

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITYABORIGINAL STUDIESANNUAL REPORT 1977FACULTY OF ARTS

1978 is the first year in which most people have been able to complete a major in Aboriginal Studies. It is difficult to establish exactly how many students majored in the subject but it would appear to be about thirty. Total enrolment in the courses that make up the major was 191.

This level of student interest reflects an Australia wide trend that has seen the establishment of 28 courses of Aboriginal Studies at Colleges of Advanced Education and twelve at Universities.

The A.N.U. course stands out from those at most other institutions because all its units are taught by well qualified people whose major field of specialization and research interest is Australia. Consequently the courses are of a high standard and all can form part of a major in the department in which they are taught. With the introduction of Aboriginal Studies programmes into secondary schools, interest in the major and sub-major is likely to be maintained.

It is also rewarding to note that a small but increasing number of Aborigines are interested in the courses.

Future of the Major

The major problem for the course during the next two years is the absence of any clear commitment on the part of the History Department to continue teaching Aboriginal history. The only person committed to teaching Aboriginal history and race relations is on a short term appointment and is not likely to be replaced with a person competent to teach in this area.

Two new courses are being considered for 1979 and 1980. Professor Seagrim is looking at the possibility of a unit on Aboriginal Cognitive Development and Professor Dixon a more general course on Aboriginal language that will be accessible to students without the specialist prerequisites required for A12.

Student Numbers

The enrolment numbers for the courses in the major during 1977 were:

History 2/3N	30
Linguistics A12	13
Anthropology B5	70
Prehistory B4	38
Sociology B17	40
	<u>191</u>

This level of student interest indicates not only the concern with understanding Aboriginal society but also in the intellectual benefits to be gained by interdisciplinary studies. A number of students have volunteered

Conclusion

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