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Gary Foley . . . wary at first

TV role for activist

THE Aboriginal activist Mr Gary Foley can soon expect a wider audience than he now gets at the barricades of black politics.

He has just completed acting appearances in four episodes of the long-running television soap opera, *A Country Practice*.

Taking time off from his job as a consultant to the Muirhead inquiry into Aboriginal deaths in custody, Mr Foley has been portraying an Aborigine with a political message.

He is contract-bound not to reveal just what the role is, but he says it is a positive and sensitive portrayal that

shows Aboriginal people as human beings.

"At first I was wary about appearing in such a program, but I read the script and I really liked it," he said.

The character he plays acts as a catalyst for some big changes, yet to unfold, in the series.

Although it is his first role in a soapie, he is no stranger to the stage or film set with an occasional acting career spanning 16 years.

"It was too close to the bone," Mr Foley said. "It showed what Bourke and Brewarrina (outback NSW towns with a history of race problems) were really like."