to request the opinion of the Director General of Education as it is understood that his Department has had some dealings with the Black Community School Council and consequently may well be able to comment upon the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Director

14659 12/653
1/11/76

C.B.N.N.

Date

1/11/76

ABORIGINES

TOWNSVILLE

QLD

RE BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL COUNCIL MY LETTER 5TH JANUARY 1976 STOP WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR URGENT REPLY

ABORIGINES

24.5712

DEPT. ABORIGINAL & ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT, GEORGE ST., BRISBANE 21/1/76

WATERFALLS

JKB:LP

1D/655

5726

5th January, 1976.

The Manager,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islanders Advancement,
Alroy Chambers,
537 Flinders Street,
TOWNSVILLE. Q. 4810

Re: Black Community School Townsville
Previous Correspondence

I have included correspondence received from the Land Administration Commission and would appreciate your urgent commentary upon the proposal made to the Commission by the Director of the Black Community School Council.


Director.



Land Administration Commission

10/655

IMPORTANT!
When replying quote this number:

75/37266 Towns.

LR

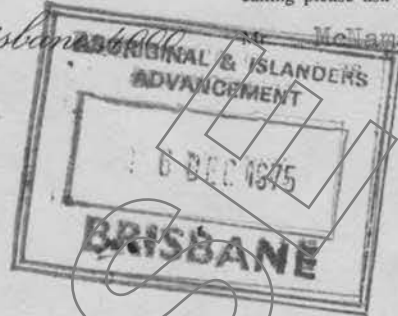
Department of Lands

Telephone 24-0515 Ext. 5896

When telephoning or calling please ask for

All Communications to be addressed to
The Secretary
Land Administration Commission
P.O. Box 168
Brisbane North Quay 4000
Telegraphic Address
"Landcom"

Brisbane Mr. McLamara.



15th December, 1975

Dear Sir,

RE: Proposed Reserve for Education and Recreation purposes in the Paluma Dam area.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter from the Director of the Black Community School Council dated 27th June, 1975.

Would your Department please forward its views and comments on the above proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Acting Secretary.

The Director,
Aboriginal and Island Affairs,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000

Black Community School Council

75/813/1-1

41 Wilson Street
South Townsville
P.O. Box :
Phone :

District Land Office
11 JUL 1975

Director's Address :
23 Hibiscus Street
Cranbrook
Phone : 79 4277

27th June 1975

Lands Office,
TOWNSVILLE.

Dear Sir,

The above organisation wishes to apply to be a trustee of 1,000 acres of land situated on the road leading to Paluma, Den.

We are interested in developing this land for education and recreation purposes. Our main aim is to establish a residential college for black children where these children will be taught normal academic subjects and basic of tropical Horticulture and Agriculture ect..

Such college will be self supporting where produce from the land will be used by the college, similar to church runned colleges in Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands.

I will be interested to have verbal discussion with your official in order to express any matters which I'm unable to express in writing.

Yours faithfully,

Melie
Eddie Mabo
Director.

PARISH OF WATERVIEW
COUNTY OF CARDWELL
TOWNSVILLE & INGHAM LAND AGENTS' DISTRICTS
NORTH KENNEDY
QUEENSLAND

NOTINGS
 10 JUN 1975
 SECTION J.T.

Page 47 of 117



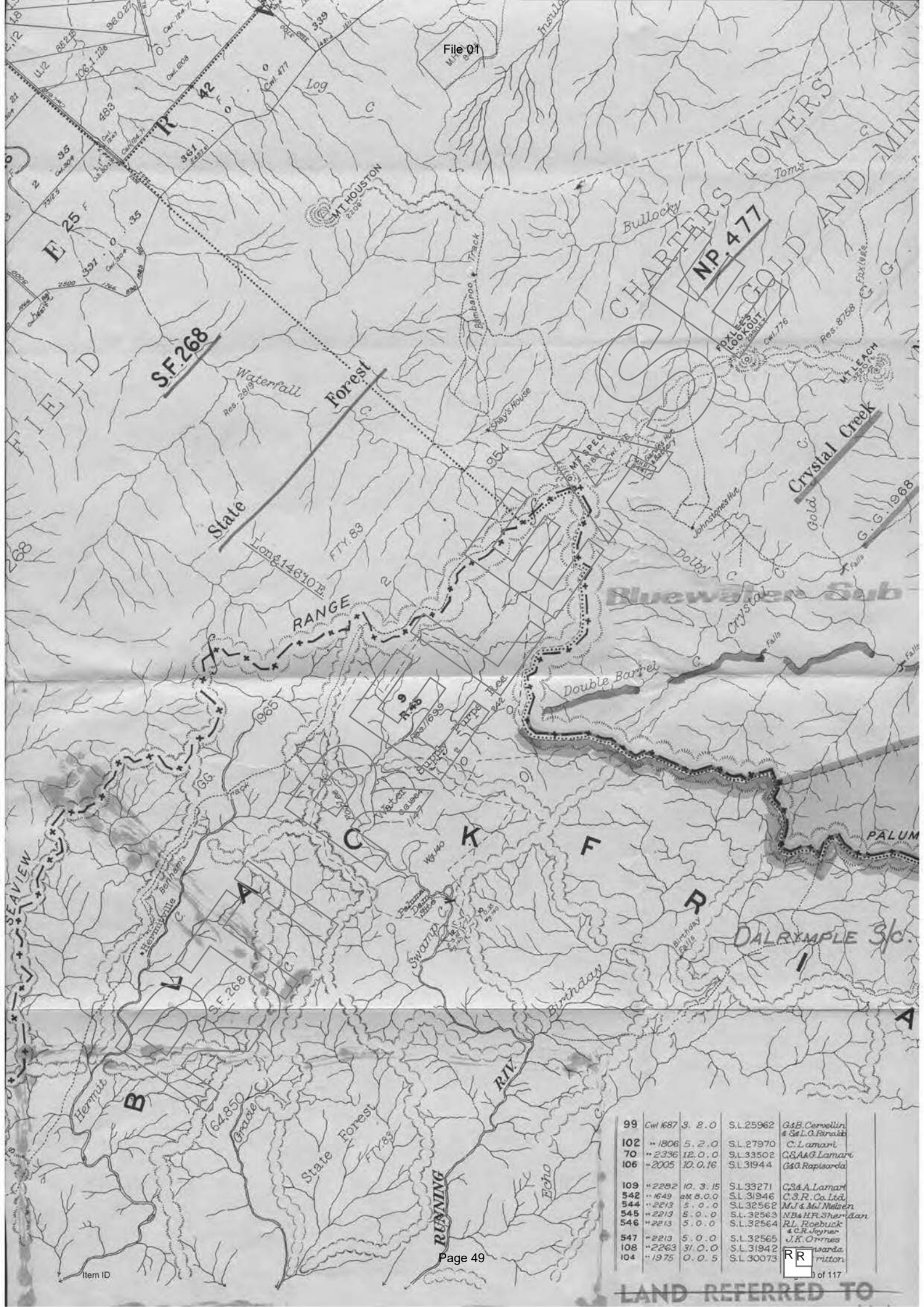
Item ID

Drawn and Published at the Survey Office, Department of Lands, Brisbane, Jan., 1971
 Printed at the Govt. Printing Office. Price 60c.





99	Cwl 687	3. 2. 0	S.L. 25962	G&B Cornellin & S.L.G. Foranik
102	" 1806	5. 2. 0	S.L. 27970	C. Lamari
70	" 2336	12. 0. 0	S.L. 33502	CSA&G Lamari
106	" 2005	10. 0. 16	S.L. 31944	G&G Rapsarda
109	" 2292	10. 3. 15	S.L. 33271	CSA A Lamari
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546	" 2213	5. 0. 0	S.L. 32564	R.L. Roebuck & C.R. Joyner
547	" 2213	5. 0. 0	S.L. 32565	J.K. Ormes
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104	" 1975	0. 0. 5	S.L. 30073	D. R. Atton



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RR of 117



File 01

NP. 477

National Park

Townville

THURINGOWA S/C.

CARDWELL

WATERVIEW

DALRYMPLE S/C.

DALRYMPLE S/C.

REFERENCE TO SMALL WORK

Por.	Cat.No.	Area	Purpose	Temure	Res.No.	Govt. Gaz.
16	Cwl. 485	10.0.0	School R		R252	G.G. 1921.1.733
74	" 1318	9.1.24	N.C.L.2070			
76	" 1319	5.0.25	SL 25606	G.B. Barr		
77	" "	4.3.34	" 17260	E.L. Jones		
78	" "	5.0.299	" 17361	N.R. Jones		
79	" "	5.1.114	" 23679	R.L. M.M. Roebuck		
81	Cwl. 1963	4.3.61	" 23681	W.M. Bishop		
82	" "	4.8.11	" 33899	M. Stephenson		
83	" "	10.1.19	" 18595	E.C. Bishop		
75	Cwl. 1319	6.0.309	23678	J.M.L. Atkinson		
80	Cwl. 1969	5.0.106	N.C.L.2153			
94	" 1584	1.2.308				

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0.0	S.L. 33502	C.S. & A.G. Lamart
0.16	S.L. 31944	G.A.G. Rapisarda
3.15	S.L. 33271	C.S. & A. Lamart
5.0.0	S.L. 31946	C.S.R. Co. Ltd.
0.0	S.L. 32562	M.J. & M.J. Nielsen
0.0	S.L. 32563	N.B. & H.R. Sheridan
0.0	S.L. 32564	R.L. Roebuck & C.R. Joyner
0.0	S.L. 32565	J.K. Ormes
0.0	S.L. 31942	G. & O. Rapisarda
0.5	S.L. 30073	D.C. Britton

8159
ROLLINGSTONE
(PROVISIONAL EDITION)

SCALE 1:100 000



RR 51 of 117

REFERRED TO
TO SHOW GENERAL AREA ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS



M.L.C. Tower Building, PHILLIP. A.C.T. 2606

89
Telephone 268 1222

Telex: 62471

In reply please quote: 73/1469

Aboriginal & Island
Affairs

6 MAR 1975

BRISBANE

3 FEB 1975

Dear Sir,

I refer to your letter of 6 February 1975 concerning the Townsville Black Community school and our letter of 19 November 1974, reference 73/1469.

In view of the fact that the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has now approved interim funding for the Black Community School, it no longer seems relevant to bring the matter to which you referred before the Senate Standing Committee.

Yours faithfully,

(B.J. Powell)
for Secretary

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and Islander
Advancement,
135-147 George Street,
BRISBANE. QLD. 4000

5726

5th March, 1975.

The Secretary,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 17,
WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

Re: Townsville Black Community School
Your Reference 73/1469

I have to advise that the State Department of Education now recognizes the Black Community School, Townsville as an approved school under the Education Act. This recognition has been made possible by receipt of information from the Executive of the school which is always a prerequisite to recognition.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Director.

JKB:AM

J.M.W.
75/7164
Private Schools Various

B/c The Director, Department of Aboriginal & Island Affairs, BRISBANE.

For your information.

Allymer

Director-General of Education,

Item ID

11/2/75

Page 54 of 117

1D/655.

Aboriginal & Island
Affairs
14 FEB 1975
BRISBANE

J.M.W.
75/7164
Private Schools Various

11th February, 1975.

Dear Sir,

During the recent visit to the Black Community School by Mr. R. Town (District Inspector of Schools), information which has been sought by this Department for some time was obtained.

The receipt of this information has now made it possible to finalize the processing of your application for official recognition.

I am pleased to advise that this Department now recognizes the Black Community School, Townsville, as an approved school under the Education Act.

Circulars (and claim forms), setting out your school's entitlement to per capita grants, are enclosed.

The advice of Departmental Officers is available to you as required.

Yours faithfully,

(S'GD) A.E. GUYMER

Director-General of Education

Mr. E. Mabo,
President,
Black Community School,
TOWNSVILLE. Q. 4810

Item ID

Page 55 of 117



Phone: 24 6858

Department of Education
 P.O. Box 33, NORTH QUAY.
 Brisbane, Q. 4000.

February, 1975

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM TO:PRINCIPALS OF NON-STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLSRe: SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT OF GRANT

Payment of Per Capita Grant to Principals of Non-State Primary Schools, on behalf of each pupil enrolled, an allowance at the rate of \$81.00 per annum, shall be made.

Payment of this allowance will be made in three (3) payments per annum, based on enrolments of eligible students on the first day of -

March, 1975	first term, 1975
June, 1975	second term, 1975
September, 1975	third term, 1975

This allowance is not payable on account of students whose parents are not domiciled within the State of Queensland or the State of New South Wales.

Principals should note that the certificate on Form P.F.A.20A must be completed and signed. The numbers inserted for each Grade should agree with the list of names within that Grade.

These claims should be completed by you on the relevant dates and forwarded to -

The Accountant
 Department of Education
 P.O. Box 33
 North Quay
 BRISBANE, Q. 4000

Additional P.F.A.20 and P.F.A.20A Forms are available, when required, upon application to this office.

Prompt despatch of claims to this office will facilitate early payment.

A. E. GUYMER

Director-General of Education.



Department of Education

P.O. Box 33, NORTH QUAY.

Brisbane, Q. 4000.

February, 1975

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM TO:

PRINCIPALS OF APPROVED NON-STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Re: SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS FOR GRANT AND ALLOWANCES -
REQUIRED BY ACCOUNTS BRANCH.

1. GRANT - Forms L.14 and L14.A.

Applications from Non-State Schools for Per Capita Grant of \$132.00 per annum should be completed during the 1975 year for students enrolled on the following dates:-

1st term	-	15th March, 1975
2nd term	-	15th June, 1975
3rd term	-	15th September, 1975

Principals should note that the certificate on Form L.14.A must be completed and signed. The numbers inserted for each Grade should agree with the list of names within that Grade.

2. STUDENT ALLOWANCE - Form L.15.

Allowances are payable to students whose applications - made by parents - have been approved by the Department and who have exhibited the memorandum of approval to the Principal of their school. An application for this Allowance must be made each year by parents.

Students in receipt of Commonwealth Aboriginal Grants ARE NOT ELIGIBLE to receive Student Allowance.

Payment of Student Allowance will be made by individual cheques payable to the parents or guardian of the child, and forwarded to schools for distribution to students.

Student Allowances are payable as follows:-

ALL GRADES -

Living-At-Home Rate	\$ 54.00 per annum
Living-Away-From-Home Rate	\$222.00 per annum
The amount to be claimed each term = $\frac{1}{3}$ of annual rate, viz.	
Living-At-Home Rate	\$ 18.00 per term
Living-Away-From-Home Rate	\$ 74.00 per term

As the lengths of the three terms differ, terms are to be regarded on the average of a 12 week basis - $\frac{1}{12}$ of the term allowance will be paid for each week of attendance.

Claims for Student Allowance, IN DUPLICATE, on Form L.15, should be forwarded to the Department half way through each term.

It should be noted that even though claims are submitted about the middle of each term, certification of attendance

for the full term will be required, before payment can be made.

Either one of the following examples should be used for certification purposes -

1/ 28th January to 2nd May, 1975

or

2/ 28th January to 2nd May, 1975 (to the best of my knowledge)

Date of student's departure or commencement of attendance must appear on claims when they attend for only a portion of a term.

If any student has discontinued his/her studies subsequent to despatch of Form L.15 or has been absent without valid excuse, the cheque must be returned to this Department for amendment. Advice of the period of attendance or explanation of absence and student's home address should accompany the returned cheque.

Supplementary claims should be forwarded for late approvals.

When claiming for more than one (1) term on account of a student or students, the correct term dates are to be inserted when certifying to the periods of attendance.

e.g. If Mary Jones has not been paid for the first term or for the second term, and she is still eligible for payment, the commencement date of first term and the finishing date of second term should be inserted on the claim form.

3. REMOTE AREA ALLOWANCE - Form R.A.10

A Remote Area Allowance will be paid to the parents of children in Grades 8 to 12 where such students are compelled, by reasons of remoteness, to board away from home in order to attend a Secondary school with the required grade.

This allowance is not subject to any means test and is in addition to any benefit that might be obtained under the Student Allowance or Commonwealth Assistance Schemes.

An application for this allowance must be made each year by parents.

Students -

- 1/ whose parents are not domiciled within the State of Queensland, or
- 2/ who are in receipt of Commonwealth Aboriginal Secondary Grants

are NOT ELIGIBLE to receive Remote Area Allowance.

Payment of Remote Area Allowance will be made as follows:-

JUNIOR REMOTE AREA ALLOWANCE - Grades 8, 9, 10.

1st term	13 weeks @ \$5.00 per week	\$65.00 per term
2nd term	13 weeks @ \$5.00 per week	\$65.00 per term
3rd term	14 weeks @ \$5.00 per week	\$70.00 per term

SENIOR REMOTE AREA ALLOWANCE - Grades 11 and 12.

1st term	13 weeks @ \$6.25 per week	\$81.25 per term
2nd term	13 weeks @ \$6.25 per week	\$81.25 per term
3rd term	14 weeks @ \$6.25 per week	\$87.50 per term

Claims for Remote Area Allowance, on the Form R.A.10, are to be submitted approximately half way through each term.

It should be noted that even though claims are submitted about the middle of each term, certification of full attendance will be required, before payment can be made.

Either one of the following examples can be used for certification purposes -

1/ 28th January, 1975 to 2nd May, 1975

or

2/ 28th January, 1975 to 2nd May, 1975 (to the best of my
(knowledge)

Date of student's departure or commencement of attendance must appear on claims when they attend for only a portion of a term.

Cheques will be drawn in favour of parents and forwarded to the schools for distribution.

If any student had discontinued his/her studies subsequent to despatch of Form R.A.10 or has been absent without valid excuse, the cheque must be returned to this Department for amendment. Advice of the period of attendance or explanation of absence and student's home address should accompany the returned cheque.

Supplementary claims should be forwarded for late approvals.

When claiming for more than one (1) term on account of a student or students, the correct term dates are to be inserted when certifying to the periods of attendance.

e.g. If Mary Jones has not been paid for the first term or for the second term, and she is still eligible for payment, the commencement date of first term and the finishing date of second term should be inserted on the claim form.

ADDITIONAL CLAIM FORMS ARE AVAILABLE, WHEN REQUIRED, UPON APPLICATION TO THIS OFFICE.

A. E. GUYMER

Director-General of Education.

ers XXXX
Advancement

5726

6th February, 1975

The Secretary,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 17,
WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

Re: Townsville Black Community School

Your letter of the 19th November, 1974 reference
73/1469.

I would be appreciative if you would inform me
if it was possible to bring this matter before the
Senate Standing Committee.

You mentioned in your letter under reference
that you were giving consideration to such an action and
consequently I am anxious to learn whether this has been
possible.

Yours faithfully,

Director

B. J
20.2.75
[Signature]

JKB:RP



DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

M.L.C. Tower Building, PHILLIP. A.C.T. 2606

Telephone: 68 1222

Telex: 62471

In reply please quote: 73/1469

Aboriginal & Island
Affairs
25 NOV 1974
BRISBANE

19 NOV 1974

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 31 October 1974 relating to a "Courier Mail" report of a statement about the Townsville Black Community School made by [redacted] to the Senate Committee on Social Environment. [redacted] Third party personal information

I am considering bringing the matter before the Senate Committee at an appropriate time.

Yours faithfully,

(B.J. Powell)
for Secretary

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and Island
Affairs,
135-147 George Street,
BRISBANE. QLD. 4000

RTI REQUEST

Notes
B.J. Powell
4.7.75

B.J. Powell
4.7.75

B.J. Powell
4.7.75

JKB:JS

1D/655

MEMO FOR FILE:

13th November, 1974.

Re: Community School - Townsville

I understand that Mr. John Dwyer of the State Department of Education will travel to Canberra within the next few days to give evidence before the Senate Standing Committee on Social Environment.

It is anticipated that Mr. Dwyer will have a difficult period and that his presence will inspire wide ranging questions from the members of the Senate Committee. Certainly the position of the Community School at Townsville and requests for the establishment of a school at Old Mapoon will be on the agenda.

I have mentioned this matter to the Deputy Director-General of Education and have forwarded to him a copy of our letter to the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs dated 31st October, 1974 as well as a copy of the Courier Mail cutting dated Saturday October 26th.

This action was taken as it was felt that Mr. Dwyer should be made aware of this Department's attitude.

Inspector, Liaison & Training

Handwritten notes and signatures:
1. [Signature]
2. [Signature]
3. [Signature]
15/11/74
19/11/74
31/10/74

JKB:LP

1D/655

5726

31st October, 1974.

The Secretary,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 17,
WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

Re: Community School - Townsville
My Letter of 18th June, 1974
Your Reference 73/1496

I have attached for your information a copy of a report published in the Brisbane Courier Mail of Saturday, October 26th and I would wish to bring to your attention a statement made by a Third party personal information who is presumably a member of the academic staff of Monash University.

In my letter of the 18th June, I set out for you the salient factors relating to the recognition of the proposed school and I write now to inform you that the situation remains the same. Under these circumstances, it would appear that [redacted] assertions are either based upon a sketchy and inaccurate knowledge of the circumstances or alternatively represent a deliberate distortion.

In view of the fact that the witness refers to "the Federal Government's refusal to supply funds" you may consider it appropriate for an Officer of your Department to give an objective account of the circumstances to the Senate Committee.

Yours faithfully,

Director.

5726

18th June, 1974.

The Secretary,
 Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
 P.O. Box 17,
 WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

Re: Community School - Townsville
 My Letter of 16th May
 Your Ref. 73/1496

For your information I would wish to summarize the situation with regard to the school so that you will be provided with an accurate record of action which has been attempted to this date.

In August 1973 a group of people led, at that time, by Mr. H. Penrith, decided to establish a Black Community School in Townsville.

On 20 August 1973 the Acting Regional Director of Education, Northern Region, interviewed Mr. Penrith who agreed to write a letter seeking approval of this school.

On 12 September 1973 an application seeking official approval was received from Mr. R. Renew on behalf of the Black Community School. This application was forwarded to the Director-General. However, no useful details about the school were attached. Accordingly on 19 September 1973 Mr. Renew was requested, by letter, to supply further details including a description of the building, details of Office bearers of the Parents' Association, and a copy of the constitution of the Parents' Association.

During November and December 1973, the Director-General advised correspondents from the Australian Union of Students and the Commonwealth Department of Education that the information requested to enable the processing of the application had still not been received.

On 1 April 1974 the Australian Council of Churches announced a grant to the Black Community School, and without having any contact with the Queensland Education Department stated in its official publication,

"The Queensland Department of Education has been approached to recognize the school but inspection has continually been delayed. The school cannot apply for Commonwealth financial assistance until it has been recognized by the State Education Department, and the State Department will not inspect the school unless it is operating. This means that the school has to depend on grants and donations until such time as the school is inspected and approved".

...../2

- 2 -

In fact, prior to the date of this publication, the Regional Director, Northern Region had interviewed Mr. E. Mabo, President, Black Community School Council and had requested him to supply a list of the names of the children enrolled; of the grade levels at which these children were working; and the names and qualifications of the teachers involved.

To date this information has not been received.

Despite personal encouragement by officials of the State Department of Education to those associated with the Black Community School in Townsville the simple matter of supplying the necessary information has not been forthcoming. This task would take only a matter of minutes to complete. It is quite beyond the understanding of the Director General of Education as to why it has not been supplied. It would appear that the school may wish to delay its recognition, but this is in contrast to its protestations of the previous eight months.

Yours faithfully,


Director.

RTI RELEASE

10/655

JVD:IA
GF 104

Aboriginal Affairs
-4 NOV 1974
BRISBANE

Palm Island, via Townsville, Q. 4816.

29th October, 74.

The Manager,
Commonwealth Dept. of Aboriginal Affairs,
Hibernian Building,
Flindeys Street,
TOWNSVILLE. Q. 4810.

Dear Sir,

Re: Black Community School - Palm Island

Further to your recent communication on the above, I have to advise that at a meeting of the Palm Island Community Council held on 21st. Oct. 1974, Council stated that they did not wish such a school established on Palm Island.

B/C
The Director,
Department of Aboriginal &
Island Affairs,
George Street,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000.

Yours faithfully,

J.V. Dillon
J.V. Dillon
Manager

For your information.

J.V. Dillon
J.V. Dillon
Manager

*B/W
30.10.74
[Signature]*

5726

18th June, 1974.

The Secretary,
 Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
 P.O. Box 17,
 WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

Re: Community School - Townsville
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...../2

5726

18th June, 1974.

The Secretary,
 Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
 P.O. Box 17,
 WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

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 My Letter of 16th May
 Your Ref. 73/1496

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...../2

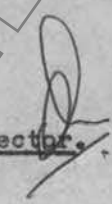
- 2 -

In fact, prior to the date of this publication, the Regional Director, Northern Region had interviewed Mr. E. Mabo, President, Black Community School Council and had requested him to supply a list of the names of the children enrolled; of the grade levels at which these children were working; and the names and qualifications of the teachers involved.

To date this information has not been received.

Despite personal encouragement by officials of the State Department of Education to those associated with the Black Community School in Townsville the simple matter of supplying the necessary information has not been forthcoming. This task would take only a matter of minutes to complete. It is quite beyond the understanding of the Director General of Education as to why it has not been supplied. It would appear that the school may wish to delay its recognition, but this is in contrast to its protestations of the previous eight months.

Yours faithfully,


Director.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TREASURY BUILDING
QUEEN STREET
BRISBANE

Refer to: L.J. Dwyer
Extension: 6856
Your Ref:
Our Ref: DML:74/33629

5 June 1974

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal
& Island Affairs,
George Street,
BRISBANE.

Dear Mr. Killoran,

In August 1973 a group of people led, at that time, by Mr. H. Penrith, decided to establish a Black Community School in Townsville.

On 20 August 1973 the Acting Regional Director of Education, Northern Region, interviewed Mr. Penrith who agreed to write a letter seeking approval of this school.

On 12 September 1973 an application seeking official approval was received from Mr. R. Renew on behalf of the Black Community School. This application was forwarded to the Director-General. However, no useful details about the school were attached. Accordingly on 19 September 1973 Mr. Renew was requested, by letter, to supply further details including a description of the building, details of Office bearers of the Parents' Association, and a copy of the constitution of the Parents' Association.

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Yours faithfully,

B. Gilman

Acting Director-General of Education.

Enc.

RTI RELEASES

O.H.M.S.

The Director,
D.A.I.A.,
George Street,
BRISBANE.

If not delivered within 14 days return to
Department of Education, Box 33, P.O.,
Brisbane North Quay, Q. 4000



5726

16th May, 1974

The Secretary,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 17,
WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

Re: Community School - Townsville
My Letter of 13th March
Your Ref. 73/1496

I am advised that the school recommenced operation on Monday, 11th March, 1974, and was attended by 12 students at that stage.

The Director-General of Education has not been able to take any further action in this matter as the school's Council has still not supplied the information required by the State Department of Education. An application for Establishment was placed before the Regional Director on 14th September, 1973, and in line with usual procedure the School Council was requested to provide additional data to support this request.

The President of the School Council interviewed the Regional Director of Education at Townsville late in March, 1974, and the need for this information was stressed. The President of the Council was urged to supply the data as soon as possible as the Department of Education was unable to take action without it.

The President of the School Council promised to make the data available but it has to date not been received. With reference to the final paragraph of your letter of 7/5/74 I will advise you at a later date of any data available.

B/C:
The Manager,
Dept. Aboriginal & Island Affairs,
Alroy Chambers,
537 Flinders Street,
TOWNSVILLE. Q. 4810

Yours faithfully,

For your urgent attention please.



Director. 16/5/74

JKB:CH

30. 74
11. 6. 74
RS

17/655

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

File 01

Bank House Woden Town Centre ACT 2606

PO Box 17 Woden ACT 2606

Telephone 81 0322

Telegrams Abaust

73/1469

Aboriginal & Island
Affairs

8 MAY 1974

BRISBANE

- 7 MAY 1974

RECEIVED

Dear Sir,

I refer to my letter, reference 73/1469 of 5 March 1974 enclosing a request for financial assistance from the President of the Black Community School Council, Townsville. I have enclosed for your information and comment a copy of further explanatory notes sent by Mr. L. Hammond, of James Cook University.

It appears that the Council is now running both a day school and Tutoring and Adult Education scheme and that the submission referred only to the Tutoring scheme.

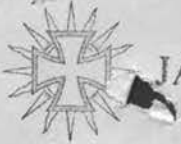
I would be interested in the present status of the day school with the Queensland Department of Education, and also whether you have any indication of the support that the Aboriginal Community is giving to the school.

Yours faithfully,

R. T. Dobb

(R. T. Dobb)
for Secretary

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal & Island Affairs,
135-147 George Street,
BRISBANE. QLD. 4000.



JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY OF NORTH QUEENSLAND UNION

POST OFFICE, JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY, QLD 4811. TELEPHONE 79-4579

19th April, 1974.

Attention Mr. Dobb.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 17,
WODEN, A.C.T. 2606.

Dear Mr. Dobb,

Please find enclosed explanatory notes covering details of the submission forwarded to Mr. Burke of your department on 24th February by Mr. Eddie Mabo, on behalf of the Black Community School in Townsville. FOLIOS 72 & 73

I have seen the correspondence between yourself and Eddie (Reference 73/1469 dated 5th March, Eddie's letter of 13th March, and yours, reference 73/1469 dated 28th March) and think the enclosed information will adequately answer your queries concerning the proposed tutoring scheme. E. 76

It was not made at all clear to you that this scheme is a continuation of the Abschol Tutoring Scheme which was run successfully by the Race Relations Council of the James Cook University Students Union. The scheme was reportedly favourably regarded by Mr. Burke when he visited the Black Community School last year. E. 79

The notes will explain the reasons for the proposed amalgamation; reasons which are economically sound. The scheme will commence this year on the same basis as in 1973, while awaiting the results of this submission. We would be grateful if the matter could be dealt with both favourably and expeditiously.

Yours sincerely,

L. Hammond,
(for ABSCHOL and
MR. EDDIE MABO)

Encl.

Mr. DOBB.

EXPLANATORY NOTES CONCERNING SUBMISSION FOR FUNDS FOR THE TUTORING
SCHEME, BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL, TOWNSVILLE.

BACKGROUND.

The Abschol Tutoring scheme commenced in Townsville in 1970, but ran poorly and erratically until 1973; although within that time the name "Abschol" became well known and favourably regarded by the black community. In 1973 the scheme was well organised, providing tutoring for two hours per week, on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings. Approximately 120 students from grades 1 - 11 drawn from both state and sectarian schools were catered for.

Tutoring was conducted by volunteers, mainly students of the university and teachers college, and some school teachers. An attempt to provide qualified advisors to the tutors proved unsuccessful. The facilities of the Townsville Teachers College were made available for tutoring and children were bussed there using university minibuses and station wagons, and the Kindergarten Headstart bus.

The academic success in 1973 was limited, mainly because tutors were not experienced in education procedures, and were not able to formulate firm programmes of teaching. The effect on the social development of the children was most beneficial, since the scheme provided friendly contact with white adults and a non-traumatic learning situation which may reflect upon the student's later ability to cope with school class room situations.

The aim of the scheme is to provide tutoring in the present school curricula - i.e. it seeks to upgrade the children's knowledge to compensate for many of the features of the school system which retard learning in indigenous school children. We do not utilise any new, innovative teaching programmes, and all instruction is in terms of the established school curricula.

PRESENT SUBMISSION.

In 1974 Abschol intended submitting for funds to cover the costs of the scheme and allow it to expand to meet demand. (Numerous children wished to join the scheme in late 1973 but resources couldn't cope.)

It was hoped to gain funds for vehicle operation, to pay an administrator, and to employ qualified people to organise the academic section of the scheme. At the same time, the Black Community School required a minibus, and an administrator. Abschol also required a second centre for tutoring, in South Townsville, to reduce transport costs, and difficulties in

....2/-

organisation and space.

For these reasons it was decided to present a joint submission for funds to run the tutoring scheme. All items requested have a dual role to ensure that there is no wastage of resources.

JUSTIFICATION OF ITEMS.

To enhance the academic success of the scheme it was proposed to employ twelve professionally qualified people for four hours per week each. These people would be responsible for a group of five or six volunteer tutors, and will draw up firm programmes for each and ensure that it is administered. Since the rate of pay is calculated as \$3/hour there will still be required a certain amount of altruism and dedication from these people. They will be recruited by advertisements in the local press and in university and teachers college and school newsletters.

- The anticipated enrolment in 1974 is 160-180 students. On the above figures the ideal pupil:tutor ratio of two can be maintained.

The minibus requested will be used to transport children to tutoring at the school, and also used for the day-school activities of the Black Community School. The request for funds to hire extra buses will cover transport costs to the Teachers College (based on rates of 10¢/mile).

The organisational workload in 1973 was such that early in the year up to 30 hours per week were worked for a few weeks, decreasing to about six hours/week when the scheme was underway. It is anticipated that these duties would be those of the paid director/organiser, who would also act as a "bursar" for the day-school, and organise the adult education scheme, if approved.

Other costs, such as stationery, office and school furniture, and library are self-explanatory.

Policy decisions concerning the tutoring scheme will be made jointly by the Black Community School council and the executive of Abschol. Decisions on academic matters will be made chiefly by the paid academic advisors.

We feel that expanding the Abschol scheme so that it is run conjointly with the Black Community School is an important step in transforming it from a charity scheme run by whites to a genuinely self-help scheme run by blacks. The black community is going to increasingly demand this, and it serves to increase community self respect.



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

22 APR 1974
BRISBANE

TREASURY BUILDING
QUEEN STREET
BRISBANE

18 April 1974

Refer to: L.J. Dwyer
Extension: 6856
Your Ref: 8H/383
Our Ref: JMZ 74/21045 Aboriginals Various

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 1974, in which you requested information on the current status of the Black Community School in Townsville. Thank you also for the copy of the submission made by the Black Community School Council to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

This Department has not been able to take any further action in this matter as the school's Council has still not supplied required information.

Mr Mabo, President of the Council had an interview with Mr C.P. Cullen, Regional Director of Education, Townsville, approximately four weeks ago. During that interview Mr Cullen again stressed the need for this information and urged Mr Mabo to supply it as soon as possible. He pointed out to Mr Mabo that this Department could take action if it were supplied with a list of the names of the children enrolled; of the grade levels at which these children were working; and of the name(s) and qualifications of the teacher(s) involved.

Mr Mabo promised to forward this information to the Regional Office within a week of the meeting. This information has still not been received.

Yours faithfully,

Acting Director-General of Education

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and
Island Affairs,
135-147 George Street,
BRISBANE.

BH noted 1/5/74

o/v JB 7/5/74
RS



COLLEGE OF ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

ATTACHED TO THE TORRENS COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

(SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY BY SPECIAL GRANT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS)

Aboriginal Affairs
-2 APR 1974

The College of Aboriginal Education provides an opportunity for Aboriginal people to continue their education.

It is expected that the students of the College will have widely differing backgrounds and interests, and so a wide choice of courses and experiences is available.

The programme covers five main areas:-

1. Aboriginal Culture and Identity;
2. Communication and creative expression;
3. Australian society, aboriginal and non-aboriginal;
4. Experience for a wide variety of occupations and careers;
5. Opportunities to educate the general community to a greater understanding of Aboriginal people and things.

ENTRY TO THE COLLEGE:

Applicants should be at least 17 years of age. It is desirable that they have some Secondary education; some work experience; or some involvement in the activities of their community.

Applicants who do not meet these requirements will still be considered.

ALLOWANCES:

Successful applicants may be supported by awards under the Aboriginal Study Grants Scheme of the Australian Department of Education.

APPLICATIONS:

People interested in joining the programme should write a letter to the Head of the College stating the following:

Name, age and address,
Background and experience;
Previous education;
Work experience;
Reasons for applying.

No application form is required: A short letter stating these points is all that is necessary to apply.

Applications should be addressed to: The Head of the College,
College of Aboriginal Education,
C/- 70 South Road,
TORRENSVILLE. S.A. 5031

The closing date for applications is 8 April 1974.

Further information may be obtained from the Head of the College at the address given or by ringing Adelaide 43 4171 Ext. 77



Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs 8H/383

Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
 Townsville, Q. 4810
 12th March, 1974



The Director,
 Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs,
 BRISBANE, Q. 4000

Dear Sir,

Re: Black Community School

Contrary to my advice on 8/3/74, be advised that the Black Community School recommenced on Monday, 11/3/74.

[redacted] is the teacher in charge and twelve (12) students are attending.

- 5 children of [redacted]
- 5 children of [redacted]
- 2 children of [redacted] (daughter of [redacted])

Third party personal information

Yours faithfully,

J. W. Dillon
 J. W. Dillon,
 MANAGER.

5726

13th March, 1974

Secretary,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 17,
WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

Re: Community School - Townsville
Your 73/1496 of the 5th March

I have referred this data to the Director General of Education for comment and discussion. I will communicate with you as soon as possible after completion of these discussions.

Yours faithfully,

B/C:
Director General of Education,
Department of Education,
Treasury Building,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000

Director

ATTENTION: MR. J. DWYER

For your information we refer to a previous correspondence in this matter and would be grateful for your comments so that the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department may be suitably informed. I have attached copies of the correspondence under reply.

Director.....13/3/74

JKB:CH
Item ID

*BJW
12/4/74
RS*

HARRY PENRITH

Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs 84



Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
Townsville, Q. 4810
8th March, 1974



The Director,
Department of
Aboriginal and Island Affairs,
BRISBANE, Q. 4000

Dear Sir,

Re: Black Community School

Be advised that this school has not re-opened this year.
Students attending last year have this term enrolled in
conventional state schools.

Yours faithfully,

John V. Dillon
J. V. Dillon,
MANAGER.

811/383

File 02

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

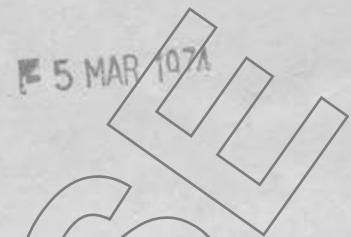
Bank House Woden Town Centre ACT 2606

PO Box 17 Woden ACT 2606

Telephone 81 0322

Telegrams Abaust

73/1469



Dear Sir,

Black Community School - Townsville.

I refer to your letter (reference 81/383) of 28 November 1973 concerning the Black Community School at Townsville.

I am enclosing a copy, for your comment, of a submission from the President of the School Council of the Black Community School. I would be particularly interested in the present status of the school with the Queensland Department of Education, and also whether you have any indication of the support that the Aboriginal community is prepared to give the proposed school.

In view of the need to consult more closely with Mr Mabo I would be grateful for your early comments on this matter.

R. T. Dobb
(R. T. Dobb)
for Secretary

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs,
135-147 George Street,
BRISBANE. QLD. 4000



BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TUTORING AND ADULT
EDUCATION SCHEME

c/- E.Mabo,
23 Hibiscus Street,
CRANBROOK..Townsville.

24th February 1974

Dear Mr. Burke,

Please find our submission for 1974 tutoring and adult education scheme. The tutoring has been handed over to our school council by the Abschol. These submissions have been prepared with the assistance of previous tutors who have a basic knowledge of costs involved. Hoping that you will give us an urgent consideration.

Yours faithfully,

E. MBAO
PRESIDENT
BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
COUNCIL

Mr. P. Bourke

BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL TUTORING AND ADULT EDUCATION SCHEME

7 primary tutors \$12 per tutor per week	40	3360.00
5 secondary tutors \$15 per " " " "	weeks	3000.00
Nini Bus		7000.00
Running Cost		1000.00
Maintenance		400.00
		<u>\$14760.00</u>

ADULT EDUCATION SCHEME

Director/Organiser Salary	6500.00
Vehicle	4000.00
Running cost \$20 per week	1040.00
Unseen expenses	200.00
Secretary/Typist Salary/wages	4000.00
Stationary and printing	500.00
Office equipment and extra school furnitures	1000.00
Hire of extra bus at \$10 per week	520.00
Library	300.00
	<u>\$17960.00</u>

TELEPHONE

Installation	70.00
Rental	55.60
Calls (12 months)	600.00
	<u>\$ 725.00</u>

1 tutor woodwork	} All tutoring at } } \$15 per tutor } } per week }	
1 tutor metal work		
1 tutor domestic science		
1 home nursing first and and hygiene)	4200.00
1 tutor english, oral, written		17960.00
1 tutor arts (fine art)		14760.00
1 tutor music		725.00
		<u>\$37,645.00</u>

TOTAL \$37,645.00

To Commonwealth Dept. of Aboriginal Affairs

JKB:RP

5726

28th November, 1973

The Secretary,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 17,
WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposal for New School for Aborigines and Torres
Strait Islanders at Townsville - Your Letter of
4th September, 1973 Reference : 73/1469.


The Regional Director of Education at Townsville has interviewed teachers and a parent concerning the proposed Black Community School which has been established in Townsville. At this time (September 12th, 1973) no written application had been received by the Regional Director for establishment but on the 14th September, 1973 it was received and approval sought.

The Director General of Education advises that the school was requested to provide the usual supporting and additional information, but to date this has not been received at the Office of the Regional Director.

A recent report indicates, however, that the school is operating with the permission of the Bishop of Townsville (Catholic), and is employing two (2) fully trained teachers and one (1) part-time trained teacher. Originally there were ten (10) students employed but this number appears to have diminished.

Initial funding was made available by the Australian Union of Students.

Yours faithfully,


Director

JC/10

ABORIGINAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR ABORIGINAL HOSTELS LTD.

(Statement by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator
J.L. Cavanagh)

The first Aboriginal appointee to the staff of
Aboriginal Hostels Ltd., took up duty in Canberra on 31 October.

He is Mr Harry Penrith, 37, a well known figure in
Aboriginal affairs, who has been chosen as the Executive
Officer of the company.

Aboriginal Hostels Ltd was formed by the Australian
Government in June this year, to develop and run hostel
projects for Aboriginal people throughout Australia. The
Board of Directors is chaired by Mr Charles Perkins, Assistant
Secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, and at
present the staff consists of a General Manager and
his Secretary.

Mr Penrith is the first of several Aboriginals to
be employed by the company in its head office in Canberra.
Several more Aboriginals are expected to be appointed as
project officers and in clerical positions in the next two
months, as well as being employed in the managerial side of
the hostels themselves.

As Executive Officer, Mr Penrith will be responsible
for much of the administration of the company, which has to
date purchased properties in Brisbane, Melbourne and Redfern,
N.S.W., and is leasing property in a Canberra suburb.

Mr Penrith matriculated from Kempsie High School,
and recently passed Law 11 level at the Tasmanian Law School.
For 13 years he was employed by the N.S.W. Public Service, and
reached a senior clerk position in the Pastures Protection
Branch of the Department of Agriculture. He has been
involved in the establishment of many projects for Aboriginal
advancement, and is currently the first Treasurer of the
Aboriginal and Islander Legal Service in Queensland, as well
as being vice-President of the Townsville Branch of the Service.

Canberra, A.C.T.

2 November 1973.

Copy on 1A/1146



Department of Education 8H/383

Brisbane, Q. 4000.

8th November, 1973.

CRB
73/79973
A. & I. Dept.



Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of the 24th October (Ref: 8H/383) seeking information on the proposed Black Community School in Townsville.

On September 12, 1973, [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted] (parent) were interviewed by the Regional Director of Education, Townsville. They were received and dealt with courteously. The Regional Director pointed out that no written application had been received for the establishment of the school.

On September 14, [redacted] again interviewed the Regional Director and delivered an application, dated September 12, seeking approval for the establishment of a school to be known as the Black Community School.

In line with normal procedures the school was then requested to provide additional information to support this request. This additional information has still not been received at the Regional Office, Townsville, so that this Department has been unable to take any further steps in this matter.

At last report the school was operating, with the permission of the Catholic Bishop of Townsville, in a deserted Convent School at South Townsville. It employs two full time fully-trained teachers and one part time trained teacher. Originally there were 10 pupils enrolled but reports are that these numbers have dwindled. All children attending at present are Islanders, although the school claims to cater for all races.

Initial funding apparently came from the Race Relations Department (formerly ABSCHOL), Australian Union of Students, 97 Drummond Street, Carlton, Melbourne, 3053.

Yours faithfully,

Director-General of Education.

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs,
135-147 George Street,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000.

5726

12th November, 1973.

The Director-General,
Department of Education,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposal for Specialized School for Aborigines
and Torres Strait Islanders in Townsville - My
Letters of 17th September and 24th October, 1973

I would be grateful for your comments relative to
this matter.

Yours faithfully,

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]
[Handwritten initials]

Director.

5726

24th October, 1973.

The Director-General,
Department of Education,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposal for a Specialized School for
Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders
in Townsville - My Letter of 17th
September, 1973

I would be most appreciative of a reply in this
matter.

Yours faithfully,



Item ID
JKB:JS

Director Page 93 of 117

RTI RELEASES

[Handwritten Signature]
MANAGER
DEPT. OF ABORIGINAL & ISLAND AFFAIRS
TOWNSVILLE

5726

17th September, 1973.

The Secretary,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 241,
CIVIC SQUARE. A.C.T. 2608

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposal for New School for Aborigines and
Torres Strait Islanders in Townsville -
Your Reference 73/1469 of 4th September, 1973

I have to thank you for your letter and to let you know that the proposal has been referred to the Director-General of Education for his opinion and comment.

Yours faithfully,


Director.

Item ID

JKB:JS

Page 99 of 117

5726

17th September, 1973.

The Director-General,
Department of Education,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposal for a Specialized School for
Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders
in Townsville

I have attached for your information a copy of a letter which has been referred to me by the Secretary of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Canberra.

I have replied to the Secretary informing him that the education of Aborigines and Islanders is necessarily a matter for the consideration of your Department and that I will reply to him following upon your advice and comment.

Yours faithfully,


Director.

~~811/385~~

MEMO DIRECTOR:

Mr. J. Dillon, Manager, Townsville, rang 10.30 a.m. 13/9/73 and gave preliminary advice of information he is submitting in letter form to the Director regarding a "black" community school established in Townsville.

Mr. Dillon was verbally passing this information as the "Bulletin" Newspaper were inquiring and proposed to communicate with the Honourable A. Fletcher, Minister for Education, at 10.30 a.m. today.

The general information conveyed by Mr. Dillon was that last Wednesday Mr. R. Huey and Mr. Bill King (both Commonwealth officers) held a meeting with 77 Aboriginal and Islander residents of Townsville and discussed various matters including housing, health and education facilities for Aborigines and Islanders. At this discussion a "black" school was mentioned but in the main the Aborigines and Islanders were against the proposal and mention was made that segregated schools were abolished some years ago.

Interested Islanders were Eddie Mabo and his brother Nicey Sambo as Third party personal information

Apparently Bishop Faulkner gave permission for tutorial classes in the old Convent building and on his return found that a "black" school had been established there with teachers receiving \$60 per week and said to be financed from the Australian University of Students but to date no funds for salaries have been received.

Third party personal information

*2
Mr. Bullock*

Mr. Dillon further understands that the "black" school which started a week ago will continue to the end of the year. He also has a circular from Mr. Harry Penrith which reads - "We feel that teachers have done a magnificent job in perpetrating traditional retardation of black children through the normal school process".

Item II [Redacted]

SECRETARY 13/9/73. *[Signature]*



Aboriginal & Island
Affairs

Department of
Aboriginal and Island
Affairs

17 SEP 1973

L

File 02

In further reference please quote—

JVD:GR

GF 4

Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs

84/383

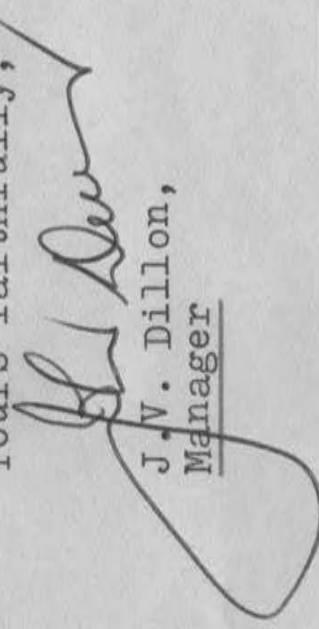
Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
Townsville. Q. 4810
14th September, 1973

The Director,
Dept. Aboriginal & Island Affairs,
George Street,
BRISBANE. 4000 Q.

Re: Black Community School

Further to our letter of 13th September, please find
attached press cutting from today's Townsville Daily Bulletin.

Yours faithfully,


J.V. Dillon,
Manager



Aboriginal & Island
 Department of
 17 SEP 1973
 BRISBANE

File 02

In further reference please quote— JVD:GR
 GF 4

8 H / 363

Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
 Townsville. Q. 4810
 13th September, 1973

The Director,
 Dept. Aboriginal & Island Affairs,
 George Street,
 BRISBANE. 4000 Q.

Re: Black Community School

Attached please find circular on abovenamed school prepared by Mr. Harry Penrith.

This school has been in operation now for some two weeks and already there would appear to be a certain amount of controversy over its existence.

It is not a legally constituted school and Bishop Faulkner has become involved in an incident which he is not fully aware of. Bishop Faulkner approved the use of the premises at South Townsville for additional tutorial work as required by additional groups. On his return to Townsville yesterday, he has found that he is running a "school".

It is believed that funds for Teachers salaries at this school are coming from Australian Union of Students in Melbourne. Teachers are working at a nominal rate of \$60.00 per week but as yet have received no funds.

During a recent meeting with Commonwealth Officers in Townsville at which some 77 Aborigines and Islanders attended this school was discussed rather heatedly.

The main supporters of the school are Eddie Mabo and Nicey Sambo and it is believed that

Third party personal information

[Redacted area]

This school will come to the notice of the public in a couple of days time through "Townsville Bulletin". Appropriate press clippings will be forwarded in due course.

Yours faithfully,

J.V. Dillon
 J.V. Dillon,
 Manager

RTF
 J.V. Dillon

28th August, 1973.

BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL - TOWNSVILLE, NORTH
 QUEENSLAND

We are a group of black people who have come together with the common realisation that the Educational system of Queensland has failed miserably if success is measured by educational attainments and achievements of black people. One University and two Teachers College graduates from Queensland's black population over nearly 200 years is an insult to our race. We feel that teachers have done a magnificent job in perpetuating traditional retardation of black children through the normal school processes and unfortunately for us the scourge of racism continues to haunt the school classroom. It seems that teachers have not been made conscious of the degree to which they reflect the prejudices current in society and as a result they have not been encouraged to avoid these prejudices. The whole society is culpable.

We have therefore embarked on a brave and ambitious venture in establishing our Black Community School in Townsville. We are not educated and we are not experts in education. We have observed that most of our children are forced to lose interest in their schoolwork towards the end of their primary and first years of high school education. This very vital awakening period places great pressure on the black child and the little bit of confidence built up in the pre-school and early primary years is shattered overnight.

It is logical therefore for us to endeavour to seek alternatives which are going to maintain and increase black confidence. We are convinced that given the right environment in a situation where we can employ teachers of our choice, where, for a particular part of their education our children can be taught traditional pursuits in dancing, singing, cooking, fishing, hunting etc., as well as "normal" subjects, then we know they will respond. Our school will initially comprise a total of 10 pupils covering grades 5 to 8. The emotional security of being together during this vital stage and the advantage of three experienced teachers to give continuous personal tuition to each child will prepare them to flow back into the State high school education system better suited to cope with highly motivated classmates in their first real encounter with competitive society.

Our teachers include Miss Anwyl Burfein who is a qualified high school teacher as well as having a number of years primary school teaching. Mr. Robert Renew is a maths and science teacher and Mrs. Dulcie Isaro is an indigenous teacher with primary school teaching experience on Palm Island and in New Guinea.

We are very fortunate that the Catholic Bishop of Townsville, Bishop Leonard A. Faulkner, in his continuing interest and concern for our advancement has kindly given us the use of his school property in South Townsville during Term III 1973. His stated wishes for success and assurance of support is very encouraging to us.

We are not endowed with material wealth and have to rely on support from friends and organisations like Abschol etc. Acquisition of furniture and other materials together with salaries for our teachers is a big problem at present. We hope

that the Queensland Dept. of Education, the Queensland Dept. of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs and their Commonwealth counterparts will respond generously but we don't know what their reactions will be. Such a school has many precedents in both Australia and overseas. Certainly one of the Educational Aims embedded in Labor Policies is relevant to our school. Item 8 (a) in part says "The Australian Government to invoke its powers to grant benefits to students to meet the needs of disadvantaged children and to speed their progress to equality of status and opportunity" and Item 8 (b) "The Australian Government to make grants to the States to provide special schools and equipment, where appropriate, as adjuncts to normal schools, courses of training for specialist teachers, travelling allowances and residential accommodation".

Under the Queensland Education Act 1964-70 Part IV Compulsory Education Sections 28 and 30, the Minister for Education has been requested to recognise our school as being bonafide as well as satisfying him of the compulsory attendance clause.

Parent participation in our school is considered so important that the parents of the children automatically become members of the School Board.

Our Constitution is being drafted by Mr. D. Jones of the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Legal Service and will provide guidelines for operations.

The aims of the school are as follows:

1. To give black children an alternative education more suited to their needs.
2. To involve the children's parents and the community in these children's education.
3. To provide a satisfactory climate for the tuition of children who are academically oriented and motivated towards eventual tertiary education.
4. To be a focus around which the black community can operate.

Our children are capable and we have a duty to them to provide the right situation for their progressive education.

Penrith.

Harry Penrith,
1/28 Mitchell Street,
North Ward.
Townsville. Qld. 4810.



DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Bank House Ainslie Avenue A C T 2608

P O Box 241 Civic Square A C T 2608

Telephone 48 0077 Telegrams Abaust

73/1469

Aboriginal & Island
Affairs

10 SEP 1973

BRISBANE

4 SEP 1973

Dear Sir,

Proposal for a New School for Aboriginals and
Torres Strait Islanders at Townsville

... I am enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to a member of my staff by Mr Harry Penrith, in which he sets out a proposal for a new school at Townsville for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. In a telephone conversation on 14 August Mrs Penrith advised the same officer that she hoped the school would open immediately after the current school holidays.

Mrs Penrith was told that this Department could not consider such a proposal until a great deal more information had been provided, for example: whether your Department and the Queensland Department of Education had been approached on the matter, what staff was available and the syllabus that it was planned to follow. She was also advised that if consideration were to be given to this proposal, I should have to consult other Departments of both the Australian and Queensland Governments and that this would take some months.

I should be grateful if you could let me know whether Mr Penrith has advised your Department or the Queensland Department of Education of his plans, and if you would let me have your comments.

Yours faithfully,

B. G. Dexter
(B. G. Dexter)
Secretary

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and Island
Affairs,
135-147 George Street,
BRISBANE, QLD. 4000

*Mr Bunker
7 refer to Dept of Education*

Flat 1, 28 Mitchell St
North Ward, Townsville.
31st July, 1973.

Dear Alan,

It was good to see you at the Townsville Seminar recently. I know you enjoyed our beautiful weather and I have a feeling you learnt quite a lot at the Seminar and over on Palm.

I'm glad to know you are working on the Education side of Aboriginal Affairs (because I have an exciting plan for you to consider). In this regard refer to photocopies attached. I hope your Section will respond quickly and generously. Quickly from the viewpoint of an investigation and generously because we are going to request \$20,000 to get this pilot project off the ground to cover the first year.

It is incredible that the statistics are so bad in N.Q. re attainments of black kids. All ideas especially if they come from, or endorsed by blacks, should be thoroughly investigated and preferably adopted.

We are going to be wrong; we're not experts etc but you've got to give us a go in the things we put to you.

I would like you to come back to Townsville as soon as possible (subject to your boss's approval of course) just to have a look at what I mean. We've got the qualified teachers with the good attitudes and a genuine desire to be involved. After all, it is the incredibly bad prevailing attitudes of whites as personified also in teachers in N.Q. which are a retardant influence to educational attainments of black children.

Hope you'll rise to the occasion in this rather revolutionary idea. We've just got to do something different and this is it.

Regards,

Harry (Penwith)

AIMS

- (a) To give black children an alternative education more suited to their needs.
- (b) To involve the children's parents and the community in these children's education.
a schooling
- (c) To avoid the post grade four slump in learning by substituting, which will give encouragement and hope, not indifference.
- (d) To substitute teachers who are understanding of Aborigines' difficulties and differences in outlook and aspiration.
- (e) To provide a satisfactory climate for the tuition of children who are academically oriented, and motivated towards eventual tertiary education.

METHODS

- (a) The first weeks would be spent in decorating the home with a gradual introduction to more formal work, starting in earnest when the children feel at ease in their surroundings.
- (b) There will be little formal teacher-talk tuition, but rather the concentration will be on individual and group response to a set of stimuli.
- (c) Utilization of group efforts will be encouraged as this will encourage security and produce a feeling of success.
- (d) The environment will be used as an aid to learning instead of a forbidden place.
- (e) Involvement with the community will be sought by
 - (i) outside observation of people at work, and with aid, participation.
 - (ii) inviting different people to come and participate, especially black people, and to contribute by fortifying the child's pride in his own culture.
- (f) Utilisation of helpers to create a satisfactory individual-centred tutorial "needs groups"

- (a) house, or schoolroom with yard space.
- (b) Ten students
- (c) one full-time teacher, one part-time teacher
- (d) daily volunteer help
- (e) Parent support in school as well as at home.

- (a) a spirit duplicator
- (b) a stove
- (c) a fridge
- (d) carpentry tools
- (e) craft tools
- (f) furniture
- (g) materials for sewing, crafting
- (h) books for wide reading at home
- (i) unlimited amounts of cardboard, paper, paints and pencils

GF/4

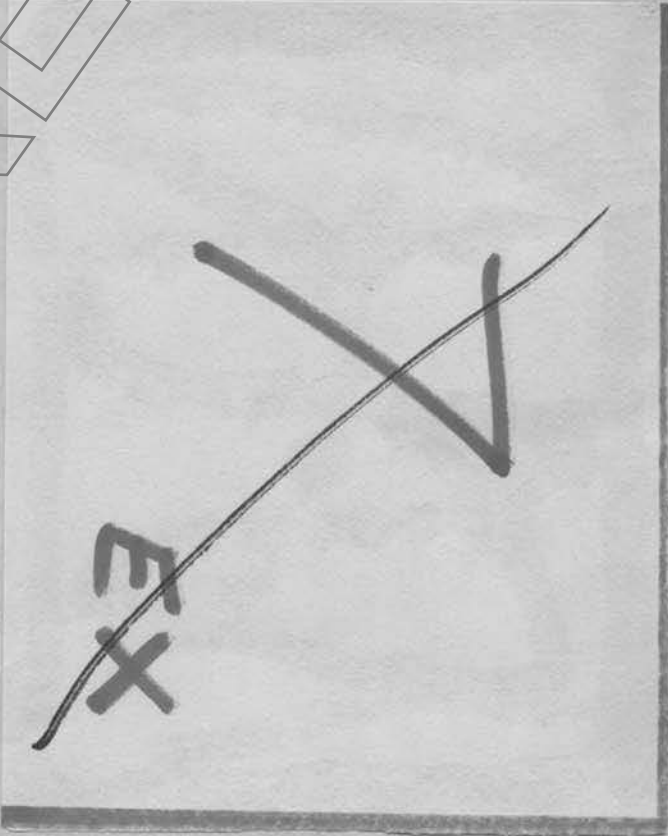
RTI RELEASE

Black Community School

1973-1981

Blick Community School

RTI RELEASE



GF 4



DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL
AND ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT,

TELEPHONES:
DIRECTOR 229 3113
GENERAL OFFICE 224 0515
EXT. 5726

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ABORIGINES," BRISBANE

135-147 GEORGE STREET,
BRISBANE, Q. 4000

P.O. Box 133,
North Quay, 4000

27th April, 1981

The Manager,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islanders Advancement,
BOX 5620 M.S.O.,
TOWNSVILLE Q. 4810

Re: Black Community School - My letter 15/4/81

Further to my letter under reference I wish to advise that the Honourable the Minister for Education in a recent letter to the Honourable K. B. Tomkins, M.L.A., mentioned inter alia

"The Black Community School is recognized by my Department as an approved school under the Education Act and, as such, receives normal State grants in addition to funding from other sources.

In July 1980 the School Council approached my Department with a request to lease an Education Reserve in Garbutt, Townsville. Unfortunately, the land in question is needed for Technical College purposes and so it was not possible to agree to this request.

The Black Community School has been established and operational since August 1978. Accordingly, it would clearly seem to have the support of the families served by it."

I should appreciate your urgent response and any substantive comments you may be able to make upon the statement in the final paragraph. No doubt the School is supported by the families it serves, but the number of families, number of children, the quality of education, the pupil/teacher ratio, etc., probably represent a better scale by which any application for additional funding can be measured, viz a viz competitive requests for grants and/or assistance.

E1 MAY 1981

[Signature]
DIRECTOR

DISTRIBUTION	SIGNED
MGR	✓ <i>[Signature]</i>
A.O.	
S.L.O.	
L.O.	
HOUSING	
HOSTEL	
S.E.C.	
TYPIST	
ASS. MGR.	

In further reference please quote—
1D/655

EX 7



DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL
AND ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT,

TELEPHONES:
DIRECTOR 229 3113
GENERAL OFFICE 224 0515
EXT. 8101
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ABORIGINES," BRISBANE
TELEX: 41697

135-147 GEORGE STREET,
BRISBANE, Q. 4000

P.O. Box 133,
Brisbane, North Quay, Q. 4000

13th April, 1981

Mr. D.J. O'Rourke,
Regional Director,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
G.P.O. Box 2453,
BRISBANE Q. 4001

Dear Mr. O'Rourke,

I refer to your letter of the 26th March 1981 regarding Mr. E.K. Mabo's letter to the Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs seeking land for the Black Community School Council, Townsville.

As the land concerned is required for Departmental purposes it is not possible to assist the Council.

B/c
The Manager,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islanders Advancement,
Box 5620 M.S.O.,
TOWNSVILLE Q. 4810

Yours faithfully,

For your information. A separate reply to Mr. Mabo has been forwarded by the Minister and I attach for your information a copy of Mr. Mabo's application.

DIRECTOR

Any current information on the Black Community School would be appreciated.

[Handwritten Signature]
DIRECTOR....13/4/81

13 APR 1981

DISTRIBUTION	SIGNED
MGR	✓ <i>[Signature]</i>
A.O.	
S.L.O.	
L.O.	
HOUSING	
HOSTEL	
S.E.O.	✓
TYPIST	
ASS. MGR.	

Black Community School Council

149 Boundary Street
South Townsville
P.O. Box: 1026
Phone: 72 3128

Director's Address:
23 Hibiscus Street
Cranbrook
Phone:

10th March, 1981

Queensland Minister;
for Aboriginal and Island Advancement,
Parliament House,
BRISBANE.

Dear Sir,

This letter is a form of an official application from the above School Council, seeking your approval for allocation of five (5) acres of Aboriginal Reserve Land, which is situated between Ross River Road, and Charles Street in the Townsville suburb of Cranbrook.

We propose that if we are allowed a long term lease, or purchase of this land, we would like to establish a permanent School Building on this site.

Since the School's establishment eight years ago, we have been operating out of rented premises. Our first six years were spent in Catholic premises in South Townsville, until the Parish desired the Building for their own use.

Since then, we have been operating in an old, dilapidated dwelling house in Boundary Street, South Townsville. This building has been condemned by the City Council, and the owners have been urging the School Council to obtain another building. Unfortunately, however, there is nothing else available which would provide adequate accommodation for our School.

We hope, that you, as our Minister, may be able to assist us in our plight to search for permanent accommodation.

We are currently catering for thirty students with ages ranging from six (6) years to twelve (12) years old, both Torres Strait Islander, and Aboriginal children.

These children whom we cater for are those who normally speak "Meriam Mir" or Torres Strait pidgin, as their Mother Tongue, and who would have tremendous difficulties in understanding instructions in Standard English in normal State School situations.

Our Black Community School provides a bridge in which these children are instructed in their own mother tongue, and gradually introduced into standard English at the two (2) final years of Primary education.

During the past years, we have had considerable success in enabling students to flow into State Secondary Schools, with noticeably fewer problems.

If we are able to acquire a permanent site for our School, we would also be able to cater for children who are coming from traditional areas such as Palm Island, Cape York and Torres Strait Island, who lack first hand knowledge of the highly competitive urban school in Townsville, and other major centres.

Our school will provide an atmosphere similar to their home environment, and gradually introduce them into the State Secondary School for completion of their education.

This method would overcome the existing problems of children returning home after three (3) months of schooling in State Secondary Schools.

We, as the parents of these children, know why there is a high drop-out rate associated with our children from High School, because we have been through the System ourselves; and as a result, we are considerably illiterate in both our own language, and in English.

The above School Council is endeavouring to ensure that we do not produce another generation of illiterates by assisting indigenous children, particularly those from Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula to retain their own cultural identity together with in-depth studies of Contemporary Australian cultures which would enable them to integrate effectively as citizens. They could then be proud Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in our multi-cultural Australian society.

We are hoping that you, as our Minister in the Government of Queensland, will make this possible for us by allocating five (5) acres of the Reserve land for our use as a School site. This undoubtedly will enable us to educate our children in an environment more suited to our needs. Furthermore, it will enable us to maintain our Cultures and traditions which are unique and exclusive to the State of Queensland.

We have no one else to turn to in order to seek assistance of this nature. We therefore rely heavily on you to assist us in this, our difficult, but very important task.

We will patiently await your reply in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

E. K. Mabo
E. K. Mabo (Director)

R. Doolah *R. Doolah*

M. Sailor *M. Sailor*

Ms. Gibas *M Gibas*

BMP

- CC: Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
- Queensland Premier
- Leader of the Opposition - Queensland
- Queensland Minister for Education
- Commonwealth Minister for Education
- Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Education Consultative Committee
- National Aboriginal Education Committee
- Queensland Director of Education

PHL:DS
GF.4

Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,

TOWNSVILLE. QLD. 4810.

6th March,

78.

The Principal,
Black Community School,
41 Nelson Street,
STH. TOWNSVILLE. QLD. 4810.

Dear Sir:

RE: THE BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL CULTURAL TOUR ACCOUNT


We have received a request for assistance from the Accountant of the Island Industries Board of Thursday Island.

It appears that in May, 1977 a cheque for \$600.00 was deposited to a savings bank account with the Commonwealth Savings Bank Weipa, in the name of "Torres Strait Cultural tour of Black Community School No. 6868". Withdrawals totalling this amount were made against the deposit. The cheque was dishonoured. These transactions were conducted through the Murray Island Branch Store, as agents for the bank.

Bearing in mind the substantial loss involved, we feel obliged to explore any avenue which may lead to recovery in preference to legal litigation.

Would you assist by providing any current information on the present state of this commitment and debit, I am,

Yours faithfully,


.....
MANAGER.

Box 95 P.O.
Thursday Island
4875
Phone 12

Island Industries Board
Thursday Island

GWT:dp

.....23 February 19 78

C-4

The Manager
Department of Aboriginal and
Islanders Advancement
Alroy Chambers
537 Flinders Street
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

Dear Sir

re: The Black Community School Cultural Tour Account

We understand that the above school's operations are based in Townsville where they conduct or conducted a bank account.

About May last year, a cheque for \$600, drawn by the abovenamed on a Townsville bank, was deposited to a Savings Bank Account with the Commonwealth Savings Bank, Weipa, in the name of "Torres Strait Cultural Tour of Black Community School No. 6868". At the same time withdrawals totalling this amount were made against the deposit.

Subsequently the aforementioned cheque was dishonoured. These transactions were conducted through our Murray Island Branch Store as Agent for the Bank; hence our involvement.

So far, the amount has not been recovered. However, our Murray Island Branch Store Manager recently inferred that the school were arranging, or had arranged, a loan through one of the various loan committees or similar source.

Bearing in mind the potential and substantial loss we are faced with in this instance, we feel obliged to explore any avenue which might lead to recovery.

We therefore seek your assistance in furnishing us with any information you can gather regarding the above school such as financial position but in particular, whether a loan has been made available to them.

Yours faithfully
ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD

1 MAR 1978

Manager
D.O. do advise

Item ID 1238414 Taylor
ACCOUNTANT

HT:CB
GF 4

Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
Townsville, Q. 4810

22nd April,

77

Roberts, Leu & North,
Solicitors,
P.O. BOX 1003,
TOWNSVILLE, Q. 4810

Dear Sir,

Re: T. Willmet & Sons Pty. Ltd.
-v- Black Community School
T. Willmet & Sons Pty. Ltd.
-v- United Torres Strait Islanders
Co-operative Trading Society.

With reference to your letter of 19th April, 1977, your
reference LAW:JLB, you are advised that the above organisations
are not funded by this Department.

Yours faithfully,

.....
MANAGER.

B/C The Director,
D.A.I.A.,
BRISBANE, Q. 4000

For your information.

U
MANAGER.....22-4-77

ROBERTS, LEU & NORTH,
Solicitors

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS—
"ROBLUNOR"

52-56 Denham Street,

P.O. BOX 1003

—
GEORGE VIVIAN ROBERTS

TELEPHONES—

71 5013, 71 5014
71 5015, 71 5016
71 5017

Townsville, 4810
NORTH QUEENSLAND

—
IAN HOUGHTON ROBERTS
COMMISSIONER FOR AFFIDAVITS FOR
NEW SOUTH WALES

—
GRAHAM HOUGHTON ROBERTS
COMMISSIONER FOR AFFIDAVITS FOR
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

YOUR REF.
OUR REF. LAW:JLB

—
PETER ANDISON ROBERTS
COMMISSIONER FOR AFFIDAVITS FOR
VICTORIA AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA

—
DAVID ROBERT GLASGOW
COMMISSIONER FOR AFFIDAVITS FOR
TASMANIA

19th April, 1977

—
RODNEY CECIL BARNES,
B.COM., LL.B.

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islander Affairs,
Alroy Chambers,
537 Flinders Street,
TOWNSVILLE. 4810

Dear Sir,

Re: T. Willmetts & Sons Pty. Ltd. -v- Black Community School
T. Willmetts & Sons Pty. Ltd. -v- United Torres Strait Islanders
Co-operative Trading Society

We write to advise that we act on behalf of the Plaintiff in this matter and the abovenamed debtors are indebted to our client for the total sum of \$123.83 being as follows:

Amount owing by Black Community School	\$ 67.82
Amount owing by United Torres Strait Islanders Co-operative Trading Society	66.01
	\$123.83

We understand that the abovenamed Defendants are Government Funded and we would be pleased if you would make payment or satisfactory arrangements for payment of the said amount within ten (10) days from today's date so as to avoid the institution of any legal proceedings.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Item ID 1238414

20 APR 1977

Yours faithfully,

Page 11 of 41

The Ray Institute of
 Agricultural Sciences
 located in Bhubaneswar
 Odisha

Dr. R. K.

so as to arrive by 15-1-76.

Black Community School Council

Applications are invited for the positions as:

- (1) Secretary for the Registrar.
- (2) Secretary for the Principal.

Further information regarding the above positions can be obtained personally from

Miss Lauraine Stanley,
 1st Floor,
 326 Sturt Street, City.

Black Community School Council

Applications are invited for 2 Primary School Teachers to teach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in Townsville.

This is a new and progressive school.

Only one of its kind in Australia.

Applicants please apply in writing to

The Registrar,
 P.O. Box 1793, Townsville.

Item ID 1238414

Page 13 of 41

AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

AUSTRALIAN
TELEGRAM



ABORIGINES 241 DELIVER

DEPT ABORIGINAL & ISLAND AFFAIRS
537 FLINDERS ST TOWNSVILLE Q 4810

TEB 240 = QN021 =

BRISBANE NORTH QUAY QLD 19 4.36P

ABORIGINES

TOWNSVILLE QLD

RE BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL COUNCIL MY LETTER 5TH JANUARY
1976 STOP WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR URGENT REPLY

ABORIGINES

(5TH Q T E 1976) 45

22 JAN 1976

*Received 8:40 am
22/1/76*

4.4.76

Item ID 1238414

Page 48

Page 14 of 41



DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL
AND ISLANDERS ADVANCEMENT,

TELEPHONES:
DIRECTOR 29 3113
GENERAL OFFICE 24 0515
EXT.....5726
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"ABORIGINES," BRISBANE

135-147 GEORGE STREET,
BRISBANE, Q. 4000.

5th January, 1976.

The Manager,
Department of Aboriginal and
Islanders Advancement,
Alroy Chambers,
537 Flinders Street,
TOWNSVILLE. Q. 4810

Re: Black Community School Townsville
Previous Correspondence

I have included correspondence received from the Land
Administration Commission and would appreciate your urgent commentary
upon the proposal made to the Commission by the Director of the Black
Community School Council.

[Handwritten Signature]
Director.

21 JAN 1976
[Handwritten initials]

Mr TOMUNSON

Land Administration Commission

10/655

IMPORTANT!
When replying quote this number:

75/37266 Towns.



LR

Department of Lands

Telephone 24-0515 Ext. 5896

When telephoning or calling please ask for

All Communications to be addressed to
The Secretary,
Land Administration Commission
P.O. Box 168
Brisbane North Quay 4000
Telegraphic Address
"Landcom"

Brisbane
ORIGINAL & ISLANDERS
ADVANCEMENT
10 DEC 1975
BRISBANE
Mr. McManara

15th December, 1975

Dear Sir,

RE: Proposed Reserve for Education and
Recreation purposes in the Paluma
Dam area.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter from
the Director of the Black Community School Council dated 27th June,
1975.

Would your Department please forward its views and comments
on the above proposal.

Yours faithfully,

J. French

Acting Secretary.

The Director,
Aboriginal and Island Affairs,
BRISBANE. Q. 4000

Black Community School Council

41 I lson Street
South Townsville
P.O. Box :
Phone :

Director Land Office
11 JUL 1975

Director's Address :
23 Hibiscus Street
Cranbrook
Phone : 79 4277

27th June 1975

Land Office,
TOWNVILLE.

Dear Sir,

The above organisation wishes to apply to be a trustee of 1,000 acres of land situated on the road leading to Paluma, Den.

We are interested in developing this land for education and recreation purposes. Our main aim is to establish a residential college for black children where these children will be taught normal academic subjects and basic of tropical herd culture and Agriculture ect..

Such college will be self supporting where produce from the land will be used by the college, similar to church runned colleges in Papua New Guinea and Pacific Islands.

I will be interested to have verbal discussion with your official in order to express any matters which I'm unable to express in writing.

Yours faithfully,

M. Mabo
Mddie Mabo
Director.

5726

16th May, 1974

The Secretary,
Department of Aboriginal Affairs,
P.O. Box 17,
WODEN. A.C.T. 2606

Dear Sir,

Re: Community School - Townsville
My Letter of 13th March
Your Ref. 73/1496

I am advised that the school recommenced operation on Monday, 11th March, 1974, and was attended by 12 students at that stage.

The Director-General of Education has not been able to take any further action in this matter as the school's Council has still not supplied the information required by the State Department of Education. An application for Establishment was placed before the Regional Director on 14th September, 1973, and in line with usual procedure the School Council was requested to provide additional data to support this request.

The President of the School Council interviewed the Regional Director of Education at Townsville late in March, 1974, and the need for this information was stressed. The President of the Council was urged to supply the data as soon as possible as the Department of Education was unable to take action without it.

The President of the School Council promised to make the data available but it has to date not been received. With reference to the final paragraph of your letter of 7/5/74 I will advise you at a later date of any data available.

B/C:
The Manager,
Dept. Aboriginal & Island Affairs,
Murray Chambers,
537 Flinders Street,
TOWNSVILLE. Q. 4810

Yours faithfully,

For your urgent attention please.


Director.

Director.....16/5/74

GF4 Mr Michael

JVD:CB
GF 4

Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
Townsville, Q. 4810
12th March, 74

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs,
BRISBANE, Q. 4000

Dear Sir,

Re: Black Community School

Contrary to my advice on 8/3/74, be advised that the Black Community School recommenced on Monday, 11/3/74.

Miss. Anwyl Burfein is the teacher in charge and twelve (12) students are attending.

5 children of
5 children of
2 Children of
(daughter of

Third party personal information

Yours faithfully,

.....
J. V. Dillon,
MANAGER.

Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
Townsville, Q. 4810
8th Merck, 74

The Director,
Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs,
BRISBANE, Q. 4000

Dear Sir,

Re: Black Community School

Be advised that this school has not re-opened this year.
Students attending last year have this term enrolled in
conventional state schools.

Yours faithfully,

.....
J. V. DILLON,
MANAGER.

Pat Bank

Termed

5/11/73

Course Name

Mou

0322

E + + 0

RTI REQUEST

Mr. Dillon,

Mr. Barker of

Educational Section

Aboriginal Affairs

Comber

to say arriving Monday

11/10 to 17/10

at the Black School

Would like to see you.

& also Principal Tom

Hugh.

all

1/1000

Have been 9/10/73 - for

all the 17th & 16th of

Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
Townsville. Q. 4810
14th September, 73

The Director,
Dept. Aboriginal & Island Affairs,
George Street,
BRISBANE. 4000 Q.

Re: Black Community School

Further to our letter of 13th September, please find
attached press cutting from today's Townsville Daily Bulletin.

Yours faithfully,

J.V. Dillon,
Manager

R

R

SPEAKING BY TELEPHONE FROM BRISBANE YESTERDAY, THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SIR ALAN FLETCHER, SAID THAT UP TO THE PRESENT TIME NO APPLICATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY HIS DEPARTMENT FOR THE SETTING UP OF ANOTHER SCHOOL IN TOWNSVILLE.

IF, HE ADDED, THE BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED WITHOUT HIS AUTHORITY AND IN ANTICIPATION OF HIS PRIOR APPROVAL, THEN IT "WAS OUTSIDE THE ACT AND ITS PRINCIPALS WERE NOT LEGALLY ENTITLED TO DO THIS".

THE MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE A SPECIAL SCHOOL COULD BE ESTABLISHED, ITS PROMOTERS "WERE OBLIGED TO COMPLY WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS".

MENTS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN FULFILLED IN THIS INSTANCE".

"THIS IS THE FIRST ~~XXXX~~ I HAVE HEARD OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL IN TOWNSVILLE" SIR ALAN SAID, "AND ALL I CAN SAY AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT I WOULD APPROVE OF A SCHOOL BASED ON SUCH HIGHLY PROVOCATIVE AND EMOTIONAL PRINCIPLES".

"IF OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM HAS FAILED, THEN WE SHOULD BE SHOWN WHERE IT HAS FAILED" HE ADDED.

"^ASUCH SEGREGATED APPROACH IS NOT LIKELY TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION AT ALL AND I CERTAINLY DO NOT APPROVE OF THIS MOVE".

Alroy Chambers, 537 Flinders Street,
Townsville. Q. 4810
13th September, 73

The Director,
Dept. Aboriginal & Island Affairs,
George Street,
BRISBANE. 4000 Q.

Re: Black Community School

Attached please find circular on abovenamed school prepared by Mr. Harry Penrith.

This school has been in operation now for some two weeks and already there would appear to be a certain amount of controversy over its existence.

It is not a legally constituted school and Bishop Faulkner has become involved in an incident which he is not fully aware of. Bishop Faulkner approved the use of the premises at South Townsville for additional tutorial work as required by additional groups. On his return to Townsville yesterday, he has found that he is running a "school".

It is believed that funds for Teachers salaries at this school are coming from Australian Union of Students in Melbourne. Teachers are working at a nominal rate of \$60.00 per week but as yet have received no funds.

During a recent meeting with Commonwealth Officers in Townsville at which some 77 Aborigines and Islanders attended this school was discussed rather heatedly.

The main supporters of the school are Eddie Mabo and Nicey Sambo and it is believed that [redacted]

Third party personal information [redacted]

This school will come to the notice of the public in a couple of days time through "Townsville Bulletin". Appropriate press clippings will be forwarded in due course.

Yours faithfully,

J.V. Dillon,
Manager

28th August, 1973.

BLACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL - TOWNSVILLE, NORTH
 QUEENSLAND

We are a group of black people who have come together with the common realisation that the Educational system of Queensland has failed miserably if success is measured by educational attainments and achievements of black people. One University and two Teachers College graduates from Queensland's black population over nearly 200 years is an insult to our race. We feel that teachers have done a magnificent job in perpetuating traditional retardation of black children through the normal school processes and unfortunately for us the scourge of racism continues to haunt the school classroom. It seems that teachers have not been made conscious of the degree to which they reflect the prejudices current in society and as a result they have not been encouraged to avoid these prejudices. The whole society is culpable.

We have therefore embarked on a brave and ambitious venture in establishing our Black Community School in Townsville. We are not educated and we are not experts in education. We have observed that most of our children are forced to lose interest in their schoolwork towards the end of their primary and first years of high school education. This very vital awakening period places great pressure on the black child and the little bit of confidence built up in the pre-school and early primary years is shattered overnight.

It is logical therefore for us to endeavour to seek alternatives which are going to maintain and increase black confidence. We are convinced that given the right environment in a situation where we can employ teachers of our choice, where, for a particular part of their education our children can be taught traditional pursuits in dancing, singing, cooking, fishing, hunting etc., as well as "normal" subjects, then we know they will respond. Our school will initially comprise a total of 10 pupils covering grades 5 to 8. The emotional security of being together during this vital stage and the advantage of three experienced teachers to give continuous personal tuition to each child will prepare them to flow back into the State high school education system better suited to cope with highly motivated classmates in their first real encounter with competitive society.

Our teachers include

Third party personal information

We are very fortunate that the Catholic Bishop of Townsville, Bishop Leonard A. Faulkner, in his continuing interest and concern for our advancement has kindly given us the use of his school property in South Townsville during Term III 1973. His stated wishes for success and assurance of support is very encouraging to us.

We are not endowed with material wealth and have to rely on support from friends and organisations like Abschol etc. Acquisition of furniture and other materials together with salaries for our teachers is a big problem at present. We hope

2.

that the Queensland Dept. of Education, the Queensland Dept. of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs and their Commonwealth counterparts will respond generously but we don't know what their reactions will be. Such a school has many precedents in both Australia and overseas. Certainly one of the Educational Aims embedded in Labor Policies is relevant to our school. Item 8 (a) in part says "The Australian Government to invoke its powers to grant benefits to students to meet the needs of disadvantaged children and to speed their progress to equality of status and opportunity" and Item 8 (b) "The Australian Government to make grants to the States to provide special schools and equipment, where appropriate, as adjuncts to normal schools, courses of training for specialist teachers, travelling allowances and residential accommodation".

Under the Queensland Education Act 1964-70 Part IV Compulsory Education Sections 28 and 30, the Minister for Education has been requested to recognise our school as being bonafide as well as satisfying him of the compulsory attendance clause.

Parent participation in our school is considered so important that the parents of the children automatically become members of the School Board.

Our Constitution is being drafted by Mr. D. Jones of the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Legal Service and will provide guidelines for operations.

The aims of the school are as follows:

1. To give black children an alternative education more suited to their needs.
2. To involve the children's parents and the community in these children's education.
3. To provide a satisfactory climate for the tuition of children who are academically oriented and motivated towards eventual tertiary education.
4. To be a focus around which the black community can operate.

Our children are capable and we have a duty to them to provide the right situation for their progressive education.

Penrith.

Harry Penrith,
1/28 Mitchell Street,
North Ward.
Townsville. Qld. 4810.