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From THE HON. KIM E. BEAZLEY, M.P.,
      MINISTER FOR EDUCATION.

        It is an honour to contribute a few words to the first issue
of *The Aboriginal Child at School* and to be invited to do so by
Dr. Betty Watts, whose contribution to thought on Aboriginal education
is most significant. Notably, Dr. Watts believes that vital facets
of Aboriginal education should arise from Aboriginal initiatives
and be expressive of Aboriginal culture and in Aboriginal languages.

        Bertrand Russell once made this comment:

        *"Certain mental habits are commonly instilled by those
        who are engaged in educating: obedience and discipline,
        ruthlessness in the struggle for worldly success,
        contempt towards opposing groups and unquestioning
        credulity, a passive acceptance of the teachers'
        wisdom..."*

        *"Instead of ruthlessnes, education should try to
        develop justice in thought. Instead of contempt, it
        ought to instill reverence and an attempt at understanding".*

        I do not need to stress that Aboriginal children face
distinctive and often serious problems in their schooling. And it
falls mainly on the teachers to deal with those problems if equality
of opportunity is to be realised. Responsibility does not rest
wholly on the teachers, of course, for it is the job of administrators
and research people to provide the support that teachers require.
There is the obligation for all the Australian community to
demonstrate that what counts in Australian society is character, not
race.

        This journal should express the joy of mental adventure, the
essence of education and offer hope, the creative principle in human
affairs.

        Dr. Watts is to be commended for her initiative in suggesting
it, and for her dedication in agreeing to edit and publish it, and I
wish to express my personal gratitude to her.

        The Aboriginal Child at School is designed to be an inspiration
to the class teacher, and to that end to be a factor in creating for
Aboriginal children a future of dignity and cultural renaissance,
unshadowed by a sombre past.

                                        Kim E. Beazley

                                        Minister for Education