

Australian Claims--

Aboriginal People Win Victory

SIDNEY — Aboriginal land claims scored a victory in New South Wales when the government last week set up an Aboriginal Land Trust for the state's 30,000 aboriginal people.

The nine member board heading the trust will be composed entirely of aborigines, and will be empowered to acquire and dispose of the land held in freehold ownership for the benefit of the aborigines of the country.

Last week's action was the result of a two year struggle by aborigines and white supporters to have land rights recogniz-

ed by the government.

Of the 30,000 aborigines in the country, approximately 5,000 live on several land reserves, ranging in size from one to 1,300 acres, and totalling 6000 acres.

Housing on the reserves varies from floorless tin sheds to modern units built by the government housing commission. The settlement of land rights may open up new possibilities for the people who could farm the reserve, graze cattle, and otherwise make developments.