

26711

ATT: Ms Lesley Fogarty
Director
Aboriginal Arts Unit
Australia Council

FRM: Gary Foley
On behalf of Chicka Dixon

DATE: 17th June 1994

RE: APPLICATION FORMS FOR CHICKA DIXON

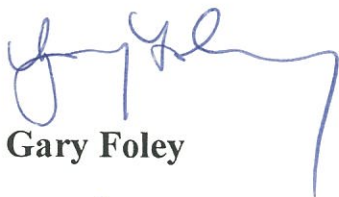
I am trying to get the preliminary information on Chicka' application to the Literature Panel to you this afternoon. I apologise for cutting it fine, but it has been very difficult to get together with him over the past 4 months because of mutual commitments. The final delay happened accidentally when Chicka became sick when he finally got to Melbourne.

His frail health has prevented me from meeting with him today, so final complete application information will be compiled this weekend and on your desk on Monday.

Thank you for your patience, as I believe this is probably our one and only chance to get this important book out of this amazing man.

Further info will be faxed later today and other info will be posted express post on Sunday.

Yours sincerely



Gary Foley

Ph. (03) 4193000

OR

(03) 4863174 (A.H.)

1. APPLICANT

Background:
Chicka Dixon
born
place

2. PROJECT

To conduct extensive research to enable me to write a history of the Aboriginal struggle from a personal perspective. The period I would be researching and writing about would be from the 1930's to the present day. As a person who was involved at the highest level of some of the most important events in Aboriginal history, I feel that I am uniquely placed to tell the story of those historic struggles. but equally important as the inside story of the Aboriginal political struggle, I also want to weave in my personal story of my successful battle with alcohol and how that affected my ultimate life path.

In other words I want to tell the story of one Blackfella's battle to survive, which in the end is the story of all Koori's struggle.

DATE PROJECT WILL START: 1st August 1994

3. AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM ABORIGINAL ARTS COMMITTEE: \$20,000

4: PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS: Nil

5: PROJECT:

AIMS:

To research a book which, through the telling of one mans journey through life, will provide both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people with a basic understanding of what it has meant to be a Koori in S.E. Australia over the past 60 years.

Such a story, filled as it is with thousands of remarkable Koori people who have shared the difficult path that I have travelled, can only give all Australians a deeper understanding of the Koori experience. This greater understanding is vitally important if Australia is to be a mature, independant republic in 2000 AD, but it seems to me today that too few (even young Koories) know the true story

of the heroic Aboriginal struggle for justice over the past 50 years.

This story is important for all young Australians to know because it is very much part of all our heritage. There can be no genuine reconcilliation without a greater awareness of our people's struggles and victories. My involvement in many of those struggles over the past 40 years gives me a unique insight and perspective on those struggles, and may I suggest that my "gift of the gab" will enhance the humanity of the side that I want to present.

My political involvement through the 1960's "Freedom Rides", the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs with Charles Perkins in the mid 1960's, establishment of the first Legal and Health Services, the Aboriginal Embassy in 1972, Chairmanship of the Aboriginal Arts Board 1981-84, being the first Aboriginal on the Australia Council, and extensive involvement in the arts and bureaucracy in recent years, places me in a unique position to be able to bring all of those stories to life on the page.

Because in recent times I have been urged to pass on my knowledge, and because I feel that many of our own people either dont know or have forgotten the basic priciples and values that we in the struggle fought for, I now feel ready and prepared to commit myself to this project.

I feel that now is the time for Australians to know and learn much more about us and what we have been through. Some of the people who will feature in the story (those living will be interviewed if possible) include:-

Mr Charles Perkins, Deputy-Chairperson, ATSIC
Mr Bruce MacGuinness, Chairperson, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
Ms Lois Odonohue, Chair, ATSIC
Prof Di Yerbury, Vice-Chancellor, Macquarie University, Sydney.
Mr Clyde Holding, former Minister for the Arts & Aboriginal Affairs.
Dr H.C. Coombes, economic advisor to 7 Australian Prime Ministers
Mr Bob Hawke, Former Prime Minister.
Mr Malcolm Fraser, Former Prime Minister.
Fred Hollows, eye doctor.
Shirley "Mum Shirl" Smith, Redfern identity.

Lyne Thompson, " " plus literally thousands of the "colourful" characters that have walked in and out of my life for the past sixty years.

The result of this project will hopefully be that I will be able to ultimately produce a book that will contribute toward a greater mutual understanding between people in Australia, by way of a deeper realisation of the adversity that Koori peoples have had to battle against in this society, and an admiration for the spirit and humour that has helped Aboriginal people stay sane and optimistic through the worst.

If the stories I have to tell about people and struggle don't move readers to a higher understanding, then rest assured, nothing will!

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GENERAL METHADODOLOGY

It has been in part because my health is failing that I have decided that now is the time for me to do this project, but that also means that my health requires that I be able to urgently employ a Koori research person who would :-

- a) assist in the research, collection, archiving and compilation of relevant documents, photographs, films, statistical data and personal tape recordings of relevant persons, etc.
- b) travel on my behalf to visit various people and places in S.E. Australia, that have been part of my life experience, to conduct research and interviews.
- c) conduct a series of tape-recorded interviews with me over an eight month period. Between each session, to transcribe and draft edit transcripts.
- d) to assist in the editing and drafting of the final manuscript.

PRELIMINARY VISIT ITINERARY

A very preliminary list of places that I would expect need at least one visit, would include :-

SYDNEY - Aboriginal Medical, Legal, Housing, Alcohol rehab, prisoners services; Trades Hall; Mitchell Library; ATSIC; Dept of Health; Hollows Foundation; the Australia Council; Tranby College; Long Bay and Paramatta Gaols; a host of gymnasiums, pubs, theatres, two-up schools and TAB's, and wharves, to name but a few.

MELB. - Aborigines Advancement League, Vic. Aboriginal Health service, Legal and Child Care services, and numerous other Koori, arts, trade union, prisoner and alcohol rehab services and organisations.

CANBERRA- DAA/ATSIC, Institute of Aboriginal Studies, ANU National Art Gallery, Government House, Parliament House (old and new), many embassies and ambassadors numerous politicians and public servants, past and present.

BRISBANE- Aboriginal Health, Legal, Housing, and prisoners organisations, Boggo Road Gaol, and many other people and organisations.

PLUS - Many small towns on the south and north coast of NSW. Numerous incidents and people need to be researched and interviewed to piece together the extraordinary personal experiences and encounters over 60 years that have shaped my present being.

NOTE:

A detailed itinerary will be determined in conjunction with whoever is selected as my Koori research person. Until I know who that is and their availability to conduct this work, I am unable to provide a more detailed proposed itinerary.

CONDUCT OF PROJECT

STAGE 1:

It is anticipated that the most arduous part of the travel and research will be conducted on my behalf by an appropriately qualified and experienced **Koori** research person. Whilst I am considering several possibilities at the moment, (none of whom have been approached) the final choice

is dependant upon their availability and what I might be able to offer. But the most important pre-requisite for the research person is that they be an experienced and politically qualified Koori.

STAGE 2:

Once a significant part of the research material is compiled, tape-recorded sessions will begin. I expect that once taping sessions begin, that a first-draft version of a book will emerge from the transcription and each follow-up session.

STAGE 3:

Will be the development from research material and tape transcripts into a draft final version of a manuscript. Again, my research person will play a vital role in assisting me with this stage, but I will not consider the project complete until I have a version of the final draft that I feel is a genuine statement from me.

NOTE:

I propose to conduct the project in the manner described because my present health prevents me from being fully involved in the more arduous aspects of the research, travel and transcription work.

The result of this project will hopefully be that I will be able to ultimately produce a book that will contribute toward a greater mutual understanding between people in Australia, by way of a deeper realisation of the adversity that Koori peoples have had to battle against in this society, and an admiration for the spirit and humour that has helped Aboriginal people stay sane and optimistic through the worst.

If the stories I have to tell about people and struggle don't move readers to a higher understanding, then rest assured, nothing will!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I believe that extensive community support, both Koori and non-Koori, exists for this project. Included among the numerous who have indicated their support, are :-

Ms Lois O'Donohue, Chairperson, ATSIC

Mr Charles Perkins, Deputy Chair of ATSIC

Mr Bruce McGuinness, Chairperson, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service

Mr Gary Foley, President, Melb Aboriginal Education Ass. Inc (MAEAI)

Mr Alf Bamblett, ATSIC Commissioner, Victoria.

Aborigines Advancement League (AAL) Vic.

Prof. Di Yerbury, MacQuarie University

Mr Gary Murray, Yuroke Aboriginal Students, Melbourne University,

Mr E.G. Whitlam, former P.M.

and vitually any Aboriginal organisation in Australia, were you to ask.

ATTACHMENT #C

PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Total Amount Sought : \$20,000: 00

Proposed expenditure :

Research Person

	\$
Fees.....	5,000:00
Travel & expenses.....	3,500:00
Office expenses (phone, fax, materails etc).....	1,500:00
contingencies.....	1,500:00
	SUB-TOTAL.....11,500:00

C. DIXON

Allowance.....	5000:00
Travel & expenses.....	2000:00
Phone and materials costs.....	1000:00
	SUB-TOTAL.....8,000:00

SUNDRIES.....500:00

TOTAL....\$20,000:00

ATTACHMENT #A

2.PROJECT

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In other words I want to tell the story of one Blackfella's battle to survive, which in the end is the story of all Koori's struggle.

By bringing this story to life, I would hope to give all people an insight into the contemporary Koori experience that will hopefully help them begin to understand we are human beings. I think I have been able to do that through my talks for the past 30 years, and I now think the time has come for me to record it all in one go for future generations of our young pople to know what it was like.

Please allow me the chance to do it finally.

Thank you.

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