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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

A968

Part No. **T**

Reference to Other Files

A 968 PART TWO.

SUBJECT

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS.
ELIGIBILITY FOR S.S. BENEFITS.

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

Folio 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)
<p>FILE CLOSED LATER PAPERS ON FILE NO. _____</p> <p>ARCHIVED FILE RETURN TO REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE</p> <p>ARCHIVES FILE RETURN TO REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE</p> <p>FILE CLOSED LATER PAPERS ON FILE NO. _____</p>							

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 in next vacant line to whom file is to be referred and the date.
- (3) All entries to be in ink.

O.S. ACTION SHEET (FILE COVER)
July 73



Premiers' Department 79 [ap]

Brisbane.

9592

24 MAR 1949

HHW/BY
Ref.No. B.176.A.

21 MAR 1949

My dear Prime Minister,

I desire to inform you that about 80 Torres Strait Islanders were employed recently under Award conditions in cane-cutting in the Gordonvale district near Cairns.

Taxation deductions, including Social Service deductions, were made from their wages.

When six of these men applied through the Queensland Director of Native Affairs to the Social Service Officer at Cairns for Unemployment Benefit, a decision was given that they were ineligible for such Benefit.

Apart from being taxpayers, these men, some of whom are married, are ex-servicemen and financial members of the Australian Workers' Union.

I should be pleased if you would cause the case of these men to be investigated, with a view to their being accorded the same Social Service rights as are extended to whites.

Your advice in regard to this matter in due course would be appreciated.

The Director-General of Social Services.

Referred, by direction, for favour of advice.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) E. M. HANLON

J. A. Sealey

Secretary, Prime Minister's Department.

The Right Honourable
the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

PREMIER.

28 MAR 1949

ACKNOWLEDGED

*Mr. Gallagher
acted by
telephone to
forward details
of all cases*

30/3/49



1178 (96)
592

81

In reply quote No. Q.344/1/8

CANBERRA,

26th April, 1949.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Director-General,
Department of Social Services.

I desire to invite your attention to my minute of 28th March, 1949, covering copy of a letter from the Premier of Queensland, concerning the question of extending Social Services rights to certain Torres Strait Islanders recently employed in cane-cutting in Queensland.

I should be glad to be favoured with your advice in the matter.

J. Strahan
Secretary. *JS*



G 592.

(103)

89

DIRECTOR-GENERAL
23 MAY 1949
OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Q.344/1/18

PRIME MINISTER,
CANBERRA.

15 MAY 1949

Dear Mr. Hanlon,

I desire to refer to your letter No. B.176A of 21st March, 1949, in regard to six Torres Strait Islanders who had made application for unemployment benefit.

Some difficulty has been experienced in tracing the six claims for unemployment benefit received from Torres Strait Islanders referred to by you. It appears, however, that they may be the following :

[Redacted names]

- Rejected
- Granted on appeal
- Rejected (failed to lodge income statements as required)
- Rejected
- Rejected (failed to lodge income statements as required)
- Rejected.

Your letter, however, implies that you refer to six claims from cane cutters whereas the claim from [redacted] shows that up to 21st December, 1948, he was working for the Cairns Gas Supply Company and the claim of [redacted] shows that up to 4th November, 1948, he was working for J. Zapher, Trochus Shell Merchant of Innisfail. It is possible, therefore, that some claims have not yet been traced.

It appears that wrong principles were applied in rejecting the claims of [redacted] and [redacted], and the Director, Queensland, is reviewing these cases.

The claims of [redacted] and [redacted] were rejected because they failed to lodge income statements and the rejection had nothing to do with the fact that they were Torres Strait Islanders.

It would be appreciated if you would issue instructions to appropriate officers to bring under the notice of the Director, Queensland, any other cases where unemployment or sickness benefit claims of Torres Strait Islanders have been rejected.

The Director-General of
Social Services.

Yours faithfully,

Referred, by direction, in connection with your memorandum No. C.S.41/G.592/DG. of 18th May, 1949.

J. Hanlon
Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department.

23 MAY 1949

B. CHIFLEY
Noted

Prime Minister.

Hon. E. W. Hanlon, M.L.A.,
Premier of Queensland,
BRISBANE.