

# Native staff walk out

Five Aboriginal staff of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs walked out yesterday after a row over Aboriginal land rights.

And last night the publicity officer for the Aborigines Advancement League (Mr. J. Newfong) accused the State Government of "blackmail tactics" in negotiating a \$12,000 grant to the league.

Mr. Newfong claimed the department would consider giving this financial assistance only if the AAL officially condemned the proposed native land-rights stand being taken this Saturday in Sherbrooke Forest.

[From Saturday a party of Aborigines plan to camp in Sherbrooke Forest until they are given land rights.]

Mr. Newfong said five of the department's eight staff members yesterday walked out over the department's attitude. Two of these, Miss N. Mayers and Mr. R. Maza were still out after advising the other three to return to work, he said.