

1947.
(SECOND SESSION.)

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

for Year ended 30th June, 1946.

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

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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, 1946, 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 refers to other information concerning aborigines in this State.

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD.

On 5th July, 1945, the Board was re-constituted in pursuance of section 2 of the Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act, 1943.

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

Professor A. P. Elkin	8
Mr. W. Ferguson	8
Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb	8
Mr. Michael Sawtell	8
Mr. S. L. Anderson	7
Dr. J. Grahame Drew	7
Mr. J. P. Glasheen	6
Mr. S. R. Heferen, M.L.A.	4
Mr. B. E. Sadler	4
The Honourable E. G. Wright, M.L.C.	4
Mr. W. Page	3
Mr. R. H. Blackley	2
Mr. A. Solomon	2

By virtue of his position as Under-Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department, Mr. S. L. Anderson continued as Chairman of the Board throughout the year.

Professor A. P. Elkin was again elected as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb, as Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, is Executive Member of the Board. During the year, Mr. Lipscomb made visits of inspection to all the Aboriginal Stations and Children's Homes and to a number of Reserves.

Mr. R. H. Blackley, of the Police Department, was transferred to the country by his Department early in the year and his place on the Board was taken by Mr. Superintendent B. E. Sadler.

Mr. A. Solomon, a full-blood aborigine, who had been elected by the aborigines as a member of the Board, pursuant to section 4 (1) (b) (viii) of the Act, resigned from the Board after attending two meetings, and Mr. W. Page was nominated by the Minister to take his place. Mr. Page attended his first Board meeting in January, 1946.

In accordance with a resolution of the Board, and with the approval of the Minister, Professor A. P. Elkin, the Honourable E. G. Wright, M.L.C., and Mr. Lipscomb visited Queensland during June, 1946, for the purpose of studying the Queensland system of aboriginal welfare and control, with special reference to the organisation and management of the Government Native Settlements and Mission Stations. At the 30th June the Board members referred to were still absent in Queensland on this mission.

BOARD'S POLICY.

As has been stressed previously, a fundamental requirement in connection with the welfare of people of aboriginal descent is their training for full citizenship, so that they might ultimately be assimilated into the general community. Contact with the white community has progressed to such a stage that eventually they must be absorbed into the type of civilisation thereby involved. It is obvious that there are basic difficulties, both sociological and psychological, but the Board will endeavour to meet and overcome these difficulties and ensure, by careful administration, a gradual and progressive adjustment.

It must be appreciated that the position in New South Wales is rather different from other States, in that the number of full-blood aborigines here is comparatively small, the so-called "aborigines" being, for the greater part, mixed bloods who are almost completely de-tribalised. Contact with white citizens has involved adjustments in varying degree and the Board's task of betterment and attention to their general welfare is primarily social in nature.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Owing to war conditions, no official census of aborigines has been taken in this State since 1941. Vital statistics for that year have been supplied in previous reports. The figures for that year were as follows:—

Caste.	Adults.	Children.	Total.
Full-blood	478	116	594
Mixed blood.....	5,410	4,612	10,022
Total	5,888	4,728	10,616

As at 30th June, 1946, 2,520 persons resided on the nineteen Stations under the control of the Board. This figure represented a decrease of eighty-six persons, as compared with the previous year. On Reserves, excluding Stations, the total was 1,956, representing an increase of 193 persons on the previous year. Detailed figures for the individual Stations and Reserves are set out in Appendix "A" and Appendix "B," respectively, at the end of this Report.

STAFF ORGANISATION.

Although hostilities ceased in August, 1945, the year under review presented difficulties from the point of view of staffing, owing to the fact that the curtailment of demands due to the War was only gradual. Staff shortages have been particularly acute in the Childrens' Homes, where domestic staff is so vital. The Board desires to express appreciation of the zeal and devotion of the staff, who have so willingly met these difficulties.

During the year two male officers returned to Head Office from Active Service, thus easing the burden on the depleted staff that carried on admirably during the War years.

About fifty per cent. of the Managers of Stations are still combining their duties with that of teaching. Managers should be free to a considerable degree to devote time to the general welfare and problems of the people on their Stations. Furthermore, from the standpoint of the children themselves, it must be agreed that the employment of fully-trained teachers is really essential if proper education is to be imparted. As at 30th June, 1946, teachers, as distinct from Managers, were employed on seven Aboriginal Stations, namely, Boggabilla, Burnt Bridge, Burra Bee Dee, Cumeroounga, Menindee, Quirindi and Woodenbong. Further representations have been made in regard to the matter of adequate staffing of Aboriginal Stations.

The Board is unanimous in its opinion that greater concentration should be made on the employment of welfare officers who would be stationed in various parts of the State, and who would devote their energies to assisting aborigines in their districts to establish themselves as good citizens, and generally to attend to their welfare. Representations have been made to the Government for the appointment of at least four additional welfare officers and also to train a number of young men for eventual appointment to this work.

ASSISTANCE TO ABORIGINES TO ACQUIRE THEIR OWN HOMES.

As pointed out in previous reports, legislation passed in 1943 empowers the Board to acquire land, erect buildings thereon, and to sell or lease such buildings on terms to the aborigines. It is intended to grant this type of assistance to aborigines of superior type who have shown their stability and also that they have a proper appreciation of their responsibility in keeping to their commitments. Prospective occupants are expected to be thrifty and to have saved at least a nominal sum of money for a deposit to supplement the amount of the advance.

During the year six further applications were received from aborigines for the form of assistance referred to. As the Government voted only £3,000 on the Estimates, the number of applications approved had to be restricted to the extent of the vote. Strenuous efforts were made during the year to purchase building allotments in suitable country towns, on which the homes for the selected aborigines may be built. Unfortunately, however, much difficulty was experienced in the effort to complete purchases, and at the end of the year, no progress had been made with the scheme.

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES FOR ABORIGINES.

In accordance with the provisions of the Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act, 1943, the Board may issue to any aborigine or person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood, and who is a fit and proper person to receive it, a Certificate of Exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act. This amendment was designed to permit the superior types of aborigines to assume normal citizenship and thus secure freedom from restrictions associated with the Act.

Under ordinary circumstances the Commonwealth Authorities do not grant Old Age, Invalid and 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. However, if such aborigines are granted the Exemption Certificate referred to above and thus cease to be under the care of the Board, they are classed by the Commonwealth as normal white citizens and thus become eligible to lodge applications for the normal social benefits.

Children, too, of parents who are in possession of Exemption Certificates, are now permitted to attend ordinary State Public Schools without any restriction whatsoever.

During the twelve months under review, forty-seven applications were dealt with, as under—

Exemption Certificates granted	38
Exemption Certificates declined	4
Exemption Certificates deferred	5

BOARDING-OUT OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN.

In 1943 the Aborigines Protection Act was amended to give the Board authority to board-out aboriginal children committed by the Courts to its care with approved foster parents in private homes or on Stations. Some children are quite unsuitably temperamentally for absorption into institutional groups. During the year ended 30th June, 1946, nineteen children were committed by the Courts and admitted as wards to the control of the Board. The allocation of these children was as follows:—

Boarded-out privately with families on Aboriginal Stations and Reserves	5
Boarded-out in private homes off Reserves	1
Placed in approved denominational institutional Homes or Hospitals	5
Placed in Children's Homes under the control of the Aborigines Welfare Board	8

LABOUR CONDITIONS—EMPLOYMENT.

Employment conditions throughout the State, in relation to aborigines as a whole, have continued to be satisfactory. In many localities the demand has exceeded the supply. In the Far West, however, the position has deteriorated somewhat, owing to the severe drought prevailing and to the fact that regular station hands have been returning from the Services.

Some aborigines have shown themselves to be thoroughly conscientious workers; others have displayed little or no interest in their work. The will to work becomes manifest only when there is an incentive. To a large degree the apparent indolence of the aborigines is due to the fact that they are denied an incentive. It must be remembered, too, that, fundamentally the aborigine has "no thought of the morrow." His attitude in many instances, even to-day, is that he should not exert himself beyond providing for the immediate needs of his family. In these days of relatively high wages, therefore, we often find him content to work for one or two days per week only; the rest is reserved for his enjoyment.

These inherent attitudes can only be gradually overcome by education and training, together with a realistic and sympathetic approach by the employer.

The class of work offering in their neighbourhood generally determines the nature of the aborigines' employment. In the Western area, they undertake work such as shearing, fencing, clearing, droving, crutching, boundary riding and general farm work. Forest areas in the coastal and inland districts provide scope for work in the timber industry. Many aborigines have proved expert sleeper-cutters. A number of others continue to seek employment in sugar-cane, banana and dairy industries.

For many years aborigines from the Settlements at Cume-roongunga and Moonahcullah have found seasonal employment in the fruit-growing areas, mainly around Shepparton and Mooroopna. Similarly, the Cowra and Darlington Point Settlements have provided employees, during the season, for the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area fruit and cannery industries.

At Jervis Bay aboriginal fishing teams have exclusive fishing rights of the two bays immediately adjacent to Jervis Bay. During the season, when fish are in poor supply, the men secure other work, principally on neighbouring farms.

It is of interest to mention that at several centres young women were placed in employment at the local hospital as domestics or wardsmaids. Employment figures for the year under review show a small decrease over previous years. This was to be expected owing to the absorption into civilian life of men from the Services. Statistics are available so far as Aboriginal Stations are concerned, and the table hereunder shows the number of men in employment during the last quarters of the years 1944, 1945 and 1946—

Period.	Able-bodied Men on Stations.		
	Number in Residence.	Number in Employment.	Percentage in Employment.
April-June 1944 ...	693	667	96.2%
April-June 1945 ...	543	510	93.3%
April-June 1946 ...	578	515	89.1%

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

The employment of young aborigines between the ages of fifteen and eighteen and their general welfare when employed, is regarded by the Board as an important feature of its work. Supervision is exercised through the local Managers. The Board intends to develop the teaching of trades to young aborigines as soon as circumstances permit.

Children committed to the Board's care as wards of the State are maintained at the Board's institutions until they reach school leaving age. The boys are then given instruction in rural work and the girls in domestic work. After a reasonable standard is reached, they are placed in employment as apprentices with approved employers.

At the close of the year nine boys and sixteen girls between the ages of fifteen and eighteen years, who were under the Board's control as wards, were employed under apprenticeship conditions. The Welfare Inspector kept the interests of these young people under close supervision.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

The health of the aboriginal residents receives close attention from the Managers of Stations and the Police in charge of Reserves. Very few cases of serious illness have been reported. There have been some accidents and certain unavoidable epidemics, such as influenza, measles and mumps. On one Station (Boggabilla) there was a serious epidemic of whooping cough, seventy-three children being affected, of whom three unfortunately died. Skin ailments, notably scabies and impetigo, affected numbers of the more irresponsible people from time to time, but most were cured by local treatment, either at the Station or Hospital.

Strenuous efforts are made by Managers to instil in the minds of the people under their care the imperative need for cleanliness and proper attention to diet. Fresh vegetables and milk are available for general use on many Stations.

As formerly, aborigines requiring medical attention or treatment at a hospital have been afforded the same facilities as indigent members of the white community. Aborigines may attend local public hospitals and be admitted for treatment if necessary.

The opportunity is taken of paying tribute to the excellent co-operation and assistance by the Department of Public Health, the Baby Health Centre Nurses and the Bush Nursing Association.

Aborigines who can afford it are required to meet their own personal dental expenses, but those unable to pay for treatment are afforded free dental attention, the cost being met by the Board. On most of the Stations, arrangements were made for a local dentist to visit the people and attend to any teeth trouble.

HOUSING.

The Board's aim in respect of housing is ultimately to provide aboriginal families under its care with adequate and proper homes. It is only when living standards are satisfactory that pride and self-respect in all people assert themselves. Whilst aborigines live under primitive, unhygienic

conditions, they manifest very little desire to change their mode of life and to progress to a stage where they will be received in the general community and be able to take their place with success and satisfaction.

The Board's housing programme for this year was handicapped by industrial disturbances and the shortage of labour and materials. Although a comprehensive housing programme was arranged, the work carried out consisted mainly of repairs and renovations to existing dwellings, and was largely done by the management of each Aboriginal Station with local aboriginal assistance. Further planning, however, was carried out in connection with the Post-war Reconstruction Housing programme and, in addition to the drafting of new Station designs to provide the maximum advantage to the residents, plans were prepared and approved for the improved types of dwellings.

The amount expended during the financial year on the erection of new buildings, additions to existing buildings, repairs and renovations, was £3,384. The work completed represents only a small proportion of the programme approved to be undertaken in the year, as it was impossible to complete the programme set down owing to the difficulties already referred to in obtaining the material and labour required; and also to inability to arrange building contracts.

The hope is expressed that it will be possible to proceed without delay on the major projects concerned with the erection of new dwellings and repairs, renovations and improvements to existing homes, and that the work will be continued until all aboriginal families under the Board's care are satisfactorily housed.

Representations have been made to the Government for a substantial grant to enable an extensive building programme to be put in hand. A long-range plan has already been endorsed, but the amount that will be made available this year is not yet known.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY.

Every encouragement and assistance is given to agricultural activity on Aboriginal Stations. Home production of vegetables and milk is regarded as necessary to morale, health and economy.

The Board had hoped that when the war was concluded a vigorous policy of agricultural development on suitable Stations could have been implemented. However, shortage of labour, plant and materials and fertilizers has rendered it quite impossible to bring the plan to fruition.

A number of community vegetable gardens on Stations are in a flourishing condition and dairy herds are maintained in those places where conditions are favourable.

Reports from Aboriginal Stations indicate that the prolonged drought has rendered cultivation and maintenance of dairy herds in productive condition a very difficult problem. In some instances it has been necessary to sell or remove stock to other parts where feed was more plentiful.

The agricultural position at the Kinchela Boys' Training Home is very satisfactory. At this Home, of course, conditions are different from those at Stations. There are fifty boys in residence and the older ones receive a good farm training in the process of producing the necessary farm produce. During the year under review there were produced, amongst a number of products, 2½ tons of potatoes, 2,000 lettuce, 3 tons of pumpkins, 400 lb. of onions. A dairy herd of thirty cows was maintained, an average of twenty-four being in milk for the year. Farm produce included 50 tons of lucerne hay and 30 tons of saccharine.

EDUCATION.

Last year the Education Department agreed to an arrangement whereby children of aboriginal parents, to whom a Certificate of Exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act and Regulations had been granted, might be admitted to a public school, notwithstanding the existence in the district of a Special School for Aborigines. Advantage has been taken of this facility by a number of children of aboriginal descent living in country centres.

The Board holds the opinion that all children of aboriginal blood, who are clean in their personal habits and have the necessary aptitude, should be given every opportunity and encouragement to attend public schools whenever practicable. In the Annual Report for the previous year, it was stated that in certain towns of New South Wales the former antagonism to aboriginal children attending white schools is gradually dying and the children are being accepted. Lismore, in particular, is a town where dark children who have passed the necessary medical examination are now permitted to enrol at the local public schools without any difficulty. One girl at the Cootamundra Girls' Home was attending the Cootamundra

Central Public School and negotiations were in progress for additional admissions. It is pleasing to report that all children from the Home are now attending the Cootamundra Central Public School and are reported to have benefited to a marked degree in mental alertness and social attitude since associating with the white children. They like their new experience and are quite happy.

When the last report was presented, it was expected that two boys at the Kinchela Boys' Home, who had shown a high degree of intelligence, would be sent to Kempsey High School the following year. These two boys, William Dixon and Andrew McKenzie, were duly admitted to the High School and held second and third positions, respectively, in their class of forty-five pupils for the half year ended 30th June, 1946. Two other boys show good promise and it is hoped that they will also have the opportunity of advancing to High School.

During March, 1946, the Chief Secretary approved of a scholarship, tenable for two years, valued at £50 per annum, being awarded by the Aborigines Welfare Board to the aboriginal pupil residing within a radius of five miles of Casino who obtained the best pass at the Intermediate Certificate Examination. The pupil to whom the scholarship for 1946-47 was awarded was Beatrice Hogan, a quarter-caste aboriginal, 17 years of age. She was reported by the Headmaster of the Casino High School as being an excellent student, with a pleasing personality and a strong influence for good in the school. At the election for senior prefect and house captain early in 1946, she was overwhelmingly elected. She occupied an outstanding position in sport and was the senior girl champion.

As has been pointed out earlier in this report, another aim of the Board is to secure more fully-trained teachers for the schools on Stations. Apart from other considerations, this provides a better standard of education for the pupils.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES ON STATIONS AND RESERVES.

As in the past, every facility has been provided to enable local clergy and missionary bodies to impart religious teaching to the aborigines. The Board realises these ministrations are of the greatest value, not only from a religious and moral point of view, but also as a means of establishing a link with a social organisation to which aborigines can still cling when they move away to live in the general community. The Board desires to record its appreciation to all who have associated themselves in this very desirable social service. The hope is expressed that the local clergy of various denominations in all parts of the State where aborigines reside, will endeavour to overcome any obstacles that exist at present and do all in their power to help the dark people both by personal ministrations and also by inducing their own congregations to take a more personal active interest in their welfare.

The two established aboriginal missionary organisations, namely, the United Aborigines Mission and the Aborigines Inland Mission, are still actively working on various Aboriginal Stations and at other centres where communities of aboriginal people exist.

At the Kinchela Boys' Training Home regular religious instruction is given and services are held by the Church of England Chaplain. The Roman Catholic Priest visits the Home regularly.

At the Cootamundra Girls' Training Home the children attend their own churches. Sunday school is held at the Home by the Roman Catholic Priest and the Methodist Clergyman.

REFRIGERATORS FOR INLAND STATIONS.

Mention was made in the last report of the necessity for provision of refrigerators on inland Stations, not only to ensure more adequate feeding arrangements for the sick, but also to keep food generally in a more satisfactory state during the hot weather. During the year under review ten additional Stations were supplied with refrigerators. The balance of Stations concerned will be supplied when funds are available.

RELIEF AND BENEFITS TO ABORIGINES FROM THE BOARD.

As in the past, the Board's functions include the important one of care and relief of all aged, infirm, indigent and incapable aborigines. Aborigines unable to care for themselves are provided with housing, sustenance and medical care, free of cost. It is required, however, that every able-bodied aborigine should honestly endeavour to maintain himself and his family from the proceeds of employment.

Returns for the year show that whilst the number of aborigines on Reserves has increased, the number of persons depending on the Board for sustenance has dropped materially.

A summary of the various benefits afforded by the Board to those aborigines in need of assistance is set out in brief hereunder:—

Housing.—Wherever possible a dwelling is provided, free of cost, for every family living on Stations or Reserves. The Board is fully conscious of the fact that improvements in this field are necessary and every endeavour has been and is being made to implement the new building programme. So far building conditions and restrictions have made this quite impossible.

Rations.—Full-scale rations, established in accordance with recommendations by the Department of Public Health, are supplied to aged, infirm and indigent. On many Stations the standard ration is supplemented by milk and vegetables produced on the settlement.

The number of rations issued on the various Stations at the beginning and end of the year is shown in Appendix "A."

Seventeen per cent. of the total population on Stations received rations during the year 1944-45, as opposed to sixteen per cent. in the year 1945-46.

A return of rations issued to aborigines residing on Reserves at the beginning and end of the year is set out in Appendix "B."

This return indicates an appreciable decrease in the number of recipients over the twelve months in question. This position is brought about because many more aborigines than hitherto are now able to support themselves independently of the Board.

Clothing.—In accordance with the usual procedure, clothing issues were made to aged and indigent aborigines on the basis of two outfits per annum—one for summer and one for winter.

The following table shows the number of recipients during 1945-46, compared with the previous two years:—

Issue.	Male.			Female.			Total.		
	1943-44	44-45	45-46	1943-44	44-45	45-46	1943-44	44-45	45-46
Summer ...	214	231	147	274	299	191	488	530	338
Winter ...	183	239	135	267	279	174	450	518	309
Total ...	397	470	282	541	578	365	938	1,048	647

The figures for 1944-45 are not useful for purposes of comparison as they included extra issues to overcome deficiencies in supply during the previous war years.

Blankets.—For many years it has been the practice to supply blankets to all aborigines in need. During the period under review it has been possible to supply free issues to aboriginal people on Stations and Reserves on the same scale as during 1944-45, the heavy demands of the Fighting Services having ceased. The following are the comparative figures:—

Place.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Stations	369	450	465
Reserves	83	149	153
Total	452	599	618

Medical Attention.—Free medicine, drugs and medical attention are given to all aborigines on Stations throughout the State. Medical attention is given at the treatment room and dispensary attached to each Station. Aborigines requiring treatment at a hospital are admitted to the nearest Public Hospital for care and attention on the same basis as white people.

Baby Outfits.—It is the custom to supply expectant mothers with baby outfits. In all necessitous cases the outfits are supplied gratuitously, but those women whose husbands are receiving reasonable earnings are required to pay a nominal amount of twenty-five shillings towards the cost, which amounts to £2 16s. 10d. for the winter, and £2 3s. 6d. for the summer outfit. During the year 111 outfits were issued to aborigines.

Christmas Cheer.—The Board again made available to aborigines on Stations and Reserves a special issue of ingredients for making a Christmas pudding. Children up to school leaving age were supplied with a small toy or gift. The Managers and Teachers on some Stations were able to arrange Christmas parties for the children.

SOCIAL BENEFITS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT.

Child Endowment.—The Board, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, has continued the supervision of the payment of Endowment moneys to aborigines. Endowees may qualify for direct payment if they demonstrate by their thrift and habits generally that they are thoroughly reliable and fit and proper persons to be entrusted with this responsibility. This privilege is, of course, revoked if it is abused.

The table hereunder gives particulars of cases administered by the Board for the year ended 30th June, 1946, and for the two previous years.

The increase in the amount paid was brought about by the Endowment rate of 5s. for each child in excess of one being increased to 7s. 6d. as from 24th July, 1945.

Year ended 30th June.	Amount received from Commonwealth for Administration.	Number of cases administered at beginning of Year.	Subtract.		Add.		Cases administered at end of Year.
			Cases expired.	Cases changed to Direct Pay.	Cases reverted to Board's Control.	New Cases.	
1944 ...	£11,249	331	26	41	13	11	288
1945 ...	£10,542	288	16	32	9	19	268
1946 ...	£13,952	268	11	41	7	19	242

Pensions.—Old-age pensions, widows' pensions and invalid pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Government to aborigines who fulfil the requirements of the Commonwealth Act. Those who have a preponderance of aboriginal blood are not eligible to receive any of the above pensions, nor will approval be given by the Commonwealth to pensions being paid to aborigines of any caste whilst they are residents of Stations or Reserves. Pensions are granted, however, if the aborigine obtains a Certificate of Exemption in terms of the Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act, 1943, and undertakes to live independently of the Board and away from all Stations and Reserves.

The Board holds the view that there should be a more liberal approach by the Commonwealth authorities to the question of granting pensions to aborigines who, in the Board's opinion, should be under some manner of control and who may elect to reside on a Station or Reserve. Representations were made during the year to the Premier and Colonial Treasurer for the provision of a small cash allowance per week to be paid to aborigines, who, because of their residence on Stations or Reserves are debarred from receiving a Commonwealth pension. This request is still receiving consideration. When the year closed, the Board was administering three widows' pensions, two old-age pensions, and one military pension.

CHILDREN'S HOMES.

The Aborigines Protection Act, section 11, provides that the Board may constitute and establish Homes for the reception, maintenance and training of wards. Kinchela Boys' Training Home and Cootamundra Girls' Training Home are the Homes so established, to which children are sent after committal to the care of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

The practice of admitting children of from five to fifteen years to the above homes is not entirely satisfactory, and the Board intends, when opportunity permits, to establish more suitable homes where the children may be placed in age groups and smaller units established so that more individual attention may be given to each child.

There is still a vital and urgent need for an infants' home. As a temporary expedient, to meet the problem, aboriginal infants have been placed in denominational and other private institutions.

Kinchela Boys' Training Home.—Kinchela Boys' Training Home is situated on the Macleay River, 16 miles from Kempsey, on 30 acres of rich farm land, with river frontage.

The boys are taught practical farming and dairying.

Accommodation is available for approximately fifty boys. As at 30th June, 1946, the enrolment was fifty-two boys. During the year there were twelve admissions and eight discharges to employment as aboriginal wards. The ages of the boys ranged from six and a half to sixteen years, the average age being twelve years four months.

The general health of the boys has been very good, only one major illness being reported. A local dentist visited the home twice during the period and gave treatment. The local Government Medical Officer visited the home at intervals during the year and all boys were examined and treatment prescribed. Precautionary inoculations against diphtheria were carried out, all the inmates being inoculated.

Recreational facilities are as satisfactory as can be expected. The lack of continuity in employment of an attendant to organise sports and games has been keenly felt.

During the year a laundry plant, comprising washing machine, hydro-extractor and steam boiler, was installed and has considerably improved facilities for washing clothing. A present need at the home is the improvement of water supply. Commencement of this work is held up pending the availability of funds.

All boys of school age attend the public school established at the home, the school being under the charge of two lady teachers. They report good average progress. As indicated previously in this report, two boys have been enrolled at the Kempsey High School, where they are progressing exceptionally well. Two other selected boys of high intelligence will possibly qualify for enrolment at the local high school next year.

Keeness and enthusiasm are shown by the boys in connection with hobbies and handicrafts.

The boys have the benefit of regular religious instruction and church services, the Rev. G. F. D. Smith being the present Chaplain. The Roman Catholic Priest visits the home at regular intervals. A number of the Church of England boys are being prepared for confirmation.

The farm embraces an area of thirty acres and carries a dairy herd of thirty cows. This provides the home with milk, butter and cream throughout the year. Vegetables were produced sufficient for the home's requirements, and the older boys thereby receive a sound elementary training in farm work.

There were good returns, so far as potatoes, pumpkins, rhubarb, lettuce, etc., were concerned. Farm produce was good. Milk and butter returns were practically the same as for last year, notwithstanding the drought during the summer months. Several floods in the late autumn completely destroyed all crops in growth and seriously affected dairy production during the winter months.

Cootamundra Girls' Home.—This home is situated one mile from Cootamundra and has accommodation for fifty children. Forty-four girls were in residence at the beginning of the year and forty at the close of the year. There were two admissions and six departures, of whom five were placed in employment under apprenticeship conditions.

The general health of the inmates has again been satisfactory. A slight epidemic of mumps occurred. Four girls had their tonsils removed.

As already stated earlier in this Report, all the girls are now attending the Cootamundra Central Public School. They quite enjoy their new experiences and there has been a marked improvement in well-being through mixing with others. Most of the older girls are above the average age for their class, but it is hoped the younger ones will keep pace with the white children in their respective classes.

With more adequate staff now in residence, the Principal is organising sewing classes, at night, when the children will knit, do other types of fancy work, and learn to mend their own clothes.

The children have learned to play tennis and are now attempting hockey and basket-ball. They attend the local swimming baths and acquitted themselves well at the local swimming carnival.

The children attend the picture show from time to time and are admitted free through the courtesy of the manager.

Very good fruit was obtained from the orchard and the vegetable garden has proved a valuable asset.

ABORIGINAL STATIONS.

Nineteen Aboriginal Stations were maintained by the Board during the year. The Stations are situated throughout all parts of the State, and are under the management of resident officers of the Board, who, in a number of cases have assistant staff, including a matron. The Stations are in the nature of community settlements of aboriginal families. The needs of the residents are met by the provision of a home for each family, school, store, medical treatment room, recreation hall, water supply, and, in some instances, a dairy herd and community vegetable garden.

Endeavour is made to provide a friendly administration, but, at the same time, every family is expected to provide for its own needs. Able-bodied men are assisted in procuring employment. The sick, aged and infirm, however, receive at the hands of the Board, free food, invalid food (if required), medical service, blankets and tobacco and other comforts.

Appendix "A" will indicate the size of the various Stations and the population of each. Distribution of population on Stations, as at 30th June, 1946, was as follows:—

Over 200 residents	3 Stations.
Between 100 and 200 residents	13 "
Under 100 residents	3 "

The establishment of the proposed new Station at Murrin Bridge, Lake Cargeligo, to provide for aborigines from Menindee and other Far West localities has been unavoidably delayed by shortage of manpower and building materials. It has also been decided to establish new Aboriginal Stations at Moree and at Tabulam, and preparatory planning is now in progress. Sites for these Stations have been selected.

Appendix "A" of this Report shows that the total population on all Stations, as at 30th June, 1946, was 2,520, representing a reduction of eighty-six for the twelve months.

Vital statistics on the Board's Stations for the year are as shown hereunder. The previous year's figures are given in parenthesis:—

Births	108 (116)
Deaths	43 (42)
Marriages	14 (22)

ABORIGINAL RESERVES.

Like Stations, Reserves are areas set aside especially for occupation and use by Aborigines. Reserves, however, are not under resident management nor have they the amenities and improvements found on Stations. Most Reserves are under the supervision of the local officer in charge of Police, but in a few instances the teacher in charge of the local aboriginal school acts as non-resident manager. Whilst aborigines on Reserves are usually more independent, the standard of living in many such cases is below that found amongst those resident on Stations.

Appendix "B" gives a list of Reserves inhabited as at 30th June, 1946, and the population on each at that date as compared with the previous year. The total population figures were 1,956 and 1,763, respectively—an increase of 193.

ACCOUNTS AND GENERAL EXPENDITURE.

Appendix "C" shows that a total amount of £51,794 was expended on the welfare and relief of aborigines during the year ended 30th June, 1946. Of this amount £46,017 was expended directly by the Board, and £5,776 was incurred by other Government Departments on behalf of the Board. The total expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1946, represents a decrease of £1,252 on the expenditure for the previous year.

CONCLUSION.

The Board desires again to place on record the valuable assistance and co-operation given by other Government Departments throughout the year. The assistance by the Police Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Lands, Department of Education, Department of Public Works, the Department of the Chief Secretary and the Child Welfare Department is especially acknowledged.

In conclusion, the Board desires to express appreciation and thanks to its own staff, both at Head Office and in the Field, for the loyal and willing manner in which they have performed their duties throughout the past year.

Dated this twenty-fifth day of February, one thousand nine hundred and forty-seven.

S. L. ANDERSON, Chairman.
J. GRAHAME DREW.
A. P. ELKIN.
W. FERGUSON.
J. P. GLASHEEN.
S. R. HEFEREN.
A. W. G. LIPSCOMB.
W. PAGE.
B. E. SADLER.
M. SAWTELL.
E. G. WRIGHT.

Members, Aborigines
Welfare Board.

APPENDIX "A."

List of Aboriginal Stations.
Vital Statistics and Ration Recipients.

Station.	Area.	As at 30/6/45.		As at 30/6/46.		Statistics for year ended 30/6/46.		
		Population.	Ration Recipients.	Population.	Ration Recipients.	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
	Acres.							
Bellbrook	96	123	32	94	18	1	5	...
Boggabilla	457	232	38	199	32	4	...	2
Brewarrina	4,638	171	43	181	41	6	...	2
*Brungle	320	34	9	46	15	2	...	...
Burnt Bridge	613	271	21	277	22	20	5	2
Burra Bee Dee.....	623	113	16	102	7	4	1	...
Cabbage Tree Island	125	101	24	120	18	6	...	...
Cowra	31	114	10	125	38	4	...	...
Cumeroogunga	2,600	151	20	143	18	8	5	...
Jervis Bay	100	101	14	105	16	8	...	1
Menindee	1,000	225	98	187	79	14	12	1
Moonahcullah	232	79	13	53	6	4	2	1
Pilliga	150	103	13	100	11	1	2	...
Quirindi	220	183	6	167	2	11	4	...
Roseby Park.....	66	108	14	122	17	5	1	...
Taree	51	128	14	144	17	5	...	1
Walgett	337	147	40	153	29	...	...	...
Wallaga Lake	341	65	8	62	9	1	3	1
Woodenbong	126	156	19	140	13	4	3	3
Total.....	...	2,605	452	2,520	408	108	43	14

NOTE.—* Brungle reverted to the status of a Reserve on 28th August, 1945.

APPENDIX "B."

List of Aboriginal Reserves.
Particulars of Ration Recipients.

Reserve.	Area.	As at 30th June, 1945.		As at 30th June, 1946.	
		Population.	Ration Recipients.	Population.	Ration Recipients.
	Acres.				
Balranald	140	33	...	34	2
*Baryulgil (Settlement only)	40	34	4	38	...
Bowraville	90	144	11	137	9
Collarenebri (Camp only)	50	72	...	91	...
*Condobolin	16	96	17	103	19
Coraki	10	80	10	51	9
Darlington Point.....	25	43	32	48	45
*Dubbo (Talbragar)	18	30	...	34	...
*Forster	16	74	...	93	...
Goodooga (Dennawan)	80	90	...	98	3
Goolagong	80	24	...	...	...
*Gulargambone	70	77	2	118	2
Hillston	98	8	...	15	...
*Karuah	50	45	1	50	3
*Kyogle	115	23	1	22	...
La Perouse	6	69	...	68	...
Macksville (Eungai)	20	5	...	2	...
Moree	12	241	4	359	...
Mungindi	100	58	...	60	...
Nambucca Heads	70	3	3	3	4
Rye Park	140	13	...	12	...
*Tabulam	100	115	21	115	19
Tibooburra	100	2	2	2	2
Tuntester	24	60	...	60	...
*Tingha (Long Gully)	15	34	...	50	...
*Ulgundahi Island (Maclean)	40	80	57	80	5
Uralla	100	24	...	15	...
*Walcha (Summer Vale)	107	40	4	35	5
*Wellington (Nanima)	100	39	27	41	21
Wilcannia	100	71	2	69	1
*Yass	9	36	2	53	...
Total .....	...	1,763	200	1,956	149

NOTE.—* Signifies Aboriginal School on Reserve.

APPENDIX "C."

Statements of Expenditure for Year ended 30th June, 1946.

Accounts and General Expenditure—

The total amount expended on the welfare and relief of aborigines during the year ended 30th June, 1946, was £51,794.

Details of expenditure are as set out hereunder—

Direct Expenditure incurred by Board—

	£	
Buildings and Repairs, etc.	2,336	
Salaries and Wages	17,604	
Maintenance of, and assistance to Aborigines	14,649	
Freight, cartage, travelling expenses, purchase of machinery and plant, and other expenditure of a miscellaneous nature	11,429	
	<hr/>	£46,018

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

Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies	3,444	
Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc.	270	
Department of Works and Local Government, for telephone services ...	723	
Resumed Properties Department, for sanitary services	1,256	
Government Printer, for printing and bookbinding	83	
	<hr/>	£5,776
Total		£51,794

NOTE.—The total does not include an amount of £15,425 expended by the Department of Education for the education of aboriginal children in native schools.