

Neville Bonner by Jake

Have you ever heard of Mr Neville Bonner? Well he was a politician and he was the first Indigenous person to get into the Australian parliament. He was born on the 28th March 1922 in Lismore, New South Wales and was from the Jagera tribe. He had a hard childhood because he was a First Nations people. He fought for the freedom of the Indigenous people. Sadly Mr Bonner didn't have much of a education because he was an Indigenous person and most state schools don't accept First Nation people. Like most Aboriginal people Mr Bonner was not recognised as an Australian citizen. His father was one of the elders of the Jagera people of the South East, Queensland. His father bravely fought against the white invaders who invaded Australia and took it from the Aboriginal and Torres strait Islander people. Mr Bonner died on the 5th February 1999 when he was 76 years old. Despite his hard childhood he grew up and died a proud Jagera man. He fought hard for better living conditions for his fellow Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. Without Mr Bonner's help the First Nations people's lives would have stayed how it was before.

Mr Bonner's childhood was hard because he was from the First Nation people. During his childhood his mother fell ill, and died in 1969. The Jagera man lived in a hut made from iron found in the rubbish dump. His early years where spent in New South Wales. During his time at school he got bullied and his parents fought for the bullying to stop. In his youth he worked as a rural labourer on properties in Queensland and northern New South Wales. At the age of thirteen Mr Bonner moved to Queensland to attend school there. He only had one year of formal education so he didn't receive much education. As a young man he worked as a labourer in various properties. Mr Bonner was not happy about the living conditions that the First Nation people where enduring so he started to try and make a difference.

Mr Bonner thought that there would be little change for the Indigenous people unless there was one of them in the Parliament. As a result he tried very hard to get into the Australian Parliament which later on payed off. He was soon to become the first indigenous person to get into the Parliament and was a representative for the First Nations people in Federal Politics. In 1967 he joined the Liberal party and in 1971 he became a senator for the Australian Liberal Party. During his time as a senator he served other committees. Also he lived on Palm island for a little bit in which he got very involved in community affairs. When he was in Palm Island which is a Indigenous reserve near Townsville, Queensland he was not happy about

the poor living conditions that the First Nations people were enduring. As a result Mr Bonner fought for better living conditions and he remained committed to the progress of the First Nations. Later on his hard work made the lives of the Indigenous people much better.

During Mr Bonner's time in the Australian parliament he was appointed supervisor of approximately 300 people. He resigned in 1983. The Jagera used to tell the story of his hard childhood under a palm tree outside the town because Indigenous people weren't aloud in the town after sunset. In 1979 he was named the Australian of the year. After he retired he became a respected commentator on Aboriginal and Torres strait islander issues. After resigning in 1983, Mr Bonner worked with a number of organisations to help the welfare of the indigenous people which he stayed committed to. He fought hard for improvements to the lifestyle the indigenous people were enduring. He fought for the Indigenous people's rights and tried to make life for the indigenous people the same as the white people who were living like kings and queens compared to the Aboriginal and Torres strait islander people.

Mr Bonner worked as a politician in the Australian parliament and disagreed on many occasions. It is thought that he disagreed near 34 times. His desire was to make the world a better place for the Indigenous people who were enduring very bad lifestyles. He got himself into the Australian parliament and worked as a senator for twelve years. Mr Bonner was a highly respected parliamentary figure, known for his approach in politics for his campaign for the Indigenous issues and the environment, which was starting to get polluted and the trees were getting chopped down by the white people. The he issues that he raised in the senate, they were a sign of national symbolism, because the issues he raised were about the Indigenous people and the land and land rights. In 1974 Mr Bonner moved a motion that the Senate acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the prior owners of the Australian continent and introduce legislation to compensate them for dispossession of their land.

Mr Bonner is one of the most important people in Aboriginal history. Without him the Indigenous people would be enduring the conditions they once were a long time ago. He joined the Australian Parliament and was a senator there for twelve years. He had one year of formal education and he had a hard childhood because he was from the First Nation people. Mr Bonner thought that improvement for the Indigenous people wouldn't happen unless one of them were in the parliament so he started to work his way towards getting into the Australian Parliament. In 1979 he became the Australian of the year. After resigning Mr Bonner became a respected

commentator on Aboriginal and Torres strait islander issues. During the time as a senator he disagreed with the parliament around 34 times. He was known for his approach in politics towards keeping the environment unpolluted and clean. In the senate the issues he raised were about the Indigenous people or the environment. What he did to improve the Indigenous peoples lifestyle and without him the First Nation peoples lives would stay the same state, maybe it would've even gotten a little bit worse. That is why Mr Bonner is a man of note for both Indigenous and white people