

# Mr Perkins to lay racism charges

Senior Aboriginal public servant Mr Charles Perkins said last night he would proceed with charges of racism in employment against his department head, Mr Barrie Dexter, with the Department of Labor's discrimination in employment committee.

Mr Perkins said he had decided to take the action after a "fruitless" talk yesterday with Mr Dexter in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Mr Perkins, an assistant secretary with the department, said he had decided to accept a grant from the Australian Council for the Arts of

his role of being in charge of the department's consultation division.

"I have been doing what is termed 'special duties'," Mr Perkins said. "It is a totally nebulous job and has forced me to make the decision to accept the grant".

Mr Perkins said he had asked Mr Dexter yesterday for a more contributing role in the department.

"He only ho-hummed and has made it plain that he does not want to work with me", he said.

"He is a racist and has got to be sacked immediately. He has infringed upon the Aborigines' rights for good housing, education and health".

Mr Perkins said that he as an individual was not willing to conform to Mr Dexter's "grand design" for Aborigines in Australia.

"I, as an individual, will not conform and Aborigines generally will not conform and Mr Dexter is getting more paranoid", he said



Mr Perkins

\$11,000 and would apply for a year's leave without pay today to begin work under it.

Mr Perkins said that Mr Dexter had, before Christmas, taken him off his role of being in charge of the depart-

Mr Dexter

"I am proceeding with my case against Mr Dexter to the Department of Labor's discrimination in employment committee of racism in employment by him".

Mr Perkins said he had written to the committee and the committee had written back to him about his charges.

He said he had spoken with his wife last night on his decision and they had decided to accept the grant.

## Write books, make films

The grant was made so Mr Perkins could write a number of books and make films on Aborigines. He would also undertake lecture tours.

He said it was fruitless to appeal to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, as Mr Dexter had him "tied up".

Mr Dexter declined last night to comment on statements made by Mr Perkins. He said he thought Mr Perkins' application for 12 months' leave without pay from the department would have to go to the Public Service Board. Periods of up to six months were handled by the department head.



Mr Dexter