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1948-49

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

for Year ended 30th June, 1948

Presented to Parliament in pursuance of the provisions of Section 19B of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-1943



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Annual Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales, for the Year ended 30th June, 1948.

The Aborigines Welfare Board has the honour to present to the Honourable the Chief Secretary the following report on its work during the year ended 30th June, 1948, together with information on the care and general welfare of the aborigines resident within the State of New South Wales during that period.

The report also refers to other information concerning aborigines in this State.

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD.

During the year five meetings of the Board were held. There were no changes in the personnel of the Board. The attendance of members was as follows:—

Mr. S. L. Anderson (Chairman)	4
Dr. J. Grahame Drew	3
Professor A. P. Elkin	5
Mr. William Ferguson	5
Mr. J. P. Glasheen	3
Mr. S. R. Heferen, M.L.A.	2
Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb	5
Mr. Walter Page	5
Mr. B. E. Sadler	5
Mr. Michael Sawtell	5
The Honourable E. G. Wright, M.L.C.	3

By virtue of his position as Under-Secretary of the Chief Secretary's Department, and in accordance with the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act, Mr. S. L. Anderson occupied the position of Chairman of the Board throughout the year.

Professor A. P. Elkin was again elected as Vice-Chairman for the year.

Dr. J. Grahame Drew was granted leave of absence, whilst overseas, for a period of approximately four months.

Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb, as Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, is Executive Member of the Board. The Aborigines Protection Act requires that he and one or more of the other members of the Board shall inspect, at regular intervals, aboriginal stations and children's homes throughout the State in order to preserve a personal contact with the aborigines and to have a first-hand knowledge of their problems and needs. During the year, Mr. Lipscomb inspected all the aboriginal stations and children's homes and a number of reserves. Members of the Board also visited most of the stations and the Kinchela Boys' Training Home, also a number of reserves.

BOARD'S POLICY.

Assimilation of the aboriginal into the general community is the keynote of the Board's policy. When it is considered that 95 per cent. of the so-called aborigines in New South Wales are half and light castes, whose former social fabric has been torn asunder by the onrush of Western civilisation, and who if left alone would have neither the traditional background of the aboriginal way of life nor the culture of the white man to stabilise and guide them, the need for this policy should be abundantly clear.

The policy has a positive aim, namely, to make the aboriginal a responsible, active, intelligent citizen.

The Aborigines Welfare Board realises the difficulties arising from a different mode of thinking, content of knowledge and emphasis on different values and ideals. It realises the aborigines inherit a different view of life, and that the value of our culture must be proved to them before it will be accepted. Again the burden of ostracism and the stigma of inferiority, which have been the aborigines' lot in the past, have left them with a deep-seated resentment which must be overcome if constructive reform is to be carried out.

In the past progress has been slowed by colour prejudice in the general community. With a betterment of the aborigines' conditions, it is hoped that prejudice will be lessened and the Board looks forward to the day when aboriginal and white will live together happily and harmoniously—an example to the world of how, by liberal and wise administration, this social problem can be solved.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Provision was made by the Commonwealth Government, when the general census was taken on 30th June, 1947, for collecting information as to the number of aborigines residing in the various States of the Commonwealth. The detailed tabulation has not yet been completed, but the following figures which are subject to revision so far as the number of full-bloods is concerned, have been supplied for New South Wales:—

Caste.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Full-blood	503	375	878
Mixed blood.....	5,498	5,109	10,607
Total	6,001	5,484	11,485

As in 1933, full-blood aborigines who were civilized or semi-civilized and who were either in employment, or living in proximity to settlements, were enumerated at the Census of 1947. No attempt was made to obtain particulars of nomadic aborigines.

As at 30th June, 1948, a total of 2,484 aborigines resided on the eighteen Stations under the Board's control, representing a decrease of forty-six persons, as compared with the previous year.

On Reserves, excluding Stations, the total was 2,151, representing an increase of 103 persons.

Detailed figures for the individual Stations and Reserves will be found in Appendix "A" and Appendix "B," respectively, at the end of this report.

STAFF ORGANISATION.

The Board desires to express its appreciation of the zeal, loyalty, and devotion to duty of the staff, both at head office and in the field.

Staffing of the Stations under the Board's control has been maintained on a reasonably satisfactory basis, but the domestic staffing of the Children's Homes has been fraught with periodic difficulties, and staff shortages were experienced from time to time.

Following the re-opening of schools after the Christmas vacation, 1947, as a result of continued representations to the Education Department, full-time, trained departmental teachers were appointed to the Aboriginal Schools at the Bellbrook, Cabbage Tree Island, Taree and Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Stations. The Board has always held the view that the most efficient management is not possible whilst the Manager is required to undertake the additional duties of headmaster of the local Aborigines School. Managers are still performing teaching duties at Jervis Bay, Moonahcullah, Roseby Park and Walgett. The total number of Stations where the functions of Manager and Teacher have been separated is now fourteen.

At Cootamundra Girls' Home the children attend the local Public and High Schools, the Principal thus being released from teaching duties, enabling her to devote her full energies to the management of the Home.

The Board is aware of the unsatisfactory living conditions and social behaviour of many aboriginal families who are living in and adjacent to a number of country towns throughout the State. This section of the aboriginal community is a group apart from those who are residing on Station Settlements and Reserves, where conditions are more favourable and the people are subject to oversight. Many of those away from control are living an aimless existence and are not making a satisfactory effort to raise their standard of living and to accept normal family responsibilities. The Board decided that this section of the aboriginal community should be assisted and guided by District Welfare Officers who would be in constant contact with them. The Officers would do everything possible to assist these aborigines to improve their living conditions, to protect girls and young women, to endeavour to obtain employment for them, to maintain a liaison between employer and employee, to improve social amenities in aboriginal communities and to bring about a better social relationship with the white population. The Board is aiming at the

appointment of eight such Officers, each to operate within a prescribed area. Up to the present two only have been appointed, one being stationed at Casino and the other at Moree. The latter commenced duty in March, 1948. Representations have again been made for the provision of funds to enable additional appointments to be made. When the full quota of District Welfare Officers has been appointed and all areas within the State served, it is anticipated that valuable social work will be achieved, and the aboriginal community will move more rapidly towards their destiny of social equality with the white community.

Arrangements were made in 1947 for the establishment of a training system whereby young men may be recruited into the Board's service to undergo a course of special training in social studies and anthropology, prior to being allocated to the field as Welfare Officers. At the outset, a cadetship system was inaugurated and two selected young men attended the University for one year. They are at present employed as junior clerks at Head Office, where opportunity is being afforded them to secure experience on the administrative side and to gain field experience during vacations on aboriginal stations and an association with Welfare Officers.

This year the cadetship system was modified and adult men were selected for training. Towards the end of the period under review one young man had commenced duty at Head Office. The training system referred to should, in due course, prove to be a very satisfactory method of securing well qualified and experienced men to look after the social welfare of aborigines throughout the State.

The necessity for regular painting and building maintenance of homes and other buildings on the various Stations prompted the appointment of a maintenance officer in May, 1947. This officer works from Station to Station, and, with the aid of resident staff, effective work is being carried out.

With a view to providing for a better relationship between the formal education of aboriginal children and the social life of the community on Stations, an endeavour is now about to be made to select and train suitable qualified persons—white or aboriginal—for training at the Sydney Teachers' College, and subsequent appointment as educational officers, attached to the Aborigines Welfare Board. A start will be made early next year by selecting two trainees, and during their two years of training they will attend the Teachers' College. Upon completion of their training, the educational officers will be attached to certain Aboriginal Stations and then will devote portion of their time to teaching in the schools and undertaking social welfare work in the surrounding aboriginal community, in association with Station Managers and the Area Welfare Officers.

DISTRICT WELFARE ACTIVITIES AMONGST ABORIGINES.

The Board's plan to build up welfare activities amongst the aborigines throughout the State envisages the ultimate division of the State into eight areas, each of which will be patrolled by an Area Welfare Officer, who will, as already stated, devote his energies to the assistance and guidance of the aboriginal people within his district. Young men are now in training but it will not be possible to implement the scheme to its full extent for some years.

Satisfactory progress has been made with the welfare work among aborigines in a number of towns in the North Coast District. At Casino, where a Welfare Officer is stationed, there is distinct evidence of improved attitude and responsibility amongst the aborigines. The local aboriginal (All Black) football team distinguished itself in the local competition games and is regarded as playing a very clean game. Through the fostering of sporting activities and the personal interest of the Welfare Officer, a better relationship now exists between the white and the dark people. At the Casino Public and High Schools, children of aboriginal descent have continued to acquit themselves creditably. The aboriginal residents generally are more or less accepted by the community, as they are respected for their personal qualities as citizens. Employment has been secured for men on the railways and others work at local meatworks. This is a decided improvement on the class of casual rural work to which many young men drifted a few years ago.

Close co-operation exists between the departmental Welfare Officer and the local medical authorities, and health problems associated with the aborigines have received prompt attention.

The Welfare Officer stationed at Casino attended Courts of Petty Sessions on most occasions when the defendant was of aboriginal descent. The Welfare Officer attended as "Friend of the Court" to advise on matters appertaining to the case before the Court.

A Welfare Officer was appointed to the North-western District and took up duty at Moree in March, 1948. Already

many phases of welfare activity have been inaugurated in a vigorous manner. The work at Moree has been particularly arduous, due to the fact that it had not been possible to develop the welfare work previously.

ASSISTANCE TO ABORIGINES TO ACQUIRE THEIR OWN HOMES.

The Board has laid down a policy of assisting approved aborigines in the acquiring of their private homes by way of loans for repayment by instalments, and an earnest endeavour was made by the Board to implement this project. Setbacks have been experienced, however, firstly in securing land, and secondly in arranging for the necessary finances. The Colonial Treasurer has now advised that he will make available sufficient funds to finance the building of up to three homes, as an experiment, and if the scheme proves to be practicable, he will probably make further sums available in subsequent years. One of the most serious impediments to the development of the home-acquirement scheme is the high cost of building houses—even of the most modest type—at the present time. A simply constructed cottage home containing up to three bedrooms cannot be constructed to-day for less than £1,500, and the initial deposit as well as the repayment of instalments charges is more than most aborigines can afford to-day, no matter how provident they may be.

The Board may have to consider an alternative less embarrassing financially to the aborigines for a few years yet to come.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES.

When the Aborigines Protection Act was amended in 1943, provision was made for approved aborigines to receive a Certificate of Exemption from the provisions of the Act. This Certificate entitles an aborigine to regard himself as possessing all the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. As such, an exempted aborigine should develop a more desirable social attitude and in due course become a respected member of the community.

Under ordinary circumstances, the Commonwealth Government is not prepared to grant the usual social benefits, such as Old Age, Invalid and Widows' Pensions, also Maternity Allowance, to aborigines with a preponderance of aboriginal blood; further, any person of aboriginal blood who resides on an Aborigines' Reserve is not eligible to receive the Old Age, Invalid or Widows' Pensions. If, however, any aborigines of the above groups are granted an Exemption Certificate by the Board, and remove themselves from its care, such aborigines may become eligible to receive these social benefits from the Commonwealth Government.

During the year ended 30th June, 1948, sixty applications for Exemption Certificates were considered by the Board, as under:—

Exemption Certificates granted	44
Exemption Certificates declined	5
Exemption Certificates deferred	11

During the year three certificates were cancelled.

Children of parents who have been granted a Certificate of Exemption are enrolled without question at the State Public Schools.

BOARDING-OUT OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN.

The 1943 amendment to the Aborigines Protection Act gave the Board authority to board-out aboriginal children committed by the Courts to its care. Children allocated to the care of approved foster-parents are visited and supervised by the Board's Welfare Officers.

During the year one child was committed by the Court and admitted to the control of the Aborigines Welfare Board, being transferred to the Cootamundra Home.

Five children were discharged from the care of the Child Welfare Department and transferred to the control of the Aborigines Welfare Board. These were placed as follows:—

Admitted to Board's Homes	1
Placed on Aboriginal Stations with approved families	3
Transferred to Hospital for medical attention ..	1

In addition, the Board assumed control of two children under section 11b (a) of the Aborigines Protection Act. One of these children was boarded out to a family on an Aboriginal Station. The other child was admitted temporarily to a denominational institution.

One ward was released from the Board's control and returned to the care of his mother.

LABOUR CONDITIONS—EMPLOYMENT.

The employment position with regard to aborigines resident on Stations and Reserves has continued to be very satisfactory. Every opportunity now exists for the aborigines to save money and provide for the future. Many have consistently proved reliable workers, and, being highly regarded by their employers, are always in employment. Some, however, are irresponsible and lack sustained interest and energy. This inherent attitude can be eliminated only as a gradual process by education and training, accompanied by an improvement in the relationship with employers. The Board's Welfare Officers in the North Coast and North-west Districts have achieved a measure of success in improving the general employment position by maintaining a close liaison between employer and employee. Managers also are required, as part of their duties, to use every endeavour to secure employment for aborigines residing on the Stations and to ensure that they continue in such employment.

Employment figures in respect of able-bodied men on Stations show a small increase over those for the previous year, amounting to .5 per cent. A comparative table hereunder shows the number of men in employment during the last quarter of the years 1946, 1947 and 1948:—

Period.	Able-bodied Men on Stations.		
	Number in Residence.	Number in Employment.	Percentage in Employment.
April-June, 1946 ...	578	515	89.1%
April-June, 1947 ...	538	505	93.8%
April-June, 1948 ...	497	469	94.3%

At the beginning of 1948 a young woman of aboriginal extraction, who had been a pupil of Casino High School and who had passed her Leaving Certificate Examination, was accepted for appointment in the State Public Service, and is now employed, as an Office Assistant in the office of the Aborigines Welfare Board. She has now enrolled at the Metropolitan Business College and is becoming proficient as a typist and shorthandwriter.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

The oversight and general welfare of aboriginal wards in employment is regarded as a very important phase of the work. Regular visits have been made to wards by the Board's Welfare Officers, by Inspectors of the Child Welfare Department, and, in a few remote places, by the local Police, acting as agents of the Board.

Children committed to the Board's care as wards of the State are maintained at the Board's institutions until school-leaving age. Boys then receive elementary instruction in rural works and girls in domestic work. When a satisfactory standard of attainment has been reached, each child is placed in employment with approved employers under apprenticeship conditions.

As at the close of the period under review, 26 wards—12 boys and 14 girls—were in employment throughout the State under conditions governed by the Regulations.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

The health of aborigines on Stations and Reserves throughout the year generally has been quite satisfactory. Few cases of serious illness have been reported. Mild epidemics of mumps and dengue fever at the Cootamundra Girls' Home and Kinchela Boys' Home, respectively, were effectively dealt with. The influenza epidemic which prevailed during May and June, 1948, affected the residents of a number of Stations. The incidence of scabies has diminished greatly, particularly where the aborigines are under control and personal cleanliness encouraged. Immunisation campaigns have been effective in combating diphtheria.

Managers have continued to make special efforts to urge aborigines under their control the necessity for proper attention to diet. Wherever possible, a community vegetable garden and dairy herd have been maintained on Stations.

As formerly, aborigines who require medical attention or treatment at a hospital have been able to avail themselves of the same facilities as indigent members of the white community. Aborigines may attend local public hospitals and be admitted for treatment if necessary.

Once again acknowledgment is made of the excellent co-operation and assistance by the Department of Public Health, the Baby Health Centre Nurses and the Bush Nursing Association.

With regard to the dental treatment for aborigines, the Board's policy is to arrange for aborigines who are able to pay their way to receive attention on the most economical terms. On the other hand, those who are aged, infirm or indigent, and therefore are unable to pay, are provided with free dental attention, at the Board's expense.

During the year special steps have been taken, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, to combat the incidence of venereal disease in certain centres on the North Coast.

HOUSING.

The Board has embarked upon a long-range plan to provide proper housing for aboriginal families on Stations and Reserves. The new homes are well-constructed four or five roomed cottages, provided with a cooking stove, bathroom and laundry, and with a good water supply.

A comprehensive building programme was submitted this year to the Co-ordinator-General for Works for inclusion in the General Post-war Building Programme. Although once again hampered by the shortage of labour and materials, it can be recorded that satisfactory progress was made on the works in progress and that new contracts were arranged for the reconstruction of three more Aboriginal Stations.

Murrin Bridge (Lake Cargelligo).—It is anticipated that the erection of the new model settlement at Murrin Bridge will be completed at the end of 1948. The contract has provided for the erection of 38 dwellings, staff residences, recreation hall, medical block, church and administrative buildings. The aborigines from Menindee and other parts of the Far West will be transferred to Murrin Bridge on completion of the Station and will be under the control of a resident Manager and Matron.

Tarce.—Marked progress was made during the year under review, in the virtual rebuilding of the Tarce Aboriginal Station, where provision has been made for the erection of 30 cottages and rebuilding of existing dwellings together with administrative buildings and recreation amenities. The continued shortage of essential materials has, however, delayed the anticipated completion of the contract. The new homes should be ready for occupation early in 1949.

Moree.—Steady progress is being maintained in the building programme at Moree Aborigines' Reserve, where the contract provides for the erection of 24 new cottages, single men's quarters, a church and recreation hall, as well as administrative buildings. Nine existing cottages will be re-designed and re-established on more suitable sites. The water supply will be obtained from a sub-artesian bore which has been developed on the site.

Quirindi.—A contract has been arranged for the rebuilding of Quirindi Aboriginal Station and includes provision for the erection of 30 new cottages, staff and administrative buildings. Preliminary work has been completed, and it is anticipated that steady progress will be maintained to enable early occupation of the new buildings.

Cabbage Tree Island (Wardell).—At Cabbage Tree Island the building programme embodies the erection of 12 dwellings, staff residence, administrative buildings and a recreation hall. A contract was recently let for this work and building operations are expected to commence in the near future.

La Perouse.—It is anticipated that the work of erecting six cottages, girls' dormitory and ration store will be completed by the end of the calendar year. In view of the altered position at La Perouse since the building programme was formulated, consideration will have to be given to the additional building requirements of the Reserve.

Tabulam.—Tenders have been invited without success for the work at Tabulam Aborigines' Reserve, which includes the erection of 20 dwellings, staff and administrative buildings. However, the interest of local contractors has been stimulated and it is considered that tenders will be successful at the next invitation.

The above allocations represent marked progress in the Board's comprehensive building programme. Funds are being made available by the Government, and it will be appreciated that with the present commitments the Board has had to defer a number of projects. Unfortunately, a measure of criticism is levelled at the Board for its apparent inactivity in certain country districts, but the merits of each project are carefully considered in the light of all available evidence before being given any priority.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY.

The Board has aimed, wherever possible, to encourage production on Aboriginal Stations to such an extent that eventually they would become self-supporting in respect of commodities such as milk and vegetables. Where conditions are favourable, dairy herds and community vegetable gardens have been maintained. The best results this year in respect of vegetable production have been achieved at the following Stations:—Boggabilla, Brewarrina, Cowra, Kinchela Home, Menindee, Quirindi, Walgett and Woodenbong.

Endeavours have been made to improve the dairy herds, and, during the period under review, the local Dairy Officers attached to the Department of Agriculture inspected the Board's Stations and Homes and furnished, through the Division of Dairying, suggestions regarding the respective dairy herds. The Board is appreciative of the valuable co-operation given by the Division. On a number of Stations and at the Kinchela Boys' Home sufficient milk was provided to meet the needs of all families.

EDUCATION.

The Aborigines Welfare Board is aiming at the eventual assimilation of all aboriginal people into the white community, and, with that object in view, the Education Department has been constantly urged to admit aboriginal children to Public Schools, so that they may take their place side by side with the white children. The Department has now approved of the admission of all aboriginal children of exempted parents to State Public Schools. Headmasters of schools have been instructed by their Department to refer for Departmental decision applicants who, they consider, should be refused or deferred. This decision excludes children living on a Reserve, or for whom separate facilities have been provided.

A commendable improvement has been noted during the year in the earlier hostile attitude of many white people towards aboriginal children attending the same school as white children. At Coraki, for example, all objections to the admission of aboriginal children to the Central School were withdrawn by the Parents and Citizens' Association in September, 1947. At Cootamundra the whole of the girls of school age at the Board's Home have attended the local schools for some time. At many of the Public Schools throughout the State there is no trace of racial prejudice, and aboriginal and white children mingle freely, both inside and outside the schools; this particularly applies in the Metropolitan Area. This is an indication of what may be achieved in communities sympathetic to the Board's objectives.

Hostels and Higher Education.—The Board has repeatedly stated its conviction that aboriginal children who show ability should be given the opportunity to pursue Secondary School studies, and, if certain cases so warrant, such studies should be extended to Leaving Certificate (Matriulation) standard. On the Board's Stations where aboriginal schools are established, financial assistance has been given in a number of cases to parents whose children have been considered to be suitable for continuation of their education at a High School. At the present time quite a number of aboriginal children are attending Secondary Schools in different parts of the State, and these children are competing very favourably with their white class-mates. Two aboriginal lads from the Kinchela Boys' Training Home were recently enrolled at the Manly High School and are now accommodated at the Church of England Hostel at Manly at the instance of the Aborigines Welfare Board. About a dozen girls from the Cootamundra Girls' Training Home are now attending the local High School.

The Board is at present considering ways and means for the suitable provision of accommodation for aboriginal pupils considered suitable for secondary education and who would be obliged to reside away from home in order to receive that education. A survey is now being made through the Education Department in order to determine whether it would be preferable to enrol the children at suitable country High Schools near to the aboriginal settlements, and for a greater number of smaller hostels to be established for such pupils on or near to Aboriginal Settlements. As soon as the survey is completed, it is intended to proceed with the plan and it is hoped that in the near future opportunity will be afforded to every aboriginal child worthy of secondary education to be given that opportunity.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY ON STATIONS.

The Board's policy concerned with the social development of the aboriginal people envisages the establishment on Stations of Social Clubs, together with vigorous action on the part of the management to stimulate social and recreational activity amongst the people.

Where practicable, recreation halls are being provided on Stations and these halls will be made use of in such a way that every resident will know that the amenity is provided

for all residents and not for any particular section affected by the nature of the recreation provided.

A social club, properly formed and organised, is regarded by the Board as a means of assisting other social and sporting organisations and, under the guidance and with the active interest of the management, can be the means of fostering a spirit amongst the residents which must eventually reflect favourably on discipline generally.

RELIEF AND BENEFITS TO ABORIGINES FROM THE BOARD.

As in former years the relief and care of all aged, infirm, indigent and incapable aborigines throughout the State has continued as one of the Board's primary functions. It is expected that all able-bodied aborigines should make every endeavour to provide for themselves and their families. For the majority this is now the case, but there will always be a percentage who will have to be cared for by the Board.

A summary of the benefits derived by aborigines from the Board is described briefly hereunder:—

Housing.—As far as possible, a dwelling is provided free of rent, for every family living on Stations and Reserves. The Board's aim is to maintain present dwellings in a fit state for habitation and to implement the new housing programme as speedily as possible. The current serious difficulties in obtaining material and labour have hampered the Board, but some indication of its achievements will be found under the general heading "Housing" earlier in this report.

Rations.—Rations are issued to every aged, infirm or indigent aboriginal person. The food items in the scale are in accordance with recommendations by the Department of Public Health. On many Stations it is possible to supplement the standard ration by vegetable and milk produced on the settlement.

The number of rations issued on the various Stations at the beginning and at the end of the year is shown in Appendix "A." 15.2 per cent. of the total population on Stations received rations during the year 1947-48, as compared with 14.7 per cent. in the year 1946-47.

This minor increase is of no special significance and is accounted for by the increase in the number of recipients at one Station, due to a general review of the issuing system in collaboration with the local Unemployment authorities.

A return of the rations issued to aborigines residing on Reserves at the beginning and end of the year will be found in Appendix "B." This return reveals that there was a small increase in the number of recipients over the twelve months in question.

Clothing.—Aged, indigent and other dependent aborigines receive clothing issues, on the basis of two outfits per annum—one for summer and one for winter. The following table shows the number of recipients during 1947-48, compared with the previous two years:—

Outfits.	Number of Outfits Issued to Aborigines.								
	Male.			Female.			Total.		
	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Summer ...	147	168	120	191	230	201	388	398	321
Winter...	135	135	105	174	202	179	309	337	284
Total ...	282	303	225	365	432	380	647	735	605

Blankets.—It has always been the practice to supply blankets to aborigines who are in need. The following are the comparative figures:—

	Number of blankets Issued.		
	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Stations	465	460	313
Reserves	153	117	65
Total	618	577	378

Medical Attention.—Free medical attention is given to all needy aborigines residing on Stations and Reserves. On all Stations a member of the staff is either a trained nurse or has

had some first-aid and medical experience. Medical attention is given at the Treatment Room and Dispensary. Aborigines requiring treatment at a hospital are admitted to the nearest Public Hospital.

Baby Outfits.—Baby outfits are supplied gratuitously upon application to full-blood and three-quarter-caste mothers who, by reason of their caste, are not eligible for the Maternity Allowance. Generally speaking, aborigines are encouraged to make their own arrangements to provide layettes but, when this is impracticable, the outfit is supplied at the reduced cost of £1 5s. 0d., arrangements being made with the Director-General of Social Services for the amount to be deducted from the maternity allowance. The present cost of a baby outfit is approximately £4. During the year, 103 baby outfits were supplied to aborigines by the Board.

Christmas Cheer.—Following the usual custom, the Board again made available to all dependent aboriginal families on Stations and Reserves, a special issue of ingredients for making their Christmas pudding. On most of the Stations the Manager and Teacher arranged a Christmas party for the children.

SOCIAL BENEFITS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT.

Child Endowment.—In accordance with the wishes of the Commonwealth authorities, the Board continued to control the expenditure of Child Endowment by parents who are not sufficiently reliable to handle the payment directly. The following table gives particulars of the cases administered by the Board during the year ended 30th June, 1948, and during the two previous years:—

Year ended 30th June.	Amount received from Commonwealth for Administration.	Number of cases administered at Beginning of Year.	Subtract.		Add.		Cases administered at End of Year.
			Cases expired.	Cases changed to Direct Pay.	Cases reverted to Board's Control.	New Cases.	
1946 ...	£13,952	268	11	41	7	19	242
1947 ...	£11,737	242	20	44	9	13	200
1948 ...	£11,938	200	20	19	15	23	199

Pensions.—Old Age Pensions, Widows' Pensions and Invalid Pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Government to aborigines who fulfil the requirements of the Commonwealth Act. Those who have a preponderance of aboriginal blood are ineligible for any of these pensions. Further, approval is not given by the Commonwealth to pensions being paid to aborigines of any caste whilst they reside on Stations and Reserves under the Board's control. A pension is granted, however, by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, if the applicant possesses a Certificate of Exemption in terms of the Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act, 1943, and undertakes to live independently of the Aborigines Welfare Board and away from all Stations and Reserves.

Representations have been made from time to time to the Commonwealth Authorities for the granting of pensions to applicants who, the Board consider, should continue under their control to some extent and who may prefer to reside on a Station or Reserve. So far the Board's efforts have been unsuccessful.

Three War Pensions are administered by the Board. In the one case of an Old Age Pension being administered, the pensioner died during the year.

Maternity Allowance.—During the year under review, the Maternity Allowance in respect of mothers of aboriginal blood was paid by the Commonwealth Authorities to the Board for administration in 150 cases. It should be noted that the Commonwealth Government does not grant the Allowance to mothers in whom aboriginal blood predominates, but residence on an Aboriginal Station or Reserve does not disqualify.

CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Section 11 of the Aborigines Protection Act empowers the Board to establish Homes for the reception, maintenance, education and training of wards. Two Homes are in existence, namely the Kinchela Boys' Home and the Cootamundra Girls' Home. The main purpose in the establishment of these institutions is to provide homes where neglected, orphan and destitute children, who have been committed to the care of the Board by the Children's Court, may be brought up with care in a proper home environment, and educated and trained, in order that they may become good and useful citizens.

Each Home accommodates up to fifty children from 6 to 15 years of age, but the establishment of further homes is

essential to enable a proper division of the children into age and behaviour groups. Arrangements have been made to include the establishment of a home for children of pre-school age in the approved building programme, and this institution will be provided as soon as conditions permit.

Kinchela Boys' Training Home.—This Home is located 16 miles from Kempsey on the Macleay River. Of a total area of 32 acres, 25 acres are utilized for the training of the senior boys in practical farming and dairying under the direction of the Manager and Farm Overseer.

As at 30th June, 1948, the number of boys in residence was thirty-two. This is the lowest enrolment on record. During the year there were two admissions and twelve discharges. Of these twelve boys, seven were placed in employment as farm or station workers, one boy was returned to the care of his mother, one was admitted to a Mental Home, two were transferred to the Anglican Hostel at Manly to continue their High School education, and one boy was brought before the Children's Court as "uncontrollable" and was committed and transferred to the Mount Penang Boys' Training Home.

The general health of the boys during the year was excellent. There was a mild outbreak of dengue fever, twelve boys being affected, but it was quickly brought under control by the Matron.

No effort is spared to keep the boys actively interested in some recreation or work at all times, a balanced programme being maintained. The boys are encouraged and trained in healthy recreation. A swimming pool has been provided, there is an indoor gymnasium, and the boys are periodically taken for walks, picnics, fishing, etc. A 66-mm. "talkie" film projector has now been provided at the Home and regular weekly programmes of suitable type are provided by arrangement with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pty. Ltd. and Columbia Pictures Pty. Ltd. Other forms of indoor recreation are the radio, the library, boxing, concerts and community singing.

All boys attend school until they reach the age of 15 years. Two aboriginal lads, William Dixon and Andrew McKenzie, who did so well in their studies at the Kempsey High School, were transferred to the Anglican Hostel at Manly and enrolled at the Manly Junior High School on 27th August, 1947.

Religious instruction has continued to be a feature at the Home, although there has, unfortunately, been some interruption in the regular services of the Chaplain, due to the transfer of the former Rector to another district and certain difficulties experienced by his successor in conducting regular services. These difficulties have now been overcome.

The dairy herd had an average of twenty-three cows, being twenty-one at the commencement of the period under review and twenty-six at the end. The average number of cows in milk was seventeen and production was as follows:—

Total milk produced	8,513 gallons.
Milk consumed (by inmates and staff)	4,042 gallons.
Milk separated	4,471 gallons.
Butter produced	1,844 lb.

An average of 35 lb. of butter weekly was produced throughout the year.

The production of farm and vegetable produce has always received priority at the Home, and the quantity and standard has been maintained to that of previous years. The vegetable production for the year was as follows:—

Potatoes	34 bags.
Cabbages	600 head.
Lettuce	1,200 head.
Peas and beans	400 lb.
Carrots and parsnips	380 head.
Silver beet	900 head.
Pumpkins	2 tons.
Squash, marrows, etc.	350 lb.
Rhubarb	800 lb.
Beetroot	600 lb.
Turnips	650 lb.
Onions	3 cwt.
Tomatoes	360 lb.
Kolrabi	200 lb.
Cauliflowers	160 lb.

Stock fodder produced and used for winter stock feed was as follows:—

Lucerne hay	40 tons.
Saccaline	20 tons.
Corn	80 bushels.

During the year, a new residence was built for the Manager and a cottage rebuilt for the use of the laundryman. A contract has been let for the building of a new barn and produce store for farm use.

Cootamundra Girls' Training Home.—This Home is situated 2 miles from Cootamundra township. Forty-three girls were in residence at the beginning of the year and thirty-seven at the close of the year. There were six departures during the year, each girl being placed in employment under apprentice-ship conditions.

The general health of the inmates has continued to be satisfactory. There was a slight epidemic of mumps; there were some colds during the winter months; there were two minor operations; one girl was in hospital owing to pneumonia. Five girls had their tonsils removed. Seven girls were immunised against diphtheria and five against whooping-cough. Thirty-two girls are either attending the Central Public or High School in Cootamundra. The High School pupils are progressing satisfactorily; the younger groups are maintaining their position.

The girls' behaviour has been quite satisfactory and all seem very happy. They go for walks or to the picture show every Saturday, except when prevented by the weather. In warmer weather the girls go swimming or picnicking.

The girls travel to other towns with their class for sport. At one meeting they gained the cup for Senior Girls and Intermediate Girls. Tennis is played at the school.

The girls attend their respective churches whenever possible. Six girls were confirmed in the Church of England and four in the Roman Catholic Church during the year under review. Three young ladies from the town have again visited the Home throughout the year to conduct Sunday School classes. This has been a most acceptable service, for which the Board is grateful.

ABORIGINAL STATIONS.

Eighteen Stations were maintained by the Board during the past year. These Stations are situated on Reserves throughout the State set apart for the use of aborigines, and in each case are under the management of a resident officer of the Board who, in a number of instances, is assisted by staff, including a Matron. The community unit comprises a home for each family, school, ration store, recreation hall, medical treatment annexe, water supply and, in some instances, where climatic and other conditions are favourable, a dairy herd and community vegetable garden. On the majority of Stations the Church Services are held in the recreation hall.

The Stations are maintained primarily for those aborigines who need the Board's care and protection, or who prefer the community life. The less advanced families are not encouraged to leave, but at the same time every superior aborigine who shows any inclination to strike out for himself is encouraged to do so. It should be understood, however, that families are expected to provide for their own needs. Able-bodied men must seek employment and are assisted in procuring it and to continue therein. The sick, aged and infirm, however, are cared for by the Board and are provided with free food, invalid food (if required), medical service, blankets and tobacco and other comforts.

Appendix "A" gives details of the size of the various Stations and the population of each. Distribution of population in Stations, as at 30th June, 1948, was as follows:—

Over 200 residents	2 Stations.
Between 100 and 200 residents	11 Stations.
Under 100 residents	5 Stations.

Work on the new Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station, near Lake Cargelligo, was well advanced as at the end of the period under review, whilst there had been progress on the construction of the new Station at Moree. The erection, on the existing Reserve at Taree, of twenty-four homes, additions to existing homes, a medical unit, recreation hall, store, etc., is well advanced. The rebuilding programme at the Quirindi Station commenced in June, 1948. Contracts have been let for new homes and buildings at Cabbage Tree Island Station (Richmond River) and the La Perouse Reserve. Endeavours were being made, as at the end of the period under review, to arrange contracts for building programmes, incorporating housing, at Roseby Park Station (via Nowra) and at a new site at Tabulam.

Appendix "A" of this report shows that the total population on all Stations as at 30th June, 1948, was 2,484, representing a decrease of forty-six for the twelve months.

Vital statistics for the Board's Stations for the year are shown hereunder. The previous year's figures are given in parenthesis:—

Births	99	(112)
Deaths	37	(38)
Marriages	18	(13)

ABORIGINAL RESERVES.

Like Stations, Aboriginal Reserves are areas set aside specially for occupation and use by aborigines, but in this case the settlements are not under the resident management of a Board's Officer. The Reserves have not the amenities and improvements found on Stations. Although ordinarily of the more independent type, aborigines who live on Reserves do not as a rule maintain the same standard of living as those resident on Stations.

Reserves are normally under the supervision of the local Officers-in-charge of Police, but in a few instances the Teacher-in-charge of the local Aboriginal School acts as the Board's non-resident supervisor.

Appendix "B" gives a list of Reserves inhabited as at 30th June, 1948, together with the population on each at that date as compared with the previous year. The total population figures were 2,151 and 2,048, respectively, representing an increase of 103.

GENERAL EXPENDITURE ON BEHALF OF ABORIGINES.

Appendix "C" shows that a total amount of £68,952, in the nature of recurring expenditure, was expended on behalf of aborigines during the year ended 30th June, 1948. Of this amount £61,978 was expended directly by the Board, and £6,974 was incurred by other Government Departments on behalf of the Board. The total expenditure of a recurring nature for the year ended 30th June, 1948, represents an increase of £5,461 on the expenditure for the previous year.

In addition to the above total recurring expenditure, an amount of £60,874 was expended on building construction works, the cost of which was met from the General Loan Account.

CONCLUSION.

The Board desires again to place on record the valuable assistance and co-operation given by other Government Departments throughout the year. The assistance given by the Police Department, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Health, Department of Lands, Department of Education, Department of Public Works, Department of the Chief Secretary and Child Welfare Department is acknowledged with gratitude.

In conclusion, the Board desires to express its appreciation and thanks to its own staff, both at Head Office and in the Field, for the loyal and willing service rendered throughout the past year.

Dated this twenty-fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine.

S. L. ANDERSON,
Chairman.

J. GRAHAME DREW,
A. P. ELKIN,
W. FERGUSON,
J. GLASHEEN,
ROY HEFEREN,
A. W. G. LIPSCOMB,
W. PAGE,
B. E. SADLER,
M. SAWTELL,
E. G. WRIGHT,

Members,
Aborigines
Welfare
Board.

APPENDIX "A."

List of Aboriginal Stations.
Vital Statistics and Ration Recipients.

Station.	Area.	As at 30/6/47.		As at 30/6/48.		Statistics for year ended 30/6/48.		
		Population.	Ration Recipients.	Population.	Ration Recipients.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
	Acres.							
Bellbrook	96	108	25	162	14	6	1	...
Boggabilla	457	199	23	210	24	9	3	2
Brewarrina	4,638	167	39	158	39	6	2	...
Burnt Bridge	613	284	28	295	24	17	2	2
Burra Bee Dee.....	623	81	5	86	4	1	1	1
Cabbage Tree Island	125	101	14	100	15	3	...	1
Cowra	31	116	6	125	48	4
Cumeroogunga	2,600	129	10	132	10	3	4	2
Jervis Bay	100	120	16	95	11	7	2	...
Menindee	1,000	234	105	162	90	...	2	1
Moonahcullah	232	78	7	49	2	3	4	...
Pilliga	150	91	18	85	15	3	1	...
Quirindi	220	169	1	174	1	6	1	1
Roseby Park.....	66	129	13	107	12	2	4	...
Taree	51	134	10	127	16	9	2	5
Walgett	337	150	32	147	30	7	2	...
Wallaga Lake	341	94	9	94	6	5	...	1
Woodenbong	126	146	12	176	18	8	6	2
Total.....	...	2,530	373	2,484	379	99	37	18

APPENDIX "B."

List of Aboriginal Reserves.
Particulars of Ration Recipients.

Reserve.	Area.	As at 30th June, 1947.		As at 30th June, 1948.	
		Population.	Ration Recipients.	Population.	Ration Recipients.
	Acres.				
Balranald	140	37	...	30	2
Baryulgil (Settlement only)	40	66	4	66	4
Bourke	34	*	*	55	...
Bowraville	90	132	13	136	5
Brungle	320	73	17	38	6
Collarenebri (Camp only)	50	82	...	149	...
†Condobolin	16	103	26	118	15
Coraki	10	68	10	78	27
Cubaweeee (late Tuncester)	24	76	...	73	...
Darlington Point.....	25	75	26	74	36
†Dubbo (Talbragar)	18	47	...	44	...
†Forster	19	73	...	74	...
Goodooga (Dennawan)	80	80	1	11	3
Goolagong	80	19	...	17	...
†Gulargambone	70	113	2	109	3
†Karuah	50	60	4	56	5
†Kyogle	115	16	...	16	...
La Perouse	6	70	...	64	...
Macksville (Eungai)	20	5	...	4	...
†Moree.....	12	223	2	173	23
Mungindi	100	97	...	107	...
Nambucca Heads	70	4	4	87	4
Quambone	43	10	...	11	...
Rye Park	140	12	...	12	...
†Tabulam	100	115	15	115	16
Tibooburra	100	6	3	2	2
†Tingha (Long Gully).....	15	39	...	32	...
†Ulgundahi Island (Maclean)	40	44	2	56	5
Uralla	100	1	...	15	...
†Walcha (Summer Vale)	107	37	4	35	4
†Wellington (Nanima)	100	42	15	50	19
Wilcannia	100	160	9	164	25
†Yass	9	46	2	80	...
Total	2,048	159	2,151	204

* Particulars not available.

† Signifies Aboriginal School on Reserve.

APPENDIX "C."

EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

for the year ended 30th June, 1948.

Expenditure Incurred by the Board:—

Payable from Consolidated Revenue			
Fund—		£	£
Salaries and wages	29,844		
Maintenance of buildings	2,350		
Transport expenses	6,767		
Maintenance of, and assistance to, aborigines	19,133		
Other charges	1,187		
Purchase of plant and equipment ..	2,697		
			<u>£61,978</u>
Payable from General Loan Account—			
New buildings, station improve- ments and land purchases	60,874		<u>122,582</u>
<i>Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board:—</i>			
Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, sta- tionery and other supplies	4,031		
Department of Public Health, for medi- cal fees, etc.	282		
Department of Public Works, for tele- phone services	862		
Resumed Properties Department, for sanitary services	1,553		
Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding	246		
			<u>*6,974</u>
			<u>£129,826</u>

*Does not include £14,545 expended by the Department of Education for education of aboriginal children in native schools.