

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER:

1. The Government affirms that it is committed to work for a negotiated Treaty with Aboriginal people.
2. The Government sees the next step as Aborigines deciding what they believe should be in the Treaty.
3. The Government will provide the necessary support for Aboriginal people to carry out their own consultations and negotiations: this could include the formation of a Committee of seven senior Aborigines to oversee the process and to call an Australia-wide meeting or Convention.
4. When the Aborigines present their proposals the Government stands ready to negotiate about them.
5. The Government hopes that these negotiations can commence before the end of 1988 and will lead to an agreed Treaty in the life of this Parliament.

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