



Physical fitness and the team spirit in games and sports are encouraged at special schools for aboriginal children. In general, special schools for aboriginal children operate only in remote areas or in places where special assistance and training are necessary

residential areas; people have "walked out" on jobs where aborigines were employed; there were protests about aboriginal children attending normal schools or using swimming baths. There have been setbacks and difficulties of this sort which have, in most cases, been overcome.

The attitude towards fringe dwellers, fortunately, has in large measure changed, and the trend now is largely towards helping the fringe dwellers to find their proper place in the modern world. This change in attitude has not been achieved without very great effort and devotedness by large numbers of people. What has been achieved in this regard is, however, but the beginning. A great deal remains yet to be done; the practical rewards in the change of attitude have yet to be won—and attitude still needs to be educated in some places.

Government and mission efforts alone are not enough. The fringe dwellers are a social problem. They are a challenge to the community. Much more than the right attitude and expressions of sympathy are needed. Concrete, practical assistance for the material welfare of the fringe dwellers, personal and individual aid to these people to help them cross the threshold to assimilation, constant vigilance to prevent them sliding back to the old way of life, belief in their right to be part of the community, and enthusiasm in the protection and promotion of that right, are all essential to the solution of the problem. Only with them can the fringe dweller cease to be a fringe dweller and find social and personal fulfilment as a full member of the community.

The above is a reprint of the booklet "Fringe Dwellers", which was prepared under the authority of the Minister of State for Territories, the Hon. Paul Hasluck, M.P., with the co-operation of the Ministers responsible for aboriginal welfare in the Australian States, for use by the Aborigines' Day Observance Committee and its associates in connection with the celebration of National Aborigines' Day in Australia, 10th July, 1959.

With Our Roving Cameraman



Irene and Jill Jardine and Alma Landsborough, of Tingha



Margaret Egghins, of Coolah



Mrs. Jardine and her son, of Tingha