

Destiny strikes at discrimination

A black woman, appointed by Melbourne University to help fight race discrimination, has gone on strike because, she says, she has been discriminated against.

Destiny Deacon, 20, was given the new job of Aboriginal liaison officer in November.

But on Thursday she "suspended" herself indefinitely until the university reconsiders its attitude to the position.

"I just won't put up with it as it exists now. If they don't give me what I want I won't go on," Destiny, who is also doing second year Arts, said last night.

She said additional minor clerical duties, which kept her tied to an office a great deal of time, and limitations placed since her appointment showed the university authorities were not serious about

Angered by uni attitude

the job or her ability to fill it.

"The university made a great show of its appointment of a black to the position," she said. "But it hasn't carried the fanfare into action."

Destiny was originally appointed to liaise with blacks and the general community as part of the university's stated policy of positive discrimination in favor of blacks in employment and student admissions.

Among other things she was to advise on areas of employment of blacks at the university.

But she said she had been forced to study the employment columns of "The Age" to discover what employment positions the university was advertising.

Destiny said her original three-month period of employment had been extended another three months without explanation. Staff are normally classified as permanent after the initial period.

She said incoming mail had been opened in the registrar's office and several items delayed for three weeks. She had also to ask permission to visit black groups and had been hindered by lack of transport allowances.

Destiny said that despite the "importance" of her position she was classified as a junior clerk on \$87.11 a week and had to do cleaning duties.

"I still have the enthusiasm. But I just want them to have the confidence in the position to allow me to work under my own steam."

"I can't gain any experience working in the university administration. It is essential I am out working in the community."