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Sherbrooke 'sit-in' to end

ABORIGINAL protestor Mr Lin Onus will end his sit-in at Sherbrooke Forest in the Dandenongs next weekend.

This was announced yesterday after talks between Mr Onus and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Meagher.

Mr Meagher offered to find accommodation for Mr Onus, and suggested that a "round-house" built by Mr Onus in the forest remain as a public amenity.

In a joint statement, Mr Meagher and Mr Onus said the sit-in had succeeded in drawing attention to aboriginals' land rights.

The statement said the protestors at Sherbrooke had acted in a manner which clearly indicated their integrity and responsibility.

Mr Meagher said a plaque would be put on the round-house.

It would read: "This round-house has been preserved for public use. It was erected by a small group of Victorian aboriginals as a gesture of protest.

"Its message to all Australians is simple — aboriginals as citizens of this country are entitled to the opportunity to own the land on which they reside, thus enjoying the dignity of equality under the law."

Mr Meagher said if Mr Onus wished to buy a house, the Aboriginal Affairs Department would give him a grant of \$1500.

If Mr Onus wanted to rent a house the department would buy it and fix the rent according to Mr Onus's capacity to pay.