

INTRODUCTION

C.1 In this Part, the Committee examines issues (other than the strictly legal issues canvassed in Chapters 3-6 above), which will require consideration by the parties during the negotiation and implementation stages of a compact. In Chapter 7 we discuss the objectives of a compact, because it became clear to us during the inquiry that the compact proposal must compete with many other objectives which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities seek to attain. At the same time, it is useful for the non-Aboriginal community to assess the purpose of a compact from its own perspective.

C.2 The question of who should be the parties to a compact is a significant issue which emerged from the Committee's evidence. While it is apparent that the Commonwealth is the appropriate party to represent the non-Aboriginal community, the issue of who should represent the Aboriginal community is not so clear and was raised frequently during the hearings. Chapter 8 examines this question and draws some conclusions.

C.3 It emerged during the Committee's inquiry that the idea of a compact is not well understood in either community. It will be a necessary precondition for the successful conclusion of a compact that there be dissemination of further information to enable a full understanding of the compact idea. In Chapter 9, the Committee discusses ways in which this could be done.

C.4 A further significant issue is that of the timetable for negotiating and implementing a compact. It has been suggested, for example, that 1988 is a possible date for concluding the compact. In Chapter 10 the Committee discusses problems inherent in this timetable.

