

Západočeská univerzita v Plzni

Fakulta filozofická

Bakalářská práce

2012

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**Current relations between Aborigines and dominant
Australian culture**

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Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury

Studijní program Filologie

Studijní obor Cizí jazyky pro komerční praxi

Kombinace angličtina - francouzština

Bakalářská práce

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Plzeň 2012

Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracoval(a) samostatně a použil(a) jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

Plzeň, duben 2012

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I would like to express thanks to my advisor lecturer David Franklin, B.A. for his helpfulness, useful comments, recommendations and advice.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The topic of this bachelor's thesis is 'Current relations between Aborigines and dominant Australian culture'. The thesis will cover the history of Australia as well as the current situation concerning relations between the native Australians and the majority of Australian society which is an important part of both past and present Australia.

Relations between the indigenous population and modern society are nowadays considered to be an often discussed topic not only in Australia but also in other countries which have had to face contradictions and frictions between native inhabitants and the rest of the population. This topic became very 'popular' in the second half of the 20th century and remains so up to the present. Nowadays many nations try to deal with this problem because they consider it an inseparable part of the contemporary history of the nation.

The topic 'Australian Aborigines' can be seen as contradictory to some extent. Native Australians came to Australia approximately 40,000 years ago.[1] They were the first people who found this country, the first who inhabited the land, the first who started living there. In 2001 Australian Aborigines comprised only 2.4% of the total Australian population.[2] The majority of them are still not able, or do not want, to assimilate into the modern society. Some Australians feel sorry for them, they think that their life is very hard and want to help them. Others are more racist, they think that Aborigines are lazy and cause problems for the entire nation. The opinions on indigenous Australians differ and the relations between Aborigines and the rest of Australian society are more than complicated.

As mentioned above, this thesis will cover not only current relations between native Australians and the dominant Australian culture but one part will be dedicated to the history of Australia. To be able to describe the current situation in Australia it is necessary to know its past.

The thesis will be divided into four main parts. The first part will present Australia as a country and as a nation. It will comprise basic geographic data, the demographic and economic situation, and also a brief description of 'typical' Australians. The second part will be dedicated to the history of Australia because the present situation is closely connected to the history. This part will describe Australia before the arrival of Europeans – the culture of Aborigines, their style of living, their habits. Another point will concern the reaction of native Australians to the arrival of Europeans, the initial contacts and contradictions. The next points will deal with immigration, the development of Australia and consequences of two World Wars on Australia. The last article will describe attempts of Australian government to right the wrongs on native Australians.

The next two parts will be crucial for the whole thesis. Firstly, it will describe the current situation in Australia – life of contemporary native Australians, the comparison of indigenous people and the rest of the society, attitudes of Australian government towards Aborigines and the ability of Aborigines to assimilate into Australian society. The fourth part will present research findings – how does the modern Australian society perceive Aborigines and what are their opinions on them.

2 GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO AUSTRALIA

2.1 Geographic data

Australia lies in the Southern Hemisphere, in the southeast from Asia. It is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean from the east, and by the Indian Ocean from the west. As it lies on the Tropic of Capricorn the climate is dry and hot. Of course the climate is not the same in the whole continent, but the majority of land is desert. Summers are very hot, temperatures can reach 45°C, winters are mild and most Australians have hardly ever seen snow in their country.

Australia is the smallest continent and at the same time the largest island in the world. Its area has 7,682,300 km² and its territory is divided into six states – New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria. There is also one island state Tasmania which belongs to Australia (see Appendix 1). Even though this country is divided into seven single states, Australia is unique in being both a continent and a nation. In 1901 these states decided to create a federation and since then Australia became an independent country with its own political system and decision making power.[3]

2.2 Demographic situation

Australia is known for being a multicultural country. It is because many people were sent to Australia as convicts in the past. However, a lot of them gradually realized that Australia is a great place to stay and live. Many waves of immigrants from different countries came to Australia to start new lives there. That is how Australia became a nation of many cultures.

Throughout history Australia has experienced several immigration policies but recently Australia is open to welcome people of different, religions, races, cultures and origins.[4] After the Second World War the

population of Australia has greatly increased due to immigration. Almost 5.4 million people migrated to Australia in the second half of 20th century. The most represented continent in Australia from the point of view of immigration is Asia. In 1995, there were about 4.8% people living in Australia who were born in Asian countries.[5] “Today, one in four of Australia’s 22 million people were born overseas, 44 per cent were born overseas or have a parent who was and four million speak a language other than English.”[6] Nowadays, there are about 75% people of 'Anglo-Celt' origin, 20% of 'other European' origin, 4.5% of 'Asian' origin and 1% of Aborigines living in Australia (see Appendix 2).[7]

Australia will try to keep and to support the multiculturalism into the future. It is the main characteristic of its population, it brings social benefits and it helps the national economy.[8]

2.3 Economic situation

The economy of Australia is one of the most advanced economies in the world. Australia’s GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is US\$882.344 billion which places Australia in position of the 13th largest economy in the world. 3.8 percent of Australia’s GDP is composed of agriculture, 24.9 percent of industry and the largest part of services (71.3 percent). Australia experienced solid economic growth during the last two decades and according to Australia’s 2015 Economic Outlook the economy will continue to grow in the next five years. Australia’s economy is specific to some extent – it is divided into the economy of the west and the economy of the east. The western part of Australia benefits from its natural resources such as iron ore, gold oil and natural gas. On the other hand the eastern part profits from services and financial industries. 4% of Australian labour force is employed in the agricultural sector, 25.6% in the industrial sector and 70.4% are employed in services.

Trade also constitutes an important part of the economy of Australia. Recently Australia has partly abandoned the cooperation with the Western markets and is more concentrating on trade within the Asia Pacific region. "In 2009, China became Australia's largest export market, surpassing Japan." [9] In 2009, Australia exported to China 266.2 million tonnes of iron ore. Most imports into Australia are also provided by China. These are primarily clothing, technical devices and equipment, toys or sporting goods. Another trade partner of Australia is New Zealand, mainly thanks to The Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA) established in 1983.

Even though Australia's economy is prospering, Australia has to face a high unemployment rate. "In 2010, Australia's unemployment rate was 5.192 percent – 0.22 percent more than the world's average of 4.97 percent." [10] There are 586,900 Australians looking for work. The Australian government tries to deal with this situation – in the next two years there should be about 500,000 new positions created which should reduce the unemployment rate to 4.5 percent. [11, 12]

2.4 Life of Contemporary Australians

Officially, Australian society is egalitarian; it means that there are no official class distinctions, Australians are equal under the law. They have all equality of opportunity, freedom of speech and of religion. The Australian idea of equality should lead to mutual tolerance and respect.

According to the official website of the Australian Government there are several characteristics of a 'typical' Australian. First of all, they love freedom. Their personality is open-minded and direct - they say what they mean. Australians prefer a relaxed style of living, without pointless hurry or rush, their life is full of happiness, calm, and peace. They are very friendly and ready to help the ones who need it.

Secondly, a typical feature of Australian society is sport. Almost all Australians are sports fanatics and the love of doing or watching any kind of sport connects them. Most Australians devote time and energy to sport from childhood and this accompanies him all his life. Sport is a very important part of Australian social life. Not every Australian does the sport at the top level but some of them just for fun and entertainment. National sports include cricket or Australian football but tennis, golf, horse racing, swimming and many others are also very popular.

Finally, another feature of a 'typical' Australian is their hard-working character. Australia ranks among the hardest-working people in the world. They have also the longest working hours in the developed countries.[13]

3 HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

3.1 Australia before the arrival of Europeans

There are different claims on how long Aborigines have been living in Australia. Archeological evidence proves that native Australians came to settle in Australia 40,000 years ago, or maybe even more. It is generally known that they came from Asian countries.[14] They were characterized by “slender limbs, hairy face and body, a sloping forehead, a wide, flat nose and a big mouth with a long upper lip, large and healthy teeth and a strong protruding jaw”[15] (see Appendix 3). They lived in tribes; each tribe had its own language or dialect, habits, religions, mythology. However, even though there existed relations such as family at that time. Australian Aborigines formed a self-sufficient unit where parents took care about their children.[16]

Australian Aborigines led a nomadic life. Their style of living was very modest. Mostly they took only a few things with them for their journeys. They did not possess developed weapons but they invented a fire which was extremely important for them. They lived in poor huts, they did not wear any clothes. Aborigines were hunter-gatherers; most of the day they spent by hunting – it was the main way to procure food. Also they were gathering plants, nuts, seeds, berries or animals such as crustaceans or mollusks.[17]

Aboriginal culture is the oldest culture in the world and it continues up to the present. It is very varied – it comprises different rituals, dances, songs, paintings or rock engravings. Their religion is very specific. Aborigines believe that every person is a descendent of a plant or of an animal. Religious rituals were often accompanied by melodies of a specific instrument called didgeridoo. Body paintings and rock engravings had a great value for indigenous people but this art was not appreciated until 20th century.[18]

Australian Aborigines were fairly well educated at that time. They invented a few important inventions such as fire or the boomerang. A typical Aborigine could speak more than one language and dialect even though these languages had very difficult grammar. In 1800 there existed about 250 languages in Australia – that is more than in the whole of Europe at that time.[19] Another non-material cultural achievement of Aborigines was their natural environmentalism. The land was very important for them and they cared about it. They were able to balance the natural environment and the respect for the nature was admirable. They exploited the land only to an extent so as to survive the immediate moment. “The land not only had economic uses, but was also of deep spiritual significance for the Aborigines.”[20] Each tribe considered the part where they lived as a sacred place. For example, the land where an Aboriginal woman became pregnant was considered as an important part of their lives for a long period of time.[21]

Australian Aborigines settled and colonized the land successfully, and they lived there happily until the arrival of Europeans, which had a devastating effect on native Australians.[22]

3.2 Initial contacts and relationships between Aborigines and Europeans

Captain James Cook was the first European who sailed around the whole continent of Australia. He discovered the country in April 1770 and he recognized that it is an inhabited continent. At that time Great Britain needed some place for its convicts and Australia was an ideal country for these purposes. In 1788 a first boat with British convicts arrived on the east coast of Australia. The British tried to keep their relations with Aborigines peaceful but that was not so easy all the time as Aborigines did not understand why the British had come to Australia and then why they had stayed on.[23]

The Europeans brought to Australia new thoughts, new inventions and goods of agricultural revolution. They built houses and bred animals. They were able to make beer and wine; Aborigines did not know alcohol at all. Europeans showed them ships, firearms, ability of writing and other benefits of their modern society. They hoped Aborigines would accept and profit from these new inventions but Aborigines refused all attempts of Europeans to approach them. Aborigines did not want to surrender the land they had settled; Europeans did not admit their right to the land. Aborigines insisted on their traditions, religions and nomadic way of life. They refused to assimilate into the British modern style of living; whereas the British could not understand their traditions and 'primitive' culture. The British were interested in progress and development; Aborigines rather in nature and traditions. These two civilizations were as different as they could be. That is why they could not live side by side in peace and without any confrontations.[24, 25, 26]

The British regarded Aborigines as an inferior and primitive civilization. They abused them for providing work for them. Also they tried to change their style of living, to dress them, to teach them how to read and write, how to become workmen and farmers instead of hunters. There were several attempts by British to reeducate Aborigines. Reverend Robert Cartwright, a clergyman of the Church of England, was a popular Anglican minister with a strong humanitarian sense. He was interested in Aborigines' welfare and so in 1820 he came with an idea to civilize Australian Aborigines by settling them in a special township with schools where he intended to 'reeducate' aboriginal children. By that he hoped they would then show their parents the benefits and advantages of modern society. However, this plan was not supported by the Australian government and so it failed.[27, 28]

There were also attempts to built reservations where native inhabitants could continue living in their traditional way separately from Europeans. "In Victoria the Government supported the establishment of

thirty-four Aboriginal missions and reserves, while over two hundred existed across Australia.”[29] One of the examples of an Aboriginal Station was Coranderrk, established in 1863 near Healesville in Victoria. This reservation included the area of 4,850 acres and it’s known for being one of the most important Aboriginal reserves in Victoria.[30]

However, because Australian Aborigines led a nomadic life and therefore they refused to stay in one place, this attempt failed too. Suddenly Aborigines were lost. They were forced to abandon their “old” style of living, their beliefs and culture. Europeans did not let them continue living in their traditional way of life, they wanted them to become Europeans. “Theoretically, they were let to keep their freedom but in practice they lost it...” (trans. from Czech).[31] As Aborigines were forced to change their style of living, and as they failed to assimilate into the modern society, suddenly they found themselves between two worlds and they did not belong to either one of them.[32]

Aboriginal rejection of assimilation into the modern society led to several conflicts and contradictions. Europeans desecrated aboriginal secret places such as water-holes, they took they sacred objects. On the other hand, when a sheep came to a territory of Aborigines, they killed the sheep and ate it. They did not see anything wrong in it but Europeans considered it as a provocation. This situation led to the massacre at Myall Creek in New South Wales in 1839 where Europeans murdered and burned native inhabitants including children and women.[33] “In Victoria, between 1835 and 1839, the number of Aborigines fell by two or three thousand.”[34] In other states of Australia such as Western Australia, Northern Territory and South Australia the violence of people of European descent continued until 1940’s.[35] Of course there were also some cases where native inhabitants killed Europeans but the numbers of victims are incomparable. “In less than twelve years Aborigines killed in the sheep pastures of western Victoria thirty-four European men and one

child of three years, but at the same time there were at least ten times more Aborigines killed.” (trans. from Czech)[36]

When speaking about conflicts and confrontations between Australian Aborigines and the modern European society it is necessary to mention the so called ‘Stolen Generations’. The governmental policy of taking away Aboriginal children from their families and placing them into the European families lasted officially from 1909 to 1969. However, this forcible removal happened even before and after this period.

The Aborigines Protection Board came up with that idea of taking Aboriginal children away from their families in an effort to raise the children according to the European way and ‘reeducate’ them into the modern European society. In fact, this governmental policy led to a sort of ‘ethnocide’ – the Australian government wanted to eliminate the Aboriginal society so that there would only be Europeans living in Australia.

It has been estimated that 100,000 aboriginal children were raised in European families for the duration of the policy, that means approximately 2 in 10 children were taken away from their homes. They were sent into an institution, mission dormitory or children’s home before being adopted by a European family. Even siblings who were taken from their parents were after separated from each other. Aboriginal children were supposed to become labourers or servants so they were provided with very poor education. Many Europeans thought that Aborigines were not able to take care about their children, that they were growing up in a bad environment, and so they thought that they would raise Aboriginal children better than their parents. “The lack of understanding and respect for Aboriginal people also meant that many people who supported the child removals believed that they were doing the ‘right thing’.”[37]

A very famous Aboriginal singer and songwriter Archie Roach was also a child of the ‘Stolen Generations’. According to his personal experience he wrote a song ‘Took the Children Away’ which describes the

Aboriginal feelings about this forcible removing of their children (see Appendix 4). The album of the same name was awarded by two Aria Awards and a Human Rights Award. “It was also in the US Rolling Stone's Top 50 albums for 1992 and achieved gold status in Australia”.[38]

*One dark day on Framingham
Come and didn't give a damn
My mother cried go get their dad
He came running, fighting mad
Mother's tears were falling down
Dad shaped up and stood his ground.
He said 'You touch my kids and you fight me'
And they took us from our family.
Took us away
They took us away
Snatched from our mother's breast
Said this was for the best
Took us away.
Told us what to do and say
Told us all the white man's ways
Then they split us up again
And gave us gifts to ease the pain
Sent us off to foster homes
As we grew up we felt alone
Cause we were acting white
Yet feeling black [39]*

Many Aboriginal families have never seen their children again and nowadays there are still many Aboriginal people who do not know where their parents and relatives are. The effect of the removal program can be clearly seen in current relations between Aborigines and the modern Australian society.[40]

3.3 Immigrants coming to Australia

In the 1850's Great Britain stopped sending convicts to Australia because it was a time of gold-rush and British did not see the point of sending convicts somewhere where they could become rich. In total there

were about 163,000 convicts deported to Australia. Thanks to the gold-rush Australia became an attractive country for immigrants from different countries. Because Australia needed a labour force, it supported immigration by paying all immigrants the costs of transport and food. However, all immigrants had to be chosen by the government – young, qualified and healthy travelers were preferred. All immigrants living in Australia received state aid but they had to work hard.[41]

Immigrants were surprised by the nature and climate of Australia. They were shocked how this country was dry and vast. They had never seen such exotic plants and such parched and infertile land. They tried to keep their habits, traditions and culture from the country they came from, but most of them assimilated into Australian society and started a new life there. Gradually a new purely Australian society was formed. In 1970's a so-called association known as the Australian Natives' Association was created for people of European ancestry who were born in Australia and felt to be Australians. Australian character was quite different from other nationalities. They cared about what was happening around them in other countries, they tried to help foreigners. For example when in 1846 Scotland and Ireland suffered from famine, inhabitants of New South Wales collected money and sent it to these countries to help them. Eight years after that Australians sent money to Palestine to help the Jews living under the domination of the Turks.[42]

The population of people of European descent in Australia increased quickly. In 1850 there was about 405,000 European descendants living in Australia. The gold-rush attracted immigrants from the whole of Europe. Most of them became rich and this success caused another waves of immigrants, this time from China. These waves of immigration increased the total Australian population. In 1858 Australia had about one million inhabitants. Immigrants settled mostly in Victoria and it became the biggest colony in Australia. Its population grew from 76,000 to 540,000 in

ten years. At that time over a half of the whole population of Australia lived in Victoria.[43]

3.4 The development of Australia in the second half of 19th century

In the second half of the 19th century Australia experienced great progress and expansion. First of all thanks to the gold-rush, which was already mentioned, but also thanks to other economic and politic reasons. In 1850 Great Britain gave the right to vote to all Australian men who possessed at least a little house for which he paid taxes. In 1858 this rule was extended to all men. This political transformation gave decisive power to Australians, they felt responsible for their country. Native inhabitants living in densely populated cities had a right to vote too but only few of them were interested in elections. Democratic Australia obtained complete independence in the next century.[44]

Population in Australian cities increased rapidly and it provoked their development. Big cities such as Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide or Brisbane became seats of banks, administration, factories and skyscrapers. In 1900 the largest city of Australia, Melbourne, had half of a million inhabitants. Australians were proud that they were able to settle such a large country with diverse climate. They tried to educate the generation of new Australians – every little city or suburb had two schools. Australia is one of the first countries which introduced compulsory education. Most of the children attended school only until the age of 14, only a few of them continued to the university. Even though the education was successful. Australians were hard-working, responsible and independent. There were not such class differences as there were in Great Britain at that time.[45]

The west of Australia was not as developed as the east coast. However, in 1886 another deposit of gold was found in Western Australia.

All six colonies bloomed, every colony has its own government and laws. Still until the 1880's the colonies were under the dominance of Great Britain. It was thanks to the premier of New South Wales Sir Henry Parkes who had an idea to form a federation and he suggested the name The Commonwealth of Australia. The federation was ratified by referendum and was officially proclaimed the first day of 1901.[46]

3.5 Australia in the course of two World Wars

Australia prospered before the beginning of the First World War. It was still closely connected to Great Britain but Australians were proud that they belonged to the British Empire. There were also proud of being Australians and gradually nationalism predominated. Australians started to prefer national products, British banks had to retreat, Australians banks and British immigrants were no longer welcomed in Australia. These times were known as strong relationship between Australia and Britain but these two nations rather competed between each other. The decision to fight alongside Great Britain was later perceived as risky and hasty.[47]

During the First World War 59,258 Australians died. However, the positive aspect of this war for Australia was the fact that the war made out of Australia an independent country. The Australian independence was officially approved by British parliament in 1931.[48]

The period between the two World Wars was considered as a failure of Labour Government. Australia had to face unemployment and poverty. This time had a huge negative impact on Australia's economy. Australia found itself in crisis and it was no longer such an attractive and beautiful country as it was before the First World War.[49]

Australia expected that the Second World War will come soon and so it tried to prepare for it. Many Australians were employed in factories where they made arms. Because Australia was well prepared, the Second World War did not have such a catastrophic impact as on other

countries. The 1950's and 1960's were periods of economic development. Between 1945 and 1973 the population of Australia increased by three and a half million of people. In the 1970's people started to be interested in technology and science. Education became also more popular than before. Australia became a politically stable and economically strong country. Its population increased, there was less unemployment. In the end of 20th century Australia was an independent and self-sufficient country.[50]

3.6 Attempts to right the wrongs on native Australians

Until the second half of 20th century nobody was interested in helping the native inhabitants of Australia. The governmental support was inadequate. Australians Aborigines lost their traditional beliefs, the tribal life, the totemistic rituals. There was a difference between people with partly indigenous origin who successfully assimilated into the modern society and full-blood Aborigines who lived as they had before – in nomadic life. The number of their population declined. In 1936 there were 59 000 full-blood Aborigines living in Australia; that means that the percentage of full-blood Aborigines among the whole aboriginal population decreased from 1921 from 82% to 69%. There was the danger that Australian indigenous people could become extinct.[51]

In the second half of the 20th century people started to return to nature and so their interest in native Australians increased. At that time it was not only Australia who intended to help their indigenous population but many other countries tried to deal with the problematic situation between native people and the modern society.[52] In 1960 a conference of the commonwealth decided that there had to be taken some measures to assist the Aborigines to be assimilated into the modern Australian society. Two years after that all adult Aborigines had the right to vote. These measures meant that the Australian society is aware of the

problems with its indigenous population. The Australian government knew that it is their responsibility to deal with this situation and that it is necessary to find solutions.[53]

During the 1960's several organizations who tried to help Australian Aborigines were formed. For example the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines (FCAA). Despite the fact that this organization was influenced by people of European descent, it managed to raise the consciousness of Aborigines which was really important. Another significant organization was the Northern Territory Council for Aboriginal Rights (NTCAR) formed in 1962. This organization was run by Aborigines themselves. There were also trade unions who tried to help Australian indigenous population. For example in 1964 the largest Australian monopoly Broken Hill Proprietary Company gave the same conditions and pay to Aborigines as to other Australians.[54]

In December 1972 Gough Whitlam became the Federal Prime Minister. He intended to provide Aborigines the right to land in the Northern Territory, to ensure medical care and to eliminate racial prejudice. In 1975 he was replaced by Malcolm Fraser who completed the idea of giving wide lands in Northern Territory to native inhabitants. In 1985 the nature monument Ayers Rock was officially given back to Australian Aborigines.[55]

The greatest progress in attempts to right the wrongs on Australian Aborigines was at the beginning of 1990's. In 1991 the Prime Minister of Australia Paul Keating struggled more decisively for the rights of indigenous people. Thanks to him in 1992 the High Court of Australia decided that according to current laws Aborigines have the right to a much larger part of Australia. This case was initiated by Eddie Mabo who was fighting for the rights of Australian Aborigines. 1st January 1994 Paul Keating issued 'native title bill' which gave the decision power to Australian courts concerning which state lands will be returned to the

indigenous population. This decision was really important and another positive aspect was that most of Australians agreed with it.[56]

On 26 May 1997 the Australian Human Rights Commission presented to Parliament the 'Bringing Them Home Report'. The report reacted on the former official governmental policy concerning the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families. The report found that many Aboriginal children taken away into institutions or children's homes were sexually and physically abused, their lives were very cruel and they were commonly maltreated. The impact on the 'Stolen Generations' continued up to the present. According to the report Aborigines from 'Stolen Generations' suffer "life-long negative consequences".[57] They "are more likely to suffer from depression, have worse health and a shorter life span than other Indigenous people, and are more likely to be imprisoned than other Indigenous people".[58] One Aboriginal said: "A lot of people say that they don't know what exactly they are, whether they're white or they're black. Where exactly they belong." [59]

In 2007, as part of the 'Bringing Them Home Report' the Labor Government promised to finally apologize to the 'Stolen Generations'. On 13 February 2008 the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd "issued an official apology to the Stolen Generations on behalf of the Australian Government".[60] The official apology was connected to the national day called 'Sorry Day' which is held every year on 26 May. The Australian government also assured financial compensation to the Aborigines from the 'Stolen Generations', nevertheless many of them still feel "they can never be adequately compensated".[61]

4 CURRENT SITUATION BETWEEN ABORIGINES AND DOMINANT AUSTRALIAN CULTURE

4.1 Life of Contemporary Aborigines in Australia

4.1.1 Aboriginal population

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) the total indigenous population of Australia in 2001 stood at 458,520; that was 2.4% of the total Australian population. This represents a double increase since 1996 when the total population of Australian Aborigines was estimated to be 283,000. Today the total of Australian indigenous population living in Australia is estimated to be approximately 575,600 which means that Aborigines represent 2.5% of the total Australian population. The indigenous population is considered to be a young population – in 2006 38% of Australian Aborigines were aged 14 years and under.[62, 63]

4.1.2 Distribution of Aboriginal population

The history of aboriginal settlement in Australia is reflected in today's distribution of indigenous population on the territory of Australia. Nowadays, the majority of Australian Aborigines are still living in New South Wales. The total of aboriginal population living in this State is 134,888 which is however only 2.1% of the total New South Wales population. The smallest actual number of Aborigines is living in the Northern Territory, but they represent 28.8% of the total population of the Northern Territory. The lowest proportion of indigenous population is in Victoria where Aborigines represent only 0.6% of the total Australian population. Aboriginal population in other States and Territories of Australia is lower than four percent of their total population.

In 1971 only 46% of Aboriginal population was living in or in close proximity of towns and cities. Since then the situation changed and by

2001 the number of Australian Aborigines living in or in close proximity of rural towns and cities increased to approximately 73%. Nowadays about 30% of Aboriginal population is living in major cities and about 43% is living in or in close proximity of rural towns.

There is of course a difference between Aborigines living in the eastern part and the western part of Australia. The eastern aboriginal population lives in a more urbanized way of life in comparison with western aboriginals who are still more connected to the original aboriginal style of living, living in more distant areas where they are able to maintain their traditions.[64]

According to these numbers and percentages mentioned above, we can deduce that more than half of Australian Aborigines are, or are at least trying to, assimilate into the dominant Australian society; they do not live in separate communities any more. The majority of Aborigines, especially those living in the Eastern States and Territories, are nowadays living a more urbanized way of life.

4.2 Aborigines in comparison with the wider Australian population

4.2.1 Health

In recent years the life expectancy of an Australian Aborigine was 59.4 years for a male and 65.0 years for a female. The average life expectancy of a non-indigenous Australian is approximately 17 years higher. There are several factors that can explain this inequality such as differences in income, in education or in access to health services, racial prejudice, substance use, and others. In comparison with non-indigenous Australian, twice as many Australian Aborigines consider their health condition as poor.

The problem is that many Aborigines living in rural areas are not able to find medical access in larger urban areas. The Australian Government established the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Health (OATSIH) which tried to solve this situation by implementing health services into aboriginal communities. This measure has succeeded in reducing infant mortality since 1970s.[65]

4.2.2 Education

In comparison with non-indigenous Australians, Australian Aborigines leave school earlier and in general, they have a lower standard of education (see Appendix 5). However, this situation is improving. According to the statistics the proportion of indigenous Australians who gained a certificate or diploma during their studies doubled between 1994 and 2001 from 11% to 22%. The proportion of them who obtained at least a bachelor's degree increased from 1% to 3%. And the proportion of Aborigines who completed Year 12 rose from 7% to 10% between 1994 and 2002.

Nevertheless, in 2002 there were far more indigenous Australians with non-school qualification compared to non-indigenous Australians.[66]

4.2.3 Criminality

The 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) showed that Australian Aborigines have higher proportion in criminality, violence and imprisonment than non-indigenous Australians. "In 2002, taking into account the different age structures of the populations, twice as many Indigenous Australians were victims of physical or threatened violence compared with non-Indigenous Australians." [67]

According to The Australian Bureau of Statistics Australian Aborigines are over represented in prisons. At June 2004, there were

5,048 indigenous prisoners; that is 21% of the total number of prisoners in Australia. 16% of indigenous Australians – that is approximately one in six – were arrested in the last five years. The statistics proves that in every Australian state or territory Australian Aborigines are more likely to be in prison compared with other Australians. On average, the imprisonment rate of indigenous Australians is eleven times higher than non-indigenous imprisonment rate. However, the state with the highest imprisonment rate is Western Australia, where the indigenous population is seventeen times more likely to be in prison than the non-indigenous population.

Family violence is also widespread among the aboriginal population. According to the statistics in 2002, 21% of indigenous Australians – that is one in five – are witnesses of family violence in their neighborhood or community. This problem is more common in remote areas and in overcrowded dwellings.

However, many Australian Aborigines are also victims of crimes and violence. The statistics in 2002 showed that 24% of indigenous population were involved in victimization. The highest level of victimization was proved among 15-24 year-old Aborigines. According to the ABS 2002 General Social Survey and the 2002 NATSISS there are 20% of indigenous Australians involved in victimization compared to only 9% of non-indigenous Australians.[68]

4.2.4 Unemployment

The high level of criminality among the indigenous population in Australia leads to social and economic disadvantages which are reflected for example in unemployment. Only 54% of indigenous Australians aged 15-64 years are participating in the labour force compared to 73% of non-indigenous Australians. The percentage of indigenous people (except people aged 15-17 years), who are not participating in labour force, is about approximately 20 percentage points higher than the percentage of non-indigenous people. Nevertheless, in 2001 the participation rate was

higher for male indigenous population than for female indigenous population (60% compared to 45%).

However, these figures do not prove the unwillingness of indigenous Australians to work. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics “over three-quarters (78%) of unemployed Indigenous persons were looking for full-time work. Indigenous persons in the labour force were almost three times as likely as non-Indigenous persons to be unemployed.”[69] There exist several projects trying to help Aborigines to find a job. One example is Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) which is operating mostly in less densely populated areas. “The CDEP scheme enables members of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities to work and train in activities managed by local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community organisations, principally in remote areas where the local labour market might not otherwise offer employment opportunities.”[70]

20% of Australian Aborigines are employed in Government administration and defence, 12% in Health and community services and 9% in Retail trade. The main functions occupied by indigenous Australians are Labourers and related physical workers, Intermediate clerical and sales and service workers. On the contrary most of non-indigenous Australians are employed in Retail trade, Manufacturing and Property and business services; the main functions occupied by non-indigenous population are Professionals and Intermediate clericals, sales and service workers (see Appendix 6).[71]

4.3 Attitude of Australian government to native Australians

4.3.1 Governmental Programs and Projects

Australian Aborigines can gain some payments and benefits from the Australian government which tries to help their native inhabitants by

providing benefiting programs and projects for them. Several of these programs are designated for Aboriginal students. An example of these types of projects is ABSTUDY. ABSTUDY helps indigenous students to stay at school or continue their further studies by participating in paying education costs, accommodation costs, living costs, fares or prescription medicine costs.[72]

Another project which provides assistance to Aboriginal students is Indigenous Cadetship Program. This program helps students to complete their study at an approved tertiary institution. Aboriginal students engaged in this project are sponsored during their studies and after they are offered positions in the area of tertiary sector by the Department of Human Services.[73]

There exists also The Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP) which assists young indigenous Australians who want to move away from their community to undertake training or studies and to gain skills and capabilities needed to find a job.[74]

The Australian government deals also with providing employment for indigenous Australians living in remote areas. This already mentioned project is called Community Development Employment Project (CDEP). CDEP does not only help Aborigines to find a job but it tries to provide them training so that they can gain skills and capabilities needed for a suitable employment. It also aims to develop the social and economic wellbeing of Aboriginal communities. "CDEP is one of the key Indigenous employment programs contributing to the Australian Government's aim of halving the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment within a decade." [75]

There exists also a program supporting employers who employ indigenous job seekers. Such program is called Indigenous Wage Subsidy Card. This project consists in providing a wage subsidy for employers of indigenous Australians. Employers can gain up to \$6,600

over 26 weeks for ongoing full-time employment or \$3,300 over 26 weeks for ongoing part-time work.[76]

4.3.2 Help and feedback

One governmental major program dealing with the indigenous population is Centrelink, which provides direct help for the Australian indigenous population. This is ensured by four indigenous Call Centres distributed across the whole continent of Australia. Call Centres are particularly designated for Aborigines living in remote areas; for those who have not direct access to other facilities.[77]

Centrelink also cares about Aboriginal awareness and knowledge of all the facilities and programs they can prosper from. This is ensured by indigenous Specialist Officers who then also provide direct feedback to the management of Centrelink about how services for indigenous population can be improved.[78]

4.3.3 Governmental strategy

In 2011 the Australian government released its Indigenous Economic Development Strategy 2011-2018. This strategy should support and assist social and economic development of Australian Aborigines. It is headed by five main aims:

strengthen foundations to create an environment that supports economic development; invest in education; encourage participation and improve access to skills development and jobs; support the growth of Indigenous business and entrepreneurship; and assist individuals and communities to achieve financial security and independence by increasing their ability to identify, build and make the most of economic assets.[79]

According to the official website of Australian Government some of these steps have been already taken or will be soon in force. The strategy will be kept updated according to new opportunities and challenges.[80]

4.3.4 Money spent on Aborigines

The programs, projects and policies which tend to improve and develop Aboriginal social and economic wellbeing cost Australia a large amount of money. In total, the Australian government spends on its native population an average of AU\$3.5bn each year.[81] During the 2008-2009 financial year the government spent on native inhabitants more than \$40,000 per person. This is approximately twice as much as Australia spends on its non-indigenous population – the costs on each non-indigenous Australian are on average \$18,500.[82] According to The 2010 Indigenous Expenditure Report, expenditure on indigenous population represents 5.3% of all government expenditure. This is more than the 2.5 percent representation of indigenous inhabitants in the total population of Australia. This means that Australian Aborigines are disadvantaged compared to the rest of Australian population and highly dependent on governmental help and support.[83]

4.4 Assimilation of Aborigines into Australian society

4.4.1 Success or failure?

The Australian government tries to help its native population in several various ways. Be it its strategy, programs or projects, the question is if these measures were or are successful. According to the British newspapers The Telegraph, Australian government spends a large amount of money on Aboriginal policies with little or no success to improve Aboriginal standards of living. The reason for this failure is “a huge gap between policy intent and policy execution”.[84] The

governmental programs and projects are confusing and they have no clear objectives. According to the article the Australian government should implement new measures for the future.[85]

However, according to the Report against key indicators of indigenous disadvantage produced by the Council of Australian Governments, the situation is not so unambiguous. There are also Aborigines living in Australia who are not disadvantaged compared to non-indigenous Australians. Nevertheless, the report admits that this is relatively a small group and the majority of indigenous Australians experience genuine disadvantage compared with the Australian mainstream.[86]

4.4.2 Areas of successful assimilation

There are several areas where governmental strategy succeeded. First of all, improvement was recorded in the life expectancy, especially in the mortality rate. Between 1991 and 2009 the mortality rate declined by 27% in Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Since the 1990's young child mortality declined too to a considerable extent.

Another area where the narrowing of the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous population was recorded is Year 12 attainment. Students who complete secondary education and receive a year 12 certificate are more likely to go on to further education and have better employment options. The proportion of native inhabitants who received a year 12 certificate increased between 2001 and 2008 from 20% to 26%.

An improvement was recorded also in areas such as indigenous home ownership, employment, income and achievement of better outcomes in post-secondary education.

The report mentions also other factors which succeeded. That is for example cooperation between indigenous population and the

government, and ongoing governmental support in human, financial and physical resources.[87]

A concrete example of successful Aboriginal assimilation into the mainstream Australian society is the election of Australian Aborigine Ken Wyatt to the House of Representative. By that he became the first Australian Aborigine winning election in Australia's history.[88]

4.4.3 Areas of unsuccessful assimilation

On the other hand, unfortunately, there are also areas where attempts to narrow or close the gap between Indigenous and non-indigenous population failed. One of these areas is in the ability of reading, writing and numeracy. The number of indigenous people able to read decreased significantly between 2008 and 2010. The ability of Aborigines to write and numerate did not improve.

There was no improvement in the area of health. Rates of severe core activity restriction are still twice as high for Aborigines as for other Australians, as it was in 2002. Rates for other serious diseases remain the same or the gap has been widened.

Significant widening of the gap was recorded also in the area of substantiated child abuse and neglect. "From 1999-2000 to 2009-10, the substantiation rate for Indigenous children increased from 15 to 37 per 1000 children, while the rate for non-Indigenous children increased from 4 to 5 per 1000 children." [89]

As for criminality, in 2000 indigenous Australians were 10 times more likely to be imprisoned compared to non-indigenous Australians. The imprisonment rate increased; in 2010 indigenous Australians were 14 times more likely to be imprisoned compared to non-indigenous Australians. In general, between 2000 and 2010 the imprisonment rate increased by 59% for indigenous women and by 35% for indigenous men.

Other areas where there was no significant change in the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous population is employment,

attainment of post secondary qualifications, household and individual income, and family and community violence.[90]

4.4.4 Aboriginal point of view

A concrete example of unsuccessful Aboriginal assimilation into the modern Australian society is an event described in an article on CNN. Aboriginal protesters burnt an Australian flag outside the Australian Parliament chanting “Always was, always will be Aboriginal land”.[91]

This violent protest described by CNN shows that Australian Aborigines are often still not satisfied with their position in Australian society. An Australian panel wants to modify the Australian Constitution so that it gives better recognition to the Australian native population. The panel also suggested adding to the Constitution “a new section that would give Parliament the power to make laws “for the peace, order and good government of Australia with respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples”.”[92] Australian government will decide about the matter by a referendum at the next general election.[93]

According to Adrian Beckingham, an Australian storyteller and promoter of Aboriginal culture, the British “moved Aboriginal people off their land and this was obviously never given back”.[94] As part of the European forcible assimilation of Aborigines into the modern society, they took children away from their parents. Due to that, there are still many Aborigines living in Australia who have no idea what family they belong to.[95]

Obviously the answer to the question of whether the attempts to assimilate Australian native inhabitants into the Australian mainstream were successful is not unambiguous. A part of the indigenous population is living in a similar or same way of life as the mainstream. However, many more Aborigines are still highly disadvantaged compared to other Australians and they are dependent on governmental help and support. Generally, statistics prove that the situation between indigenous

Australians and non-indigenous Australians is gradually, little by little, improving.

5 RESEARCH

As part of my thesis I will present findings of a research. I have had the opportunity to send a questionnaire directly to a group of Australians which I consider to be a sample of the average Australian modern society. I questioned ten Australians from a different age category, with a different profession and a different social background. Ten respondents cannot be seen as a significant sample size, but the divergent backgrounds of these people does allow an anecdotal insight into the way modern Anglo-Saxon Australians view the situation in regards to Australian Aborigines.

I will present the results in three parts – firstly, how does the modern Australian society perceive Aborigines, secondly, what is their opinion on possible discrimination and assimilation of the indigenous population into the mainstream of Australian population, and finally, what possible solutions exist for improving this situation. For complete raw data of the survey and its results see Appendix 7.

5.1 Australian perception of their native population

The vast majority of respondents find Aboriginal culture interesting. They appreciate their nomadic way of life and the ability of inhabiting the land in the past. They found their culture very family and community-oriented. They agreed also on the difference between indigenous people living in major cities – who adopted the culture of the majority of Australian society – and indigenous people living in remote areas – who to a certain extent have maintained their culture of the past, their original traditions and habits. One 18-year-old female student stated that she thinks that “those who live without their cultural practices in western society are those who create the bad stereotype, which many white Australians have towards the Aborigines”. Three of the respondents think

that Aboriginal culture is not appreciated by the modern Australian society but that it is a part of Australian history, and therefore that it should be preserved.

Two respondents stated that Aborigines living in remote areas in their original way of life seem to be content and self-sufficient. The rest of the respondents find the life of native Australians fairly hard and tough. They agreed that they all think that Australian Aborigines are still discriminated against by dominant Australian culture.

Eight of ten respondents stated they have had in most cases positive experiences with Australian Aborigines. They have had only positive experiences with Aborigines who they have known personally; they have had few negative experiences with Aborigines in general. Nevertheless, one respondent admitted that he had some really negative experiences with indigenous population during his working career; one respondent has never had any experiences with Australian Aborigines at all.

5.2 Aboriginal discrimination from the point of view of dominant Australian society

All of the ten respondents admitted that Australian Aborigines are discriminated against in many ways. Seven respondents stated clearly and one-sidedly that indigenous people are discriminated against in almost every way. Nevertheless, three respondents admitted also the other side of the possible discrimination. A 20-year-old female student stated that Aborigines “are given a lot of assistance by the government and various other organizations and are given the opportunities to learn and to develop skills”; a 40-year-old male stated that indigenous people “do have advantages as all medical services are given to them free of charge including dental. Schooling and any education is free”. A 58-year-old Primary School Teacher thinks that Aboriginal economic disadvantage is decreasing because Aborigines “gain higher levels of education and

move to the cities rather than staying in outback and remote communities”.

The question of whether the indigenous population has the same access to education, work and health services as other Australians was answered negatively only by one respondent. Others agreed that Australian Aborigines have the same access to these services as the rest of Australian society. The majority of them declared that this was achieved mostly thanks to governmental assistance. The 58-year-old Primary School Teacher added that “within a school they are treated exactly the same as any other student”. Four respondents agreed that Aborigines have formally the same access to these services as any other Australian; however they presented unofficial disadvantages of indigenous population. For example, the 20-year-old female student stated that “a lot of indigenous communities still speak using their own language; for example Nyoongar (South West of Australia) so coming into a mainstream school where English is considered for most students to be their first language I imagine it is difficult”. Others declared that even though Aborigines have the same access to the education, work and health services it is quite difficult for them to use it as other Australians because Aborigines have no role models who would show them the benefits of having a higher education; their culture simply does not appreciate it. Many respondents also mentioned that the Australian education system does not include Aboriginal studies in its curriculum and that causes students coming from dominant Australian culture not being taught to understand the different culture and style of living of their indigenous population.

The relationship between Australian Aborigines and the rest of Australian society was characterized by eight respondents as difficult, poor, modest or full of friction. They think that the Australian mainstream is still fairly discriminative against Aborigines. A 26-year-old female said that Aborigines are considered by many Australians as alcoholics, lazy

people who are not interested in working “and simply sponge off the government”. According to an 85-year-old male “many Australians will never accept the induction of the aboriginal race into the modern Australian way of life”. A 54-year-old male thinks that “Aboriginal Australians have almost no voice in mainstream Australia. Those who manage to get a profile are often seen as activists and dismissed as trouble makers”. Several respondents declared that according to them Aborigines still feel a lot of anger towards people of European descent and that it is why they refuse to assimilate into the dominant Australian culture. Nevertheless, two respondents think that the relationship between Aborigines and the rest of Australian society is improving, the level of friction is decreasing as Australia becomes more and more multicultural and that there is a general acceptance and understanding of people regardless of their differences. According to a 37-year-old male, in recent years dominant Australian culture has finally started to take responsibility for this difficult situation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

Concerning assimilation into dominant Australian culture, only two respondents think native Australians are able to assimilate. Two other respondents declared that it is possible but they would have to want to assimilate, and they need support to do so. The other four respondents do not think that Aborigines are able to assimilate into the Australian mainstream. According to the 20-year-old student “the resentment that the indigenous felt would stop their assimilation into the mainstream society for a long time and I think that this is why they are still not fully assimilated”. The two remaining respondents are not sure if Aborigines should actually try to assimilate. The 37-year-old male thinks Australia should let Aborigines live as they want, and not force them to live the way the modern society does.

5.3 Possible solutions about how to improve the situation of the indigenous population living in Australia

The majority of respondents think education is the key to help Aborigines. The 37-year-old male declared that Aborigines “were denied access to education for such a long period of time that we need to put more focus on to increasing the rate of education in the indigenous population”. The 58-year-old male suggests improving their home life and their background: “Improving access to better educational services and facilities is not going to be effective unless we can also ensure that the students have a safe and functional home life, and go to school well-fed and healthy”. Together with the 18-year-old female student they stated that it would be also helpful to introduce to the syllabus Aboriginal studies. Also the 85-year-old male agreed that “education from an early age is the only hope for the aboriginal race to survive”. He added that to improve the situation between Aborigines and non-indigenous population “it needs a genuine wish by all white Australians to help, join with, and to become one and all, a nation of people; no apartheid”.

According to a 30-year-old female there is no point trying to influence Aborigines from the ‘outside’ but they need to have role models, leaders from their communities which would show them that it is possible to improve their lives. “Established programs are great, but there needs to be a desire to participate in them – that can only be generated internally”.

The 20-year-old female student added that she found it unbelievable that such a multicultural country as Australia has to deal with the discrimination of their indigenous population: “The fact that the group of people who have been on this land for the longest are the last to be fully accepted makes me think that our society is in some ways a bit backwards”.

6 CONCLUSION

The situation between Australian Aborigines and modern Australian society is complicated and multifaceted. Their relations are ambiguous and full of contradictions.

History plays an important role in current situation. Aborigines inhabited the land far earlier than Europeans. They succeeded in settling and colonizing the land and they lived happily in Australia before the arrival of the British. Europeans wanted Aborigines to accept and to take advantage of the modern developed society which they had offered to them, but native inhabitants rejected all attempts to assimilate into European modern society; they wanted to keep their old habits, traditions and nomadic way of live. This was the first cause of contradictions and frictions between indigenous and non-indigenous population.

The differences between these two cultures were gradually highlighted and the situation aggravated. Native inhabitants refused to assimilate into modern society, however, Europeans struggled decisively to reeducate Aborigines. This was the biggest mistake made by the invading Europeans. The 'Stolen Generations' have left terrible impacts on Aborigines up to the present. Nowadays, there are still many people from the Stolen Generations who do not know where their relatives are. This forcible removal of aboriginal children away from their families destroyed all the possible hopes that Aborigines would quickly or easily assimilate into modern Australian society.

Even though the Australian government officially apologized to its non-indigenous population, many Aborigines feel that they can never be compensated for this cruel treatment. Even today Australian Aborigines are highly disadvantaged in many areas in comparison to the Australian mainstream.

Australians from the modern society have different points of view on the situation with their native inhabitants. Some of them believe that

Aborigines have a very hard life, that they are still discriminated against and that they are often victims of racism. Others perceive their current situation more negatively – they consider them lazy people who are highly dependent on governmental help and support.

The question whether Aborigines are able to assimilate into Australian modern society cannot be answered one-sidedly. There are many examples of Aborigines who have fully assimilated and live in a similar way as the rest of Australian society. Nevertheless, there are many more Aborigines who were not able, or did not want, to accept the modern Australian society.

However, it should not be forgotten that Australian Aborigines were the first inhabitants of Australia. Europeans made many wrong decisions and they caused a lot of problems for its indigenous population. History has left behind many sad memories for all Australian Aborigines and now the Australian government tries to redress faults from the past. The government now takes responsibility for this situation and tries to find solutions to improve relations between the indigenous population and the Australian mainstream. However, the governmental efforts to make things right is not enough. What is needed is the willingness of both modern Australians and Aborigines to respect each other and to become one nation. This mutual understanding and respect starts to be heading on the right track but there is still a long way to go.

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9 ABSTRACT

The aim of this thesis is to present current relations between Aborigines and the dominant Australian culture. The emphasis is put mainly on the current situation in Australia but the thesis also describes the history and relations between indigenous and non-indigenous populations in the past.

The thesis is divided into four main parts. The first part presents basic geographic, demographic and economic data about Australia. The second part is dedicated to the history of Australia. The third part describes the current situation in Australia and the last part presents research findings.

Out of this thesis it can be deduced that current relations between Aborigines and modern Australian society are more than complicated. The thesis gives concrete examples of successful assimilation of Aborigines into the modern society but on the other hand the thesis proves that the majority of the indigenous population is still disadvantaged and sometimes also discriminated against by the Australian mainstream.

Book sources and electronic sources as well were used for writing the thesis. Opinions, thoughts and ideas of Australians expressed in the research give a reader concrete point of view on how modern Australians perceive the situation in regards to Aborigines.

10 RESUMÉ

Cílem této práce je představit soudobé vztahy mezi australskými domorodci a moderní australskou kulturou. Důraz je kladen hlavně na nynější situaci v Austrálii, ale práce také popisuje historii Austrálie a vztahy mezi původními obyvateli a moderním obyvatelstvem Austrálie v minulosti.

Práce je rozdělena na čtyři hlavní části. První část představuje základní geografické, demografické a ekonomické údaje o Austrálii. Druhá část je věnována historii Austrálie. Třetí část popisuje nynější situaci v Austrálii a poslední část představuje výsledky výzkumu.

Z této práce je možné vyvodit, že soudobé vztahy mezi australskými domorodci a moderní australskou kulturou jsou více než komplikované. Práce uvádí konkrétní příklady úspěšné asimilace domorodců do moderní společnosti, ale na druhou stranu práce dokazuje, že většina původního obyvatelstva je stále znevýhodněná oproti modernímu australskému obyvatelstvu, a občas je jím i diskriminována.

K napsání této práce byly použity knižní i elektronické zdroje. Názory, myšlenky a poznatky moderních Australanů vyjádřené ve výzkumu dávají čtenáři konkrétní pohled na to, jak moderní australské obyvatelstvo vidí situaci týkající se domorodých obyvatel.

11 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Division of Australia into single states and territories



Source: http://wpp.greenwichmeantime.com/time-zone/australia/derived/txt_australia-map.gif

Appendix 2: Ethnic composition of Australians

Ethnic Composition of the Australian People (per cent)

Ethnic Origin	1787	1846	1861	1891	1947	1988
Aboriginal	100.0	41.5	13.3	3.4	0.8	1.0
Anglo-Celt	-	57.2	78.1	86.8	89.7	74.6
Other European	-	1.1	5.4	7.2	8.6	19.3
Asian	-	0.2	3.1	2.3	0.8	4.5
Other	-	-	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nos (000's)	500	484	1328	3275	7640	16300

Source: <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/multicultural/agenda/agenda89/australi.htm#a>

Appendix 3: An image of a typical Aboriginal



Source: <http://www.oztrek.com.au/pages/blue-mountains-info/aborigines.php>

Appendix 4: Archie Roach – Took the Children Away (lyrics)

This story's right, this story's true
I would not tell lies to you
Like the promises they did not keep
And how they fenced us in like sheep.
Said to us come take our hand
Sent us off to mission land.
Taught us to read, to write and pray
Then they took the children away,
Took the children away,
The children away.
Snatched from their mother's breast
Said this is for the best
Took them away.

The welfare and the policeman
Said you've got to understand
We'll give them what you can't give
Teach them how to really live.
Teach them how to live they said
Humiliated them instead
Taught them that and taught them this
And others taught them prejudice.
You took the children away

The children away
Breaking their mothers heart
Tearing us all apart
Took them away

One dark day on Framingham
Come and didn't give a damn
My mother cried go get their dad
He came running, fighting mad
Mother's tears were falling down
Dad shaped up and stood his ground.
He said 'You touch my kids and you fight me'
And they took us from our family.
Took us away
They took us away
Snatched from our mother's breast
Said this was for the best
Took us away.

Told us what to do and say
Told us all the white man's ways
Then they split us up again
And gave us gifts to ease the pain
Sent us off to foster homes
As we grew up we felt alone
Cause we were acting white
Yet feeling black

One sweet day all the children came back
The children come back
The children come back
Back where their hearts grow strong
Back where they all belong
The children came back
Said the children come back
The children come back
Back where they understand
Back to their mother's land
The children come back

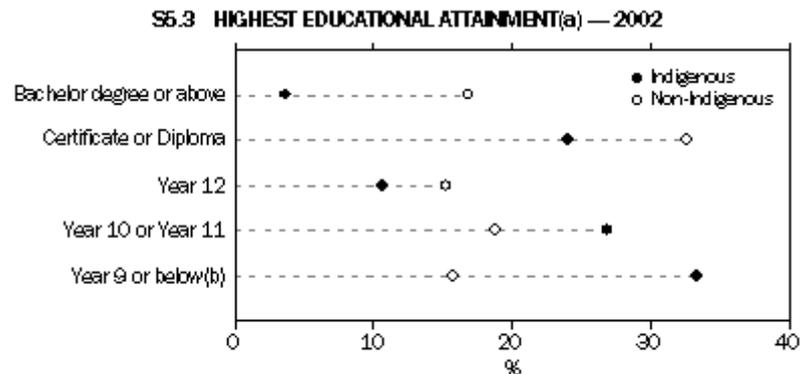
Back to their mother
Back to their father
Back to their sister
Back to their brother
Back to their people
Back to their land
All the children come back
The children come back
The children come back
Yes I came back.

Source:

http://www.lyricsmania.com/took_the_children_away_lyrics_archie_roach.html

Available from: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aywDT6yHMmo>

Appendix 5: Highest educational attainment

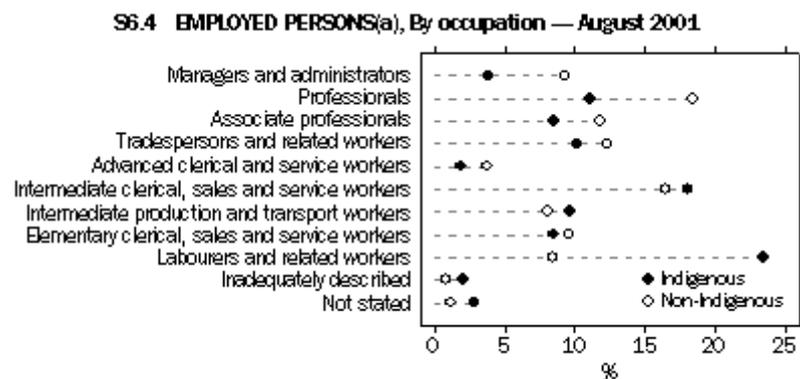


(a) Persons aged 18 years and over. (b) Includes people who never attended school.

Source:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/00000000000000000000000000000000/294322bc5648ead8ca256f7200833040!OpenDocument>

Appendix 6: Professions of employed Australians



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/Ausstats/abs@.nsf/0/bc6a7187473c6fb6ca256dea00053a29>

Appendix 7: Questionnaires

- *Information about informants:*

1. Are you Male or Female?
2. What is your age?
3. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
4. What is your incoming and your total household income?
5. What is your current marital status?
6. What is your religious affiliation?
7. What is the highest level of education your parents have completed?

- *Questions concerning Australian Aborigines:*

1. How do you perceive the life of Aborigines in Australia?
2. Have you had any personal experience (positive or negative) with native Australians? Do you know anyone of them closely?
3. What do you think about their style of living? About their culture?
4. Do you think Aborigines are able to assimilate into the dominant Australian culture? Why or why not?
5. In your opinion, what is the level of friction in the relationship between Aborigines and other Australians?
6. Do you think Aborigines are disadvantaged in some ways? Why or why not?
7. According to your own impression, have original Australians the same access to education, work and health services as other Australians?
8. In your own time at school and/or university did you have any aboriginal class mates?
9. What is your honest opinion about the situation with education in regards to Australian Aborigines?
10. Do you have any concrete ideas on how the education for native Australians could be improved?

Questionnaire n° 1:

1. Male
2. 58
3. Tertiary
4. ~\$25K
5. Never Married
6. Atheism
7. 2 years High School

-
1. Tough. Obviously varies from individual to individual. However, very few would not experience a level of discrimination. Opportunities would tend to be more limited.
 2. At stages of my life I have had varying degrees of personal experience with indigenous Australians. Period of most contact was when I lived in a northern regional town (Derby), which had a large local community. Have an indigenous ex-girlfriend. Drove a taxi for several years which led to many experiences – including the only really negative experiences I have had. At the moment, I have only incidental contact.

3. Is there a singular “style of living”? As for their cultures (plural, not singular), interesting. Wouldn't want to make a value judgement re any culture, but..... Couldn't adapt quickly enough to deal with post-contact situation. Doubt if many cultures could.
4. With enough time, anything is possible, but hopefully not. If that occurs indigenous cultures will disappear, rather than co-existing.
5. Variable. An easy scapegoat for small-minded people when times are getting harder. Indigenous – first generation migrant Australians often seems to be the most difficult relationship.
6. With the qualification that we are referring to “average” indigenous experiences, I would think in almost all ways. Life prospects are worse than for the general community – employment, health, financial, longevity, social status, etc.
7. No
8. Yes. One in primary school, one (different person) in high school. Quite a few at Uni as I studied several units in the Indigenous Studies area. Can't think of any classmates in any units that were not in some way related to indigenous history or culture.
9. Education quality for any Australian is largely determined by wealth, locality and the educational level of the parents. Most (of course, not all) indigenous children do not meet the criteria that generally leads to better education.
10. Not that others haven't had already! Can't be seen in isolation. Improving access to better educational services and facilities is not going to be effective unless we can also ensure that the students have a safe and functional home life, and go to school well-fed and healthy (appalling, in a rich country like Australia that is still often not the case). Efforts to make the syllabus more relevant may help (indigenous languages, cultural studies). Even better if non-indigenous students did such studies. Link between education and life prospects must be clear to potential students.

Questionnaire n° 2:

1. Male
2. 37
3. Bachelors Degree
4. \$110,000 and \$180,000
5. Married
6. none
7. Bachelors Degree

The Aboriginal situation is a very difficult one to solve. They have had a very tough time since the European people landed in 1788. They were made into slaves, killed, and were treated a second class citizens for a very long time. Aboriginal people have only been allowed to vote in elections since 1970's !! So Australia is facing a very big question at the moment. How do we make things right? There are a lot of Government initiatives to provide education, training and employment opportunities for Indigenous people. Many companies are also trying to increase the number of indigenous people working for them by providing job opportunities specifically for Aboriginals. This is starting to turn things around, but we have a long way to go.

1. I think life is hard for Aboriginals in Australia. There is still a lot of racism in our society that is holding them back. Also, they have had so much taken away from them over the last 200 years.
2. Generally my experiences have been positive. I work with a couple of Aboriginal people, and I would interact with them on a daily basis.
3. The traditional lifestyle seems to be pretty tough. The nomadic lifestyle in the middle of the desert is a tough way to live. Aboriginal Culture is the history of Australia. The culture needs to be preserved and looked after.
4. From the people I have interacted with I would say yes, they are able to integrate. There is ready adoption of western culture and ways of doing things. The question here is "Should they need to assimilate?" By this I mean, why can't we just let the Indigenous population live the way they have done for 40,000 years. Why should they have to live the way we do?
5. Over the last 15 years or so the level of friction has decreased quite a lot. I think there is a general acceptance and understanding that when Europeans came to Australia, and for the following 200 years, a lot was taken away from the Indigenous population, and it took us a long time to come to terms with this. In recent years the White population has started to take responsibility for this. There is still a lot of distrust and fear, but the relationship is changing. Australia now actively promotes opportunities for indigenous people, such as mining companies now have targets for their workforce to have a certain percentage of Aboriginals (usually around 5 or 6%)
6. Yes, there is still a lot of racism in the community. Aboriginal life expectancy is much shorter than for Whites. Aboriginals make up only 2% of the total population but represent something like 60% of the prison population. There is a long way to go and a lot of work to do to bring equality to the aboriginal people.
7. Yes I think so. There is a lot of incentives in place to employ and train indigenous people (government rebates), and they also have access to health services.
8. Yes, I went to school with 2 aboriginal students.
9. Education is the key to helping to bring equality to the Aboriginal people. They were denied access to education for such a long period of time that we need to put more focus on increasing the rate of education in the indigenous population.
10. There are currently a number of programs in place to incentivise indigenous children to go to school.

Questionnaire n° 3:

1. Female
 2. 26
 3. Tertiary study (Bachelors degree)
 4. 70,000 per annum
 5. Single
 6. Catholic
 7. Both mother and father completed University degrees
-

1. Difficult to say. Some groups – perhaps those who live in metropolitan areas are fully integrated into Western lifestyle and culture making the most of health, career and education services and not taking advantage or government welfare schemes or options offered by private businesses to indigenous people. Others are in a period of transition which may take another generation before they are considered regular members of society (rather than seen by the dominant society as a separate group). They may others live a part tribal, part western lifestyle where they live in separate communities, or in cities and towns but are not fully integrated and are seen to live an undisciplined lifestyle in that they don't seek career progression or seek to accumulate material assets – but do rely heavily on social welfare and government assistance. The final group live a largely tribal lifestyle in remote communities with little access to what we consider important health and education services. A strong stereotype of Aboriginal people is that they are drug addicts or alcoholics. Susceptible to diabetes and other diseases brought on by Western diets and lifestyles (to which they are not accustomed). And not attentive to societal expectations of neat dress, hygiene (body odour), or regulated living – i.e. attending a 9-5 work day, care for and pride in material possessions / personal property such as a car or house.
2. I have attended school and worked with Aboriginal people. I would not say that I have known one particularly well. I have only had one close friend who was half French, half aboriginal. Northam – the town where I attended school was a traditional camping area for Aboriginal people as there are natural water sources. The Government made use of the historical camp site to create a Government funded camp site and a base for welfare programs.
3. Not enough knowledge to comment.
4. Not enough knowledge to comment. Of course it is possible – but more difficult for those living in remote areas, and they would need to WANT to assimilate.
5. I would say they are considered a burden by many – as alcoholics who are not interested in working and simply sponge off the government. Some people fear them as they don't respect personal property and cause damage through lack of respect for material items / or as a result of alcohol & drug abuse. Many people simply don't interact with Aboriginals on a personal level.
6. Yes – for young people in our generation they have neither the strong tribal communities and relationships to guide them into adulthood, nor parents and grandparents who have been well educated. Many would have been brought up with parents who have free money from the government, possible substance abuse issues, and little interest in living a civilised or regulated western lifestyle which makes it difficult for them to live in our culture or theirs.
7. Yes – but we have several generations – grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, siblings etc who have been through our education system and seen its benefits. We have role models to encourage and aid us in our studies – I don't know that this is common for our generation of Aboriginal people.
8. Yes in school – but not commonly. I went to a private school (not Government funded).

9. Not enough knowledge to comment. It is difficult for the Government to offer programs which are suitable for those living in remote areas and in tribal communities. For those living in cities education is much more accessible but I am not sure what learning difficulties and attendance problems children face. I did not have any Aboriginal classmates when attending University.
10. No. At one time there was a strong leader for Aboriginal rights – Mabo. I assume a strong leader would encourage unity among aboriginal people across the Country and that would give groups an opportunity to voice their opinions on what would work best for their situation which would provide the Government with more information on how to make progress in education. Traditionally young boys in a tribe were led by the men, and girls by the women. With a fragmented tribal system I am not sure what encourages today's generation develop values and standards within their tribe or white society. I am not sure what would motivate them to seek education.

Questionnaire n° 4:

1. Male
 2. 54
 3. Technical trade / technician level
 4. tba
 5. De facto relationship / engaged
 6. Nil
 7. Dad – about year 10.
-
1. The indigenous people in Australia have a very hard life. Their traditional history has been hunting, gathering and a very Nomadic existence. They had/have a very close association with the land and most of their religious beliefs are around the land, Their 'sacred places' are water holes, cultural icons like water serpents are in/under rivers etc. In the relatively short period of European settlement this way of life has almost completely disappeared and they have no option but to adapt to the new ways. There has been very little assimilation during the integration process. We have taken very little from their culture, but imposed onto the race a new set of cultural beliefs and requirements. I feel sorry for them in many ways, there is very limited opportunity for them in the modern Australia and a fair amount of resentment against them from the non aboriginal population. Education has been a big issue, with no historical mindset towards European style teaching and learning, it has struggled to gain traction within indigenous communities. In the modern Australian society, no education means no jobs, and this has far reaching implications. Most significant of these is that the present indigenous population is very dependent upon welfare for survival. This has built up resentment from a large portion of main stream Australians who perceive them as lazy, bludging on the system.
 2. I have known a number of aboriginals throughout my life. I have a very good friend who lives in Karratha that I keep in contact with. He has integrated well and works as a mechanic for Woodside petroleum on the Karratha Gas Plant. Woodside have a commitment to providing opportunities. I have also

- played football with a few and most of my personal experiences have been positive.
3. Culturally they struggle in Australia today. They traditionally share their possessions within the extended family and brothers, cousins and even more distant relations treat this as a right. As they are living in a society which has a such European values on possessions and ownership, it creates a lot of tensions. Indigenous personnel who live in suburban houses often fall out with neighbours, they overcrowd , not uncommon for 10-20 persons to live in a dwelling. It is hard to maintain a property under these conditions and as it gets run down this increases the tension with neighbours who see it impacting on their way of life. Their own culture is generally not understood by mainstream Australians. I believe most Australians think that Aboriginals should fit in with us.
 4. As I mentioned above there has been very little assimilation during the intergration process. We have taken very little from their culture, but imposed onto the race a new set of cultural beliefs and requirements. I think this is because non-aboriginal Australians struggle to relate to their culture. We have stronger links back to our own family lines and tradition cultures. The Aboriginal culture is seen as primitive and offering little to white Australians.
 5. The relationship is poor. Aboriginal Australians have almost no voice in mainstream Australia. Those who manage to get a profile are often seen as activists and dismissed as trouble makers. The youth have a disproportionately high representation in crime figures and this is the main information that Australians receive on them. Many Australians are scared of Aboriginals and consciously disassociate from them.
 6. Aboriginals are disadvantaged in many ways. They have almost lost hundreds of thousands of years of culture and tradition overnight. They have struggled to adapt to this new culture. They have no history or tradition to fall back on in this new world. There are only limited role models that they can aspire to and many of these are sporting heroes. There are some areas where this is improving, with some of the major companies promoting a diversity policy, this is leading to an almost 'affirmative action' policy to give them opportunities. This is particularly noticeable in the large resource companies, which are taking mining resources from the earth that the Aboriginals are the traditional owners of.
 7. I believe the access to education is the same, but the take up and utilisation of this access is much less.
 8. I did not have any close Aboriginal friends at school. There were few there I can only remember have a few class mates in all my schooling, uni and technical studies.
 9. There are no simple solutions. We need to develop greater tolerance to their cultural and family structure and build an education structure that supports this. It will be a slow process getting strong effective momentum into their education. As I mentioned above they need role models who have been successfully , people that they can aspire to. They have this in the sports area and you can see the momentum it generates. I have some young Aboriginals in my workplace and there is some success with their education in the technical trade areas. As I mentioned above the support of

some of Australia's major resource companies is striving to have a positive effect in this area.

10. This is the hardest question of them all. They need to value education, to get them to engage and fully participate. There are a number of good initiatives that are trying to support this. Many successfully Aboriginals from sporting and other areas are committing to try and improve this. I believe we need to build on this. More government and industry to these people who they respect and trust.

Questionnaire n° 5:

1. Male
2. 85
3. Class 10 (as it was when I was at school)
4. Six hundred dollar
5. Married
6. Catholic
7. Similar to mine

-
1. Aborigines have not yet fully assimilated into the taking over and dominating by English speaking countries. Prior to this they had a nomadic, lazy, uncontrolled life. They lived virtually off the land and as our climate is very mild: they were able to make do with rough shacks for homes.
 2. In inland dry arid areas the Aborigines are mostly domiciled. In coastal areas and in cities there are only a few families. In such areas – we are in one such area – the families have adopted much better; and are better accepted as equals. In the main they are still lazy and don't like discipline or education. Otherwise the Aborigines in this area are really nice genuine people. They deserve a better acceptance. The trouble is that visitors to their homes cause them to get into trouble with the locals, including police. This makes local white people reluctant to employ them.
 3. Their style of living is generally very rugged. They prefer to have an easy untroubled existence. This means unhealthy habits. Their culture includes corroborees which are a form of religious entertainment. They gather for these some evenings: but nowadays the alcohol problem they have will often lead to violence at these parties.
 4. As their numbers dwindle it becomes less possible for the aboriginal race to join the dominant Australian culture.
 5. Many (higher class??) Australians will never accept the induction of the aboriginal race into the modern Australian way of life.
 6. Yes. They start off behind scratch. Their intelligence is definitely lower than white Australians.
 7. Original Australians (aborigines) do have the same access, and acceptance into education, work, and health services as white Australians.
 8. In my school time attendance at school by any Aborigines was very rare.
 9. Education from an early age is the only hope for the aboriginal race to survive; but I think the race will die out because there is insufficient planning to improve the standard of education.
 10. A very different approach is needed to succeed in the education, and improvement, of native Australians. It needs a genuine wish by all white

Australians to, help, join with, and to become one and all, a nation of people; no apartheid.

Questionnaire n° 6:

1. Female
 2. 20 years old
 3. High school completed; WACE achieved. Currently have completed 2nd year of Education degree.
 4. Annual income is \$42,000. However, work on a casual basis: hours vary. Annual income is an average.
 5. Single
 6. Catholic.
 7. Mother: University Degree completed.
-

1. I consider their life to be quite hard. Australians in general still discriminate against them which would make it hard for any person to have a happy and fulfilling life. I think it also depends on the indigenous community that they come from, if they are still a part of one.
2. I have been to school with Indigenous students and also at university some of my closest friends are Indigenous. The ones that I know are always friendly and work hard. In Australia, a lot of indigenous people are considered quite lazy as they live on government hand outs. However, once again I think it depends where they come from.
3. Indigenous are very family/community orientated. I think that this is a great asset to their culture. Your family is very important and I think that the "white" society takes it for granted a lot; I know that at times I do. To the indigenous their family and their community is a part of their home and gives them their sense of place. Their style of education is also very different as they are traditionally taught by their elders. Elders who have learned from their mistakes and who pass down their histories through story telling We are taught in our education degree that story telling should be used minimally and that factual information should be taught over the "Chinese whispered" versions of the older generations. Their sense of place is also something that fascinates me about the indigenous culture. Their affinity to a place, to the land, is something that the white society in general does not appreciate. When I grew up you played out on the farm and you went for walks in the bush but you never connected to the environment. You never really learnt about the properties of plants, the bush medicines or about the different animals and insects and that was 10 years ago. Today in Australia it is very rare for kids to play outside or go out in the bush; free time is always spent playing computer games or watching television. I think this is the downfall of the technological advance as it means that the ecological literacy of kids is almost non-existent. The indigenous sense of place is integrated into everything, dating back to their wandering days – where they would travel the seasons and always return to the same places in a cycle. As to their style of living, it depends on the person. It depends on what they want out of life and how they decide to live their life which results in their style of living. Though I do feel sorry for a lot of them, as they seem to think that they can not achieve any thing so there is no point trying; that

alcohol and drugs is a better lifestyle. In today's society there is such a rift between the older and younger generations as many of the younger generation

4. I define assimilation as a social process where one cultural group is absorbed, in harmony, with another. If I go by this definition then no I do not think that Indigenous Australians are able to assimilate into Australian culture. From the beginning when white Anglo-Saxons first arrived and federated Australia they immediately assumed that the native Australians were animals, not considering the fact that they had been in this country long before their arrival. They treated them appallingly, forcing them to live in reserves, killing many, taking away their rights, stopping them from partaking in their traditional and cultural activities and the worst was taking their children away. The stolen generation was a horrific part of Australian history and it will take a long time for the pain felt by the indigenous to pass. Many indigenous of Australia have been directly affected by the policy allowing the children to be taken away from their families and in most cases never seen again. Can you imagine being brought up and taught the importance of place and family and then have it taken away from you; the emotional pain would be unbearable. You would feel lost and alone, in my opinion no child should ever have to feel like that. The use of derogatory terms during this time would have made the indigenous children feel worthless; being called "half -caste" (Half indigenous/half Anglo-Saxon). Trying to assimilate into a society that causes you that suffering would be impossible. Taking their kids away and teaching them the way to behave, dress and speak in white society is not the way to achieve assimilation. The resentment that the indigenous felt would stop their assimilation into mainstream society for a long time and I think that this is why they are still not fully assimilated. In my English Literature class we studied a cartoon image, it was a picture of a white man painting a young indigenous boy white in an attempt to make him assimilate into the white society. In my opinion it perfectly sums up the time.
5. I do not think that the relationship between the mainstream Australians and the indigenous Australians is great. White Australian society is still so discriminative and in some ways refuses to accept this race into society; that coupled with the resentment and distrust that the Indigenous have of the mainstream society results in a poor relationship which I am hopeful will improve though I think it will be a long process. What I find unbelievable is that Australia is known as being multicultural. It is a multicultural society, it is not a pure race. It was started by convicts and prisoners and now Australia is home to people from all over the world who are considered to BE Australians. The fact that the group of people who have been on this land for the longest are the last to be fully accepted makes me think that our society is in some ways a bit backwards.
6. I think that they are and they aren't. They are given a lot of assistance by the government and various other organisations and are given the opportunities to learn and to develop skills but I think they are disadvantaged in the sense that it is not really fair that they are still in some ways forced to assimilate.
7. Yes, in that respect I think that Indigenous Australians have access to all of these services, since being given the right of self determination. However, a

lot of indigenous communities still speak using their own language; for example Nyoongar (South West of Australia) so coming into a mainstream school where English is considered for most students to be their first language I imagine it is difficult and the fact that the new Australian Curriculum does not include Aboriginal studies as a main learning area for society and environment means that students are not taught to look at the different perspectives, backgrounds and context of the indigenous students in their classes.

8. Yes and I still do at University.
9. Honestly, I think that education wise the Indigenous students are given the same rights as all other students. Over the last few years so many government incentives have been implemented to encourage Indigenous Australians to complete school and to continue on to high education including scholarships, support study groups, accommodation and also centrelink incentives. In the last few years, the awareness to society and perspective teachers has been raised as to the lack of educational support that Indigenous students receive and a lot has been done to achieve a greater level of Indigenous students completing school, traineeships, apprenticeships, University of tafe.
10. In my opinion, education in Australia needs to encompass the way of teaching and learning that the Indigenous society traditionally uses. It needs to encourage a greater sense of ecological literacy and a thirst for knowledge about the land we live in because to be honest Australia is an amazing and diverse country. Students need to develop a connection to the land and appreciate it so they understand the need to preserve and protect it ensuring they become active citizens in society. I think the best way to do this is to listen to stories and learn from the elders and learn through discovery using Piaget's ideas. The Indigenous society is such a big part of the country, history and community and by giving other students to understand and appreciate the intricacies of this culture it will increase the peace and harmony of the future generations. The kids after all are our future.

Questionnaire n° 7:

1. Female
2. 18
3. Secondary School
4. Unsure
5. Single
6. Roman Catholic
7. Mother – University; Father – Secondary school year 10

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1. I believe that many Aboriginal Australians have lost much of their cultural experiences due to being immersed in western society which does not have strong cultural practices.
 2. I have not had any personal experiences with or closely know any Aboriginal Australians.

3. When the Aboriginals live in their tribes and are strongly immersed in their own culture it is best for them as it helps them have a purpose. I think that those whom live without their cultural practices in western society are those who create the bad stereotype which many white australians have towards the Aboriginals.
4. There are any cases where it is shown that Indigenous Australians can assimilate into Australian culture, if they can on a personal level overcome the racism and discrimination towards their race. This is show by Australian actors Erine Dingo, Athelete Cathy Freeman and a senator Neville Bonner; people like these are known by both White and Indigenous Australian, and i personally have never heard anyone talk about them different than they would if they were white australians.
5. I beleive there is high levels of friction between Aboriginal and other Australians which is developed from assumptions and stereotypes by both sides. Many non-Indigenous Australians only see one side of Indigenous Australians and stereotype them as drunks, drug users and do not think of them very highly however many non-indigenous Australians do not view them this way. The same goes for Indigenous Australians they assume most non-indigenous Austraians think they arepart of the stereotype when they are not. The friction between cultures stems from lack of communication and unnecessary stereotyping by both cultures.
6. I think the disadvatages that aboriginal face are the rascism and discrimination towards them by some non-indigenous australians. However if they are able to overcome the stereotypes and discrimination they have the same opportunities presented to them as any other Australian. Aboriginal Australians are also disadvantaged through the past experiences they have had with white Australians and this has lead to their loss of culture and resorting to alcohol and drugs. It is difficult for Aborginals to adapt to a completely different culture than their own as the culture they are adapting to makes no attempt to make the transiton easier as the do not attempt to understand the Aborginal culture.
7. I think that they do if not more as the government puts in a big effort, especially in more recent years, to give indgenous australians more access to these servces and facilities.
8. No there were only a very very small number of Aboriginal students are my high school.
9. I beleive that aboriginal australians have the same opportunities to attend and acheive a good education however due to the discrimination in the work place it is difficult to fianance the studies which is why more aboriginal student are not in school. To make the education system better in Australia the government has fianancial help avaliable to people whom need it, also so that all australians can attend a school law have been put in place which prevent education institutions from not accepting people whom are not a certain religion or race and also a law saying all children in australia must be in school of some sort. I also think it is difficult however for Aborginal australians to have to inject themselves into western society in such a way as the school system where they are surrounded by western influences, it can be especially difficult for elder aborginal australians to allow young aboriginals to do this as they can still remember the times when young aboriginals were taken away by the government and put into institutions

where they were essentially turned into white australians as access to their culture was taken away from them.

10. No, the best option is to attempt to remove all non-indigenous Australians stereotyping and prevent indigenous Australians living up to these stereotypes so to prevent discrimination in all aspects of life. Also it would be good to introduce more cultural areas of teaching at school as many indigenous australians are without access to their culture.

Questionnaire n° 8:

1. I am a female. My name is Robin Curley and I am a Primary School Teacher.
2. 58.
3. I have a Master of Education.
4. Current total income to our house is approximately \$150 000 (Australian).
5. I am married.
6. I am a member of the Uniting Church.
7. My parents left school at about 14 years of age and probably only completed their 2nd year of secondary education.

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1. There is a vast range of Aboriginal people in Australia as there are of all nationalities but in general they seem to be in the lower socio-economic groups. They seem to be happy and content with what they have (again in general).
 2. As a teacher I have taught many Aboriginal Australians. I have not found them to be either better or worse than other students and the last family I worked with were absolutely delightful. They were lovely children with great manners and a real desire to learn. They had to catch 2 buses each morning and afternoon to come to our school (most of our families are in walking distance) but did so to be at a school where they were able to get a very good education. Our previous neighbours were also Aboriginal and very nice people. My sister's gardener is Aboriginal and a really lovely man. I have also taught with people of Aboriginal descent.
 3. Aboriginal people in the city are similar to any other ethnic group. Some are good and some are bad. They are usually not full-bloods but the result of inter-racial marriages. In remote country centres some of the Aboriginals who live in towns have drinking problems. They do not seem to have a good tolerance for alcohol. Those in the remote communities where they still maintain their tribal beliefs lead a very different lifestyle to me as their culture is so different. Some of these people still hunt. They have VERY strong family ties.
 4. Yes they can assimilate but need support to do so.
 5. I believe the friction that has been around is decreasing as Australia becomes more and more multicultural and begins to accept people regardless of their differences.
 6. There does still seem to be an economic disadvantage but this will gradually diminish as more Aboriginals gain higher levels of education and move to the cities rather than staying in outback and remote communities.
 7. Yes, in fact there are many government agencies providing assistance to Aboriginal people. They can access the same services as any other

australian but also have their own legal service and extra funding available for education, etc. Within a school setting they are treated exactly the same as any other student.

8. At school no Aboriginal classmates but once I was training to be a teacher yes there were some Aboriginal students.
9. As I said before they can access exactly the same level of education as anyone else. There is an Aboriginal Education department in our Education Department who help schools and teachers with Aboriginal students. Schools can also get funding for extra Education Assistants when they have above a certain number of Aboriginal students.
10. Possibly training student teachers better in the slightly different ways they learn so that they are more able to help if any issues arise.

Questionnaire n° 9:

1. Female
2. 30
3. Masters of Finance, Bachelor of Commerce, Chartered Accountant
4. –
5. Married
6. Catholic
7. Post graduate studies

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1. I think that they have a very difficult life. Their culture is still evolving but after generations of oppression/degradation/exclusion it is very challenging for them to break out of the cycles of poverty and alcohol abuse. I feel that though they make steps forward it is a long and hard road for them to travel towards better lives.
 2. Positive experiences: I coordinated the Woodside Finance Graduate program for a number of years and during that time was fortunate enough to identify an aboriginal girl to recruit to our program. Though her grades were not competitive with other candidates given her cultural background we felt it a great opportunity to bring her into our company. She has been a great addition to our team. Working hard and and learning quickly the tasks she has been set.
Negative experiences: I think for me the negative experiences relate to public transport. I catch the train to and from work and at times I find the aboringals on the train frightening. I appreciate that seems an odd choice of word , but given their angst toward `white` Australians and their, at times, unpredictable decisions – is the honest truth of how I feel.
 3. Their culture is incredibly close-knit and premised on the idea of community, i.e. they are all related in some way and they are all `family`. Their views on wealth and assets differ greatly to Australian norm. In fact, they seem almost to despise the acculation of assets.
 4. To me this is just a matter of time. Rightly on wrongly, for me this is a reality. They are such a minority that ultimately they will be absorbed into the ways of the majority. The length of time that this takes and the amount of their culture that they are able to retain are the real questions for me. And really I see this being a function of the leadership that their culture is able to provide.

5. Moderate. There is still a lot of anger in the aboriginal people and this is directed at those there to receive it – i.e. the general community of white people. The impact of the white Australia policy and the stolen generation is still very real. Additionally, I think a lot of ‘white’ Australians have had negative experiences with aboriginals and there is an underlying prejudice which makes moving forward very difficult.
6. They are not disadvantaged insofar as they technically have every opportunity white people have....i.e. public schools, public hospitals, public infrastructure etc – but what differs is that they are born into families full of anger and hate. Families that have been oppressed and ill treated for generations. Families that have little or no education. In this regard they are disadvantaged from birth (in the same way as anyone is who is born into that environment).
7. Yes – but with reference to the above they are often not brought into a culture that enables them to enjoy/understand the benefits of these things.
8. No.
9. There are some shifts towards higher levels of education, and there is certainly government programs and support in place for it – there is a very very very long way to go. Honestly – I see that this will just take time.
10. It really takes leadership within their communities. For us to try from the ‘outside’ to try and push them in this direction is not going to help. Established programs are great, but there needs to be a desire to participate in them – that can only be generated internally. I feel that as time progresses leaders (direct or indirect) will emerge in their community. For example, the graduate that we took on Woodside was likely the first of her family to go to uni and have a professional full-time job. Such an incredible step for her to take. But for the next generation will be viewed as a leader. She has set a pathway. Showed it can be done. I feel this is the most likely way change will occur. Our obligation is to ensure that the support networks are there and programs in place, so that as aboriginal people start to move in this direction – we enable them as much as we possibly can.

Questionnaire n° 10:

1. Male
2. 40
3. Tradesman
4. \$50,000
5. Married
6. None
7. Year 12

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1. The true Aboriginals in their own land, are self sufficient and look after themselves very well. The majority that live in society are totally reliant on white Australians through hand outs and social benefits. There are a few who have the get up and go to acheive very well for themseves in society. (very few!)
 2. Yes, I have played Australian Football with some and they are very good and very fair sportmans. I dont have any association with them now.

3. Their style of living is terrible! I have had firsthand views in a lot of homes (due to work duties - electrical maintenance in their houses) in both the south and north of Australia. They are quite happy to live in filth, and have no pride in home cleanliness. (There is of course exemptions to some, I have also seen White Australians live like Aborigines!)
Their culture of the true aborigines is sensational. Their dreamtime and the creation of the country is the way they rule their life. Their nomads and wander the country in search of food and following the climates patterns.
4. No, not at this stage, most older or middle age hate our culture and our way of life and the younger generation of what we are seeing are more willing to adapt to it. In saying that younger white Australians are more involved and associated with the Aborigines of their age.
5. There is more friction with the Aborigines to the white Australians, as we accept the situation. The white Australians that have friction with the Aborigines is more the ones that hate the dole bludgers and more arguments are caused by this.
6. Yes, they are disadvantaged because of their upbringings and not getting the family support. Also they do not get family support for their schooling which leads them to not attending and becoming less educated and motivated to achieve further down the track. They also do not look after their own health. (see advantages). They do have advantages as all medical services are given to them free of charge including dental. Schooling and any education is free, houses are supplied free, food, money, cigarettes and alcohol are all provided free!!! (This is where the friction of white Australians comes into it). The average budget per Aboriginal per year is about \$1,000,000 (dont quote me!)
7. Yes they have the same access and some if they choose to use it.
8. No.
9. They have the same opportunities as everyone who lives in Australia, it just depends who wants to use it.
10. Not really other than somebody going around everyday to pick them up and take them to school and make them do their homework and generally watch over their education, because their parents or guardians are too lazy or drunk to care.

I wanted to say that on my travels around Australia I did meet some beautiful Elders who lived out in the middle of the deserts and they are so happy and free spirited people, with no outside cultures influencing them. They didnt need handouts and lived off the land. We would all love to see more of that! Another thing I was gonna add was, I did work up north in the pilbara at Derby, and in the Aboriginal states and it was one of the most frightening experiences of my life. With the young teen gangs just hated the sight of them, I ended up refusing to work at their places alone in fear of my safety.