

21st November, 1961.

Dr W.E.H. Stanner,  
University House,  
Acton A.C.T.

Dear Dr Stanner,

I am anxious to obtain immediate financial assistance in order to continue my work on Aboriginal music. But before applying to the Australian National University for a research scholarship, I wonder if you would be kind enough to advise me regarding the kind of application I should make.

As you know, I have been engaged in post-graduate musicological research in this Department for some years. Since completing my M.A. degree in 1957, I have received 3 full-time University Research (Studentship) grants. Last month I applied for an extra year -and Professor Peart and Professor Geddes supported my application- but it seems that I have now had my full share. The University Research Committee is not prepared to assist me any further.

Professor Peart has asked me to continue with part-time teaching (in Ethnomusicology), next year, but the proceeds from this work would be scarcely more than £100 a year.

Had I received a grant, it was my intention to apply for Ph.D. candidature in this University. And now my first query is: could this still be done with a research grant from the A.N.U.?

On the other hand, if I were to apply to the A.N.U. for admission as a candidate for a Ph. D. in Ethnomusicology the field, itself, may prove to be an obstacle.

For my present project on Australian aboriginal song-rhythms I have already had much valuable assistance from Mr W. Douglas (Kalgoorlie) and Mr T.G.H. Strehlow. Next year I should like to investigate representative song-styles further north with regard to the words/music relationships. And Dr Capell has agreed to help me here with Arnhem Land texts.

Ultimately, my intention is to summarize my investigations (including M.A. work on the intervallic structure of aboriginal singing) and to publish it in book form. I have already taken the matter up with Cheshire's (Melbourne) and they like the idea. But they would only undertake the work if some financial aid were guaranteed.

If some preliminary work in Anthropology be required I am quite keen to do this; also, if necessary, to spend some time at University overseas. I should be very glad to have your advice on the matter.

Yours sincerely,