

'We want Cavanagh out': Bennell

"We want Cavanagh out," Mr Eddie Bennell, acting chairman of the National Aboriginal Congress, said in Perth today.

Senator Cavanagh, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and the Congress have been in dispute since the Congress changed its name and said it wanted more powers and not a consultative role.

In a temporary truce the congress has now

agreed to return to its advisory role, while it prepares a new constitution—with more powers—to present to the Federal Cabinet.

Mr Bennell, who will return to Canberra at the weekend for work on the constitution, said today: "We still intend asking the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, to replace Senator Cavanagh.

"He has shown he is ignorant of the plight of the Aboriginal people and unreasonable in his attitude to the congress.

"We want to be a congress which has status equivalent to a Parliament. If the Labor Government goes out in the next elections we could go out too if we are only a committee.

"Irrespective of any name change, if we fulfil our original function of advising the Minister on Aboriginal affairs then it shouldn't matter what we are called.