

Ex-Kinchela Boy Returns as Manager



Herbert Simms took up his appointment as manager of Kinchela Boys Training Home in mid-October—32 years after he first went to the Home as an 8-year-old State ward in 1935. And in the 25 years since he left the Home at 15 he has accumulated a wealth of personal experience that will benefit every boy now at Kinchela.

Mr Simms joined the Aborigines Welfare Board (which runs the Kinchela Home, near Kempsey) as a welfare officer in December, 1965. In the past two years, mainly in the Sydney area, he has seen and solved many of the problems which beset his people.

In mid-1964 Mr Simms accepted the invitation to become the first manager of the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs. Fifteen months later he resigned to undertake social survey work throughout New South Wales for the Commonwealth Social Science Research Council before joining the Aborigines Welfare Board.

Mr Simms was born at La Perouse and is still well-known there. After his education at Kinchela, he worked on a poultry farm at Mount Ku-ring-gai, near Hornsby. Later, he was apprenticed for five years to a motor mechanic at a Redfern garage and became a qualified motor mechanic.

For the next 15 years Mr Simms worked at his trade, and for another five years was employed as a

Herbert Simms at his desk in the Aborigines Welfare Board's Sydney office before he went back to Kinchela as manager