

Aboriginals set up militant Black Panther movement

QUEENSLAND black power militant Dennis Walker, 25, and seven teenage Aboriginals yesterday formed the first Black Panther Party in Australia.

"I'm sure it's going to be a success," Mr Walker said, "and I reckon that we will have at least 100 young members within six months."

The party, announced at a meeting in Brisbane, will be patterned on the U.S. Black Panther movement.

"The Black Panthers will be the vanguard for all depressed people, and in Australia the Aboriginals are the most depressed of all," Mr Walker said.

First moves would be to set up a black community newspaper, a free child-minding centre, a free legal service and a free health clinic.

USE ARMS

"There are eight Aboriginal organisations in Brisbane now and we will also be trying to co-ordinate the work of them all," Mr Walker said.

Mr Walker said he assumed the role of minister for defence in the party.

He stressed that the Brisbane party would be militant but added he did not yet know what form of militant action would be taken.

"At present we are studying the Firearms Act but in Queensland the Government has us pretty well tied up on reserves," he said.

"Maybe the first time we could justify the use of arms would be if we could get some Aboriginal community to defend itself from police."

The party's platform and rules were distributed at last night's meeting.

Rule 16 says: "All Panthers must learn to operate and service weapons correctly."

The rules also said members should not be "drunk or loaded from narcotics or weed" and should read for at least two hours a day to keep abreast of the changing political situation.

Australian 19th January 1972