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VICTORIA

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# REPORT

OF THE

# MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 1973

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PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO ACT No. 7574, S. 41.

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*By Authority:*

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# Ministry Of Aboriginal Affairs Annual Report 1972/73

VICTORIA

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 30 June, 1973



M. R. WORTHY,  
Director of Aboriginal Affairs.

# INTRODUCTION

Intense public interest in Aboriginal Affairs, as evidenced by extensive reporting, has fortunately assisted Aborigines to become more fluent and confident with mass communication. This recently acquired skill will achieve more effective results, however, if issues are emphasised rather than attempting to make people feel guilty.

Although this is legitimate political activity, given the past apathetic behaviour of white to black Australians, it should be recognized that acting from a sense of guilt may cloud rather than clarify judgment. The result will be an acceleration of the worst form of patronage — intellectual paternalism. This type of patronage provides for Aboriginal activity without accountability.

Unless we, black and white Australians, appreciate the need to compromise and together work out solutions on rational as well as on emotional levels then the future of race relations between black and white Australians is dark indeed.

The Ministry has sufficient faith in the majority of both races to expect that out of the present lively debate, wisdom and better justice for Aboriginal Australians will prevail.

The popular fashion in Aboriginal affairs this year is to “knock” government departments irrespective of whether it is action or inaction which is under scrutiny. The result is always the same — we are damned if we do and damned if we don't. Action taken should not have been taken; inaction calls for action.

If we employ Aborigines they are accused for being “stooges”; if we don't employ them we are accused of denying them employment opportunities. Even on invitation, if we attend Aboriginal meetings, we are often abused and told to get out; if we don't attend we are accused of being disinterested in Aboriginal affairs. If we promote Aboriginal organizations we are told we have supported the “wrong ones”; if we neglect to promote Aboriginal organizations we are told we are “empire building” for white administrators. If we involve Aboriginal staff in case work we are told they are destroying themselves, that they should not work with their own relations; if we do not involve them in case work we are ignoring unique Aborigines know-how. If we print newsletters in simple language we are treating Aborigines as children; if we use sophisticated language we are trying to deliberately mislead them. If we listen to particular Aboriginal leaders, we are told that those particular leaders are not “our leaders”. If we buy better type homes we are attempting to help Aborigines fail because they can't be expected to manage the upkeep; if we buy more modest homes we are downgrading Aborigines. If we involve Aboriginal organizations in case work we are “setting them up” hoping they will fail; if we don't involve Aboriginal organizations in case work we are neglecting their resources. If we support Aboriginal services such as health and legal services we are supporting apartheid; if we don't we are accused of denying the Aborigines the opportunity to use their own initiative. If we give assistance we are destroy-

ing their initiative and pride by giving handouts; if we decline to give assistance we are indifferent to suffering and need. If we provide educational scholarships we are creating a "white back-lash"; if we don't we are keeping Aboriginal people down from places of power. If we give land rights by ownership of reserves to Aborigines, we are accused of a confidence trick and wasteful government expenditure; if we don't we are accused of denying Aborigines their basic right to the land.

It is interesting to note that on all occasions there are Aborigines and mem-

bers of the public who take both sides on every issue.

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On 14 June I returned from a three months visit to several countries in which I observed race relations. Information gained during this visit will be used, where appropriate, to modify programmes and policies of the Ministry. A full report of the visit is being prepared.

The visit encompassed meetings with American Indians, Negroes, Canadian Treaty and non-Treaty Indians, Eskimos, Bedouins in Israel, immigrants in the Midlands of England and minority peoples in China.

## MINISTER

The portfolio of Minister for Aboriginal Affairs was held by the Hon. E.R. Meagher, M.B.E., E.D., M.P. until 23 August, 1972.

The Hon. V.O. Dickie, M.L.C. was appointed on 23 August, 1972 as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

## LEGISLATION

Legislation administered by the Ministry remained without amendment.

## INTERSTATE CONFERENCES

Two meetings of the Australian Aboriginal Affairs Council attended by Commonwealth and State Ministers were held during the year. The Hon. E.R. Meagher represented Victoria at the meeting held in Darwin on 28 July, 1972. The Hon. Vance Dickie attended the meeting in Adelaide on 6 April, 1973.

The Director attended meetings of the Standing Committee of Officers of the Council at Darwin 25-26 July, 1972, and Adelaide 9-10 November, 1972. The Acting Director Mr. Peter Renkin attended the meeting at Adelaide on 3-4 April, 1973.

In Darwin and Adelaide, National issues in Aboriginal Affairs were contrasted with the differing policies and attitudes of each of the States. Highlighted in discussion was the great differences in

the needs of tribal Aborigines in the North, and those in Southern cities. The Land Rights issue, too, figured prominently at both conferences. It was agreed that the complexities of the overall situation could be remedied by increasing the Commonwealth's responsibility for Aboriginal Australians, while retaining existing State administrative contacts and expertise.

Aboriginal identity was discussed at length at the Darwin conference and resulted in a special conference held in Adelaide to consider legislation relating to Aboriginal and archaeological relics.

The Council of Ministers in April was invited by the Commonwealth Minister to consider a request that the Commonwealth assume responsibility for policy planning and co-ordination at a National level.

## OTHER CONFERENCES

Mr. Renkin, Acting Director, with Dr. W.J. Stevenson, Chief Health Officer, represented Victoria at the Sixth Commonwealth/State Conference on Aboriginal Health Services in Melbourne on 17 April, 1973.

Mr. Renkin also attended a "Search" Conference on Community Development at Canberra on 27–29 June, 1973,

arranged by the Centre for Continuing Education of the Australian National University.

Mrs. D. Inglis attended the National Conference of the Australian Pre-Schools Association in Perth on 19–25 August, 1972. As a result of attendance at these Conferences, Ministry policies have been modified. Details of these changes appear in the appropriate sections of the Report.

## COMMONWEALTH/STATE RELATIONS

The Commonwealth continues to make grants to the State for Aboriginal affairs.

During the year there was considerable debate on the issue of responsibility for Aboriginal affairs at Commonwealth and State levels — generally more heat than light was generated.

It is evident that a national policy for Aboriginal advancement is essential, combined with regional administration.

The vast difference of interest, culture and activity between Aborigines located in different States and even within a State boundary dictates that a flexible approach must be adopted if there is to be realistic Aboriginal advancement.

## STAFFING

The staff establishment increased from 79 to 88 (see Appendix D). This increase is due entirely to providing additional employment opportunities for Aboriginal

staff. The proportion of Aboriginal staff now employed in the Ministry is 26 per cent.

## STAFF TRAINING

The training of staff is considered to be of vital importance due to the complex, highly personal and often emotional content of Aboriginal Affairs. The need for a unified and yet flexible approach is recognised and staff skills are developed particularly in the field of communication with Aboriginal people. The contribution which Aboriginal staff make to staff training is invaluable.

A residential course to evaluate the Ministry's goals and methods of reaching

objectives was held at the Ministry's camp site at Rubicon in August, 1972. A further course was conducted in May, 1973 to orient new staff members and to provide source material for future planning.

The transfer of responsibility for health services for Aborigines from the Ministry to the Department of Health (Victoria) was announced on 25 June, 1973, and will result in the reduction of five staff members.

## POPULATION

Figures issued by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics indicate that as at 30 June, 1971 the Aboriginal population of Victoria was 6,371. Present estimates place the Victorian Aboriginal population in excess of 7,000.

Prior to the Commonwealth Census of 30 June, 1971, all figures relating to Aboriginal population have been estimates based on best available knowledge. Although there are some aspects of the Commonwealth Census material which need clarification, the figures now provide a basis for realistic programme planning. It is evident from the figures which are now available that the Aboriginal population is younger than the population as a whole. Whereas 37.38 per cent of the total Victorian population is aged under 20 years, the corresponding figure for Aborigines is 54.20 per cent. Alternatively, the percentage of Victorians aged 60 and over is 12.31 per cent of the community. The

comparable figure for Aborigines is 3.4 per cent.

An immediate interpretation of these figures tends to support the contention of the Ministry that recent Aboriginal life styles in Victoria continue to have a disastrous effect upon the Aboriginal population.

Former community attitudes and practices which encouraged substandard education, accommodation, health, employment and minimal opportunities obviously led to early ageing.

Aborigines therefore embraced a fatalistic approach to their lot.

The Ministry recognises the importance of the youthfulness of the population and many of its programmes are geared towards normalising the demographic imbalance of the Aboriginal population.

As opportunities are provided, fatalism will diminish and life expectancy be increased.



To overcome this population characteristic, the Ministry, however, has never advocated family planning.

Another aspect which requires serious attention is the fact that the majority of this population resides in cities and towns.

## EDUCATION

Can education be bought? Community expectations, including some Aborigines, that the provision of scholarships will in themselves provide a better education is erroneous. The provision of scholarship monies has contributed to the increase in family income and has had the effect of stimulating interest in school attendance.

Despite the scholarships which have led to many more Aboriginal children attending schools, educational gains will be limited if Aboriginal parents, children and teachers do not positively engage in the benefits available. School teachers and administrators will increase the results if they incorporate in their curricula and school organization a recognition of Aboriginal identity and heritage.

### SEMINAR

A one-day seminar was sponsored by the Ministry at Bairnsdale on 7 December, 1972. Under the title of "Educational Issues in Aboriginal Affairs" the seminar attracted intense interest from East Gippsland pre-school, primary and secondary teaching staff, as well as other persons involved in Aboriginal affairs in the area.

### PRE-SCHOOL

The Ministry's Pre-School Programme announced last year has been in operation for less than eighteen months, but already 197 Aboriginal children have had the experience of Pre-School under the scheme.

In contrast to 1971 when 12 Aboriginal children attended accredited kindergartens, 62 children were attending Pre-Schools under the Ministry's Scholarship Scheme in June, 1972, and these numbers had increased to 100 by June, 1973.

A new development in the programme commenced in September, 1972. Financial assistance was provided through the Ministry to enable Kindergartens to employ Aboriginal Pre-School Assistants. As at June, 1973, 11 young Aboriginal women were employed as Pre-School Assistants, and the programme has been an outstanding success. To assist them better to relate in their work, five Assistants undertook a two-weeks course of further training in department.

A special need for Pre-School services has been demonstrated in East Gippsland where there are no Pre-School facilities in more distant locations. To meet this need, the Ministry plans to establish a mobile Kindergarten service to commence in February, 1974.

## **PRIMARY**

Since the inception of the Aboriginal Education Incentive Scholarship Fund in 1967, Aboriginal Children's school attendance and performance at school has greatly improved. The scheme has increased parental interest in education and also established contact with their children's schools. In the Latrobe Valley and Colac the A.E.I.S.F. phased out its scholarships this year as the objectives had been achieved.

A total of \$100,500 was made available through the Ministry to the A.E.I.S.F. Committee. Scholarships were awarded to 928 primary students this year.

## **SECONDARY**

Increasing numbers of students are attending secondary school this year notably with a higher proportion of boys than girls. (See Appendix E, Table 2).

In January 1973, Commonwealth Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme administered through the Department of Education was extended to Aboriginal children attending all levels of secondary school. A.E.I.S.F. scholarships for students in Forms 1 and 2 were consequently terminated from that date. The total number of secondary grants awarded was 632, an increase of 99 on the previous year.

## **ADVANCED**

Students holding Commonwealth Aboriginal Study Grants from the Department of Education number 94, an increase of 54 on the previous year. Of these 23 were at Universities or Colleges of Advanced Education. Five study grant holders undertook secondary studies and a further five engaged in literacy courses. The remainder used the grants for a wide variety of vocational training courses.

## **CAMPING**

As foreshadowed in last year's report, development of the permanent camp site at Rubicon in the Lake Eildon district has been undertaken. A dining/reception hall and kitchen were built; three buildings previously moved to the site were renovated for use as dormitories and a craft centre; site works were carried out and a lake for boating and swimming activities constructed. A residence for an Aboriginal caretaker is at present under construction.

Due to the extensive building activities, the camping programme was restricted throughout the year. It was possible, however, to conduct eight camps and two staff conferences, in addition to making the camp facilities available to four other organisations to hold camps on the property.

Letters and reports from youngsters — Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal — who have attended the camp are most encouraging.

## **BERNARD VAN LEER PRE-SCHOOL PROJECT**

By agreement with the Australian Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs, financial support for this project will terminate at the end of the 1973 academic year.

A report on the project is still pending.

## **AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH**

The A.C.E.R. has continued with the study which was commenced in 1969 into educational achievement of Aboriginal children. In its initial stages investigation was made into the comparison of performance of groups of

Aboriginal, migrant and other Australian children in Victorian primary schools. A report on this stage has been completed under the title "Some Cognitive Skills in Aboriginal Children in Victorian Primary Schools" (1971).

During the present year, work has been extended to secondary schools where

attention is being paid to the study of school leaving patterns and occupational choices of Aboriginal school leavers.

The work of the A.C.E.R. has been most valuable to the Ministry in providing an objective basis on which policy decisions about Aboriginal education may be made.

## EMPLOYMENT

### EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

The Ministry, in association with the Department of Labour, carried out pre-employment programmes for young people in the West Gippsland and Mallee regions.

These programmes have been instrumental in creating interest, as well as raising employment aspirations among Aboriginal youth.

### SPECIAL WORKS PROJECTS

In conjunction with the Department of Labour, the Ministry administered ten Special Works Projects this year. Funds were made available to the following cities or shires in order that Aborigines could obtain employment with local Government bodies:—

Shire of Bairnsdale

Shire of Dimboola

Shire of Morwell

Shire of Rosedale

City of Shepparton

Shire of Swan Hill

Shire of Swan Hill — Robinvale Project

City of Swan Hill

Shire of Tambo

Shire of Warrnambool.

A total of 64 men were employed under the Special Works Projects, and this has enabled them to obtain employment which would otherwise have been difficult to secure. The projects have contributed towards an increase in self-esteem and an improvement in relations and functioning. Many of the men employed were previously thought by some to be unemployable. They have proved otherwise.

### COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT TRAINING SCHEME

The Ministry provided support and counselling services to many Aborigines making use of the Department of Labour's Employment Training Scheme. Throughout the year the number of Aborigines employed under the Employment Training Scheme increased by six to a total of thirty-four by the end of the year. Forty-nine trainees commenced this year and forty-three terminated their training during the same period.

# HOUSING

## HOME OWNERSHIP

The Ministry Housing Grant of \$1,500 designed to stimulate interest in home purchase, was paid to 39 applicants during the 12 months ending 30 June, 1973.

The desire by Aborigines to purchase their own homes, continues to be reflected in the long waiting list of applicants for the Grant.

This year, the Ministry has also assisted Aborigines with home ownership by making housing loans of varying amounts available to 19 families.

## RENTAL

The Ministry continues to provide rental accommodation in both metropolitan and rural areas. This year, the Ministry acquired 24 houses for rent in the following areas.

Metropolitan	3
Central	1
Gippsland	12
Mallee	4
Murray-Goulburn	3
Wimmera-Western	1
Total	24

Details of housing owned by the Ministry are set out in Appendix "F".

Tenants on low incomes were eligible for rental subsidies calculated on the basis of the formula applied by the Housing Commission.

Appendix "B" indicates that rental collections for the year amounted to \$38,420.78, an increase of \$13,467.87 or fifty-four percent over the previous financial year.

On 31 December, 1972, the Ministry wrote off rental arrears to the extent of \$44,046.51. The purpose in writing off these arrears was to provide Aboriginal tenants of Ministry houses with the opportunity to make a fresh start as from the beginning of 1973. Experience has shown that one of the major difficulties for some Aboriginal tenants has been the burden of rental arrears some of which had accumulated over a period of 15 years. Those tenants of twelve months or more who had paid their rent regularly were granted a bonus, depending on the period they had successfully maintained their rental obligations. These bonuses, the maximum being \$500, were allocated to 23 families. In fifteen cases, the bonus was applied to a temporary reduction of twenty percent off their normal rent. In eight cases, the bonus was used towards a house purchase deposit.

# HEALTH

This year the Ministry's health education programme was developed into a task force approach. Based in Melbourne, the nursing team travelled throughout Vic-

toria arousing the interest of Aboriginal communities and increasing knowledge in nutrition, hygiene, child care and use of community resources. The nursing

team has also assisted health resources throughout the State in a more receptive attitude towards Aborigines. Ministry visiting nurses assisted a number of infant welfare centres to conduct health education programmes for the total community.

On 27 June, 1973, the Minister announced the transfer of the Ministry's nursing team to the Department of Health (Vic.). This change is in line with Ministry's policy that services provided to Aborigines should be made available wherever possible through the community's existing resources — in this case the Health Department. Additional funds will be made available to the Department to meet the expenses of the nursing team.

During 1973, the general lack of health resources in East Gippsland became an important issue. In co-operation with the Victorian and Commonwealth Departments of Health, the Ministry provided assistance in planning for improved health facilities in that part of the State.

## VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE

Aboriginal people in Melbourne have announced plans to establish their own health service in Fitzroy to serve the the health needs of Metropolitan Aborigines.

## RESEARCH

Assistance was again provided to Dr. Lena Thomas of the Department of Social Studies, University of Melbourne. Dr. Thomas conducted a data collection study on the nutrition of Aboriginal children in East and West Gippsland. A report on this study is pending.

Dr. Malcolm Dobbin, a Ph.D. Student, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, was assisted financially and by Ministry field staff in his research into the morbidity, growth and nutrition in children aged between 0 and 5 of East Gippsland and Melbourne.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

During this year the Ministry has introduced a new dimension in working with Aboriginal clients of the Ministry.

After considerable consultation, the Ministry has involved an Aboriginal organization in carrying out case work on behalf of the Ministry, particularly relating to housing matters.

It was proposed to the Ministry that more effective results could be achieved using this method rather than having professional Social Workers or Ministry Aboriginal Liaison Officers doing the same task.

At this stage it is too early to comment on the results of this approach, but expectations are high.

It has become increasingly evident that economic and education programmes for Aboriginal people are often negated unless accompanied by adequate social programmes. The provision of employment and education opportunities require continuing assistance to the recipients in order that they might enjoy the benefits of social interaction with other citizens in their localities.

As a means of consolidating the social development which has occurred in recent years the Ministry has continued its two-pronged approach to the ultimate solution of racial equality. Firstly extensive activities have been undertaken with the community in order to assist them to meet Aborigines halfway. Secondly to

extend the opportunities and responsibilities of the Aborigines in community activities. In this regard during the year many Aboriginal people have taken part in various service clubs, community committees and allied organizations.

While it is not intended to convey the idea that Aborigines should prove themselves to the community at large the value of Aboriginal participation on community committees is one of enhancing their own self image. In addition, the skills acquired in the process are able to be utilized in the management of Aboriginal organisations.

#### CONSULTATION

Aboriginal people have contributed considerably to the thinking of the Ministry during this year through formal and informal consultations. Issues which dominated discussions related to housing and health. Meetings were held in metropolitan and country areas with the Director or his Deputy.

An innovation this year was the introduction of residential consultation involving staff and their families and Aboriginal families.

Such consultations were held over the weekend 14–16 July and 17–19 November at Warburton. Aboriginal families from metropolitan and country areas attended and senior staff and their families. Both staff and Aboriginal people considered that this form of meeting was invaluable for the interchange of ideas and particularly of getting to know and understand each other.

Sir Douglas Nicholls, O.B.E., was appointed on 29 November, 1972 as a full time consultant to the Director of Aboriginal Affairs.

#### DISTRICT REPORTS

##### Metropolitan

##### “GUNNAI” LODGE, Dandenong

In October 1972 the Ministry announced that it had purchased a registered boarding house in King George Parade, Dandenong, for the purpose of providing accommodation for young Aboriginal people from country districts.

Public reaction to the purchase was immediate, strong and, to say the least, disappointing. Within days, a petition had been forwarded to the newspapers, and an intensive campaign mounted to oppose this project based solely on racial grounds.

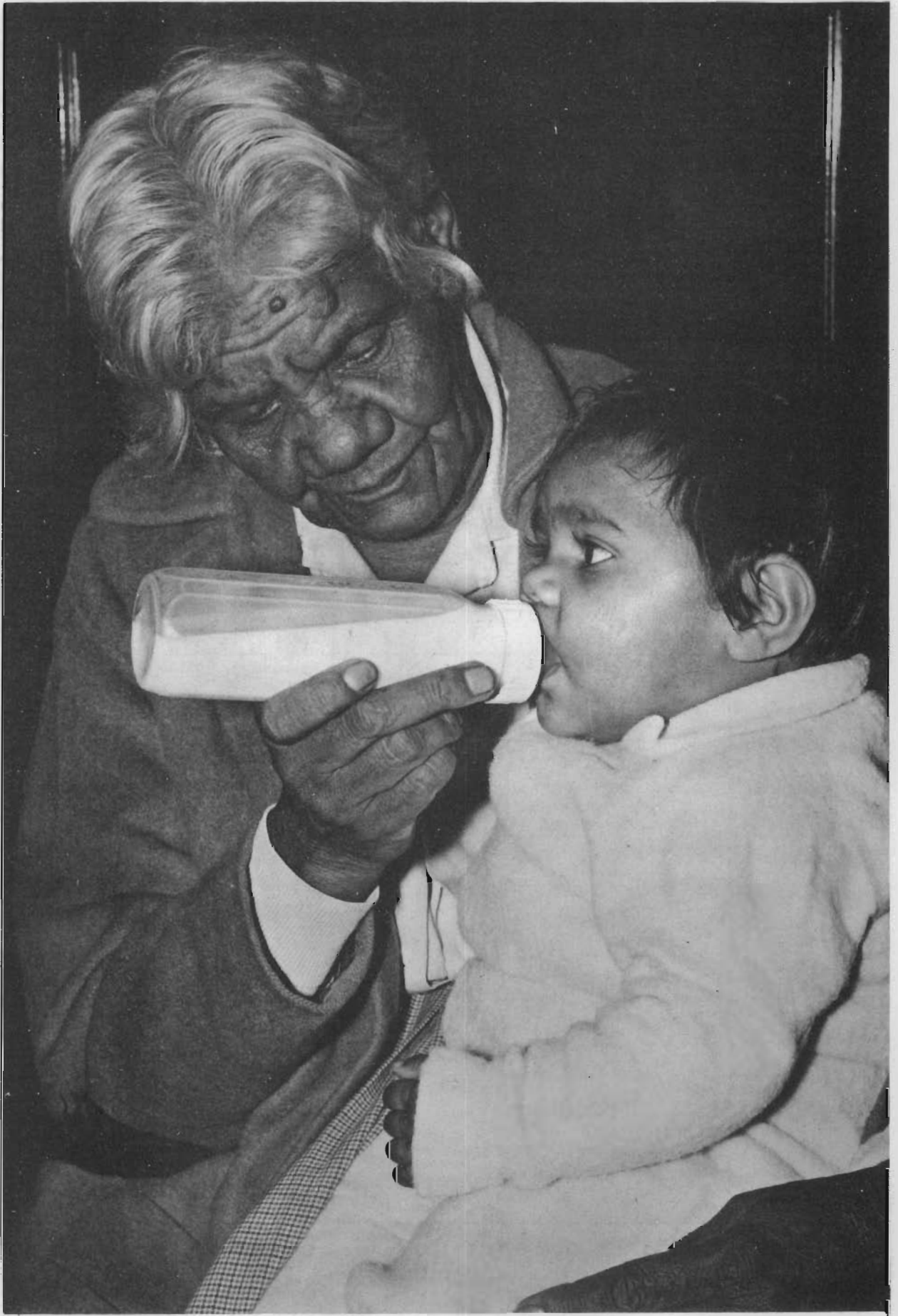
The Ministry refused to yield to the demand that the project should be abandoned and was supported in its stand by Aboriginal organisations, as well as by many members of the general public.

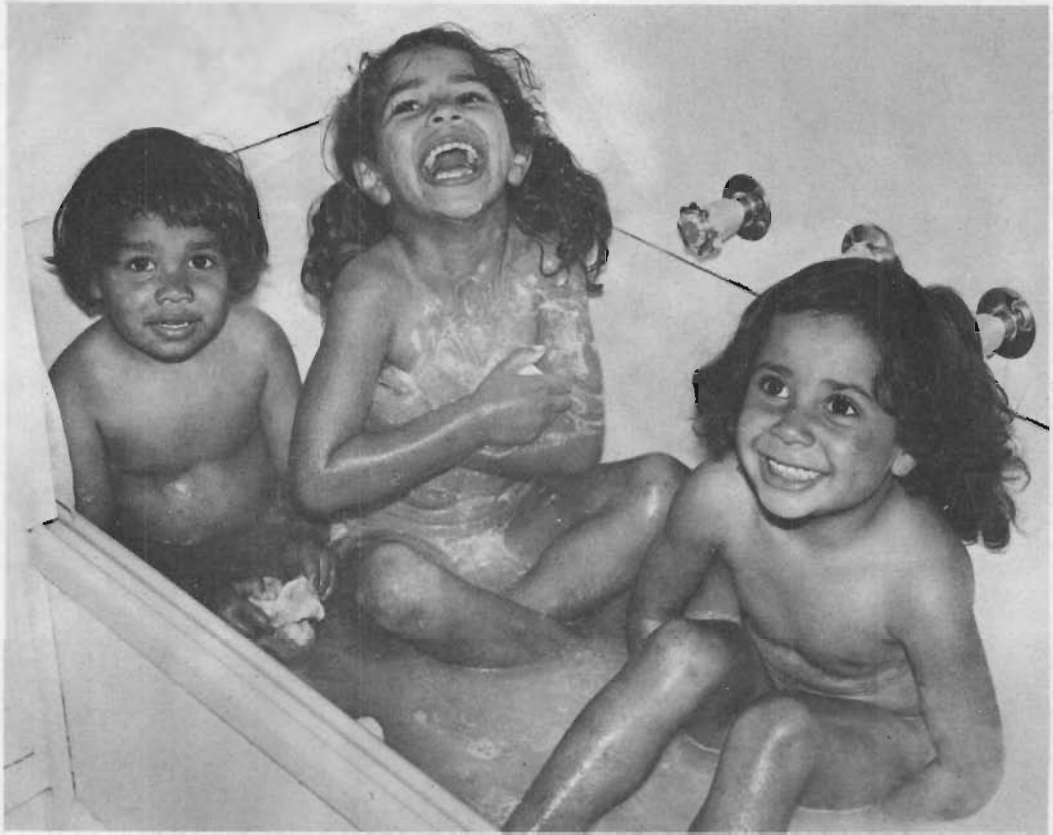
“Gunnai” Lodge is home to eleven young Aboriginal men who are either apprentices or receiving “on the job” training in employment. It is under the management of Aboriginal people who manager, supervisor and relieving supervisor, and is administered by a Special Purpose Committee, established under Section 38 of the Aboriginal Affairs Act 1967.

The Committee comprises —

- Mr. K. C. Walker — President
- Mr. J. R. Russell — Executive Secretary
- Mrs. B. F. Walker — Minute Secretary
- Mr. C. A. Elliott — Treasurer
- Mr. L. Briggs
- Mr. R. R. Harrison
- Mr. B. J. Mitchell

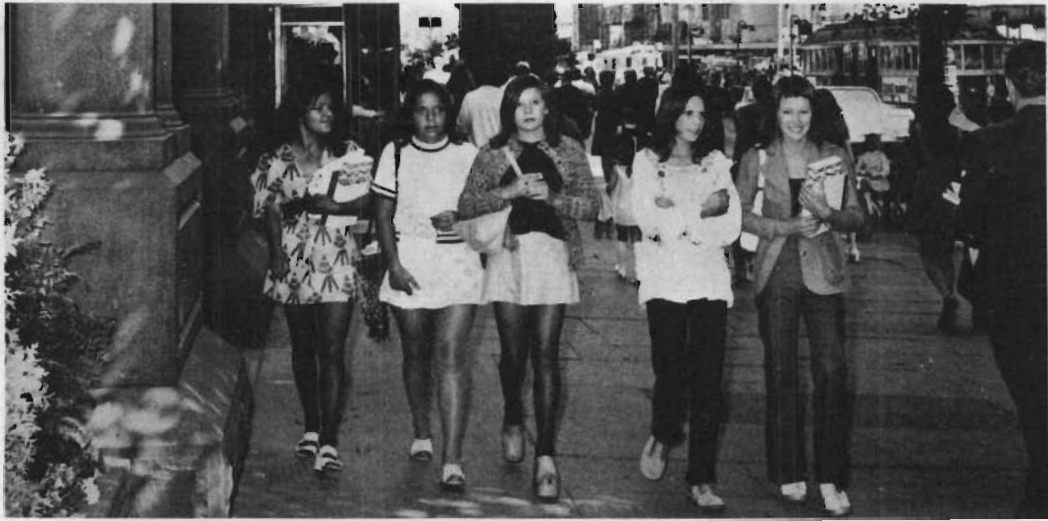
The Ministry wishes to express its sincere thanks to the members of this Committee, who have given their time and assistance so generously in the task of











establishing and operating this new project.

Special thanks are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Blow as manager and supervisor respectively for the most difficult task which they have undertaken and carried out in an exemplary manner.

At the close of this financial year, it is most gratifying to report that after six brief months of operation, the boarding house is operating happily with the full co-operation of local residents, and it is evident that the initial reaction was based on unfounded fears.

#### “WIRRAMINNA”

“Wirraminna” continues to provide a home where tender loving care for six Aboriginal children, from an Aboriginal mother, is available. Eligibility relates only to Aboriginal children who are Wards of State.

This family group home is administered by a Special Purpose Committee established under provision of Section 38 of the Aboriginal Affairs Act 1967. Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Rev. Fr. R. L. Jones (Chairman)  
Mrs. M. G. Pettett (Secretary)  
Mr. K. J. Boehme (Treasurer)  
Mr. H. Blair  
Mrs. J. M. Boehme  
Mr. A. D. Fairless  
Mrs. R. Monks (ex officio)  
(Cottage Mother)  
Mr. J. R. Russell

The work of the Committee is greatly appreciated by the Ministry.

To Mr. and Mrs. Monks we again extend our sincere thanks for a task well done.

## EAST GIPPSLAND

### “MEERINDOO” HOSTEL

This hostel is in full operation, with seven Aboriginal students in residence. The students come from remote areas of East Gippsland where it is not easy for them to obtain a secondary education near their homes; all attend the Bairnsdale High School.

The Hostel is managed by a married couple and administered by a Special Purposes Committee established under Section 38 of the Aboriginal Affairs Act. It comprises

The Rt. Rev. D. A. Garnsey,  
Bishop of Gippsland. (Chairman).  
Mr. R. M. Henger. (Secretary).  
Mr. T. A. Caldwell. (Treasurer).  
Mr. M. F. Bundle.  
Mr. S. V. Dyson.  
Cr. P. A. Evans.  
Mr. S. Hood.  
Mrs. R. R. Mullett.  
Mr. D. McE. Yeates.

The Ministry is most appreciative of the work of this committee and staff in ensuring another most successful year.

### EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The Ministry provided assistance to the value of \$2,635 for East Gippsland Schools where Aboriginal children are enrolled. The funds were used to purchase additional equipment and amenities, such as library materials, duplicators, remedial aids and film equipment. The funds were provided on the basis that the additional equipment will be available for all pupils at the schools.

### SPECIAL WORKS PROJECT

Arrangements were made at the beginning of 1973 to introduce special works

programmes in three Shires in East Gippsland. The schemes are administered by the Shires with funds provided through the Ministry. Regular employment is available on the same basis as for other council labouring staff to Aboriginal men who would otherwise have been unemployed. The operation of the projects received a most favourable response from all sections of the East Gippsland community.

### **GOULBURN VALLEY**

In the Goulburn Valley area this year there has been a particular interest in camping. There have been three camps attended entirely by Goulburn Valley students, and two other camps to which a few Goulburn Valley students went. In general the young people who have been to these camps have found them most enjoyable and several of the teenagers have demonstrated leadership potential.

School attendances at all levels have been improving over the last few years, and in the past year have been very good. This is true also of Pre-School attendances. There are a number of students now in higher secondary forms who intend going on to tertiary training. Several teenagers are doing apprenticeships.

There are three Aboriginal girls in the Goulburn Valley who are employed as Pre-School Assistants. Their employment has been extremely successful.

A Special Works Project has been operating at the Shepparton City Council. There are presently eight (8) men working there.

Involvement in community affairs, particularly in sporting activities, has been noticeable in the last year. Young people,

in particular seem to be increasingly taking opportunities to participate in community activities.

Activities of the women's group have included numerous meetings and several successful cabarets.

### **MALLEE REGION**

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs offices were moved from "Wandarrah" in McCallum Street, Swan Hill, to offices in Drummond House, McRae Street, Swan Hill. This move was made to allow the social club to occupy the "Wandarrah" building as part of the overall policy of implementing the programme which allows for Aboriginal initiative and opportunity.

The Sir Rohan Delacombe Award was won this year by Darryl Nicholson of Swan Hill, a student in Form IV at Swan Hill Technical School.

### **SPORT**

Mr. Frank Stewart, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, coached the Little Athletic Club at Swan Hill during the season, and several Aboriginal children did very well, and many mothers joined in and assisted with the Club. Aboriginal children have also excelled in other sport, including football, basketball and netball.

### **WEST GIPPSLAND**

#### **LIONEL ROSE CENTRE HOSTEL**

An average of ten students resided at the hostel during the year, and the average stay was eight months.

In 1972 one student passed his Leaving Certificate, and this year three students are studying at the Leaving level.

Involvement in the community increased considerably. Sporting activities have extended from football to include basketball, cricket and volley ball.

#### **GIRLS' HOSTEL**

This hostel opened in April, 1973, and already four girls are in residence.

#### **LIONEL ROSE CENTRE**

This Centre has been used by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people during the year and is demonstrating its value to the community.

#### **VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE**

A number of vocational orientation programmes were carried out involving fifteen boys and sixteen girls.

#### **SPECIAL WORKS PROJECT**

A Special Works Project was commenced with the Morwell Shire Council and commenced with the employment of three Aboriginal men.

#### **WIMMERA—WESTERN**

Because many of the Aboriginal people in these districts are self-reliant, the Ministry was able to close its Regional Office at Ballarat on 2 February, 1973. Any matters requiring the attention of a social worker are still handled by an officer based in Melbourne, who is able to visit the region as necessary.

#### **FRAMLINGHAM TRUST**

The Ministry ceased to be responsible for the operation of this former reserve from 1 July, 1971, when the freehold title of 488 acres was transferred to the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust of residents.

Apart from five other buildings, the land is divided into three dairy farms with residences and milking sheds. The area is moving towards economic and social stability. The Trust demonstrated its capabilities by paying a dividend to its members in the second year of its operation. Congratulations.

The Trust operates through a committee of management elected by the people. The Trust has already shown its ability to deal effectively with questions involving Aboriginal members, much more than the Ministry was able to do.

The Ministry wishes to acknowledge with thanks the assistance and advice given by Mr. Hugh Adams, Mr. Ken Armstrong and other local residents.

#### **LAKE TYERS TRUST**

The Ministry ceased to be responsible for running Lake Tyers from 1 July, 1971, when the freehold title to the land was transferred to the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, comprising the residents. However some sections of the non-Aboriginal community still have not appreciated the nature of the changes. Lake Tyers is no longer an Aboriginal Reserve. The Trust takes full responsibility for its own affairs, and the management is in the hands of an elected committee which employs staff and determines operational policies.

The Ministry again made a grant of \$40,000 to the Trust for 1972/73. Financially the Trust is now on the point of "breaking even" so far as the farm is concerned. Despite a most serious drought during the summer of 1971/72, the property weathered the adverse season better than most farms in the district. The cattle and sheep are in good condition. The piggery project is still under consideration for introduction at an appropriate time. Preparations are

being made for large sowings of vegetable crops and for the construction of a new dam to irrigate additional pastures. Neither the Trust nor the Ministry expects miracles, but we both confidently expect that the public will be patient in its expectations of the project. A few

years is a short time when compared with the humiliating decades which Aboriginal citizens of East Gippsland have had to wait for this opportunity to own and manage a small section of the land that originally belonged entirely to their predecessors.

## LEGAL

During this year the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service was formed and commenced operations after receiving a grant of \$2,000 from the Ministry. The Australian Department of Aboriginal Affairs has provided adequate funds to meet expenses of the administrative and professional staff and premises.

This Service aims to provide a wide range of advice and assistance to Victorian Aboriginal people and covers the full range of legal matters. The governing body of the Legal Service is the council of members elected at the annual general meeting. Regulations of this organisation require that one-third of the Council and one officer must be of Aboriginal descent; one representative of the Bar Council is to be elected; and representatives of the Law Institute of Victoria; the Legal Aid

Committee of Victoria; and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs must be on the Council.

Mr. P.F. Renkin attended Council meetings as the representative of the Ministry.

The Ministry co-operates fully with the V.A.L.S. and provides the names of all Aboriginal persons arrested by police and reported to the Director under Section 37 of the Aboriginal Affairs Act 1967.

It has been obvious for many years that Aborigines, along with some other minority groups such as migrants, are often disadvantaged before the law.

The present arrangement should help considerably to provide a more equitable service for Aboriginal people.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Committee was constituted by the Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972, under the administration of the Hon. the Chief Secretary.

The Act provides that one member shall be the Director of Aboriginal Affairs or his nominee, and that one member shall be an Aborigine nominated by the

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Acting upon the advice of the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Council, the Minister nominated Mr. David R. Anderson.

The Committee was appointed on 3

April, 1973, and has held two meetings. Matters dealt with include the location, evaluation and protection of archaeological sites, and the development of a public educational programme to assist in the preservation of Aboriginal relics.

## ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Membership and attendance at the meetings were as follows:

	Meetings Attended
<b>Chairman —</b>	
Mr. M. R. Worthy, B.A., Dip. Soc. Studs.	6
<b>Elected Members —</b>	
Mr. D.R. Anderson (Mallee)	6
Mr. E.A. Cooper (Murray-Goulburn)	5
Mr. I.K. Couzens (Wimmera-Western)	5
Mrs. M.R. Jackomos (Metropolitan)	6
• Mr. J. Mullett (West Gippsland)	1
Mr. P. Pepper (East Gippsland)	5
▪ Mrs. E.R. Smith (West Gippsland)	1

**Members Appointed  
by Minister —**

	Meetings Attended
Mr. W.K. Allen (Overseas) (Mr. G. Sutcliffe substitute for Mr. Allen while overseas)	3
Mrs. E.M. Cameron	4
Mr. T.L.W. Emerson, B.A., Dip.Ed.	4
Dr. P.W.J. Leighton, M.B., B.S.	5
Sir Douglas Nicholls, O.B.E.	5
Mrs. M.E. Tucker, M.B.E.	6

As required under Section 14 of the Aboriginal Affairs Act, the Council met on six occasions, although the Chairman was overseas for three months.

The Council has continued to be a valuable means of communication between the Ministry, Aboriginal people and particular departments and organisations represented on the Council.

- Elected unopposed 29/3/73
- Elected unopposed 24/8/72 — seat declared vacant due to non-attendance at three consecutive meetings.

APPENDIX "A"

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS  
ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS FUND

Statement of Receipts and Payments

1969/70 \$	1970/71 \$	1971/72 \$		1972/73 \$
			Balance of Fund Brought Forward	
6,041.61	452.89	931.94	1 July.	15,224.09
44,167.70	61,814.71	90,959.52	Receipts	101,919.29
380,000.00	369,000.00	332,000.00	Contribution from Loan Funds	310,000.00
350,000.00	372,400.00	410,000.00	Contribution from Vote Funds	410,000.00
			<b>Commonwealth Grants</b>	<b>\$</b>
			Health	49,000.00
			Education	227,000.00
			Employment	2 000.00
			Special Works Projects	135,000.00
91,000.00	70,000.00	120,000.00	Rural Employment	33,256.00
<u>\$871,209.31</u>	<u>\$873,667.60</u>	<u>\$953,891.46</u>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>\$1,283,399.38</u>
			<b>LESS Expenditure</b>	
252,803.54	304,178.64	336,080.29	Item 1. Salaries	366,701.28
12,757.24	13,587.15	19,910.02	2. Travelling and Subsistence	21,131.29
17,879.36	13,457.90	7,287.93	3. Office Requisites	11,699.55
23,157.37	5,551.36	9,363.20	4. Public Relations	18,171.96
13,541.91	15,710.20	12,962.30	5. Incidentals	25,326.65
10,727.54	16,719.54	14,347.36	6. Postage and Telephone	19,235.14
15,919.70	20,013.03	19,511.12	7. Motor Vehicles	27,122.80
4,544.47	4,705.64	3,154.25	8. Fuel, Light and Power	2,705.43
103,901.16	103,219.67	59,366.75	9. Assistance	71,760.19
80,285.52	97,274.29	127,122.31	10. Education	154,163.60
4,000.00	4,417.67	6,148.38	11. Employment and Special Works	37,720.14
108,314.80	83,237.26	65,425.60	12. Lake Tyers	58,089.22
7,478.75	7,199.40	18,285.08	13. Framlingham	10,273.21
90,197.19	83,010.02	108,459.18	14. House Maintenance	131,872.49
125,247.87	85,272.61	108,160.61	15. Capital Works	156,793.79
	3,000.00	8,187.16	16. Health Projects	9,098.50
	12,181.28	14,895.83	17. Hostels and Centres	22,751.15
<u>\$870,756.42</u>	<u>\$872,735.66</u>	<u>\$938,667.37</u>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>\$1,144,616.39</u>
			Balance as at 30 June, 1973	<u>\$138,782.99</u>



APPENDIX "B"

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS FUND

Statement of Receipts

	1969/70		1970/71		1971/72		Item	1972/73	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
	16,932.48		19,850.45		24,952.91		Rent Collections	38,420.78	
	507.67	16,424.81	1,384.20	18,466.25	3,372.60	21,580.31	Less Commonwealth Rents	6,619.71	31,801.07
	8,344.03		10,458.07		14,391.95		Loans Repaid	19,997.47	
	396.72	7,947.31	1,486.42	8,971.65	4,992.54	9,399.41	Less Commonwealth Loans	9,699.81	10,297.66
		2,437.80		1,507.50		8,976.65	Donations		5,373.67
						12,097.50	Property Damage — Proceeds		
		8,403.95		19,340.48		33,031.46	Sale of Property		46,977.72
		2,255.00		300.00			Sale of Boomerangs		
		148.05		2,163.69		4,044.63	Morwell Centre Boarding Fees		5,631.85
		1,194.05		468.70		1,829.56	Other		1,837.32
		5,356.73		10,596.44			Receipts — Lake Tyers (a)		
		44,167.70		61,814.71		90,959.52			101,919.29

Nota (a) All receipts since 1.7.1971 are under the control of Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust

APPENDIX "C"

ABORIGINAL HOUSING (COMMONWEALTH) TRUST ACCOUNT

	\$	1972/73 \$
Balance 1 July, 1972		267,213.22
ADD		
GRANTS received from Commonwealth--		
Health	49,000.00	
Education	227,000.00	
Employment	2,000.00	
Special Works Projects	35,000.00	
	<hr/>	
	313,000.00	
Housing	357,000.00	
	<hr/>	
		670,000.00
Rent and Loan		
Repayments		16,319.52
House Sales		20,458.00
Fire Insurance on house destroyed by fire		7,500.00
		<hr/>
		981,490.74
LESS		
Transfer of non-Housing Grants to Aboriginal Affairs Fund		313,000.00
		<hr/>
FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR HOUSING		668,490.74
LESS		
Expenditure on Housing		428,914.77
		<hr/>
Balance as at 30 June, 1973		<u>239,575.97</u>

APPENDIX "D"

STAFF

	30 June, 1973		30 June, 1972	
	Establishment	Employed	Establishment	Employed
<b>Head Office —</b>				
Administration and Typing	26	26	23	22
Assistant Director	1	—	1	1
Senior Research Officer	1	1	1	1
Publications and Publicity Officer	1	—	1	1
Chauffeur	2	2	1	1
Printer	1	—	1	1
Cadet Social Worker	2	2	1	1
Trainee Printer	2	2	1	1
<b>Field Staff —</b>				
Supervising Social Worker	1	1	1	1
Senior Social Worker	1	1	1	1
Camp Director/Education Officer	1	1	1	—
Field Officers	5	5	4	4
Assistant Liaison Officers	2	1	1	1
Social Workers	12	10	13	10
Liaison Officers	9	9	4	4
Pre-School Advisers	2	2	2	2
<b>Health Staff —</b>				
Senior Sister	1	1	1	—
Visiting Nurses	4	2	5	4
<b>Property Staff —</b>				
Property Officer	1	1	1	1
Assistant Property Officer	1	1	1	1
Rent Collectors	*1	*1	*1	*1
<b>Regional Staff —</b>				
Clerical Assistant	—	—	1	1
Typist Receptionist	1	1	1	1
Steno./Receptionist	4	3	5	5
Hostel Manager	1	1	1	—
Relieving Hostel Manager	*1	*1	1	1
Cook	1	1	1	1
Domestic	2	2	2	2
Relieving Cook/Domestic	*1	—	1	—
	<u>88.</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>70</u>

\* Part-time

**APPENDIX "E"**

Table 1.

**DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN BY FORM**

Form	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Other	Total
Number of Children	182	144	148	107	39	8	4	632

Table 2.

**DISTRIBUTION BY SEX**

Girls	305	48.3%
Boys	327	51.7%

Table 3.

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

(June, 1973)

Technical	216
High	361
Registered	51
Special	4
Total number Students	632
Total number Schools attended	191

APPENDIX "E"

Table 4.

NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS

DISTRICT	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	TOTAL
Metropolitan -- South	9	29	38
Central	34	14	48
East	23	43	66
North-East	89	44	133
North-West	25	33	58
West	22	17	39
Dandenong	15	10	25
Healesville	29	5	34
Ballarat	18	29	47
Horsham	36	4	40
Hamilton	20	20	40
Warrnambool	26	10	36
Colac (a)	—	5	5
Bairnsdale	29	32	61
Lakes Entrance	6	—	6
Bruthen	10	—	10
Nowa Nowa	15	—	15
Orbost	24	24	48
Cann River	14	13	27
Bendoc	3	—	3
Latrobe Valley (a)	—	32	32
West Gippsland	30	13	43
Mildura	41	16	57
Robinvale	44	18	62
Swan Hill	73	34	107
Shepparton	122	47	169
Echuca	69	36	105
Nathalia	23	18	41
Other districts	79	86	165
Totals	<u>928</u>	<u>632</u>	<u>1560</u>

Note (a) A.E.I.F.S. Primary Awards terminated in these districts in 1973.

APPENDIX "F"

HOUSING

CATEGORIES	INCREASE				DECREASE				As at 30.6.73
	As at 30.6.72	Purchase	Built	Became Available For Rental	Sold to Abor. Persons	Sold to Non-Abor. Persons	Demolished	Made Available For Rental	
Metropolitan	6	3							9
Rural Towns	145	18	2	*1 (former staff house)	2	5	1		158
Rumbalara (Vacant)	10								10
Rubicon Camp Site	3								3
Staff Houses	6	1	1			1		1 (see*)	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>186</b>