

W. K.

1959  
(SECOND SESSION)

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT  
OF THE  
ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD  
FOR THE  
Year ended 30th June, 1959

BY COMMAND



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## Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales, for the Year ended 30th June, 1959

### I. THE BOARD

During the year, Mr. H. J. Green was appointed as Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare and as a Member of the Aborigines Welfare Board. Towards the latter end of the period under review, Superintendent P. R. Clifton resigned as Police representative, Superintendent N. H. Mijch being appointed as a Member in his stead. The resignation of Mr. H. S. Groves as Aboriginal Member was also accepted.

The constitution of the Board, as at 30th June, 1959, was as follows:—

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department: Mr. A. G. Kingsmill (Chairman).

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare: Mr. H. J. Green.

Officer of the Department of Public Health: Dr. C. J. Cummins, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Officer of the Department of Public Instruction: Mr. V. J. Truskett, B.A.

Member of Police Force: Superintendent N. H. Mijch.

An Expert in Agriculture: Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.

An Expert in Sociology and/or Anthropology: Professor A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D. (Vice-Chairman).

Two Persons Nominated by the Minister: Mr. M. Sawtell, Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C.

Two Aborigines: (a) One full-blood, Vacant; (b) One having an admixture of Aboriginal Blood, Vacant.

### Policy

The determined policy of the Board is still directed to the ultimate assimilation of the Aboriginal people into the general community and its activities during the year were largely governed with this end in view. Due primarily to the efforts of Welfare Officers, an increasing number of civic and philanthropic organisations have become interested and active in the implementation of this policy.

### Visits by Board Members

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare visited all Aboriginal Stations during the year, thirty-one Reserves and the two Aboriginal Children's Homes. In addition it was necessary for him to attend numerous meetings in country towns to confer with Councils concerning the welfare and living conditions of Aborigines and, for the same purpose, with local branches of organisations such as Apex, Rotary and the Australian Youth Council.

A conference, convened by the Director of Adult Education, New England University, Armidale, and extending over one week-end, was attended by the Vice-Chairman, Professor Elkin, and the Superintendent, Mr. Green. Addresses were given by selected speakers on various aspects of the Board's administration and on the means to be adopted in implementing the policy of assimilation.

### General Expenditure—Housing, Etc.

Expenditure from Consolidated Revenue Fund amounted to £200,724 an increase of £6,652 over the sum expended during the previous financial year. The increase was due mainly to a larger outlay on plant and equipment and in the maintenance of and assistance to Aborigines.

The sum of £2,677 only was paid from General Loan Account for housing on Reserves and in towns, compared with £18,484 for the preceding twelve months. Payments from the Account would have been greater by approximately £17,441 had two tenders for the erection of ten (10) cottages been completed by the end of the financial year. These works are now nearing completion.

From the balance remaining of special funds made available by the Treasury and amounting to £19,500 originally, six advances totalling £3,271 were made to assist in the acquirement of property by Aborigines. Since the Special Deposits Account was opened by the Treasury some five years ago as a special measure to enable Aborigines to obtain advances to purchase existing houses or erect new cottages, fourteen aboriginal families and three organisations have received advances. As this account is recouped by repayments from those assisted, the needs of other applicants will be met. Only two recipients of advances have failed to honour their obligations regarding repayments and the results of the scheme are regarded as satisfactory.

### Acknowledgments

The Board desires to place on record the valuable assistance and co-operation rendered by the Police Department, Department of Health, Department of Lands, Department of Education, Department of Public Works, the Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare, the Department of Agriculture and the Housing Commission of New South Wales.



Special thanks and appreciation are extended to those Church groups and philanthropic organisations which consistently assisted the Board throughout the year by providing material help and social amenities for Aborigines throughout the State. Particular mention in this regard is made of Apex, Rotary, Lions and Soroptimist Clubs, the Waterside Workers' Federation and the many local Associations for the welfare and assimilation of Aborigines, both newly formed and those that have operated over several years.

## II. FEATURES OF THE ADMINISTRATION

### Rental Arrears

During the period under review, rental arrears in respect of tenants of town houses and of homes on Aboriginal Stations and Reserves had increased by £3,152 from £57,251 to £60,403 compared with an increase of £7,794 over the previous twelve months. Rental receipts for the year totalled £5,324, an increase of £251. The improvement evidenced in the rental position is undoubtedly due to a continued hardening of the Board's policy against those tenants who, while in a position to do so, have evaded their responsibilities in meeting the purely nominal rental fixed for tenancy of the homes occupied.

In twenty-seven cases over the year, the Board directed that recovery proceedings be instituted by the Crown Solicitor against rent defaulters and, in another two, that Notices to Quit be served on the tenants.

### Town Houses—Sale to Tenants

The Board directed that suitable tenants of town houses be afforded the opportunity of acquiring the homes on a rent/purchase basis, total payments already made, less 2½ per cent. interest, being treated as an offset against the purchase price. Ten occupants of town houses elected to buy the properties and, so far, the necessary Agreement for Sale has been drafted by the Crown Solicitor in one case.

### Education

Wherever possible, children from Aboriginal Stations and Reserves receive their education in the ordinary State schools. In those cases where distance from towns precludes the enrolment of children in Public Schools, Aboriginal Schools are located on such Stations and Reserves. These latter schools, however, are staffed by fully qualified teachers of the Department of Education and the curriculum laid down is practically the same as that adopted in the State Schools.

Secondary education is available to every Aboriginal child possessing the required scholastic qualifications and the number enrolled at High Schools is increasing steadily from year to year.

At the conclusion of the year under review, 160 children approximately were attending High Schools, 1,025 Aboriginal Schools and 912 Public Schools.

To encourage selected Aboriginal pupils to pursue and complete a secondary course of education, by assistance in meeting the cost of uniforms and text books, the Board makes annual awards of bursaries. The grant of these scholarships is determined on the results of competitive external examinations set by the Department of Education and held in conjunction with the Senior Primary and Intermediate Examinations. The bursaries are tenable for two and three years and may be extended up to five years, if circumstances so warrant. Each bursary carries a cash grant of £50 per year.

From a list of pupils, submitted by the Department of Education in order of merit, seven were selected by the Board for award of bursaries commencing in the current school year. Because of unsatisfactory reports regarding the progress and application to study of a particular bursar, the scholarship was withdrawn.

In addition to bursaries made available by the Board, others on similar lines were endowed by Canterbury Soroptimist Club, Kempsey Apex Club and the Save the Children Fund.

Additional assistance was granted by the Board to enable one bursar to be enrolled at Woodlawn College, Lismore, and for another attending Armidale High School to be accommodated at St. John's Church of England Hostel in that town.

At the conclusion of the 1958-59 year, there were twenty-one (21) bursaries current.

Several bursars completed their schooling at the end of 1958 and secured suitable employment because of their educational qualifications. One girl was accepted by the Government Insurance Office and another will be called up by the Military Authorities as a trainee-nurse, when she attains the age of eighteen years in the near future. Two youths, successful at the last Intermediate Certificate Examination were placed in Sydney, one with the Department of Public Works and the other with the Postmaster-General's Department.

### Welfare Activities

Male Welfare Officers, specially selected and trained for the work involved, are located at Head Office, Leeton, Kempsey, Lismore, Dubbo and Moree.

A female Welfare Officer is stationed at Head Office, another one being located at Kempsey. Although the work of Welfare Officers supplements that of Managers and Matrons of Aboriginal Stations, their duties lie primarily in the direction of advising and assisting those Aborigines residing outside supervised Reserves and in improving relationships between the Board and Aborigines and between the latter and members of the white community.

Male Welfare Officers are required to cover vast distances in caring for Aborigines residing in their districts and a major proportion of their official time is devoted to this end. They are also expected to identify themselves with public bodies within their areas, address meetings of interested civic and philanthropic organisations, assist in the inauguration of Aboriginal District Welfare and Social Committees and secure employment and accommodation for distressed Aborigines. A very important duty of Welfare Officers is to take action for committal of neglected children to the care of the Board.

Both female Welfare Officers are trained nurses. The one stationed at Head Office is obliged to make special visits of inspection to country districts, as directed by the Superintendent in particular cases, is responsible for arranging admission of Aboriginal patients—mainly children—to Metropolitan Hospitals, placing girls in employment, inspecting and reporting on the homes of applicants for wards to be boarded out, adopted or employed as domestics, and for periodically visiting such wards to ensure that their welfare and living conditions are satisfactory.

The female Welfare Officer stationed at Kempsey devoted her activities during the year mainly to assisting in a campaign conducted by the Department of Public Health towards the eradication of hookworm and roundworm from Aboriginal children. As the incidence of worm infestation is pronounced throughout the North Coast district, the work of the Welfare Officer is most onerous, particularly as it is essential that remedial measures be carried out without cease, if the campaign is to be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

The varied nature of work performed by Welfare Officers is shown fully in Appendix "E" of this report.

#### **"Dawn" Magazine**

"Dawn" is now in its eighth year of publication and still continues to be an unqualified success. It provides monthly entertainment for aborigines throughout the state and also contains articles which are educational and instructional. Various aspects of the Board's policy are placed before the readers, together with items of interest regarding the administration.

#### **Summer Seaside Camp**

The customary annual Summer Camp was conducted at La Perouse Aborigines Reserve during the period 4th to 18th January, 1959, with seventy-nine children from outback areas attending.

All the children underwent medical and dental examinations and a detailed report respecting children requiring dental attention was subsequently furnished by the School Dental Service.

The children, for the first time at La Perouse, did not live under canvas, but were accommodated in two Nissen huts, acquired and erected since the previous camp.

During the course of the camp, the children were visited by the Chief Secretary, the Honourable C. A. Kelly, M.L.A., and the Chairman and Members of the Board.

The Board records its thanks and appreciation to the Lions Club, Randwick, and the Volunteer Coastal Patrol for arranging launch picnics for the children, to Manly Ferries, the N.S.W. Film Council, the Elizabethan Theatre Trust, Luna Park (N.S.W.) Ltd., Taronga Zoological Park Trust, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pty. Ltd., Tivoli Circuit Australia Pty. Ltd., and Barratt's Sweets, St. Peters, for the entertainments so generously provided by them. Thanks are due also to the many professional artists who donated their time and efforts to making the stay of the children a happy one.

### **III. ABORIGINAL WARDS**

A child may be admitted as a ward of the Board on application by a parent or guardian, or may be committed as such by a competent court.

The Aborigines Protection Act provides for the establishment of homes for the reception, maintenance, education and training of such wards. There are two homes at present operating, one at Kinchela for boys and the other at Cootamundra for girls.

The Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home, fourteen miles from Kempsey, is for boys from five to seventeen years. At 30th June, 1959, fifty boys were in residence.

Fourteen boys were in attendance at the Kempsey High School and thirty at the school at the Home.

The health of inmates during the year was good.

Senior inmates are trained in the use of modern milking machines, farming machinery and equipment. They also receive instruction in poultry farming and market gardening.

The Cootamundra Home caters for boys of tender years and girls up to school leaving age. At 30th June, 1959, there were forty children in residence.

Health of the children was satisfactory and all received vaccine injections against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

There were thirteen children enrolled in the High School at Cootamundra, and nineteen at the Public School.

From former inmates, there are ten girls in domestic employment in the district and one in training as a nurse at the Cootamundra District Hospital.

Authority is also given under the Act for a ward to be boarded out in a selected foster home and for an allowance to be paid in this regard. In addition, the foster parent is entitled to claim Child Endowment and to be recouped by the Board for medical and dental expenses incurred on behalf of the ward.

In most cases children who are committed as wards of the Board are maintained until they reach sixteen years of age approximately. They are then placed in employment and remain under regular supervision of Welfare Officers until they reach the age of eighteen years.

Committal action is never taken in the case of a destitute child, unless the neglect is such as to make removal from its own home necessary, and after every effort by a Welfare Officer to have the parents improve the living conditions of the home has proved abortive.

Statistics respecting the number and placement of wards during the year are shown in Appendix "A".

#### IV. ABORIGINAL STATIONS GENERALLY

Sixteen Aboriginal Stations were maintained by the Board during the year, the population of each varying from 322 down to as low as 44. The average number of persons residing on a Station, however, was 180.

Each Station is under the supervision of a Manager, assisted by a Matron, with additional assistant staff on the larger Stations.

As will be seen from Appendix "B", the population on stations has not varied much over the last three years, the total number of station residents being a little under 3,000. The number of ration recipients has fallen slightly.

Station residents are assisted to obtain employment, and encouraged to take work of a permanent nature as far as possible.

A medical treatment room is established on each station where minor ailments and injuries are attended to. On the coastal stations, all children receive regular treatment for the eradication of worms.

As opportunities offer, station residents are encouraged to participate in activities that will bring them into closer contact with the general community. For example, at Brewarrina, ten schoolboys go each week to the town to attend a woodwork class; at Burnt Bridge, a team of marching girls is trained by a person from Kempsey, and boys from the Station competed in the Public Schools Amateur Athletic Association Sports at Newcastle; at Cabbage Tree Island the local football club was disbanded and members joined the Woodburn Club; at Cowra the youths attend the local Police Boys' Club; at Murrin Bridge, a remote Station, the children attend a National Fitness vacation play centre at Lake Cargelligo, and also compete with white children in football and athletics; at Wallaga Lake the young people attend a fortnightly dance in the town; and at Woodenbong, a keen interest is displayed by many adults in adult Education talks by lecturers from the New England University.

The fundamental purpose of Aboriginal Stations is to provide a place of abode for the aged and infirm and other persons unable to fend for themselves in the general community.

A majority of residents, however, elect to live on the Stations because of the difficulty in obtaining outside accommodation, and because they prefer the communal life afforded. Although the Board accepts this situation, it does encourage Aborigines to leave Stations and accept full responsibilities of citizenship.

In pursuance of its policy of assimilation, it is now the aim of the Board to erect houses in towns on individual lots, on which selected families from Stations can be granted the tenancy, thus making accommodation available on Stations for those Aborigines who, at present, live under sub-standard conditions and are in need of the help provided on Stations.

On Stations, the aged, sick and infirm are provided with food—including special invalid food where necessary—medicines, blankets and other comforts.

The point is stressed that those families that elect to remain on Stations are not supported by the Board, unless circumstances so warrant. All able-bodied men, who are in a position to do so, are required to care for their families from their earnings in the same way as ordinary persons.

It is their responsibility, also, to meet the cost of all dental and medical services rendered the family and, in many cases, to pay rent for the house occupied, even though this rent is purely nominal. Managers endeavour continually to persuade residents to open banking accounts and join medical and hospital contribution funds so that provision can be made for emergencies. It is regrettable that their efforts in this regard have so far met with little response.

Appendix "B" sets out particulars of the various Stations as at 30th June, 1959.

## V. ABORIGINAL RESERVES GENERALLY

In addition to Stations, there are a number of Reserves for Aborigines located throughout the State. These are selected areas of land, set aside and gazetted for the exclusive Use of Aborigines and they differ from Stations in that they are not under full-time management. Some of the Reserves have resident part-time Supervisors but, in the majority of cases, supervision is exercised by the local Police and, intermittently, by Welfare Officers. There are twenty-nine inhabited Reserves throughout the State, on which approximately 2,500 Aborigines reside.

For the most part, conditions on Reserves are inferior to those on Stations. On some Reserves, the houses are good, having been erected in recent years, but on others, the homes have been constructed from discarded materials by the residents themselves and serve merely as shelters from the weather. Unlike Stations, there is usually no recreation hall on a Reserve and residents are necessarily prevented from taking part in, or organising, any social functions, even if they desire to do so.

Appendix "C" sets out statistics relating to Reserves.

## VI. ABORIGINAL LIFE AND CONDITIONS

So far as can be established, the Aboriginal population of New South Wales is as follows:—

Full-Bloods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	235
Half-castes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,600
Lesser-castes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,763
								13,598

Of the total number, approximately 2,980 reside on Aboriginal Stations and in Homes, and 2,500 on Reserves. In regard to Reserves, the total number of residents increased by about 500 over the twelve months' period under review. At Gulargambone Reserve alone there was an increase of 107 over the preceding year.

### Labour and Employment

Employment throughout the year was satisfactory. Although there was less demand for casual workers in rural industry, mainly due to lower wool prices and those for vegetables, more and more Aborigines have been seeking permanent positions and many were successful in obtaining employment with the Department of Railways, Main Roads and Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board.

One aspect of the position causing concern is the great difficulty experienced by youths and girls in certain districts in securing employment. Another bad feature is the reluctance of certain recipients of Unemployment Benefits to seek employment, preferring rather to subsist on the allowance as long as the Commonwealth Authorities are prepared to pay it.

Out of a total of 518 able-bodied men on Stations, 356 were engaged more or less permanently, the remaining 162 receiving only intermittent work of a casual nature.

Aborigines are employed under award rates of pay and no instances of a departure from this by employers were brought under notice.

In the North Coast district five girls were employed in various public hospitals and one girl in a private hospital. All will be given the opportunity of accepting appointment as trainee nurses.

### Relief and Benefits Provided by the Board

In addition to Social Service Benefits which are available, the Board undertakes the care of indigent Aborigines, who are ineligible for such benefits. This assistance takes the form of food rations, the issue of summer and winter clothing, blankets where required, provision of medical and dental services and burial expenses.

Each year the Board provides Christmas cheer for children, the aged and infirm. Funds raised by local organisations for the provision of amenities are also subsidised by the Board.

Issue of clothing to indigent and other dependent Aborigines was as shown hereunder:—

Outfits	Year ended 30th June—								
	1957	1958	1959	1957	1958	1959	1957	1958	1959
	Male			Female			Total		
Summer Outfits .....	111	121	114	192	168	172	303	289	286
Winter Outfits .....	115	108	110	175	141	189	290	249	299
Totals .....	226	229	224	367	309	361	593	538	585

### Exemption Certificates

Where an Aborigine has attained a degree of social adjustment that would indicate that he or she is desirous of, and willing to accept, the responsibilities of citizenship, a Certificate of Exemption from the Provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act may be granted to such person on written application. These certificates, of course, are only issued after careful enquiry as to the character and mode of living of the applicant.

Granting of a Certificate of Exemption, whilst permitting the person receiving it to have access to liquor, does not mean that the welfare services of the Board are not available to him, and he continues to receive from the Board's Welfare Officers such aid as is necessary to help him on the path to independence.

During the year 128 applications were approved, 7 deferred and 8 declined. Six existing certificates were cancelled. A comparison with previous years is set out hereunder:—

	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
Granted .....	137	117	128
Deferred .....	1	4	7
Declined .....	25	24	8
Cancelled .....	6	2	6

### Expulsion Orders

The Board is empowered to order the expulsion of an Aborigine from a Reserve. Action in this regard is only taken in extreme cases, where the conduct of an Aborigine is inimical to good order and discipline and to the welfare of other residents.

In the twelve months' period under review, expulsion orders were approved by the Board in four cases.

### Local Associations for the Welfare of Aborigines

In various towns throughout the State, associations have been formed with the object of providing assistance to Aborigines in housing, education, employment, maternal and baby welfare and of promoting the policy of assimilation by improving the attitude of white people to Aborigines and vice versa.

Several of the organisations functioned with marked success and rendered assistance of a most concrete nature towards betterment of the living conditions of Aborigines.

First inaugurated in 1956, the Armidale Association for the Assimilation of Aborigines continued to function purposefully. Its club for Aboriginal women met once a week to give instruction in sewing, cooking, domestic duties, hygiene and baby care. A baby health clinic, held once a fortnight, was well attended. Allied to this special work was the conduct of a kindergarten for pre-school children at which free milk was provided, the cost being met by the Board. Assisted by a loan of £1,200, made available by the Board, the Association completed the construction of a good type of house for a selected Aboriginal family. During the year, this organisation also financed the cost involved in accommodating an Aboriginal student at St. John's Church of England Hostel, Armidale, while attending the Armidale High School, thus bringing to three the number of those similarly assisted. In the employment sphere, the Association placed one youth in a Sydney training centre to undergo instruction in the leather trade. Three other Aboriginal youths were accommodated in Armidale, where positions were secured for them in various trades.

On land made available by the Dubbo Municipal Council a hostel was erected for use of Aboriginal patients attending Dubbo Base Hospital. The cost of construction was met by the Dubbo Apex Club and the Waterside Workers' Federation. The Board accepted responsibility for meeting maintenance costs and employing a caretaker.

An organisation was formed at Dareton under the name of the Sunraysia Aboriginal Welfare Group to improve living conditions of Aborigines in the district. Provided the Board can acquire a suitable area of land, the Group is prepared to meet the cost involved in the erection of simple type dwellings to accommodate adversely housed aborigines. The organisation is also desirous of securing a site in Dareton to establish a Welfare Centre for the instruction and care of underprivileged children residing in the area.

At Nambucca Heads the Davis Nambucca Heads Assimilation Fund was formed by local citizens to raise money to assist in the housing of Edric Davis and family. In addition to funds raised from private sources, the Board provided £500 by way of loan and the Davis family has now been settled in a comfortable, well-built home.

The Tamworth Association for Assimilation of Aborigines came into being during the year to investigate and inaugurate projects with the object of improving the present position in respect of housing, education, and the problems associated with employment and acceptance of Aborigines socially.

Similar organisations were formed at Condobolin, Coonamble, Coff's Harbour and Kempsey.

To stimulate interest in the formation of a co-operative at Woodenbong Aboriginal Station, a senior lecturer from the Armidale University visited the Station at fortnightly intervals to hold meetings and lecture the residents in the fundamentals involved.

The Board has taken steps to secure particulars of local associations of this type as it welcomes and desires their co-operation in the common field of endeavour on behalf of Aborigines. It would be grateful if the formation of any such associations, with particulars of their objects and names of office-bearers, were reported to the Board through the local Welfare Officer or direct to the Secretary, Aborigines Welfare Board, Box 30, G.P.O., Sydney.

#### **Establishment of Co-operative Societies**

Under the control of the Australian Board of Missions, the Co-operative Fund for Australia and the Pacific made a survey of Cabbage Tree Island, Woodenbong and Tabulam Aboriginal Stations in connection with the proposed inauguration of co-operatives among Aboriginal communities. Following this exploratory step a five-day school on the subject was organised at the Tranby Hostel, Glebe, by the organisation mentioned, and attended by representatives from the above three Aboriginal Stations. An officer of the Registry of Co-operative Societies and Friendly Societies lectured on the principles of co-operation. At the moment, the Fund proposes to launch the first co-operative at Cabbage Tree Island Aboriginal Station.

#### **Armidale Conference on Aborigines**

To promote thought and discussion about pressing and difficult problems involved in implementing the policy of assimilation, a week-end conference was convened in Armidale by the Department of Adult Education, the University of New England and attended by persons interested and active in the welfare of Aborigines.

The conference was held from 22nd to 24th May, 1959, under the Vice-Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Professor A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D., who delivered an address on the history and treatment of Aborigines in New South Wales. Talks were also given by the Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, an Aborigines Welfare Officer, a Manager of an Aboriginal Station, the Director of Native Affairs, Queensland, and a school teacher, seconded by the Department of Education, to carry out research into the effects of education on Aborigines and their aptitude in learning. Four of the Board's Welfare Officers were present and took an active part. The conference was an outstanding success, most sessions being attended by approximately 100 persons.

#### **Libraries on Aboriginal Stations**

During the year, the Board directed that, in cases where there was sufficient interest shown by residents and a room available for use as a library, Managers of Aboriginal Stations were to obtain books through the services available from the Public Library and the Education Department. If, after a trial period, it was found to be warranted, a limited amount of funds would be placed on the 1959-60 Estimates to finance the purchase of books to inaugurate Station libraries.

At the conclusion of the year, the trial period mentioned was still in operation.

#### **Vacation Play Centres on Aboriginal Stations**

During school holidays, the National Fitness Council, Department of Education, organises vacation play centres at selected country towns to occupy the time of children during their term holidays.

In January, 1959, the Council decided to open a vacation play centre at the Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station at the same time as one was being held in the adjoining town of Lake Cargelligo.



The Centre held on the Station proved to be such a success that the Director of Physical Education suggested that a similar vacation play centre should be run on other Aboriginal Stations during school holiday periods and that the Board assist in providing the necessary finance.

The Board is at present awaiting reports from Field Officers as to whether it is considered preferable to organise play centres on Aboriginal Stations, or to arrange for the Station children to be transported to nearby towns where such centres have been located for the town school children.

## VII. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES

For many years aborigines have been entitled to endowment, sickness and unemployment benefits, but old age, invalid, and widows' pensions were only granted to exempted Aborigines living off Stations.

The Commonwealth Minister for Social Services has now advised the Premier that it has been decided to amend the Social Services Act to provide that Aboriginal natives, other than those who are nomadic or primitive, shall be eligible for pensions and maternity allowances on the same basis applying to other persons in the community, and irrespective of place of residence.

The Board has been pressing for payment of pensions to all aborigines for many years and is gratified to learn that the matter has now been satisfactorily rectified.

## CONCLUSION

It is a matter of regret that so many Aborigines, particularly those living outside Stations and Reserves, still reside in what can, at the best, be described as sub-standard dwellings.

The Board recognises that the erection of even modest dwellings of modern design, with bathing and laundry facilities, a proper sanitary service and some degree of comfort in furnishing, are essential with a view to assimilation.

The Board appreciates the growing interest throughout the State of private citizens and organisations in the welfare and progress of the Aborigines, and the practical work done by them in this regard. Also pleasing was the increased awareness, displayed by many Aborigines themselves, of the advantages to be derived from higher education, better housing, and their participation in employment of a permanent rather than casual nature.

On the other hand, the Board regrets that a few local authorities still display a reluctance to support the policy of assimilation, although such instances are in a small minority.

Their attitude is hindering the work of the Board and until such is modified, progress in achieving this desirable goal, which at the best can only be realised slowly and painstakingly, will continue to be impeded.

In conclusion, the Board records its appreciation of the help rendered by all who have assisted throughout the year and earnestly solicits their continued interest and practical aid towards promoting the well-being and progress of the Aboriginal population.

A. G. KINGSMILL,  
Chairman, Aborigines Welfare Board.

H. J. GREEN,  
Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare.

**APPENDIX " A "**  
**Movements of Wards**

	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
Number of wards at beginning of year .....	232	260	250
Number admitted during year .....	27	41	35
Number committed during year .....	82	47	28
	341	348	313
Number discharged during year .....	81	98	55
	260	250	258

**Placement of Wards at End of Year**

	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
Kinchela Boys' Home .....	47	44	50
Cootamundra .....	42	45	40
Denominational Homes .....	3	1	1
Boarded out with foster parents .....	93	116	121
In employment under Reg. conditions .....	35	24	28
Otherwise placed .....	40	20	18
	260	250	258

	1956-57		1957-58		1958-59	
	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.	Adm.	Ctd.
Kinchela Boys' Home .....	4	11	7	4	7	..
Cootamundra Girls' Home .....	9	22	10	7	3	3
Denominational Homes .....	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boarded-out with foster parents .....	6	18	17	14	6	13
Placed in employment under Reg. conditions .....	6	17	6	12	18	10
Otherwise placed .....	2	14	1	10	1	2
	27	82	41	47	35	28

**APPENDIX " B "**

**List of Aboriginal Stations—Vital Statistics and Ration Recipients**

Station	Area in Acres	Population on Stations			Ration Recipients			Statistics								
								Birth			Deaths			Marriages		
		1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
Boggabilla ..	457	211	224	256	9	26	24	8	7	14	7	1	4	1	..	1
Brewarrina ..	638	173	120	137	50	26	41	5	5	6	..	4	1	3	..	..
Burnt Bridge ..	106	278	298	263	31	38	38	8	7	4	1	2	2	1	2	1
Burra Bee Dee	473	62	53	44	20	5	8	4	3	..	3	..	1	..	..	..
Cabbage Tree Island .....	125	128	143	131	8	36	14	7	4	6	3	2	2	1	..	1
Cowra .....	31	142	151	127	15	10	24	8	6	8	2	3	1	3	1	..
Jervis Bay .....	100	143	153	144	16	8	8	5	5	7	2	3	..	..	..	1
Morice .....	55	319	321	322	17	15	18	10	12	12	4	2	5	4	3	3
Murrin Bridge	937	284	283	257	62	51	62	8	5	15	1	1	5	2	1	4
Quirindi .....	220	204	197	172	11	9	2	8	2	7	2	..	1	2	..	..
Roseby Park ..	66	81	94	113	13	10	8	4	8	6	2	..	..	..	..	..
Tabulam .....	490	153	153	168	30	35	21	9	6	14	3	1	5	3	2	..
Taree .....	51	220	248	219	6	23	10	11	12	3	3	2	2	..	1	2
Walgett .....	337	202	241	249	28	58	41	8	11	16	..	1	..	..	2	1
Wallaga Lake	341	126	126	120	17	15	7	2	5	..	1	..	3	4	2	2
Woodenbong	126	152	175	167	46	23	18	5	2	6	1	2	4	1	..	..
Totals .....	..	2,878	2,980	2,889	379	388	344	110	100	124	35	24	36	25	12	16

## APPENDIX " C "

## List of Aboriginal Reserves—Particulars of Ration Recipients

Reserve	Area in Acres	Population on Reserve			Ration Recipients		
		1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59
Balrarnald .....	142	52	63	50	..	..	..
Bellbrook .....	96	93	93	110	6	11	11
Bourke .....	34	45	44	68	..	21	..
Bowraville .....	36	79	54	61	..	5	5
Brungle .....	12	30	49	76	..	..	..
Coff's Harbour .....	6	108	60	72	5	..	8
Condoblin .....	16	82	86	180	12	8	2
Coonabarabran .....	20	40	42	28	20	..	6
Coraki .....	10	86	96	86	6	10	2
Cubawee .....	24	94	106	106	..	..	3
Cumerooogunga .....	200	61	60	80	..	..	..
Dubbo .....	18	21	35	49	..	..	..
Forster .....	19	87	76	85	..	..	19
Goodooga .....	80	135	170	185	2	..	16
Gulgambone .....	52	180	215	322	..	91	..
Karuah .....	50	43	54	48	..	..	2
Kyogle .....	28	5	10	5	..	..	..
La Perouse .....	6	178	204	191	..	..	2
Moonahcullah .....	232	95	108	85	..	12	..
Nambucca Heads .....	70	65	87	92	..	..	4
Peak Hill .....	7	23	23	26	..	..	..
Tibooburra .....	100	10	2	2	..	..	..
Tingha .....	15	..	..	18	..	..	..
Ulgundahi Island .....	44	36	36	38	3	3	3
Uralla .....	100	12	27	31	..	..	..
Walcha .....	107	45	53	57	..	..	..
Wellington .....	100	46	63	77	3	6	9
Wilcannia .....	75	105	114	294	5	14	40
Yass .....	9	24	36	27	..	..	..
Totals .....	..	1,880	2,066	2,549	60	181	132

## APPENDIX " D "

## Statements of Expenditure

	1957-58		1958-59	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Expenditure incurred by the Board—</b>				
Payable from Consolidated Revenue Fund—				
Salaries and Wages .....	82,529		83,976	
Maintenance of Buildings .....	11,500		8,090	
Transport Expenses .....	14,114		15,935	
Maintenance of, and assistance to, Aborigines .....	52,142		54,776	
Other charges .....	2,987		1,922	
Purchase of Plant and Equipment .....	4,799		8,400	
	168,071		173,099	
Payable from General Loan Account—				
New Buildings, Station Improvements and Land Purchases .....	18,484		2,677	
	£186,555		£175,776	
<b>Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board—</b>				
Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery and other supplies .....	9,238		9,849	
Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc. ....	508		443	
Department of Public Works, for telephone services, etc. ....	2,814		3,289	
New South Wales Real Estate Office, for sanitary services .....	10,082		10,089	
Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding .....	3,359		3,955	
	26,001		27,625	
Total .....	£212,556		£203,401	

## APPENDIX " E "

## Visits and Interviews by Welfare Officers

	1st July, 1956, to 30th June, 1957	1st July, 1957, to 30th June, 1958	1st July, 1958, to 30th June, 1959
<b>Nature of Visit or Interview—</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
1. Supervisory .....	1,794	1,803	2,177
2. Wards of the Board .....	561	496	634
3. Neglected or uncontrollable children .....	239	250	172
4. Stations or Reserves .....	647	601	698
5. Police .....	514	520	586
6. Schools .....	348	297	454
7. Enquiries re employment .....	803	986	726
8. Affiliation or Maintenance .....	426	310	196
9. Public Authorities .....	1,550	1,473	1,646
10. Voluntary Agencies .....	226	276	327
11. Attendances in Court .....	59	50	43
12. Miscellaneous .....	7,489	6,840	7,439
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>14,656</b>	<b>14,002</b>	<b>15,098</b>