

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: IMP0086

Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders

(1958 - 1978)

Born 1 February, 1958, Australia

Died 31 December, 1978

Summary

The Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders developed out of a conference of interested groups who met in Adelaide in 1958. The meeting resulted in the formation of the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement and the election of the executive. Membership was opened to Aboriginal advancement organisations and to other organisations which supported the Council's platform to repeal discriminatory legislation at state and federal levels; amend the federal constitution to enable the Commonwealth Government to legislate for Aborigines; improve the lives of Aboriginal people through housing, equal pay, education and adequate rations in remote areas; and advocate land rights. In 1964, the organisation was renamed to include Torres Strait Islanders in the title, becoming the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.

One of FCAATSI's major campaigns was for constitutional change, which was instrumental in establishing the 1967 Referendum. FCAATSI membership was divided in 1970, after motions were put to reserve membership of the executive and voting rights at general meetings to people of Aboriginal or Islander descent. The National Tribal Council, run by and for Indigenous Australians, was subsequently formed as a separate organisation. In March 1978 FCAATSI changed its name to the National Aboriginal and Islander Liberation Movement, but this organisation never met. The same year, the federal government cut funding to the organisation, and it was disbanded.

Published resources

Book

Turning the tide : a personal history of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, Bandler, Faith, 1989

Journal Article

They spoke out pretty good: the leadership of women in the Brisbane Aboriginal rights movement, 1958/ 1962, Darling, Elaine, 1996

Witnesses from the conference floor : oral history and the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders [Paper in: Fresh Cuts: New Talents 2001, Ruinard, Elizabeth and Tilley, Elspeth (eds.)], Taffe, Susan, 2001

(The) 1967 (Referendum) and all that : narrative and myth, Aborigines and Australia., Attwood, Bain; Markus, Andrew, 1998

Cheeky, insolent and anti white: the split in the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders: Easter 1970, Read, Peter, 1990

From Sydney to Tingha: early days in the Aboriginal/ Australian Fellowship, Horner, Jack, 1987

Aboriginal health: some of the political issues involved, Briscoe, Gordon, 1981

The Commonwealth Referendum of 1967 and Australian Indigenous citizenship : an interpretation of historical events, Tripcony, Penny, 2001

Edited Book

The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture, Horton, David, 1994

Australian Feminism: A Companion, Caine, Barbara, Gatens, Moira et al., 1998

Book Section

What FCAATSI fought for, Joe McGinness, 1991

Aboriginal women and economic ingenuity [Changing white perceptions of Aboriginal culture and the role of women in that culture], Langton, Marcia; Barry, Kristen, 1998

Representation matters : the 1967 referendum and citizenship, Attwood, Bain; Markus, Andrew, 1998

Newspaper Article

An Aboriginal activist talks about her life, Boyle, Helen, 1982

F.C.A.A.T.S.I. Conference / "Aborigines in Politics", 1974

Resource Section

Guide to the Papers of Charles Perkins, National Library of Australia, 2002,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-291812290/findingaid>

Conference Proceedings

Reports and resolutions, Conference on Aboriginal Affairs (8th : 1965 : Canberra, A.C.T.), 1965

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Shirley Andrews interviewed by Peter Read in the Peter Read collection of interviews conducted for his book entitled, Charles Perkins : a biography \[sound recording\]](#)

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Papers of Jack and Jean Horner, 1956-2003 \[manuscript\]](#)

[Papers of Charles Perkins, 1956-1993 \[manuscript\]](#)

AIATSIS Manuscript and Rare Books Collection

[Annual report by N.S.W. State Secretary](#)

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[Collection 01: Faith Bandler papers, 1968-1992](#)

[Collection 02: Faith Bandler further papers, 1875, 1945-1997](#)

Fryer Library and Department of Special Collections

[Daisy Marchisotti Papers](#)

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