

Aboriginal radio plan for outback

Communication between Aboriginal groups in Central Australia is, to say the least, restricted, and sometimes impossible, according to Mr Ron Liddle.

The physical isolation for Aboriginal people means also social and cultural isolation, particularly for those whose understanding of English is not good, he says.

Mr Liddle, a member of the Central Australian Aranda tribe, hopes that he can apply the knowledge he has gained during a four-month overseas study to set up an Aboriginal broadcasting service.

He returned last week from a visit to North America and Britain under the Aboriginal

They've had great results in their broadcasting into isolated communities", he said on

Thursday "I think it's a must in Australia"

He estimated that it would take three years to set up a similar scheme, operating from Alice Springs, but in the meantime he hoped to build up a library of material and establish a training school to develop skills in broadcasting among Aboriginal people.

Mr Liddle said he hoped the station would broadcast initially for about five hours a day in the Aranda language, which was widely understood in Central Australia, extending its transmission hours as the station became established.

Overseas Study Awards scheme.

Most of his time was spent in Canada, at the Alberta Communication Society, which broadcasts to the Cree Indians in their own language.

The society has been broadcasting around Alberta for some time, but recently made its first experimental broadcast by satellite, a development which will greatly expand the area to which it can broadcast.

Mr Liddle worked as a plant operator in the Northern Territory, but was evacuated to Canberra after Cyclone Tracy. He worked in Canberra until he left on his study tour.

"They've had great results in their

Programs would include Aboriginal history, health and hygiene