



## A message

# from the Board

### THE BOARD.

No change occurred in the personnel of the Aborigines' Welfare Board during the past year.

The constitution of the Board at present, is as follows :—

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department—  
Mr. C. J. Buttsworth (Chairman).

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare—Mr. M. H. Saxby.

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. N. W. Drummond, B.A.

Member of the Police Force—Superintendent J. D. McAuley.

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 admixture of aboriginal blood—  
Mrs. P. M. Gibbs.

Monthly meetings were held during the year, when statutory business was transacted and matters of general policy discussed.

As yet, no nomination has been received to fill the vacancy on the Board for a full blooded aboriginal member.

### POLICY.

The Board has continued to implement the policy of the gradual assimilation of the aboriginal people into the general life of the community. It has continued its endeavours to provide education facilities for all children, and to encourage those capable of doing so, to proceed to super-primary courses.

Within the limits of funds available, the Board has proceeded with its programme for the improvement of housing conditions for aborigines.

Assistance has been rendered in many instances in securing suitable employment for both old and young.

### HOUSING.

The programme of erecting homes on town allotments in selected country centres, has been further developed by the Board in the past 12 months. Five new houses were erected in the town of Coonabarabran, two in Nowra, and two more were commenced at Dubbo.

Four houses on a new Reserve at Coonabarabran were completed, and four commenced at Peak Hill.

Occupants of town houses will be given the opportunity, after two years' satisfactory tenancy, to acquire their homes on easy rent/purchase repayments.

Of the twenty-eight tenants already placed in such homes, the majority are meeting their obligations satisfactorily. A few have fallen into arrears, mainly due to the fact that they committed themselves rather heavily in the purchase of furniture on time payment, for their new homes. Unfortunately, one family had to be evicted.

### EDUCATION.

As from the beginning of the 1956 school year, the duties of Manager and Teacher at the Aboriginal Station, Walgett, have been separated. Fully-qualified teachers of the Education Department have been appointed to this School.

There are now no Schools in New South Wales, attended by aboriginal children, which are not fully staffed by teachers of the Education Department.

The Board, and the Education Department, encourage the attendance of aboriginal children at High School, and from the Board's two Children's Homes, Stations and Reserves, a total of 125 children are in attendance. Many more, from families living privately, are also in attendance.

During the year, five bursaries, each of the value of £50 per annum, were awarded by the Board. There are now seventeen current bursaries held by aboriginal pupils attending High Schools.

The Education Department is generous in its supplies of school equipment, which includes special supplementary issues of materials for needlework, manual work, gardening or other activities. Aboriginal children receive free milk, conveyance subsidy (where required) and other amenities ordinarily available to white pupils.