

Budget rocks black community

ANGER, SHOCK AT \$33M CUT

TOWNSVILLE: "It is shocking that \$33 million has been cut from Aboriginal Affairs" said Evelyn Scott, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Townsville.

"I can't see that Blacks are going to sit back and cop this. God only knows what future budgets might hold. We've got to stand and be counted ... we're likely to see demonstrations again."

Commenting on the \$15 million cut in Aboriginal housing Evelyn Scott said "The present government's attitude is obviously that guns and bombs are more important than people.

"I know what will happen in Queensland when responsibility for housing is handed back to the states. At Palm Island reserve they have

already programmed houses for white administration and not one house for black families."

IN SYDNEY, Black lawyer, Pat O'Shane told **Tribune** that despite government commitments to raising Aboriginal living standards, the budget cuts meant "that they're going to be further under the poverty line.

"They talked of a high priority for education but cut spending on Aboriginal education by 15 per cent, while increasing allocations to non government schools.

"It shows a racist attitude to the problems of the Aboriginal people - Dr Coombs said some time ago that if the problems of the Aboriginal

time ago that if the problems of the Aboriginal people weren't solved by the end of the century they would be a lost race forever. And I think these cut-backs certainly put Aborigines a long long way back - pre 1972.

"There will be deep-felt anger and despondency in some quarters, and justifiably so. The rate of Aboriginal unemployment has been running at approximately 40 per cent in recent months, and I think we can expect an even higher rate as a result of these cuts."□

