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0521627362 - Citizenship and Indigenous Australians: Changing Conceptions and Possibilities - Edited by Nicolas Peterson and Will Sanders

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## CITIZENSHIP AND INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

### Changing Conceptions and Possibilities

For most of Australia's colonial history Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders have been denied full membership of Australian society. This book examines the history of indigenous peoples' citizenship status and asks, 'It is possible for indigenous Australians to be members of a common society on equal terms with others?' Leading commentators from a range of disciplines examine historical conceptions of indigenous civil rights, consider issues arising from recent struggles for equality and consider possibilities for multicultural citizenship that recognise difference. Topics include self-determination, the 1967 referendum, resource development, whether Australian Aborigines *and* white Australians can belong, the international law context, and sovereignty. This book makes a crucial intervention in current debates by providing the context for understanding struggles over distinctive indigenous rights.

Nicolas Peterson is a reader in anthropology at the Australian National University. He has had a long-term involvement with land rights issues, beginning with his work as research officer for the Woodward Royal Commission into Aboriginal Land Rights. He has taught at universities in the USA and Canada and, apart from publishing widely in key journals, is the author or editor of five books on Aboriginal issues. Will Sanders is a research fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University. He has published widely, and edited *Mabo and Native Title: Origins and Institutional Implications*.

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EDITED BY

NICOLAS PETERSON

AND

WILL SANDERS



**CAMBRIDGE**  
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## *Preface*

This book arose from a conference on citizenship and indigenous Australians. When we originally started thinking about that conference, we imagined a small workshop in which there would be only limited interest. As it turned out, there was much greater interest than we had expected – in part, we believe, because citizenship provides a focus for people with diverse interests in Aboriginal studies and can energise interdisciplinary discussion. It enables academics, indigenous people and policy makers to meet on common ground because it brings together, within a single framework, theoretical debates, political issues and practical concerns. It also provides a key focus for reconciliation and dialogue between indigenous and other Australians.

The conference was sponsored by three bodies from within the Australian National University: the Reshaping Australian Institutions project of the Research School of Social Sciences; the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research; and the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology. Participation was sought from numerous indigenous and non-indigenous people and organisations. Yet, disappointingly, very few indigenous people eventually took part. One reason for this was that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) called, at short notice, a major meeting of indigenous organisations to be held at the same time as the conference, and several people who had planned to attend our citizenship conference felt compelled to go to the meeting.

We would like to thank Jon Altman for his unfailingly generous support for the whole project; Jack Barbalet and Barry Hindess for helpful advice; and Richard Eves and Rebecca Morphy for invaluable help in organising the conference and subsequently in preparing the manuscript for publication.

NP & WS

*Abbreviations*

AA	Australian Archives
ABM	Australian Board of Missions
ALP	Australian Labor Party
AGPS	Australian Government Publishing Service
ANRC	Australian National Research Council
APNR	Association for the Protection of Native Races
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
AWB	Aborigines Welfare Board
CAR	Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs
DEIP	Department of Employment and Industrial Relations
DSS	Department of Social Security
EP	Elkin Papers
FCAATSI	Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders
HALT	Healthy Aboriginal Life Team
HREOC	Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination
JSA	Job Search Allowance
NAC	National Aboriginal Conference
NACC	National Aboriginal Consultative Committee
NMC	National Missionary Council
NPY	Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjara
NRMA	National Roads and Motorists Association

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NSA	Newstart Allowance
NTA	Native Title Act
RDA	Racial Discrimination Act
UB	unemployment benefit