

Nine writs issued after Aborigines allegedly barred

SYDNEY: Nine writs alleging defamation against a Sydney publican "or his agent" who on Thursday night allegedly barred a group of Aborigines from a hotel, were filed in the District Court in Sydney late yesterday.

Each plaintiff is claiming \$20,000 damages.

On Thursday night a group of Aboriginal actors went to the Gladstone Hotel in Regent Street for a drink before taking part in the Australian Broadcasting Commission production of 'The Cake Man', a film about racial discrimination.

The actors alleged that the publican or his agent, stood at the front door and said "We don't serve blacks here, get out", then slammed the door.

Mr Bruce Miles, a Sydney solicitor, who drafted the nine writs, said it would be alleged that this was said in the presence of others and within hearing distance.

The inference was that the plaintiffs were "disgraceful and inferior people", he said.

Mr Miles said he was unaware if all those who filed their writs with the District Court Registrar yesterday were Aborigines.

The nine writs were taken out in the names of Joy Hruby, Douglas Russell, Joseph Timberry, Darrell Timberry, Terence Timberry, Victor Sims, Arnold Russell, Roy Asimon and Ray Marshall.

The publican of the Gladstone Hotel, Mr Jim O'Brien, when asked about the incident yesterday

O'Brien, when asked about the incident yesterday said "I've got nothing to say".

The Commissioner for Community Relations, Mr Grassby said in a statement issued in Canberra yesterday that he had begun an investigation into the incident under the Racial Discrimination Act.
