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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

A55

PART No. 15

REFERENCE TO OTHER FILES

A. 55. PARTS . 1 - 14.

A55 PART - 16

Further action Part 16

SUBJECT

ABORIGINES - ELIGIBILITY FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

BENEFITS- POLICY FILE.

EACH OFFICER TO ENTER INITIALS WHEN CLEARING FOLIO.
SENDING OFFICER MUST NOT INITIAL HIS OUTWARD ENTRY.

Folio/s for Attention (1)	Officer to Whom Referred (2)	Date File Passed (3)	Initials of Officer Completing Action (4)	Folio/s for Attention (1)	Officer to Whom Referred (2)	Date File Passed (3)	Initials of Officer Completing Action (4)
3015	R/S PROWSE	30/6	P257	3114/8	22/8	7/7	P252
3021	R/S Sellwood	31/5/61	P257	3114/8	22/8 (P R 573)	10/7	P257
3022-7	W. Prowse	24/5/61	P257	3114/8	Mr. Sellwood	12/7	P257
3027	22/8 (P R 573)	25/5	P257	3114/8	Director (B)	12/7	P257
3027	Director General	25/5	P257	3114/8	Prowse	12/7	P257
3028	Mr. Sellwood	29/5	P257	3119	22/8 (P R 573)	11/7	P257
3029/30	Director (Pol.)	29/5	P257	3119	Director General	11/7	P257
3030	Director (Pol.)	29/5	P257	3119	Mr. Sellwood	12/7	P257
3033	22/8	31/5	P257	3114/8	Assoc Director	12/7	P257
3033	Mr. Sellwood	2/6/61	P257	3114/8	Director Gen	21/7	P257
3034	Mr. Sellwood	2/6/61	P257	3114/8	Director (B)	21/7	P257
3095	W. Prowse	5/6/61	P257	3121-3	Director (Policy)	19/7/61	P257
3095	Mr. Sellwood	5/6	P257	3126	R/S Sellwood	7/7/61	P257
3096	Director (Pol.)	7/6	P257	3127	W. Sellwood	24/7/61	P257
3097-8	Director (Policy)	16/6/61	P257	3128	Director (Policy)	24/7	P257
3099-101	Director (Policy)	16/6/61	P257	3129	Director (Pol)	24/7	P257
3102	Director (P)	16/6/61	P257	3130	22/8	25/7	P257
3102	22/8 (P R 573)	20/6	P257	3135	22/8	26/7	P257
3102	Director (P)	20/6	P257	3135	Mr. Sellwood	28/7	P257
3103	Director (Policy)	21/6/61	P257	3136-3148	Director (Policy)	28/7/61	P257
3104	Director (Policy)	22/6	P257	3149/3152	Mr. Sellwood	28/7/61	P257
3105	Dir. (Policy)	26/6/61	P257	3153	Director (Pol)	29/7	P257
3106-311	Director (Pol.)	26/6	P257	3154	Dir. (Policy)	31/7/61	P257
309/11	22/8 (P R 573)	28/6	P257	3130	Dir (Policy)	1.8.61	P257
309/11	Director General	28/6	P257	256-8	Director (Policy)	3.8.61	P257
3114-8	Director (Policy)	1/7/61	P257		Mr. Prowse	21/9	P257

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Insert in column (1) number of the Folio on which action is to be taken; in column (2) the name of the officer required to take the action; and in column (3) the date the file is forwarded to him.
- (2) When a folio is cleared, the officer dealing with the file shall insert his initials and date in column (4) and indicate on next vacant line to whom the file is to be referred and the date.
- (3) All entries to be in ink.

FURTHER ACTION ON PART 16

2904 171 [9]

M. J. Morton
Cherbourg Aboriginal
Settlement
Moreton, Qld

The Right Honourable,
Mr. R. G. Menzies
The Prime Minister,



Dear Sir,

We the pensioners of Cherbourg have the following complaint to make about our pensions, and hope that something may be done about it. Firstly we receive £3/6/0 a fortnight and are expected to keep our families out of that we would like to know where the other £6/10/ is going to. We get free ration and the meat we get is abominable sir and the cattle that are killed belong to the mission sir and it doesnt cost the government anything to keep them, and our houses are suppose to be rent free and yet we are being charged rent for them and we are being charged rent for the use of electricity and the lights go off at 11 PM every night. I do think that if we were granted over full pension we could live a bit better and buy our own meat and other things we need.

The government granted us the pension so we would like the full benefit of it also we would like to know where our other \$10/0 is going to especially when we do not get any benefit out of it I hope Sir that you will look into the matter - we would like to be treated like human beings instead of uneducated Myalls or slaves

Tranby Jar
Yours faithfully
The Pensioners of Cherbourg

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

2905 CJB:MCH
56/270(2)
[20]

The Director-General,
Department of Social Services,
Box 503H,
MELBOURNE.

31 Nov 1960

SERVICES

30 Nov 1960

Referred for favour of advice.

E.J. Bunting
(E.J. Bunting)
Secretary.

Dunstan
31
Clark (A) Knows this subject
JG

41/BL

2906 [21]
5 SEP 1960

A. 55/2906

The Director of Social Services,
BRISBANE.

Subject: Pensions for Aboriginal Natives at Cherbourg
Aboriginal Settlement.

Forwarded for information is a copy of a letter addressed to the Prime Minister by Mr. N. T. Morton on behalf of himself and other pensioners at Cherbourg. The persons concerned desire to know to what use the £6/4/- per fortnight paid to the Director of Native Affairs is put.

So that an adequate reply can be made to the representations, it will be necessary to ascertain from the Director of Native Affairs whether there is anything in the assertion that the pensioners are required to keep their families on the pocket money portion of the pension. If it is true that the pensioners are required to provide anything from the pocket money portion for their own maintenance or for the maintenance of their families, will you please ascertain the nature of the things they are so required to provide.

So far as the maintenance portion of the pension is concerned, no doubt the Director of Native Affairs will be able to supply a break-up of the items the pension is intended to cover - such as rent, clothing, food, electricity etc. and the weekly or fortnightly costs chargeable to each item.

The Director of Native Affairs might be asked to comment on the charge that the meat supplied is "abominable", and his reaction to the suggestion that the full pension should be paid direct to the pensioners concerned might please be ascertained.

*See further letter
on folio 2907
P.*

(H. J. GOODES)
Director-General

12 SEP 1960

A. 55/2906

The Director of Social Services,
BRISBANE.

Pensions for Aboriginal Natives at Cherbourg
Aboriginal Settlement

John 2906

This will replace the letter on the above subject dated 5th September, 1960, which you discussed with the Deputy Director-General.

By phone. 1

So that an adequate reply can be made to the representations would you please get information, as far as practicable, from the Director of Native Affairs on the following points :-

- (1) Is the amount paid to the Director of Native Affairs used entirely for the maintenance of the native pensioner concerned? It is appreciated that there may not be individual accounts for each native but it may be that the accounts of the settlement show that the average cost of upkeep is at least £6.4.0 per fortnight per native. If the whole of the £6.4.0 is not being used for maintenance of the native, is any portion of it being paid to the native's trust account or used for any other purpose?
- (2) Is it correct that a native with a family is required to pay some of the pocket money portion of his pension for the upkeep of his family? It could well be that it is a general rule of the settlement that natives with income whether by way of pension, earning or otherwise are required to make some contribution for their families. If, in accordance with this procedure, some of the pocket money portion is taken from the native for the purpose, we should know ^{that} this is the practice.
- (3) Is it a practical proposition and what are the views of the Director of Native Affairs that the natives should be paid their full pension cash in hand?

Would you also let us know the type of pension being drawn by each of the signatories to the letter to the Prime Minister.

It is appreciated that in making these inquiries it might appear that the Commonwealth is attempting to interfere in the State's administration of aboriginal affairs. It will therefore be necessary to explain that the inquiries are made merely for the purpose of the correspondence received by the Prime Minister being answered. Since the Commonwealth is now paying pensions to or for aborigines, we must at least ensure the pension payments are being used for the purposes intended. In the negotiations with the State authorities some time ago, it was made clear that the Commonwealth should necessarily from time to time seek general and perhaps sometimes specific information. If the position is tactfully explained to the Director of Native Affairs it should be possible to dispel from his mind any suggestion that interference by the Commonwealth is concerned.

(H. J. GOODES)
Director-General.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

2474

TEL. 32 0491 EXT.
ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS TO—
THE DIRECTOR
BOX 1088 N, G.P.O., BRISBANE
IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE QUOTE
C.1/CR.382(2)/YOD

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE BRANCH
SECOND FLOOR
PRUDENTIAL BUILDING,
6 QUEEN STREET,
BRISBANE
[39]
DATE 27th September, 1960.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL
28 SEP 1960
DEPT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR-GENERAL:

SUBJECT : Pensions Payments - Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement.

REFERENCE: Your A.55/2906 dated 12th September, 1960.

The Director of Native Affairs has been absent on tour of duty in North Queensland and was unavailable for interview until today. He quite appreciated the necessity for inquiries to be made in connection with the representations received by the Prime Minister, and he was most co-operative.

Mr. O'Leary informed me that there were representations previously this year to the State Premier and other Members of Parliament by a relatively small group of aboriginals at the Cherbourg Settlement. The complaints followed the same lines as those directed to the Prime Minister. No similar complaint has been received from any other Settlement or Church Mission.

Following the representations made direct to the State Premier, the complaints were referred to the Social and Welfare Association, Cherbourg for its consideration. This Association is headed by the Settlement Superintendent as Patron (ex-officio), a President who is elected by the native residents from the white officers on the staff, and an Executive Committee of up to 12 natives, all of whom are elected by the native residents.

The Association is responsible for social and sporting activities and the general welfare of natives at the Settlement. It would therefore be the appropriate body to receive any complaints and, if these were endorsed, to make any representations considered necessary.

In response to the complaints directed to the Premier and referred for its consideration, the Association investigated the matter and its actions were subsequently endorsed by both the Executive Committee and resident pensioners or applicants for pension.

A copy of the resolutions, carried unanimously, as advised to the Superintendent, Cherbourg Settlement is attached for your information. It is interesting to note that the second resolution was moved by a Mr. Bertie Brown who was a subsequent signatory to the representations to the Prime Minister.

*Mr. Bellwood
For draft reply
to the Minister
Pasky*

The direct answers to the questions asked in your second memorandum are as follows:-

(1) The whole of the maintenance portion of pension paid direct to the Director of Native Affairs is used for the upkeep of the native pensioner. Upkeep includes the provision of accommodation, food and essential clothing, medical supplies and attention. The average cost of upkeep for each pensioner would exceed the maintenance payment. No separate costs are available.

(2) A native pensioner with a family is not required to pay any part of the pocket money portion of his pension towards the upkeep of his family. His pocket money is usually spent on tobacco, sweets, cakes and other 'fancy' foodstuffs not included in rations, entertainment etc. Some natives may prefer to purchase special items of clothing to suit their preference

or to meet their individual requirements, but this would be a voluntary action on their part.

Other than the purchase of alcoholic liquor, there is no restriction or compulsion as to how a native pensioner spends his pocket money.

- (3) The Director of Native Affairs does not consider that the payment of their full pension to natives living on a Government Settlement would be practicable or desirable. In his view there is no distinction between State Eventide Homes and Native Settlements housing pensioners and each class of pensioner should receive the same treatment. He is quite sure that as a matter of policy, the State Government would not agree to payment of the full pension direct to natives residing on Settlements.

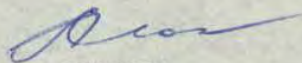
Mr. O'Leary also pointed out that, with few exceptions, there is no compulsion on any pensioner to reside in a State Government Home or Settlement, and if a pensioner wishes to handle his full pension he may do so by leaving.

I disclosed the contents of the letter to the Prime Minister to Mr. O'Leary, without divulging the names of the signatories. He stated that -

- (i) Pensioners are not required to maintain their families out of their pocket money payments;
- (ii) No rental is charged for accommodation provided;
- (iii) No charge is made for electricity except that used in night training for football or other sports, dances or other entertainment provided and charged for by the Social and Welfare Association.

There are at present 63 Age, Invalid or Widow Pensioners residing on the Cherbourg Settlement. The 13 signatories to the representations under consideration comprise six Age and six Invalid Pensioners and one person receiving Wife's Allowance. Six of the signatories are single, seven are married. All the married pensioners maintain children or grandchildren, the numbers in each family being 2, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

It has been suggested that some of the pensioners purporting to have signed the representations may not have done so. There certainly appears to be a similarity in the handwriting of many of the signatures. However, this aspect has not been investigated.


DIRECTOR

41/CK

2923
[40]

A.55/2923.

11 OCT 1960

The Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Pensions payable to residents
at Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement -
Representations by Mr. N.T. Morton.

Reference: Your 56/270/2 of 30th August, 1960.

Vol 2903/5

It is suggested the following paragraphs be included in
your reply to Mr. Morton -

"In your recent letter to the Prime Minister you referred to the position under which portion of the pensions granted to persons at Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement is paid to the Director of Native Affairs and the balance is paid to the pensioners concerned. You asked for information as to the disposal of that portion of the pension which is paid to the Director of Native Affairs.

The money paid to the Director of Native Affairs on behalf of the pensioner is utilized in meeting the cost of the maintenance of the pensioner concerned in the provision of free accommodation, food, electricity, essential clothing and medical supplies and attention. The total worth of these items is greater than the amount of the pension received by the Director of Native Affairs, who meets the additional maintenance costs from his own Departmental funds.

*See notes
29/8/60*

As to the balance of the pension, I am informed that a pensioner is not required to pay any part of it towards the upkeep of his family. This pocket money portion of the pension is available to the pensioner for use in his own discretion.

The principle of the payment of pensions on a divided basis has been in use ever since pensions were first introduced in 1909, and is not restricted to persons at Cherbourg. It has operated very satisfactorily and there is insufficient reason at this stage to alter the procedure. It is understood the matter was discussed earlier this year at a meeting of the Social and Welfare Association at Cherbourg and the arrangements in regard to the payment of pensions were endorsed by the Association at that time".

Referenced by the Director at *Burton* for info
your Ex/CP 3820/POD of 27/9/60 refers
H. J. GOODES
Director-General
11/10/60

(Sgd.) H.J. GOODES
(H. J. GOODES)
Director-General



2939
[5]

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT,
CANBERRA,

56/270 (2)

In reply quote No.

Dear Mr. Morton,

I am directed to refer again to your recent letter concerning the position under which portion of the pensions granted to persons at Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement is paid to the Director of Native Affairs and the balance is paid to the pensioners concerned. You asked for information as to the disposal of that portion of the pension which is paid to the Director of Native Affairs.

The money paid to the Director of Native Affairs on behalf of the pensioner is utilized in meeting the cost of the maintenance of the pensioner concerned in the provision of free accommodation, food, electricity, essential clothing and medical supplies and attention. The total worth of these items is greater than the amount of the pension received by the Director of Native Affairs, who meets the additional maintenance costs from his own Departmental funds.

As to the balance of the pension, I am to inform you that a pensioner is not required to pay any part of it towards the upkeep of his family. This pocket money portion of the pension is available to the pensioner for use in his own discretion.

*Air file
2923*

The principle of the payment of pensions on a divided basis has been in use ever since pensions were first introduced in 1909, and is not restricted to persons at Cherbourg. It has operated very satisfactorily and there is insufficient reason at this stage to alter the procedure. It is understood the matter was discussed earlier this year at a meeting of the Social and Welfare Association at Cherbourg and the arrangements in regard to the payment of pensions were endorsed by the Association at that time.

Yours sincerely,

(E. J. Bunting)
Secretary

N. T. Morton, Esq.,
Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement,
MURCON. Q'LD.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

2435

~~DIRECTOR-GENERAL~~
20 OCT 1960
OF SOCIAL SERVICES

JWC:PBC

56/270(2) [52]

The Director-General,
Department of Social Services,
Box 503 H,
MELBOURNE. VIC.

19 OCT 1960

Referred in connection with your A55/2923.

E. J. Bunting
(E. J. Bunting)
Secretary.