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**Title:**  
Speech notes at College of Aboriginal Education Certificate Ceremony

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Mr. Ingram, Mr. Bourke, ladies and gentlemen :

Thank you very much for inviting me to present the certificates to the latest graduates of the College of Aboriginal Education.

It's an invitation I was delighted to receive and which - as a former Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in South Australia - I was determined to accept.

I wanted to be here last year but unfortunately was overseas at the time and I wasn't going to miss out again this year. In fact, I flew back early from today's Premiers' meeting in Melbourne to ensure that I'd make it.

No-one in the audience tonight will be unaware of the tragic history of relations between the settler European and the Aboriginal communities in South Australia - a story of initial dispossession and brutal indifference yielding only in comparatively recent times to irrelevant paternalism and characterised at all times by an arrogant ignorance of the nature and quality of Aboriginal society.

Now I believe this is changing.

I think that future historians will look back on the 70's as the time when Australia's black and white communities finally came to terms with each other on the basis of mutual respect and individual integrity.

If I'm right and I most sincerely hope I am, it will not be because of any changes in Governmental policy or administration or, indeed, of any white Australian initiative.

It will be because of the efforts and the exertions of the Aboriginal people of Australia asserting their rights and securing them.

We are now witnessing a great Aboriginal cultural and political renaissance - which finds expression art, in literature and in blunt demands to be treated on its own terms.

It is inevitable that those in the vanguard - the leaders of the Aboriginal community - should be impatient and at times angry.

I'm glad to see it in the sense that it's an anger that has already obtained impressive results and which can bring still more.

The Aboriginal people have been denied their rightful place in Australian society for two centuries. They are now taking it and we, the other Australians, must accept the fact.

In South Australia I'm proud of the way in which in recent years we've been able to facilitate this process.

I'm especially proud of the part I was able to play in it personally - in the introduction of the Prohibition of Discrimination Act and the formation of the Lands Trust.

The establishment of the College of Aboriginal Education was a similar step and a reflection of the same philosophy.

It is not somebody imposed on the Aboriginal community by a well-meaning but non-comprehending Government. It is an instillation which the Aboriginal community, and especially its students, can use for their needs, to serve them and to assist them in their own problems.

Started with both State and Commonwealth Government support, I am delighted that the Federal Government has now provided the guarantees necessary for it to continue its work at least until the end of 1978.

I believe that the work of the College, not only in training but also in its communications activities among both communities, is invaluable.

Mr. Ingram said in inviting me tonight that the College "seems to have had some success".

He was, I suggest, over-modest as is most convincingly shown by the number and calibre of tonight's graduates.

Thank You.

SPEECH NOTES FOR THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, AT COLLEGE OF ABORIGINAL  
EDUCATION CERTIFICATE CEREMONY. ADELAIDE. 23.4.75.

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