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# **New South Wales Committee on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation**

**In 1973, the Federal Government set up a series of Committees to look into and to try to resolve discrimination in employment. The Committees were set up in each State to try to remove discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction and social origin. Other kinds of discrimination (such as age and criminal record) may also be looked at. Discrimination against Aborigines would usually occur because of their race and/or colour.**

The State Committees consist of 5 members: an independent chairman, representatives of trade unions and employers and representatives of the State and Federal Governments, with a full-time Executive Officer. The State Committees investigate individual cases of discrimination.

There is also a National Committee which formulates policy and looks at discrimination issues at the national level as well as those referred by the State Committees. This Committee has Government, employer and union representatives like the State Committees, but the National Committee has 3 additional representatives covering Aborigines, immigrants and women, the groups which are most often the victims of discrimination in employment in Australia. The representative of Aborigines is Mr Chicka Dixon, Liaison Officer with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Discrimination in employment may take a number of forms: being unable to obtain a job for which you are capable, entry into a particular

occupation, pay and other conditions of employment, being able to gain access to vocational training including apprenticeship, promotion and dismissal.

If you think you have encountered discrimination in your job or in trying to get a job, the State Committee will try to help you.

You should contact the Executive Officer to the Committee, either by telephone, by personal interview or in writing. However, eventually a complaint must be put in writing.

The information you should give is your name and address, the employer and job involved, why you think the discrimination occurred, when and how it occurred. If there is written evidence, or you have someone who can support your case, this would be very useful.

The Executive Officer of the N.S.W. Committee is Patricia Campbell who is located in the Australian Government Centre, Chifley Square, Sydney. If you are writing the address is P.O. Box 2725, Sydney 2001. Telephone 20343, extension 3459. In country centres, if advice is needed on how to make a complaint, you can get in touch with the local vocational officer of the Department of Labour and Immigration or a member of the Aboriginal Legal Service.

If you know of a case of discrimination in employment or if you think you have been the victim of discrimination in employment or if you want any further information, then get in touch with the Committee immediately, either by phone or in writing.