

# Aboriginal girl 'free' in China

**SYDNEY:** A 20-year-old Aboriginal girl said on her return from China today she had been overwhelmed by the freedom she had felt there.

Cheryl Buchanan, an arts student at Queensland University, was one of nine Aborigines invited to visit China for a month.

It was the first Aboriginal delegation to visit China.

"Out of Australia, I felt free to be able to tell people about the racialism here without fearing a backlash," she said at Sydney Airport.

She was impressed by the way China promoted its 54 minority groups by encouraging them to retain their cultures.

"The Chinese do not treat them as inferior

beings, as Aborigines are in Australia," she said.

"We, too, were treated as equals and they were very interested in our problems, including the land rights question in Australia."

She said she also was impressed by the way Chinese women were treated. They were paid equally with men.

She saw no racialism or discrimination during her trip and believed education was responsible.

The first four members of the Aboriginal group returned from China yesterday. Four others have yet to return.