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Aboriginal graduate to combat 'apathy'

Graham Atkinson, former national serviceman and tool maker, has a new weapon to combat the problems of Melbourne's Aborigines — a degree in social work.

He is the first Black to gain such a degree from Melbourne University and is one of only a handful of Victorian Aborigines who have successfully completed tertiary education.

Mr. Atkinson, 29, will receive his degree at a graduation ceremony next week but has already been employed by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs as a community adviser.

He hopes to make the public less apathetic about Aboriginal issues and to end