1948-49-50

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT

of the

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

for Year ended 30th June, 1949

Presented to Parliament in pursuance of the provisions of Section 19B of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909-1943

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[104.]
The Aborigines Welfare Board presents to the Honourable the Chief Secretary this Report on its work during the year ended 30th June, 1949, together with information on the care and general welfare of the aborigines resident within the State of New South Wales during that period.

THE BOARD.

During the year five meetings of the Board were held. The attendance—

Mr. S. L. Anderson (Chairman) .................. 5
Superintendent R. H. Blackley .......... 2
Dr. J. Grahame Drew .......... 5
Professor A. P. Elkin ........... 4
Mr. William Ferguson .......... 4
Mr. J. P. Glaseoab .......... 3
Mr. R. H. Heferen, M.I.A ...... 1
Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb ........ 4
Superintendent B. E. Sadler .......... 1
Mr. Michael Sawtell .......... 5
The Honourable E. G. Wright, M.H.C. ...... 4

By virtue of his position as Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department, the Board operated in accordance with the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act, Mr. S. L. Anderson occupied the position of Chairman of the Board throughout the year. Professor A. P. Elkin was again elected as Vice Chairman.

Superintendent B. E. Sadler attended his last meeting as a member of the Board on the 17th August, 1948, consequent upon his retirement from the Police Department. Superintendent R. H. Blackley succeeded him as representative of his Department.

Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb, as Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, is Ex-Executive Member of the Board. The Act provides that the Superintendent and other members of the Board should pay regular visits to Aborigines Stations and Children's Homes throughout the State to maintain personal contact with the aborigines and obtain first-hand knowledge of their problems and needs. This requirement was observed, with much helpful and interesting, to the aboriginal residents as well as to the visitors.

Of the eleven members of the Aborigines Welfare Board, one must be a full-blood aborigine and one either a full-blood or a person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood. These representatives, who are elected by the aboriginal people, serve on the Board for three years and are eligible for re-election.

The term of office of the two aboriginal members, Messrs. Walter Page and William Ferguson, expired on 6th July, 1948. Mr. Ferguson, who is a quarter-caste, was re-elected unopposed. No nominations were received for the vacant office of full-blood aboriginal and the seat is still vacant.

BOARD'S POLICY.

A most important objective of the Board is to assist aborigines to prepare for eventual assimilation into the white community. A prerequisite to acceptable assimilation of any aborigine into the general community life is good housing and home management. The Board feels that the modern cottages now being put under way, including the re-housing of a complete community group in attractive modern cottages at the Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station, will assist in this regard and give the aborigine a feeling of self-respect. A considerable advance in the aborigine a realisation that he may, and should, become part of the general community life of his fellow citizens for the common good of the community as a whole.

As an earnest of its desire quickly to assimilate the aboriginal people as an integral part of the community, the Board has appointed Area Welfare Officers, and has others in training. The Board has in mind division of the State in to a number of geographical areas. Each of the areas is to be under the direct supervision of an Area Welfare Officer who will, in effect, represent the Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare in such an area. He will have his headquarters at some convenient place and may later have an associate officer, as it is felt that the needs of the aboriginal people in each area will be more adequately met with two officers in each area.

The Public Service Board invited applications early in 1949 for the appointment of two trainee educational officers. The Board was able only to make one appointment. This appointee is a young quarter-caste aboriginal lad who has passed his Leaving Certificate examination. He commenced studies at the Sydney Teachers' College in March, 1949. When this lad's studies are completed and he has been trained at the Board's office in aspects of the work upon which he will be engaged, his task will be to develop a more satisfactory relationship between the normal education of aboriginal children and social life of the aboriginal people on the Stations.

District Welfare Activities—The immediate plan of the Board is to partition the State into four Areas. A Welfare Officer is to be assigned to each Area, and, in fact, two Areas are already being served. It may be some time before the four Areas are fully staffed, but the training of personal VITAL STATISTICS.

When the general census was taken on 30th June, 1947, information was collected as to the number of aborigines residing in the various States of the Commonwealth. The following figures were supplied for New South Wales:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-blood</td>
<td>5,668</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>6,075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed blood</td>
<td>3,488</td>
<td>6,109</td>
<td>9,597</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Board considers that progress has also been made during the last few years in breaking down antipathy and colour consciousness between aborigines and whites. Success in the ultimate assimilation into the white community, however, can only be achieved when the aborigine proves his independence, moral responsibility and reliability. This, of course, also calls for a measure of toleration on the part of the white community.
is proceeding systematically. The Area Welfare Officers will devote their energies primarily to the assistance and guidance of aborigines in their districts. They will carry out routine inspections of Stations and Reserves at regular intervals. These duties, however, will take in not only the exercising of a general sight of Aboriginal Stations and Reserves within the Areas allotted to the Area Welfare Officers, but also the general welfare of people of aboriginal descent wherever they may be residing.

At the close of the period under review, Welfare Officers were operating in two regions which might briefly be described as the North Coast and North-west Areas of the State. The headquarters of the North Coast are Casino and Berry, and those of the North-west are Carnarvon and Moree, respectively.

During the year, visits were made to the office of the Casino Welfare Officer by some 250 aborigines who sought advice mainly on personal problems. Employment was found for a few aborigines out of work. The Welfare Officer attended the Courts and at times took an active part in the case as the aborigines' next friend.

Visits were made by the Welfare Officers to Stations and Reserves within their Area. In addition, aborigines living privately in homes in the town were visited. The Welfare Officer gave a number of public addresses throughout the year.

ASSISTANCE TO ABORIGINES TO ACQUIRE THEIR OWN HOMES.

Action to assist persons of aboriginal descent in their endeavours to become assimilated into the general community were taken during the period by seeking the provision of housing shortage and the general lack of materials and labour. The Board has encouraged aborigines, particularly those of lighter caste, to apply for the purchase of a home under the Board's control and to become merged with the general community.

In order to impress the aboriginal people with a sense of social responsibility a weekly rental is now being charged to all aborigines occupying new residences on the Board's stations and reserves. Rentals have been fixed at 10s. for a two-bedroom residence, and 17s. 6d. for a three-bedroom home. The charge is to be applied to new homes, whilst an appropriate charge is to be made for existing cottages of a reasonable standard. In the case of tenants who are not in a financial position to pay rent at the rates laid down, the Board's policy is that each case should be considered on its merits.

So far as encouragement of aborigines of lighter caste to live outside the Board's control is concerned, the ideal arrangement would be to provide a number of aborigines to enable them to obtain homes on allotments in certain country towns. The Treasury has provided a small sum of money to enable the Aborigines Welfare Board to purchase one or two blocks and build homes thereon, but, owing to difficulties in obtaining suitable blocks, this scheme was not developed to any degree during the period under review.

The New Homes.—It is estimated that some 600 to 700 homes are in the process of being built or resorted to by the aboriginal people. It has not been possible up to the present to complete more than approximately 10 per cent. of the number and the project is in considerable danger of being abandoned and is steadily being pursued. Plans of the cottages prepared by the Government Architect on the Board's behalf cover two and three-bedroom units of modern design and incorporating also a kitchen with fuel stove, living room, bathroom and laundry. These homes will be established on Aboriginal Stations and Reserves, and also in country centres on the principle of private ownership. Other facilities, such as recreational halls, schools, stores, medical block and churches will also be provided.

Provided the Board is supplied with adequate funds, year by year, it is anticipated that the objective of providing good homes for every necessitous aboriginal family will be achieved within the next decade. A church and a social hall are regarded as essential factors to the development of social progress amongst the aboriginal people on reserves. These will carry out routine inspections of Stations and Reserves at regular intervals. These duties, however, will take in not only the exercising of a general sight of Aboriginal Stations and Reserves within the Areas allotted to the Area Welfare Officers, but also the general welfare of people of aboriginal descent wherever they may be residing.

Ordinarily the Commonwealth Government does not grant Old Age, Invalid or Widows' Pensions or Maternity Allowances to aborigines possessing a preponderance of aboriginal blood. Similarly, an aborigine who resides on a Reserve, is not eligible to receive the Old Age, Invalid or Widows' Pensions. If, however, any aborigine of the aboriginal blood is granted an Exemption Certificate and removes himself from the Board's care, such aborigines may become eligible to receive these social benefits from the Commonwealth Government.

During the year ended 30th June, 1949, sixty-one applications for Exemption Certificates were dealt with by the Board, as under:

| Exemption Certificates granted | 47 |
| Exemption Certificates declined | 6 |
| Exemption Certificates deferred | 8 |

During the year no certificate was cancelled.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION ACT.

The Board is now empowered to issue to any aborigine, or person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood, a certificate exempting him or her from the provisions of the Aboriginal Protection Act and the Regulation thereunder. This amendment to the Act was framed in order that the more advanced aborigines might be given an opportunity to free themselves from the restrictive sections of the Act and to assume full status as citizens of the State.

EMPLOYMENT OF WARDS.

The oversight and general welfare of aboriginal wards in employment have continued to receive careful attention by the Board's administration. The Board's Welfare Officers, Inspectors of the Child Welfare Department, and local Police are in a few remote centres, acting on behalf of the Board, regularly inspect the conditions of employment and attend to the wards' needs and personal problems.

Children have been committed to the care of the Board as wards are maintained at the Board's institutions until they reach approximately 16 years of age. Upon leaving school the boys and girls are usually placed with approved employers and under approved apprentice conditions.

At the close of the period under review, eighteen wards—eight boys and ten girls—were in employment throughout the State under conditions governed by the Regulations.

The Board considers provision of a hostel for the accommodation of aboriginal wards in employment during holidays or whilst awaiting re-employment, and inspected a number of properties, with a view to purchasing one suitable for such purposes.

LABOUR CONDITIONS—EMPLOYMENT.

The Board insists that aborigines resident on Stations and Reserves shall be urged and assisted to seek and remain in steady employment. The employment position with regard to such persons has continued to be very satisfactory. With the current high rates of wages aborigines now have opportunities, which they do not perhaps possess to the same extent in normal times, to save money. It must be admitted, however, that many aborigines still manifest little stability and ambition.

A changed attitude can only be brought about by a long process of education and training, coupled with a measure of success has already been achieved in this direction by the Board's Welfare Officers, and there is little doubt that more will be accomplished as the welfare work is extended.
The monthly reports from stations show that the percentage of employed aborigines during the year under review is about the same as that which obtained in previous two years, namely, in the region of 95 per cent. Most of the able-bodied men are absorbed into local industries, such as timber-getting, saw-milling, farming, main roads construction, fishing, railway permanence work, etc. The men enjoy award rates of pay for the work they are performing, and on the whole are treated in exactly the same way as white employees. The comparative table hereunder shows the figures in respect of the last quarters of the years 1947, 1948 and 1949:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number in Residence</th>
<th>Number in Employment</th>
<th>Percentage in Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April-June, 1947</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-June, 1948</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-June, 1949</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As against this, local greengrocers who visit the Stations have been well patronised. The Board has decided, therefore, that, in future, the following procedure is to be followed:—

(1) Vegetables are to be distributed, free of charge, only to necessitous cases, i.e., to those in receipt of a ration issue by virtue of their being aged, infirm or indigent.

(2) Families in receipt of an adequate income are to be excluded from gratuitous distribution, but may purchase vegetables at a nominal cost, after the needs of recipients under (1) have been met.

During the year, local Dairy Officers and Veterinary Officers attached to the Department of Agriculture advised the Board with advice on problems associated with the dairy herds and livestock generally on the various Stations.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

The general health of aboriginal communities throughout the State has been maintained at a satisfactory standard, particularly on the controlled settlements. It is inevitable that standards of nutrition and personal hygiene may not be quite so high as among the white community, because the use of tobacco and alcohol is prohibited. In the stations where it is not possible to prohibit the use of tobacco and alcohol a regular element of the problem is the incidence of venereal disease.

The incidence of venereal disease is not serious, and although it does exist to a small extent in some groups, it can be truthfully stated that the percentage proportion to which venereal disease occurs is probably no higher than amongst the white community. Venereal cases are notified to the Department and the disease is known to exist active steps have been taken to ensure proper remedial treatment, and in no case can the problem be regarded as dangerous.

An outbreak of scabies and other skin ailments occurred at one or two settlements where supervision had not been provided. This was obviously due to lack of proper personal hygiene, due to difficulty in obtaining water. These outbreaks have since been cleared up, and in one instance, namely, Berylgiit, an official supervisor has been appointed.

The question of provision of facilities for the accommodation and care of aboriginal boys and girls who are attending Secondary Schools and who would avail themselves of secondary education, if accommodation were made available, is receiving attention. A survey of the aboriginal children throughout the State is being made with the assistance of the Department of Education, to determine which of them would be affected by the proposal. The Board is convinced that aboriginal children who have proved their aptitude should have the opportunity of pursuing secondary school studies. In this connection consideration has been given to the provision of boarding facilities for aboriginal girls and boys attending secondary schools.

During the year three half-caste lads from the Kinchela Boys' Training Home enrolled at Kempsey High School, whilst twelve girls from the Cootamundra Girls' Training Home attended the local High School.

SOCIAL AND SPORTING.

The Board considers that the establishment on the Stations of social clubs is desirable in the interests of co-ordination of social, cultural and sporting activities, and to provide a permanent medium through which the Board may co-operate with the local community. It feels that the ideal is for the Manager to take the initiative in establishing such clubs and become the leader thereof.

The year was marked by a measure of success in establishing social and sporting clubs.

Regular dances were held at Boggabilla Aboriginal Station and a tennis club was organised. Fourteen artists from the Station contributed towards the success of a concert held at Goondiwindi. Favourable mention was made in the Press of the contribution made by the Station residents.

Children from the Woodenbong Aboriginal Station were successful in the Clarence River District School Sports, winning three challenge cups and two shields. Preparations were being made for a dance and children's sports to which aborigines from surrounding areas would be invited. Proceeds were to be devoted to the purchase of equipment for a tennis court.

At Bellbrook Aboriginal Station, also, a sports club was formed and dances held to raise money to equip a tennis court.

Cumerongguna Aboriginal Station established a social club. This has been the means of organizing dances and socials which have given pleasure and enjoyment to the aboriginal people.

At Roseby Park, Burnt Bridge and Wallaga Lake the Station football clubs have competed in their district grade competitions and all are doing very well.

The foregoing indicate the movement towards catering for the leisure interests and recreation of Aboriginals in the best possible way. The brief reports given do not represent a full picture of social and recreational achievements, but serve to demonstrate the growing realisation of the importance of organised recreation.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY.

Where conditions have been favourable the Board has encouraged and developed agricultural activity on Aboriginal Stations. The aim is to enable communities self-supporting in respect of commodities such as milk and vegetables. Aborigines, however, are not left upon their own devices, but are encouraged to form community vegetable gardens, or to harvest a crop, the aborigines have not responded.
RELIEF AND BENEFITS TO ABORIGINES.

The Board has continued to care for aged, infirm, indigent and incapacitated aborigines. Every able-bodied aborigine, however, is expected to make a genuine attempt to provide for himself and his family.

The following is a brief summary of the benefits derived by aborigines from the Board —

**Housing.** — The Board’s policy is to provide aboriginal families on Stations and Reserves with satisfactory housing. Proper living standards are essential if pride and self-respect are to be developed. During the year special efforts were directed towards maintaining existing dwellings in a fit state for habitation, and good progress was made with the erection of new dwellings.

At the new Murrin Bridge Aboriginal Station there are forty modern cottages. The prevailing difficulties in availability of labour and materials have retarded the Board’s programme. Elsewhere in the report will be found details of building activity, including provision of new homes and alteration of existing dwellings.

**Rations.** — Aged, infirm and indigent aborigines receive full scale rations. The scale of food is planned in accordance with recommendations by the Department of Public Health. In addition to the approved issue, aborigines whose circumstances so require are provided free of charge with a variety of fresh vegetables in accordance with available supplies grown on the Stations.

The number of rations issued on the various Stations at the beginning and at the end of the year is shown in Appendix “A”. 11.3 per cent. of the total population on Stations received rations during the year 1948-49, as compared with 12.2 per cent. in the year 1947-48. The figure for the year 1946-47 was 14.7 per cent. It will be seen that there has been a small decrease in aborigines requiring rations. This, of course, is attributable to their absorption into employment. The reduction is even better than the percentage reduction in the number of recipients for the past two years. It will be noted that there has been a considerable decrease in the number of recipients for the past two years. It is apparent that this state of affairs is attributable to the abundance of work available and the general high rates being paid for labour. This situation has brought into industry persons who, under less favourable circumstances, may find difficulty in competing for available jobs.

A return of the rations issued to aborigines residing on Reserves at the beginning and end of the year will be found in Appendix “A”. This return reveals a considerable decrease when compared with the previous year’s figure of 204. This situation is no doubt attributable to the fact that plenty of work is available.

**Clothing.** — Aged, indigent and other dependent aborigines receive clothing issues on the basis of two outfits per annum — one each for summer and winter. The table hereunder shows the number of recipients during 1948-49 compared with the previous two years. It will be noted that there has been a considerable decrease in the number of recipients for the past year. It is apparent that this state of affairs is attributable to the abundance of work available and the general high rates being paid for labour. This situation has brought into industry persons who, under less favourable circumstances, may find difficulty in competing for available jobs.

**Blankets.** — The established practice of supplying blankets to aborigines who are in need has been continued. The comparative figures are as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Blankets Issued to Aborigines.</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer 1948-49</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 1948-49</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Medical Attention.** — Drugs and medicines are supplied, free of charge, to resident aborigines on Aboriginal Station. Each Station is provided with a medical treatment unit, including a dispensary. A member of the staff is either a trained nurse or has had some experience in medical care. Cases requiring hospitalisation are admitted to the nearest public hospital.

**Baby Outfits.** — Full-blood and three-quarter caste mothers who have the care of their own caste, and are not entitled to the Maternity Allowance, are supplied with baby outfits upon application, free of charge. With the substantial increase in the Maternity Allowance, which was intended to cover the expenses of confinement, it is expected that mothers who receive the allowance shall meet the full cost of the outfit. The cost varies, but at the close of the year under review it was approximately £4 15s. 0d. This figure is considered reasonable, having in mind the probable cost of an outfit purchased independently. It has been decided, except in the case of a woman not entitled to the Maternity Allowance by reason of caste, the full cost is to be charged. If the cost of the outfit is paid, or before payment of the cheque for the Maternity Allowance will be forthcoming, the applicant is directed to forward the document direct from the Office of the Director of Social Services. In these cases where a baby outfit has been supplied and payment has not been made prior to the birth of the child, arrangements are made with the Director for the amount of the outfit to be deducted from the Maternity Allowance. The balance is remitted to the applicant.

**Christmas Cheer.** — The Board again joined with the aboriginal folk on Stations and Reserves in making Christmas, 1948, a happy season. Parties were arranged by the people of Stations, with the co-operation of Managers or Supervisors, and on some of the more remote Reserves the Police, aided, perhaps, by local well-wishers, organised festive functions. All aged, infirm and indigent families were provided with the necessary ingredients with which to make their Christmas puddings, and special tobacco issues were handed out.

**SOCIAL SERVICES.**

**Child Endowment.** — Any aborigine who has the care, control and custody of more than one child under the age of 16 years, may claim Child Endowment. In each case the Board furnishes a recommendation to the Commonwealth Authorities indicating whether Child Endowment should be paid direct or administered by the Aborigines Welfare Board on the endower’s behalf. Such recommendation follows consideration of reports obtained from local officers regarding the character and reliability of the person concerned to expedite endowment moneys wholly for the benefit of the children in respect of whom it is paid. The following table gives particulars of the cases administered by the Board during the year ended 30th June, 1949, and during the two previous years:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year ended 30th June.</th>
<th>Amount of Child Endowment received from Commonwealth Authorities</th>
<th>Number of cases recommended by Board for payment</th>
<th>Number of cases recommended by the Board for payment at the end of year</th>
<th>Amount charged by Board for payment</th>
<th>Amount charged by Board for payment in excess of Government payment</th>
<th>Cases referred to Government officials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>11,737</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>11,938</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>13,152</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pensions.** — Age, Widows’ and Invalid Pensions are payable by the Department of Social Services to those aborigines whose circumstances satisfy the requirements of the Commonwealth Act. Aborigines who have a preponderance of aboriginal blood, however, are not eligible to receive payments and the Commonwealth Authorities also will not grant payment of pensions to aborigines whilst they are residents of the United States. A pension to those aborigines may be granted, however, to an aborigine in possession of a Certificate of Exemption.

The Board favours adoption by the Commonwealth of a more liberal attitude in the granting of pensions. In these cases where a baby outfit has been supplied and payment has not been made prior to the birth of the child, arrangements are made with the Director for the amount of the outfit to be deducted from the Maternity Allowance. The balance is remitted to the applicant.

**This Conference is of the opinion that full benefit under the Social Services Consolidation Act of the Commonwealth should be available to all aborigines except those who, in the Board’s view, should be under some measure of control and who may elect to reside on a Station or Reserve.**

People are required to contribute for benefits in respect of Reserve does not disqualify. An aboriginal mother with a contribution, with the result that, in some instances, these liability for the payment of Social Services Contribution for paid to an unemployed worker if he is a permanent resident Welfare Board for administration in one hundred and twenty-mothers possessing aboriginal blood was paid to the Aborigines be a determining factor. Maternity allowance in respect of aboriginal blood, but residence on an Aboriginal Station or previous remarks, regarding his provision of further institutions is necessary. The objective reared in an environment calculated to lead to their development are two such homes—the Kinehela Boys' Home and the Coota-mandura Girls' Home. The Board does not possess an institution for children of —So far as New South Wales is concerned, all aboriginal persons are eligible for the Commonwealth hospital benefits.

CHILDREN'S HOMES.

Establishment by the Board of homes for the reception, maintenance, training, education, and care of children, is provided for in the Aborigines Protection Act. A ward is a child who has been admitted to the control of the Board and committed to a home constituted and established under the Act. There are two such homes—the Kinehela Boys' Home and the Coota-mandura Girls' Home. The homes provide a medium whereby children may be reared in an environment calculated to lead to their development as good and useful citizens. The homes care for up to fifty children each, the ages ranging from 6 to 15 years. As indicated in last year's Report, the Board feels that the provision made for the education of children in the Board's establishments is unsatisfactory. The objective lies in the establishment of adequate and suitable homes to enable a satisfactory grouping of the children committed to the Board of Care so that they may be reared in a happy family atmosphere.

The Board does not possess an institution for children of pre-school age, and it has become necessary, with considerable difficulty, to have children coming within such category admitted to private families or private denominational homes. The homes care for up to fifty children each, the ages ranging from 6 to 15 years. As indicated in last year's Report, the Board feels that the provision made for the education of children in the Board's establishments is unsatisfactory. The objective lies in the establishment of adequate and suitable homes to enable a satisfactory grouping of the children committed to the Board of Care so that they may be reared in a happy family atmosphere.

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The Home receives an appreciable amount of fresh vegetables from its own garden, whilst three cows and a number of young fowls assist in no small way towards the upkeep of the establishment.

The staff position, which caused some concern last year, has improved in some measure, but still cannot be regarded as static. This class of work does not appear in those times to attract young women.

ABORIGINAL STATIONS.

Eighteen Aboriginal Stations were maintained by the Board during the year. On each, the management is vested in a Manager who resides on the premises and is assisted by a Matron—with additional assistant staff on the larger Stations.

An Aboriginal Station consists of a community settlement embracing a home for each family, a school, ration store, recreation hall, medical treatment annexe and water supply. Where appropriate the community has its own dairy herd and vegetable garden. Church services are held in the recreation hall in most cases.

The fundamental purpose of Aboriginal stations is to provide a home and refuge for those aborigines who would not be able effectively to fend for themselves outside the Board's care and protection, and to train them in the principles of citizenship so as to facilitate their ultimate absorption into the white community. Others, of course, prefer to live in the communal conditions found in the Stations. Because of the dishonesty or indolence of such families or individuals, if thrown on their own resources, the Board does not foster any movement of such families from its care and protection. In order to counteract acts of assault, does seek to encourage those aborigines who are of a superior type to break from the Station and make their own way in the world in line with the general community. Such aborigines would still be under the watchful eye of the Area Welfare Officer on his periodical visits.

The point is stressed that these aboriginal families who choose to remain on Aboriginal Stations are not spoonfed. All able-bodied men who can support their families are required to maintain their families from their earnings. The aged, sick and infirm, however, are provided with food, including special invalid food where necessary, medicines, blankets, tobacco and other comforts.

The following summary will indicate at a glance the number of Stations administered by the Board which fall under each population category. (Details of size of the individual Stations, together with population in each case, are given in Appendix "A").

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Category</th>
<th>Number of Stations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 residents</td>
<td>2 Stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 to 200 residents</td>
<td>12 Stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 100 residents</td>
<td>4 Stations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table below shows the figures in respect of births, deaths and marriages on the Board's Stations for the year. For the purpose of comparison the figures in respect of the previous year are shown in parentheses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Marriages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>14 (18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABORIGINAL RESERVES.

Aboriginal Reserves have not the amenities and improvements found on Aboriginal Stations. As in the case of the latter, however, they provide an area for occupation and usage by aborigines, but the settlements are not subject to the resident management of a Board's officer. As will be appreciated, aborigines who live on such Reserves are ordinarily of the type who prefer to more or less stand on their own feet. As against this, however, experience has demonstrated that the general standard of living on Reserves does not approach that of Stations.

The Board looks to the local Police authorities to exercise a degree of surveillance over conditions at Reserves, and reports are received at quarterly intervals. In some instances, the teacher in charge of the local aboriginal school occupies the position of non-resident Supervisor.

There is a list of inhabited Reserves in Appendix "B", together with the number of persons residing, the population and the corresponding figure for the previous twelve months. The aggregate population was 2,585, which compares with 2,101 in respect of 1947-48.
GENERAL EXPENDITURE ON BEHALF OF ABORIGINES.

The sum of £207,294 was expended on behalf of aborigines in the period under review. Details are furnished in Appendix "C". £80,478 of this amount is in the nature of recurring expenditure, representing £71,940 direct expenditure and £8,538 expended by other Departments on the Board's behalf. The total expenditure of a recurring nature for the year represents an increase of £11,526 over the figure for the preceding twelve months. This increase is attributable to increased costs for salaries and wages, and for higher material costs.

The amount expended on building construction and associated works was £126,816, the cost of which is chargeable to the General Loan Account. Last year the expenditure in this connection was £90,874.

CONCLUSION.

The Board is indebted to other Government Departments for their co-operation and assistance on the Board's behalf during the year under review, and places on record its grateful appreciation to the following Departments:


In addition, thanks are expressed to those persons and organisations who have demonstrated a practical and sympathetic interest in the welfare of aborigines generally.

For and on behalf of the Aborigines Welfare Board in pursuance of the Board's resolution dated this 21st day of March, one thousand nine hundred and fifty.

C. J. BUTTSWORTH, Chairman.
A. W. G. LIPSCOMB, Executive Member.
### APPENDIX "A."

List of Aboriginal Stations.

Vital Statistics and Ration Recipients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Ration Recipients</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Ration Recipients</th>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Marriages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bellbrook</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boggabilla</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewarrina</td>
<td>4,638</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burnt Bridge</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burra Bee Dee</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage Tree Island</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowra</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumeroogunga</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerris Bay</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonabullah</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murrin Bridge</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilliga</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quirindi</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roseby Park</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taroe</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walgett</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallaga Lake</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodenbong</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,284</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>2,388</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** *Menindee figures. Residents transferred to Murrin Bridge in April, 1949.*
### APPENDIX "B."

List of Aboriginal Reserves.

**Particulars of Ration Recipients.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reserve</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>As at 30th June, 1948</th>
<th>As at 30th June, 1949</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Ration Recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balranald</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baryulgil (Settlement only)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bourke</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowraville</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brungle</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collarenebri (Camp only)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>149</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Goolbolbin</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coraki</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Cubawee (late Tuncenter)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlington Point</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Dubbo (Talbragar)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Forster</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodooga (Dennawan)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gooolagong</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Gulargambone</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Karurah</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyogle</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Perouse</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macksville (Eungai)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Mere</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mungindi</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>107</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nambucca Heads</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quabone</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rye Park</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Tabulam</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tibooburra</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tingha (Long Gully)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Ungumuldi Island (Maclean)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urailla</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Walcha (Summer Vale)</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Wellington (Nanima)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcannia</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Yass</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,151</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** * Signifies Aboriginal School on Reserve.
### APPENDIX "C."

**Statement of Expenditure for Year ended 30th June, 1949.**

**Expenditure incurred by the Board:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payable from Consolidated Revenue Fund—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Wages</td>
<td>£33,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of Buildings</td>
<td>£3,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Expenses</td>
<td>£9,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of, and assistance to, Aborigines</td>
<td>£21,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other charges</td>
<td>£920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>£3,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£71,940</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payable from General Loan Account—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Buildings, Station improvements and Land Purchases</td>
<td>£126,816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£198,756</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies</td>
<td>£5,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc.</td>
<td>£240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Public Works, for telephone services, etc.</td>
<td>£732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resumed Properties Department, for sanitary services</td>
<td>£2,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Printer, for Printing and Bookbinding</td>
<td>£150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£8,538</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** **£207,294**

**Note.**—The above statement does not include £16,985 expended by the Department of Education for education of aboriginal children in native schools.