

Aborigines want say over funds

From our Canberra Bureau

CANBERRA — The supreme Aboriginal body in Australia yesterday called on the Federal Government to give it direct control of \$117m. in Government funds — the whole Budget allocation of the Aboriginal Affairs Department.

The recently elected Aboriginal Consultative Committee made the decision at a meeting here and also decided to change its name to the National Aboriginal Congress.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Senator Cavanagh), who attended the meeting but left before the funds decision was made, said last night it was not acceptable.

The newly elected chairman of the congress (Mr. Bruce McGuinness) said the immediate need was to have control of the capital fund allocation of \$70m.

The fund would then be administered by the department acting on advice of the congress.