



ANNUAL REPORT

COMMISSIONER OF NATIVE WELFARE

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE



1959



PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

The HON. C. C. PERKINS, M.L.A.

Minister for Native Welfare

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Sir,

In conformity with Sub-section (6) of Section 73 of the Native Welfare Act, 1905-1954, I submit herewith the Statement of Receipts and Payments and other statutory statements, duly audited, together with the following report on the condition and welfare of the natives and the transactions of the Department for the year ended 30th June, 1959.

S. G. MIDDLETON,

Commissioner of Native Welfare.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE

Annual Report of the Commissioner

Excepting Parliamentary debates, the year under report was singularly—and refreshingly—free of contentious and controversial public issues in regard to natives and their welfare. Some public interest was aroused in April and May by reports of natives alleged to be living in the “spinifex country” to the north of the Transcontinental line who, according to a statement in the press attributed to Mr. J. Cunningham, M.L.C., were reported to be in a “grim state of want, suffering from malnutrition and disease.” According to the report “tribes from the north have apparently been harassing this group for months.” Two expeditions headed by Mr. Robert Stewart, a Protector of Natives and Superintendent of the Cundeelee Mission, accompanied by Mr. Cunningham on one of them, failed to locate the natives. Heavy rain which was stated to have caused the failure of the April patrol had by the time the second patrol arrived in the area the following month “filled the waterholes in their (the natives’) normal hunting grounds.” The country traversed by the patrols was described by Mr. Cunningham as being “about 60 miles wide and would make a pastoralist’s mouth water.”

A brief report on the subject of “Desert Natives” generally submitted by the District Officer in charge of the area summarises the situation in the following way:—

“In the last annual report reference was made to a full scale investigation of native conditions in the Central Aboriginal Reserve, but the patrol was still in progress at the end of the financial year. The investigations occupied nearly three months and was completed on 19th July, 1958. Two native welfare officers and a doctor and another officer from the Public Health Department conducted the survey and were assisted by members of a Lands and Surveys Department mapping team who were operating in the area at the same time. The patrol contacted approximately 400 natives, most of whom were medically examined.

“The investigation confirmed the findings of an earlier, shorter survey, that the natives were not in extreme physical want; though it also confirmed the desirability of closer, more sustained administrative contact. Unfortunately, however, this is at present beyond the resources of the Department to provide.

“During the year there had been a continuation of the movement of nomadic natives into Cundeelee Mission, north of Zanthus, from the area between the mission and the South Australian border.

“Notable among these were a group in excess of 50 natives who arrived at the Mission in August, 1958, and another group of 31 who were brought in by the Mission Superintendent in June, 1959. In all it is estimated that about 120 such natives have made their way, or have been conducted, to the Mission in the past few years. Approximately 25 are believed to be still in the bush.”

These are the natives of the so-called “lost” tribe known to the Cundeelee Missionaries as the “Pithanda Tribe.” They have no affinity, and no known physical contact, with natives of the Central Reserve (Warburton-Rawlinson) natives to the north. Competent anthropologists believe that the sandhills country south of the Warburton-Ernabella line constitutes a “no-man’s land,” i.e. a physical and cultural boundary between the “Trans. line” natives and those of the Central Reserve.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Although officers of the Department are still occasionally subjected to unfair and unwarranted criticism in public, reference to our newspaper cuttings files makes it self-evident that the relations between the Public and the Natives and this Department have improved over the past few years to remarkable degree. There are, and undoubtedly always will be, a minority of malcontents who would not be satisfied in any circumstances, nor be convinced by the most convincing results; at one time it seemed that the numbers of such people represented an overwhelming majority, but there can be no doubt that they now represent a diminishing, if somewhat noisy, minority.

In my first annual report (for the year 1948-49), I felt constrained when presenting my first impressions of the situation I found in this State to make the following statement: "There is evidence in the south of a growing feeling of resentment and bitterness between white and hybrid populations that is bordering on class hatred . . ." and because of the inevitable association of ideas and the nature of their duties and responsibilities, officers of the Department were frequently and openly insulted. In this context, therefore, it is encouraging to find in their current annual reports, the following observations from officers of the Field Welfare Division:—

Mr. F. E. Gare, District Officer, North Central (Murchison)—

"The system of carrying out regular tours of inspection enables Field Officers in the District to maintain fairly close contact with those persons and officials who are in any real way interested in native welfare. Relations with all these people have been consistently good. A number of addresses have been given to various local authorities and other bodies.

Relations with local authorities in the District have been excellent.

During the year the Murchison Ward of the Road Board Association was re-established and, by invitation, the Assistant District Officer from Meekatharra and I attended the inaugural meeting held at Cue on 6th December, 1958. We were present, also, at the second meeting held on 13th June, 1959. This Ward embraces the Road Boards of Yalgoo, Murchison, Mount Magnet, Black Range, Cue, Meekatharra and Wiluna and thus virtually covers the whole of that area known generally as "The Murchison."

At both conferences the attitude adopted in regard to native welfare was responsible and practical. It was evident that delegates accepted the view that the 'problem' is not one for this Department alone, but is one for the whole community to solve, and that local authorities can take an effective part. This spirit of helpful realism is particularly gratifying in this area, in view of the population trend there.

In 1933 the coloured population formed only 17 per cent. of the total, whereas in 1958, only a quarter of a century later, the proportion had increased to 41 per cent. The importance of the fact that in a very few years the coloured population can be expected to outnumber the white is fully appreciated by these officials. One illustration of this is an active move to establish at Cue an experimental hostel to cater for native children attending school. This would enable coloured and white children to mingle on a natural footing and would thus contribute towards eventual assimilation. The establishment of such hostels in a number of Murchison towns will probably depend on the availability of finance, but it is certain that they would serve a most useful purpose. One factor which would contribute to their success is the interest and support shown by the local authorities concerned."

Mr. B. A. McLarty, District Officer, Central District—

"A pleasing development within this District over the past two or three years has been the growth of cordial relations between this office and Local Government Authorities, many of whom are displaying not only interest in their native communities, but active and positive assistance to this Department. They have been of substantial help in securing suitable sites for native reserves, providing access roads, connection of water supplies, grading firebreaks and constructing facilities. Their activities in these ways are gratefully acknowledged."

Mr. H. R. Tilbrook, Assistant District Officer, Central Sub-district—

"It has become an accepted fact that the public contact with this office has produced most cordial relations. By necessity native welfare officers depend on the goodwill of the general public for the best results in their work and in the metropolitan area especially this is most true.

The tact and good sense of all officers of the sub-district have led to very amicable relations. This is especially true of hospitals and institutions where co-operation is always readily extended."

Mr. C. R. Wright Webster, District Officer, Southern District (Narrogin)—

"Public interest in the social problem which comprises our 'native question' is increasing as evidenced by the requests from welfare groups and other organisations such as Country Women's Association, Business and Professional Women's Associations, Rotary and Apex Clubs and others even including senior school groups for talks and information on matters relating to the advancement and assimilation of natives and the Department's plans and policy for their welfare.

At the present time, however, there is an official ban on public speaking on these subjects; as a result this type of important activity has been almost completely curtailed. This is unfortunate, for I feel that public goodwill in the work of native welfare is imperative, and the best way I know of keeping the public informed is by means of the spoken word.

However, contact is still maintained with those Native Welfare Groups, formed at several centres in my District. These are at Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning, Gnowangerup, Kojonup, Mt. Barker and Collie. Unfortunately the Collie Native Welfare Committee, only formed last year, is now more or less defunct.

The importance of the activities of these welfare groups cannot be over stressed. They indicate to the under-privileged native communities at their respective centres that white people are interested in their welfare and are prepared to give much time, effort and even finance towards assisting them.

Relations with other Government Departments, Local Authorities, the medical confraternity generally and hospital authorities, have been maintained on a most cordial level.

During the year the Narrogin Municipal Council undertook to construct the new facilities to be put up on the new Narrogin Reserve with materials to be supplied by the Government. This is the first local authority in my District to undertake this complete job at no charge to the Government. An offer to put in free of charge the water supply required for the Borden Native Reserve has been received and accepted from the Gnowangerup Road Board which Board has also undertaken to build the facilities for cost of labour. In the same generous vein, the Tambellup Road Board constructed free of charge with materials supplied by the Government, the ablution-laundry block on the Tambellup Native Reserve.

These gestures by the three Road Boards named above are greatly appreciated and are a positive contribution to the well being of the native residents of the Districts concerned. May they serve as an example to other local authorities."

TEN YEARS OF ADMINISTRATION

During the year under report, the administration of which the writer is the Permanent Head, completed ten years of service in Western Australia. In that circumstance the following extracts from the chronological record covering the period may be of interest :—

" 4.7.1948. Magistrate Bateman appointed to undertake a Survey of Native Affairs".

(Mr. Bateman subsequently recommended, *inter alia*, that an officer possessing some anthropological training and native administrative experience be appointed to fill the position of Head of the Department vacated on account of the illness and retirement of Mr. F. I. Bray on 13th April, 1947.)

(At the time the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. C. L. McBeath, was acting as Commissioner.)

" 12.8.1948. Mr. S. G. Middleton assumed position of Commissioner of Native Affairs."

" March 1949. Decentralisation plan of district administration approved by Cabinet."

(The plan was based on the Field Division organisation of the Papua-New Guinea Administration—Department of District Services and Native Affairs, of which the writer was Assistant Director at the time of appointment to Western Australia.)

(When the writer took office four " Travelling Inspectors " were responsible for carrying out the welfare and administrative duties of the Department in the field. One, whose district extended from Port Hedland and Nullagine to Wyndham, was a Police Constable seconded for the purpose ; he was subsequently returned to the Police Department. A second (now a member of Parliament) was in charge of the Gascoyne and Ashburton districts (with no prior experience of native welfare) ; a third had charge of the Murchison and Eastern Goldfields District, and a fourth, a clerk seconded from Head Office, was responsible for the Metropolitan, Eastern Wheatbelt, Great Southern and South-West Districts.)

(The decentralisation plan provided for the division of the State into five administrative districts, each in charge of a qualified District Officer, and these were subsequently subdivided into nine sub-districts, each in charge of an Assistant District Officer or Patrol Officer. The number of welfare officers now permanently employed in the Field Division totals 17.)

" 1.2.1949. Administration of four native hospitals (Port Hedland, Broome, Derby and Wyndham) handed over to the control of Department of Public Health."

(The full costs of medical services to natives including salaries and other incidental expenditure on natives by the Public Health Department) are still borne by the Native Welfare Department's annual vote, but the work and administration is carried out almost entirely by the Public Health Department.)

" 1.4.1949. Munja Native Station closed and handed over to Kunmunya Presbyterian Mission."

(Following on a telegraphed complaint received in the name of native residents on Munja Station, I flew to Munja Station via Derby early in 1949 and carried out an investigation which resulted in three male stock workers being dismissed (two were subsequently convicted and imprisoned on cohabitation charges). In this and many other respects the conditions at the Station were so unsatisfactory that it was decided to close it down as a Government institution and hand the buildings, equipment and livestock over to the Kunmunya mission authorities for mission purposes. The native inmates readily agreed to being transferred to mission care.)

" 1949—

(1) Departmental expenditure for the year £172,433.

(For the year under report to 30th June, 1959, it was £591,020.)

(2) Schools at the Moore River Native Settlement and Carrolup Native Settlement closed and children transferred to missions according to their religious denominations.

(3) 7.9.1949. Barry Loo and Mervyn Smith, ex-Carrolup schoolboys, were employed as Clerical Assistants at Head Office. They were the first natives in the State to be employed in a Government office.

(Twelve native clerks are now employed in the Department's offices, including seven females.)"

" 1.7.1950. Agreement reached with Pastoralists Association for payment of wages to natives employed on stations in the Kimberley District."

" September 1950. Native Depot established at Fitzroy Crossing."

(After establishment it was handed over to the United Aborigines Mission and became the Fitzroy Crossing Mission which now accommodates 50 adults and 52 children and a two-teacher primary school.)

" 18.12.1950. Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act amended to include children on a Certificate of Citizenship upon application by the responsible parent."

" 17.1.1951. Alvan House, Mt. Lawley, officially opened to accommodate native girls for secondary or tertiary education or special technical training."

" 17.6.1951. Carrolup Native Settlement closed down as such, adults dispersed and boys of post-primary school leaving age retained in an attempt to establish a Farm Training School. Name changed to Marribank Farm Training School."

" July 1951. Supervision of individual Child Endowment payments by Department discontinued."

" 13.8.1951. Moore River Native Settlement closed as such and handed over *in toto* to Methodist Overseas Mission; institution re-named 'The Mogumber Methodist Mission'."

" December 1951. Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act amended to provide for the constitution of Citizenship Boards to hear applications by natives for citizenship."

(Such applications were formerly heard and determined solely by a Stipendiary Magistrate. Citizenship Boards consist of a Magistrate and usually a Road Board Chairman or Member. This amendment was not requested by the Department.)

" 2.2.1952. McDonald House, West Perth (named after Sir Ross McDonald, Q.C., former Minister for Native Affairs) opened to accommodate boys attending high school in Perth."

" 30.6.1952. Marribank Farm School closed down."

(Due to lack of interest in it by native parents and youths, no applications received for admission of native youths as trainees despite intensive canvassing efforts on the part of Departmental Field Officers.)

" 17.9.1952. Native Girls' Home, East Perth; purpose changed to home for transient and out-patient native women and children and re-named 'Bennett House'."

" 1.11.1952. Marribank Farm School handed over to Baptist Union for establishment as a mission on a walk-out-walk-in basis."

" Dec. 1952. Kurrawang Native Mission, Kalgoorlie, established by the Gospel Brethren with Departmental financial aid."

" 1.7.1953. Government announced its decision to commence building 25 houses for natives this year and housing programme put under way by this Department in conjunction with State Housing Commission."

" 15.12.1953. Cosmo Newbery closed as a Delinquent Centre for Natives and handed over to the United Aborigines Mission; Mr. R. M. Schenk in charge."

(It is now a flourishing mission station under the superintendency of Mr. H. C. Lupton.)

" 1.10.1953. Increase in inmate subsidy to Missions for children to 22s. 6d. per week payable in cash as from 1st July."

(Subsidy payments, which stood at 3s. per week at the time the present administration took office, had been increased by several stages since then to the figure abovementioned. Pressure was still being maintained to reach parity with the Child Welfare subsidy payable in respect to white children.)

" March 1954. Seventh Day Adventists opened Karalundi Mission near Meekatharra as a native institution."

" 20.5.1954. Under Treasurer directed that Department of Native Affairs Vote was to bear the cost of all medical and health services to natives as from and including the year 1953-54."

(The Vote was already providing for the Education Department's expenditure on the education of natives.)

"1.7.1954. Cash subsidy to missions for approved native children increased to £1 10s. 9d. per week."

(Previous subsidy increases were from 3s. per child per week at time of writer taking office in August, 1948, to 4s. on 11th January, 1949; 9s. to 12s. 6d. according to grade of mission on 1st July, 1951; 22s. 6d. on 1st July, 1953. Subsidisation of adult natives on missions at 10s. each per week approved.)

"1.12.1954. Government increased cash subsidy for native children in missions by 5s. to 35s. 9d. per week."

(Equality with Child Welfare payments in subsidised institutions for native children was thus achieved after five years of effort.)

"24.12.1954. Permit to establish a Farm Training Mission School at Esperance granted to Mr. R. W. Schenk (son of R. M. Schenk, founder of Mt. Margaret Mission)."

(Mr. Schenk Junior is a graduate of a Victorian Agricultural College.)

"1.1.1955. La Grange Feeding Depot handed over to the Pious Society of Missions (Beagle Bay) to be operated as a mission."

(A grant of £16,000 payable over four years was made by the Department to the Society to provide for reorganisation, repairs and renovation work at the Depot.)

"21.1.1955. Moola Bulla Native Station passed over to administration of Lands Department. Native Affairs Department to continue to maintain welfare and institutional facilities for natives until station finally disposed of and alternative institution site approved and established."

(The alternative institution has not yet been established, due to lack of funds over recent years.)

"1.4.1955. Lotteries Commission agreed to pay 5s. per week per approved subsidised child in native missions to those missions which would accept the payment."

(This payment finally brought native institutions into line with institutions for white children which accept Lotteries Commission payments.)

(The Government agreed to reimburse missions which would not accept Lotteries donations an amount equivalent to the donation, in addition to Departmental subsidy.)

"18.5.1955. Department purchased Riverdale Station for use by the 'McLeod Group' of natives at Nullagine."

(The purchase was made from the vendors by payment of the balance of what was owing on the property by the Group, viz. £4,500 of the original purchase price of £10,000. The property was offered to the natives concerned but the offer was rejected by their advisers.)

"May 1955. Pallottine Mission Centre, Riverton opened as hostel for native boys from Tardun Mission to attend high and technical schools in Perth."

"Oct. 1955. Seventh Day Adventist Conference established the Wiluna Mission, its second in the State."

"20.6.1956. United Aborigines Mission authorised to establish a mission at Derby."

"1.7.1956. Subsidy increased to 25s. per week for indigent adults in missions."

"25.9.1956. Presbyterian Mission commenced transferring from Wotjulum to new site at Derby named Mowanjum."

(Financial assistance by the Department was provided by a grant of £18,000 payable over four years.)

"1.10.1956. First Departmental Mobile Welfare Clinic established in charge of Mr. and Mrs. John Halford."

(The establishment and work of the Clinic was reported in the 1956-57 and 1957-58 Annual Reports and is referred to elsewhere in this report.)

"Feb. 1957. First pastoral station school in the State was opened at Gogo Station, Fitzroy Crossing. Teachers quarters provided by station and teachers by Department of Education."

"30.10.1957. Special Committee on Native Matters appointed as the result of a Legislative Assembly motion."

"Nov. 1957. The State Housing Commission made available huts at Allawah Grove and Department took over leasehold from Department of Civil Aviation. The Coolbaroo League undertook management of settlement including arrangement of tenancies. Native caretaker to be paid by this Department was appointed."

(Reported more fully in this issue.)

"1.7.1958. Special Committee on Native Matters handed its completed report to the Hon. Minister for Native Welfare."

NATIVE POPULATION

As advised in the Annual Report for 1948, on the recommendation of Mr. F. E. A. Bateman, Resident Magistrate—who carried out a survey of native affairs during 1947 and part of 1948—the number of tribal natives which for many years had been estimated at 10,000 was reduced to an estimated 6,000. Mr. Bateman advised: "From my observations I would say that 6,000 would be a more accurate figure, and one that is on the liberal side rather than the conservative."

Over the past ten years the writer has visited every part of the State on one or more occasions, and in the course of such travels has enquired closely into the subject of 6,000 "unclassified natives" recorded in Annual Reports of the Department since 1948. It would be impossible, of course, to estimate the number of desert natives who are now living "beyond the confines of civilisation" but it is certain that there cannot be more than approximate 2,000. It is noteworthy that at the time of the Bateman Survey it was thought that a considerable number of primitive, nomadic natives were still living in the practically unsettled area between Walcott Inlet and what was then known as the Drysdale River Mission, and inland from there to the "Over the Range" stations, Mt. House, Gibb River and Karungie, in the Northern Kimberleys. The missionaries of the now abandoned Kunmunya (Presbyterian) Mission and Drysdale (Roman Catholic) Mission (now known as Kalumburu) were convinced early in the present decade that all natives in the area had settled down permanently on their mission stations and their contention was confirmed when in 1954 a Lands and Surveys party in charge of Mr. Surveyor Morgan travelled through from one of the above-mentioned cattle stations to Kalumburu without seeing any indication of native habitation outside the mission.

Similarly the activities of Commonwealth and State Government survey and scientific parties, Canning Stock Route drovers, Central Australian missionaries and officers of this and other State Government Departments have produced convincing evidence that the estimates of native population in the "Central Desert" were also grossly exaggerated.

As a consequence it has been decided to reduce the number of "unclassified" natives to 2,000 for record purposes and it is not improbable that this figure may also be a liberal one.

Closer contact with the natives living within the settled areas make the population statistics contained in an appendix to this report reasonably reliable for normal administrative purposes, but until natives are included in the Commonwealth Statistician's figures by normal first hand census methods, the quoted statistics cannot be accepted as accurate.

It is certain, however, that over the past 30 years the number of part-aborigines has considerably increased and that on the other hand that of the full-bloods has disproportionately fallen. In 1929 there were a recorded 2,833 mixed bloods and 12,815 full bloods in the State, not including the unspecified number of tribal nomads outside the settled areas.

Today, in 1959, the estimates are 7,673 mixed-bloods and 8,325 full-bloods, exclusive of the 2,000 "unclassified natives" of the desert tribes. This represents an increase since 1929 of 170 per cent. of mixed-bloods and a decrease of 35 per cent. of full-bloods. Overall it seems that the native population in this State has fallen by approximately 350, or two per cent. less than the 1929 figure.

From personal observation and enquiries unsupported by vital statistics, it would appear the trends may be summed up in this way:—

- Mixed bloods*—increasing at an average rate of five per cent. each year since 1929;
- Full bloods*—domiciled in settled areas—static in some places and increasing on some large pastoral and mission stations;
- Desert Full bloods*—probably decreasing because their natural way of living and extreme physical vulnerability to "introduced" diseases, particularly of the respiratory tract, measles and virus epidemics.

It is impossible to effectively protect natives in the desert from contracting such illnesses because they habitually visit mission and pastoral stations, marginal towns and otherwise contact natives from the settled areas who pass on the infections. (See notes on "Health" below).

NATIVE LEGISLATION

Citizenship Rights

In opening the Third Session of the Twenty-Second Parliament of Western Australia on the 7th August, 1958, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor included in his opening speech the statement that: "A Bill will be introduced to give natives full status as Citizens."

At a later date the Minister for Native Welfare gave notice of motion in the Legislative Assembly to introduce a Bill for "An Act to confer Citizenship Rights on Persons descended from the original inhabitants of Australia; to provide protection for certain of those persons; to repeal the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act, 1944-1951; to amend certain Acts relating to those persons; and for other and incidental purposes."

The Bill was introduced by the Minister for Native Welfare (Mr. Brady) on the 27th August, 1958, and explained by him at its second reading on the 2nd September, 1958, in the Lower House.

The Bill was similar to one which was introduced in the late stages of the 1957 session of Parliament but lapsed when the session ended. In his explanation on that occasion the Minister said, amongst other things :—

“ It will be seen that the Bill seeks to amend 11 existing statutes and then repeal the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act. The object of this is, broadly, to remove all special restrictions that apply to natives only in the various statutes and at the same time ensure that the Native Welfare Department maintains its welfare responsibilities and may act as Protector for certain natives unable to comply with citizenship status. The whole purpose of the legislation is to give natives freedom and equality with ourselves.”

The passage of the Bill through Parliament was stormy and it aroused public interest and some controversy. Outside the State it was erroneously believed that the Bill had become law and the Government in office came in for some premature commendation.

The Bill passed through the Legislative Assembly, after amendments to some sections had been made, but was defeated in the Legislative Council on 22nd October, 1958.

Soon after the Bill had been defeated the Minister for Native Welfare arranged to introduce another Bill to amend the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act in an endeavour to overcome irregularities and difficulties arising from the passage of the previous Bill.

The amending Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on the 6th November, 1958, and was passed by both Houses of Parliament with minor amendments to the original proposals. It does not automatically confer citizenship rights on adult natives who are still required to make application to a Board for a Certificate of Citizenship and then appear before the Board to give evidence in support of it. The amendments to the Act merely removed the requirement that the applicant “ for the two years prior to the date of application . . . (had) dissolved tribal and native association except with respect to lineal descendants or native relations of the first degree.” It also removed the conditions that “ for the two years immediately prior the applicant has adopted the manner and habits of civilised life ” and that “ the applicant is not suffering from active leprosy, syphilis, granuloma or yaws.”

It provided that after the coming into operation of the amending Act children of the successful applicant would automatically have the same citizenship rights status as their responsible parent.

Section 7 of the parent Act, which provided for the cancellation or suspension of Certificates of Citizenship in certain prescribed circumstances was repealed.

Aborigines and Civic Status

The District Officer, North Central District (Mr. F. E. Gare) has contributed the following :—

“ So much has been said and written in recent years on the question of citizenship that there is little point in adding to it here. However, it is perhaps worth mentioning that there is increasing evidence that responsible and thinking members of those communities which have significant proportions of coloured residents now accept the inevitability of full citizenship for natives. More and more people recognise the fact that natives in general will not voluntarily accept, and cannot be forced to accept, full economic and social responsibility while they remain legally underprivileged, and that, for as long as this situation persists, the community will be forced to pay steadily increasing amounts to support a minority which, with proper incentives, could become self supporting.

This question has become indissolubly associated with that of liquor, but it appears to be the general opinion that whatever risks there are in this regard, should full citizenship be granted all at once, would be greatly minimised by a temporary and intelligently applied “ bottle-ban.” Such a proposition is perfectly feasible, would not require special discriminatory legislation, and would be particularly effective in those small out-lying communities which consider they have most to fear from the change.

Not long ago, a welfare officer in the Northern Territory incurred a great deal of sectional opprobrium when he suggested that natives should be taught how to drink. It is surprising how many people in contact with the problem in this State agree that some form of legalised, but supervised, drinking would be preferable to the grossly unsatisfactory situation which now exists.

If, on the other hand, citizenship is to become the subject of a legislative compromise, the only reasonable and practical proposition would appear to be the granting of full citizenship to all persons born after a certain date. While the need to discuss such a compromise is to be deplored, such a system would at least be a positive move in the right direction. The actual date chosen would be the essence of the compromise in my opinion and would be the subject, as ever, of much controversy. In my opinion, any date later than 1st January, 1951, would be completely unrealistic.”

Mr. C. R. Wright Webster (the District Officer, Southern District) reports :—

“ As ever, Citizenship is the El Dorado hankered after by the hybrid southern native. This desire for a civic status as a birth-right is only natural, for who is more entitled to Citizenship than the descendents of the original inhabitants of this great Continent ? It is only State legis-

lation which is holding back this right from its native people, for under Federal law natives are Citizens of Australia and subjects of Her Majesty. Perhaps in the not too distant future an enlightened Parliament will concede this dearly sought right (not privilege) and so remove what, in the minds of a growing number of fair minded and thinking people, is an injustice and slight to an unfortunate and underprivileged section of the Australian community."

CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATES

During the year ended 30th June, 1959, notification was received of 161 applications for Citizenship Rights making total applications notified since inception 1,753. Of this number of applications—

1,308 were granted ;
279 were dismissed ;
60 were withdrawn ;
50 were adjourned ;
56 were awaiting hearing.

Responsible parents have made applications in 151 cases for inclusion of children on their Certificates of Citizenship Rights and 441 children were recorded as covered on the certificates of their parents.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

A total of 383 applicants applied for Exemption Certificates during the year bringing the total to 1,879. Of this number, 1,802 have been granted ; 77 have been refused.

At the 30th June, 1959, there were 1,241 Certificates of Exemption in existence, the remainder having been cancelled through the death of the holder, procurement of Citizenship Rights or other reasons for causing cancellation by the Hon. Minister.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Generally speaking, a satisfactory condition has prevailed during the year under review. Many natives were affected by the epidemic of virus influenza which reached serious proportions in the metropolitan area, and in some of the more closely settled areas throughout the State, and there were a number of deaths. There was no evidence, however, of the high mortality rate which in earlier times was a feature of similar epidemics among natives in Australia.

Since 1949 when full responsibility for the medical care of natives was taken over by the Medical and Public Health Departments, statistical records of illness, disease, etc. among natives are kept by those Departments ; such particulars are usually recorded in the Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Public Health.

Some Mission Superintendents and Field Welfare Officers have referred to the influenza epidemic in their annual reports to this office, extracts from which are incorporated hereunder :—

It is gratifying to read that at Karalundi Mission, Meekatharra in spite of an "almost 100 per cent. casualty rate affecting nearly all the staff at the same time . . . it was a relief to find no very serious complications, though several were admitted to hospital." Probably more than 80 per cent. of the child inmates of Karalundi are ex-desert natives who have been staged in to that mission from Wiluna. In spite of the severity of the disease and the numbers affected by it, there were remarkably few deaths. This is attributable more to the efficiency of the medical care of natives than to any acquired bodily resistance. There were deaths among white patients affected by the disease and others are known to have suffered serious after-effects.

The District Officer, Northern District, reports :—

"The undermentioned medical facilities are available in this District, where sick natives can be treated :—

Government Native Hospitals at Derby, Broome and Wyndham, Nursing Homes conducted by the Australian Inland Mission at Fitzroy Crossing and Hall's Creek.

Royal Flying Doctor bases at Derby and Wyndham where wireless communication is made with stations daily and cases of illness or accident discussed with the Medical Officer. When necessary, arrangements are made from these bases to evacuate a patient to hospital by the best means of transport available and in accordance with the urgency of the case.

A Leprosarium situated at Derby cares for natives suffering from leprosy. Sisters of St. John of God carry out all the nursing duties.

Regular trachoma surveys are being carried out, and the majority of native adults and children have received injections of Salk Vaccine.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service has purchased a 'plane (Dove) for the exclusive use of that Service in the Kimberleys. This is indeed a most progressive step and one which will greatly assist the Medical Department in the carrying out of surveys. It will now be possible for the

Medical Officer to spend the time he requires at the various places visited, rather than to be on a scheduled flight timetable as previously. As the 'plane is based at Derby, it will mean that those requiring treatment will be brought to hospital here, and in effect, will increase the number of patients to be cared for at this centre.

The medical needs of natives in this district are given every possible consideration by the Medical Officers and staffs of the various hospitals situated within this district and their co-operation with this Department in every way is appreciated."

The District Officer, North-West (Port Hedland) advises :—

"The one disease which has proven obstinate in this district is Trachoma. Re-infection has not been keeping pace with cures, but has been sufficiently troublesome to cause the Public Health Department and its doctors concern. A blanket treatment has been begun in the Kimberleys and it is hoped to be able to evaluate its worth late this year. If it is successful, a similar attack on trachoma will be carried out in this district during January of 1960.

No serious epidemics have occurred and the health of natives throughout the district has been good.

Sister Philbin of the Infant Health Correspondence Service, has visited main centres during the year and there is an increasing response from native mothers who have watched her films and heard her speak. Reticence is gradually being overcome.

Generally speaking, natives readily avail themselves of the services offering, and their health seems to have reached the stage where it approximates that of the white population.

At Carnarvon, a monthly clinic conducted by a visiting Sister of the Infant Health branch is well attended by native mothers—though it is yet still necessary to attend at the reserve and transport mothers and children to the clinic to maintain interest.

Throughout the district, the Flying Doctor Service is available to natives in exactly the same way as it is for whites. In the northern portion of the district, two Government employed doctors maintain a truly excellent service."

The District Officer, North-Central District, reports that in the West Murchison Sub-district the health of adult natives has continued to be generally satisfactory, but there have been a disturbing number of deaths among infants. Following an inquest into one of these, the District Coroner commented on the apparent ignorance of many coloured mothers on the subject of correct diet for young children.

In an effort to combat the trouble, frequent town patrols are carried out and, as a result, increasing use is being made by native mothers of Infant Health Clinics and other medical facilities. This has undoubtedly had a beneficial effect, but further supervision is definitely needed, and for this purpose, as well as for others, a Mobile Welfare Unit is urgently required in the district. As mentioned earlier one has been promised in the new financial year. (See "Mobile Welfare Clinics" below.)

Among adults a recent virus influenza epidemic caused a good deal of sickness and one death, but the epidemic has now abated.

The Assistant District Officer in charge of the East Murchison Sub-district at Meekatharra reports as follows :—

"Records were kept at this office of all natives treated at hospitals and by doctors in the Sub-district for the financial years 1957-58 and 1958-59. A comparison of the figures shows that the general health of natives remained about the same over the two years, except for cases of influenza which were higher in 1958-59 due to the recent virus influenza epidemic. It is interesting to note that the Wiluna area fared surprisingly well during the epidemic and that townships where assimilated natives are congregated in large numbers were hardest hit. There were a number of deaths.

Enteric complaints were again high as was the case with ear complaints such as otitis media. Tonsillitis and upper respiratory tract infections were also high for the two years."

Over the two years a marked deterioration in dental health was noted, but this may be due to natives reporting for treatment more readily than in previous years. The proportion of natives requiring optical attention was small.

As in previous years, station natives and their children continued to be in far better health than those living in towns."

In the Central (Metropolitan, Eastern Wheatbelt and Eastern Goldfields) District, the District Officer reports the following situation :—

"No serious health problems have arisen in the Central sub-district during the year. As usual the Public Health Department carried out surveys for trachoma and tuberculosis and this office co-operated by providing information and assistance in ensuring that natives subject of the survey were available. This has meant that on occasions, such as T.B. Surveys, it has been necessary to have a man on the spot with transport to ensure all natives are treated.

Other than these surveys, the various local authorities conduct annual diphtheria-whooping cough immunisation clinics and this office has, where the size of the native population warrants it, attended the clinic to assist.

However, it is no longer as necessary for us to urge natives to attend such surveys and clinics as they are becoming much better educated in such matters. This is a most important step in a forward direction and one which could only have been made through the tact and persistence shown by Health and Welfare authorities alike.

Generally health matters in this sub-district do not bring any great worries because medical and hospital services are so readily available to all natives in the community. The greatest headache with health matters is the huge cost to the Department, but health is such an important part of welfare work that the money is well spent.

A good health service is available to natives throughout the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district and no case has been reported during the year of sick natives being left without medical treatment.

Ambulance services are readily available to natives.

An outbreak of virus pneumonia, which was general throughout the State, proved fatal in ten cases which have been brought to notice. Every effort was made to stem the tide of the epidemic and success was achieved in most cases. When one considers the general living conditions of natives in parts of the Goldfields district it is amazing that deaths are not more numerous.

The Tuberculosis Control Branch of the Public Health Department has surveyed the sub-district and slight infection was found in five cases only. All those natives have since received, or are receiving, treatment.

Various hospitals are continuing with Trachoma surveys but the incidence has proved slight only.

The general health of the natives is good. Doctors throughout the sub-district advise that there is no cause for alarm.

During the year a pre-school clinic has operated at Laverton and results have been most pleasing indeed. The general health of the children, all of whom live in camp conditions, has been far better than formerly."

The District Officer, Southern (Great Southern and South-West) District reports :—

"The position is very much the same as reported in my last Annual Report. In order to avoid repetition the situation may be summed up by stating that the health needs of the native population of my district are adequately catered for by the existing medical facilities which, as a general rule, natives freely avail themselves of. These include not only the services of doctors and hospitals but also more specialised services such as diphtheria and tetanus immunisation, Salk vaccine needles, trachoma examination and treatment, mass chest X-ray and the services of metropolitan specialists as and when required. In fact the best in medical attention and services is available to the district's native population. Lack of finance is no obstacle, for where a native is unable to pay for these services the Department eventually foots the bill.

Services provided by the Department to natives of my district during the year under report range from brain surgery, psychiatric examinations, amputations, admission of T.B. cases to the Sanatorium, treatment and provision for deaf and dumb cases, provision for paraplegics—down to the treatment of ordinary everyday ailments.

Generally speaking, the health of the native people of the district has been good despite adverse and often wretched living conditions. Inevitably, malnutrition rears its ugly head among the age group from one to three years. This is due to a variety of reasons, chief of which is lack of regular employment, and in many cases laziness and perhaps frequent imprisonment of the breadwinner. In genuine cases, rations are issued to tide families over difficult periods; as a last resort committal of the children to the care of the State is effected in the interests of the welfare of such children."

Departmental expenditure on native health requirements during the year was as follows :—

	North	South	Total
	£	£	£
Reimbursement Medical Department ..	104,226	23,487	127,713
Missions—Medical and Transport	1,655	7,845	9,500
Relief 6A (Doctors)	193	1,452	1,645
Relief 6B (Hospitals)	11,891	16,807	28,698
Relief 6C (Sundries)	113	507	620
Departmental Establishments	32	2,699	2,731
	<u>£118,110</u>	<u>£52,797</u>	<u>£170,907</u>

The total represents 28·91 per cent. of the Department's Vote.

N.B.—For further particulars SEE "Financial" below and Appendix.

The following were cases handled by this office during the financial year in connection with the provision of artificial limbs, eyes, wheelchairs, etc. The cases listed are only those dealt with in the 1958-59 year :—

Artificial Limbs, etc.

	£	s.	d.
1. Raymond Mitchell (Wyndham) (Peg leg to replace aluminium artificial leg supplied in 1957 at cost of £86 2s. 11d.)	79	14	8
2. Kulate (Central Reserve) (Special crutches)	9	15	4
3. George Ginger (Central Reserve) (Special crutches)	4	11	2
4. Everard Gwee-i (Warburton Ranges) (Peg leg)	25	0	0

Artificial Eyes, etc.

1. Bernie Elliott (Mt. Margaret Mission)	2	2	0
2. Margaret Garlett (Perth)	4	10	0
3. Everard Simms (Wongutha Mission) (Micro lens)	23	2	0
4. Michael Goodamear (Fitzroy Crossing)	5	5	0
5. Several children had artificial eyes (previously supplied) cleaned and polished during 1958-59 at a total cost of approximately	10	0	0
(a) Joe Lannigan (Hall's Creek)			
(b) Kathleen Watson @ Noongan (Beagle Bay)			
(c) Ian Yates (Warburton Ranges)			

Wheel Chairs

1. Alice Moses (Woodanilling)	23	18	0
2. Alan Dowker (Carnarvon Mission)	}	89	3
3. Norman Kelly (Carnarvon Mission)			
4. Reuben Collard (Pingelly)			
5. Marian Kelly (Carnarvon Mission)	61	10	0
	60	15	0
Total	£399	6	6

EDUCATION OF NATIVES

Over the past ten years the education of natives, in a more general way than formerly, has been taken over by the State Education Department. Criticism notwithstanding I am still of the opinion that it could not be in better hands. The Native Welfare Act charges this Department with the duty and responsibility of providing for the education of native children; it is discharging that duty in what is considered to be the most effective and efficient way, namely by paying the Education Department to do the job. For the year under report native education costs to this Department—which included the salaries of some teachers—totalled £51,977, equal to 8.79 per cent. of the Department's Vote.

I have had the privilege of reading the draft copy of the annual report of Acting Superintendent of Primary Education (Mr. Wallace) who, in that capacity, is responsible for the education of natives and am consequently quite satisfied that the subject, for all ordinary purposes, has been well and faithfully covered. On behalf of the Native Welfare Department and the natives concerned I do want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Director of Education, Dr. T. L. Robertson, and his efficient executive staff, and to the many teachers who have courageously devoted so much of their lives and energies (and incidentally sacrificed much of their personal comfort and family well-being) in order to bring enlightenment and knowledge to native children, particularly in the more remote parts of the State. It is only those people who have visited such places as Cundeelee, Warburton Ranges, Jigalong and Balgo Missions who could have any idea of what prompts me to express the opinion that our school teachers in these places are no less dedicated in spirit or enthusiastic in their vocation than the missionaries with whom they live. At these first points of contact with our form of civilisation native children in this State receive the best possible physical, moral, spiritual and educational care.

Christian Principles in Education

The Superintendent of a desert Mission Station (Rev. Father John McGuire of Balgo Pallottine Mission) in his Annual Report provides the following thoughtful statement. It emphasises one of the most important tasks of the "Marginal Missionary," that of metaphorically placing the foot of the ex-desert native child on the bottom rung of the "Ladder of Assimilation." He writes:—

"The system of education at Balgo is based on Christian principles; the dignity of the human person is stressed, a dignity which demands rights from society and equally so demands duties or obligations on the individual's part. However, the process is by necessity a slow one, a Christian can never be a savage, equally so a savage—or one little removed—cannot be a Christian. Although we have been established twenty years here, we still do not baptise the children. With the limitations of these people it would be most unfair to place such responsibilities *en masse* upon them. On occasions babies baptised on the point of death have lived, indeed the tribal king's wife brought her small baby to be baptised, believing that the baby was dying. I do not envy the future of these isolated Christians; although on fire with our chosen vocation, we are prepared to wait for the second or third generation. Would that other bodies were as patient re the development of the Natives—I refer to articles in the popular press."

The District Officer, Northern District (Broome and Kimberleys) reports:—

"The progress and extension of education to the native children of this district is most satisfactory and is being delayed only by the inadequacy or total lack of hostel accommodation in areas in which there are schools, or where they could be established as the case may be.

Mr. S. Wallace, Assistant Supervisor of Primary Education and Superintendent of Native Education, has made several visits to this area during the past 12 months, and it is felt that he fully appreciates the need of education for native children, and that he will assist in every possible way.

The Junior Technical School, Derby, is in the second year of operation, and with increased numbers of students, appears to be functioning quite satisfactorily. These children are now coming from all parts of the district.

Once again, it is pleasing to state that friendly relationships continue between the Officers of both Departments, which is most gratifying."

Dealing with education of natives in his district, Mr. A. O. Day, District Officer, North-West District, states :—

" Considering the difficulties of distance, relative poverty of native parents and an acute lack of home accommodation, the education of native children within the district has progressed quite well. There are, however, still many native children—as many as a hundred or more—for whom it has not been possible to provide schooling. Most of these still remain in the Ashburton area and as far north as Roebourne and the Tablelands. Carnarvon Church of Christ Mission is over-crowded and is unable to cope with children from the outer Gascoyne and Ashburton."

(N.B.—Provision has been made on the Department's Estimates of Expenditure for 1959–60 for preliminary work to be commenced on the establishment of a hostel for native children at Roebourne.—C.N.W.)

" The construction of the proposed mission at Roebourne has remained in abeyance because of lack of funds. The school-room, which over 60 native children now occupy, has now been condemned for some time. Lighting is bad and it is unsafe in cyclone weather.

Generally speaking native parents are anxious to have their children educated.

A Government school, started in conjunction with Riverdale Native Hostel at Nullagine, now caters for 24 children, five of whom are the children of white parents. A number of these children have been drawn from families who live and work more than 300 miles from Nullagine.

Children from the Carnarvon Mission attend the primary school situated adjacent to the Mission and then graduate to the Junior High School, which is located at Carnarvon about 5½ miles away. They then travel daily by school bus. The average age of graduation is 11–12 years.

It is particularly noticeable that the children, whilst attending the Mission School, behave in a normal manner absolutely free from any inhibition, but on being transferred to the strange environment of the Junior High School, which has a total enrolment of 444 children, they become shy and reticent in the classroom, and tend to cling together in an isolated group during recess periods. These defects seem to remain apparent, despite persistent efforts by the teaching staff to overcome them.

On the other hand, this behaviour pattern is not noticed among native children who commence their school training at the Junior High School and learn to mix normally with white children from an early age. Otherwise there are no behaviour problems of a serious nature.

The number of native children within this sub-district who are not receiving education is not accurately known ; in the Gascoyne area this is estimated as being reasonably low.

Manual Training

Mr. Phillips, Headmaster of the Junior High School, is to be congratulated on the inauguration this year of a secondary trade course in the school curriculum. At present the course is of one year's duration and carries the normal High School Certificates. It is hoped to extend its duration in the future.

The course for boys covers woodwork, metalwork and science, with emphasis on practical application, *i.e.*, class has built a contemporary bicycle shelter and is now working on a forge room. Half of the annual study time is assigned for manual training and the remainder for useful academic studies. Native lads are not especially singled out for this course ; it is shared by approximately an equal number of whites. At present the number of natives enrolled is six.

A somewhat similar course is available to girls, *i.e.*, half of annual study time devoted to home science, dress-making, etc. Five native girls are enrolled for this.

The usual manual and sewing periods are included in the primary classes curriculum for younger children.

A hut built last year on the Onslow Reserve is acting as a base for approximately 20 native children who attend the local State School. This is an increase of 18 children on last year's attendance at the school.

Only one native lad is enrolled for academic secondary education this year. No native children passed Junior Examination last year.

Absenteeism has not proved a difficulty at any centre.

Enrolments of native children at the end of the year are as follows :—

Marble Bar	11
Roebourne	64
Presentation Convent, Carnarvon	14
Carnarvon High School	31
Nullagine	13
Carnarvon Mission	80
Onslow	7
Port Hedland	3
Presentation Convent, Port Hedland	43
Jigalong Mission	43
Total	309."

In the North Central (Murchison) District the position has been summed up by the District Officer (Mr. F. E. Gare) in this way :—

“ Only a small proportion of school age native children within the District do not attend school—either at one or other of the Missions, or in townships. This does not mean that the situation is satisfactory, however, as the township children very often live under conditions which effectively inhibit proper learning. This aspect has been covered in earlier reports, and will remain a problem until, among other things, a realistic effort is made to improve the housing and living conditions of the parents. This will involve considerable expenditure, but it must be undertaken before any real progress in the educational field can be counted on.

Local Authorities in the Murchison have shown a pleasing interest in this subject, and as mentioned earlier, are at present supporting a move on the part of the Cue Road Board to convert the old Cue Hospital into a hostel to cater for native school children.

Such hostels would assist native parents on stations in their very real problem of educating their children, and would also aid assimilation by enabling the coloured children to attend school and grow up with white children.”

The Assistant District Officer of the Central Sub-district reports :—

“ No effort is spared by this office to ensure that all native children of school age attend school. But no great effort is needed to bring about this most desirable situation as native parents are the first to make sure of their children attending school and it is only in a few isolated, individual cases that parents neglect this responsibility.

I have found that the children themselves are most anxious to go to school and, at least until their high school year, find that life at school is somewhat an experience to look forward to.

The situation as it concerns native education in this sub-district is found in the following figures :—

No. of children in primary grades	529
No. of children in secondary grades	37
No. of schools involved	68

With the payment by this Department to Headmasters of each school of an “ education allowance ” of 1s. per head per week for each native child, one of the major problems concerning native children has disappeared. I refer to the problem of the provision of the necessary books and prerequisites for those children whose parents cannot or will not provide them. Further recent streamlining of this amenity has proved most successful and given us a source of up-to-date statistics on native children which was not previously available.

The co-operation of teachers and native parents is much appreciated and I look forward to the day when native parents are represented on Parents and Citizens' Associations. This situation is imminent in several of the towns with large native populations.

School plays a tremendous part in the social education of native children, since it is at school that instruction (not formal) is obtained in the social graces, hygiene, general social behaviour, etc., not available in the humble homes of their parents. Most people, other than natives themselves, do not realise what the adjustments are which the children have to make every day of their lives when they leave camps and shacks to go to clean wooden schoolrooms. It is to their credit that the adjustments are made and to the credit of their parents that the general cleanliness of the children helps so much to this end.

As a matter of interest, two part-natives who have completed Teacher Training College courses, commenced teaching in the sub-district. One is teaching at the State School attached to the Methodist Mission, Mogumber, and the other, is a class teacher at Eden Hill State School. Both are extremely good ambassadors for their race.

The diversity of schools attended by natives makes individual reports impossible. However, each school is visited by officers of this sub-district and closer liaison is kept with those with larger numbers of children.

I believe that all children who should go to school, and those who want to further their education, have the opportunity and receive every assistance. The number assisted in this latter manner during this past year are :—

McDonald House	2
Alvan House	3
Narrogin Agricultural School	1 (ex Tammin)

School welfare authorities do have occasion to seek assistance in locating tardy school-goers but this situation often arises from the seasonal nature of the parents' employment and is not general. No prosecutions under the Education Act were undertaken during the year.”

In the Eastern Goldfields the following enrolments are recorded :—

Government School	89 Males	76 Females
Convent School	1 Male	1 Female
Mission School	104 Males	97 Females

Total : 368

Practically all native children are now receiving basic education with the exception of some natives who live outside the confines of civilisation, e.g., on Central Aborigines Reserve or north of Transline.

During the year several enquiries of a school welfare nature were undertaken and definite success achieved.

Native parents are most keen for their children to attend school although there is not a marked inclination on their parts to insist on higher education as is apparent elsewhere.

A full range of educational facilities—primary, secondary, technical and special—are available for native children.”

The District Officer, Southern, reports :—

“ In the year under report 652 native children were enrolled at the various Government and private schools throughout the Great Southern and South-West. Of this number, 153 are Mission children representing just under 25 per cent. of the total number of native children attending school in this District.

Five children from this District proceeded to Perth at the commencement of the 1959 school year to further their education, three boys to McDonald House and two girls to Alvan House. From these Departmental residences the boys and girls attend various High Schools in Perth. Information obtained during visits of inspection throughout the district indicate that a steady flow of children qualified for and keen on a High School education will be forth-coming in future—a very pleasing prospect indeed.

Attendances—by which I mean regularity of attendances and dress and turn out of native children at school are generally good. The few exceptions receive the close attention of Field Officers during Inspections when defaulting parents and children, where to blame, are interviewed and taken to task, if necessary.

As a result of constant drilling by field staff of the Department, native parents generally have come to a realisation of the necessity of and the benefits to be derived from schooling of their children. As a result, there is now considerably more co-operation from native parents in this important regard than was evident a few years ago. The field officer's greatest aid in the battle to make parents school and education conscious is to be able to point to those few natives who in recent years, as a result of their education, have been successfully launched into careers.

Education at all levels is available to native children. Education at the primary level presents no problem whatsoever ; at the secondary level, too, most children attend the High School or the Junior High School at the centre at which they live. Where there is no such High or Junior High School and the child is keen to proceed with its secondary education and is well reported on by his school authorities, such secondary education is provided for in either the boy or girl being accommodated at McDonald or Alvan House respectively. Tertiary or University education has during the year under review not been availed of by any native child from the district, but here too provision exists whereby any qualified boy or girl wishing to proceed to a University education can be catered for.

Technical education, apprenticeships, nursing training, etc., are provided for by this Department for those wishing to avail of these forms of training. Nursing trainees, of course, are provided for by the hospitals at which they are training, but apprentices and those doing technical training are usually accommodated privately with well-wishers and their board subsidised by the Department.

An interesting experiment in education is taking place at Narrogin where two native lads, one from Tammin and the other from Williams, are students at the Agricultural Wing of the Narrogin Agricultural High School. These are the first two natives to embark on a specialised agricultural course and I am closely watching their progress.”

EDUCATION HOSTELS

Alvan House for Girls—Perth

“ At the 30th June, 1959, there were 16 girls in residence at Alvan House ; this number being made up of seven girls resident in 1958 and returned in 1959 plus nine girls who entered the home in February, 1959.

Only two girls were discharged at the end of 1958. Both completed their education to Junior standard. One is now employed at the Laverton District Hospital and the other in this Department's Central District Office.

Education

The present inmates attend Mt. Lawley High School and all are enrolled for the commercial course :—

- 2 in third year (10th grade)
- 5 in second year
- 7 in first year

It is pleasing to report that two of the first year girls have been appointed school prefects.

Sporting

All girls play sport at school and either hockey or basket ball in the Y.W.C.A. competition each Saturday.

In the 1958 season the Alvan House hockey team was defeated in the final and the house basket ball team in the semi-final.

This year the hockey team was undefeated up to the 30th June.

Social Activities

The girls are members of the Y.W.C.A. Youth Club and attend meetings each Friday. Once again the girls voted the highlight of the year their trip to the Royal Show.

In December, 1958, they were guests at a Christmas Party in the home of Mrs. Rischbieth of Cottesloe. They also visited the home of Mrs. Menzies at Applecross.

Quite a number of trips were made on Sundays during the summer to Leighton Beach. Also a trip to Rottnest as guests of the Captain of the 'Islander.'

During the winter the girls attended the Coolbaroo League dances and arranged their own barbecues to which they invited school friends and the inmates of McDonald House.

Several visits were made by the girls to Royal Perth Hospital to visit friends or relations from their particular country centre.

Visitors to the home during the year included His Excellency the High Commissioner of India, Mr. and Mrs. Kestrel of South Australia and Mrs. Rutherford, J.P.

Health

The usual minor colds, cuts and abrasions were treated but overall the health of all inmates was good.

All girls underwent the normal dental checks but no major dental attention was necessary.

General

The house and grounds continue to be kept in first class condition. Each girl has specific assignments to be completed each day plus her personal washing and cleaning weekly.

It is desired to thank all persons who have assisted during the year in helping to educate, entertain and keep the girls happy and contented during their stay at Alvan House.

M. YORSTON,
Officer in Charge."

McDonald House for Boys, Perth

"The commencement of the school year 1959 saw the return of two boys from the previous year and an additional seven new boys, making a total of nine for the first school term. Three weeks later two of these were discharged. Another failed to return after the May holidays. Late in June another boy came into the home. He had been attending Bunbury High School for five months.

Generally speaking the 1958 group of boys were somewhat disappointing, but when the background environment of many of them is taken into consideration the results turned in by McDonald House boys are, on the whole, fair to good.

Examination results were :—

1958 Junior. Tom Corbett. Three subjects passed.

1958 2nd year only. Four passes.

The enrolments at school are as follows :—

Forrest High.	3rd year School Certificate	..	..	..	1 boy
	Two year Junior Division	..	..	..	1 boy
Tuart Hill.	Two year Junior Division	..	..	..	1 boy
	First year High School Certificate	..	..	..	4 boys

Two boys are class prefects. One boy is in School Cadets. He attended the Cadet Camp at Northam in the May holidays and hopes to attend the Officers Camp in the August holidays.

Sporting

The boys are all very fond of sport. They are particularly interested in football and most of them play very well. Three are captains of their particular teams at school.

One lad also plays in the under 18 competition for West Perth, the others play for North Perth under 15.

Health

The health of the boys for the current year has been excellent. Two of the boys have been attending the Perth Dental Hospital for fillings.

Social Activities

The Alvan House girls visit McDonald House on one Sunday in each month. The McDonald House boys return the visit once a month also. The young folk thoroughly enjoy these fortnightly visits. They play various ball games together, and of course appreciate their cup of tea together. The girls invited the boys to their end of term picture evening and barbecue. On several occasions we joined with the girls for a picnic at the beach.

During Easter this year we went to Brookton to a native convention. The boys had a wonderful time.

Other social activities include pictures on a Saturday night and football matches on Saturday afternoons. Also swimming in the summer months.

All attend Church regularly on Sundays and a Young People's Christian Endeavour meeting and games on Friday nights.

Mrs. Rischbieth of Cottesloe invited the Alvan House girls, McDonald House boys and other interested friends to a Christmas party at her home last December. Cool drinks were served on arrival. This was followed by games on the lawns and a delightful Christmas party tea. A musical evening concluded a very happy time spent together. We did very much appreciate this lovely gesture on Mrs. Rischbieth's part.

During November we attended the annual presentation of the Daisy Bates Memorial Prize. Milton Penny (ex McDonald House) received the prize for the boys. (Congratulations Milton.) The Women's Service Guild served us with supper.

Maintenance

The interior of the home was painted towards the end of last year. Various small items of maintenance have been attended to during the year.

The block of land at the rear of our block became vacant towards the end of last year. A recreation room is being erected on this ; it should be completed in a week or two.

Lawn is to be planted on the block which will be excellent for the boys to play such sports as tennis and basketball.

MISS H. STYLES,
Officer in Charge."

Riverdale Native Hostel and School

After several years of patient endeavour and many set-backs, the purpose for which the above-named institution was established, has at last materialised. The traditional and characteristic antagonism of natives generally in the Port Hedland-Marble Bar-Nullagine district towards most forms of constituted authority (and to a lesser extent towards missions) has gradually been diminished by the patient efforts of missionaries and native welfare officers. This has resulted in native parents who, to a surprising extent, are concerned over their children not being educated, taking increasing interest in the hostel and school at Nullagine.

More than 20 children have been voluntarily placed in the care of Mr. and Mrs. G. Stevens who were made available to the Department by the Jigalong Mission authorities to take charge of the hostel. They are all school age children and consequently the Education Department has established a school for them and other children of school age in the Nullagine district.

This school was officially opened on June 25th, 1959, in the presence of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner, and Lady Gairdner.

Derby Hostels and Junior Technical School

Under date 12th August, 1949, following upon my first visit to the Kimberleys and discussion with members of the Kimberley Regional Advisory Committee and the North-West Development Committee, I wrote to the then Minister for Native Affairs (Sir Ross McDonald) in the following terms :—

" I think the time has now arrived when definite steps may be taken to inaugurate a plan for the provision of an institution for aboriginal children in the West Kimberleys."

In discussion with the Minister and others concerned the need for technical and trade training of half caste and suitable full blood children, preferably with some elementary educational qualifications, was emphasised.

In the following years primary schools were established in the Kimberleys at Moola Bulla (until its closure in 1955), Fitzroy Crossing and Gogo Station.

In March, 1952, following upon discussions between Dr. Robertson (Director of Education), Mr. C. Dimond (then Engineer for the North-West) and myself, the following conclusions, *inter alia*, were reached :—

- (1) The establishment of a multi-purpose Secondary School at Derby is desirable. This would include the courses usually given in Junior High Schools, plus some form of technical trade training, but the trades training could not conform to the full requirements of apprenticeship training.
- (2) The question of establishment of hostels will be considered by the Commissioner of Native Affairs.

The uncertainty as to whether the town of Derby would be transferred to another site caused a two years' delay. On 24th June, 1954, the Director of Education advised me that a junior technical " top " school was preferred by him and his officers to a senior technical school at Derby ; instruction would be given in workshop practice in a number of pre-trade subjects—e.g., woodwork, metalwork, sheet metalwork, saddlery and elementary mechanics. For girls a somewhat similar set-up could be established centering around the teaching of home science with a strong practical bias. In both cases a two years' course was envisaged for girls and boys aged from thirteen upwards.

A joint submission signed by the Director of Education and the writer was submitted to the Hon. Ministers for Education and Native Affairs in July, 1954.

On 19th March, 1956, I was advised by the Director of Education that arrangements were well under way for the erection of the "Derby Junior Technical School." Plans had been drawn for the first stage and financial approval obtained. The Director hoped that this Department would be in a position to provide hostel accommodation for native children in Derby by February 1957.

On 14th February, 1957, I was advised by the Under Secretary for Public Works that the approximate cost of the proposed native hostel at Derby would be £50,000 and that the project had been listed in his Department's draft loan schedule for 1957-58.

By the *Government Gazette* of the 17th January, 1958, the Government announced the reservation of two areas of land for hostels at Derby under the Land Act, as follows :

Reserve No. 24904. Of about 25 acres being lot No. 528 for native purposes and vested in the United Aborigines Mission ;

Reserve No. 24905. Of about 25 acres being lot No. 529 for native purposes and vested in the Pious Society of Missions (Inc.).

A survey by the district welfare staff during 1956 found that over 100 children would be ready for admission to the hostel when it was available ; they would be drawn from centres up-wards of 500 miles from Derby.

Two mission organisations indicated their desire to undertake the management of the hostel accommodation in separate locations ; the Pious Society of Missions (Beagle Bay) would take care of the Roman Catholic children and the United Aborigines Mission those who were Protestants.

Following on representations made through the then Ministers for Native Welfare and Education, the Premier on 13th May, 1957, indicated his willingness to make finance available for the construction of the proposed Hostels. He thought the proposed buildings should be constructed on Crown Land to ensure their continued use through the years for school hostel purposes. Both Mission bodies subsequently agreed to this condition.

On 8th August, 1957, the Hon. Premier approved of the proposal that the Native Welfare Department offer to contribute £25,000 each to the two mission bodies above-named on the understanding that each mission must enter into an agreement with the Government to conduct such hostels when constructed for the accommodation of students attending the Derby Technical School.

It was decided that the mission authorities would build the hostels according to their own separate designs ; material, transport and labour costs being covered by the above-mentioned grants. Plans and specifications were submitted by the Pious Society of Missions in October 1957, and by the United Aborigines Mission two months later. Work was commenced immediately by both organisations, the Pious Society of Missions placing its orders with a Perth firm for the provision of prefabricated buildings and the United Aborigines Mission for ordinary building material to be erected by their own mission workmen. In February, 1959, the Hon. Premier approved a grant of £1,700 to the Pious Society of Missions, being half the excess cost of £3,400 for which the Society requested Government aid.

In May, 1958, about 15 boys and 15 girls in the 12 to 15 years age group were in each of the two classes being conducted at the new Junior Technical School.

The United Aborigines Mission and Roman Catholic authorities have completed the erection of each of their hostels and the congestion experienced at the beginning of the school year has now been relieved.

The classes for boys are on a very practical basis. Early projects include the setting up of a forge, concrete work, making and laying of bricks, principles of tank stands, erecting fencing and study of simple type pumps leading to windmill maintenance.

Later it is hoped to acquire old car and truck engines. Part of the school week will also be spent on general education.

It cannot be expected that a training school can turn out skilled handymen, station hands, mechanics and the like in a two year junior technical course. However, the boys will have some basic training behind them after taking the course and should become very useful "handy men" on stations and other properties in the North.

Girls will follow a more or less conventional course in home science.

Towards the end of the year under report, by an arrangement with the Principal of the Junior Technical School and this Department the domestic science teacher has agreed to have layettes for destitute native mothers made up by members of the classes under her tuition from material supplied by the Department. The layettes will be handed over to the District Officer for distribution to the Derby, Broome, Wyndham and Hall's Creek hospitals. Included in the articles to be made up and distributed are napkins, night-dresses, baby rugs and woollen jackets.

NATIVE LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

Throughout the State unemployment amongst natives has been serious during the year. The Relief Item of Stores, Provisions and Meat shows an increased expenditure of more than 50 per cent. on the previous year.

The comparative figures are :—

	1958-59		1957-58		Increase	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
North	11,143	18 9	7,172	08	3,971	18 1
South	17,999	18 10	1,1008	16 1	6,991	2 9
	29,143	17 7	18,180	16 9	10,963	0 10

This increase is in spite of the fact that a greatly increased number of pensions have been granted to natives by the Commonwealth Social Services Department thus reducing the number of aged and invalid natives receiving rations from this Department.

It is reasonable to assess the greater part of this increased expenditure as contributable directly to unemployment among natives.

The Gascoyne area still provides the best balance between the number of native workers and jobs available. Here, with the exception of some parts of the Murchison and isolated cases elsewhere, the quarters and accommodation provided are superior to those in the rest of the State. Wages are often as much as £12 to £15 a week with keep and rarely lower than £7 to £8.

The greatest employment difficulties for natives exist in the Eastern Goldfields where there are insufficient jobs for natives seeking employment. The situation becomes worse each year and children from Mission and Government Schools will have to look beyond their own district for employment if they are not to be dependant upon State or Commonwealth benefits before and after reaching adult status.

In the Southern part of the State the vast majority of natives are dependant upon seasonal and contract work. With a drop in wool prices and greater competition in contract work the opportunities for the native worker are not as good as they have been in the previous post-war years.

In the field of unskilled labour the native is usually the first put off when reduction of workers occurs.

Departmental officers have succeeded in finding employment for a large number of native boys and girls. Success in this direction represents a large saving in amelioration costs and stabilised the native as a working citizen whose productive value becomes an additional asset to the community.

Northern District (Broome and Kimberleys)

"The main industries in this district are cattle, sheep and pearl shelling. The last named, which is conducted mainly in Broome, has suffered a set back, due to difficulty in the disposing of shell on world markets. This has had a noticeable effect on the earnings of natives in that area.

Conditions of employment vary considerably, but with few exceptions, employers are not attempting to raise the standard of their employees.

Surveys carried out by Welfare Officers reveal a shortage of employable labour, which will become a problem that employers of the future will have to face.

Most natives employed in towns suffer greater hardship than those in the country. Employment in towns is relatively easy to obtain, but the town employer does not wish to pay much in wages nor provide food to the native employee; there would be none for his wife and children. This likewise applies to clothing issues. There are, of course, some employers who treat their employees reasonably well.

A new industry, the Derby Meat Processing Company, has commenced here, and has absorbed a number of native girls in packing work. It is hoped that more and more natives will obtain employment in connection with the works to be carried out, and under award conditions."

North West (Pilbara, Ashburton and Gascoyne)

"Employment in 1959 in regard to expectations for last years somewhat pessimistic forecast proved to be fairly close to the facts. Of the southern section of the district, it is reported :—

'Unemployment amongst natives was evident between the month of October, 1958, and April, 1959. Although this was not particularly serious, it was necessary to issue relief in the form of rations to quite a few families living on the native reserve. A number of the more sophisticated type of natives were assisted in applications for Social Service Unemployment Benefit.

This appears to have been brought on mainly by a drop in the prosperity of the stations generally, due to lower wool prices causing a "tightening of belts" all round; also aggravated by poor seasonal conditions.

However, it is felt also that the District Officer's prediction given in his annual report, 1957, is being borne out and progressively becoming general practice, i.e., that the tendency for employers to engage young capable natives at higher wages only for short term seasonal periods, is replacing that of employing whole family groups at low wages, all the year round, to the detriment of older and less capable types.

Moreover, it is disturbing to notice that more and more stations seem to be getting along satisfactorily without employing any natives at all, or maybe just the odd one or two for a few weeks annually, specifically for mustering.

And also to hear from these former employers, and present employers, dissatisfaction concerning the native labour particularly the younger generation. It is felt that these complaints, mostly concerning lack of responsibility, restlessness and unreliability generally—to work for a few weeks and then obtain an advance on their wages and visit town on some feeble excuse, returning when it pleases them or when they run out of money, or else drifting on somewhere with no thought of their responsibility or commitments,—cannot be ignored when they come from employers who are almost renowned for their liberal ideas regarding natives, and also when some facts have been confirmed by personal knowledge and observation.

It is difficult not to feel that the seeds are being sown here for a social problem similar to that which exists in the wheatbelt and Great Southern.

Near drought conditions pertain now in most of the Gascoyne area, and unless this is relieved in the near future by substantial rainfalls, it could be anticipated that unemployment in this sub-district will be even more pronounced this summer than it was during the last.

The situation in the northern part of this district has been somewhat similar, with fairly large numbers of natives unemployed for fairly brief periods and smaller numbers more or less indefinitely. From a general employment point of view, however, the situation could by no means be regarded as very serious. If it were possible to spend more time in improving the labour exchange services already operating in the district, the problem would probably have been reduced even more.

Within Pindan Proprietary Limited, comprising almost all natives, there has been a disruption of authority, and an apparent modifying of policy towards pastoral employment has resulted in a greater number of this group's adherents seeking employment other than mining, probably to the ultimate benefit of the group and the individuals. Previously, the very much greater majority of natives associated with this group were engaged in employment other than pastoral, and this to some extent mitigated against unemployment.

It is not expected that unemployment amongst aborigines will worsen much in the coming year, though little relief can be expected from the extent of the unemployment already noticed this last year."

West Murchison Sub-District

"Towards the end of the year under review the employment position appears to have improved somewhat, probably due to the slight increase in the international price of wool. Earlier, the position was, at times, very disturbing.

A number of coloured men continue to be employed by the Main Roads Department and the Western Australian Government Railways, and several have now advanced to the position of Ganger in the latter Department."

East Murchison Sub-District

The Assistant District Officer at Meekatharra writes as follows :—

"The employment situation during the year under review was without doubt the worst seen since the opening of this office in 1955. It would seem obvious that the causes have been the prolonged and severe drought in the district and a fall in wool prices. At the best of times most employment offering has been erratic and of short duration. It has been necessary to provide relief in certain cases, particularly in the Wiluna Area.

"A small number of natives were employed by the Government Railways and Main Roads Department. As in past years, work in townships has not been available with the notable exception of Mt. Magnet. There the successful efforts of the Protector of Natives in placing natives in employment with the Road Board and in other avenues in the township are greatly appreciated and serve as a striking, good example to other towns. Kangaroo hides now bring 9s. per pound and this would be a profitable enterprise for natives but for the initial capital outlay which is required. Few natives can find the finance for transport, firearms, and ammunition and stores. At present a few natives are shooting kangaroos in their spare time.

"One native only is employed full time in the mining industry. A small number prospect for gold in their spare time and remuneration from this is small."

In general, conditions of employment in the pastoral industry in the Murchison vary from very poor to excellent. Although stations in the former category are fortunately not numerous, some form of machinery is required to legally fix standards in such instances. At present field officers of this Department can only attempt to advise and persuade employers, and, if that fails, suggest to the native employees that they are free to seek other more satisfactory employment—provided that is available, which, obviously, is not always the case."

Central Sub-District

In the Central Sub-District the position is described in the following terms :—

"Unemployment has again dogged many of the families in the district. Late in 1958 the position was most acute and was further aggravated by the all time low in wool prices, a factor which led to many farmers not carrying out developmental work (clearing, fencing, etc.) which are time honoured tasks of native families.

Families from outlying towns of the district and from other districts flocked to the Metropolitan Area, swelled the ranks of unemployed and created a pool of trouble—making malcontents, especially at Allawah Grove.

It would be pertinent to note that due mainly to this lack of employment in country districts, 20 families from other districts and 15 from country areas of this district came to the Metropolitan Area in the past 12 months. There is not the demand for such people in the city at this stage. There are plenty of white unskilled workers available, people with a greater sense of responsibility and better equipped to compete in the labour market.

The period from January to June, 1959, has weeded out those who cannot survive in the metropolis and under Departmental auspices, these people are gradually returning to country districts where the less exacting demands of rural work, provide better opportunities for them. Those who remain are being absorbed in the economic framework of the City and now appear in the roles of semi-skilled labourers in such jobs as truck-drivers, road-workers, factory hands, etc.

A special group of native people living in the Metropolitan Area, should be mentioned here. They are the younger people who have been set up under Departmental auspices in skilled and semi-skilled jobs. Males total 18, who are still in their jobs and who are well established in their trades and professions. There are 49 female natives in nursing, nursing aid positions or in training, factories work, office work and domestic situations of good standing.

This group also requires a lot more attention from Departmental Officers because of the nature of adjustments necessary in their changed mode of living.

In the field of future needs, this office has contacts with many Government Departments and firms who employ apprentices and toward the end of each school year those boys or girls who will be leaving school are enrolled for consideration for these positions. In addition, since most such vacancies occur in the metropolitan area, we have to cater for natives from other districts. One such case occurred earlier this year when a lad from the Southern district was placed in a metal spinning apprenticeship and is now successfully established.

Employment opportunities are continually being followed up and close liaison is kept with the Commonwealth Employment Offices which deal with natives. At Merredin, the Officer-in-Charge of the Commonwealth Employment Office, Mr. L. J. Tunbridge, has been appointed a Protector of Natives and through his dual roles, has been of considerable assistance in placing native labour. In Perth good contacts have been made with private employment agencies and work for natives, both male and female, has resulted.

Generally, therefore, I may say that for skilled and semi-skilled labour, natives could be placed at any time during the year but unskilled labour was in lowest possible demand."

Eastern Goldfields

"Employment in the Eastern Goldfields remains a primary problem. There is still little scope for employment of natives in this area.

The position of the sandalwood industry has not improved during the year under review. Due to statutory and other difficulties manufacture of native weapons and artifacts came to a halt.

Only a very few natives are employed in mining and local government work. A few are employed in the Railways, but by far the majority in the northern section of the district are reliant upon the pastoral industry.

The basic problem in the pastoral industry is one of "supply and demand." There are far more persons seeking employment than there are jobs available. There is no patent solution to this problem.

In the southern sector of the sub-district there remains a balance of labour.

Wages in the area remain low and good conditions nearly universally non-existent.

A further attempt has been made to establish this office as an employment bureau with some success."

Southern Districts

Mr. C. R. Wright Webster, District Officer, reports :—

"In the field of employment there has been a marked deterioration everywhere in the Great Southern and South-West Districts. In my Annual Report of last year I went very thoroughly and at length into the reasons for this deterioration as I saw them. The circumstances and conditions reported last year still exist and, if anything, are worse this year.

Because of the fact that the majority of natives are seasonal agricultural workers their employment must of necessity be irregular and be regulated by the law of supply and demand. Few farmers require permanent labour on their properties and with the recession in the wool industry farmers in this district have curtailed expenditure on items such as clearing and fencing which in the days of the good wool prices were a steady avenue for employment of natives. In effect, the demand for native labour has considerably fallen off because of the present economic position of rural industry.

There is also another and equally grave reason for lack of employment prospects for natives. This is the employer resistance to native labour. It is an unfortunate fact that a small proportion of adult employable natives have proved unreliable in employment. Failure to report back for work after weekends or reporting a day or two late ; sometimes not returning to the job at all ; insistence by natives on advances before commencing a job ; disputing with employers verbal agreements entered into—these and other equally unsatisfactory performances have resulted in one employer after another deciding to refrain from employing natives. In the New Australians and other white labour becoming increasingly available to rural employers the farmer has now what he considers a more reliable and less troublesome source of labour available. This is reflected in the increasing number of natives applying for relief in the shape of rations from this Department and Unemployment Benefits from the Social Services Department.

It is my opinion that the lack of education and the lack of white contact in their early years has bred this unreliability in this section of adult natives of today. It is to be sincerely hoped that the Department's present policy of education which in itself provides white contacts in the early years of a native's life will gradually eradicate the instability and unreliability which, at present, is responsible for much of the unemployment amongst natives.

The majority of natives, however, genuinely want work and the things that follow from regular employment, namely, a home of their own and a more stable existence than the semi-nomadic one forced upon them by circumstances. But, as reported last year, this Department cannot create employment. Field staff give every assistance possible in directing natives to jobs where such are known to be available, but this represents a very few cases.

The fact remains that unless conditions alter materially in the rural and pastoral industry in the south of this State, the employment position amongst natives of this area will steadily deteriorate. This is a gloomy but factual picture and I must paint it as such."

HOUSING OF NATIVES

Departmental Policy

Although some permanent residential accommodation has already been provided on native reserves, as is reported below, the provision of permanent residential accommodation on camping reserves is not desired. As a matter of policy, the following plan has been adopted :—

- (i) *Camping Reserves.*—From one to four-roomed skillion-roofed huts of wood and iron construction with concrete or bitumen floor, each room having a front door and squatter-type fireplace and chimney, the latter for warmth and cooking facilities. Each hut has a front verandah to provide for shade and shelter. The number of huts on a reserve will be governed by the average numbers of natives who normally use the reserve for camping purposes. No rental charges will be made.

Communal sanitation, ablution and laundry facilities, standpipe water supply and firewood, where necessary, will be provided.

- (ii) *Intermediate Residential Reservations.*—These will not be proclaimed as "Native Reserves" under the provisions of the Native Welfare Act and Regulations, but gazetted as areas vested in this Department for "native welfare purposes." This will give the Department more effective legal authority to enforce a satisfactory standard of living and behaviour on the part of the native tenants who will occupy the buildings tenanted under Departmental license. (See comment on Allawah Grove Scheme below.) Nominal rental charges will be made and payment insisted upon.

The type of buildings to be provided on the Intermediate Reservations are :—

Three and four-roomed bunkhouses ex Railway Department (when available) ; the "Geraldton type cottage" as illustrated in the 1957 Annual Report ; and the "Narrogin-type cottages" provided at Narrogin by the State Housing Commission and described below.

Communal facilities as described above for the Camping Reserves will be made available on the reservations. The purpose of the Intermediate Scheme is to give selected native families an opportunity to graduate from the Camping Reserve. Such tenants will be encouraged and, subject to the effort they make, assisted to become eligible for better, non-segregated residential accommodation as hereunder described.

- (iii) *State Housing Commission Homes in existing residential areas.*—These have been described and illustrated in earlier annual reports and need no further comment, other than is set out in the first paragraph of this section.

Most natives who are financially and socially eligible for this type of accommodation are already living in State Housing Commission houses, or have otherwise provided houses for themselves. It is considered this is the last major step the Department can take towards promoting the assimilation of the native family concerned ; it is reasonably expected that the consolidation of their economic and social position thereafter rests with the native families and their white neighbours, particularly the latter. Colour prejudice is something over which Government Legislation and native administration have no control.

Several housing schemes have been put into operation since the scheme was first approved in 1949. Selected coloured families have been provided with houses which at the insistence of the Native Welfare Department were placed in established housing settlements under the control of the State Housing Commission. (See details elsewhere in Report.)

The type of house which has now been evolved for natives (known as type 63A) is indistinguishable from the orthodox State Housing Commission home. These homes are available to natives at a weekly rental of £3, inclusive of land tax and rates. The total cost to the purchaser is approximately £2,000. In some instances normal State Housing Commission houses have been provided at weekly rentals of approximately £3 15s.

Unfortunately, however, these rentals and purchase contributions, coupled with the high standard of living required of the tenant and allied to seasonal fluctuations in employment have proved too much for at least 40 per cent. of native occupants and many were evicted by the Commission.

The Narrogin Scheme

Desiring to improve the living conditions of natives in their districts members of a few public spirited welfare organisations have voluntarily provided a few homes for native families. For example members of the Narrogin and District Native Council have participated in a scheme, supported by their local Parliamentary representative Mr. W. A. Manning, which provided for a number of cottages to be built on a location separate from the native reserve and camps, placed in pleasant surroundings near the town and provided with self-contained facilities. Although technically sub-standard it was considered a compromise between the typical camps and the orthodox homes was warranted.

In July, 1958, Treasury approval was given to the Housing Commission to erect several cheap type homes as an experiment to ascertain the natives' reactions. The necessary finance was provided by the Housing Commission. It was agreed that the buildings would be erected on land which was not a native reserve and that the management, supervision and tenancy arrangements would be vested in a body other than the Native Welfare Department. (For the present it is the Narrogin Municipal Council.)

The Native Welfare Department donated £50 to the credit of the State Buildings Supplies to help defray costs and State Buildings Supplies also contributed £50. The Treasury grant to the State Housing Commission was £3,000.

It was decided that the homes would be small because experience had shown that there would be an onrush of relatives into a large one; they contain a bedroom and large living room, porch, stove, trough and cupboard and rotary clothes hoist, running water and electricity. A central toilet and ablution block serves the 4 houses.

The scheme was opened on 10th April, 1959, when Mrs. Ida Michaels, a widow, was handed the key of her new home by the Narrogin Native Council President, Mr. L. Mitchell.

The homes are painted in gay durable colours set in natural bush surroundings (see illustration).

Rental charged is approximately £1 per week and tenants after being given a reasonable period to prove themselves worthy housekeepers may then if they so desire be recommended as tenants for conventional State Housing Commission houses. Otherwise they may be required to make way for the next family on the long list of applicants.

The scheme so far is already proving an outstanding success. Native tenants have installed modern furniture, hung curtains and started gardens.

A reticulated water supply, shower and laundry block and septic toilets for both sexes have been established.

Housing in the North-West

In October, 1958, the expenditure of £5,000 from Loan Funds to erect native huts at Roebourne, Marble Bar and Onslow Native Reserves was approved. Plans and cost estimates drawn up by this Department provide for the following:—

					£
1. Roebourne Reserve—Four 3-roomed cottages	..	..	..	..	2,200
Two 2-roomed cottages	..	..	..	..	950
2. Marble Bar—One 3-roomed cottage	..	..	..	..	650
One 2-roomed cottage	..	..	..	..	575
3. Onslow—One 3-roomed cottage	..	..	..	..	600
Total	..	..	..	..	£4,975

The cottages are to be of the "Geraldton" types as illustrated at pages 15 and 16 of the 1957 Annual Report, and in this report hereunder.

Natives in the Metropolitan Area

On 2nd June, 1959, a metropolitan newspaper under banner headlines used strong language to criticise natives who were then living—or trying to live—at a Guildford location known as Allawah Grove. The article contained this introduction :—

“Social workers who regularly visited the camp confirmed reports of drinking, gambling and immorality.”

With typical vacuity a damaging report ended on this note :—

“Someone must do something to straighten out things. No work, no order, no hope, no future. That seems to be the pattern of things at Allawah Grove today.”

It was the pattern of things 50 years ago according to report ; under date 29th July, 1908, a West Guildford resident complained to the Sergeant of Police, Guildford, that the language of the natives living on the reserve was “far from the best and they are within hearing of the road, and there are a lot of children going to and fro. They annoy the people by continually going around begging. When they have drink it is not very pleasant for the children to travel.”

Subsequent police action succeeded in having the troublesome aborigines removed to a reserve at Success Hill. It was not a reserve for natives, but was, and still is, an “A” class recreational reserve. This caused the Town Clerk of the Municipality to advise the Aborigines Department in 1910 “that objection is raised to the Aborigines camping on the Success Hill Reserve” because they were “an annoyance to the public and the people residing near the reserve and a menace to public health.” He suggested that a portion of the commonage in South Guildford would be a suitable position for a reserve. His recommendation was accepted and the Government Gazette of 27th May, 1910, announced that Reserve No. 12720 of about 48 acres had been established for the use of Aborigines at Guildford (this was the reserve and area now known as Allawah Grove).

In April, 1941, 8 native families from the “Beechboro Camp,” 6 families and 3 individuals from the “Sanitary Depot Camp” and 3 families from the “Ivanhoe Street Camp” and all natives camped in the Guildford area were instructed to move to the Guildford Reserve because of “certain complaints received from various road boards adjacent to the Guildford township about the unsatisfactory camping of natives within these particular districts” according to Commissioner Bray’s report to his Minister.

Water and sanitation facilities were provided by the Department and a superintendent named Constable Herman Hilton Wilhelm was appointed on 30th July, 1941. Other reports indicated that natives were building shelters for themselves.

Four months later the Commissioner of Native Affairs (Mr. Bray) was served with a notice under the National Security Regulations advising that the reserve was “required for Commonwealth purposes as from the tenth day of November, 1941” and demanding that he “hand the said property over to a representative of the Department of the Army forthwith.”

In his request to the Lands Department for an alternative site for a native reserve the Commissioner wrote :—

“Since June of this year this area of land has been used by metropolitan natives for camping purposes and is the only property available to them within the Metropolitan Area. The Department went to some trouble in arranging the transfer of all metropolitan natives to this reserve and incurred an expenditure of £44 17s. 10d. in installing a water supply on the property.”

Under the continued pressure of the Army Authorities the natives removed themselves to an alternative camping site known as Lot 124 at Bassendean which was privately owned. An unsuccessful attempt was made by the Department to have this area acquired and declared a camping reserve for the natives then living on it. The action of white residents in the neighbourhood, with the backing of the Local Authorities in the district obstructed the move and eventually resulted in the natives being dispersed to individual camps throughout the Bassendean-Bayswater area.

Reserve No. 12720 was never returned to the natives. It was developed and used by the Armed Services during World War II, mainly in conjunction with the Guildford Aerodrome, and is not again referred to in the Department’s records until 19th November, 1954, when the Town Planning Commissioner (Dr. Davidson) advised that “the Civil Aviation Department would not object to the reversion of this reserve to the State Government.” With commendable foresight and humanitarian feeling he strongly urged that the buildings and facilities erected thereon be withdrawn from sale by the Disposals Commission and used for the following recommended purposes :—

“Hostels for all the Aborigines that are likely to come to the Metropolitan Area ; to establish schools, dispensaries, and if need be, a hospital.”

The Churches of Christ of W.A. were prepared to take charge of the project. Approaches made to the Commonwealth Civil Aviation Department were, however, unsuccessful. Pressure was maintained by the Town Planning Commissioner. Upon receipt of advice from the Regional Manager of the Commonwealth Disposals Commission that he had been advised by the State Housing Authorities, through the Workers’ Homes Board, that they desired to take over the camp for emergency housing purposes, Dr. Davidson reminded the Minister for Native Affairs (the late Hon. Mr. Coverley) of the Department’s urgent need to take over this land and buildings “. . . in an earnest endeavour to help towards the solution of the most pressing native problem in the Metropolitan Area.”

The late Mr. Bray strongly supported Dr. Davidson in his submission to the Minister, adding :—

“ We are still anxious to acquire it, and feel we have a fair claim to consideration. The natives were ousted from their reserve ; therefore they have a reasonable claim to reoccupation.” He further advised : “ We do not want to set up a native settlement near Perth, but we should have a depot and a reserve for the use of natives coming to Perth for outpatient treatment, business and other reasons.” He was supported by the Minister and the matter was referred to the Secretary of the Workers' Homes Board (Mr. R. J. Bond) who advised, *inter alia*, in reply :—

“ I have no knowledge of the urgency of the programme for housing natives. I understand they are scattered throughout the Metropolitan Area, and it is desired to put them in a camp site as soon as possible ; but I do know that the housing plight of white people is desperate, and we are hard put to find accommodation for the many who are being evicted by Magistrates' Order . . . I know of no better site than the Guildford Reserve.”

In a footnote Mr. Bond added :—

“ Mr. Reid discussed this with Hon. Premier. O.K. to go ahead. Ours is only temporary housing and the camp can be handed over for natives when we have finished with it.” The footnote was dated 18th March, 1946.

In April, 1946, the Director-General of Civil Aviation informed Mr. Bond that “ This Department is prepared to permit the use of the existing reserve as a temporary housing unit for a period of three years ” under conditions which he outlined.

Two-and-a-half years later when the writer came to the Department, the natives were still scattered throughout the Metropolitan Area, most of them back at the old “ Sanitary Depot Camp ” to which they apparently returned after being “ ousted ” from Guildford. They in turn, were ousted when the sanitary depot was abandoned in the early 1950's to make room for the State Housing Commission's expansion of building in that direction.

Our repeated efforts to acquire land suitable for use as a native reserve over the past ten years have failed. A mere rumour that the Department is negotiating for the purchase of a suitable block inevitably results in a spate of publicity and organised public protests, in the course of which natives and the Department are subjected to disgraceful, unwarranted criticism.

The inescapable conclusion, therefore, is that natives were not wanted anywhere in the metropolitan area 50 years ago, and they are not wanted today ; for 50 years attempts to provide them with a sanctuary have been successfully obstructed by white residents of the district concerned, backed up by local authorities ; for 50 years aborigines have been forced to live the typical lives of half-caste outcasts and sometimes treated like pye-dogs, and for 50 years they have of course reacted accordingly ; and at all times those who occupied the tribal lands of their aboriginal forebears (Success Hill and the neighbouring area was at one time a tribal ceremonial meeting place for Swan Valley natives) have been their severest critics. The situation in most material respects remains substantially the same today as it was in 1908. There are no grounds for believing that there will be any appreciable change in the foreseeable future.

Having denied them the right and opportunity to live in reasonable living conditions, it is not very realistic for members of the public and the press to criticise natives because of the living conditions and way of living which have been forced on them. During the past 10 years definite propositions have been put forward by the Department for reserves at Bassendean, Blackboy Hill and at Beechboro. As stated, public protests, backed by the respective Road Boards, successfully obstructed our attempts at Bassendean and Greenmount. At Beechboro a small property was purchased for £3,000, the intention being its development as a Metropolitan Reserve. There was an immediate public outcry and at least one protest meeting at Beechboro. As a consequence the Department was instructed by the Minister (Mr. Brady) not to use it as camping reserve, but to have cottages built on the block for a few “ better type native families.” This did not, does not, and will not satisfy the immediate and urgent need of the majority of native families who cannot afford to build, buy or rent cottages.

The situation has developed into a vicious circle. The basic essentials of a suitable reserve are adequate water supply, access to public transport, shopping facilities and schools. Where these exist the area has already been set aside for residential purposes and strong opposition from the local white residents is the immediate reaction to any move made by the Department to acquire land for natives. It probably also conflicts with town planning schemes. In the area where the essential facilities do not exist, the natives understandingly refuse to live. And so it goes on, *ad infinitum, ad nauseam* !

The Allawah Grove Housing Settlement Scheme

As a palliative measure the then Minister for Native Welfare (Mr. Brady), by arrangement with the Minister for Housing obtained possession of the Allawah Grove buildings in November, 1957. It was his idea that it be developed as a residential area for native families and to this end it was arranged that the settlement be placed under the management of the Coolbaroo Natives' League.

From here the District Officer's Annual Report takes up the story :—

“ For the whole of the financial year under review, the native housing community at Allawah Grove was administered by the Coolbaroo League Inc., a social organisation of part-native persons. It was hoped that the native tenants would develop the feeling that they were themselves con-

ducting their affairs through their own organisation and have a sense of participation in the experiment. In some cases this undoubtedly resulted, but in general the experiment could not be described as a success.

Apart from the full-time employment of a resident native caretaker (paid by the Department) the League executive members could only devote part time activity to the project. One of its principal disabilities was the lack of any legal tenure or any legal machinery for controlling either tenants or trespassers. Another feature was the too rapid filling of vacant flats, mostly by native families from the country attracted by cheap housing. These persons swelled the ranks of unemployed metropolitan natives and the vast majority subsisted on social service payments and Child Welfare Department or Native Welfare Department supplementary relief issues. When flats were filled native families and individuals continued to move into the area and either overcrowded tenanted flats or camped in the bush.

Inevitably an anti-social, disorderly element began to make its presence felt, to the consternation of the better tenants who were trying to make the scheme succeed.

Despite these handicaps the League Executive achieved much and the picture was not altogether dark. Social welfare organisations were encouraged in their activities at "The Grove," and sporting activities, a pre-school children's play centre, adult education classes of various kinds and Sunday school classes were established.

It nevertheless became obvious that proper administration, backed by adequate resources was necessary to retrieve a situation which had gradually deteriorated and the Department was instructed to take over. The date for this was set for 1st July, 1959, and the last two weeks of June were devoted to preparing the way. A clear cut form of rental license was prepared, tenants were properly authorised and listed, various health measures instituted and about 50 unauthorised "squatters" or trespassers removed with the co-operation of the police.

At the 30th June the population of the community was 134 authorised tenants and 13 authorised visitors, an average of about five persons per flat. These figures, of course, include wives and children.

The work of social welfare groups and volunteers is continuing and may possibly be more beneficial now that the whole situation is reasonably under control."

North-West District

The District Officer, Mr. A. O. Day, reports :—

"Housing is still the major need of aborigines who live at the main centres and even on some stations. With the very rapid increase of the number of children receiving education and with an almost equally rapid trend amongst natives of this district to strive for a higher standard of living, or at least a different manner of living, the need for better housing is becoming annually more urgent.

At Port Hedland, more coloured families have moved into State owned houses. They are holders of Citizenship Rights. Port Hedland is a growing centre and it is the policy of the Housing Commission to build a good many houses at this centre. However, centres such as Roebourne and Onslow, generally speaking, are not growing centres and the housing situation is almost static. In such circumstances aborigines are unable to obtain this type of dwelling. In any case the average level of income is insufficient to support the high rental involved with such houses.

Similar circumstances apply at other centres and the Department's plans to provide more economical housing as stepping stones to eventual home ownership or rental of the normal type S.H.C. dwelling will fill a long felt need. This will not only benefit the present generation, but I am sure will assist to give the present school age children a better measure of real social values and responsibilities which will be reflected in the results which will be achieved by those in the higher education bracket."

North Central District

The District Officer, Mr. F. E. Gare, reports as follows in respect to the housing of natives in his district :—

"There have been no new Type T3/63A State Housing Commission houses erected in the District this year. The eight houses built earlier under the special scheme are all occupied, and there have been no evictions, although rental is in arrears in all but one case.

It would seem that saturation point has been reached under this scheme for the moment, but it still remains valuable as providing a housing goal to which coloured families may aspire.

The experiment being conducted on the Geraldton and Mullewa Reserves with a simple and specially designed house known as the "Geraldton" type house has now been running long enough to enable the results to be evaluated with some degree of accuracy. (The origin of the experiment was described in the 1956-57 Annual Report.)

In spite of its spartan simplicity, this "three rooms and verandah" house appears to have been satisfactory compromise between an ideal intermediate home and the dictates of extremely limited finance, and the "one room and verandah" unit designed for pensioners has also proved a success.

During the past year all of the houses in question have been occupied, except for occasional very brief periods, and rents have been paid to a degree which suggests that the scheme is financially sound. In this regard, the critical point was passed in a test case in Mullewa towards the end of 1958. In this instance, although both tenant and his wife were working, and although there was no question at all of their ability to pay, the rental had fallen six months in arrears. The question now was, would this family value the home sufficiently to bring the rental up to date, or would it prefer to be evicted for non-payment as had so many of the coloured occupants of the State Housing Commission Homes? The tenant's decision, arrived at only after he had been convinced that this was not just another Government "handout," was positively in favour of retaining the house, and the arrears were paid in full. This seems to have been typical of the general attitude, and it has not been necessary to evict any tenant for any reason at all. At the time of writing (9th July, 1959) all rentals are paid to 30th June, 1959, at least.

Almost without exception, tenants have taken a real interest in the appearance and cleanliness of their houses. This attitude, and a manifest desire for privacy, would be further encouraged by enclosing each house in its own fence, and it is hoped to achieve this in the coming year. The health and general outlook of every family occupying a house has shown a remarkable benefit.

When considering the financial aspects of the experiment, it is important to bear in mind that the primary consideration has been the welfare of the occupants. Exemption from the payment of rental has been granted in every case where circumstances (e.g. sickness, unemployment, etc.) have justified it, and even in those cases well able to pay, rental has been insisted on more as a means of training the tenant in the responsibilities of good citizenship rather than in the interests of a satisfactory monetary return. Thus, if the scheme is in fact proving to be a reasonable economic proposition this result is more or less incidental (although it is realised how extremely important this aspect is, from a Treasury point of view, if the scheme is to be extended).

The following figures may enable an assessment to be made of the financial outcome of the experiment :—

					£	s.	d.
Cost of Houses—Material	..	..	..	..	1,655	0	0
Erection	..	..	..	..	220	0	0
					<hr/>		
					1,875	0	0
					<hr/>		
Rental—Annual capacity :—							
Prototype—1 at 7s. 6d. per week	..	..	..	..	19	10	0
Type 1—2 at 5s. per week	..	..	..	..	26	0	0
Type III—5 at 10s. per week	..	..	..	..	130	0	0
					<hr/>		
					175	10	0
Amount paid 1958–59	..	..	..	..	156	0	0
					<hr/>		
Concessions granted	..	..	..	..	19	10	0
					<hr/>		

Note.—Concessions for sickness, genuine unemployment, etc., thus amounted to 11 per cent. of the total rental capacity.

Return.—The net return for the year represents 8.3 per cent. of the cost of the houses. (No allowance has been made for land costs or for interest. Maintenance is negligible.)

This result must surely settle, once and for all, the question of whether natives are prepared to pay rent for houses provided by the Government. They definitely will pay rent, provided they are financially able, and provided the amount charged is commensurate with what the native himself thinks a house is worth.

The seeming success of the experiment, from both a social welfare and a financial viewpoint, argues for its extension to other townships in the district and application accordingly has been made in the current Estimates.

This is not to say that exactly the same pattern should be followed. Restricted finance made it necessary to use the existing communal facilities on the two reserves for the experiment, but there is no reason why self contained houses of a similar improved type should not be built on their own lots in future, quite apart from any reserve housing which may be undertaken. A number of local authorities have already been approached in this regard, and they have indicated that they would welcome such a move. The Geraldton Type IV design would be acceptable in some places, but where an improved design is required Type V should be entirely suitable (plan and specification list of this latter design is attached). It is of the same structural style as the houses already provided in the experiment, is more than 7 squares in area, and includes a large living room and 3 sleeping rooms. It is provided with an insulated stove, a stainless-steel sink, proper laundry facilities and a septic system W.C. It can be erected in Geraldton for about £750, or, fenced, fully lined with electricity connected to all rooms, for about £1,000. Freight charges would apply for inland centres.

While there is a definite need for reserve housing at this stage at some places, it is obvious that self-contained dwellings on individual lots would contribute more towards the aims of assimilation, and should be encouraged wherever possible. It is significant that of the ten families who have participated so far in the experiment, 4 have now shown a definite ambition to move into a slightly improved type of house off reserves. Similarly, a number of families who do not now

live on reserves are very anxious to acquire "Geraldton" houses on their own lots. At this stage, none of these families is interested in the more expensive State Housing Commission Homes.

Suggestion.—From the foregoing, a seemingly practicable solution to the problem of housing natives in the district emerges. If an initial capital sum of, say, £10,000 could be allocated, the houses built with it would return, on the basis already established in the experiment, £830 per year. (This figure is used simply because this return has already been achieved. It is almost certain that it could be increased, particularly if the houses are built for resale, as well as for rental.) The money thus received back could be paid into a special fund, from which further houses could be built, and so the scheme could snowball.

It is obvious, of course, that if a greater amount of capital could be provided, the requirements of this type of housing would be satisfied all the sooner.

Returns could then be paid into a sinking fund, so that the initial cost of each house could be recouped well inside the lifetime of the house—estimated to be a minimum of 20 years in normal circumstances.

The necessity for appropriate housing for natives is so obvious, that there is no need to labour the point here. Certain it is, though, that until decent living accommodation is available, all other efforts to solve the "native problem" must fail. As an example, the Gypsies of Europe are a people who have never settled into permanent homes, and who, as one result have successfully resisted assimilation for centuries.

With special reference to the East Murchison Sub-district, the Assistant District Officer at Meekatharra reports as follows:—

There is an acute shortage of non-reserve housing in all townships in this Sub-district and the position is particularly acute in the centres of Meekatharra, Mt. Magnet and Cue. During the year under review, several natives have enquired regarding Departmental assistance in rental or purchase of low cost houses to accommodate their families whilst they themselves are at work on pastoral stations. They explained that suitable accommodation in a township would make them independent of station accommodation, which is often sub-standard, if it exists at all, and town accommodation would also provide educational facilities for their children.

Whilst not particularly anti-Mission, the alternative of placing their children in institutions is not considered a satisfactory solution to these natives, since they desire to retain the responsibility of caring for their children and do not wish to break up their families. Town accommodation nearest to their place of employment would enable them to keep the family unit intact, in that the mother and children would be together and the father could be with the family for week-ends or other periodic visits. Objection to Missions on religious grounds is not uncommon and in some instances aversion to the dietetic dogma of certain sects has been expressed."

Central District

The Assistant District Officer in charge of the Central Sub-district reports:—

"I can report improvement in all grades of housing in my Sub-district this year.

State Housing Commission Dwellings

Number occupied	21 (increase nil)
Number in arrears	15 (increase 7)
Number evicted	Nil

It seems likely that approximately 20 families will become permanently stabilised in this type of accommodation. This figure is roughly half the number originally granted houses, but it represents a great step towards total integration of these families.

No more houses of this kind will be erected especially for natives, instead each application for housing will be treated in the same manner as for whites and tenancies granted on the same conditions.

Improved Reserve Camps

With the Mobile Welfare Clinic No. 1 available, every reserve in the district has received attention, especially in regard to the reconstruction of camps and humpies into weatherproofed shacks. These rebuilt huts are a great improvement on humpies and camps and provide separate rooms for eating and sleeping and for the separation of adult and children's sleeping quarters. (See also report on Mobile Clinic below.)

Private Rental Dwellings

There has been an amazing increase in the number of native families who have taken on private rental dwellings in country towns and in the Metropolitan Area. For example, in Perth, outside of State Housing Commission homes occupied by natives, there are no less than 40 families living in private rental houses. Half this number have taken such houses in the past 12 months. In York six families have privately rented houses and in other country towns they are moving in the same direction."

Eastern Goldfields

In the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district the housing standard remains poor in the case of most natives in the area. There has been no change in this respect from previous years. (An improvement will be effected when the Mobile Welfare Clinic moves into the area and the comprehensive plan outlined above is approved and implemented.)

Southern District

The District Officer, Mr. C. R. Wright Webster, reports :—

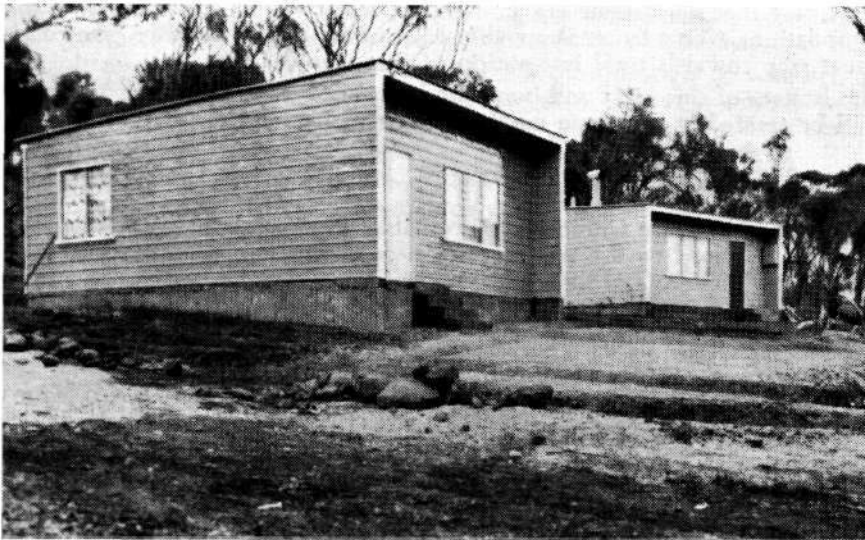
"In the Southern hybrid, part white and part native—quite often with more white than native blood—the most cherished desire is for improved housing and living conditions. For 10 years now, I have travelled throughout the Great Southern and South-West Districts of the State which comprise my jurisdiction. I have watched the pathetic attempts of unskilled and poor but ambitious natives to build "a better humpy for the family." Some succeed in thus providing more accommodation for themselves, but the materials are always the same, old iron and timber, beaten out kerosine tins and 44 gallon drums, sometimes facecuts from local timber mills and occasionally a sheet or two of discarded asbestos. These and the odd new tent provide "the better class (!)" accommodation that natives provide for themselves. Lower down the scale are the bag and hessian structures, the dilapidated, rotting tent and the humpy of discarded, ex rubbish dump pieces of corrugated iron put together on a bush frame.

In these structures human beings live and rear their children ; to these "homes" children return from school to spend the rest of the day and night. This is home where parents must plan their own and their children's futures. That native children can put in an appearance at school cleanly dressed and well turned out speaks volumes for the ingenuity, industry and patience of native parents.

Wherever I travel I am frequently asked by native parents if the Department will provide a cheap home they can afford to rent. Mostly these enquiries are for "Geraldton" type or "Narrogin" type homes. (Pictures of the "Geraldton" type home appeared in the 1957 annual report ; a picture of the "Narrogin" type home appears later in this report.) It is frustrating to have to reply to the more advanced and enlightened enquirers from amongst my district natives that the Government would like to provide small homes for suitable native families, but is prevented by limited finance from doing so.

This is in no way a reflection on the Government or the Department, for as reported in my last annual report, the State Housing Commission has built 25 special type 79A native homes in my district and 10 conventional type State Homes for native families. However, in the year under review, no new home of either type has been constructed for or occupied by native families in my district. There is at the present time no demand for further homes of this type, due mainly to the rentals or purchase instalments being more than the average native family can afford. Instead, the demand is for the smaller "Geraldton" or "Narrogin" type cottages, rentals for which being modest are within the means of those natives who, whilst anxious to improve their standards of accommodation, are unable to afford the £2 10s. to £3 10s. per week rentals for the type 79A and the conventional State Housing Commission homes.

At the present time, the State Housing Commission are conducting a bold and very successful experiment at Narrogin, the headquarters of this district. Four homes of a special new type considered suitable for native families have been built by the Commission in a delightful sylvan setting. Upon completion, the homes were handed over to the Narrogin Municipal Council under whom the Narrogin District Native Council, the local Native Welfare Group, are responsible for the collection of the rental of the £1 per week from the 4 tenants. The Native Council are also assisting the tenants towards better living standards. The plan is to provide for those who prove capable of good living standards in these homes to graduate to conventional State homes in the town amongst the white community. Below is a photograph of two of the four homes referred to.



Two of the four "Narrogin" type homes built by the State Housing Commission at Narrogin, April, 1959

These homes are built, on a cement floor, of indestructible materials including iron internal and external walls and are equipped with water, septic toilets, shower, laundry and electric light. Made over to the tenants on the 10th April, 1959, the scheme so far has proved most successful under the able guidance and assistance of the energetic Narrogin District Native Council.

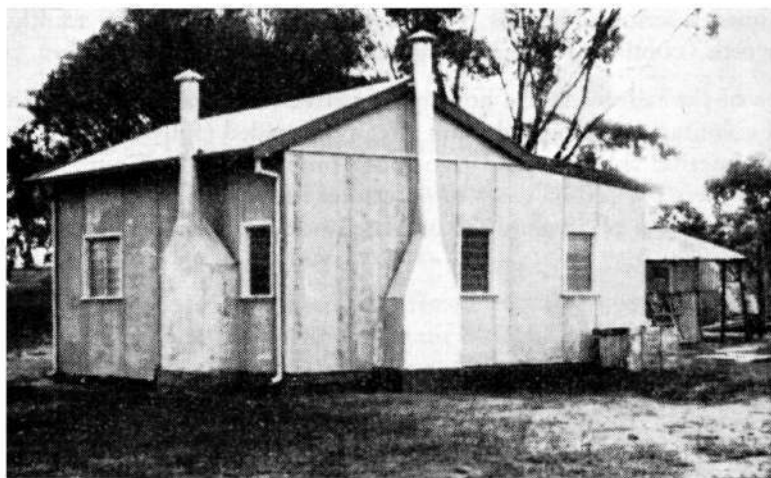
It is my view that this experiment should be repeated at major centres in this District where Native Welfare Associations are functioning so that the benefit of their guidance will be available to the native tenants of such homes. Katanning, Mt. Barker, Gnowangerup and Kojonup immediately come to mind as places where this type of home could be built. Native Welfare Committees exist at these places.

It is my view that the answer to the housing problems of the Southern hybrid lies in the provision of the "Narrogin" and "Geraldton" type homes in gradually increasing numbers, year by year. This calls for a bold and realistic approach to this very vexed question by the Government. The general public—in my district becoming increasingly aware of the plight of the natives living in their midst—tends more and more to judge the achievements of the Department and the Government on the basis of what we are doing to materially improve the lot of this under privileged section of the community. Surely there can be no gainsaying the fact that in the forefront of the needs of our native people is better housing of a type commensurate with their very modest means and ability.

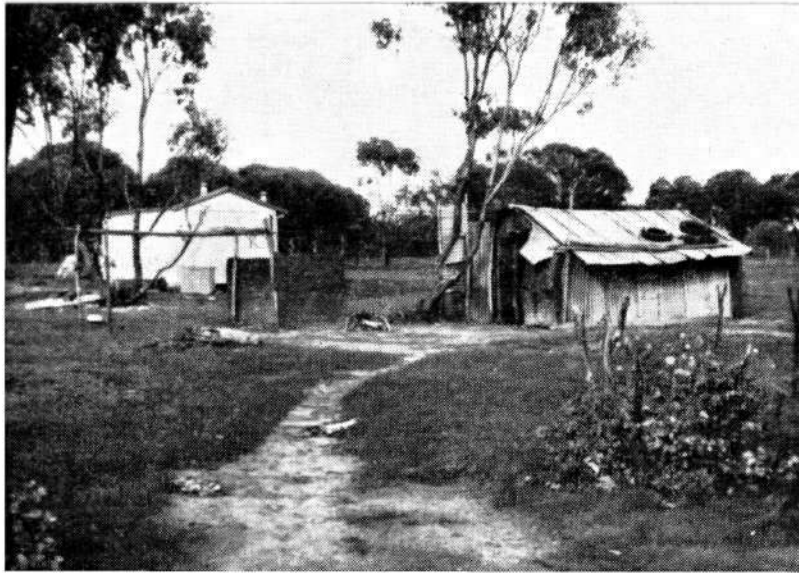
It is not, however, the policy of the Department to provide such homes, when available, on native reserves. At the present time the plan in my District is to concentrate on providing at each of these centres of communal living, the basic facilities of a water supply, toilets, ablution and laundry blocks on each reserve. In the section of this Report relating to "Reserves" I have adequately described the progress in this direction and stated the present position in regard to existing and intended provision of such facilities.

For dwellers on Reserves, local Native Welfare Committees, where they exist, are proving most helpful in trying to provide some improvement in housing. At Narrogin and Katanning the local Native Welfare Committees have built two cottages each; at Wagin and Gnowangerup the local Committees have planned and are shortly to commence construction of two small cottages with materials provided by the Committees, augmented with materials from my second-hand materials dump at Narrogin. At Mt. Barker the local Committee have built a cottage and five open-front shelters. These latter are being reconstructed into closed two-roomed cottages by the District Mobile Welfare Officer to whose activities reference will be made again later.

A welcome addition to the efforts to improve the living conditions of natives is provided by enlightened farmers such as Mr. Vic. Watts and Mr. Leon Watts of Pingelly, and Mr. Tom Cowcher of Geeralying, and quite a few others who have built comfortable and substantial little cottages for their permanent native employees. Below are photographs of the two cottages very recently completed by Mr. Cowcher. These are in addition to another built a few years earlier and being occupied by Mr. Cowcher's native foreman. These are examples that could well be followed by other farmers who have permanent or semi-permanent native employees.



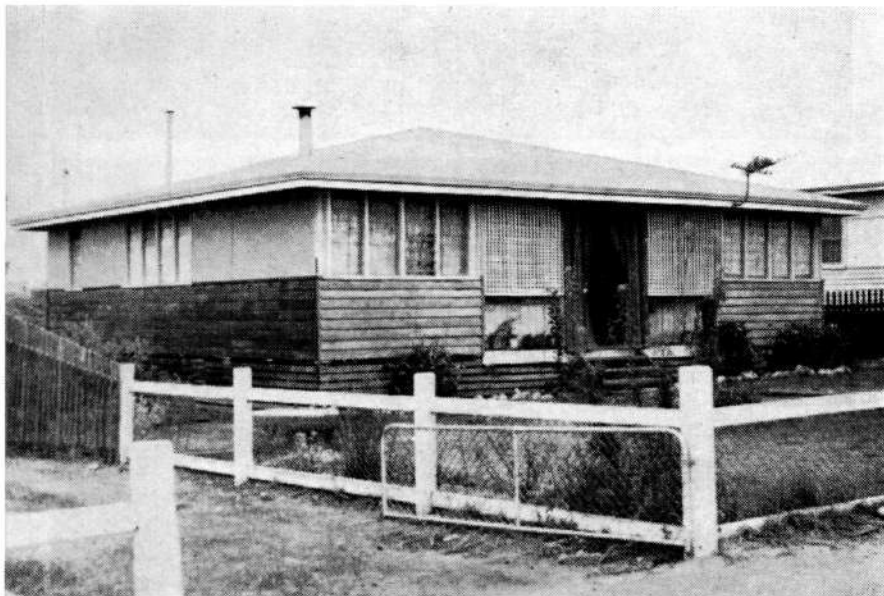
View of 2 cottages built by Mr. T. Cowcher, Geeralying for native employees



On the same property—looking from the old to the new home

Inevitably there will be failures in the experiment to house people who, in the generality of cases, have known nothing better than a tent or a humpy for a home. But, unless the incentive is provided for better living and the principle of trial and error applied there is no way of knowing the potential of our southern hybrids to improve their and their children's standards. Certain it is that housing must keep pace with education for which unlimited opportunity and scope is provided for the State's native children today. Unless these children, several of whom are at present completing their secondary education with a view to career employment, have improved housing and living conditions as well as definite prospects of better things to come in this respect, we can only expect continued inferior standards from them when they come to adulthood and parenthood—in other words, continued social degradation.

As evidence of the failures in the housing of natives, there are those who will cite cases of eviction from and voluntary vacating of homes already provided (fully reported last year). There has been a further eviction this year and two more ordered by the Courts to be evicted. But against these failures there are several cases of successful home ownership at various centres in the Great Southern. Below is a photograph of one such home at Narrogin—the type 79A home of Mr. W. Hayward.



Type 79A home built at Narrogin—one of four such homes occupied by native families in this town

HOUSING STATISTICS

Since the inception of the housing scheme for natives 197 applications have been received by the State Housing Commission. Statistics as at 30th June, 1959, show :—

Applied since inception of scheme	197
Refused	2
Withdrawn	25
Under consideration	56
Granted homes since vacated or evicted ..	39
Homes at present occupied	75

MOBILE WELFARE CLINICS

This welfare experiment has proved to be so outstandingly successful that the scheme will be expanded as soon as possible. The first unit to be established (on 1st October, 1956) continues to give splendid service to natives living permanently or temporarily on country town reserves, and to be helpful also to white residents who may be directly or indirectly concerned with natives, particularly those in employment or who are seeking employment.

During the year the *No. 1 Mobile Clinic* was employed on the following reserves :—

Kellerberrin ; Merredin ; Tammin ; Allawah Grove experimental housing settlement (Perth) ; Moora ; Pinjarra ; Shackleton.

The everyday work carried out by Mr. J. Halford, Officer-in-charge, and his energetic wife is typified by the following extract from his diary :—

“ Repaired, whitewashed and painted native homes ; cleaned up reserve and carted away rubbish ; transported sick natives to and from hospitals.

Discussed native welfare matters with local authorities, protectors, police and other officials and interested town's people.

Addressed public gathering on native matters.

Arranged for employment of natives.

Assisted health officers with polio immunisation, supervision of trachoma treatment, etc.

Distributed rations, clothing and blankets, cut hair, visited natives in hospitals. Attended courts to watch natives' interests. Assisted native mothers with collection and expenditure of child endowment and other social service benefits.”

Appreciation of their work has been manifested in many ways by both white and natives of the district in which they worked. Extracts from Mr. Halford's daily journal speak for themselves, thus :—

“ Today a native family who are at present shearing at Nukarni returned to Kellerberrin to say goodbye to Mrs. Halford and myself. Explaining the visit the husband said he had heard the mobile clinic was leaving the Kellerberrin District and he and his wife felt they had to see us again to thank us for the help we had given them and wish us goodbye.”

On the date of the annual Kellerberrin Show Mr. Halford comments :—

“ We were pleasantly surprised when our people returned from the Show to find they brought us little novelties to mark the occasion.

A box of handkerchiefs presented to Mrs. Halford by the children of Tom Davis.”

The clinic's work with natives was widely publicised in country newspapers, an outstanding example being a lengthy article which appeared in several country newspapers. Erroneously the article inferred that the Halfords were operating as an independent, private venture, similar to an itinerant mission.

Through his journals Mr. John Halford has frequently expressed gratitude for the valuable help which local authorities have given in making available transport, equipment and materials in the work of the clinic. Friendly co-operation has also been received from police officers and the public generally.

Mr. and Mrs. Halford have found in visiting country districts for the first time, that once the "ice has been broken" native families have been eager to confide in them and ask for assistance and guidance in their many domestic, social and economic problems. In some places natives have been expecting the clinic to come and have given it enthusiastic welcome on its arrival at the reserve.

Mr. Halford says :—

"There is growing evidence everywhere that most coloured people are trying to improve their living standards. Many mothers are working against terrific handicaps to make things better for their children."

Mobile Welfare Clinic No. 2

The District Officer, Southern, reports :—

"The Department's Mobile Welfare Unit No. 2 was ready for the road on 25th September, 1958. This Unit, under Mr. H. G. Moorhouse as Mobile Welfare Officer, was allotted to the Southern District to work under the direction of the District Officer.

Similar to the No. 1 mobile clinic the unit comprises a caravan fitted with a bunk, table and seats which convert into another bunk, a wardrobe, stove, sink and refrigerator. The traction unit is an International motor utility. This Unit is designed to make the Mobile Welfare Officer self-contained and independent of hotel accommodation. In fact, it is provided expressly with a view to enable him to camp in the vicinity of his work.

The Mobile Welfare Officer, Mr. Moorhouse, has had long experience in the field of welfare work before taking on his present assignment. Prior to and during the war a welfare worker in Melbourne, Mr. Moorhouse is also a qualified builder and carpenter. Whilst at Katanning he was chairman of the Katanning Native Welfare Committee and was appointed Protector at that important centre of native population.

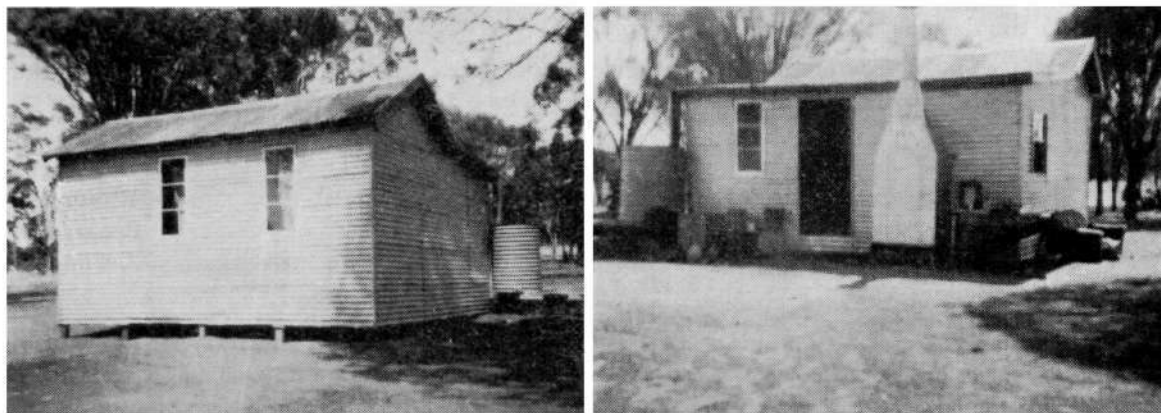
Whilst a temporary Patrol Officer stationed at Laverton, Mr. Moorhouse and Patrol Officer Johnson, with a Health and Lands and Surveys Department team, made a combined patrol of the Central Desert Reserve.

The Mobile Welfare Unit is therefore in the hands of an experienced, capable and sincere officer.

In his report published below, Mr. Moorhouse has described his activities in this district since the inception of the Mobile Welfare Unit. I wish to make special reference to the projects at Darkan and Mt. Barker undertaken by the Mobile Welfare Officer.

At Darkan from where repeated reports were received that the two native children, brothers, attending the school there, were always attending in an unsatisfactory condition, inspection by the District Officer revealed most unsatisfactory housing and living conditions as being responsible for this state of affairs. The parents were too poor and incapable of making any improvement. Committal action in the children's interests appeared the only solution. The time coincided with the Mobile Unit's arrival in the district. The Mobile Welfare Officer was sent to Darkan in an effort to avoid this step. When the local people were aware of the purpose of the visit, co-operation was forthcoming from all directions, including the Local Authority and the local timber mill. From the latter, much of the timber was forthcoming to build better accommodation for this badly off native family. The rest of the materials were provided from my dump at Narrogin where three rail truck loads of second-hand building materials donated by the Public Works Department in Perth, 60 tons in all, are stored.

The result of this effort by M. Moorhouse is shown in the pictures below. The family have a comfortable cottage, described by Mr. Moorhouse in his report, complete with timber floor, lino and donated furniture, including good beds and bedding for the two boys, 10 and 12 years of age. Their dress and turnout at school are no longer a problem and the family appear to be completely rehabilitated as a result of this action.

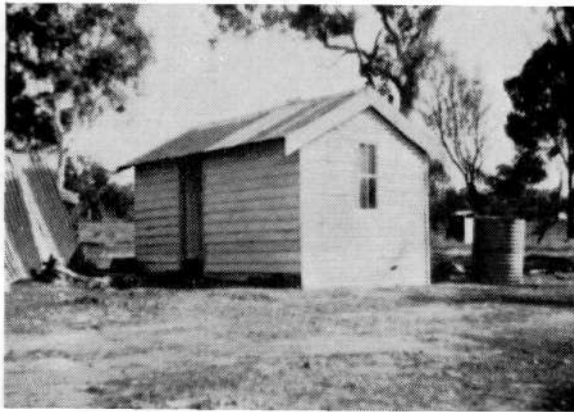


The Mingo's cottage at Darkan



Mingo's previous abode

Whilst at Darkan, another native family living there, comprising a man and his wife, sought the Mobile Welfare Officer's help to improve their living conditions. The result of Mr. Moorhouse's assistance is shown in the photographs hereunder.



The Hart's new cottage



Their former camp

Sydney Hart contributed by purchasing some of the timber and all the flooring for his two-roomed cottage himself and by putting in much time assisting the Mobile Officer on the job—as also did Jacob Mingo. Since Mr. Moorhouse left Darkan, Hart, goaded on by his newly improved standards, has himself added a lean-to verandah to his cottage.

Apart from the benefits to the two native families involved, the Department has earned considerable goodwill at Darkan by this effort.

At Mt. Barker the Unit is engaged on its first major project on the Native Reserve there. The local Apex Club, in conjunction with the Mt. Barker Native Welfare Committee, had built four, one-room, open front, corrugated iron shelter sheds on this reserve. Earlier the Welfare

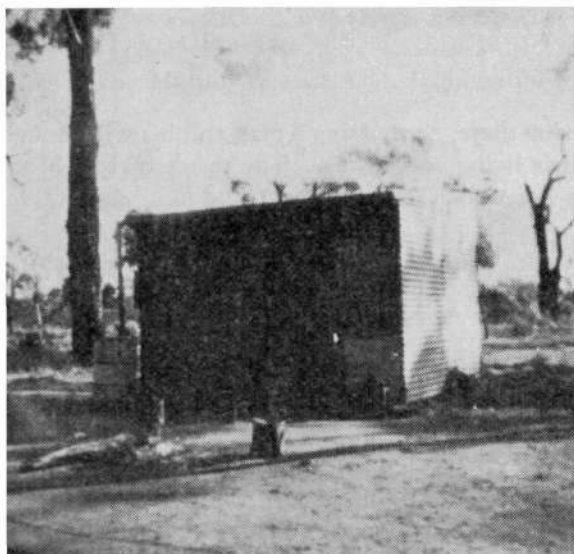
Committee had also built a similar shed and a small two-room cottage for native families. Already, Mr. Moorhouse has repaired and renovated the cottage, including painting it with the assistance of the occupier. This cottage is pictured below.



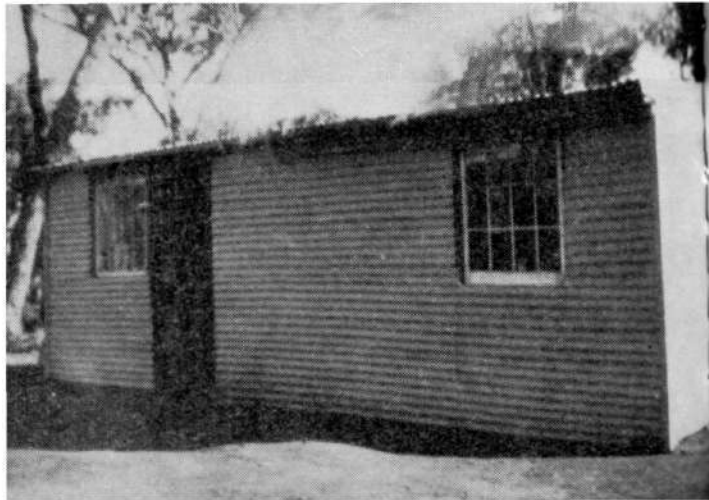
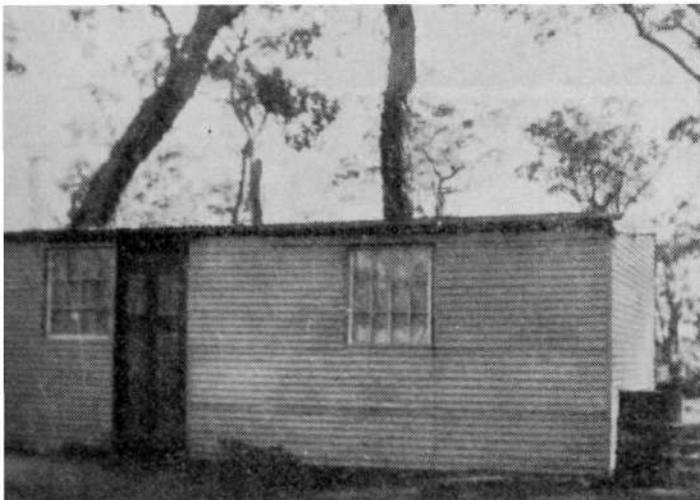
Cottage renovated, repaired and painted by Mobile Welfare Officer

Altering four of the five shelters into two-room cottages has also been commenced. Two of the cottages are nearly ready for occupation.

Pictures below show originals and improvements.



Two of the five shelter sheds on Mt. Barker Native Reserve before improvement



Two views of a shelter shed transformed into a two roomed cottage. Mt. Barker Native Reserve

Already furniture and household effects, even a carpet, have been donated at Mt. Barker for the first cottage completed on the Reserve there by Mr. Moorhouse.

Improving housing is only one of the many duties of the Mobile Welfare Officer. He also imparts instruction in home and personal hygiene, simple cooking and infant health, sprays heads and camps, attends to cleanliness of the Reserve he happens to be working on, advises native residents on reserves on simple budgetting, and a variety of other matters affecting their overall welfare.

The Mobile Welfare Officer's report follows :—

'The Mobile Clinic Unit was taken over on the 25th September, 1958. Arrangements had been previously made for the obtaining of large quantities of used second-hand corrugated iron from surplus stores depot at Fremantle Public Works Department. Also available were baths, sinks, stoves and other similar items useful in native cottages. A truck load of second grade timber from State Building Supplies was also procured and arrangements made to send to Narrogin.

One must express appreciation to the local protector of natives at Narrogin, Mr. Ralph Holmes, who made available a portion of his land to be used as a store dump for the timber, iron and other articles.

A short period was spent at Narrogin where general welfare and other work was carried out. A cottage on the reserve erected by the local Welfare Council was empty and needed renovation and repairs. This was attended to as well as other similar matters on the same reserve.

We then went to Gnowangerup and Borden where at the latter place some vital hygiene matters were attended to, and suggestions made re spraying of school during vacation. We understand that these welfare suggestions were acted upon.

The local Native Welfare Committee at Gnowangerup were met and plans made by them to build two or three small cottages on the reserve. To this end they sent a vehicle to Narrogin and we supplied a load of timber, iron, doors, sashes, etc.

When Health Inspector Davies from Wagin, later visited Darkan, when the Unit was there, he saw the possibilities and value of the work, and so arrangements were made for the local Native Welfare Committee at Wagin to obtain some corrugated iron, timber, doors, sashes, etc. from Narrogin to enable them to erect small cottages for natives on the Wagin reserve.

The unit proceeded to Darkan where the need for better living conditions was most apparent, especially with regard to the children attending the local school.

The local timber mill were behind the spirit of the practical welfare work and assisted greatly with the help of scantling for the much needed cottages. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.

A small cottage consisting of two bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom, was erected for one of the families whose two boys, aged about 10 and 12 years, attended the local school. Other features included were, wooden dado in kitchen, squatter's chimney and built-in stove, a built-in cupboard and small water tank for catching and holding water. The plasterboard lining also assisted to make a comfortable but not elaborate abode.

Donated second-hand furniture and lino helped to give this family a much needed start towards a better living standard. The occupier worked very well all the time that he was available. The photos give an idea of how the need was met. A smaller two-roomed cottage was erected for a married couple.

The beds and mattresses obtained from Government surplus stores have been a great asset in the trend of better living conditions ; these with the cheap blankets made available for sale to the natives form a vital step in a more comparable way of living.

Brookton and Beverley were visited and general welfare work done. Beds and mattresses were used to advantage in this area. In many cases, the only thing needed to put the beds in good order is a coat of paint or enamel.

Mt. Barker is the centre where the Mobile Welfare Clinic is at present working. The local native Welfare Committee members are keen to see the natives helped and uplifted. Five shelters and a small cottage erected by Apex and themselves have proved helpful in sheltering the natives in this cooler or colder area. The Welfare Clinic is seeking to enlarge the shelters and make them into two-roomed cottages with windows, doors, fireplaces with stoves and suitably lined for warmth. The cottage already erected, has been renovated, supervision and help being given to the occupants in this regard.

Four of the five have been commenced, and two partly completed. Furniture and other articles have been donated by interested friends, and we feel that when finished, these places will be a valuable asset in, oft-times, the beginning of a home life.

One is grateful for the help received from interested friends in this and other districts, also the co-operation from the Health Department in supplying sprays, etc., as needed in this work.

We feel that at least in some small measure we have been able to meet a vital need in the welfare of the native.

H. MOORHOUSE,
Welfare Officer.' "

Mobile Welfare Clinic No. 3

In his Annual Report the District Officer, North Central (Murchison) District writes :—

“Unfortunately, the usual shortage of money has prevented the establishment of this District’s Mobile Welfare Unit so far, but it has been promised early in the new financial year.

NOTE.—An order has been placed with the Public Works Department for the supply of a steel-framed, fully equipped caravan which when completed will be coupled to a Land Rover already available and will become Mobile Welfare Unit No. 3. It will be detailed to the North Central District.

A considerable proportion of the natives living and working in Murchison Townships are now capable of earning full award rate of pay, but many of them lack the knowledge which would enable them to spend their earnings in the most beneficial way. This is one of the many ways in which the Mobile Welfare Unit will be able to help these people. Instruction in caring for children is also required, and there are many other obvious ways in which a sympathetic married couple in a Mobile Unit will be able to advise and assist.”

NATIVE RESERVES

North-West District

Carnarvon.—There have been no major improvements since last annual report.

Basic facilities are provided and accommodation consists of one nissen hut and two small open-ended structures (earth floor).

It is gratifying to see the effort made by natives living on the reserve to make “homes” out of bough sheds and it is considered that they have now reached a stage of advancement where a better standard of housing is essential to promote their welfare.

There have been three “Geraldton” type native dwellings included in the estimates submitted for 1959–60.

Three school age children living on the native reserve attend school at Carnarvon.

Gascoyne Junction.—Action has been commenced to have an area of land at Gascoyne Junction proclaimed a native reserve.

An amount to cover the building of basic facilities thereon has been included in the 1959–60 estimates.

Onslow.—There has been an increase in the number of persons using this reserve. Trees planted were all eaten by straying goats. More trees have now been planted and lawn, and a fence erected to keep the goats out. A tree planting campaign already started will give shelter on this otherwise very arid reserve. The new buildings are being well looked after and are greatly appreciated by the natives who use them.

Roebourne Reserve.—There has been no change in facilities on this reserve, but there has been an increase of population. The planned building of huts and other amenities will serve a very urgent need.

Port Hedland.—The nissen hut was completed during the year and a small stove installed for use in winter. The reserve is not crowded and is generally very well kept. It is occupied by a number of old and unsophisticated natives and constant oversight is necessary to keep conditions up to standard.

Marble Bar.—There has been a large increase in the number of natives using this reserve this year. The average figure would be approximately 60. The increase is due largely to unemployment. A windmill to supply water from the well is now almost complete. A rubbish service has been inaugurated to bring this reserve into line with all the others in the district. A hut is planned for the coming year.

North Central District

With the following exceptions reserves in this district remain as described last year :—

Geraldton.—Two additional houses are in course of erection. They are railway "bunk-houses" which have been transported from Howatharra, a siding on a disused railway line, and re-erected. They are quite suitable for the purpose, and many more could be used if they were available.

The panstead lavatories were converted to a septic system during the year.

Mingenew.—Considerable difficulty has been experienced with the water supply, but arrangements have been completed to have an improvement effected, through the kind co-operation of the Midland Railway Company.

Mullewa.—This reserve is used by so many people, and the ground is so impervious, that disposal of waste water becomes a recurring problem. The situation is kept under constant observation by the local health authority, and by the Public Works Department and appropriate steps are taken as the need arises.

Yalgoo.—The water supply equipment is functioning satisfactorily and has made it possible to convert the panstead lavatories to a septic system. A standard ablution-laundry block has also been erected.

Mount Magnet.—The long awaited ablution-laundry block and W.C.'s have now been completed.

General.—In spite of the considerable expenditure already incurred on these reserves, a great deal remains to be done. The Cue reserve, which now heads the priority list, has no special facilities at all, and the recently gazetted Sandstone reserve lacks a water supply, although this has now been approved. Most of the reserves require accommodation for transient natives and for those people who have no alternative at present but to live on reserves. This subject is discussed in more detail under "Housing."

Central District

Reserves in the Central Sub-district still total 12, but with an important policy change regarding reserves made in the early part of 1959, new reserves for housing only are to be acquired.

During the year under review and indeed the year prior to this, negotiations have been proceeding for the establishment of a camping and housing reserve at Quairading. This centre, the district of which has a large native population, has no reserve at present and over the past two or three years controversy over indiscriminate camping has highlighted the problem. Agreement on a site has been reached, but action to gazette the area is still incomplete. Co-operation by the Quairading Road Board has materially assisted in the selection of the site and their promised assistance with buildings, clearing, etc., will make the establishment of the reserve a much smoother operation.

Meanwhile, work on improving reserve facilities is well in hand. Approvals were obtained during the year for work on the Moora Reserve (£120 for laundry and water supply), Pinjarra (£120 drainage), Merredin (£250 water reticulation, £350 for laundry). In addition the Mobile Welfare Clinic No. 1 spent time on Merredin, Moora and Pinjarra Reserves, improving the huts of the families resident on each, and at Moora, installing bath-houses with second-hand plunge baths, so that mothers can really get down to the job of washing children. An unheated shower is cold comfort for adults and children alike and is certainly no invitation to cleanliness in cold winter months. A hot bath with water heated in the laundry copper, has proved a most welcome innovation and at Moora their popularity is such that families have found it necessary to book the bath-house in advance.

It is felt that each populated reserve in the sub-district is now adequately serviced with the minimum facilities for their residents, but feel also that the evolution of more responsible family groups hastened by the very fact of the provision of these serviced reserves, has reached the stage where they need something more. It is hoped that individual houses on a separate housing reserve will meet this need and prepare the families for eventual assimilation into normal houses in white communities.

Unofficial native camping areas also figure in the work of this Department. At Shackleton in co-operation with the Bruce Rock Road Board, this Department is re-building a number of native huts, extending and re-building showers, lavatories, etc., on a reserve originally set aside for the preservation of flora and fauna and used by locals as a source of gravel and a dumping place for rubbish. An official reserve at this town is not warranted owing to the small number of people involved. Other such unofficial reserves are at Tammin and Goomalling while a well-ordered camping reserve situated between Kellerberrin and Doodlakine is used exclusively by natives and people of native extraction.

The vexing question of a site for a reserve for natives in the Metropolitan Area received a year long airing, but I regret to record that at this point we are no nearer a solution than at the outset.

Some statistics for reserves in this Sub-district are given below :—

Reserve	Type	Population		Total
		Permanent	Itinerant	
Moora	Official	88	30	118
Pinjarra	Official	43	10	53
Merredin	Official	45	30	75
Kellerberrin	Official	25	10	35
Doodlakine	Unofficial	70	25	95
Tammin	Unofficial	10	..	10
Northam	Official	15	10	25
Goomalling	Unofficial	50	20	70
Toodyay	Official .. ..	..	..	..
York	Official	20	5	25
Badjaling	Official	15	20	35
Shackleton	Unofficial	20	10	30
Muckinbudin	Official .. ..	..	40	40
Watheroo	Unofficial	20	5	25
		401	215	616

In the Eastern Goldfields the situation as at the 30th June, 1959, was :—

Reserve	Facilities	Comment
Kalgoorlie	Standard facilities	
Southern Cross	Two pan type lavatories	In bad repair. Reserve not used.
Kurrawang	Standard facilities	
Norseman	Stand pipe only	Reserve not used.
Esperance .. ..	.. ..	Reserve not used.
Leonora	Standard facilities	
Laverton	Standard facilities	
Point Salvation .. ..	.. ..	Reserve not used.
Central Reserve		
Mulga Queen (3 Reserves)		

All the Missions are situated on Reserves.

In all, in the Sub-district there are 18 reserves gazetted under the Native Welfare Act. Thirteen of those reserves are camping reserves for natives and 5 are reserves for Mission purposes.

Other than the above there is a camp for pensioners at Coolgardie which is not situated on a native reserve, but which has had facilities provided by the joint effort of the Coolgardie Road Board and the Native Welfare Department.

The Dundas Road Board is still negotiating for provision of facilities for transient natives at Salmon Gums on a similar basis of joint responsibility as those at Coolgardie. As yet no agreement has been satisfactorily reached.

Southern District

There are 23 Native Reserves in the district, of these 4 are Missions and the remaining 19 are camping grounds for natives. During the year under review one new Native Reserve was gazetted, that of Narrogin; no existing reserve was cancelled. A new reserve at Beverley is about to be gazetted. When the new reserves at Beverley and Narrogin are occupied the two existing reserves at these places will be cancelled. The reserves at Wandering and Broomehill are not used.

During the year under report the building of complete facilities for the Pingelly and Williams Reserves were commenced. These comprise septic system toilets for both sexes and ablution-laundry facilities. Both these towns are connected to the Great Southern Comprehensive Water Scheme. The Collie Apex Club is building similar facilities on the Collie Reserve with materials

supplied by the Government. The Mount Barker Reserve was connected during the year to that town's water scheme, thus obviating the need to cart water to the reserve, which was a regular and expensive procedure hitherto.

The overall position is that of the 19 camping reserves, 12 are already connected to the local water schemes, and four are to be connected in the forthcoming year. Water carting has now been done away with altogether. Ten reserves have complete facilities (besides water supply), e.g., lavatories, laundry and showers, and four have part facilities, namely, water supply and toilets only. One reserve, Beverley, has no facilities at all. Three of these five reserves are to be provided with complete facilities in the forthcoming year; these are at Beverley, Brookton and Borden.

During the year the Narrogin Municipal Council undertook to construct the new facilities to be put up on the new Narrogin Reserve with materials to be supplied by the Government. This is the first local authority in this district to undertake this complete job at no charge to the Government.

An offer to put in free of charge the water supply required for the Borden Native Reserve has been received and accepted from the Gnowangerup Road Board, which Board has also undertaken to build the facilities for cost of labour.

In the same generous vein the Tambellup Road Board constructed free of charge, with materials provided by the Government, the ablution-laundry block on the Tambellup Native Reserve.

These gestures by the three Road Boards named above are greatly appreciated and are a positive contribution to the well-being of the native residents of the districts concerned. May they serve as an example to other local authorities.

NATIVES AND SOCIAL SERVICES

On the occasion when State and Commonwealth native welfare authorities first met in conference at Canberra, viz., April, 1937, it was resolved, "That all natives of less than full blood be eligible to receive invalid and old age pensions and maternity allowance on the recommendation of the State authority to whom the grant should be made in trust for the individual."

Similar resolutions were agreed to by the 1948 and 1951 Canberra conferences.

The current Social Services Consolidation Act replaced a considerable number of repealed Acts dating back to the Invalid and Old Age Pensions Act of 1908, copies of which are unfortunately not available to the writer. It is apparent, however, that pensions were being paid to some aboriginal natives prior to the passing of the present Act, because the Department's files record the protest of a former Commissioner of Native Affairs, the late Mr. A. O. Neville, over the Commonwealth Government's refusal to "continue the pension or any part of the pension when native pensioners were sent to an institution." As a consequence the State Premier wrote to the Prime Minister under date, 24th November, 1939, requesting consideration of the Department's claim that native pensioners in institutions be permitted to retain their pensions. The Prime Minister replied (29th February, 1940) in the following terms: "The Invalid and Old-Age Pension Act specifically debar aboriginal natives of Australia from the grant of pensions. This provision has been in force since the inception of Commonwealth Invalid and Old-Age Pensions in 1908 and a similar provision was contained in those State Acts which were in operation prior to 1908." After going on to explain at some length his Legal Authorities' interpretation of the legislation then in force, the Prime Minister wound up his letter with the statement that ". . . in these circumstances, it is not thought desirable to depart from the policy which has been followed since the inception of invalid and old-age pensions of refusing pension benefits to persons with 50 per cent. or less aboriginal blood who reside on aboriginal reserves." The Commonwealth Legislation had always debarred natives with more than 50 per cent. aboriginal blood from receiving pensions and allowances in any circumstances.

An amendment to the Invalid and Old-Age Pensions Act in 1943 made provision for pensions to be paid to natives who had been "exempted from the provisions of the law of the State . . . in which he resides relating to the control of aboriginal natives." This amendment was not at the time and for many years afterwards regarded as being satisfactory to natives or the Department because exemption from the Welfare Act of the State disqualified the native concerned from receiving benefits from the Native Welfare Department under its Act and legally debarring him from associating with natives who were not first degree relatives.

The number of grossly anomalous and sometimes distressing cases which the Department continued to experience over the years caused it to repeatedly take the matter up with the Commonwealth Government authorities, but always without success.

Under date 12th October, 1949, and following upon representations made to the Hon. Minister for the Interior (the Hon. H. V. Johnson) by Sir Ross McDonald, Minister for Native Affairs, the late Rt. Hon. J. B. Chifley, Prime Minister, advised: "The Minister for Social Services feels that the existing position under which the eligibility of aboriginal natives for pensions and maternity allowances depends upon the grant of exemption from State control laws is as satisfactory a basis as may be devised at present and ensures uniform, equitable and consistent administration. The whole question is, however, to receive further consideration as soon as practicable."

Reference to the subject in public, and in the Department's published reports at this time caused a quickening of public interest in the subject of native welfare generally and the treatment of natives in regard to pensions and allowances payments was the subject of much correspondence and frequent submissions to the State and Commonwealth Governments. The Department continued unsuccessfully to press for amendments to the social services legislation instancing many cases of individual hardship among natives because of the Commonwealth Legislation.

In June, 1954, a ruling by the Solicitor General revised the previously held opinion that an exempted native in this State was deemed to be no longer a native for the purpose of the Native Welfare Act, and ruled that he would still be entitled to the benefits of the welfare provisions of the Act. Shortly afterwards it was decided that the Department would assist natives of this State to receive pensions and allowances by granting them a Certificate of Exemption, thus making them eligible according to the several pieces of advice received from two Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth and Ministers and officials of the Social Services Department.

An appreciable number of natives received pensions and allowances as a consequence of this changed procedure, but the discretionary powers vested in officers of the Social Services Department (which were freely used in particular regard to living standards and social and economic development) limited the numbers in such way that the Native Welfare Department was forced to maintain many *bona fide* pensioners by inadequate subsidy grants to missions and rationing and general care elsewhere. The burden on the Department's vote, added to that caused by unemployment during recent years, has been a very heavy one.

On 27th August, 1958, the following letter was received by the Hon. the Premier of this State from the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies: "The Premier of Queensland has raised with me once more the question of eligibility of Australian aborigines for Commonwealth Social Service benefits.

"I have replied to him that I think there is common ground between governments that, if a reasonable administrative solution can be worked out, the eligibility of aborigines for benefits could be extended and that I should be glad to have from him specific suggestions as to how this could be done, as applied to his particular State.

"I have pleasure in extending a similar invitation to you. When all Premiers have answered, I propose to ask our Department of Social Services to have detailed discussions with State Officers."

A detailed statement of disabilities suffered by natives in this State under interpretations of the Social Services Act was drawn up by officers of this Department and forwarded to the Prime Minister by the Premier.

Under date 6th February, 1959, the first request for detailed information and statistics from the Director-General of Social Services was received at this office and subsequently complied with, and early in April I had the pleasure of meeting the Assistant Director-General (Mr. N. C. Tritton) and his officers, together with the State Director of Social Services (Mr. Humphries) and Mr. Jenkinson in conference for discussions on the Prime Minister's proposal. The Commonwealth party was visiting each State concerned. No advice had been received of a decision by the Hon. Minister for Social Services up till the end of the financial year under report, but a Press announcement on 10th July, 1959, announced in the name of the Minister that "Australian aborigines are to be granted age, invalid and widows' pensions and maternity allowances on the same basis as whites, unless they are nomadic or primitive."

It is anticipated that all eligible natives who are not desert nomads, or who would otherwise be living in such circumstances as to make the payment of pensions and allowances to them to be impracticable and inadvisable will in the near future be in receipt of social services benefits. Plans for the organisation of a comprehensive system of administrative supervision and distribution of social service payments had already been devised by the Department and are now in process of implementation. Among other requirements will be the appointment of additional supervisory staff and a number of warrantees, mainly in respect to pensioners and beneficiaries living on missions, pastoral properties and supervised native reserves. It is anticipated that approximately 1,100 natives will receive, either directly or through warrantees, upwards of £250,000 per annum in this State. A similar amount is already being received by natives whose applications under the existing procedure were successful.

Extracts from the reports of officers of the Field Welfare Division on this subject follow:—

North-West District (Mr. A. O. Day)

"Today, it is rare to find a woman who does not receive endowment for her children. In addition there are 40 persons receiving pensions within the district. Unemployment benefit applications and workers' compensation claims have benefited natives during the last few years where as recently as 1953 none was paid. Natives have become aware of their entitlements in these matters and are learning also in many instances to improve their standard of living as a result. The Assistant District Officer, Gascoyne Sub-district reports:—

"Almost without exception, native mothers are aware of child endowment benefits, and approach this office for assistance in lodging claims. Much time is also spent in sorting out adjustments of endowment and queries from the Department of Social Services."

The work of assisting natives to complete all manner of social services claims and resulting correspondence which is entailed, has taken up more of individual officers time during the last year than ever before.

Social Services Statistics for the district are :—

Number of Pension Applications 1958-59	44
Pension Applications previous to 1958-59	27
Total applications	71
Successful Applications 1958-59	19
Successful Applications previous to 1958-59	21
Total number in receipt	40
Number of rejected claims 1958-59	6
Number of rejected claims previous to 1958-59	6
Number of applications pending results	19

In addition to the above, there are approximately 275 families receiving Child Endowment in the district."

North Central District (Mr. F. E. Gare)

"The policy of taking full advantage of Federal Social Service Legislation has been continued and, as a result, the number of persons in receipt of full-time Departmental assistance is now very small—other than those on Missions. At present most of the latter are not eligible for pensions.

Unemployment, mainly in the first half of the year, necessitated a certain amount of short-term rationing, but the position in this regard is reasonably satisfactory at the present moment. It is also necessary to support from time to time, the dependants of natives gaoled for various offences, and to provide relief on the event of illness, etc."

Central District (Mr. B. A. McLarty)

"Where possible natives have been assisted to apply for Social Service Benefits to which they are entitled.

Age, Invalid and Widows' Pensions have been obtained for eligible natives and in numerous cases Child Endowment and Maternity Allowance have been successfully claimed.

In some cases other Social Service benefits have been obtained and in a number of cases where possible Workers' Compensation has been obtained.

There is an increasing awareness of entitlement."

Southern District (Mr. C. R. Wright Webster)

"Field and Office Staff of this district have assisted natives with their claims for various types of Social Service Benefits. This year 351 cases were so assisted as against 242 cases last year—an increase of 109 cases representing a substantial sum in Commonwealth financial assistance. With the promised liberalisation of the Commonwealth's attitude in regard to Pensions and other Social Services for natives it is expected that with the increase of Commonwealth expenditure on assistance and relief to natives, State expenditure will considerably decrease.

Below is a list of the 351 cases assisted as stated above. These 351 cases are in addition to the 242 cases assisted last year.

Age Pension	6
Invalid Pension	2
Widow's Pension	2
Unemployment Benefit	80
Sickness Benefit	10
Maternity Allowance	115
Child Endowment	136
	351 "

ANTHROPOLOGY AND TRIBAL MATTERS

Northern Desert Natives

The following brief but interesting notes on the migrational trend of natives moving in to the Balgo Mission Station (approximately 150 miles South of Hall's Creek) have been extracted from the annual report of the Superintendent, Rev. Father McGuire :—

"When the Mission was first established here the people belonged to the Walmadjeri tribe. Over the years this tribe has continued to move northwards and today we find the people here at Balgo are composed entirely of Gogadja tribe. For the first time the Mission proved to be a

buffer station or point of contact before the people entered civilisation. The "passing out" of the Gogadja tribe will not be so swift. They are directly from the desert and are thought to be among the most primitive Australian natives so far encountered by whites."

North-West District

It is reported that there appears to be a constant decrease in interest in tribal matters on the part of natives in the Gascoyne-Ashburton-Pilbara Sub-districts.

North Central District

"In October, 1957, a patrol from this district penetrated for some distance into the "desert" north-east of Lake Carnegie in search of a source of permanent water known to the natives as "Windu." It seems probable that the spot is in the close vicinity of Mt. Madley, but our fuel and water supplies were not sufficient in sand-hill country where a Land Rover averages 5 miles per gallon and 5 miles per hour, to enable us to reach that locality.

It has not been possible since to return to the area, but vague reports filtering out from the desert suggest that our guide at the time, Dangi, is dead. The cause of his death (if, in fact, he is dead) is said to have been due to some tribal offence committed by him, but the real facts will probably not be known until the area can be visited again.

Regarding an improved water supply, which is the main need of the nomadic people in this apparently untouched (by Europeans) tract of country, the outcome of enquiries now being made concerning the "Tsoma" melon of South-West Africa may prove of interest. It seems that this melon grows readily in the Kalahari Desert and has the special property that, instead of decomposing after ripening, the rind hardens and preserves the watery interior for a considerable period. The melons lie on top of the sand long after the parent plant has withered away, and, by all accounts, provide the bushmen of the area with a valuable source of liquid fit for human consumption. It remains to be seen whether seeds can be obtained, and, if so, whether the plant will grow successfully in the Australian interior.

In the West Murchison, tribal influences are diminishing, but one "man making" ceremony took place north of Mullewa during the year."

The Assistant District Officer at Meekatharra reports:—

"Corroborees were again held at Wiluna during the year, and again no incidents warranting suppression were found. Two tribal burials took place during the year, permission having been granted by the Coroner and Local Authorities. Tribal affiliation with Jigalong, Mulga Queen, Leonora and, to some extent, Kalgoorlie and Laverton was evident since these centres all come under a common culture."

Eastern Goldfields Sub-district

In the Eastern Goldfields area there was only one tribal gathering during the year. It was held in the Leonora-Malcolm area and was attended by a number of "spinifex" natives from north of the Transcontinental area, members of the so-called "lost" Pithanda tribe. (See reference in "Introduction" this report.)

GENERAL MATTERS

On the 12th August, 1958, the report of the Special Committee on Native Matters was tabled in the House of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

The Committee was formed as the result of a resolution passed in Parliament towards the close of the 1957 session, the main purpose of the Committee being to ascertain what finance was required to provide adequately for native welfare in our State.

Report was followed with an approach by the State to the Commonwealth for a special grant spread over three years. The normal expenditure made by the State would continue.

The carrying out of the recommendations of the Committee would obviously be dependent upon a special allocation being made to the State since an amount of money in excess of two million pounds spread over a three-year period was involved.

District Officers' Conference

The third conference of District Welfare Officers of the Department was held in the Commissioner's office at Perth during the week commencing 14th March, 1959. It was chaired by the Commissioner and attended by the Deputy Commissioner and District Officers stationed at Derby, Port Hedland, Geraldton, Perth and Narrogin. Officers representing Health, Education, Child Welfare, Treasury and Police Departments and the Public Service Commissioner's office attended and discussed matters of native welfare and native administration significance and interest.

Representatives of the major mission bodies operating in the State also were present.

The Conference was outstandingly successful and beneficial to all who were in attendance. Among the resolutions passed the following may be listed as representing the more important :—

1. Indemnification of Officers

The Conference resolved that officers of the Native Welfare Department should be fully indemnified in statutory form for any acts of omission or commission whether spoken or written in good faith whilst exercising their duties under the provisions of the Native Welfare Act. The protection requested is similar to that provided to officers of the Child Welfare Department last year by amendment to the Child Welfare Act and to officers of the Northern Territory Administration under the Child Welfare Ordinance of that Territory.

2. Native Housing

The Conference resolved that in view of the absolute necessity to provide more housing for native families a greater allocation of the funds available be used for this purpose.

It was the unanimous opinion of the conference that this would have the effect of stabilising family units, thus reducing the necessity for children to attend missions with consequent saving of subsidy and the need for grants-in-aid.

3. Junior Technical Schools

In view of the increasing number of children of post primary school age who have not received training of any form emerging from missions in the district, the conference felt that there was a need for the establishment of more junior technical schools similar to that recently established in Derby, and to serve the same purpose.

4. Children in Institutions

The conference agreed that it was needful to review departmental policy concerning native children in institutions. It was considered that the policy of encouraging native parents to place their children at missions as voluntary inmates has resulted in a position whereby many parents who could have reared and educated their children satisfactorily had been relieved of that obligation whilst other children more deserving because of poverty or some other such circumstances are unable to gain admission because of the shortage of accommodation.

Land Settlement Scheme for Natives—Gnowangerup

In August, 1957, the Lands Department was asked to investigate the possibility of reserving areas in the Gnowangerup District for future land settlement by natives. Location 9062 had been set aside subject to an assurance that the land would be used for the purpose intended within a reasonable time.

In June last year the District Agricultural Adviser (Mr. Halpin) submitted a report which advised, *inter alia*, that of the area of approximately 2,200 acres, some 1,800 to 2,000 would be available as productive land after clearing. He went on :—

“ Little of this acreage could be described as of good productivity, the majority being poor to fair quality mallee soils. In the area concerned the block when developed would possibly represent a minimum unit for the support of one white farmer and family. Most of these blocks are in fact being developed as adjuncts to already established farms.

* * * *

“ This country is not easy to farm and requires good management, a wide general knowledge of farming and really good cultural operations for success to follow.

* * * *

“ Total developmental costs for the farm will probably reach £20,000.”

In his covering memo. the District Officer, Southern, advises :—

“ At the present time there is no native in my district qualified to receive my recommendation in respect to Kojonup Location 9062.”

Mining by Natives

Gold find at Wildara

A full blood aboriginal native named Rowley Hill whilst hunting at a place approximately nine miles west of south of Weebo Homestead during April last year, found a nugget of gold in a hole in the ground into which a goanna had disappeared. The location was actually on Wildara, an outstation of Weebo, managed by Mr. R. Richards. As shearing was in progress Mr. Richards asked Hill, who was an employee of Weebo, not to mention the find outside station circles. The gold was left in the custody of Mr. Richards who subsequently made application for registration of the prospecting area on behalf of the natives, in his own name.

Early in August, 1958, nine prospecting areas were granted in the Leonora Mining Warden's Court to seven full-blood and two part aboriginal natives ; six of the seven full-bloods formed themselves into an unregistered syndicate and the remaining three worked on individual basis.

Mr. C. A. Taylor, Native Welfare Officer, Kalgoorlie made a successful application in the Court on behalf of the natives to have the labour of the natives counted as *bona fide* labour in fulfilment of the labour conditions on the area under the Mining Act and to have the natives named in the prospecting areas declared as *bona fide* workers.

The find was widely publicised and caused considerable interest. A pleasing feature was the fact that no attempt was made by any white person to exploit the natives in any way ; to the contrary they received valuable assistance from Weebo Station Manager (Mr. Richards), the Chief Inspector of Mines in Kalgoorlie (Mr. Boylan), the Mining Registrar in Leonora (Mr. Smith), and the local Police Officers.

The find appears to be an alluvial pocket, and, although at one time towards the end of the year upwards of fifty natives were working in the area, the quantity of gold won was not considerable. The members of the original syndicate were reported to have deposited some 70 ounces of gold at the National Bank, Leonora during August-September, but no reports of further deposits were received and mining activities appear to have ceased.

Manganese at Port Hedland

A group of natives associated with Mr. D. W. McLeod in the Pilbara District were reported in November, 1958, to have located a big field of manganese—described publicly as being one of the richest deposits in the world—on Nimmingarra Station, east of Port Hedland.

The native group was formerly connected with the Northern Mining and Development Company which went into voluntary liquidation in 1954 (see Annual Report 1954-55, page 8 *et seq.*) ; they were not shareholders of that Company.

After the collapse of the "Nodom" Company, the ex-managing director, Mr. McLeod, formed another company known as Pindan Proprietary Ltd., the shareholders of which were some members of the native group with a Miss Elsie Lee and himself as co-directors with part-aborigines Ernest Mitchell and Peter Coffin.

A firm of Sydney metal merchants, A. G. Sims and Co., joined forces with the Pindan Company to form a joint company known as "Simdan." Little is officially known of these arrangements, or with the activities of the new company, because the Department was not consulted in any respect by the principals of either company, or the natives concerned or connected with them. Their representative and spokesman in Perth was stated to be a solicitor, Mr. T. J. Hughes.

Reports received through an unofficial but reliable source during May and June this year, indicate a serious breach in the business and social relationships of McLeod and the natives. Under the leadership of Mitchell and Coffin, natives of the Pindan Group are reported to have rebelled against McLeod's management of their affairs, which have been taken over by Mr. T. J. Hughes, acting as their Secretary and Legal Adviser, according to advice received at this office from Mr. Hughes.

Natives' Achievements

Mr. Irwin Lewis—Native Patrol Officer

In a previous Annual Report (1956-57) reference was made to Irwin Lewis, a young native man who was the first native student to attend the University of Western Australia.



IRWIN LEWIS

(photo by courtesy of W.A. Newspapers)

In 1953 he was assisted with a scholarship by the Anglican Schools Board and the Department of Native Welfare and was accepted as a student boarder at Christ Church Grammar School, Claremont.

He later passed the Junior and Leaving Certificates.

With the assistance of further scholarships he proceeded to the University of W.A., and took a Science Course.

Recently he was given the opportunity to enter the Department of Native Welfare as a Patrol Officer. He is the first person of native origin to be appointed to such a position in Australia.

Being a keen sportsman and a player with the Claremont League Football team, Irwin, when asked whether sport had meant much to him in his school career replied :—

“ I found sport most helpful to my school career. Other children admire sporting powers and come to respect a successful sport. To succeed in one field makes for confidence in another field. I think that sport and education are closely linked, but it is education which fits us to earn a livelihood ahead and will continue to shape the life of successful people.”

Irwin is now 20 years of age. His outstanding work as a Field Welfare Officer of the Department will ensure his acceptance as a permanent public servant when he turns 21 years of age next year.

Miss Violet Newman—Office Secretary

The annual award of prize winners for 1958 of the Daisy Bates Memorial Prize was recently announced by the W.A. Native Welfare Council. The prizes are awarded to native persons to perpetuate the memory of the late Daisy Bates, a well known worker amongst the natives, particularly in the remote Nullabor Plains area.



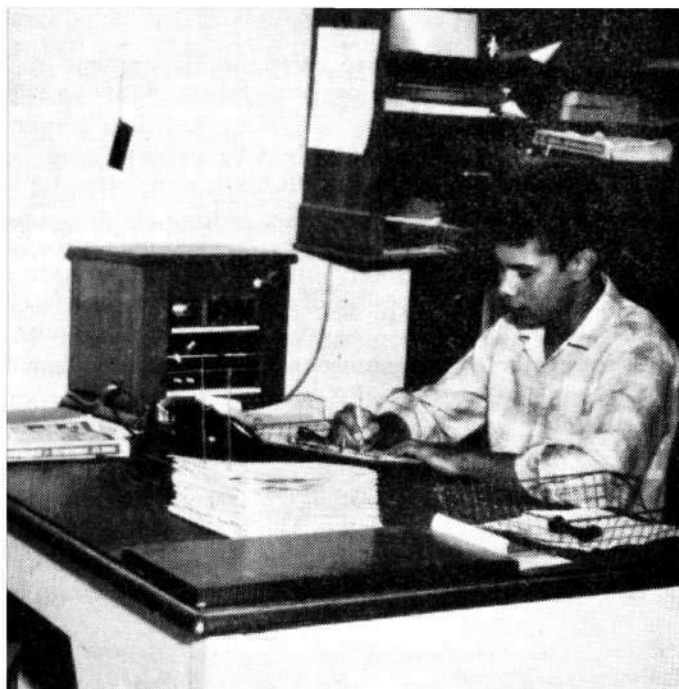
VIOLET NEWMAN

Those eligible for nomination are native boys and girls who attain their 14th to 18th birthday during the year of the prize. Worthiness for the prize covers leadership and organisation ability, progress or achievement in education, trade, profession or work and any other special circumstances considered relevant and desirable and commendable.

One of the prize winners for 1958, Violet Newman (pictured), is a 17 year old trainee junior secretary with the Young Women's Christian Association in Perth. She came from Norseman Mission to accept the post. Last year she was a school prefect and champion girl athlete and she has a bright, vivacious personality. She has an ambition to be a welfare worker.

Milton Penny—Clerk

The other prize winner, Milton Penny (pictured), aged 16 years, passed his Junior Certificate at Perth Boys' High School last year. In 1956 he travelled to Tasmania in the State Schoolboys' football team. He is working as a clerk with a firm of timber merchants at Maylands.

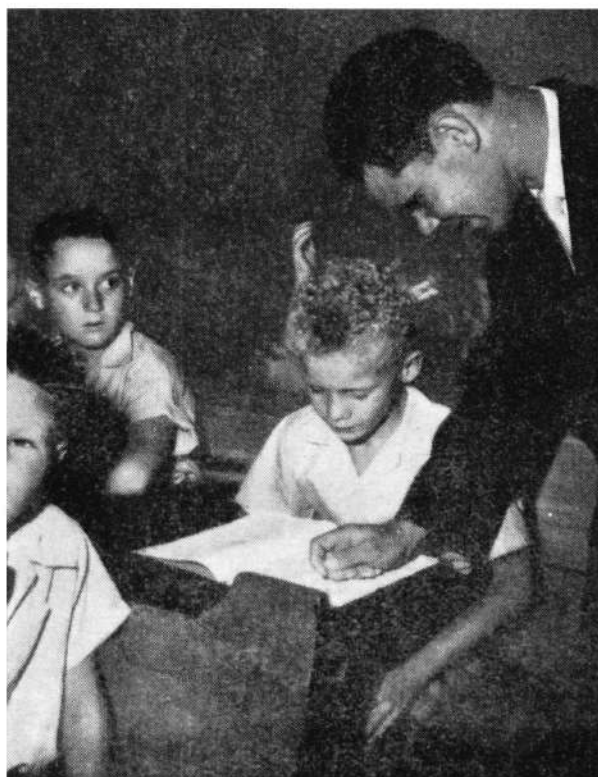


MILTON PENNY

Geoffrey Penny—School Teacher

In my 1957 Annual Report I reported that Geoffrey (Ted) Penny, who is Milton's elder brother, after successfully matriculating had decided to enrol for a teacher's course at the Teachers' Training College, Graylands.

On 12th December last he graduated and received an appointment to the Education Department as a teacher at the Bassendean State School. He is the fifth native teacher to be appointed in the State.



GEOFFREY PENNY

(Photo by courtesy of W.A. Newspapers)

General

Other young natives who have been appointed to clerical, nursing and special trade appointments are too numerous to be mentioned individually in this report. Since 1949, when two natives, lads from the Carrolup Settlement School, were engaged, 28 native boys and girls have occupied clerical positions in the Department's Head and Field Offices.

Natives and the Theatre

Seven young Guildford natives took part in the Festival of Perth opera "Dalgerie" which was produced at the Somerville Auditorium on 22nd January. Producer Stephen Haig decided to include natives in the cast because essential scenes in the opera, the story of which is set in the out-back, are of native ritual dances. Feeling that the opera would lose realism if white people dressed as aborigines and attempted to perform these dances, he recruited the natives—four men and three women. They were in their teens and early twenties. It is reported they acquitted themselves very commendably.

"Dalgerie" is the first Australian opera and is based on the book *Keep Him My Country*, written by Mary Durack (Mrs. Miller). It was fitting that natives should have been permitted to participate in the work of a woman who, with her artist sister Elizabeth, has so much knowledge and understanding of the natives of this State—particularly those of the North—and who has done so much to promote their welfare.

Natives in Sport

Young natives of both sexes continue to do well at many forms of sport and so attract the favourable notice of city and country communities towards their prospects for complete assimilation.

One of the most outstanding in the State for the season was 17 year old Lorna Kelly, a telephoniste at the Department of Native Welfare, Perth, who was presented with a cup at the close of the 1958 W.A. Women's Basketball Association (Men's Rules) season. She had performed the outstanding feat of being the fairest and best player during the year.

Boys' Sporting Club at Wyndham

Mr. K. Johnson, Patrol Officer of Native Welfare stationed at Wyndham has reported the formation of a boys' club in Wyndham. Constable Hannah, Mr. Ritchie (schoolmaster) and Mr. Johnson collaborated to form the club and they are the chief instructors.

Boys aged 9 to 17 years are being instructed in general sports, gymnastics and fellowship. The opening night, 4th November, was most successful. Thirty boys attended and half of the number were native lads.

The Wyndham Meatworks have kindly loaned a very large hall which is most suitable for the Club's needs.

NATIVE MISSIONS

The missionaries who collectively, and on behalf of their various religious denominations conduct 29 native missions in this State, continue to render sterling service to natives generally, and native children in particular. The annual reports submitted by the superintendents indicate that a generally satisfactory state of affairs exists on their stations; unfortunately the reports are too lengthy and space not sufficient to permit their publication in this report.

As may be seen by referring to the financial statement hereunder, a total of £220,515 was expended on missions from the Department's Vote for the financial year under report, representing 37.32 per cent. of the Vote. Expenditure on medical and transport costs of native inmates is not included.

The amount paid to missions in subsidy to provide for the food, clothing and general maintenance of native inmates totalled £174,462 in respect of 2,059 inmates, consisting of 436 adults and 1,623 children.

A further £46,053 was expended from the Department's Vote in providing capital grants-in-aid assistance to missions.

The fact that nearly 40 per cent. of available Government funds is being expended on approximately 10 per cent. of the total native population would appear at first sight to indicate a state of financial affairs which is grossly disproportionate, but it must be remembered that a considerable percentage of natives not accommodated in missions are independent of Government or mission assistance, being either self-supporting as workers or else maintained by them as their *bona fide* dependents.

At the same time, whilst there can be no question about the physical and spiritual benefit afforded natives by the hard-working, patient missionaries, the need for a gradual reduction in the numbers of native children who have, to varying degrees, become "institutional orphans" is an immediate and urgent one. This statement is not made on the grounds of administrative or financial expediency, but because of my firm conviction that "be it ever so humble there is no

place like home " providing the home is a reasonably good one. It is the aim of the Department, consistent with the funds placed at its disposal and the availability of builders and building material, to provide good homes for native families with as little delay as possible. This subject has already been discussed above. However, under the most favourable circumstances for the development of the " family welfare policy " institutions for native children will be needed for many years ; indeed, with a few exceptions, I believe that there may always be a need for some of the native missions now operating. In the settled areas of the south there will always be orphaned, abandoned or neglected children for whom the State will accept responsibility and who, I am sure, will be welcomed and cared for by our Christian Missions. Further to the north, missions could also provide hostel accommodation for the children of native parents living outside the towns, who would not otherwise receive the benefits of education and training.

HEAD OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Financial

Detailed items of expenditure are set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

Expenditure by the Department is divided into two parts, north and south ; the 26th degree of south latitude being the dividing line.

In Treasury's records the Department's financial dealings are shown under the following headings :—

Minister for the North-West (North)
Minister for Native Welfare (South)

The Department controls expenditure for the welfare of natives generally and is responsible for all monies expended by the Health and Medical Departments in respect to medical services to natives in the North-West, medical and dental surveys, the treatment of lepers, etc. It also refunds to the Education Department all monies expended on the education of natives, as mentioned elsewhere.

Expenditure by the Department during the financial year under report totalled £591,020, which represented an excess over the amount appropriated by Parliament of £57,857. The main causes of the excess expenditure were :—

- (a) Assistance to Missions in the form of cash subsidy, grants-in-aid for capital projects, and the medical attention of subsidised inmates ;
- (b) Relief to natives temporarily unemployed, in addition to those unable to work yet ineligible for social services benefits ;
- (c) Re-imburements to the Health and Medical Departments for expenses incurred in maintaining the North-West Hospitals for Natives, and unpaid hospital accounts of natives treated in Government controlled or subsidised hospitals in the Southern section of the State.
- (d) Increased expenditure on the education of native children.

The following particulars of expenditure during the year cover the main items :—

	Per cent.
1. Missions (subsidies and grants-in-aid)	220,515 = 37·32
2. Health (including reimbursement to Health Department and medical expenditure and transport costs of mission inmates)	168,288 = 28·47
3. Relief (natives not in missions ; includes all administrative costs, rations, improvements on reserves, etc.)	85,279 = 14·43
4. Administration (including all salaries and wages excepting hostels)	62,342 = 10·55
5. Education (including reimbursement Education Department costs, salaries, etc.)	54,596 = 9·23
Totals	£591,020 = 100·00

General

During the year about £7,000 was expended on the provision of hygiene and sanitation facilities on camping reserves for natives. A total of 40 reserves are now equipped with standard facilities (lavatory, laundry and showers). In addition 19 reserves have shelters or small cottages erected on them by Government contract, Departmental officers and local welfare organisations.

Two grants to missions of £25,000 each approved last financial year for the erection of hostels at Derby to cater for native students attending the Derby Technical School were finalised this year. St. Joseph's Hostel was officially opened in March of this year and it is advised that the hostel being erected by the United Aborigines Mission will be completed before school commences in 1960.

Twenty-five native missions are now receiving the benefit of purchasing their supplies through Government Stores at cost prices, free of sales tax. Purchases under this system for the year totalled £61,710 for items ranging from food and clothing to building requirements, machinery and motor vehicles.

Revenue

Collections for the year totalled £27,662, derived mainly from hospital fees and Commonwealth Hospital Benefits received by the Native Hospitals and Derby Leprosarium.

Departmental Loan Funds

To finalise accounts £48 11s. 7d. was spent on the residences completed at Port Hedland and Carnarvon.

The Department now owns official residences at Wyndham, Derby, Port Hedland, Carnarvon and Meekatharra, which were erected and basically furnished from Departmental Loan Funds. The houses are let on a rental basis to Field Officers stationed at the centres mentioned.

Trust Accounts

The Department administers Trust Accounts and Investments on behalf of natives in the following cases :—

- (a) Money received from deceased estates, workers' compensation and motor vehicle third party insurance claims for native minors for whom the Commissioner is legal guardian and considers trusteeship of such monies desirable.
- (b) Money or investments belonging to adult natives who elect of their own volition to have the Commissioner as trustee administer such money in trust accounts or investments.
- (c) Amounts received from workers' compensation claims in those cases where the Workers' Compensation Board, by powers conferred upon it, orders that compensation which cannot be immediately paid to a native under legal disability to give an effective discharge for payment or which is payable to any dependent of a deceased worker, be paid to a trustee and the manner in which it shall be applied.

The number of Savings Bank Trust Accounts being administered by the Department on behalf of natives at the 30th June, 1959, was 24, covering an amount of £1,399 11s.

The investments in Commonwealth Treasury Bonds totalled £5,850.

Maintenance

During the year seven new cases were opened and seven closed. A total of 40 cases were being administered by the Department at the 30th June.

Estates

Administration of 29 estates with assets totalling £1,540 16s. 7d. were finalised during the year and 12 remained to be finalised.

Christmas Cheer

The Lotteries Commission again donated £600 for distribution to destitute natives at Christmas.

This amount was distributed in the form of gifts and food provisions to destitute natives throughout the State to help brighten their festive season.

Lotteries Commission

In addition to the above donation the Commission paid £6,700 7s. 6d. in subsidy towards the maintenance of native children in missions under the control of religious organisations which were prepared to accept assistance from this source.

Further generous donations totalling £25,504 12s. 1d. to missions and £2,068 to Government Institutions were made to assist in capital projects.

The Lotteries Commission's continued financial assistance to Native Welfare is deeply appreciated.

Workers' Compensation Claims

During the year ended the 30th June, 1959, 51 Workers' Compensation Claims were finalised on behalf of natives injured in the course of employment.

A total of £4,814 8s. 10d. was accepted in settlement of these claims made up as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Loss of Wages	1,197	9	2
Accounts	1,841	19	8
Lump Sum Compensations ..	1,775	0	0

Fifty-three cases are in the course of finalisation.

Third Party Insurance Claims

A total of £4,718 19s. 4d. made of Special Damages £4,151 19s. 4d. and General Damages £567 was accepted on behalf of natives involved in a total of six cases finalised with the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust during the year ended 30th June, 1959.

Eleven cases remain to be finalised.

Poor Persons' Legal Assistance

Four cases were approved for assistance and one application was refused.

Court Orders

At the 30th June, 1959, a total of 226 Orders were in force consisting of :—

225 Orders issued by Children's Courts under the Child Welfare Act.

1 Order issued by the Governor under Section 39 of the Native Welfare Act, allowing a native in custody under sentence of imprisonment to be placed under custody of a State Servant and employed outside a prison.

Of these 226 persons under the above orders :—

168 were in native institutions.

20 were under the direct control of the Child Welfare Department.

8 were in supervised employment.

30 were released on probation to parents or relations.

Appendix No. 1

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE
Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1958-59
General Loan Funds

Receipts				Payments					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance at 1-7-58	551	7	5				46	5	5
Unexpended Balance at 30-6-59	502	15	10				2	6	2
				48	11	7			
				£48	11	7			
							48	11	7
							£48	11	7

I certify that this Statement is correct in accordance with the books and documents produced.

(Sgd.) C. P. MATHEA,

4th August, 1959.

Auditor General.

Appendix No. 2

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1958-59

Native Welfare Administration Trust

Receipts			Payments			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Grant under Section 5 of Native Welfare Act, 1905-54	10,000	0 0				
Transfer from Consolidated Revenue Fund: Native Welfare—Division 56	283,839	14 7				
North-West Native Welfare—Division 53	297,180	8 0				
			Institutions—			
			Alvan House :			
			3,167	2 6		
			731 9 3		3,898	11 9
			Bennett House :			
			1,242	16 6		
			1,380 0 5		2,622	16 11
			McDonald House :			
			2,530	17 4		
			1,108 14 10		3,639	12 2
			Marble Bar Hostel :			
			19	0 8		
					19	0 8
			Riverdale Hostel :			
			3,932	6 9		
			1,386 16 2		5,319	2 11
			Roebourne Hostel :			
			200	8 3		
					200	8 3
			Office Administration—			
			Sub-Dist. Office, Broome:			
			789	4 4		
			2,395 11 7		3,184	15 11
			Sub-District Office, Carnarvon :			
			803	1 1		
			1,644 5 4		2,447	6 5
			District Office, Central :			
			479	18 2		
			3,752 1 8		4,231	19 10
			Sub-District Office, Central :			
			965	1 2		
			3,454 3 5		3,419	4 7
			District Office, Derby :			
			1,603	0 5		
			3,699 6 6		5,302	6 11
			District Office, Geraldton :			
			1,278	6 3		
			3,360 11 7		4,638	17 10
			Head Office :			
			4,235	0 4		
			20,124 16 0		24,359	16 4
			Minister's Office :			
			152	8 2		
					152	8 2
			Sub-District Office, Kalgoorlie :			
			1,667	4 4		
			3,220 17 8		4,888	2 0
			Sub-District Office, Marble Bar :			
			6	4 1		
					6	4 1
			Sub-District Office, Meekatharra :			
			1,375	15 5		
			2,507 12 5		3,883	7 10
			Mobile Welfare Clinic, No. 1 :			
			116	7 2		
			1,379 9 11		1,495	17 1
					74,709	19 8
Carried forward	£591,020	2 7				

Appendix No. 2—continued
DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE
Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1958-59
Native Welfare Administration Trust

Receipts	£	s.	d.	Payments	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	£591,020		2 7	Brought forward				74,709		19 8
				Mobile Clinic No. 2 :						
				Contingencies ..	999	16	7			
				Salaries and wages ..	892	6	8	1,892	3	3
				District Office, Narrogin :						
				Contingencies ..	1,270	10	6			
				Salaries and wages ..	4,198	13	8	5,469	4	2
				District Office, Pt. Hed-						
				land :						
				Contingencies ..	3,201	16	5			
				Salaries and wages ..	3,838	15	10	7,040	12	3
				Sub-District Office, War-						
				burton-Laverton :						
				Contingencies ..	561	2	3			
				Salaries and wages ..	385	7	5	946	9	8
				Sub-District Office,						
				Wyndham :						
				Contingencies ..	1,088	0	7			
				Salaries and wages ..	1,865	12	1	2,953	12	8
				Allawah Grove Housing						
				Settlement :						
				Salaries and wages ..	1,153	8	5	1,153	8	5
				Assistance to Missions—						
				Subsidy	174,460	16	10			
				Grants-in-Aid	46,050	11	5			
				Medical and Transport	9,499	16	5	230,011	4	8
				Citizenship Rights—Court						
				Costs				10	6	5
				Boarding Out Cases—						
				Institutions	3,620	5	9			
				Private Homes	1,677	3	3	5,297	9	0
				Bulk Ration Centres—						
				Derby	822	17	4			
				Mulga Queen	1,152	17	5			
				Turkey Creek	464	1	7			
				Wyndham	1,674	7	9	4,114	4	1
				Relief to Natives—						
				Stores, Provisions and						
				Meat	29,143	17	7			
				Education and Amen-						
				ities	380	8	8			
				Medical :						
				Doctors	1,645	7	9			
				Hospital	28,698	9	2			
				Sundries	620	1	9			
				Blankets and Clothing	2,374	4	0			
				Miscellaneous	2	16	0			
				Legal Costs	63	16	6			
				Furniture and Equip-						
				ment for native						
				houses	607	17	3			
				Burials	3,749	8	3			
				Transport	5,442	7	3			
				Welfare Relief	657	15	7			
				Welfare Relief (Rental						
				Assistance)	2	9	0	73,388	18	9
				Improvement to Reserves—						
				General Expenditure ..				16,511	3	1
				Infant Welfare Assistant ..				10	9	4
				Section 6A				886	18	9
				Reimbursement to State						
				Housing Commission ..				16	10	8
				Reimbursement to Medical						
				Department				127,713	10	4
				Reimbursement to Education						
				Department				38,837	17	5
				Reimbursement to Police						
				Department				56	0	0
								£591,020		2 7

I certify that this Statement is correct in accordance with the books and documents produced.

(Sgd.) C. P. MATHEA,

Auditor General.

4th August, 1959.

Appendix No. 3

NATIVE POPULATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1959

District	Full Bloods				Other Bloods				Grand Total
	Male	Female	Children	Total	Male	Female	Children	Total	
Northern—									
Broome	194	200	183	577	84	100	209	393	970
East Kimberley	729	654	432	1,815	56	45	125	226	2,041
West Kimberley	691	578	435	1,704	32	30	83	145	1,849
North-West—									
Gascoyne	248	200	151	599	137	117	313	567	1,166
Pilbara	617	473	302	1,392	95	104	91	290	1,682
Central—									
Central Sub-District	12	8	3	23	370	347	779	1,496	1,519
Eastern Goldfields	500	450	400	1,350	200	150	250	600	1,950
North Central—									
West Murchison	83	70	50	203	231	240	586	1,057	1,260
East Murchison	279	228	221	728	165	155	250	570	1,298
Southern—									
Southern	59	52	123	234	487	439	1,403	2,329	2,563
Totals	3,412	2,913	2,300	8,625	1,857	1,727	4,089	7,673	16,298
Estimate of nomad natives beyond confines of civilisation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000
Grand Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,298

Appendix No. 4

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SUBSIDISATION OF MISSIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE FOR YEAR 1958-59

Mission	Average Number of Natives Subsidised			(A) Expenditure : Cash Subsidy and Rations		(B) Expenditure : Medical and Transport		Overall Subsistence Expenditure Totals (A) and (B)		Expenditure : Grants in Aid		Total Expenditure for Year		
	1 Children	2 Adults	3 Total	4 Expenditure	5 Per Head per Annum of Total Number in 3	6 Expenditure	7 Per Head per Annum of Total Number in 3	8 Expenditure	9 Per Head per Annum of Total Number in 3	10 Expenditure	11 Per Head per Annum of Total Number in 3	12 Expenditure	13 Per Head per Annum of Total Number in 3	
			£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Pallotine, Balgo Hills, via Halle Creek	38	19	57	4,374	76 14 9	51	17 11	4,425					4,425	
Beagle Bay, via Broome	77	14	91	6,982	76 15 6	356	3 18 3	7,338					7,338	
Church of Christ, Carnarvon	138		138	12,559	91 0 2	657	4 15 3	13,216					13,216	
U.A.M. Cosmo Newbery	2	7	9	552	61 6 8	17	1 17 9	569					569	
Cundeelee, via Zanthus	25	22	47	3,952	84 1 8	644	13 14 1	4,596					4,596	
U.A.M. Derby	51	4	55	3,618	65 15 8	13	4 9	3,631		15,407			19,038	
U.A.M. Fitzroy Crossing	57	9	66	6,177	93 11 10	243	3 13 8	6,420					6,420	
Forrest River, via Wyndham	54	34	88	6,548	74 8 2	49	11 1	6,597					6,597	
U.A.M. Gnowangerup	46		46	4,663	101 7 5	20	8 8	4,683					4,683	
Holy Child Orphanage, Broome	29		29	2,718	93 14 6	27	18 5	2,745		55			2,800	
A.R.M. Jigalong	50	35	85	7,226	85 0 3	6	1 5	7,232					7,232	
Kalumburu, Drysdale River	31	85	116	8,391	72 6 8			8,391					8,391	
Karalundi, via Meekatharra	80		80	7,531	94 2 9	777	9 14 3	8,308					8,308	
Kurrawang, via Kalgoorlie	43	22	65	5,528	85 0 11	573	8 16 4	6,101		33			6,134	
La Grange, via Broome	30	40	70	5,102	72 17 1	182	2 12 0	5,284		2,000			7,284	
Lombadina, via Broome	34	21	55	4,304	78 5 1	4	1 5	4,308	89 7 10		22 6 4		4,308	111 14 2
Marribank, via Katanning	54		54	5,294	98 0 8	716	13 1 6	6,010					6,010	
Mogumber Methodist	86		86	8,470	98 14 5	239	2 15 7	8,709		2,610			11,319	
Mowanjum Presbyterian	22	41	63	4,808	76 6 4	64	1 0 4	4,872		4,500			9,372	
Mt. Margaret, via Morgan	85	12	97	8,555	88 3 11	525	5 8 3	9,080					9,080	
New Norcia	119		119	9,570	80 8 5	554	4 13 1	10,124		5,000			15,124	
Church of Christ, Norseman	70		70	6,936	99 1 8	1,607	22 19 2	8,543					8,543	
Roelands Native Mission Farm	84		84	8,358	99 10 0	639	7 12 2	8,997					8,997	
St. Joseph's Hostel, Derby	10		10	97	9 14 0			97		12,720			12,817	
Sunday Island, via Derby	27	18	45	3,876	86 2 8	3	1 4	3,879					3,879	
Pallotine, Tardun	65		65	5,036	77 9 6	133	2 0 11	5,169					5,169	
St. Francis Xaviers, Wandering	78		78	6,236	79 19 0	147	1 17 8	6,383		3,250			9,633	
U.A.M. Warburton Ranges	95	27	122	11,361	93 2 5	890	7 5 11	12,251					12,251	
Wiluna	30	26	56	4,370	78 2 10	294	5 5 0	4,664					4,664	
Wongutha	13		13	1,366	105 1 6	71	5 9 3	1,437		378			1,815	
Total	1,623	436	2,059	174,558	84 15 7	9,501	4 12 3	184,059	..	45,953	..	230,012	..	

Departmental Subsidy Rates to Missions as at 30th June, 1959 :-

Children under 16 years—34s. 9d. per week, plus 5s. per week special grant to Missions which will not accept equivalent sum provided by Lotteries Commission.

Adults—25s. per week cash.

In addition the Department is responsible for the cost of medical, hospital, dental, optical, funeral and transport costs of subsidised inmates.

Commissioner of Native Welfare, Western Australia, Annual Report for year ended 30th June 1959

Corporate Author: Western Australia. Dept. of Native Welfare

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