

Black Panthers of Australia, Platform and Programme, 1970

What We Want, What We Believe

1. We want freedom. We want power to determine the destiny of our Black Community. We believe that Black people will not be free until we are able to determine our destiny.
2. We want full employment for our people. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every man employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the white Australian businessmen will not give full employment, then the means of production should be taken from the businessman and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organise and employ all of its people and give a high standard of living.
3. We want an end to the robbery by the white man of our Black Community. We believe that this racist Government has robbed us and now we are demanding restitution for the armed robbery of our land, which is the social, culture and economic base of any people. We will accept land and mineral rights for the existing black communities, and monetary restitution for those dispossessed victims. The Germans are now aiding the Jews in Israel for the genocide [of] the Jewish people. The Germans murdered 6 million Jews. The Australian racist has taken part in the slaughter of over a quarter of a million Black People (This entails 75% of the total population and total genocide of Tasmanian Blacks). We feel that as the number of Jews murdered represented only a small portion of the Jewish population as compared with the significant attempted genocide of the black people of this country, we feel that it is a modest demand that we make.
4. We want decent housing, fit for shelter of human beings. We believe that if the white landlords will not give decent housing to our black community, then the housing and the land should be made into co-operatives so that our community, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for its people.
5. We want education for our people that exposes the true nature of this decadent Australian society. We want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present-day society. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If a man does not have knowledge of himself and his position in society and the world, then he has little chance to relate to anything else.
6. We want all black men to be exempt from military service. We believe that Black people should not be forced to fight in the military service to defend a racist government that does not protect us. We will not fight and kill other people of colour in the world who, like black people, are well victimized by the white racist government of Australia. We will protect ourselves from the force and violence of the racist police and the racist military, by whatever means necessary.
7. We want an immediate end to *police brutality, murder & rape of black* people. We believe we can end police brutality in our black community from racist police oppression and brutality. There is a need to make policemen out of the "Pigs" that are presently acting as law enforcement agencies. It's only way that this can be done is to give the communities control of the police. Without this the "*pigs*" will continue to be used as tools of the Fascists system. When the Government becomes a law breaker the people must become the law-enforcers.
8. We want freedom for all black men held in prisons and jails. We believe that all black people should be released from the many jails and prisons because they have not received a fair and impartial trial.
9. We want all black people when brought to trial to be tried in court by a jury of their peer group or people from their black communities. We believe that the courts should follow the Law. The Law gives a man the right to be tried by his peer group. A peer is a person from a similar economic, social, religious, geographical, environmental, historical and racial background. To do this the court will be forced to select a jury from the black community from which the black defendant came. We have been, and are being tried by all-white juries that have understanding of the "average reasoning man" of the black community.
10. We want land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace. And as our major political objective, a United Nations-supervised plebiscite to be held throughout the black colony in which only black colonial subjects will be allowed to participate, for the purpose of determining the will of black people as to their national destiny. When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinion of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certainness. That, to secure these rights, from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be all changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.