

Submission from Dr. A.B. Kelly, Flinders University

Why do Aborigines sniff Petrol?

The underlying reason why Aborigines sniff petrol is the disintegration of the Aboriginal culture. The primary reason for this disintegration is the changes in Aboriginal Policy introduced in the 1960's. Prior to those changes Aboriginal policies had the effect of maintaining the Aboriginal culture.

I was a member of the Northern Territory Police through the 1950's. I lived and worked with Aborigines. I never encountered, nor heard any suggestion of any petrol sniffing at that time. Aborigines were then generally healthy, long-lived and law-abiding.

When I retired I entered Flinders University with the intention of discovering why Aborigines were so different from other people. I found there was no ready explanation, so I had to research the matter. I was awarded a Doctorate for my research in 1998.

As a result of my first-hand experience and of my research I can say with confidence that Aborigines are a Palaeolithic people, with Palaeolithic minds, who can only function in their own Palaeolithic culture. The Aboriginal policy that was in force in the 1950's tacitly recognised this, with beneficial results.

Other humans have developed significantly over time. Aborigines have been isolated for some 40,000 years from all the human developments that have occurred in the past 40,000 years. 40,000 years ago your ancestors would have thought like Aborigines. A mere 3,000 years ago no human could think the way we do today, either rationally or morally. [For confirmation of these developments see for example Bruno Snell "The Discovery of the Mind: the Greek Origins of European Thought" (1953) and Julian Jaynes "The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind" (1976)]

All Aboriginal policies since 1960 have been based on the tacit assumption that Aborigines are just like other people and should be treated in the same way as other Australians. The results have been, and must continue to be, an unmitigated disaster. These policies are Genocidal in effect, if not in intention. Their continuation will be your direct responsibility.