



VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Chief Executive Officer: Mr. G. Austin
Chair Person: Mr. A. Brown
Treasurer: Mrs. A. Thorpe
Medical Directors: Dr. W. Roberts

136 Gertrude Street,
Fitzroy 3065
Phone: 419 3000
Fax: 417 3897

22nd April 1992

Committee Member,
National Committee of Reconciliation,
Canberra, ACT
Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: "BUILDING BRIDGES" TV SPECIAL

I write to express my support for the submission from the "Building Bridges" organisation, and to provide you with a little background information. In recent times many eminent Australians, including the Prime Minister and the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, have strongly emphasised the need for the broader Australian community to change their perceptions and attitudes toward Koori's, and the need to develop effective community awareness programmes to achieve this.

In that context, the "Building Bridges" project must be the most successful community education programme yet attempted. This is because the project has managed to involve virtually all of the best known names in the Australian Rock and Roll industry and has aimed the message at young people via music, thus having instant and broad appeal. Up till now the "Building Bridges" project has involved a series of major concerts around Australia; a highly successful double album which featured donated songs from such groups as INXS, Midnight Oil, Yothu Yindi, Paul Kelly, Crowded House and Archie Roach; and significant collaborations between Koori and non-Koori musicians, e.g. Paul Kelly and Archie Roach.

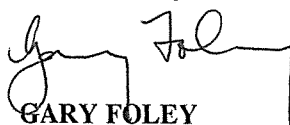
The thousands of young Australians, Koori and non-Koori, who have attended our concerts, and/or who have bought our records, have always responded positively to the underlying message of the "Building Bridges" project, and we believe we have shown that it is possible to communicate in a positive, constructive and effective manner whilst having a good time; this is without doubt the secret of our success.

The next logical step for the "Building Bridges" project has been to produce for television a "Special" which would incorporate all the elements of the concerts and the album, ie entertainment with an important, subtle anti-racist message. The fact that we already have on film such internationally renowned groups such as INXS, Crowded House, Yothu Yindi etc, must necessarily increase the possibility of it appearing on commercial television and thus reach a mass audience not usually available to us.

That this film project has reached the stage it has with miniscule expenditure is in itself remarkable, especially when one considers that if the artists already on film had not waived their normal fees it would have cost us \$1million in contracts alone. Such commitment to the basic idea of "Building Bridges" by so many top Australian musicians augurs well for the success not only the TV Special, but the future of the "BuildingBridges" project generally.

I therefore would strongly urge your Committee to support financially this "Building Bridges" submission for assistance on the grounds that this is a proven, cost effective and highly successful project which can only enhance the Committee's desire to urgently implement positive community education programmes.

I thank you for your time,
Yours Sincerely,



GARY FOLEY

Chairperson, "Building Bridges" Committee 1991-92
Secretary, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service



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