



### Aboriginal Stations Generally

The Board conducts sixteen aboriginal Stations, each of which is under the full-time control of a Manager and Matron, the latter in many instances being a trained nurse.

Houses are provided for the residents and every encouragement is given to the aboriginal people to adopt a standard of living comparable with that of the white community. Minor medical attention is given at a well-equipped treatment room, and the Station endeavours to instruct mothers in child care and home management.

A Church and Recreation Hall exists to cater for religious and recreational activities. Social life is fostered and the people are encouraged to take an active part in community life. This has proved to be helpful in preparation for assimilation into the general community. In many instances, residents through local progress associations have displayed a keen interest in the management of their own affairs, and are developing a commendable degree of responsibility.

On one Station a branch of the Country Women's Association has been established, and members mingle freely with those of nearby white branches.

### Statistics

A survey of the aboriginal population of New South Wales was completed during the year by the Board's Officers. This revealed that the number in this State was—

Full bloods ..	235
Half castes ..	6,600
Lesser castes ..	6,763
Total ..	13,598

This represents a slight increase under each heading on the figures of the previous census.

This can be accepted as a fairly accurate census of pure bloods and people having an identifiable admixture of aboriginal blood, but it is safe to say that there are many others in the community of so light a caste as to be no longer identified as of aboriginal descent.

Of the numbers stated, 4,758 reside on Stations and Reserves under the control of the Board. Of the remaining 8,840, some live in sub-standard conditions on the outskirts of country towns. Very many, however, own or rent their own homes and may be regarded as completely assimilated.

### Labour and Employment

While increasing numbers of aborigines are finding more permanent types of employment, there are still many who follow seasonal occupations and lead a somewhat migratory existence. This is inimical to a stable economic position and has an adverse effect on the home life and education of the children. Officers of the Board make it their constant endeavour to settle workers in permanent occupations. Many have obtained positions with the Railway Department, Main Roads Board, Local Government bodies, and other work of a stable nature. Some are self-employed as shearing and fencing contractors. During the year, employment has been found for a number of girls as trainee nurses, nursing aids and hospital domestics.

### Exemption Certificates

Under the Aborigines Protection Act, a certificate of exemption from the provisions thereof may be granted upon the application of any person having an admixture of aboriginal blood, who, in the opinion of the Board, is no longer subject to such provisions. Exemptions are granted, only after due enquiry, to persons of good character who have attained a satisfactory standard of living.

During the year under review, 137 such certificates were issued and a comparison with previous years is as follows :—

	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
Granted ..	99	110	137
Deferred ..	..	..	1
Declined ..	3	7	25
Cancelled ..	3	5	6



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