

# WELFARE BOARD GIVES £1,000

## *Towards London Education for Blind Wahroonga Student*

*The Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly, has announced that the Aborigines Welfare Board has donated £1,000 towards the cost of training a blind aboriginal boy in London.*

The boy is David Kerin, 18, of St. Edmund's School for Blind Boys, Wahroonga, Sydney.

Four days after the announcement of the Board's donation, Mrs. G. D. Milford, of Pott's Point, Sydney, sent to the Chairman of the Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, cheques for a total of £130 on behalf of herself and a relative, to be used to help David Kerin.

David was accepted earlier this year for a three-year course in physiotherapy at the Royal Institute for the Blind in London.

He is due to leave Sydney by air in September to take up his course.

Because of the length of time he would have to travel unaccompanied, David is to go to London by air instead of by the long sea trip.

The physiotherapy course is expected to cost between £3,000 and £4,000.

Announcing the donation by the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. Kelly said he had asked the Federal Minister for Territories, Mr. P. M. C. Hasluck, to make an equal donation.

Dealing with the Board's donation, Mr. Kelly said:

"The £1,000 will come from funds donated to or left to the Board by private individuals for aborigines' welfare. The Board considered this as a most worthy cause in which a special donation should be made.

"David Kerin came to Sydney at the age of four after he had lost his sight following an attack of conjunctivitis.

"He went to school first at St. Lucy's, Homebush, and after two years went to St. Edmund's School for the Blind, Wahroonga, where he is still living. His last two years of schooling before the Leaving Certificate examination were done at St. Pius X School, Chatswood.

"David, who is from Tennant Creek, Northern Territory, is a fine type of boy. He has shown great courage and aptitude throughout his years of schooling in Sydney and I believe his success would be of the utmost importance to his people, to the State and, in overseas eyes, to Australia itself.

"For these reasons, at the suggestion of the Aborigines Welfare Board, I have asked the Federal Minister for Territories, Mr. Hasluck, to give urgent consideration to making a donation equal to ours, so that David may be able to prepare for his course of study in London assured that the finance for it will be available.

"David was the first aboriginal boy to go through St. Edmund's School for the Blind, and I pay tribute to the staff and pupils there and at St. Pius X School, for the care and encouragement given him.

"He was educated and cared for free at St. Edmund's and at St. Pius X School. Special materials for education of the blind were provided also at no cost.

"In his last two years of schooling, the Aborigines Welfare Board gave him bursaries and for several years paid a weekly sum towards his maintenance."