

40,000 listed on Aboriginal roll

An overwhelming majority of Australian Aborigines have registered to vote in the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee election.

In a statement issued in Canberra yesterday, the national co-ordinator of the NACC, Mr John Moriarty, said more than 40,000 people, or 90% of those who identified themselves as Aborigines in the 1971 Census, had enrolled for the election on November 17. In some tribal areas, enrolments had been close to 100%.

There had been 165 nominations for the 41

seats on the NACC, about 10% of them women.

The breakdown is: Northern Territory 41 candidates (eight electorates); Western Australia 32 (8); South Australia 12 (4); Victoria 9 (3); NSW 24 (8); Queensland 43 (9 including Torres Strait islands); Tasmania 4 (1).

NAAC to act as link

The NACC is to act as a direct link between the Aborigines and the Government and will help the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs frame policies and make decisions affecting Aborigines.

It will meet several times a year, probably in Canberra.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Senator Cavanagh, in a statement last night, said the response from the Aboriginal people was evidence of the faith that the great majority of them had in the power of consultation and discussion.

"I hope the need for demonstrations will become a thing of the past", he said.

"In the NACC, all opinions will be heard and the Aboriginal people, through their elected representatives, will be able to discuss their differences, their problems and their needs in an atmosphere of mutual trust and goodwill".