

Squabble over Aboriginal post

A senior Federal public servant was accused yesterday of turning back the clock to the Aboriginal assimilation policies of the 1950s.

A National Aboriginal Consultative Committee spokesman said there was no excuse for the appointment of Mr. Reg Worthy to head the Federal Aboriginal Affairs Department in Victoria.

An NACC executive member, Mr. David Anderson, said the appointment made a mockery of the Federal Government's policy of encouraging "Aboriginal self management."

There were many Aborigines who could manage the department "better than Mr. Worthy or his predecessor, Mr. Peter Renkin.

Mr. Worthy started work in Melbourne this week after serving as department head in Queensland. He was previously director of the Victorian Government's Aboriginal Affairs Ministry.

Mr. Anderson said Mr. Worthy had run an intensive assimilation policy while head of the State Ministry.

He said the Liberal and National Country Parties had declared in 1975 that Aborigines should play a significant role in setting long-term Government policy objectives.

Mr. Worthy would not comment yesterday on Mr. Anderson's statement.