

1945.

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

for Year ended 30th June, 1944.

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SUMMARY

of the Annual Report of the Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales.

For the Year ended 30th June, 1944.

THE Aborigines Welfare Board have the honour to present to the Honourable the Chief Secretary the following summary of its report on the work during the year ended the 30th June, 1944.

During the year ten meetings were held, the attendance throughout being very satisfactory. The only change in the personnel of the Board was that of the representative of the Police Department, Superintendent Schumacher being replaced by Superintendent Dudley.

The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, as Executive Member of the Board, visited all Stations, and most other Aboriginal Settlements, during the year and maintained a close contact with the field work and the aborigines personally.

THE BOARD'S POLICY.

As was pointed out last year, the present international upheaval has so depleted the Board's man-power and material resources that active pursuance of a progressive policy has had to be deferred. It is the Board's intention, however, to pursue to the uttermost its plans for the benefit of the aborigines' future as soon as war conditions permit.

PREPARATION FOR CITIZENSHIP.

The contact of the aboriginal community with the white community has now progressed to such an extent that they must eventually be absorbed into the general life of the white civilisation. There are fundamental differences in culture involved, however, and difficult sociological and psychological situations must be met. In the advance towards assimilation, wise and patient administration must be exercised, and certain principles have been adopted, namely—

- (a) Health and Hygiene.
- (b) Care of Mothers and Children.
- (c) Uplift of Status and Dignity of Women.
- (d) Status of Employment.
- (e) Education for Citizenship.

It is obvious that in order to lead the aboriginal people to a proper understanding and appreciation of the mental processes involved in Australian civilization and life an education system in its various forms and degrees must be established. This education must extend beyond the more formal primary school education and should involve technical, industrial, agricultural, secondary, and perhaps ultimately, professional education.

As soon as war conditions permit, it is the Board's definite intention to establish a vocational education scheme for the more intelligent aboriginal youth—both boys and girls. Funds will be sought to meet the cost of establishing at least two boarding schools and selected children will be given facilities for learning trades or other vocations in accordance with their attainments and desires.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION ACT AND REGULATIONS.

The Aborigines Protection Act, which was amended in June, 1943, provided for the following amendments:—

- (1) The re-constitution of the personnel of the Aborigines Welfare Board so as to provide for aboriginal representation.
- (2) The constitution of the Aborigines Welfare Board as a body corporate.
- (3) Authority to issue Exemption Certificates to Aborigines.
- (4) Boarding-out or placing-out as adopted boarders of aboriginal children committed to the Board's control.

Regulations pursuant to the above amendments to the Act have been approved and gazetted. They are published in Government Gazettes No. 91 (20th August, 1943) and No. 37 (21st April, 1944).

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Election of Aboriginal Board Members.—As a result of an election for nomination of aboriginal representatives on the Board, Mr. William Ferguson, quarter-caste aborigine residing at Dubbo, was elected to represent persons possessing aboriginal blood.

As no valid nominations were received for the full-blood representative, it was not possible to proceed to an election during the year.

Power of Board to Assist Aborigines to acquire Land and/or Buildings.—The Board is now empowered to acquire land, erect buildings thereon, and to sell and/or lease such land and buildings on terms to aborigines. This form of assistance to deserving aborigines has for some time been regarded by the Board as an important step forward in the policy of assimilating the better type of aborigine into the general community. As a first step, a few families only will be assisted during the coming year, but it is proposed to extend the scheme after the war.

Exemption Certificates for Aborigines.—The 1943 Amendment to the Act authorises the Board to issue to any aborigine or person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood a Certificate of Exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act. At the close of the financial year arrangements were in hand for the distribution of the necessary forms and documents.

Boarding-out of Aboriginal Children.—Aboriginal children admitted to the Board's control may now be boarded-out to approved foster parents, as an alternative to placing the children in one of the Children's Homes controlled by the Board. It is anticipated that a number of wards will be boarded-out during the forthcoming year.

STAFF ORGANISATION.

The year has been marked by much difficulty in maintaining a complete and efficient staff. Notwithstanding, obstacles have been overcome and the work has proceeded more or less successfully.

The most serious staffing problems have been in the Children's Homes, where domestic staff is so important.

Head Office Staff are again commended for the efficient manner in which they have coped with their many and pressing duties.

Mr. L. Austen was appointed as Welfare Officer on the 2nd June, 1944, and took up duty at Casino, North Coast. Mr. Austen has served in the Civil Administration in New Guinea for many years and has a wide experience with natives. As Welfare Officer he will encourage and assist young aboriginal men in employment; maintain contact with employers and parents; examine and deal with problems connected with native employment, welfare and assimilation generally.

The Board has continued to press for the separation of the dual function of Manager and Teacher on Aboriginal Stations. Managers should be freed from teaching duties, and, in justice to the children, their education should be handed to trained full-time teachers appointed by the Education Department. Further representations on the matter have been made to the Public Service Board.

VITAL STATISTICS.

No further vital statistics have been taken since 1941. At the 30th June, 1941, there were 10,616 aboriginal persons in New South Wales. Of this number 594 were full-bloods and the balance mixed castes.

Of the total number referred to above, 26 per cent. resided on Aboriginal Stations, 20 per cent. on Reserves, and the balance resided as private citizens or in unofficial camps, or were nomadic.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF ABORIGINES.

Alcohol.—The vice of drinking still persists to a fairly high degree, but, with the aid of the Police, a constant effort is made to keep the vice in check.

Gambling.—This illegal form of recreation is prevalent amongst aborigines throughout the State. With aborigines, however, it lacks the economic and social consequences which it frequently has amongst white people. Constant effort is maintained on all Stations to keep the gambling evil in check.

LABOUR CONDITIONS—EMPLOYMENT.

The employment position throughout the State as affecting aborigines continues to be very satisfactory. Never at any time has the opportunity for steady employment, at a high rate of wages, been so good for aborigines as it is at the present time. Some men have consistently proved their reliability and are constantly in work; others, however, have not displayed fixity of purpose or interest in their work.

The aborigines are engaged in local industries in the country districts to which they belong.

During the latter part of the year under review 96.2 per cent. of able-bodied aborigines were in steady employment. This percentage is a considerable increase on previous years.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

Employment of aboriginal youth, particularly those who are apprenticed as wards, continues to receive close attention and oversight. At the close of the year nine boys and twenty girls who are aboriginal wards of the State were in employment under apprenticeship conditions.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

During the year under review the general health position amongst aborigines can be said to have been very satisfactory. Wherever supervision has been exercised there has been very little sickness. In districts where the aborigines are not under continuous and direct oversight there has been a considerable amount of scabies and impetigo. These cases were directed to the local hospital for advice and treatment.

Improved nutrition has played an important part in improving the health of the aboriginal people generally.

With regard to hospital treatment the same facilities are available to aborigines as received by indigent members of the white community.

In certain outback stations where the Bush Nursing Association has its representative, the services of the Nurse have been availed of by the local aborigines.

Dental treatment is available at all places where the Travelling Dental Clinic travels throughout the State.

Wherever a Baby Health Centre Nurse is stationed her services are availed of in the care of aboriginal infants and in advice to expectant and nursing mothers.

HOUSING.

War conditions have affected the Board's housing programme to the same extent as applies elsewhere. The Commonwealth Authorities controlling housing are not prepared to regard housing for aborigines as more important than housing for other members of the community, with the result that there has been a compulsory suspension of the building programme. Only £1,801 was expended during the year on the erection of buildings. An amount of £1,006 was expended on repairs and renovations.

Negotiations are at present in progress with the National Works Council for a large-scale building programme as soon as the war is over.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY.

Agricultural activity on Stations has had to be curtailed considerably, owing to scarcity of labour. Dairy herds and community gardens have been maintained where possible. It is extremely regrettable that the past year has been marked by exceptional drought conditions, which have affected production very adversely.

RELIEF AND BENEFITS TO ABORIGINES.

As previously pointed out, one of the Board's main functions is the care and relief of all aged, infirm, indigent and incapable aborigines. Though every able-bodied and intelligent aborigine is expected to provide for himself and his family, there will always be a small percentage who must be maintained by the Board.

Benefits derived by aborigines in need of assistance, include the following:—

Housing; rations; clothing; blankets; medical attention; baby outfits; milk and vegetables; Christmas cheer.

With regard to rations, 450 residents of Stations were supplied with rations as at 30th June, 1944. This represents a decrease of 52 on the previous year.

With regard to clothing outfits, issues were made to 933 persons during the past financial year, as compared with 1,060 during the previous year.

Blankets issued during the year 1943-44 totalled 452, as compared with 397 during the previous year.

CHILD ENDOWMENT.

During the year ended 30th June, 1944, an amount of £11,249 was received from the Commonwealth Government for Child Endowment payments to aborigines. The number of cases administered by the Aborigines Welfare Board during the year was 331 this number was reduced by 26 cases which expired and 41 cases where Direct Payment was approved, thus leaving 264 cases directly administered by the Board at the end of the year.

Thirteen Direct Payment cases were transferred back to the control of the Board, owing to unsatisfactory handling by parents of payments received.

CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Two Children's Homes, namely, Kinchela and Cootamundra, are still full to capacity, and each caters for children from six to sixteen years of age. There is an ever-growing need for additional institutional accommodation for the children admitted to the Board's control. It is proposed to establish new Homes as soon as conditions permit, so as to enable children to be classified into age groups, and also to accommodate infants.

Kinchela Boys' Training Home.—An average enrolment of 43 children was maintained during the year. The general health has been excellent. Regular visits were made by the Medical Officer and the Dentist. Due attention has been given to physical training, recreation, Boy Scouts, libraries and diet.

During the past year, improved bathing and sanitary conveniences were installed.

Cootamundra Girls Training Home.—The average enrolment for the year was 49, twelve new girls having been admitted and ten having been placed in employment.

The general health of the girls has been satisfactory. Regular medical and dental inspections were carried out. The School Inspector reports satisfactory progress of the children at the School.

Healthy recreation and outdoor sport has been arranged. Outdoor gymnasium equipment was provided during the year, in addition to which the children play tennis, basket-ball and vigoro.

During the Summer School Vacation all the children were taken to Tumut for a camping holiday.

The Home has recently been improved by painting and renovating, both inside and out, and the installation of a hot water service, electric washing machine, and other conveniences.

ABORIGINAL STATIONS.

Aboriginal Stations maintained by the Board, nineteen in number, are situated in all parts of the State. These Stations, which are in the nature of communities of aboriginal people, are provided with all the amenities of a village community and are under the control of a Manager and Matron. A classification of the Stations is as follows:—

Over 200 residents	..	..	..	..	3 Stations.
Between 100 and 200 residents	..	..	..	..	12 „
Under 100 residents	..	..	..	..	4 „

The total number of aborigines residing on Stations at the end of the year showed an increase of 92 on the previous year.

ABORIGINAL RESERVES.

These are areas set aside for the use of aborigines, but are not under resident management.

At the 30th June, 1944, 1,674 aborigines resided on Reserves. There are fifty Reserves within the State, but of this number only thirty-two were inhabited by aborigines at the close of the year.

Reserves are under the supervision of the local Police, who visit them regularly and submit periodical reports to the Board, bringing under notice matters requiring attention.

ACCOUNTS AND GENERAL EXPENDITURE.

An amount of £51,481 was allotted to the Aborigines Welfare Board for the year 1943-44 for the relief and benefit of aborigines, and for their welfare generally. The actual amount expended was £46,769. In addition an amount of £4,723 was incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Aborigines Welfare Board. The total amount expended, both by the Board and other Departments, was therefore £51,492.

In previous years the amount noted as expenditure by other Departments, on behalf of the Board, included money expended by the Department of Education for the education of aboriginal children in native schools. Since it is now the Government's policy to include the education of aboriginal children as part of the general education scheme administered by the Department of Education, it is not proposed in future to include this item as general expenditure on behalf of aborigines.

An amount of £1,714 was provided from General Loan Account for special building work done at Cootamundra Girls' Training Home, Kinchela Boys' Training Home and Moree Aborigines Reserve.

1st February, 1945.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Aborigines Welfare Board, New South Wales,

For the Year Ended 30th June, 1944.

The Aborigines Welfare Board have the honour to present to the Honourable the Chief Secretary the following report on its work during the year ended 30th June, 1944, together with information on the care and general welfare of the Aborigines resident within the State of New South Wales during that period.

The report also covers other relevant information concerning Aborigines in this State.

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD.

During the year ten meetings of the Board were held, the attendance of the members being as follows:—

Mr. S. L. Anderson	..	..	..	..	..	10
Mr. J. P. Glasheen	..	..	..	..	..	10
Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb	..	..	..	..	..	10
Mr. M. Sawtell	..	..	..	..	..	10
Professor A. P. Elkin	..	..	..	..	..	9
Dr. E. Sydney Morris	..	..	..	..	..	9
Mr. G. E. Ardill	..	..	..	..	..	8
Mr. H. Bartlett	..	..	..	..	..	8
Mr. T. R. Schumacher	..	..	..	..	..	7
Mr. W. H. Dudley	....	..	..	..	..	1

The attendance at meetings was very satisfactory, absences in every instance being due to pressure of other official duties.

Mr. T. R. Schumacher, in his capacity as Superintendent in the Police Department, represented his Department on the Board with zeal and efficiency. Mr. Schumacher retired from the Police Department during May, 1944, and, accordingly, was obliged to relinquish his seat on the Board. His place was ably taken by Mr. W. H. Dudley, Inspector of Police, who has had many years of experience amongst the aborigines in country districts.

Mr. S. L. Anderson, by virtue of his position as Under-Secretary of the Chief Secretary's Department, continued to act as Chairman of the Board throughout the year, and was in attendance at all the meetings.

Professor A. P. Elkin, who is head of the Department of Anthropology at the Sydney University and an authority on aboriginal affairs, was again elected as Vice-Chairman and continued in that office.

Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb, as Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, is the executive member of the Board. The Aborigines Protection Act requires that he shall pay regular visits to aboriginal settlements throughout the State, so as to maintain a personal contact with the aborigines and to have a first-hand knowledge of their problems and needs. Mr. Lipscomb visited all the Stations and Homes and a great number of Reserves, in a number of instances being accompanied by members of the Board.

THE BOARD'S POLICY.

When the Aborigines Welfare Board was re-constituted in 1940, certain principles were laid down and aims adopted which could be regarded as the policy of the Board.

This policy is wrapped up in the general welfare and uplift of the aborigines, and the essential features were set out fully in the two previous Annual Reports. It was pointed out last year that the present international upheaval has so depleted our man-power and material resources that any active pursuance of a progressive policy has had to be shelved. As has been already stated, however, it is the Board's intention to pursue to the uttermost its plans for the betterment of the aborigines' future, as soon as war conditions permit.

In brief, it may again be stated that the Aborigines Welfare Board envisages a happier and more stable destiny for the aboriginal people, and, in that connection, the helping hand will be offered to guide and assist them to become industrious, intelligent and reliable citizens.

PREPARATION FOR CITIZENSHIP.

The contact of the aboriginal community with the white community has now advanced to such an extent that the aborigines, particularly the mixed castes, must eventually be absorbed into the general life of the white civilization. There are fundamental differences, however, between aboriginal culture and the white civilization and it is evident that very difficult sociological and psychological situations are involved.

In New South Wales the number of full-blood aborigines is comparatively small and even these few people have had close contact with white civilisation. Obviously, therefore, it is now too late to segregate them with a view to retaining their ancestral way of life, which involves their own culture and social organisation. All people of aboriginal descent must be developed towards the goal of citizenship. Meanwhile their present clinging together in groups arises, in part, from an inheritance which marks them off from white Australians. Even light castes who can take their place efficiently in the general economic life and who live in towns and cities tend to dwell in neighbourhood groups. In this way alone they are assured of friendship in a community of interests in the midst of a somewhat cold world. This practice will be continued and should be respected until colour prejudice towards the aboriginal mixed-bloods has been eradicated from the rest of the population.

In the advance towards assimilation wise and patient administration must be exercised, and the following principles have been adopted by the Board:—

- (a) *Health and Hygiene.*—Aborigines must be educated to the stage when, apart from administrative guidance, they will appreciate and desire good diet, proper hygiene, and medical treatment when ill. In brief, the principle that health and a sound diet are essential to cultural advance requires regular inspection of Stations and Reserves and attention to sanitation and buildings, both in Government Settlements and in Camps on the outskirts of towns. It also requires a recognition of the attitude to disease held by many persons of aboriginal descent, and the need of education concerning the nature, cause and cure of illness.
- (b) *Care of Mothers and Children.*—Attention must be given to expectant and nursing mothers, especially in the way of diet, and security for themselves and their babies. Instruction, guidance and practical help is given by the Matron of the Station settlements to ensure that proved rules of diet and hygiene are followed.
- (c) *Uplift of Status and Dignity of Women.*—The libellous statement, which is without scientific foundation, that persons of mixed aboriginal and white descent inherit only the vices, and none of the virtues, of both stocks, is a main factor in the general situation. It apparently justifies some white men in acting viciously or irregularly towards girls and women of mixed descent and so lowering the status of the latter. The raising of the status of aboriginal women and those of aboriginal descent, is not a simple process, but, with the help of the whole community, it can be accomplished. The women should be treated with dignity and respect; their place in the white community should not be confined to domestic service or menial tasks; young women should be encouraged to train for the teaching and nursing professions, as well as for positions of various types in the business and industrial world; the lives of women on Stations and Reserves or in townships should be filled with community interest; and, finally, they should be trained in, and inspired with the dignity and importance of the family vocation.
- (d) *Status of Employment.*—Aboriginal workers should be regarded and treated in the same way as white employees. Their work should be on the same basis as in the latter case. The same standard should be required, the same pay given, and the same respect attached to it. Hitherto, the standard of work obtained and given is casually related to what is expected from them and to the degree of intelligence attributed to the employers. To regard native people as inferior or as a child race, almost inevitably results in inferior and child-like work with a consequent lack of interest. The aborigines are quick to sense this attitude and they naturally infer that it is expected of them.
- (e) *Education for Citizenship.*—The barrier between the aborigines and civilization is not simply one of ignorance nor is there any satisfactory proof that it arises from a degree of biological incapability. But there is a barrier, namely, that of a different way of thinking and a different content of knowledge about

life's needs. In leading the aboriginal people on and into our way of life, we must share with them our processes of reasoning. In other words, policies and methods should be based on the principle that aborigines are rational beings just as capable of logical thought as ourselves. Until we have helped them to see our problems and to extend our purposes, and the assumptions and reasons on which we base our activities, we cannot expect them to enter intelligently and with interest into civilized life.

It is obvious that in order to lead the aboriginal people to a proper understanding and appreciation of the mental processes involved in Australian civilization and life an educational system in its various forms and degrees must be established. This education must extend beyond the mere formal primary school education and should involve technical, industrial, agricultural, secondary, and, perhaps ultimately, professional education. This purpose will be kept steadily in view and an endeavour made, when opportunity permits, to provide such educational facilities as will give the aborigines an opportunity to receive an education comparable with that given to white people.

As soon as war conditions permit, it is the Board's definite intention to establish a vocational education scheme for the more intelligent aboriginal youth—both boys and girls. Funds will be sought to meet the cost of establishing at least two boarding schools, and selected children will be given facilities for learning trades or other vocations in accordance with their attainments and desires.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION ACT AND REGULATIONS.

The *Aborigines Protection Act* was amended in June, 1943, the amendments providing for the following:—

1. The re-constitution of the Aborigines Welfare Board so as to provide for aboriginal representation.
2. The constitution of the Aborigines Welfare Board as a body corporate with an extension of its powers.
3. Authority to the Aborigines Welfare Board to issue Exemption Certificates to Aborigines and persons possessing aboriginal blood.
4. Boarding-out or placing as adopted boarders, aboriginal children admitted to the Board's control.

In pursuance of the above amendments to the Act, it was found necessary to amend the Regulations and these were approved and published in the *Government Gazettes* No. 91 (20th August, 1943) and No. 37 (21st April, 1944).

ELECTION OF ABORIGINAL BOARD MEMBERS.

An election of the person of aboriginal blood for nomination as one of the representatives of the aborigines was held on 8th November, 1943. There were thirteen candidates and a ballot was conducted on the preferential system as a result of which Mr. William Ferguson, quarter-caste aborigine residing at Dubbo, was elected.

As no valid nominations were received from the full-blooded aboriginal representative, it was not possible to proceed to an election during the year under review.

POWER OF BOARD TO ASSIST ABORIGINES TO ACQUIRE LAND AND/OR BUILDINGS.

The 1943 Amendment of the *Aborigines Protection Act* empowers the Board to acquire land, erect buildings thereon, and to sell and lease such land and buildings on terms to aborigines. Hitherto, the Board did not possess the power to utilise any of the money voted by Parliament for any purpose that involved the acquisition of property for sale or lease to deserving aborigines who desire to establish themselves independently of the Board by setting up their own home. This form of assistance to deserving aborigines has for some time been regarded by the Board as an important step forward in the policy of assimilating the better type of aborigines into the general community. It is the intention of the Board now to urge upon the Government the provision of ample funds to enable the scheme to be put into effect. As a first step a few families only will be assisted in the forthcoming financial year, but in future years it is hoped that many deserving families will be assisted to purchase their homes and thereby establish themselves as respected members of the general community.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES FOR ABORIGINES.

The 1943 Amendment to the *Aborigines Protection Act* which authorises the Aborigines Welfare Board to issue to any aborigine or person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood, a Certificate exempting such aborigine or person from the provisions of the *Aborigines Protection Act* or Regulations was framed for the sole purpose of giving the more advanced aborigines an opportunity to free themselves

from the restrictive sections of the Act, and to enable them to establish themselves as citizens of the State in the full sense of the word. Regulations to implement these provisions were promulgated on the 21st April, 1944, and at the end of the year under review arrangements were in hand for the distribution of the necessary forms and documents.

BOARDING-OUT OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN.

The amendment to the Act relating to this matter was considered necessary so as to enable the Aborigines Welfare Board to arrange for the boarding-out of aboriginal wards with approved foster parents as an alternative to placing such children in one of the Children's Homes controlled by the Board. Certain children are temperamentally unsuited for institutional life, and it is these whom the Board prefer to place out in suitable private homes under the care of a motherly person.

At the close of the year under review the machinery arrangements for the scheme were only just completed, and it is anticipated that a number of wards will be "boarded-out" during the forthcoming year.

STAFF ORGANISATION.

The year has been marked by much difficulty in maintaining a complete and efficient staff, particularly at Stations and Children's Homes. Nevertheless, the obstacles have been overcome and the work has proceeded successfully throughout the year.

The most serious of the staffing problems has been evident in the Homes, where domestic staff is so important. On many occasions the Institutions have had to carry on with depleted staffs, sometimes to the extent of almost half strength, and it is appropriate to record here the Board's gratitude to those members of staff who carried on loyally and shouldered additional burdens. Whilst wartime conditions continue, such staff dislocations must inevitably be expected, but it is hoped that in the coming year a happier state of affairs will obtain.

Head Office staff are again to be commended for the efficient manner in which they have coped with their many and pressing duties. A number of responsible duties usually delegated to male members of staff, who are now on active military service, have been handled by female officers and the work has been performed to a satisfactory degree.

For some time past the Board has considered the desirability for appointing welfare officers in certain districts of the State with specific duties relating to advice and assistance to aborigines residing within their area. Following representations to the Public Service Board, Mr. L. Austen was appointed as Welfare Officer, and took up duty at Casino, North Coast, on the 2nd June, 1944. Mr. Austen is experienced in native welfare, having served for many years as Magistrate in New Guinea and latterly as Liaison Officer in the Army in New Guinea, in connection with the handling of natives. As Welfare Officer he will encourage and assist young aboriginal men in employment; he will maintain contact with employers and with parents; he will examine and deal with problems connected with native employment, welfare and assimilation generally.

The Board again records their view that Managers of Aboriginal Stations cannot do full justice to the requirements of their position whilst they must continue to perform the dual function of Manager and Headmaster of the Aboriginal School on their Station.

In addition to the routine management duties, the Manager should be in a position to devote a due proportion of his time and energy to the welfare and personal problems of the aboriginal people under his care. Such matters are indeed vitally important if the Board's policy of uplift and eventual assimilation is to be realised. Managers therefore should be freed from teaching duties, and, in justice to the children, their education should be handed to trained full-time teachers appointed by the Education Department. Representations have again been made on this matter to the Public Service Board.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Owing to circumstances caused by war conditions, no official census of aborigines has been taken in this State since 1941. Detailed vital statistics for that year were supplied in the previous two Annual Reports submitted by the Board. In 1941 there were 10,616 aboriginal persons in New South Wales, consisting of the following:—

Caste.	Adults.	Children.	Total.
Full-blooded	478	116	594
Mixed blood	5,410	4,612	10,022

Of the above total—

26 per cent. resided on Aboriginal Stations.

20 per cent. resided on Aboriginal Reserves (not Stations).

54 per cent. resided in camps and towns or were nomadic.

At the 30th June, 1944, a total of 2,654 aborigines resided on the Board's Stations, representing an increase of 93 persons on the previous year. The Reserves (excluding Stations) showed a total population of 1,674. This number represents a decrease of 323 persons on the previous year. Detailed population figures for the individual Stations and Reserves are set out in Appendix "A" and Appendix "B" at the end of the Report.

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OF THE ABORIGINES.

Alcohol.—The vice of drinking still persists to a degree amongst a certain section of the aborigines, and money, which at the present time is able to be earned in large amounts, is often misapplied, causing misery to the families and trouble to the administration. The extent of this vice is possibly on the increase, despite the persistent and strenuous efforts of the Police and local officers of the Board to stamp it out.

It is both unjust and disgraceful that unscrupulous whites, hotelkeepers, and "middlemen" should exploit the aborigines' desire for alcohol and so relieve them of their earnings. The supply of liquor to aborigines is forbidden by law, but the practice goes on, and the prices charged are generally exorbitant and the liquor inferior.

It is easy to blame the aborigines and say they are weak, but the fact is that the whites introduced them to alcohol, and lack of thought and interest on the part of the white community leaves them to be the prey of white men, in spite of our liquor laws.

Gambling.—Gambling amongst aborigines is prevalent throughout the whole State. Whilst it must be regarded as a vice that should be discouraged and stamped out, it must be remembered that gambling amongst aborigines lacks the economic and social consequences which it frequently has amongst white people. It does, however, tend to become an obsession and an obstacle to the development of the more useful forms of activity. It is a retreat for the aborigine from the hard facts of the white man's world, a means of putting in time, and of doing something emotionally exciting in a purposeless life. In dealing with the problem it is our duty to protect them as far as possible from the white gambler. This may be difficult. The other, and more effective method, is to help them to fill their lives, in particular their leisure time, with useful and interesting activities, both recreational and practical.

LABOUR CONDITIONS—EMPLOYMENT.

The employment position throughout the State as affecting aborigines continues to be very satisfactory. It might be said with truth that never, at any time, has the opportunity for steady employment, at a high rate of wages, been so good for aborigines as it is at the present time. Every facility now exists to enable them to save money and provide for the future. In peace time, and more particularly during periods of depression, when the supply of labour is greatly in excess of the demand, the experience has been that the aborigines have been passed over in favour of white labour. This may, or may not, be the fault of the aborigines. Some men have consistently proved their reliability and these are always to be found in employment and are highly regarded by their employers. Others, unfortunately, have not displayed fixity of purpose or interest in their work, and, naturally, these men are the first to be put off when labour conditions deteriorate. It is realised that this attitude towards work can only be overcome by the education and uplift of the aborigine himself, together with patience and forbearance on the part of the white employer.

Many aborigines are still employed by the Allied Works Council on National Works throughout the Commonwealth. The majority, however, are engaged in local industry in the country districts, a large proportion being employed on farms and stations assisting in the various aspects of primary production. During the past three years over 90 per cent. of the able-bodied men who reside on Aboriginal Stations within the State have been continuously employed, each year showing a slight improvement on the previous one. The position is set out clearly in the following table:—

Period.	Able-bodied Men on Stations.		
	Number in Residence.	Number in Employment.	Percentage in Employment.
April-June, 1942	619	573	92
April-June, 1943	573	546	95
April-June, 1944	693	667	96.2



Conditions regarding employment at the various Aboriginal Stations throughout the State are summarised hereunder, the extent of employment and nature of the work done being shown in each case:—

Station.	Employment.	Nature of Employment.
Bollbrook	92 per cent. employed at beginning of year. 100 per cent. employed at end of year.	Mainly farm and station work.
Boggabilla	Good year for employment	Shearing, droving, general station and farm work.
Brewarrina	Average 95 per cent. employed. 86 per cent. employed at beginning of year.	General sheep station work and domestic service.
Brungle	92.4 per cent. employed at end of year. Demand often exceeded supply	General farm work.
Burnt Bridge	91 per cent. employed throughout year.	General farm work, timber industry, sleeper cutting, etc.
Burra Bee Dee	100 per cent. employed throughout year.	Charcoal production, road maintenance, farm work.
Cabbage Tree Island ..	99 per cent. employed last year	General farm work, sugar cane, bananas, dairying.
Cowra	87 per cent. employed this year. 100 per cent. employment. Abundance of local work.	Rural and factory work.
Cumeroogunga	100 per cent. employed	Charcoal production, shearing, harvesting, fruit picking and fruit cannery work.
Jervis Bay	100 per cent. employed	Mainly fishing and general farm work.
Menindee	75 per cent. employed throughout year.	Grape picking, fruit cannery work and general station work.
Moonahcullah	100 per cent. employed throughout year.	Fruit picking, charcoal production, fishing, farm work.
Pilliga.....	100 per cent. employed throughout year.	Station work and seasonal work as shearing, trapping. Men are in very great demand.
Roseby Park	Good demand for casual work	Seasonal work, potatoes, peas, beans, fishing.
Quirindi	100 per cent. employed throughout year.	General farm and station work.
Taroo	96 per cent. employment. Average for year.	Timber mills, orchard work, vegetable planting and picking.
Walgett	100 per cent. throughout year	Station work and shearing.
Wallaga Lake	100 per cent. throughout year	General farm work, pea picking, road maintenance.
Woodenbong	100 per cent. throughout year	Sleeper cutting and general timber work, plantation labour.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

The oversight and general welfare of aboriginal wards in employment continues to receive the careful attention of the Boards' administration. At the close of the year, nine boys and twenty girls between the ages of 15 and 18 years who are under the Board's control as wards, were in employment under apprenticeship conditions. These children were carefully placed in selected homes and are visited regularly by the Welfare Inspector who attends to their needs and personal problems.

Most of the youths and girls who reside on Aboriginal Stations are eagerly sought for employment by farmers and graziers in their district. These young people are paid a wage comparable to that received by whites.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

In surveying the health conditions amongst the aboriginal communities throughout the State, during the year under review, it can be said that, in general, the position has been satisfactory. Wherever supervision has been exercised there has been very little sickness. Parasitic ailments caused by lack of personal hygiene have not been apparent to any large extent. In certain districts, however, where the aborigines are not under the continuous and direct oversight of a Matron or trained nurse, there has been a considerable amount of scabies and impetigo. These ailments can only be overcome by proper treatment and personal hygiene and such cases are directed to the local hospital for advice and treatment. Eye ailments, notably trachoma, still exist to some extent, but proper treatment has reduced the incidence on Stations and Reserves, possibly by fifty per cent.

Better food has played an important part in the improvement in the health of the aboriginal people generally.

As in former years, all aborigines requiring medical attention and hospital treatment have been given the same facilities as those received by indigent members of the white community. Aborigines are entitled to attend at local public hospitals, and, if necessary, may be admitted for treatment.

As previously reported, the services of the local Bush Nursing Association have been availed of on a few of the outback Stations, notably Pilliga and Woodenbong. The Board again expresses its sincere appreciation for the valuable help and advice given by local nurses of the Bush Nursing Association.

Whenever dental treatment is necessary for aborigines an arrangement is made with one of the local dentists to visit the Station and attend to all aborigines who require extractions or fillings. All aged, infirm and indigent aborigines receive dental attention free of charge, the cost being borne by the Board. In many instances, dental plates have been supplied to aborigines. The services of the Travelling Dental Clinic attached to the Dental Hospital were availed of at a number of centres during the year.

The care and feeding of babies is regarded as one of the important features connected with health matters on all Stations and some Reserves. Expectant and nursing mothers have received the special care of the Matrons of the Stations and, wherever possible, arrangements were made for regular visitations by the local Baby Health Centre Nurse for the purpose of supervising babies and advising mothers. Several Stations have been provided with Baby Clinics to enable this important aspect of welfare work to be carried on effectively.

HOUSING.

It is noteworthy to report again this year that the Board's aim is to provide aboriginal families under its care with adequate and proper housing. Pride and self-respect will only develop in all people, including aborigines, when living standards are satisfactory. If people are forced to live in small, inadequate, dingy hovels, their standards must become lessened until finally they find themselves in the lowest stratum of society.

War conditions have affected the Board's housing programme to the same extent as is the case elsewhere. The controlling authorities are not prepared to regard housing for aborigines as more important than housing for other members of the community, and the low priority coupled with greatly increased costs and scarcity of skilled tradesmen have resulted in a compulsory suspension of an extensive building programme. A certain amount has been achieved during the year by patching up existing homes and effecting alterations and additions, work being done chiefly by the management of each Station, with local aboriginal assistance.

The amount expended during the financial year on erection of buildings and additions to buildings was £1,801 17s. 2d. This amount represented only a very small fraction of the normal building expenditure, but contracts could not be arranged for extensive building works. Buildings erected include two cottages, two garages, closets and out-buildings.

An amount of £1,066 was also expended on repairs and renovations to buildings. Negotiations are at present in progress with the National Works Council for a large-scale building programme as soon as the war is over, or earlier, if conditions permit, and it is anticipated that several hundred homes will be erected on Stations and Reserves for occupation by aboriginal families. The building programme will also include other works necessary on Stations for the welfare of the aboriginal people.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY.

The Board has always envisaged the development of as many aboriginal stations as possible to such an extent that the settlements would eventually become self-supporting in respect of those food supplies which can be produced off the land. A beginning was made at the outset of the war in an effort to achieve this objective, but many difficulties presented themselves as the plan proceeded, and it has now become necessary to reduce the agricultural activity on Stations to a minimum. The Board anticipates, however, that when the war is over the present scarcity of labour will be overcome in a measure, and, furthermore, equipment, fencing material and other necessities, which are now difficult to obtain, may be secured. The major difficulty, however, is at present lack of staff and lack of labour.

Dairy herds and community vegetable gardens have been maintained where possible on most Aboriginal Stations. It is extremely regrettable that the past year has been marked by exceptional drought conditions which have played a very adverse part in milk and vegetable production. At the close of the year the fodder position had become so serious that it was found necessary on a number of Stations to dispose of a large proportion of the live stock maintained thereon.

RELIEF AND BENEFITS TO ABORIGINES.

It has been pointed out in previous reports that one of the Board's main functions is the care and relief of all aged, infirm, indigent and incapable aborigines. It is expected that every able-bodied and intelligent aborigine should make an honest endeavour to provide for himself and his family. For the greater part this is now the case, but there will always be that small percentage of people who will have to be maintained and cared for by the Board.

A summary of the various benefits derived by aborigines in need of assistance is set out hereunder:—

Housing.—So far as existing housing conditions permit, every family, residing on a Station or Reserve, is provided with a small home free of rent. Some of these homes, admittedly, are not particularly modern, and are not very suitable for habitation purposes, but the more unsuitable homes will be demolished and replaced by modern homes when conditions permit. At present there are over 700 homes on Stations and Reserves occupied by aborigines.

Rations.—Every aged, infirm and indigent aborigine receives a full-scale ration at the hand of the Board. The scale has been affected, in a small measure, by rationing conditions, but it can be truthfully said that the ration scale provided is sufficient and ample to maintain and nourish the recipients. On most stations the standard ration issue is supplemented by milk and vegetables produced on the settlement. The value of a standard weekly ration issued to aborigines is approximately 7s. 6d. Children under 15 years of age receive half quantities with the exception of milk and meat which are supplied in the same quantity as to adults.

The number of rations issued on the various Stations at the beginning and end of the year may be determined from the following table:—

Station.	As at 1st July, 1943.		As at 30th June, 1944.	
	Population.	Recipients.	Population.	Recipients.
Bellbrook	86	36	124	26
Boggabilla	209	32	214	31
Brewarrina	208	64	189	50
Brungle	51	9	53	14
Burnt Bridge	249	37	260	28
Burra Bee Dee	98	17	115	16
Cabbage Tree Island	116	17	108	17
Cowra	98	7	128	2
Cumarooogunga	186	23	200	21
Jervis Bay	93	23	102	18
Menindee	234	80	198	84
Moonahcullah	57	8	86	5
Pilliga	93	27	96	24
Quirindi	208	17	181	15
Roseby Park	100	14	109	14
Taree	76	15	129	16
Walgett	144	18	116	28
Wallaga Lake	84	31	78	20
Woodenbong	171	27	168	21
Total	2,561	502	2,654	450

A return of ration issues to Aborigines residing on Reserves is also set out hereunder:—

Reserve.	Area.	As at 1st July, 1943.		As at 30th June, 1944.	
		Population.	Recipients.	Population.	Recipients.
	Acres.				
Balranald	140	24	...	34	6
Baryulgil	40	47	8	38	6
Bowraville	90	122	10	70	14
Collarenebri	50	84	1	79	...
Condobolin	16	64	16	78	14
Copmanhurst	150	50	4	...	...
Coraki	10	70	9	79	18
Darlington Pt.	25	15	2	11	16
Dubbo (Talbragar)	18	53	2	45	...
Forster	18	58	...	57	...
Goodooga (Dennawan)	80	105	3	103	3
Goolagong	80	26	...	24	...
Gulgambone	70	125	5	66	2
Hillston	98	4	...	8	...
Karuah	50	50	7	46	2
Kyogle	115	30	6	1	...
La Perouse	6	66	7	67	...
Macksville (Eungai)	20	5	...	5	...
Moree	12	257	5	241	5
Mungindi	100	66	...	77	...
Nambucca Heads (Stewart's Is.) ...	70	7	5	7	5
Nymtoida	35	2	1	2	1
Pooncarie	620	3	2	3	2
Quambone	60	3	...	...	...
Rye Park	140	10	...	11	...
Sackville (Wilberforce)	150	1	1	...	...
Tabulam	100	100	19	106	13
Tibooburra	100	3	2	3	2
Tingha (Long Gully).....	15	59	24	37	...
Tweed Heads (Ukerebagh Is.)	37	5	1	...	...
Ulgundahi Is. (Maclean)	40	61	5	82	11
Uralla	100	18	...	17	...
Walcha (Summervale)	107	54	3	48	4
Wellington (Nanima)	100	28	27	40	18
Wilcannia	100	140	7	42	6
Yass	9	58	...	52	...
Total .....	...	1,873	182	1,579	148

Clothing.—Two issues of clothing, one for Summer and one for Winter, are made to all aged and indigent aborigines, in accordance with their needs.

A certain amount of difficulty has been experienced during the past year in arranging for the supplies of clothing at the appropriate periods. This is influenced, of course, by the stocks available and the restricted manpower at the State Clothing Factory where the garments are made. The following table shows the number of recipients during 1943-44, compared with the total for the previous year:—

Issue.	Male.		Female.		Total.	
	1942-43.	1943-44.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1942-43.	1943-44.
Summer	242	214	306	274	548	488
Winter	231	183	281	267	512	450
Total	473	397	587	541	1,060	938

Blankets.—It has always been the practice of the Board to supply blankets to all aborigines who are in need. In normal times the issue was made on a somewhat generous basis, but latterly, owing to restricted supplies, it has become necessary to make the issue only to aged, infirm and indigent aborigines. Blankets issued for the year 1943-44 are given hereunder, together with the total number issued during the previous year:—

Place.	1942-43.	1943-44.
Stations	287	369
Reserves	110	83
Total	397	452

Medical Attention.—Under the heading of Health and Hygiene, it has already been stated that free medical service is given to all needy aborigines throughout the State. Every Aboriginal Station is supplied with a Treatment Room and Dispensary, and personal attention is given by the Manager or Matron—in some cases by a resident trained nurse—to all residents who require first aid or advice on their ailments. All cases of sickness which are considered to be of a more serious nature are conveyed to the local district hospital, where the aborigines receive the same careful and sympathetic treatment as white people.

Baby Outfits.—It is customary to supply every expectant mother with an outfit of baby clothing for the comfort of the baby when born. The outfits are supplied gratuitously to indigent families, but a contribution towards the cost is expected in the cases of those families where the husband is earning good wages. During the year, 91 baby outfits were supplied to aborigines by the Board.

Christmas Cheer.—The Board, once again, this year played its part in helping to make the Christmas season for the aborigines a happy and festive occasion. At the break-up of the school year, the Board made it possible for all children living on Stations and Reserves to have a Christmas Party, at which gifts, ice cream, drinks, etc., were provided. By arrangement with the Prisons Department each child was also supplied with a small toy made by inmates of State Prisons. Christmas dinner for all aboriginal families on Stations and Reserves was made a more pleasant occasion by special issues of food items and also extra tobacco.

CHILD ENDOWMENT.

During the year under review, the Board again supervised the expenditure of endowment moneys by aborigines on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. In recent reports it was pointed out that when the Commonwealth Government took over the administration of Child Endowment in 1941, it requested the various authorities of the State Governments to undertake the responsibility of supervision of Child Endowment to aborigines within their State. This was considered necessary to ensure that such money was expended for the benefit of the children concerned.

During the year ended 30th June, 1944, the amount of £11,249 was received from the Commonwealth Sub-Treasury for Child Endowment payments to aborigines. The number of cases administered by the Aborigines Welfare Board during the year was 331; this number was reduced by twenty-six cases which expired and forty-one cases where Direct Payment was approved, thus leaving 264 cases directly administered by the Board at the end of the year.

During the year, thirteen Direct Payment cases were transferred back to the control of the Board, owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which the parents applied the money made available as endowment, on behalf of their children. The policy, however, of encouraging parents to qualify for Direct Payment of endowment, by reason of their reliability, thrift, industry and manner of living, continues to be diligently pursued.

CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Two Children's Homes have been established by the Aborigines Welfare Board for the reception, maintenance, education and training of aboriginal children admitted to the Board's control. The two homes, namely, Kinchela Boys' Training Home, Macleay River, and Cootomundra Girls Training Home, provide, in part at least, the great need for the reception and care of neglected and orphan children, who, by reason of their circumstances, have been committed to the Board's care by the Courts or at the wish of relatives. The Homes fill a long-felt need, but it is the opinion of the Board that they are not sufficient to allow for the individual attention of the children and the necessary segregation of children into desirable age groups, by virtue of their physical and mental development. The two aforesaid Homes accommodate children from five to fifteen years of age. In viewing the future, it is considered that the young children should be maintained in separate Homes from the older children. The reason for this contention is obvious; children of tender years need more individual attention, and when dealing with them in the mass, it is preferred that they should not associate with children of adolescent years, particularly if some of the adolescent children are problem cases. The present time, however, is not opportune to make such changes, but it is proposed to give further consideration to this aspect as post-war development.

Another necessary institution, which may have to be provided in the near future, is that of an Infants' Home. Hitherto, the Board has been able to arrange for the reception of infants committed to its care by having them placed in demoninational and other private institutions, and, occasionally, by boarding them out with approved families. During the past year, however, the number of infants committed to the Board's care by the Courts has increased, but the opportunity for placing them out in the manner described has become more difficult. Private institutions are now declining to receive aboriginal children, mainly because of staffing and administration difficulties, and there are now practically no private families who are willing to take infants as a boarding-out arrangement. During the past year, twelve infants were admitted to the Board's control as wards and the prospects are that this number may increase. Inquiries are at present in progress with a view to ascertaining whether it would be possible to secure a suitable building that could be used as an Infants' Home. When the Home has been established, the problem of staffing and equipment will then have to be faced.

Kinchela Boys' Training Home.—This Home, which accommodates up to fifty boys, had an average enrolment during the year of forty-three children. The Home, which is situated on the Macleay River, North Coast, has an area of thirty-two acres and is virtually a self-contained institution. It has a farm section which produces sufficient milk, butter, vegetables and eggs for the needs of the Home. Every effort is made to care for and train the boys, so that when they eventually leave the Home they are healthy youths with a reasonable education and training that will fit them to become useful members of the community.

The general health of the boys throughout the year has been excellent. The boys are submitted for medical examination twice annually, and a dentist visits the Home also twice annually to examine every boy's teeth and to administer any necessary dental treatment. All the boys were immunised during the year against diphtheria.

Due attention has been paid to physical training and recreation. Organised games are arranged regularly and the boys have outdoor gymnasium. A Scout Cub Pack was formed during the year and is under the charge of the Head Mistress of the School as Cub Mistress. The Board provided cub uniforms for every boy who qualified as a "cub." For indoor recreation a library, radio and games have been provided, and boxing tournaments are organised at regular intervals. The comprehensive scheme of physical exercise, in conjunction with clean, airy accommodation, a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables and fruit and careful attention to diet are the main factors contributing to the satisfactory health record.

During the past year improved bathing and sanitary conveniences were installed. The new bathrooms are fitted with hot water units, and the night conveniences attached are directly connected to the dormitories.

The Staff and boys constructed a modern dairy and separator room, a coke store and kitchen annexe, and also carried out very creditable maintenance work, including painting, kalsomining and general repairs.

Most of the boys at the Home are of School age, but as each boy reaches 15 years of age he is given a course of training, on the farm and in the workshop, for approximately six months prior to leaving the Home for employment. The dairy herd of 26 milking cows has been maintained, the average milk yield for the year being 24 gallons per day. In addition to supplying all milk requirements for the Home, over one ton of butter was manufactured which met full requirements.

Cootamundra Girls' Training Home.—The Cootamundra Girls' Training Home is situated in near proximity to the town, and has accommodation for fifty inmates.

During the past year, the average enrolment was 49, twelve new girls having been admitted and ten girls having been placed in suitable employment.

The children have been well cared for and have in general responded to the sympathetic treatment which they have received from the Staff. The sympathetic interest shown by the townspeople of Cootamundra has been maintained and the inmates of the Home have participated in many local functions.

The general health of the girls has been satisfactory and no epidemics were experienced. Regular medical and dental inspections were carried out. The Medical Officer has expressed satisfaction with the standard of food being supplied to the girls. The diet furnished included a liberal supply of milk from the Home dairy, eggs from the poultry section and a varied assortment of vegetables, some of which were grown in the Home garden.

An average attendance of 38 pupils was maintained at the Aboriginal School, situated in the Home grounds, during the past year. Full consideration was given to the instruction of the young pupils in fundamental subjects. Progress was satisfactory and was the subject of a most favourable report from the District School Inspector. One girl, who was admitted as a special pupil to the local Public School last year, has made very pleasing progress and is to enter High School at the beginning of next year. The older girls receive training in domestic work, including cooking, laundry, homecrafts, sewing, etc.

Religious instruction has been regularly imparted at the Home, and, in addition, the girls have attended local Churches, some as members of various choirs.

Healthy recreation and outdoor sport has been encouraged. During the summer months the children have been taken regularly to the Town baths. New equipment has been provided for the playing area, including a slippery dip, see-saws, etc., additional to the tennis court, basketball and vigoro areas already in existence. The Home library was well patronised, a number of the girls being avid readers.

While on School vacation, all girls were taken to Tumut, where a camping holiday was greatly enjoyed, swimming being the most popular pastime.

The Home has been considerably brightened and improved by recent painting and renovating, both inside and out, and the installation of a hot water service, electric washing machine and other conveniences.

During the year under review, the Department has been unfortunate in losing the services of Miss H. Muir, who resigned from the service to be married. This eventuality left two members remaining of the New Guinea missionaries who have been such an asset to the Institution since their association with it.

In maintaining this Home, it has been the object of the Board that its wards should lead as normal and as happy an existence as possible, and that they be guided into becoming useful citizens, with the least amount of friction. It would appear that during the year under review most objectives have been attained, and those girls trained in the Institution, and since placed in service, have, for the most part, conducted themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit on their teachers.

ABORIGINAL STATIONS.

The number of Aboriginal Stations maintained by the Board throughout the year remains the same as for the immediate past years. These Stations, 19 in number, are situated throughout all parts of the State, and may be described as settlements set aside for the use of aborigines, and which are under the resident management of a Board's Officer who, in some cases, has assistant staff. These Stations are in the nature of communities of aboriginal families, and the needs of the people on each Station are met by the provision of a home for each family, a school, medical treatment room, recreation hall, water supply, ration store and community vegetable garden. In some cases a dairy herd also is maintained.

The Stations vary in size and population, as will be seen from the particulars set out in Appendix "A" at the end of this report.

Distribution of the populations on Stations is as follows:—

Over 200 residents	.. .. .	3 Stations
Between 100 and 200 residents	.. .. .	12 Stations
Under 100 residents	.. .. .	4 Stations

The total number of aborigines residing on Stations at the end of June, 1944, showed an increase of ninety-three on the previous year. The Stations are maintained primarily for the care and oversight of aborigines who need the Board's protection, or who prefer the community life, and the less advanced families are not encouraged to leave; on the other hand, every superior aborigine who shows any inclination to strike out for himself is encouraged to do so.

ABORIGINAL RESERVES.

Like Stations, Aboriginal Reserves are areas set aside specially for occupation and use by aborigines, but in this case the settlements are not under resident management of a Board's officer, neither are they provided with the amenities and improvements found on Stations.

Aborigines who live on Reserves are more independent and prefer to fend for themselves. Unfortunately, however, the standards of living in many such cases are not comparable to that evident amongst the aborigines who live on Stations.

Reserves are under the supervision of the local Police, who visit them regularly and submit periodical report to the Board, bringing under notice any matters requiring attention.

At the 30th June, 1944, 1,674 aborigines resided on Aboriginal Reserves. There are approximately fifty Reserves (excluding Stations) within the State set aside for the use of aborigines, but of this number only thirty-two were inhabited by aborigines at the close of the year. Appendix "B" at the end of this report sets out a list of those Aboriginal Reserves which are at present in use.

ACCOUNTS AND GENERAL EXPENDITURE.

The Treasury Estimates for the year 1943-44 disclose that an amount of £51,481 was allotted to the Aborigines Welfare Board for the relief and benefit of aborigines and for their welfare generally. The actual amount expended was £46,769. In addition, an amount of £4,723 represents expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board. The total amount expended, both by the Board and by other Departments, was £51,492.

In previous years, the amounts noted as expenditure by other Departments, on behalf of the Board, included money expended by the Department of Education for the education of aboriginal children in native schools. Since it is now the Government's policy to include the education of aboriginal children as part of the general education scheme administered by the Department of Education, it is not proposed in future to include this item as general expenditure on behalf of aborigines.

An amount of £1,714 was provided from General Loan Account for special building work done at the Cootamundra Girls' Training Home, Kinchela Boys' Training Home and Moree Aborigines Reserve.

CONCLUSION.

The Board desires, again, to place on record the valuable assistance and co-operation rendered by other Government Departments throughout the past year, thus contributing largely to the successful administration of the Board. The assistance given by the Police Department, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Lands, Department of Education, Department of Public Works and the Child Welfare Department, warrants special mention.

In conclusion, the Board desires to express its appreciation and thanks to its own staff, both at Head Office and in the field, for the loyal and willing service rendered by them throughout the past year.

Dated this First day of February, 1945.

S. L. ANDERSON,

Chairman.

G. E. ARDILL,
H. BARTLETT,
A. P. ELKIN,
J. P. GLASHEEN,
A. W. G. LIPSCOMB,
E. SYDNEY MORRIS,
MICHAEL SAWTELL,
T. R. SCHUMACHER,

Members
Aborigines
Welfare
Board.

APPENDIX "A."

List of Aboriginal Stations and Vital Statistics.

Station.	Area.	Population.		Statistics for year ended 30th June, 1944.		
		30th June, 1943.	30th June, 1944.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
	Acres.					
Bellbrook	96	86	124	8	1	...
Boggabilla	457	209	214	9	2	...
Brewarrina	4,638	208	189	12	2	...
Brunle	375	51	53	3	1	...
Burnt Bridge	613	249	260	14	4	2
Burra Bee Dee	623	98	115	6	1	...
Cabbage Tree Island	125	116	108	1	1	1
Cowra	31	98	128	3	...	2
Cumerogunga	2,600	186	200	10	3	3
Jervis Bay	100	93	102	5	...	...
Menindee	1,000	234	198	6	3	2
Moonahcullah	232	57	86	6	...	...
Pilliga	150	93	96	7	...	...
Quirindi	220	208	181	9	4	...
Roseby Park	66	100	109	7	1	...
Taree	51	76	129	2	2	1
Walgett	337	144	116	5	4	1
Wallaga Lake	341	84	78	6	1	...
Woodenbong	126	171	168	5	1	2
Total .....	...	2,561	2,654	124	31	14

APPENDIX "B."

List of Aboriginal Reserves.

Reserve.	Area.	Population.	
		30 June, 1943.	30 June, 1944.
	Acres.		
Balranald	140	50	34
*Baryulgil	40	53	38
Bomaderry Home	8	44	49
Bowraville	90	127	70
Collarenebri	50	84	79
*Condobolin	16	118	78
Coraki	10	70	79
Darlington Point	25	15	11
*Dubbo (Talbragar)	18	52	45
*Forster	18	58	57
Goodooga (includes Dennawan)	80	105	103
Goolagong	80	31	24
*Gulargambone	70	125	66
Hillston	98	4	8
*Karuah	50	50	46
*Kyogle	115	30	1
La Perouse	6	66	67
Macksville (Eungai)	20	5	5
Moree	12	257	241
Mungindi	100	62	77
Pooncarie	620	3	3
Rye Park	140	11	11
*Tabulam	100	100	106
Tibooburra	100	3	3
Tuncester (Settlement)	1	56	55
*Tingha (Long Gully)	15	59	37
*Ulgundahi Is. (Maclean)	40	61	82
Uralla	100	18	17
*Walcha (Summervale)	107	54	48
*Wellington (Nanima)	100	28	40
Wilcannia	100	140	42
*Yass	9	58	52
Total .....	...	1,997	1,674

Note.—* Signifies Aboriginal School on Reserve.

APPENDIX "C."

STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1944.

Accounts and General Expenditure—

	£	£
The total amount expended on the welfare of Aborigines, during the year ended 30th June, 1944, was		46,769

Details of expenditure are set out hereunder—

Direct Expenditure incurred by the Board—

Buildings and Repairs, etc.	4,605	
Salaries and Wages	15,356	
Maintenance of, and assistance to Aborigines	15,015	
Freight, Cartage, Travelling Expenses, Purchase of Machinery and Plant, and other expenditure of a miscellaneous nature	11,793	46,769

Expenditure incurred by other Departments, on behalf of the Board—

Government Stores Department for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies	2,334	
Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc.	275	
Department of Works and Local Government, for telephone services ..	616	
Resumed Properties Department, for sanitary services	1,382	
Government Printer, for Printing and Bookbinding	116	4,723

Total		£51,492
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Note.—The total does not include an amount of £16,902, expended by the Department of Education for the education of aboriginal children in native schools.