

Aboriginal tenor Harold Blair dies

MELBOURNE, Friday. — Mr Harold Blair, the Aboriginal tenor, died today in Melbourne's Mercy Hospital, aged 51.

Mr Blair, who leaves a widow and two teenaged children, was in the intensive-care unit and is believed to have had a heart attack.

Born at Cherbourg Mission, in Queensland, 275 kilometres north-west of Brisbane, Mr Blair was educated by the Salvation Army.

He was discovered by Mr Harry Green, of Ipswich, and was taken to

sions have been given home holidays in Melbourne.

Mr Blair, a former footballer, was a music teacher in the Victorian Education Department.

His biography, "Dark Man, White World", was published last August.

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, said yesterday that Australia had lost a great Australian in Harold Blair.

"Mr Blair was perhaps best known by thousands of Australians for his fine tenor voice", he said

Brisbane where the soprano Marjorie Lawrence confirmed the young singer's promise.

He was accepted at the Melba Conservatorium of Music in Melbourne in 1945.

He went to America to further his career, and while there found his other vocation: championing the cause of the Aborigines.

In 1962, after years of preparation including fund-raising from personal singing appearances, he founded the Harold Blair Aboriginal Children's Project in Queensland.

in a statement issued in Canberra.

"However, it was his work with Aboriginal children that will be missed most and will assure his place in Australia's history.

"Mr Blair spent much of his extraordinary energy bringing young Aboriginal children from out-back Australia to foster homes in Melbourne and Sydney during school holidays and at Christmas.

"His death will be sadly felt by the Aboriginal community and by all Australians of good will".



Mr Blair

Since then more than 2,500 children from out-back reserves and mis-

sions have been given