Excerpts from Reports of inspections of missions, stations, settlements etc at which social service payments are made to Aborigines in Queensland

Excerpt 1: page 6

P4/387(2)/LMcT 22nd July, 1963

Director-General:

Subject: Payment of Pensions to Aboriginal Natives  
Reference: Your A.55 of 16th December, 1959

Advice has been received from the Director of Native Affairs and the Foreign Missions Department of the Presbyterian Church, that the aboriginal natives at Mapoon Mission have been transferred to an area (to be known as New Mapoon) near Bamaga on Cape York and are now entitled to payment of their pensions direct.

The aboriginals will be responsible for their own maintenance and the full amount of pension will be paid to them by means of a group cheque to the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Thursday Island.

(A.W. COX)  
DIRECTOR

Mr Sellwood  
It will be interesting to see how this works out. I think we should ask the Director whether they are going to give the pensioners £10/10– or whether some (and if so how much) will be withheld and paid into the pensioners’ trust accounts. I think we should [illegible] this … 24/7  
See fol3762 for reply … 12/8

Excerpt 2: page 5

77/EG  
A55/3760

The Director of Social Services,  
BRISBANE.

Subject: Payment of Pensions to Aboriginal Natives – Former residents of Mapoon Mission.  
Reference: Your P4/387(2)/LMcT of 22nd July, 1963.

Thank you for your advice on the transfer of aboriginal pensioners to New Mapoon near Bamaga.

It is noted that pensions for the eligible people will be paid by group cheque to the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Thursday Island. What we would like to know is whether it is then proposed that the whole amount of each individual pension will then be paid to the aboriginal concerned in cash, or whether some (and, if so, much) will be paid into the pensioners’ trust accounts.

We would also be interested to know the position in regard to the payment of pensions for other pensioners at Bamaga.

(H.J. GOODES)  
Director-General

Excerpt 3: page 4

P4/387(2)/BJT 2nd August 1963.

The Director-General:

Subject: Payment of Pensions to Aboriginal natives – Former residents of Mapoon Mission.

Reference: Your a.55/3760 of 30th July 1963.

The Director of Native Affairs has advised that the method of payment to Aboriginal Natives at New Mapoon will be the same as adopted for all Torres Strait islanders and other pensioners at Bamaga.

When the payment schedules are received at the office of the Deputy Director on Thursday Island, the amount due to each pensioner is sent by radio to the Native Affairs Officer at the settlement, who enters the amount in the Department of Native Affairs Savings Bank Account pass book, carried by the pensioner. This radio call is made at a pre-arranged date and time so that all interested aboriginals are present when the call is received.

All trading by the natives is done at Stores run by the Island Industries Board, where goods may be bought or cash advances received.

There is a continuous audit of the natives pass books by the Deputy Director on the Island, and the objective is to check each book at least every three months.

Director.

Asst D/G (P+B)  
To see pls – this is the answer to you going in fol 3756   
12/8

[illegible] I assume the full pension goes into the account of the pensioner ie £5/5/-pw  
12/8