

WOMEN J.P.'s ON DEPUTATION

Two Aboriginal women from Phillip Bay recently visited the Chief Secretary, Mr. C. A. Kelly, in his office at Parliament House to thank him for his work for their people.

The two women were Mrs. L. Cruse, President of the Aboriginal Women's Association, and Mrs. M. Stewart, Senior Vice-President of the Association.

Both women are Justices of the Peace.

Mrs. Stewart has the distinction of being probably the first aboriginal woman to serve on a jury in New South Wales.

It is only in recent years that women have been able to serve on juries in this State.

Mrs. Stewart sat on a jury in a compensation case in Sydney for two days earlier this year. Her three fellow-jurors were men.

With Mrs. Cruse and Mrs. Stewart on the visit to Mr. Kelly was Mrs. E. Easton, honorary welfare and employment officer of the Association.

The women told Mr. Kelly that it was hoped to build a pre-school kindergarten near the La Perouse reserve and at present methods of raising the necessary funds were being discussed.

Mrs. Easton said it was not intended to ask the Government for funds, because members felt the cause of assimilation would be furthered by them undertaking this task themselves.

The Association had been in touch with the Save the Children Fund, to whose cause they had given support. The Fund had indicated it would staff the school when it was built.

The deputation from the Association was introduced to Mr. Kelly by Mrs. Edna Roper, M.L.C.

With Mr. Kelly was the Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. A. G. Kingsmill.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. Kelly, greets Mrs. Stewart, from Phillip Bay, at Parliament House recently. Others in the group are the Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, Mr. Kingsmill, and Mrs. Roper, M.L.C. and Mrs. L. Cruse, of Phillip Bay

