

10 November 1983

## Aborigines differ on Foley job

Disquiet appears to exist in SA's Aboriginal community over the appointment of activist Mr Gary Foley to head an enquiry into the State's Aboriginal health services.

A source at the SA office of the Aboriginal Trachoma and Eye Health Program said yesterday some people believed a local Aborigine should have been appointed instead of Mr Foley.

Mr Foley, who is based in Sydney, has been a leading Aboriginal rights activist and is secretary of the National Aboriginal and Islanders Health Organisation.

It is understood other Aborigines believe Mr Foley is the best person to head the enquiry since, as an interstate appointment, he will be unbiased.

Mr Foley's appointment to head the SA enquiry was announced last week.

Mrs Betty Dohnt, a representative of the Kokatha people living near Port Augusta who say they lack adequate health services, said she supported the appointment.

"He has worked for Aboriginal people for a long time," she said. "He knows the health problems of the Aboriginal race.

"Getting someone interstate is very wise."

She said appointing Mr Foley would avoid the danger of a local Aborigine working to please the interests of white people and not working for Aborigines.

"I'm sure the Kokatha people in Port Augusta feel the same way," she said.