

1968

VICTORIA

REPORT

OF THE

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1968

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1968

VICTORIA

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

ANNUAL REPORT 1967/68

To the Honorable the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs,

SIR,

In accordance with the provisions of Section 41 of the *Aboriginal Affairs Act 1967*, I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs for the year ended 30th June, 1968.

M. R. WORTHY,
Director of Aboriginal Affairs.

Old Treasury Building,
Spring-street,
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

30th September, 1968.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs replaced the Aborigines Welfare Board on 1st January, 1968, when the staff of the Board transferred to the Ministry. The Director, however, was not appointed until three months later. It was decided, therefore, to retain the form of the Annual Report used by the former Aborigines Welfare Board, for this year, as a means of reference to earlier reports. For this reason, the Progress Report prepared for the Australian Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council in July, 1968, forms the basis of this report.

Where applicable, each section of the report is divided into two parts to differentiate between the six months period relating to the Aborigines Welfare Board and six months of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

As planned, the change-over from an Executive Board within the Chief Secretary's Department to a separate Government Department with a permanent head responsible to a Minister has resulted in radical changes both in administration and in policy.

It is not surprising, therefore, that as protection had been the underlying policy since the inception of Government involvement in Aboriginal Affairs, the changes now being introduced are accompanied by considerable tension and emotional stress.

Whatever else may be deduced from the changes made or the need to make further changes, it should not be assumed that the individual members or staff of the Aborigines Welfare Board were to blame for the unsatisfactory state of affairs at the time of the change. At this early stage in the life of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, it is painfully clear, however, that the system under which the Board and staff were working made it impossible to achieve the results sought by individual members.

The lack of integration between policy making and implementation led to the most serious consequences for Aboriginal people and staff members and, as is now history, to public recrimination of Board Members.

The inability of the Board to attract and hold professional Social Workers obviously had a marked effect upon both staff and clients. These effects are still evident and causing considerable concern. One of the major tasks which faces the Ministry in the coming year will be to attempt to create positions and to recruit experienced Social Workers and other staff.

The majority of Aborigines, organizations and other individuals interested in Aboriginal Affairs have welcomed the change. The support readily given to the Ministry in the past three months has demonstrated the willingness of the people of Victoria to assist the Ministry in its task of re-shaping the policy of Aboriginal Affairs in Victoria. In this regard the press, radio and television have been particularly helpful.

I should like to express my personal appreciation to the Minister, the Honorable E. R. Meagher, for his assistance and guidance during these initial months of the Ministry. Likewise, the assistance and co-operation given by other Departments, particularly Treasury and the Public Service Board, have materially helped in the organization of the Ministry.

To staff members who have worked under the most trying and difficult situations, a vote of thanks is extended.

Above all, I wish to place on record my thanks to the Aboriginal people for their friendship and their willingness to attempt to understand the confusing changes which have again been thrust on them. They may be assured that, in future, consultation will be the key and the basis for all advancement in Aboriginal Affairs.

An appeal is made to the residents of Victoria, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, for patience and understanding in the task which faces the Ministry in developing solutions in the difficult field of integration.

As evidenced in other countries, integration is very much a matter of politics and personalities. It is, therefore, extremely gratifying to see that in the brief period since taking up the appointment, political leaders and members of all parties have indicated their support for the changing programme.

It is this attitude that Aboriginal Affairs should be placed above politics which demonstrates the sincerity of the Victorian vote in the referendum relating to Aborigines. It also gives hope that Victoria which, after all, has a relatively small Aboriginal population, may make a reasonable contribution toward solving problems relating to integration.

In conclusion, with his concurrence, I should like to quote a statement by Aboriginal leader, Pastor Doug. Nicholls, O.B.E.—

“The winds of change are blowing over Victoria, and we, the original inhabitants of this land, can at last see some hope for a fair deal. We pledge our support to the Minister and the Director of his Ministry and offer our willing co-operation in the changes that are taking place.”

2. MINISTER

During the period 1st July to 31st December, 1967, the Hon. E. R. Meagher, Minister of Housing, was Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs.

From 1st January, 1968, a separate portfolio of Minister for Aboriginal Affairs was established, and Mr. Meagher was appointed by the Governor in Council as the responsible Minister.

3. LEGISLATION

(a) *Aborigines Welfare Board*

Pending the establishment of the Ministry, the Government re-appointed the Aborigines Welfare Board for a period of six months commencing on 1st July, 1967. Members of the Board during the period 1st July, 1967, to 31st December, 1967, were as follows :—

Mr. J. H. Davey, Chairman.

Mr. A. G. Booth, LL.B., D.P.A., Director of Family Welfare, Social Welfare Department (nominated by the Chief Secretary).

Mr. T. L. W. Emerson, B.A., B.Ed., Assistant Director of Primary Education (nominated by the Minister of Education).

Mr. J. P. Gaskin, Director of Housing (nominated by the Minister of Housing).

Dr. R. Southby, M.D., B.S., F.R.A.C.P., F.A.C.S.T. (Hon.), Consultant Paediatrician (nominated by the Minister of Health).

Mr. W. T. Onus, selected from a panel of three names submitted by the President for the time being of the Aborigines Advancement League.

Mrs. Margaret Tucker (Aboriginal).

Mr. C. Edwards (Aboriginal).

Dr. C. M. Tatz, M.A., Ph.D. (An expert in Sociology).

Mr. D. R. Howe.

Mr. A. G. Holden.

Professor Thomson resigned as a member of the Board and was replaced by Dr. Tatz who had previously been a member selected from a panel submitted by the Aborigines Advancement League. Mr. Onus, President of the Aborigines Advancement League, was selected by the Minister from a panel of three names submitted by the League.

During the six months' period, eight meetings of the Aborigines Welfare Board were held, attendances being as follows :—

Mr. Davey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Mr. Booth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Mr. Emerson	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Mr. Gaskin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Dr. Southby	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Mr. Onus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Mrs. Tucker	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Mr. Edwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Dr. Tatz	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Mr. Howe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Mr. Holden	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

At the final meeting of the Aborigines Welfare Board, tributes were paid by all members of the long and outstanding service given to the Board for many years by its Chairman, Mr. J. H. Davey. During the same meeting, members and the Chairman expressed appreciation of and paid tribute to the staff who, numerically insufficient for the tasks involved, had worked tirelessly under difficult circumstances.

(b) Ministry

New legislation was introduced in Parliament by the Minister on 4th October, 1967. The new legislation was described in these terms—"The purpose of this Bill is to establish a Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in Victoria with powers vested in a responsible Minister. Administrative responsibility will be delegated to a Director of Aboriginal Affairs who shall be head of the Ministry."

The new Act came into operation on 1st January, 1968. The effect was to abolish the Aborigines Welfare Board and in its place establish a separate Department consisting of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Director of Aboriginal Affairs and staff. The broad function of the Ministry was to promote the social and economic advancement of Aboriginal people in Victoria.

The Act also provided for the creation of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council of twelve members and the Director as Chairman. At least three members were to be Aborigines. The role of the Council was to act in an advisory capacity to the Ministry and not to perform an executive function. The Council was not intended as a replacement of the Aborigines Welfare Board whose functions have been taken over entirely by the Ministry, but rather as a focal point for consultation between Aboriginal and other persons involved in Aboriginal Affairs.

The Ministry was given wide powers under the new legislation to promote the interests of Aboriginal people, covering educational assistance, housing, use and development of reserves, training, economic development programmes, co-ordination of voluntary organizations, publicity information and research. The Minister was empowered to appoint persons to be honorary welfare officers, and Courts were required to inform the Director where an Aboriginal was a party to criminal proceedings so that representation could be arranged, if it were considered advisable.

(i) Amending Legislation

As at 30th June, 1968, amending legislation is under preparation, and it is expected that it will be ready for introduction early in the new session of Parliament. During the first six months of the life of the Ministry, it was found that a number of minor amendments to the legislation would be necessary in order to improve its general efficiency.

4. POLICY

(a) Aborigines Welfare Board

In the light of the announcement of the Government's intention to replace the Aborigines Welfare Board at the end of 1967, no major policy changes were made during the first half of the period under review.

(b) Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Following the establishment of the Ministry a careful review was made of the situation of the Aboriginal people throughout the State and a general policy in the following terms was adopted :

"The Ministry has rejected policies of paternalism and expediency and espouses a programme which will lead ultimately to self-determination by Aborigines. While it is appreciated that this policy is initially more costly and difficult to implement, it will lead to a situation which will stimulate Aborigines to take the initiative in their own affairs."

The cost of recruiting experienced professional staff and of providing adequate housing, employment training and facilities for social, educational and cultural development is substantial, but recent results justify the continuation of this policy. Significant changes in Aborigines' attitudes have been noted at "Wandarrah", the Centre at Swan Hill, and on the Lake Tyers Settlement.

In particular, the practice of material, social and legal "handouts" has been discontinued, and more careful and adequate assistance is being provided, with counselling, in order to remove the causes of poverty, inadequacy and social deprivation among Aboriginal people.

The number of organizations in Victoria, mainly working on "behalf of" rather than "with" Aboriginal people has spread the confusion which already exists in Aboriginal people regarding their place not in "our" society but in "this" society which also belongs to them by right. One serious aspect of this confusion relates to the demand for rights (usually by white people on behalf of Aborigines) without acceptance of the corresponding responsibilities.

In fact, during the period under review, Aboriginal people were advised to refuse to pay their rent for the Aborigines Welfare Board houses in one area on the grounds that the land and the timber used to build the houses belonged, by right, to Aborigines.

As a result, the Ministry is faced with the task of explaining to Aboriginal people that unless they pay rent in the same way as other tenants, they also will be liable to eviction. The response in the brief period since the Ministry explained this to the Aboriginal people concerned, has clearly indicated that they are prepared to accept responsibility provided they are given corresponding rights.

The long practised "handout" system under which Government and non-Government agencies alike have operated since 1834, has brought nothing but degradation to the Aboriginal people. The fact that we have provided for them and have taken away their initiative, responsibility, and even the desire for anything better, leaves us with no alternative than to accept our responsibility to provide the means whereby they may regain full independent citizenship, not only in name, but in fact.

An illustration of the way in which lack of responsibility was created in Aboriginal people related to the provision of furniture. Incidentally, it also demonstrated the lack of integration between policy and administration within the Aborigines Welfare Board as mentioned earlier.

When a family was provided with a house, a staff member would assess the furniture needs of the family based on numbers, order the items of furniture, new or second-hand, from a furniture dealer in Melbourne, who would select and despatch the goods, sight unseen by staff or client. (This procedure has been terminated.) The fact that the Aboriginal family who would be billed for the goods, but not expected to pay, was often not consulted regarding selection confirmed the proverb "easy come, easy go". The rate of recovery of furniture "loans" to Aborigines during the past twelve months has been almost negligible.

In order to create a sense of responsibility with respect to possessions, Aborigines are now not only consulted, but encouraged to purchase goods either new or second-hand from local furniture stores with the guarantee of the Ministry. In this way, Aboriginal people are learning to conduct their own affairs, deal with local business houses and are allowed to demonstrate that they are able to meet their own commitments, provided they have some say in the purchase of the goods.

The implementation of these fundamental policies will enable Aborigines to participate in the administration of their own affairs and to become contributors to all facets of Australian society.

Specific Ministry policies relating to many aspects of Aboriginal Affairs will only be formulated after discussion with individual Aborigines and other persons, as well as with organizations, Town Councils and other bodies concerned, and in the light of experience gained under the changed conditions. This stand has been taken because the situation is viable, and we have an excellent opportunity for moulding realistic policies rather than imposing rigid policies which may have been successful in other places under other conditions—although this would have been administratively easier to implement.

5. INTERSTATE CONFERENCE

During the year, two interstate conferences on Aboriginal Affairs took place. The Aboriginal Welfare Conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers was held at Parliament House, Perth, on 21st July, 1967. Victoria was represented by the Minister, the Honorable E. R. Meagher, and he was accompanied to the conference by the Chairman of the Aborigines Welfare Board, the Housing Member, and the Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare. At the Perth Conference, it was decided to re-name the conference the Australian Aboriginal Affairs Council, and in terms of a decision made then, the Standing Committee of Officers met in Sydney on 13th to 14th February, 1968. Victoria was represented by Mr. P. E. Felton. Preparations are under way for a meeting of the Australian Aboriginal Council of Ministers to be held in Parliament House, Melbourne, on 12th July, 1968, when Victoria will act as host State.

6. COMMONWEALTH-STATE RELATIONS

Important developments have taken place in the relationships between the Commonwealth and the States in regard to Aboriginal Affairs. Following the expression of interest in Aboriginal citizens which was represented by the overwhelming vote in favour of the constitutional referendum in May, 1967, Aboriginal Affairs were seen as having been expanded into a joint Commonwealth-State responsibility. Since the problems of the Aboriginal and part-Aboriginal people from State to State and within each State are diverse, Australian Governments consider that the interests of Aborigines and part-Aborigines will best be served by programmes administered by State authorities within the context of over-all policies as agreed between the Commonwealth and the States. During the period under review the Ministry has been in close liaison with the Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal Affairs established within the Prime Minister's Department with a view to evolving an over-all programme of important measures to achieve Aboriginal advancement.

7. STAFFING

						Aborigines Welfare Board	Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
						(Dec. 31, 1967)	(June 30, 1968)
Head Office	..	..	..	..	..	7	12
Welfare Staff	..	..	..	..	..	7 (plus 2 vacancies)	9
Health Staff	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Adult Education Officer	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Housekeeping Advisers (part-time)	..	..	..	..	..	(1 vacant)	(2 vacant)
Property Staff and Rent Supervision (part-time)	..	..	..	..	..	7	7
Reserves—Lake Tyers	..	..	..	..	..	2 (plus 2 vacancies)	2 (plus 2 vacancies)
Casual	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Total (active)	..	..	..	..	..	28	34
(vacancies)	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
						33	38

In May the position of Senior Social Worker was filled and four Welfare Officers were appointed. The position of Farm Manager, Lake Tyers, was filled in November, 1967. An officer from the Education Department was seconded to the position of Adult Education Officer in February. A nurse was engaged at Robinvale, and two new positions of Housekeeping Adviser were created. Additional typing and clerical staff were also appointed.

8. ABORIGINAL POPULATION

Precise information on the total Aboriginal population in Victoria is incomplete. A research project being conducted at Monash University has not yet been completed, but a preliminary figure of 4,995 has been supplied as the State total. This figure will be subject to considerable re-checking in the light of research being carried out by the Ministry.

9. EDUCATION

(a) *Pre-School*

Pre-school education is an important aspect of the training of Aboriginal children, but in Victoria very few Aboriginal children obtain a satisfactory pre-school education. The activities of Save the Children Fund in Victoria have been largely with the Aboriginal pre-school age group, and it is through this body that any work to date has been carried out in the pre-school field for Aboriginal children.

During the year, the Aborigines Welfare Board discussed the work of the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, and following a visit to Australia by a field Officer from that body, the Aborigines Welfare Board agreed to support in principle a proposal to establish an experimental research project into the pre-school Aboriginal children in Victoria. Subsequently, the Ministry has co-operated with the Faculty of Education at Monash University in a preliminary consideration of a pre-school project which may be established in three separate districts in Victoria.

(b) *Primary*

Responsibility for the education of Aboriginal children rests with the Education Department. The great majority of Aboriginal children are enrolled at State Schools conducted by the Education Department—few are enrolled at registered schools. All children of school age attend school, and the Education Department co-operates in ensuring regular attendance.

It had been observed previously that Aboriginal seasonal workers in Victoria tended to disrupt the schooling of children as they moved in search of work, but the summer of 1967 did not bring as much disruption as previously noted.

The Ministry has provided financial assistance to Lake Tyers State School to the extent of \$244 during the year, and funds to the extent of \$168 have been set aside to provide bus transport to enable the children of school age to travel from Framlingham Settlement to the nearby Purnim State School.

A grant of \$4,221 was made by the Ministry to the Aboriginal Education Incentive Scholarship Fund for an experimental scheme of assistance to Aboriginal primary pupils in three districts. Dependent upon results of this experiment, the Ministry may operate its own subsidy scheme, or make grants to local bodies to work in this field.

(c) Secondary

Schemes of assistance to Aboriginal secondary pupils which were commenced by the Aborigines Welfare Board have been continued by the Ministry.

At the beginning of the 1968 school year, assistance of \$85 per pupil was provided to 243 secondary students towards the cost of books and uniforms. In addition, 24 pupils were assisted at a substantially higher rate where the pupil was living away from home. The amount payable depends upon individual needs.

Complete details of Aboriginal children at secondary schools is not available, but the figure is in excess of 274 for 1968.

Apart from assistance provided by the Ministry, additional educational grants have been provided by non-Government groups.

(d) Tertiary

As yet, no Victorian Aboriginal pupil has enrolled at a University, although a number of scholarships and grants are available.

Meanwhile, the Ministry is assisting several students, who may have the potential to enter university courses, to continue with secondary education.

(e) Adult

The Aborigines Welfare Board acquired a building in a central position in Swan Hill, which was renovated for use as an Aboriginal Adult Education Centre. Extensive renovations were carried out to the building, and "Wandarrah" was officially opened on 7th October, 1967, by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe. In the course of his visit to Swan Hill, His Excellency and Lady Delacombe visited the homes of two Aboriginal families in the town and examined some of the handcraft work manufactured by Mr. Sam Kirby.

In February, 1968, an Adult Education Officer, Mr. J. Hullick, was seconded from the Education Department and took up duties at "Wandarrah". Mr. Hullick has made a special study of Aboriginal Educational projects and developed a programme of adult education for Aborigines which are conducted at "Wandarrah". Homework and coaching programmes are also carried out, and in addition, social and recreational activities are held.

10. EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

Four young adults receive a subsidy toward living allowance and fees while in vocational training. Plans are in hand to extend this area of the Ministry's activity.

11. HOUSING

(a) Programme

Housing programmes continue along similar lines to those followed previously. Aboriginal people are consulted regarding the location of houses being provided for them.

The Housing Commission has accepted the main responsibility for urban housing for Aborigines, and the Ministry "sponsors" applications by Aboriginal families for housing by the Commission. The Ministry gives additional consideration to those families which at present may not meet the requirements of the Housing Commission.

All houses now provided by the Ministry conform to the standards laid down in the Uniform Building Regulations.

(b) Summary of Housing Provided

	* By Aborigines Welfare Board	By Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs	Total
	(up to 31.12.67)	(6 mths. to 30.6.68)	(as at 30.6.68)
Settlements			
Standard (Lake Tyers) ..	6	4	10
Sub Standard (all settlements)	37	(less 2 demolished)	35
Provincial	94	15	109
Special Elderly Citizens .. ..	..	2	2
Staff	3	3	6
	140	24	162

* By Housing Commission, Victoria—on sponsorship

Up to 31/12/67	6 months to 30/6/68	Total (as at 30/6/68)
142	24	166

* Total houses provided since creation of Board.

NOTE.—In addition, other families have been housed by the Housing Commission independently of the sponsorship scheme.

(c) Rent

The extent of rental arrears being incurred by Aboriginal tenants of Ministry and Housing Commission homes has occasioned considerable concern. While the attitude in the past has been to keep Aboriginal families in housing at all costs, this policy has had the effect, in many cases, of allowing certain Aboriginal tenants to incur heavy rent arrears. It has also involved substantial house maintenance costs without achieving a suitable sense of responsibility on the part of Aborigines. The Ministry's policy is now to encourage and counsel Aboriginal families toward acceptance of responsibility involved in house tenancy.

Where the Aboriginal families abandon all sense of responsibility, they will be evicted in the same way as other delinquent tenants.

Apart from Ministry houses which are let to Aboriginal tenants within the range of \$2-\$5 per week, the Ministry has also been assisting Aboriginal tenants in Housing Commission homes by subsidising their rents. At present 192 tenants are subsidized. The Ministry intends that rentals of both Ministry and Commission houses tenanted by Aborigines will be gradually increased to the level of economic rents over the next *two* years. Those families unable to afford economic rentals will be assisted to apply for assistance on the same basis as other tenants in the low income group.

(d) House Sales

In May, 1968, the Ministry financed the first sale of a house to an Aboriginal family through its funds and is negotiating for a second house purchase. The Ministry will encourage and assist Aboriginal families in suitable circumstances to enter into purchase of Ministry or Commission homes.

12. HEALTH

The staff of the Ministry has been expanded to a Senior Sister and two Visiting Nurses. Certain health problems amongst the Aboriginal community have been noted as requiring attention, and basic health education work is necessary amongst some Aboriginal families in Victoria. It is envisaged that there will be a further expansion of health staff.

The Ministry aims to reach out into country districts and remedy health problems within local Aboriginal communities and encourage the use of local health facilities by Aboriginal persons. The Health Department, public health authorities, public hospitals and the medical profession generally have given ready co-operation in this difficult project.

A health survey of Aborigines in Victoria previously reported upon was commenced by the Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs, Monash University.

13. SOCIAL WELFARE

During the year, attention has been directed to the number of unauthorized fostering arrangements of Aboriginal children. Because of the particular circumstances surrounding some Aboriginal families, there has been an abnormal amount of "farming out" of Aboriginal children to non-Aboriginal families. The Department has no complaint about the legal adoption or placement of children in foster care under the supervision of the Social Welfare Department, but it is greatly concerned with the practice of irregular and informal fostering arrangements involving Aboriginal children. This tendency has received some impetus through holiday schemes and the sudden and welcome upsurge of interest in Aboriginal questions. In the Ministry's view, Aboriginal children who have been placed in this way should be returned to the care of their own parents, and assistance to regain custody of their children has been provided in a number of instances to Aboriginal families. Cases of illegal placement where they have come under notice have been referred to the Social Welfare Department.

It may be appreciated why this matter was given so much publicity, when it was discovered that over 300 Aboriginal children had been informally separated from their parents. It is suspected that there are many similar arrangements unknown to the Ministry. In a total Aboriginal population of 5,000, this number is extremely high.

Some measure of the emotional distress occasioned by parents and children may be gauged by the results of one episode in which one person collected to herself no less than ten Aboriginal children under eight years of age from several families. Where it became inconvenient to care for them they, without the parents' knowledge or consent, were farmed out to other families. The fact that in this re-shuffle of helpless infants twins were separated, Aboriginal mothers were unable to trace their children, and in one case was threatened with legal action if she persisted in an attempt to regain custody of her child. The facts in this case were that her child had originally been separated from her for hospitalization and then for "temporary" care in Melbourne in order to receive outpatient treatment.

On the credit side, the Ministry and the children concerned are most appreciative of those families who have made homes available for children who, of necessity, were separated from their natural parents.

It was unfortunate that, in the general public reaction, some of the foster parents and children were embarrassed.

As a result of the publicity given to this matter some children have been re-united with their parents, and the Ministry will continue to follow up all cases drawn to its attention.

14. LEGAL

The Aboriginal Affairs Act provides that the Director shall be notified by the Court where an Aborigine is to appear on any criminal proceedings. The Court may adjourn the hearing to enable the Director or his deputy to appear on behalf of the Aborigine.

Police have been notifying the Department when Aboriginal persons were arrested, but this provision of the Act has given a statutory basis to the system of notifications. Experience to date, however, suggests that further statutory provisions are needed. This matter will receive attention in the proposed amending legislation.

Where cases come under attention, the Ministry assists Aborigines to make use of the existing facilities for legal aid provided by the Legal Aid Committee and the Public Solicitor. In addition, where appropriate, the Ministry has met the costs of legal representation for Aboriginal persons. In other cases, an Officer has attended in Court to speak on behalf of the Aborigine or supply a report to the Court as requested. This area of the Ministry's activities will be regularly assessed and modified when it appears necessary.

15. SETTLEMENTS

(a) *Lake Tyers*

During the first half of the period under review, this settlement continued to attract adverse publicity out of all proportion to the size of the Aboriginal community there. However, a significant change has been brought about in the approach of the press toward this community, and a more widespread appreciation and understanding of the programme being implemented there has been achieved.

The programme of housing development previously reported has been completed, and all Aboriginal families in residence at Lake Tyers when the Ministry was created are suitably housed in standard accommodation. A number of requests are being made by families wishing to re-settle at Lake Tyers. Meanwhile, the old bathhouse and several old houses have been demolished.

At present, the whole area is being town-planned by a leading firm of architects, and a 36 square foot model of future development is being prepared for the Ministry by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology—School of Architects.

A programme of full employment at Award wages has been instituted, and several Aboriginal men at Lake Tyers are engaged in contract work in the forest. The farm continues to flourish and is a source of income.

An Aboriginal Council has been formed, and members are taking an active part in matters affecting their well-being.

It is proposed to hold an Adventure Camp for fifty secondary school students—twenty-five Aboriginal and twenty-five non-Aboriginal youths at Lake Tyers during two weeks in January, 1969.

(b) *Framlingham*

This Reserve is located about twelve miles from Warrnambool and contains 586 acres, most of which are used for farming.

Work carried out at the Reserve during the year included completion of repairs to houses, extension of the water supply, and the provision of septic toilets. Funds have been provided to enable two Aborigines farming the area to obtain dairy equipment and additional livestock.

However, despite an expenditure of over \$48,000 in the last nine years, this Reserve is still only partly developed, and the farms are operating well below their economic capacity. The eleven houses have a short life left, and it can be expected that they will require considerable expenditure or early replacement. In many respects, the area is run down, physically and socially, and accordingly the Ministry is examining the whole situation very carefully with a view to discussing the future of the settlement with the Aboriginal residents.

(c) Manatunga (Robinvale)

The Aborigines Welfare Board made plans for extensions and alterations to the twelve small "transitional" units at this Settlement, and some site works were carried out. However, the Ministry reviewed the situation, and after discussions with Aborigines in the district and with local citizens, it was decided to close this settlement and re-house established families in the town of Robinvale or elsewhere as requested. Houses are being purchased and built for this purpose, and as units in the Settlement become vacant, they are being sold by tender for demolition and removal for use at sports grounds or farms.

(d) Rumbalara (Mooroopna)

This estate of ten small "transitional" houses is owned by the Housing Commission, but has been managed by the Aborigines Welfare Board and subsequently by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs. Renovations and additions to provide extra accommodation and better amenities were completed by the Housing Commission in November, 1967, but were not handed over until March, 1968, due to difficulties with contractors.

The Ministry is purchasing this estate from the Housing Commission.

16. RESEARCH

A paper "Education—Present Needs and Facilities in Victoria" by Mr. P. E. Felton was delivered at the Research Seminar on Education for Aborigines at Monash University in August, 1967.

A summary of current research, prepared by Mr. Felton, was published in the "Newsletter" of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies in November, 1967.

During recent months, a programme of research has been initiated, covering a wide range of topics, as —

Housing progress and needs.

Legal matters.

Child care standards.

Employment.

Educational progress.

as well as specific short term projects.

The Ministry has participated at two interstate conferences on Aboriginal subjects held in Canberra.

Other research is being carried out as follows :—

Dr. E. Gault—adjustment of Aboriginal teenagers.

Dr. G. D. Sarfati—alcoholism.

Miss E. Eggleston—legal.

Monash University—pre-school kindergartens.

A.E.I.S.F.—education.

17. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Work commenced in 1967, on an information booklet on Aboriginal Affairs, but publication was deferred pending re-organization of the Department.

A publicity film, information booklets and other materials are under preparation. Display and photographic material is being made available by the Ministry to groups and organizations.

18. VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

As mentioned earlier, the number of non-Government agencies located in Victoria has created problems both for the Aborigines and for the Ministry. Along with this problem there is also an apparent reluctance on the part of some of these organizations to use, employ or delegate to Aboriginal people responsibility for their own affairs.

When Parliament drafted the new legislation to establish the Ministry, provision was made for the Minister to co-ordinate the activities of non-Government organizations concerned with the welfare and interests of Aborigines.

The Ministry will pay particular attention to this matter and will endeavour to gain the co-operation of all organizations working in this field and attempt to rationalize their efforts.

19. ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council was appointed by Order in Council on 20th February, 1968, in accordance with the provisions of the Aboriginal Affairs Act. It is not a replacement of the Aborigines Welfare Board abolished by the same Act, but has a different role, namely, to advise the Minister on matters relating to the interests of and advancement of Aborigines. It has no executive function.

Members are—

The Director of Aboriginal Affairs—Chairman.

Mrs. C. G. Waters, honorary welfare worker in East Gippsland.

Dr. C. M. Tatz, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Monash University.

Both appointed pursuant to Section 11 (1) (a), being persons having special knowledge of Aborigines or experience in other fields of special value to the Council.

Dr. R. Southby, Consultant Paediatrician, Department of Health, being a person having knowledge and experience in the field of public health.

Mr. T. L. W. Emerson, Director of Special Services, Education Department, being a person having knowledge and experience in the field of education.

Mr. J. P. Gaskin, Director of Housing, Housing Commission, Victoria, being a person having knowledge and experience of housing.

Mr. A. G. Booth, Director of Family Welfare, Social Welfare Department, being a person having knowledge and experience in matters of social welfare.

Rev. A. G. Pearson—Chairman, Aborigines Committee, Victorian Council of Churches.

Mr. S. F. Davey, Director, Aborigines Advancement League.

Mrs. M. E. Tucker, President, United Council of Aboriginal Women.

The latter three being persons selected from a panel of names submitted by non-Government organizations.

Mr. Lynch Cooper.

Mr. Hilton Walsh.

Mr. Philip Pepper.

The latter three being Aborigines.

The Council has met on three occasions since its appointment.

The matters which have been discussed at Council Meetings include—

The proposed election of Aboriginal Members to the Advisory Council. This matter was discussed fully and Council Members made a number of recommendations to the Minister, the majority of which were adopted.

Educational assistance,

Home Ownership,

Alcoholism,

and other matters either referred by the Minister or raised by individual members.

On 28th June, 1968, Mr. Lynch Cooper, Aboriginal representative from Wangaratta, and former world champion sprinter, was unanimously elected as Deputy Chairman.

20. FUTURE PLANS

As indicated throughout this Report, the Ministry has a most difficult job ahead of it, but with guidance from the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council and co-operation from the public and Aboriginal people, it is confidently anticipated that when the next Annual Report is written, many of the problems presently facing both Aboriginal people and the Ministry will have been solved.

APPENDIX A

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS FUND

Financial Statement (incorporating Aborigines Welfare Fund to 31st December, 1967)
as at June 30, 1968.

1966/67		Aborigines Welfare Fund	+	Aboriginal Affairs Fund	=	1967/68.
\$		\$		\$		\$
102,978.28	Balance, Aborigines Welfare Fund Brought forward 1st July, 1967	55,923.63		..		55,923.63
33,176.86	Revenue to 30th June, 1968	14,677.68		15,716.23		30,393.91
140,000.00	Contribution from Loan Funds	250,000.00		..		250,000.00
131,000.00	Contribution from Vote Funds	200,000.00		..		200,000.00
<u>407,155.14</u>		<u>520,601.31</u>		<u>15,716.23</u>		<u>536,317.54</u>
	<i>Less Expenditure—</i>					
11,819.52	Travelling and Subsistence	6,279.90		5,932.82		12,212.72
3,205.62	Office Requisites, printing and stationery	807.39		5,609.43		6,416.82
3,031.85	Books, publications, other incidental expenses including fees to members	1,687.60		354.67		2,042.27
4,685.11	Postage and telephone expenses	1,442.63		2,473.72		3,916.35
8,946.46	Motor vehicles, purchase and running expenses	3,551.22		5,036.96		8,588.18
558.09	Fuel, light, power and water	652.72		879.20		1,531.92
68,328.04	Relief and assistance	38,277.68		62,892.30		101,169.98
12,008.37	Lake Tyers—Provisions, stores, health services, &c.	8,155.14		14,475.97		22,631.11
48,380.31	Maintenance of houses—general	12,933.13		14,000.02		26,933.15
8,896.60	Maintenance of houses—Lake Tyers	16,574.00		13,422.94		29,996.94
78,780.96	Capital expenditure—buildings and land—general	42,777.77		150,541.82		193,319.59
37,393.47	Capital expenditure—buildings and land—Lake Tyers	29,288.88		11,593.36		40,882.24
..	Repayable Advances .. .. .	..		8,750.00		8,750.00
65,197.11	Salaries	30,635.24		44,732.61		75,367.85
<u>351,231.51</u>		<u>193,063.30</u>		<u>340,695.82</u>		<u>533,759.12</u>
<u>55,923.63</u>	Balance (*B/fwd. to Aboriginal Affairs Fund)	<u>* 327,538.01</u>		<u>Balance 30.6.68</u>	<u>C/fwd.</u>	<u>2,558.42</u>

APPENDIX B

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS FUND

Analysis of Revenue as at 30th June, 1968

1966/67	Item	Aborigines Welfare Fund to 31/12/67	1967/68 Aboriginal Affairs Fund	Total
\$		\$	\$	\$
67.25	Sale of Blankets	46.00	17.00	63.00
8,211.12	Sale of Cattle	4,047.10	3,585.90	7,633.00
5,083.78	Sale of Canteen Goods .. .. .	..	..	..
200.00	Sale of Hay	26.00	..	26.00
644.24	Sale of Sundry Items	17.44	186.50	203.94
9,653.11	Rent Collections	5,227.13	5,552.05	10,779.18
1,320.46	Relief Advances Repaid	939.57	984.20	1,923.77
188.00	Maintenance payments by pensioners .. .. .	..	..	..
478.51	Electricity meter collections	253.14	142.73	395.87
1,339.62	Donations	1,888.18	1,525.16	3,413.34
12.00	Funeral allowances	80.00	..	80.00
1,779.37	Credit to expenditure	292.46	1,896.61	2,189.07
749.47	Fencing	283.70	210.15	493.85
3,405.38	Royalties—timber	766.74	57.35	824.09
..	Workers compensation	810.22	1,558.58	2,368.80
35.00	Insurance .. .. .	..	..	..
9.55	Recoup of Salary .. .. .	..	..	..
<u>33,176.86</u>		<u>14,677.68</u>	<u>15,716.23</u>	<u>30,393.91</u>

APPENDIX C

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS FUND
Lake Tyers Direct Expenditure—30th June, 1968.

1966/67	Item	Aborigines Welfare Fund	+	Aboriginal Affairs Fund	=	Total
\$		\$		\$		\$
14.75	Travelling	424.95		876.32		1,301.27
1.79	Office requisites .. .. .	..		2.54		2.54
80.00	Books and Publications .. .. .	..		..		..
593.40	Postage and telephones .. .. .	..		316.48		316.48
153.30	Motor Vehicles .. .. .	..		1.97		1.97
453.00	Fuel, lighting, power and water	514.48		785.95		1,300.43
624.90	Relief and assistance	3.00		73.05		76.05
12,008.37	Lake Tyers provisions, &c.	8,155.14		14,475.97		22,631.11
8,896.60	Maintenance of Houses	16,574.00		13,422.94		29,996.94
37,393.47	Capital construction	29,288.88		11,593.36		40,882.24
7,299.24	Salaries	4,599.49		4,362.60		8,962.09
<u>67,518.82</u>		<u>59,559.94</u>		<u>45,911.18</u>		<u>105,471.12</u>