

GEELONG & DISTRICT ABORIGINAL  
CO-OPERATIVE

6a Eastern Beach Pde.,  
GEELONG 3220

10 JUL 1981

TO: GARY FOLEY

RELEVANT DETAILS RE CO-OP'S

PRESENT FUNCTIONING

- This Co-operative has been operative since the 1st. April 1980 on a Special Works Grant. During this time it was the task of the secretary through the Directors, to collect information and statistics on the needs of the Aboriginal community in the area.
- It was found that the most pressing need of the Aboriginal people in this area was to establish a Cultural Centre. The establishment of such a centre is imperative if the Aboriginal is to SURVIVE in Geelong. It was felt that the Centre should provide all relevant information in the way of literature, films etc. and that it should be a place where the Aboriginal families of the area can meet and make contact.
- The Co-op. functions at present as a referral service to other organizations in relation to employment, housing, general education and welfare.
- A morning programme is held for women in the area
- The Co-op. has a very limited number of artifacts
- The Co-op. has a very limited range of relevant literature for its members
- The initial Special Works Grant expired in March of this year; there was an extension of \$3,740.00 which was meant to keep us operational until June.
- The present situation is DESPERATE with the Co-op. attempting to function without any staff and the Directors trying to meet the needs of the people on a purely voluntary basis.
- Tremendous interest has been shown by the local District Inspector of Schools for a Cultural Centre to be established at the Co-op., where classes would

visit. This would provide a further extension to the children's education by learning something of the Aboriginal history and culture with emphasis placed upon local history and sacred sites etc.

- FUNDING IS DESPERATELY NEEDED NOW FOR OUR CO-OP.  
AND WE REQUEST YOUR ASSISTANCE.

Thanking you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. W. Edwards'.

Trevor Edwards

Chairman.