

WORK LURES ABORIGINES

The Aboriginal population of Canberra, now around 200, is expected to be at least doubled by the end of this year.

The reason is that Aborigines regard Canberra as "a tremendous place for opportunities".

This was the phrase used today by Aboriginal leader, Mr Harry Penrith, president of the Kanangra Society, when explaining to the Canberra News why the society is looking for more living accommodation for Aborigines.

The society's current newsletter says there is now a need to include the idea of leasing or buying at least 10 two-bedroom flats for single Aboriginal people.

The society appreciated the Government's endeavours by setting aside at least 10 homes for married Aborigines in the ACT within the next year.

Mr Penrith said many

apart from job opportunities in Canberra, the Aborigines regarded the federal capital as having less prejudice against them than almost anywhere else in Australia.

They were treated as equals, and they did not sense any feeling of racial discrimination.

YOUNG GIRLS

Mr penrith said many Aborigines coming to Canberra were young girls seeking employment as typists, stenographers and in other office jobs. Some were already working in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs at the Phillip Centre.

The younger ones found accommodation in hostels, but those in their 20's were entitled to their own places, and two bedroom

flats were the answer to that.

The Aborigines' faith in Canberra as a place of opportunities is based on a statement made late last year by the then Minister for the Capital Territory, Mr Enderby, when he announced the Government's intention to employ more Aborigines.

Mr Enderby said the Department of Labour had advised that there would be no difficulty in finding employment for Aborigines in the ACT.

He also said the NCDC would build 10 houses for Aborigines in the 1973-74 financial year from funds provided out of the Aboriginal Advancement Trust Account.

This was in line with what was being done in the States.