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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

ANNUAL REPORT

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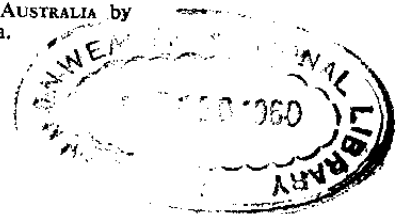
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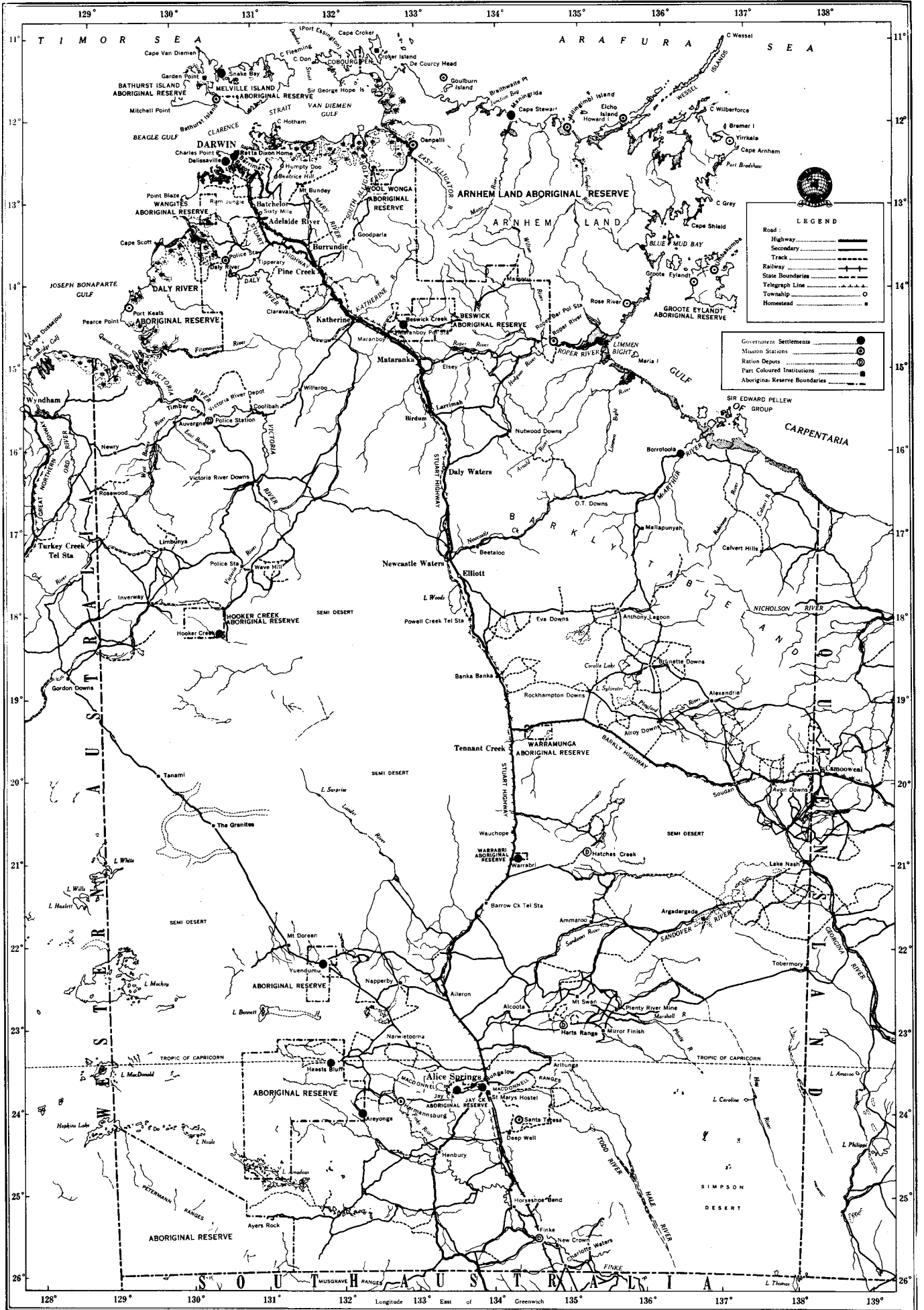


MINISTER OF STATE FOR TERRITORIES,
THE HON. PAUL HASLUCK, M.P.

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY,
J. C. ARCHER, Esq., O.B.E.

SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF TERRITORIES,
C. R. LAMBERT, Esq., C.B.E.

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA



NMP/59/019

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Darwin Adult Education Centre.—Classes were held each evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. with apprentice classes being conducted on two afternoons a week. The staff includes the registrar and fourteen part-time instructors.

Subjects.	Students.	Number of Classes.
Commercial (Typing and shorthand) ..	50	3
Dressmaking	26	2
Woodwork	33	2
Apprentices (trade maths. and drawing) ..	36	3
Third Division Clerical C.P.S.	50	6
English for New Australians	75	3
Total	270	19

Alice Springs Adult Education Centre.—The following table gives details of the classes held at this centre during the year:—

Subjects.	Students.	Number of Classes.
Woodwork	26	2
Dressmaking	24	2
Typing	12	1
Third Division Clerical C.P.S.	12	6
English for New Australians	15	1
Total	89	12

Other Activities.

Schools' Milk Scheme.—The Schools' Milk Scheme, which is controlled by the Education Branch on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, operated satisfactorily during the year. Schools with the number of children enrolled, making use of the scheme are:—

School.	Children.
Batchelor	70
Croker Island	55
St. Mary's Convent, Darwin	400
Adelaide River	20
Pine Creek	10
Northern Hercules	7
Katherine	120
Tennant Creek	117
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent, Alice Springs	130
Total	929

Medical and Dental Services.—Medical and dental inspections of all children attending departmental and convent schools in the Northern Territory were carried out during 1956-57 by medical and dental officers of the Commonwealth Department of Health.

The Savings Bank and the Schools.—Most Northern Territory departmental schools conducted transactions on behalf of the Commonwealth Savings Bank. School banking statistics for the year ended 30th June, 1957 are given in Appendix XXVI, Table 9.

Parents' Organizations.

For many years Northern Territory departmental schools have had the benefit of the assistance of school committees (at primary, higher primary and high schools). In addition to these statutory bodies there are mothers' clubs—associated with the infant departments at Darwin and Alice Springs, a parents' and citizens' association connected with the Darwin High School and welfare clubs connected with all other schools. These groups have done much to help the schools and the education Branch. They have raised large sums of money for the purchase of school amenities, and have provided voluntary assistance with the distribution of free milk and the preparation, repair and issue of library books.

During the period from 1st July, 1955, to 30th June, 1957, these school organizations and their supporters raised £5,964 for school purposes.

The schools themselves raised £2,931 for school purposes, and £795 for philanthropic purposes.

Particulars of revenue and expenditure of the school committees during the period 1st July, 1955, to 30th June, 1957, are given in the following table:—

School Committee.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Balance.
	£	£	£
Darwin High	378	284	94
Darwin Primary	1,323	1,049	274
Batchelor	929	540	389
Katherine	297	67	230
Tennant Creek	397	170	127
Northern Hercules	75	58	17
Croker Island	7	3	4
Pine Creek	62	33	29
Adelaide River	91	57	34
Alice Springs Higher Primary	689	640	49

CHAPTER 14.—WELFARE OF ABORIGINES.

Aboriginal Policy.

The policy of the Commonwealth Government is to encourage and direct social change amongst aborigines so that it will eventually be possible for them to be assimilated into the European community which surrounds them.

This policy was given legislative expression in the *Welfare Ordinance 1953-1957*, the introduction of which was an important step in the Government's assimilation programme. Under this ordinance, aborigines are not distinguished specifically from other persons or groups in the community standing in need of special care and assistance. The ordinance does not apply to those aborigines who are considered capable of managing their own affairs without Government assistance, but those who do not possess this competence come under its provisions. For those members of the community who are subject to the provisions of the ordinance, the Director of Welfare has the specific duty of promoting "Their social, economic and political advancement for the purpose of assisting them and their descendants to take their place as members of the community of the Commonwealth".

In addition to the benefits that aboriginal wards may enjoy under the Welfare Ordinance, there is special provision for their employment and training in the *Wards' Employment Ordinance 1953*. Further details of this ordinance which is not yet in operation are given in the section headed "Employment".

Aborigines in the Northern Territory are now a slightly smaller group numerically than Europeans. While natural increase is the only source of additions to the aboriginal population, it may be expected that for some time migrations from other States will continue to augment the natural increase in the number of Europeans in the Territory. Growth and change in the European population necessitates a continuing task of educating the European community to accept as neighbours and social equals those aborigines whose manner of life and ability to handle their own affairs exhibit the same range of characteristics as may be seen in the European population generally. At 30th June, 1957, 15,439 aborigines had been gazetted as wards under the Welfare Ordinance. Their names were listed in the *Northern Territory Gazette* No. 19B, of 13th May, 1957, and the Welfare Ordinance itself came into effect on that date.

The task that lies before the Welfare Branch in bringing aborigines to a stage where they can be accepted as full citizens in the community is one which is essentially social in character. The necessity to change the aborigines'

social attitudes and values, including appreciation and care of personal property and involving the whole manner of their life and standards of living must be accepted as a long-term task. Its successful achievement will require not only the co-operation of wards themselves but also the full support of all members of the community.

Administration and Control.

Before the commencement of the Welfare Ordinance on 13th May, 1957, aboriginal affairs were administered under the *Aboriginals Ordinance 1918-1954*. General welfare activities were carried out under directives given by the Minister for Territories and the Administrator of the Northern Territory. These activities are now governed by section 8 (f) of the Welfare Ordinance.

Control of aboriginal education was transferred from the Commonwealth Office of Education to the Welfare Branch in January, 1956. The experience of the past eighteen months has shown the importance of closely relating education to all other aspects of aboriginal welfare, particularly on the settlements.

With the introduction of special courses of training within the Welfare Branch it is hoped to ensure an adequate supply of well-trained and experienced officers.

Patrol Activity.—During the period under review, welfare officers from Darwin visited Batchelor, Rum Jungle, Adelaide River, Port Keats and Oenpelli; and a patrol of the Liverpool River-Blyth River area was carried out during September, 1956. Following the latter visit, a commencement was made in May, 1957, to establish a settlement in this area at a point known to local aborigines as Maningrida.

On 26th June, 1957, a patrol left Katherine for the Kimberley area in order to inspect Wave Hill, Victoria River Downs and its outstations Moolooloo, Gordon Creek, Pigeon Hole and Mount Sandford, Humbert River, Auvergne, Waterloo, Kildurk, Rosewood, Timber Creek Depot, Newry, Legune, Inverway, Limbunya, Montejinni and Killarney, and outstations Mistake Creek and Kuttkumbi.

Patrols in the Tennant Creek area were confined to the Barkly Tableland.

A patrol which left Alice Springs on 7th June, 1957, for the Lake Mackay area encountered two groups of Pintubi people, totalling 42 men, women and children. These people were living a completely nomadic life; some had not previously seen Europeans. There was evidence of other groups in the area, but they were too far away to be reached in the time available to the patrol. The medical officer accompanying the patrol reported that the people seen were in good health.

Offences.—During 1956-57, 180 wards appeared before the Darwin Police Court. Of these, 127 were charged with drinking liquor, 42 were charged with drinking methylated spirits and the remainder with various offences. Five wards appeared before the Supreme Court, one being charged with manslaughter.

In Alice Springs during the same period, 82 wards appeared before the Police Court, 45 of these being charged with drinking liquor. Four wards appeared before the Supreme Court, including one on a capital charge.

Aboriginal Population.

The 1955-56 Annual Report stated that there were 15,211 fullblood aborigines in the Northern Territory at 30th June, 1956, whose names were actually recorded; this figure has now been corrected to 15,302. By applying registered birth and death figures subsequent to 30th June, 1956, and from the continuing census work being carried on currently with respect to the aboriginal popu-

lation, the following details of the aboriginal population in the Northern Territory may be regarded as being substantially correct:—

As at—	Male.	Female.	Total.
30th June, 1956	7,809	7,493	15,302
30th June, 1957	7,885	7,560	15,445

In addition to the 15,445 aborigines enumerated, an estimated 720 not yet included in the Census of Aborigines gives a total estimated aboriginal population of 16,165.

The births and deaths reported during the years in question were:—

Period.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1st January, 1956—31st December, 1956	388	238	150
1st January, 1957—30th June, 1957	178	98	80

Birthrate figures, computed from the above, are for 1956—25.49 per 1,000 against an all-Australian birth rate of 22.5 per 1,000. There is reason to believe that the true figure for aboriginal births is approximately 29 per 1,000 as it is certain that not all births are reported.

The following figures give some indication of the composition of the aboriginal population at the present time:—

Population Group.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Comment.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Children under 14 years .. ..	..	..	32.8	School age and under
Children under 16 years .. ..	..	..	35.6	Would normally attract child endowment
15-59 years .. ..	..	58.8	..	Normal working group up to "age pension" age
15-64 years	61.7	..	..
15-39 years .. ..	..	41.8	..	
60 and over	7.8	6.4	7.1	Women of child-bearing age
65 and over	4.3	3.4	3.9	

Detailed statistics relating to the aboriginal population of the Territory are given in Appendix XXVII.

Education of Aborigines.

Since the transfer of aboriginal education from the Commonwealth Office of Education to the Welfare Branch of the Northern Territory Administration in January, 1956, progress has continued generally along the lines established by the Commonwealth Office of Education. At 30th June, 1957, there was a total enrolment of 1,841 aboriginal children in the special schools which have been established to meet their particular needs and which are conducted by three groups—the Government, the missions and certain pastoralists.

The special aboriginal schools are regarded as an interim measure, designed to bring the children to a level where they will be able to attend the same schools as other children in the Territory.

There are twelve government schools with 602 pupils, fourteen mission schools with 1,181 pupils and three small subsidized schools on pastoral properties with 58 pupils.

For detailed particulars of schools, pupils, teaching staff, etc., see Appendix XXVII.

Of the government schools, ten are on government settlements, and two are located on the pastoral properties of Lake Nash and Murray Downs. Teaching staff increased during the year from 24 to 26; and work was commenced on two new school buildings.

The fourteen mission schools (an increase of one since 30th June, 1956) receive government assistance in several forms: a grant of £750 per annum for each trained teacher employed; supplies of special readers and syllabuses; technical advice and assistance; and, under certain circumstances, capital grants for school buildings.

Encouragement continued to be given to the establishment of schools on pastoral properties, and there are now three subsidized schools conducted by property managements, in addition to the two government schools on pastoral properties at Lake Nash and Murray Downs. During the period under review, negotiations were continued with pastoralists with a view to establishing additional subsidized schools on pastoral properties.

The experimental kindergarten class at the Bungalow school has now functioned for approximately three years with excellent results, and illustrates the advantages to be gained from the early introduction of the aboriginal child to school activities and to supervision particularly of hygiene and the use of the English language. Further information regarding the extension of pre-school activities on settlements is given in Chapter 12 of this report.

In May, 1957, a conference of teachers of aboriginal children in the Northern Territory was held and 48 teachers attended. Since the last conference in September, 1953, there has been a marked improvement in staffing on government settlements and missions. This has helped the integration of all settlement activities (including education) into a concerted programme of social change. The Senior Lecturer in Education at the Australian School of Pacific Administration attended the conference and assisted in preparing a tentative syllabus for craft work. Consideration was also given to the preparation of a course of study for physical education.

Six new teachers, appointed at the beginning of the year, attended a teacher training course at the Australian School of Pacific Administration. These orientation courses have proved of great benefit enabling teachers to be effective from the outset of their work in aboriginal schools.

A successful sports meeting was held in Alice Springs for children in the Southern Division. Of the 374 children who participated, 100 were from the Hermannsburg and Santa Teresa Missions. The children mixed well and were quick to renew friendships made in previous years. No tribal influence was noticeable and the spontaneous participation in the campfire sing-songs showed the effect of school life. All teachers reported a keener sense of competition within schools as children strive to be chosen as school representatives. The acceptance of the idea of competition is welcomed as helping to counter the tribal attitude which discourages all signs of initiative in children and young people.

A holiday camp at Casuarina Beach was held in the September vacation, 1956, for children from Bagot school under the supervision of a teacher from the Aborigines Inland Mission.

For some months a class was conducted for aboriginal patients at the Alice Springs Hospital and, although considerable interest was shown by long-term patients, the absence of classroom facilities, equipment and furniture made it extremely difficult to capture the interest of short-term patients.

Health.

General.—The health of wards in remote areas, including missions and settlements, continued to be cared for by three survey medical officers and a survey sister, and by regular visits by other medical officers from Darwin and Alice Springs.

In 1956, the two mobile units which visited remote areas were replaced by a mobile unit operating at townships on the Stuart Highway. In addition, a dentist accompanied

the medical officers on flights on routine visits to missions, cattle stations and settlements in the northern half of the Territory. Approximately 500 treatments were given to aborigines on these flights. The loss of an aircraft in April, 1957, interrupted the visits.

The value of extensive immunization campaigns has been demonstrated in that no whooping cough has occurred in native communities despite the prevalence of this disease in European centres during the year.

A new in-patients' wing was constructed at the Katharine Hospital. This wing will be opened shortly and used for the training of male and female wards as nursing orderlies.

Phillip Roberts, an aboriginal medical assistant from the Roper River Mission, was selected by the Director of Health to attend a health education course which is to be conducted by the South Pacific Commission in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 1st July to 23rd August, 1957.

Diets investigated in previous years by a senior dietitian of the Commonwealth Department of Health have been adjusted where necessary. The results are apparent on settlements and mission stations where overall nutrition is now more satisfactory. Investigations into the special needs of young children are being made and will continue in 1957-58.

A position of Ophthalmic Specialist has been approved but has not yet been filled.

Tropical Diseases.

Hookworm.—Treatment of wards has been continued on mission stations by Sisters with the aid of aboriginal assistants. It is believed that when the next surveys are carried out the incidence of this disease will be found to have been lowered. Education in sanitary practices and the provision of more latrines are very slowly having a beneficial effect.

Trachoma.—A concentrated effort has been made to treat this disease on all mission stations and settlements. Treatment with "Sulpha" drug for two to three weeks appears to be effective. Aureomycin ointment is also used in areas where secondary infection is prevalent. Professor Ida Mann, and Dr. D. McLean of the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, will carry out investigations commencing in July, 1957, into the cause of trachoma, and will attempt to culture the causative organism.

Malaria.—Between 1st July, 1956, and 30th June, 1957, 41 malaria cases of local origin were reported, all with positive blood films. During the dry season of 1946 (between April and November), 30 cases of local origin and four imported cases were reported. In the dry season of 1957 up to 30th June, 28 cases of local origin and nine imported cases had been reported. Of the nine imported cases, eight came from Timor, including six falciparum cases. All other cases were vivax infections. Traffic between Timor and Darwin, though still on a small scale, has increased, and with it the possibility of the introduction of *falciparum malaris* from Timor.

Leprosy.—Following surveys in more remote areas, eighteen new patients were admitted to the Leprosarium. The position regarding this disease appears satisfactory. Although only eight patients were discharged there is an increasing number almost fit for discharge.

Other Diseases.—During the year a Commonwealth Health Department survey of Administration settlements in the Alice Springs district discovered a number of cases of wards suffering from tuberculosis. Arrangements were made for the treatment of these cases.

At Darwin, a gastro-enteritis epidemic resulted in two deaths. However, the Health Department's action in isolating sufferers prevented the spread of the disease.

Employment.

Regulations to enable full implementation of the *Wards Employment Ordinance 1953* are being drafted and it is expected that the Ordinance and Regulations will become operative in the near future. The draft regulations have been the subject of conferences and negotiations with representatives of employers with pastoral, mining and other commercial interests, and will reflect the views of both the Administration and employer associations on the conditions of employment to be observed by any employer of aboriginal wards in the Territory. The regulations will refer to wages, recreation and sick leave, public holidays, fares and transport, medical facilities and standards of rations, clothing and accommodation.

Figures compiled at 30th June, 1957, indicate that 79 more aborigines were employed than at 30th June, 1956. While the total of males employed has been virtually static (2,812 in 1957 and 2,826 in 1956) the total of females employed has risen from 935 to 1,028—an increase of 93, or nearly 10 per cent.

One feature of the statistics is the apparent slight shift in employment of males away from what may be regarded as the traditional employment fields of the pastoral industry to other fields, such as hunting and mining. It is not possible to account with certainty for the apparent decline in employment on pastoral properties. Certainly the demand for labour still exceeds the supply. One possible influence is the fact that in previous years inaccuracies arose in the compilation of employment figures for pastoral properties, the same employee being counted more than once because during the year he had worked for more than one employer. Now, however, recording has been refined and such inaccuracies are more easily detected and corrected.

During the year, Government Departments and the Armed Services in Darwin increased their rates of pay for aboriginal wards from £2 per week to £3 10s. per week. The latter figure is now used as a basis for wage negotiations with private employers.

Many wards are employed in the pastoral industry, the most highly paid being those employed in interstate droving. Experienced drovers are earning £10 per week; boys aged fifteen years can earn £3 10s. per week on their first trip and as much as £7 per week on their second. Others are engaged in boring operations, mining, contract fencing, yard building and dam sinking, and some have shown that, given training and competent supervision, they can become first-class operators of heavy earth-moving equipment and transport vehicles.

The present increase in employment in hunting and mining cannot be regarded as permanent. Hunting, by its very nature, is a pursuit that brings fluctuating returns, intense activity during one year tending to thin out the game so that comparatively little is left in the following year, though the effect of this sometimes is mitigated by a rise in market prices.

Increased mechanization of farming, with concomitant changes in the type of labour required has occasioned a fall in the numbers employed in agriculture, while a decrease in employment in the timber industry has resulted from a slight recession in milling.

Following the survey and pilot school for aboriginal divers held at Elcho Island in May, 1956, a diving school was conducted at Elcho Island for a fortnight during October, 1956. Eight wards from Goulburn Island, Milingimbi and Elcho Island Missions and Snake Bay Settlement, and two part-coloured youths from Garden Point Mission, attended the school which was under the supervision of Mr. Eldred of Breathing Appliance Company Proprietary Limited of Melbourne, assisted by a medical officer and a district welfare officer.

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Trainees were instructed on the maintenance and operation of the compressor and diving apparatus, and were responsible during the whole period of the course for maintaining their diving equipment. During the second week of the course, all the trainees were using the equipment up to depths of ten fathoms, and had received instruction in emergency drill, especially in the technique of discarding their equipment and surfacing from a depth of approximately seven fathoms.

As a result of the course all trainees were competent to dive for shell up to depths of ten fathoms and were able to service and maintain their equipment. The question which has still to be answered is whether wards trained in this way could sustain their diving over a full diving season. In an endeavour to answer this question, wards who have been trained at this school are being equipped with boats, compressors and diving equipment to encourage them to undertake diving over a full diving season.

Reserves.

During the year there was no alteration to the area set aside as reserves for the aboriginal population of the Northern Territory. The seventeen Reserves which have a total area of approximately 67,000 square miles are—

Alice Springs (Bungalow).
Arnhem Land.
Bathurst Island.
Beswick.
Daly River.
Darwin (Bagot).
Groote Eylandt.
Haasts Bluff.
Hooker Creek.
Jay Creek.
Larrakeyah.
Melville Island.
South West.
Wagait.
Warramunga.
Woolwonga.
Yuendumu.

Patrols of the reserves were in the main restricted to settled areas with the exception of special investigations of the areas around Maningrida.

The experience and resources of technical branches of the Administration were called upon to assess the potential of certain areas on the reserves, and, in particular, of pasture improvement at Beswick and Melville Island Reserves, the pastoral possibilities of the area south of Hooker Creek (Winnecke Creek) and of areas surrounding Arcyonga in the Haasts Bluff Reserve. In addition a team of scientists from the Waite Agricultural Research Institute carried out soil surveys and investigated the irrigation potential of areas surrounding all southern settlements.

Settlements.

There are thirteen government settlements in the Northern Territory; eleven are located on aboriginal reserves, while two, Delissaville and Warrabri, are not on proclaimed reserves.

Population figures for each of the settlements are given in Table 4 of Appendix XXVII.

The value of food production on government settlements increased slightly over that of the previous year due mainly to increased technical advice from the Animal Industry and Plant Industry Branches, with the appointment to settlements of several specialists in these fields. The following table gives the total production from settlements during the year in the southern and northern

divisions and indicates the value of agricultural, horticultural and livestock developments in meeting the subsistence requirements of wards on settlements:—

PRODUCTION ON GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.			
Northern Division.		Weight.	Value.
			£ s. d.
Fruit and vegetables	84,510 lb.	5,904	13 0
Meat—383 bullocks	56,542 lb.	9,522	8 0
Goats' milk	2,096 gall.	619	16 0
Sea foods	6,671 lb.	766	14 0
Timber	16,976 super ft.	2,465	14 0
Total		19,279	5 0
Southern Division.			
Fruit and vegetables	39,667 lb.	2,059	7 0
Meat	145,235 lb.	6,994	15 0
Eggs	873 doz.	249	10 0
Goats' milk	1,665 gall.	918	4 0
Total		10,221	16 0
Total Production		29,501	1 0

This compares very favorably with settlement production during 1955-56 which was:—

	£
Southern Division	10,369
Northern Division	4,260
Total	14,629

The following paragraphs give brief comments on development during the year on each of the Government settlements:—

Areyonga.—This settlement lies near the eastern boundary of the large aboriginal reserve which occupies 8,000 square miles, midway between Alice Springs and the Western Australian border. The 180 mile road to the settlement from Alice Springs passes the Hermannsburg Mission.

The population of the settlement remained fairly constant during the period, whilst the migratory habits of the semi-nomads have remained almost unchanged. Peak populations of both adults and children again occurred during December and April-May. There was a significant improvement in the regularity of the attendance of school children.

Activity on the settlement was again confined to agricultural work and to the care of cattle, which are supplied from time to time from Haasts Bluff for the local needs of Areyonga. The garden produce was generally satisfactory, although a shortage of water during the summer months hampered production to some extent. The area under cultivation was increased slightly during the year.

The water situation was improved during the latter portion of the year by the sinking and equipping of a second bore, although the volume of water available from this bore has since dropped from 1,000 gallons per hour to 800 gallons per hour. It is nevertheless a vital supplement to the existing supply; the total amount of water now available from both bores is approximately 1,500 gallons per hour. As a result of this increased supply, water was reticulated to the camp site.

Staff facilities were improved with the erection of a Riley Newsum house, while a two-room building of local stone has been temporarily converted for use as a hospital.

Considerable fencing activity took place with the enclosing of the main part of the settlement and the construction of a barrier fence across the valley, to the east of the settlement, to provide a control paddock for stock. A stockyard near the settlement was rebuilt.

The health of the population over the period was generally good.

Bagot.—Situated on the outskirts of Darwin, Bagot provides for wards in transit and those employed in the town or by the Armed Services.

During the year, there has been considerable development in building and agriculture on this settlement.

A substantial steel and iron building was dismantled in the Darwin town area by labour from the settlement and re-erected within the reserve for use as a garage and workshop.

Fifteen acres of land were cleared, ploughed and sown with buffel grass, para grass, elephant grass, guinea grass and centro. There is evidence that these grasses will supplant the reed and poor indigenous grasses in the area.

The garden continued to give good yields, and the settlement figured prominently amongst the prizewinners for vegetables and tropical fruits in the 1956 Darwin Agricultural Show. Unfortunately the bore sunk in the area has not proved satisfactory, despite further deepening by 40 feet. However, it is proposed not to abandon attempts to obtain water from this source.

A new site for the school garden was selected, cleared and fenced, and at the end of the year was progressing satisfactorily.

The re-organization of the kitchen at Bagot has resulted in a marked improvement in the attitude of the wards employed in, and those being fed from the kitchen. Two wards employed in the kitchen are now able to prepare, with limited supervision, a first-class three-course meal. An oil burning stove, installed during the year, has resulted in cleaner conditions and better cooking facilities.

Beswick Creek.—With a population of approximately 300, Beswick Creek is about 250 miles south-east of Darwin across one of the main aboriginal routes into Arnhem Land. It has agricultural, animal husbandry and some pastoral possibilities.

A three-acre vegetable garden has been fenced, and at the 30th June, 1957, was in full-scale production.

Forty acres of land were cleared and fenced for a farm area. The lack of a tractor delayed the sowing of sorghum prior to the last wet season but nine acres of sorghum were harvested and produced a good yield. This will be used to feed the pigs, goats, cattle and poultry. A well designed pigsty was erected near the three grazing enclosures.

Pasture improvement on the reserve and on areas near the settlement was commenced with the sowing of twenty acres of Townsville lucerne. Once established this spreads rapidly and is excellent fodder both when green and dried.

During 1956-57, activity on the Administration-owned cattle station involved the normal day-to-day functions of mustering, branding and fence maintenance. A bang tail muster was commenced and was proceeding satisfactorily at 30th June, 1957. The station provided beef requirements for wards resident on the station and also those resident on the settlement. The value of the meat consumed by wards together with a small quantity sold to northern butchers totalled £9,522.

A citrus orchard was begun by the planting of 48 young trees; custard apples, avocados and mangoes have also been established in the orchard.

Building improvements effected during the years were— an ablution block which also provides laundry facilities, and a new goat yard to shelter 150 goats.

Amenities for the population were improved by the provision of a recreation room and by the fortnightly screening of films; the people have appreciated these innovations. The appearance of the settlement generally was improved by the painting of all buildings and planting for beautification throughout the area.

Borrooloola.—This establishment continued to provide a control point for the employment of wards from the Barkly Tableland and adjoining districts. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that a full-scale settlement is needed and exploratory work was undertaken to select a suitable site. A final decision has not yet been made.

During the year excellent results were obtained from the garden at Borrooloola due to the late rains which ensured good water supplies well into the dry season.

Through the efforts of the part-time matron, advancement was made in the teaching of hygiene practices among the children and workers, with the innovation of daily showering and the preparation of midday meals. The health of the people during the year was quite good, colds and tonsillitis being the main complaints.

To improve storage facilities the erection of a Sydney Williams hut was undertaken, and the water pressure was improved by the erection of a tankstand on which a 1,500-gallon water tank was placed.

The jetty at the "Twenty-five-mile" was replaced after the previous structure had been washed away in a high flood following very heavy rains during the wet season.

Bungalow.—On the outskirts of Alice Springs, the settlement of Bungalow provides for approximately 250 people. It accommodates aborigines employed about Alice Springs and has continued to serve as a clearing centre for wards sent in from outlying districts for hospitalization, and for itinerant wards. It has also continued to act as a receiving and distribution depot for all bulk stores required for the sustenance of wards throughout the various settlements in the area.

The general health of all residents on the reserve has improved markedly since the appointment of a full-time nursing sister, and there has been significant development in the field of infant welfare.

An alternative site for this settlement has been chosen south of the Macdonnell Ranges, between Emily's Gap and the Todd River, and about 7 miles south of Alice Springs. Approval has been given for the construction of a new settlement on this site, to be known as Amoonguna. Two successful bores have been sunk, building materials ordered and construction is expected to begin before the end of 1957.

Delissaville.—Situating on the western side of Darwin Harbour the Delissaville settlement is in reasonably good agricultural country.

Development at Delissaville has continued steadily, the main features being the installation of a Ruston-Hornsby 18-kilowatt lighting plant, the completion of a squatter's tank on a hill above the living quarters, the laying of water supply lines throughout that area and the completion of latrines and shower facilities for the school children. In addition an oil shed and workshop were completed. The water supply was improved by the installation of a new centrifugal pump and a 4-in. column.

A detour road was constructed around the settlement, making it unnecessary for tourists and others travelling to West Point to pass through the settlement area.

The fish trap was removed and re-erected on the west side of the peninsula and this has resulted in improved catches.

As in the past, vegetables in excess of the needs of the settlement were grown, and were distributed among other settlements or sold to hostels in Darwin.

At the close of the year, a recreation hut was being constructed and when this is completed it will be possible to make available additional amenities for wards on this settlement.

Haasts Bluff.—With approximately 400 people, this settlement lies in the same aboriginal reserve as, and about 50 miles to the north-west of, Areyonga. There is no settlement beyond it to the west. It has good pastoral possibilities and provides subsistence agricultural activities.

The population of Haasts Bluff remains at slightly over 400 wards of the Pintubi tribe. The people on the Reserve are nomadic, with the result that the numbers at the settlement fluctuate markedly.

Some 40 miles of new roads have been brought into use, and have made possible communication between important points in the reserve.

Thirty-eight miles of boundary and block fencing have been completed and maintained; a standard two-way landing ground, near the new settlement site at Papunya, has been cleared and levelled and, subject to inspection by the Department of Civil Aviation, will shortly be ready for use.

All the above projects have been accomplished by aboriginal labour under the supervision of the manager.

The cattle-raising project has continued to expand, and is now a very valuable asset. The total meat requirements of the settlement have been drawn from this source, as have also the major requirements of the Areyonga Settlement. The total number of cattle on the reserve is approximately 2,450, valued at £29,400. During the period under review two additional stock bores were put down and fully equipped. Three further bores are now required to complete the coverage of the northern cattle-grazing area of the reserve, and to meet the expanding requirements of the herd. One bore is needed between Alumbara and Mount Liebig, one between Papunya and Alumbara, and one between Ekretara and Mareeni.

The health requirements of the reserve have been partly met by the appointment of two nursing sisters. Health over the period has been normal except for occasional epidemics of common colds and influenza.

The further development of the present site of the settlement was abandoned when it was found that the bore water was unfit for human consumption, and it was decided to move to a new site. The new site is at Papunya where two bores give a supply in excess of 6,000 gallons per hour of excellent water. Construction of the new settlement at this site is now in progress. Three concrete brick native houses, two Romney buildings and the brick work of the infirmary have been completed.

Hooker Creek.—Accommodating approximately 150 aborigines of the Northern Wailbri group, the Hooker Creek Settlement lies in isolation on the southern edge of the Victoria River District. It has some pastoral and subsistence farming possibilities.

The superintendent, who attended a course at the Australian School of Pacific Administration during 1956, and has a wide knowledge of pastoral activities, commenced duty at this settlement during the year.

The school, under a European head teacher, was opened on 11th July, 1956. The first attendance consisted of 21 children, whilst at 30th June, 1957, the enrolment was 24.

No additional buildings were erected, although the new houses built in 1955-56 were connected to the electricity supply. A new windmill, tank and stand were erected at the second settlement bore, and have improved the water supply throughout the area. The administrative area was completely fenced.

A holding paddock of 29 square miles is being fenced to include the "seven mile" bore for the watering of stock. During the year, 169 calves were branded, of which 103 were heifers. Eighty-four head of cattle for killing were purchased from Montejinni Station.

The garden area again produced sufficient vegetables for the settlement's needs during the dry season of the year.

A survey of the Winnecke area south of the settlement was completed during the year by an officer of the Animal Industry Branch.

Jay Creek.—A small aboriginal settlement of 170 people, Jay Creek is situated a few miles west of Alice Springs. This is Aranda country with an admixture of Wailbri and Luridja immigrants.

The development of this centre has been retarded by the fact that to date it has been impossible to provide a permanent supply of good water sufficient in quantity to justify full scale development. An additional school teacher's residence has been provided, and also a new kitchen for wards, complete with oil-drip stove.

Apart from this developmental activity, which was considered essential to provide minimum staff accommodation and reasonable cooking facilities, work has been confined to general maintenance and routine welfare activities.

The reserve provides an essential buffer between Alice Springs and the far western reserves. This, and the educational and health services which it provides, makes it an essential and worthwhile link in the chain of settlements in the area.

The aboriginal population has remained static and has maintained an excellent standard of behaviour and health.

Maningrida.—A further step was taken during the year to extend care and assistance to one of the few remaining groups of wards who have no mission or settlement tending their needs.

On 9th May, 1957, officers of the Welfare Branch established the first camp on a water hole situated on the eastern bank of the Liverpool River in Arnhem Land, approximately five miles from the mouth. The site selected was adjacent to a native well, known as Maningrida, by which name the new settlement is known.

Whilst other members of the party settled in and erected temporary shelters, a patrol officer travelled extensively throughout the area between the Liverpool and Blyth Rivers. In all he made contact with over 300 wards whose lives will be influenced by the new settlement.

The survey made by this officer indicated that there is a high incidence of leprosy among the wards in the more remote areas. A favourable reaction was evident from the initial attempt to assist these people and at 30th June, five suspect cases were isolated and were receiving treatment under the guidance of the Medical Officer in Darwin who was contacted by radio. It is planned that a medical officer will go to the area in the near future to assess the health needs of these people.

An airstrip has been surveyed by an airport inspector of the Department of Civil Aviation, and clearing has begun. This strip will be 4,000 feet long and involves a considerable amount of tree-felling. It is expected however that the strip will be in operation next dry season.

The value of a settlement in this area was emphasised during the operation off the coast of the Japanese pearling fleet. The mouth of the Liverpool River and the adjacent Boucaut Bay are favourite sheltering spots for this fleet and the existence of the settlement will provide closer control of the area. In addition, Darwin-based luggers will have the opportunity of recruiting wards as crew members from Maningrida without the necessity of engaging in Darwin and returning recruits to Darwin.

At the end of June, a total of 100 adults and 90 children were in the settlement or its immediate vicinity. Only nursing mothers, children, aged and infirm persons and workers were being rationed, the others being encouraged to trade goods in exchange for foodstuffs and other articles. For this purpose a well-equipped canteen has been established and the main item expected to be traded is crocodile skins. However, other articles such as woven mats and baskets, aboriginal artifacts, tortoiseshell, etc., will undoubtedly be included in the items of trade.

Because this settlement provides an ideal base for patrols along the Arnhem Land coast, it is proposed as soon as possible to station a patrol officer permanently in the area.

Snake Bay.—The only government settlement on Melville Island is situated on the shore of an attractive bay with good fishing, timber and farming prospects.

Development on this settlement was hampered by the resignation of the mill manager and the inability to recruit a suitable replacement. Some progress was made in improving facilities; a storeroom was completed, repairs were carried out to the manager's residence and work commenced on the erection of houses for wards.

The new residence for the superintendent is nearing completion and should be ready for occupation before the end of 1957. A temporary recreation hut was brought into use and is proving very popular with the wards.

Following damage to the jetty at Snake Bay, a jetty was erected at Calico Creek which flows into Apsley Straits opposite Bathurst Island Mission. This has eliminated the relatively long sea voyage around Melville Island, and stores and materials can now be delivered from Darwin to the island in eight hours as against the 24 hours previously required. The innovation has involved the transportation of goods across the island for a distance of 26 miles, and every endeavour has been made to make the road an all-weather one in order to avoid delay in supplies reaching the settlement during the wet season.

During the year, wards were encouraged to supplement the rations supplied through the store by collecting marine foods, and this resulted in a more varied diet. There was also increased activity in crocodile hunting, and a total of £300 was paid to the hunters.

Warrabri.—This settlement is situated between Murray Downs and Singleton Stations at a point approximately 24 miles south-east of Wauchope. It consists of lightly timbered desert country and is typical of the spinifex desert country of the area.

During the year the building programme was continued and the ward population consolidated in their new environment.

Buildings completed during the year by the works force were a garage-workshop, a canteen-recreation hall, a manual training and home-management centre and a store. Buildings near completion at the 30th June, 1957, were four Bellevue residences, a kitchen mess unit, a four-classroom school, an infirmary and sisters' quarters and an administrative building.

The wards attached to the works force have now reached a degree of skill in the various phases of their training which makes them a valuable asset to the settlement.

The District Welfare Officer, Tennant Creek, took up duty at Warrabri on 8th February. It was necessary for him to reside at Warrabri because of the lack of suitable accommodation in Tennant Creek, and because of the necessity to have adequate supervision over the Warrabri Settlement.

The main settlement activity was the development of agricultural projects, including a citrus orchard. Irrigation equipment was installed during the year, thereby allowing the area under cultivation to be increased to 3 acres. Pasture improvement was attempted with the introduction of clover, rye grass and buffel grass; the latter flourished and could easily be spread throughout the area.

Difficulties are being experienced in consolidating the airstrip owing to the sand drift caused by the constant winds. The advice of the Department of Civil Aviation is being sought to overcome this problem.

During the year two adult female wards were trained as hospital assistants and two received training in the preparation of meals for the pre-school group.

The health of the community generally was good, there being only two minor epidemics, of influenza and measles. In October a medical survey doctor immunized all people on the settlement against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough; and Mantoux tests were made. A mobile dental unit visited the settlement in February and administered treatment where required. The disposal of waste water

has represented a hygiene problem, but with the cutting of French drains this difficulty seems to have been solved. During the year there were eight births and five deaths.

Yuendumu.—This settlement occupies part of a reserve of 859 square miles on the fringe of pastoral settlement, 170 miles north-west of Alice Springs. It has 460 people in comparatively early stages of contact.

Under irrigation, the soil is fertile and will grow vegetables, citrus and vines, and the reserve has possibilities for cattle raising.

Steady progress has been maintained on this settlement.

A second bore and overhead tank have been provided to augment the water supply and, amongst other things, have made it possible to plant a substantial citrus orchard, which is flourishing.

One additional staff residence was completed.

Health services have been extended by the appointment of two nursing sisters who regularly visit surrounding station properties. Work has continued on the erection of the infirmary and sisters' quarters, and these should be completed before the end of 1957. Preliminary work has begun on the erection of houses, a latrine and an ablution block for wards.

Missions.

Seven mission authorities work among the aboriginal people of the Northern Territory.

There are four institutions for part-aboriginal children in the Territory: St. Mary's Hostel, Alice Springs (Australian Board of Missions); Retta Dixon Home, Darwin (Aborigines Inland Mission); Croker Island (Methodist Overseas Mission); and Garden Point, Melville Island (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Mission). There are 361 children in these institutions. In addition, the Australian Board of Missions cares for 21 part-aboriginal children at St. Francis House, Semaphore, South Australia.

There are fourteen mission stations for full-blood aborigines. Of these, the Church Missionary Society, the Methodist Overseas Mission and the Roman Catholic Church each conducts four; one is conducted by the Finke River Mission (Lutheran); and one is an undenominational station conducted by Mr. F. H. Gray. Approximately 5,000 aborigines are in regular contact with these missions. In addition, there are resident missionaries at four government settlements—Areyonga and Haasts Bluff (Finke River Mission); and Yuendumu and Warrabri (Home Missions Board of the Baptist Union).

While the primary interest of missions is spiritual, they have accepted responsibility as agents of the Commonwealth Government to develop health, education and economic programmes among wards. Subject to certain general conditions, the Government, under this system, has agreed to pay to a mission an amount of £750 each year in respect of each teacher, nurse, agriculturist, or pastoral instructor whom that mission employs. For each aged and infirm person maintained by a mission, the Government pays the mission £1 8s. 7d. per week which is the same amount as that paid to pastoralists for the same service. For each eligible child, the Government pays to the mission child endowment plus an amount of 5s. 8d. per week. In addition, the Government gives financial assistance for mission building projects including the erection of schools, hospitals, residences, stores, native houses, &c., and some financial assistance for approved training and economic projects.

As a result of this financial arrangement which was initiated in 1954-55, greater attention is paid by the missions to the economic and social aims of the Administration's welfare policy, and food production from agricultural and pastoral activities is increasing. The cost

of Government assistance to missions has increased sharply, reflecting the response of the missions to the incentive to improve education, health, training and economic services. Over the past three years more than £500,000 has been provided by the Government to missions; in 1954-55 the financial assistance was £166,244; in 1955-56 it totalled £162,080; and in 1956-57 it rose to £181,044.

Missions, however, are still experiencing difficulty in recruiting the number of trained staff required to attract the maximum subsidy available under this system, particularly in regard to school teachers and nursing sisters. All missions are making a strong drive to recruit specialist staff in these categories, and it is hoped that as a consequence of this recruiting drive more specialized staff will be provided on all mission stations and so enable health, education and training programmes to be more fully developed in 1957-58.

A brief account of the work of each mission station during the period under review follows:—

Groote Eylandt Mission.—Operated by the Church Missionary Society, this mission serves an area of 200 square miles. It cares for 495 wards consisting of 221 adults, and 274 children of whom 160 were attending the mission school at 30th June, 1957.

When the new school, with a staff of four teachers, was opened in January, 1957, the educational facilities and accommodation were considerably improved. Keen interest has been shown in carpentry, mechanics, handicrafts and animal husbandry. A feature of the school is the education of boys up to the age of sixteen years. A 16-mm. sound projector which was purchased during the year has improved the adult education facilities.

The purchase of a Ferguson tractor and the installation of irrigation facilities in the garden area gave impetus to general agricultural activities. Crops sown were sorghum, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, paw paws and a wide variety of vegetables. In addition, a number of citrus plantings were made.

The cattle project was advanced by the introduction into the herd of a new Red Poll bull, and the completion of two miles of fencing to provide a paddock between the mission and the Emerald River. Experimental plots of elephant grass, Townsville lucerne, para grass, buffel grass and green panicum were sown in an attempt to improve pasture.

The pig and goat herds are flourishing, and the poultry project is developing steadily. Some 700 chickens were incubated during the year and distributed amongst the Church Missionary Society missions in the Territory.

Attention was also given during the year to the development of a pearling project and a course of training was provided for twelve wards. Some pearl shell was harvested during the training period and the men engaged in this project are hopeful of its future success.

During the year, routine visits were made by medical officers and dentists from Darwin and a special medical survey was carried out. In addition, a trachoma survey was carried out by Professor Ida Mann and infected cases are receiving treatment. The precautions taken against hookworm have proved successful and this station is still free from this disease.

Improved facilities include the installation of a septic system in the hospital, together with a bath and sink; the erection of a washroom for the girls' dormitory; the completion of the first of the two new school buildings and the new sewing room; the erection of a new dormitory for boys; and 22 new houses which were constructed to house the families which came to the mission from Umbakumba station in November, 1956. The water supply was also improved by the damming of the Anuguru River and the installation of another bank of four hydraulic rams. The

total capacity of all hydraulic rams in use is now 14,000 gallons per day. Two hundred yards of 1-in. water piping, with spring-loaded taps, were laid to extend the water into the village.

Umbakumba.—This is a non-denominational settlement in the charge of Mr. F. H. Gray. It lies on the north coast of Groote Eylandt opposite the old flying boat base. The centre suffered a severe setback in December, 1956, when the wet season supplies did not arrive. Accordingly, Mr. Gray was obliged to close his settlement and, apart from a small number who remained with him in his employ, most of the aboriginal population moved across the island to the Church Missionary Society Mission.

The Administration, however, continued to subsidize Mr. Gray for the maintenance of those aborigines who remained with him. Negotiations are proceeding for the transfer of this settlement to the Church Missionary Society.

Oenpelli.—The Church Missionary Society operates this station of 200 square miles on the East Alligator River about 40 miles from the sea. The population at 30th June, 1957, was 205 wards, mainly of the Gunwinggu tribe.

The cattle project was advanced during the year by the introduction of additional breeder cattle and stud bulls; and by the erection of additional fencing to control buffalo moving into the pastoral area. Wards received training in droving, mustering and branding of cattle, horse-breaking, fencing and other activities associated with pastoral work.

The orchard area was extended, and bananas and pine-apples were planted.

The appointment of two school teachers to the station gave considerable impetus to the education of wards. There were 36 children enrolled at the mission school at 30th June, 1957. Instruction is also given to pre-school children to prepare them for formal education.

Construction of a new school was begun, and a new staff building completed from timber cut and milled in the area by local labour. A new airstrip was under construction at the close of the period under review.

The health of the community was generally satisfactory, although leprosy still remains a problem.

Roper River.—Conducted by the Church Missionary Society this station is located on the Roper River in the extreme south-east corner of the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Reserve, and comprises 230 square miles. The population at 30th June, 1957, was 258 wards, consisting of 103 adults, and 155 children of whom 83 were attending the mission school on 30th June, 1957. These people are of the Mara and other tribes.

During the period under review, the station received a severe setback when the Roper River floods of March, 1957, washed out the orchard and vegetable garden, dislocated the pumping system and destroyed other installations.

A large-scale campaign against hookworm disease including the provision of improved sanitary facilities, hospital treatment and a survey of diet was undertaken during the year. Mass treatments for malaria were also given under the direction of the Commonwealth Department of Health, and an improvement made in the standard of camp hygiene. The Commonwealth Department of Health has trained two wards in the recognition of certain diseases and this has proved an added safeguard to public health.

A modern dormitory for schoolgirls was built, using local timber which had been processed in the mission saw-mill. One of its purposes is to train girls in domestic science.

The erection of a 20,000-gallon tank has enabled water to be laid on to the camp. Other improvements include the installation of a 415-volt alternating current 3-phase electrical generating plant, a sound-film projector unit for recreational and educational purposes, and the provision of street lighting.

Rose River.—This Church Missionary Society station is situated on the east coast of Arnhem Land, almost opposite Groote Eylandt Mission, between Caledon Bay and the Roper estuary, and has a population of 146 wards of the Nungubuju tribe.

During the year ended 30th June, 1957, good progress was made in all phases of development. A school teacher's residence and a school building were erected. A total of 20,000 super. feet of sawn timber (cyprus pine) was produced by local labour and used for the mission's buildings on both Rose River and Roper River Missions.

Elcho Island.—Situated off the Arnhem Land coast, about 50 miles east of Milingimbi, this Methodist Overseas Mission accommodates 422 wards from various tribes for whom Gobboingee is the *lingua franca*. At the close of the period under review there were 92 children attending the mission school.

During the year, the area for cultivation was extended and a commencement made on the installation of a water irrigation system. Rice was successfully grown during the period covered by this report, and in the forthcoming year it is proposed to extend the area under this crop.

Saw milling continues to be the major occupation of wards on this mission, and many thousands of super. feet of cyprus pine were cut and used for buildings on the four Methodist Overseas Mission stations in the Territory. At Elcho Island, a new staff residence and cottages for wards are in the course of construction.

Lack of suitable vessels hampered the fishing and pearl diving projects during the year; however, it is hoped that this difficulty will be overcome.

The maintenance of the Methodist Overseas Mission vessels *Larrpan* and *Aroetta* has been carried out by the mission staff, and a number of wards are being trained to undertake this maintenance. In addition, a 21-ft. twin-screw loading barge was constructed by mission labour.

Goulburn Island Mission.—The population of this Methodist Overseas Mission station at 30th June, 1957, was 253 wards of the Maung tribal affinity. At the same date 58 children were enrolled at the mission school.

After a good start the garden, the greater part of which is in low-lying heavy soil, suffered during the heavy April rains. The area was flooded to a depth of several feet resulting in the loss of 70 per cent. of crops as well as paw paws, bananas and coconut palms.

There were heavy losses of goats and pigs during the same period. Pastures were flooded and received a major setback; experimental plots, where the effects of various trace elements were being noted, were completely flooded and the experiments rendered useless. The water supply will have been replenished for years to come, however, and the pastures will ultimately benefit from silt deposits.

The building of a new residence for an agriculturist has been commenced. The project will be carried on by two wards trained as carpenters.

Milingimbi.—This Methodist Overseas Mission station which, at 30th June, 1957, accommodated 626 wards of Goboboingu tribal affinity, is situated on a small island of the same name along the north coast of Arnhem Land about midway between the Blyth and Goyder Rivers. At the 30th June, 1957, there were 95 children enrolled at the mission school.

The programme of earth wall construction, commenced some years ago, has been carried on, and fourteen dwelling

for wards have now been erected; in addition the mission house of adobe construction is almost completed. An experimental sanitation block has proved a success.

Further pasture land has been sown with Townsville lucerne, 300 lb. of seed being spread in the early part of the wet season.

Outpost gardens on Rabuma Island and at Garji Billa-bong on the mainland were partially washed out by the heavy rains in early April, but the interest of wards in these projects is growing.

Another well was dug to improve the water supply, and approximately 1,750,000 gallons a year are being used for all purposes.

Yirrkala.—Occupying the north-east corner of Arnhem land between Melville Bay and Port Bradshaw this Methodist Overseas Mission station has 481 wards and at 30th June, 1957, 73 children were enrolled at the mission school.

There have been very good crops of sweet potatoes and peanuts in the mission garden during the year, as well as a variety of fruit and vegetables. This station now has a diesel tractor and a chisel plough with attachments to assist garden preparation. Additional irrigation equipment is being set up, and a 75,000-gallon storage tank erected.

Plans are in hand and materials are being procured for the erection of a hospital and school.

Bathurst Island Mission.—With approximately 800 Tiwi people, this is the largest mission station in the Territory. It was established by Father (later Bishop) Gsell of the Sacred Heart Order in 1911 on the sheltered south coast of Bathurst Island. During the current year, births totalled 25 and deaths 7. At the 30th June, 1957, the population was made up of 470 adults, 290 children under fifteen years of age and 40 children aged between fifteen and nineteen years. Of the children on the mission, 63 boys and 85 girls attend school.

Development during the year included the erection of a new sanitary block and small laundry for use by the school girls, and two additional lavatories in the general camp. Twenty additional houses, for which the mission supplied the roofing iron, were erected for the wards who provided the timber and, under supervision, erected the dwellings. Two wards provided sufficient suitable timber to enable mission authorities to mill weatherboards for their homes.

With few exceptions expectant mothers attend the mission hospital for the birth of their children. The nursing sister has trained several girls to assist her in the hospital work. There are at present 22 beds in the hospital and during the year 25,450 treatments of various kinds were given. Endeavours are made to train mothers in child care and regular feeding habits, and some of the mothers now have cots in their camps. On leaving the hospital each mother is provided with baby napkins, a rug and in some cases clothing for the baby.

The agricultural projects continue to provide essential foodstuffs for the ward population.

The system of encouraging residents of the mission to obtain foodstuffs and to trade them with the Superintendent continued to operate. Five fish traps, which are considered to be the property of the wards, were established and whatever fish are caught in the traps are bought by the mission. The following aboriginal foodstuffs supplied under this system indicates its value to the mission:—Kangaroo, 11,903 lb.; dugong, 465 lb.; turtle, 343 lb.; cockles, 1,000; shark, 48 lb.; fish, 12,656 lb.; crabs, 7,646; hen eggs, 10,800; turtle eggs, 8,323; honey, 139 lb. In addition to these native foods, the following foodstuffs from projects commenced on the mission were supplied to the camp: meat, 5,280 lb.; poultry, 400 lb.; and milk, 700 gallons.

The women on the mission are employed in housework, cooking, general cleaning and hygiene work, assisting in the hospital and the school, and laundry work including ironing and sewing.

Daly River Mission.—This Roman Catholic Mission, which was officially opened by the Minister for Territories, the Honorable Paul Hasluck, on 28th October, 1956, had a total population of 93, of whom 81 were children. It is the mission's policy not to disturb adult employment in the district, but to encourage the children to the mission for education and other welfare activities.

The mission school which opened on 1st January, 1957, had an enrolment of 73 children at the end of the period under review, and these pupils, who have shown a keen interest in their work, have made most satisfactory progress.

Unfortunately, the unprecedented floods of the Daly River in March, 1957, totally destroyed the newly planted crops and caused other minor damage. Fortunately the mission buildings sustained little damage. Despite the flooding of the garden area, agricultural production for the year was considerable.

With the small adult labour pool available, the mission organized a small-scale fishing industry among wards employed on local farms. Arrangements were made for these wards to engage in line fishing, the catch being stored in the mission deep freeze unit and then transported by air to Darwin. In this manner, about 3½ tons of fish, valued at £952 10s., were marketed in Darwin during the year.

Facilities were further improved by the erection of a baker's house, a recreation hall, a vegetable house, a kitchen and a concrete brick house for the refrigeration unit.

Port Keats Mission.—Founded in 1934 by missionaries of the Sacred Heart Order, and situated on the coast between the estuaries of the Victoria and Daly Rivers in Nanagu and Murambata country, this mission has at present a population of 576 wards. Births during the year totalled nineteen and deaths two.

At 30th June, 1957, 96 children were enrolled at the mission school.

The pastoral project at this mission was further developed and the stock at 30th June, 1957, consisted of 818 cattle, 27 horses and 71 goats. During the year 65 bullocks were killed for local consumption.

Agricultural development was at a satisfactory level, a total of 65,707 lb. of produce in a wide variety of grains, fruits and vegetables being passed into the camp and kitchen.

Amenities were improved with the renovation of the convent building; and the erection of a house for single men, a boys' school and dormitory, a teacher's residence and additional huts for wards.

Santa Teresa Mission.—This mission of the Sacred Heart Order, located on the Phillipson block, south-east of Alice Springs, had a population of 212 wards at 30th June, 1957, there being eighteen births and seven deaths during the year.

The health of the population was good, except for a measles epidemic which caused the death of four children.

During the period under review, emphasis shifted from building development to pastoral development, and considerable progress was achieved. A new bore was sunk in a position convenient for the watering of stock, and the quality and quantity of the water were good. Fencing and stock yard construction was carried out by wards resident on the mission. At the 30th June, 1957, there were 428 head of cattle pastured on the property, 52 head

being killed for local consumption and 100 being sold during the year. The herd has been improved by the introduction of sixteen pedigree shorthorn bulls.

The agricultural project suffered a serious setback, due to staff changes and sickness. Small quantities only, of cabbage, lettuce, turnips and red beet were produced, and small areas of lucerne and buffel grass were maintained. However, a fairly successful summer crop which included marrows, pumpkins, Chinese beans and rock melons was harvested.

During the year, a new school building was completed, consisting of two large rooms, and one smaller room for arts and crafts. Enrolments at 30th June, 1957, were 32 boys and 43 girls.

The housing scheme for wards continued—six new houses were built of local stone and a bathroom-laundry unit was erected for use by adult males. In addition to the new stock bore a second successful bore was sunk on the mission site to supplement existing water supplies.

Hermannsburg.—Conducted by the Finke River Mission (Lutheran), and comprising 1,524 square miles, this mission station lies roughly west of Alice Springs on the road to Areyonga. It is the oldest mission station in the Territory, having been established on 4th June, 1877. At the 30th June, 1957, the population was 411 wards of Aranda affinity. One hundred and forty-two children were enrolled at the mission school.

Wards on this station are primarily engaged in cattle raising and, in addition, hides are processed in the station tannery for bootmaking and other leather work.

The new hospital was opened during the year and, as soon as a new lighting plant is installed, will come into full operation.

The wards consistently used the facilities provided by the settlement store, and this has been helpful in training them in the prudent expenditure of money, as well as supplementing their diet with such items as fresh fruit.



School children at Warrabri Government Settlement.



Dressmaking class at the Garden Point Mission.



Part of the farm at Warrabri Government Settlement.



Sawmill at Snake Bay Government Settlement, Melville Island.

APPENDIX XXVII.

WELFARE OF ABORIGINES.

1. ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

	Estimates at 30th June, 1955.	Census figures at 30th June, 1956.	As at 30th June, 1957.
In contact with Government Settlements and Depots ..	2,920	3,190	3,777
In contact with Missions	4,383	4,654	5,038
In Pastoral, Mining and Agricultural Areas	5,137	5,867	5,416
In Towns and Environs (not resident at Government Settlements)	895*	950*	486
At East Arm Leprosarium .. .. .	..	..	198
Nomadic, not in contact with Missions or Settlements ..	550	550	530
	13,885	15,211†	15,445
Estimated number not yet included in Census of Aborigines	..	760	720
Total .. .. .	..	15,971	16,165

* This figure included aborigines resident at Bagot and Bungalow Settlements.

† A revised total of 15,302, with explanation, is given in Chapter 14.

2. NUMBER OF WARDS EMPLOYED, BY INDUSTRY AT 30TH JUNE, 1956 AND 1957.

Industry.	30th June, 1956.			30th June, 1957.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pastoral	1,685	590	2,275	1,579	642	2,221
Hunting, Scalping, &c., excluding Crocodile shooting	50	20	70	..	..	..
Hunting, Scalping, &c., including Crocodile shooting	..	..	..	196	96	292
Marine, including Crocodile shooting	50	..	50	..	..	..
Marine, excluding Crocodile shooting .. .. .	..	..	..	31	..	31
Timber	73	..	73	40	10	50
Agriculture	124	42	166	89	25	114
Mining	93	16	109	155	22	177
Artists and Contractors	31	1	32	..	..	..
Artists .. .. .	..	..	..	11	1	12
Contractors .. .. .	..	..	..	12	..	12
Police Trackers	26	..	26	31	..	31
Towns and Environs, Government Departments, &c.	304	108	412	..	..	..
Towns and Environs .. .. .	..	..	..	244	93	337
Government Departments, &c. .. .. .	..	..	..	78	..	78
Government Settlements	390	158	548	307	133	440
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	39	6	45
Total	2,826	935	3,761	2,812	1,028	3,840

APPENDIX XXVII.—*continued.*WELFARE OF ABORIGINES—*continued.*

3. ABORIGINAL RESERVES AT 30TH JUNE, 1957.

Reserve.	Population.					Area.	Centres on Reserves.	
	Part Aborigines.		Aborigines.				Mission Stations.	Government Settlements.
	Males.	Female.	Males.	Female.	Total.			
Arnhem Land ..	36	27	1,344	1,372	2,779	36,580 sq. miles	See Footnote ..	Maningrida
Groote Eylandt ..	..	..	276	327	603	830 sq. miles	Groote Eylandt and Umbakumba Missions	
Daly River ..	..	..	298	278	576	5,450 sq. miles	Port Keats Mission ..	Snake Bay
Bathurst Island ..	..	..	366	417	783	786 sq. miles	Bathurst Island Mission	
Melville Island ..	70	84	100	72	326	2,100 sq. miles	Garden Point Mission	Hooker Creek
Hooker Creek ..	..	..	65	108	173	845 sq. miles		Beswick Station
Beswick ..	..	..	125	119	244	1,315 sq. miles		Beswick Creek
Darwin (Bagot)	50	51	183	102	386	1 sq. mile	Retta Dixon Home, Aborigines Inland Mission ..	Bagot
Haasts Bluff ..	..	..	396	392	788	7,636 sq. miles		Areyonga
Yuendumu ..	..	..	163	184	347	850 sq. miles		Haasts Bluff
Jay Creek ..	..	..	74	98	172	116 sq. miles		Papunya
Alice Springs (Bungalow)	..	..	130	164	294	2 sq. mile		Yuendumu
								Jay Creek
								Bungalow
Total ..	156	162	3,520	3,633	7,471	56,516 sq. miles		
Larrakeyah ..						14 sq. miles		
Woolwonga ..						162 sq. miles		
Wagait ..						388 sq. miles		
Warramunga ..						270 sq. miles		
South West ..						12,108 sq. miles		
Total Area of Aboriginal Reserves in the Northern Territory ..						69,458 sq. miles		

Mission Stations in Arnhem Land Reserve:—

Church Missionary Society—Roper River Mission, Rose River Mission, Oenpelli Mission.

Methodist Overseas Missions—Goulburn Island Mission, Milingimbi Mission, Elcho Island Mission, Yirrkala Mission, Croker Island Mission (Part Aborigines).

4. POPULATION OF GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS AT 30TH JUNE, 1956 AND 1957.

Settlement.	30th June, 1956.			30th June, 1957.						Total.
	Adults.	Children.	Total.	Adults.			Children.			
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Areyonga ..	195	105	300	124	125	249	65	64	129	378
Bagot ..	200	73	273	138	67	205	45	35	80	285
Beswick Creek ..	180	99	279	70	81	151	44	34	78	229
Beswick Station ..	50	15	65	10	4	14	1	..	1	15
Borroloola ..	50	25	75	24	30	54	12	11	23	77
Bungalow ..	145	105	250	74	97	171	56	67	123	294
Delissaville ..	66	44	110	34	33	67	28	15	43	110
Haasts Bluff ..	253	224	477	134	124	258	73	79	152	410
Hooker Creek ..	84	45	129	48	80	128	17	28	45	173
Jay Creek ..	118	29	147	45	61	106	29	37	66	172
Maningrida ..	..	..	..	93	91	184	83	58	141	325
Snake Bay ..	129	34	163	79	50	129	21	22	43	172
Warrabri ..	196	130	326	73	89	162	52	51	103	265
Yuendumu ..	312	232	544	95	107	202	68	77	145	347
Total ..	1,978	1,160	3,138	1,041	1,039	2,080	594	578	1,172	3,252

APPENDIX XXVII.—continued.

WELFARE OF ABORIGINES—continued.

5. POPULATION OF MISSION STATIONS.

Mission Station.	30th June, 1956.			30th June, 1957.						Total.
	Adults.	Children.	Total.	Adults.			Children.			
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Church Missionary Society—										
Oenpelli	155	96	251	56	69	125	42	38	80	205
Rose River	80	69	149	33	42	75	38	33	71	146
Roper River	131	122	253	47	56	103	83	72	155	258
Groote Eylandt	171	192	363	110	111	221	122	152	274	495
Lutheran Mission—Hermannsburg	161	157	318	93	101	194	103	114	217	411
Methodist Overseas Missions—										
Goulburn Island	105	61	166	83	74	157	56	40	96	253
Milingimbi	350	263	613	204	192	396	111	119	230	626
Elcho Island	374	285	659	75	63	138	131	153	284	422
Yirrkala	245	219	464	129	170	299	80	102	182	481
Roman Catholic Missions—										
Bathurst Island	471	286	757	220	250	470	146	167	313	783
Port Keats	227	155	382	217	188	405	81	90	171	576
Santa Teresa	54	51	105	55	82	137	32	43	75	212
Daly River .. ..	..	..	..	7	5	12	17	33	50	62
F. H. Gray (Non-Denominational)—Umbakumba Settlement	84	90	174	22	20	42	22	44	66	108
Total	2,608	2,046	4,654	1,351	1,423	2,774	1,064	1,200	2,264	5,038

6. PART ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IN CARE OF MISSIONS (EXCLUDING CHILDREN ON MISSION STATIONS).

Mission.	Number of Children.			
	30th June, 1956.	30th June, 1957.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
Australian Board of Missions—				
St. Francis House, South Australia	21	21	..	21
St. Mary's Hostel, Alice Springs	65	28	38	66
Aborigines Inland Mission—Retta Dixon Home	87	50	44	94
Methodist Overseas Mission—Croker Island	77	36	27	63
Roman Catholic Mission—Garden Point	105	63	77	140
Total	355	198	186	384

APPENDIX XXVII.—*continued.*WELFARE OF ABORIGINES—*continued.*

7. TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN.

	30th June, 1955.	30th June, 1956.	30th June, 1957.
(a) Government Schools—			
(i) On Settlements—Head Teachers	5	5	4
Teachers in Charge	*3	*4	7
Assistant Teachers—			
Male	2	2	2
Female	6	9	10
Teacher—Vocational Subjects	1	..	..
Relieving Teachers	1	1	1
(ii) At Industrial Centres—Teachers in Charge	*1	*1	..
(iii) On Pastoral Properties—Teachers in Charge	1	2	2
Total	20	24	26
(b) Subsidized Schools—			
(i) On Pastoral Properties—Teachers	2	2	3
(ii) On Missions—Teachers	21	26	24
Total	43	52	53

* Amended from previous years' reports to separate out school staffing at Industrial Centres.

APPENDIX XXVII.—continued.

WELFARE OF ABORIGINES—continued.

8. ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOLS FOR ABORIGINES DURING 1956-57.

—	Enrolment.						Attendance.			Average Monthly Attendances as a percentage of average Monthly Enrolments.		
	Average Monthly.			Active as at 30th June, 1957.			Average Monthly.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Government Schools—												
(i) On Settlements—												
Areyonga ..	40.5	38.7	79.2	35	40	75	34.7	35.7	70.4	85.6	92.3	88.8
Bagot ..	29.2	22.9	52.1	27	24	51	27.2	21.4	48.6	93.2	93.4	93.3
Beswick ..	29.2	18.9	48.1	33	24	57	22.7	18.2	40.9	94.5	96.3	95.4
Bungalow ..	41.3	47.3	88.6	36	44	80	36.3	36.9	73.2	87.8	78	82.6
Delissaville ..	14.2	9.6	23.8	21	9	30	13.5	9.3	22.8	95.1	96.9	95.8
Hooker Creek ..	7.4	17.1	24.5	7	17	24	7.3	16.5	23.8	98.6	96.5	97.5
Jay Creek ..	16.9	24.4	41.3	20	26	46	15.6	23.9	39.5	92.3	97.9	95.6
Snake Bay ..	13.2	12.6	25.8	12	11	23	12.5	12.3	24.8	94.7	96.8	96
Warrabri ..	29.1	24.8	53.9	28	24	52	28.4	24.5	52.9	97.5	98.8	98.1
Yuendumu ..	45.4	47.7	93.1	50	58	108	34.3	36.7	71	75.5	76.8	76.3
	266.4	264.0	530.4	269	277	546	232.5	235.4	467.9	87.3	89.2	88.2
(ii) At Industrial Centres—												
Hatches Creek*	5	2	7	..	..	..	5	2	7	100	100	100
(iii) On Pastoral Properties—												
Lake Nash ..	12.4	15.6	28	14	17	31	12.4	15.6	28	100	100	100
Murray Downs	11.9	17.7	29.6	9	16	25	11.4	16.2	27.6	95.8	91.5	93.2
Total ..	295.7	299.3	595.0	292	310	602	261.3	269.2	530.5	88.4	89.9	89.1
Subsidized Schools on Pastoral Properties—												
Elkedra ..	9	10	19	9	11	20	9	9	18	98.9	96.8	98.4
Mainoru ..	11	11	22	11	11	22	11	11	22	100	100	100
Mt. Riddock*	9	8	17	..	..	..	7	6	13	78.2	77.2	77.7
Narwietooma ..	8	5	13	12	4	16	7	4	11	88.3	80.9	85.5
Total ..	37	34	71	32	26	58	34	30	64	91.9	88.2	90.1
Mission Schools—												
Bathurst Is. ..	62	72	134	57	72	129	59	72	131	95	100	97.5
Daly River ..	28	38	66	31	40	71	28	38	66	100	100	100
Elcho Is. ..	38	38	76	44	48	92	35	78	71	92	94	93
Goulburn Is. ..	25	18	43	33	25	58	22	16	38	88	89	88.5
Groote Eylandt	62	73	135	69	91	160	58	70	128	94	96	95
Hermannsburg..	67	70	137	72	70	142	63	65	128	94	93	93.5
Milingimbi ..	59	39	98	53	42	95	50	36	86	85	95	90
Oenpelli ..	28	25	53	19	17	36	24	21	45	86	84	85
Port Keats ..	38	52	90	44	52	96	37	51	88	97	98	97.5
Roper River ..	42	32	74	49	34	83	37	30	67	88	94	91
Rose River ..	24	18	42	24	20	44	24	17	41	100	94	97
Santa Teresa ..	33	37	70	32	43	75	32	37	69	97	100	98.5
Umbakumba ..	15	19	34	13	14	27	15	19	34	100	100	100
Yirrkala ..	36	42	78	34	39	73	33	39	72	92	93	92.5
Total ..	595	611	1,206	574	607	1,181	517	547	1,064	87.4	89.5	88.2
All Schools ..	928	944	1,872	898	943	1,841	812	846	1,658	87.5	89.6	88.6

* Closed at the end of 1956.