Excerpts from Reverend Clint Tranby letters

National Archives of Australia: A1933, 1970/1909, ‘Reverend William A CLINT - Request for Student Child Endowment’.

Excerpt 1: pages 18–21

CLAIMANT: Reverend William A. CLINT.  
19 Goodwin Street,  
NARRABEEN. N.S.W.

CHILDREN: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (V)

STUDENT CHILD ENDOWMENT No. 988806  
(N.S.W.)

LOCATION: “Tranby” Aboriginal Co-operative   
College, 13 Mansfield Street, GLEBE.

DIRECTOR.

Student Endowment.

On 22nd December 1969 information was received from the ~~Department~~ Registrar of Social Services, ~~Adelaide~~ Darwin, stating that the abovenamed children were discharged from [REDACTED], an endowed institution in the Northern Territory, on 12th December 1969, to the Reverend W.A. Clint. In reply to inquiries as to the care, custody and control of these children, the Reverend Clint stated that as they both resided at “Tranby”, of which he is the Principal, they were considered to be in his care, custody and control.

1. A claim form was forwarded to the Reverend Clint and received in this office on 1st July 1970. Information received from the Reverend Clint was as follows:
2. The children are in receipt of full time education.
3. The subjects studied are English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Library, Public Speaking, Music and also active studies in the Co-operative Credit Union and the Co-operative Movement.
4. Approximately 35 hours per week are spent in studies, which do not include preparation, special coaching classes or recreation.
5. The mother of [REDACTED] has been identified as [REDACTED] (an itinerant), but there is no record of a claim, in her name, in index in New South Wales or South Australia.
6. The mother of [REDACTED] is deceased ([REDACTED]) and his father, [REDACTED], resides at [REDACTED], via Woomera, South Australia, but there is no record of a claim in respect of him in index in New South Wales or South Australia.
7. Several people were then contacted by the Department, concerning the consideration of “Tranby” as an approved educational establishment.
8. Mr. Jack Green, Assistant to the Director, Aboriginal Welfare, Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare, Sydney, gave the following information:
9. The “Tranby” establishment had been in existence for 12 to 14 years.
10. He did not “see” “Tranby” as a school and was dubious as to whether it would qualify as such.
11. Aboriginal boys and lads from the Torres Strait Islands are accommodated there.
12. He was aware that there are tutors, who give instruction at “Tranby”, but he was under the impression that this instruction would be supplementary to normal Technical College courses or Secondary School studies, such as are followed in normal educational establishments.
13. The State Government assisted with the capital costs of “Tranby” and used to assist to a certain degree with accommodation costs.
14. Mr. A. Morony (Education Department) stated that there is no record of “Tranby” Aboriginal Co-operative College, Glebe, being certified as a school in terms of the Public Instruction Act.
15. The Reverend W. Clint was again contacted and supplied additional information as follows:
16. Initially, education at “Tranby” took the form of evening continuation classes and this was followed by coaching classes during the day. Later again, full time day courses were introduced.
17. There is a full time teacher, Mr. Ron Thomas, a retired headmaster, formerly of Peakhurst High School.
18. There were 18 students last year and at present 10 students are studying –~~for~~ may attain to the 4th year School Certificate.
19. Mr. Russell of the Commonwealth Department of Education and Science, had made investigations about “Tranby” being regarded as a school.
20. In reply to the questions of why a claim for student child endowment was not made for the other 8 students at “Tranby”, Reverend Clint stated he had only recently become aware of student child endowment. The other 8 students are all over the age of 16 years.
21. Mr. Russell at the Commonwealth Department of Education and Science gave the following information:
22. “Tranby” does qualify as a school under the States Grants (Independent Schools) Act 1969, and has been paid the money involved.
23. The reason no certificate has been given to the school by the Education Department is that all pupils are over the school leaving age (15 years in New South Wales).
24. He inspected “Tranby” in relation to the grant mentioned above and there is a good class-room, time-tables, a set curriculum, headmaster, and a number of part-time teachers.
25. “Certainly there is a different atmosphere pervading the place, stemming from the fact that the students are aborigines”. Although he has discerned certain jealousies amongst groups working with aborigines, he has never heard “Tranby” run down and he himself considers it a “pretty good show as these places go”.
26. The main part of the building, apparently, is an old house serving as a hostel, but there is a separate school annex in which the day classes and other classes at night are conducted.
27. The Adult Education Department of the University of Sydney, has in the past been helpful in giving advice when necessary.
28. Mr. John Wilson, Director, Planning and Development Branch of the Department of Education and Science in Canberra, could be contacted if necessary,
29. In view of the information obtained, it is submitted that papers be forwarded to the Director-General with the recommendation that:
30. “Tranby” Aboriginal Co-operative College, Glebe, be accepted as a school for the purposes of student child endowment.
31. Payment of student child endowment be granted to the Reverend W. Client in respect of [REDACTED]and [REDACTED] from 6th January 1970, and 3rd March 1970, respectively, the paydays following their sixteenth birthdays.
32. The date of lodgement of the claim by Reverend Clint be accepted as 6th January 1970, the date correspondence from him was first received in this department.

EXAMINER F/52.  
20/8/70.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

Forwarded and recommended. If approved, enquiries will need to be made about the other students mentioned in paragraph 8(e) of the Examiner’s submission.

A.W. COX  
Director.

20 AUG 1970

Excerpt 2: page 17

JN:SW  
70/1909

Reverend William A. Clint. Student Child Endowment.  
Children: [REDACTED]

DIRECTOR (BENEFITS)  
THRU A/D Benefits (1)

Your attention is invited to the State numbers, in which the facts are fully related.

1. “Tranby” Aboriginal Co-operative College does qualify as a “school” under the States Grants (Independent Schools) Act 1969 but does not qualify as a “school” in the terms of the Public Instruction Act due to the students being over the school leaving age – 15 years – in N.S.W. “Tranby” provides hostel type accommodation to some 10 part or full Aboriginal children and also full time education in general subjects for the pupils. In the circumstances it is felt that “Tranby” should be accepted as a school for the purposes of student child endowment.
2. The State recommendations, repeated here for your convenience are supported
3. “Tranby” Aboriginal Co-operative College, Glebe, be accepted as a school for the purposes of student child endowment.
4. Payment of student child endowment be granted to the Reverend W. Client in respect of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from 6th January 1970, and 3rd March 1970, respectively, the paydays following their sixteenth birthdays.
5. The date of lodgement of the claim by Reverend Clint be accepted as 6th January 1970, the date correspondence from him was first received in this Department.

(J. NORBURY)  
Acting Examiner.  
27/8/70.

A/D (Ben)  
28/8/70

A.D.G. (P. & B.)  
This is supported. The question of suitability of “Tranby” as an institution for endowment purposes to be followed up.  
31/8/70.

Excerpt 3: page 16

IP/LH  
70/1909

“Tranby” Aboriginal Co-operative College, Glebe – student endowment.

I do not think we should depart from our policy of accepting headmasters of boarding schools as generally not having the custody, care and control of their boarders.

There seems to be no reason why “Tranby” should not be approved as an endowed institution. Arrangements should accordingly be made for a claim to be lodged by the authorities of the Co-operative and forwarded to this office in the normal way. On approval endowment will be payable to the institution in respect of these students.

(I. PROWSE)  
A.D.G. (P. & B.)  
1/9/70.

[Stamped] Reference to the Director at Sydney Papers herewith.  
L.B. Hamilton  
Director-General  
2/9/70

Mr. Norbury  
Pse. [illegible] to Sydney + then [illegible] to O.F.C. Registry to ensure that when claim for approval as an institution is rec’d this file will be attached both papers.   
9/9/70

OIC Registry  
For your action pl.  
M 3/9/70.

Done.

Done. J.  
O.I.C. Registry  
11/9/70.

Excerpt 4: page 11

Co-operative for Aborigines Limited  
An Australia Co-operative for Aborigine and Islanders Community Development

From the Rev. W.A. Clint, General Secretary

19 Goodwin Street, NARRABEEN, N.S.W., 2101  
23rd September, 1970.

The Director,  
Department of Social Services,  
Carrington Street,  
SYDNEY. 2000.

Dear Sir,

Re your inquiry and your officers’ visit to the Aboriginal Co-operative College, “Tranby” at Glebe, I hereby make an application for allowances for the students of the above College as an endowed institution.

The aim of the Co-Operative College “Tranby”, is set out here-under:

1. To give Aborigines the education which will help them earn a living.
2. To help Aborigines form co-operatives and manage them successfully.
3. To show all interested in Aboriginal Welfare how co-operatives will help Aborigines fit into Australia’s national life.

The number of students under 16 years of age varies – from 3 to 4 each year (at present there are 3 approaching 16 years of age). The full enrolment of students this year as full time students is 10.

The College can and has accommodated up to 22 students.

No payments are received from the children’s parents for maintenance.

This establishment is not geared to care for mental patients. There has not been any child inmate who was not born in Australia during the twelve months immediately preceeding this application, nor is any child inmate the child of an alien father.

The College is a full time educational establishment and provides for resident Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, as well as external students. The students are trained for trades skills, commerce, and educational advancement to meet the needs of the person.

Yours faithfully,

W.A. Clint,  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

Enclosed: 1969 annual financial statement.

Excerpt 5: page 9

Commonwealth Department of Social Services

F/1/NG.316(2)

Australia House 50 Carrington Street Sydney N.S.W.  
12th November, 1970.

Director-General.

“Tranby” Aboriginal Co-operative College – Application for approval as an institution for payment of child endowment.

Your reference 70/1909.

An application from the Rev. W. A. Clint, Principal of the abovementioned College is attached. Also attached is a statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 30th April, 1969 and a balance sheet as at that date.

Currently there are four (4) boys in the College for whom endowment would be payable.

Approval is recommended as from 6th January, 1970 i.e., the date correspondence from the Rev. W. A. Clint was first received in this Department.

This application has not been forwarded earlier as the Department has been waiting information from Rev. Clint about the children concerned.

A.W. COX,  
Director.

Asst. Director General (Policy Benefits)

State’s recommendation is supported viz that “Tranby” Aboriginal Co-operative College be considered an institution for endowment purposes from 6 January 1970.

LME Goney.  
of [illegible] Policy.  
17-11-70

[Stamped] APPROVED  
I PROWSE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL   
(Policy & Benefits)  
18/11/70

Records noted.  
JNM 27/11/70.

Excerpt 6: page 8

McG/LH  
70/1909

23 NOV 1970

Director of Social Services,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W. 2000

Approved Institutions for payment of child endowment “Tranby” Aboriginal Co-operative Cottage,  
Your F/1/NG.316(2) of 12 November 1970 refers.

Approval has now been given for the abovenamed home to be regarded as an institution for the purposes of Part VI of the Social Services Act, with effect from 6 January, 1970.

1. Endowment may be paid from 6 January in respect of children who were inmates on that date and as from the date of admission of any children admitted subsequently provided a claim is lodged within three months of that date. Otherwise, endowment is to be paid from the date of lodgement of the claim.
2. Endowment should not be paid in respect of any child for any period for which payment has already been made to a parent or guardian.

(L.B. HAMILTON)  
Director-General.

Excerpt 7: page 7

Co-operative for Aborigines Limited  
An Australian Co-operative for Aborigine and Islanders’ Community Development

WE WORK TOGETHER TO LIVE

From the Rev. W.A. Clint, General Secretary

19 Goodwin Street, NARRABEEN, N.S.W., 2101

10th January, 1973.

The Hon. W. Hayden, M.H.R.  
Minister of Social Security,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA. 2600

[Handwritten] Urgent  
Mr Hayden to see

Dear Bill,

Here is a question which arises from the fact that the 15th Aboriginal Co-operative Summer School will be held at “Tranby” Co-operative College, Glebe, beginning on the 5th February and continuing for two weeks.

Some of the men active in the Yarrabah community and the Co-operative Steering Committee on the reserve are anxious to visit Co-operative activities such as farming, fishing, consumer and community advancement, as well as Credit Unions. To do this they would need to be away from their own communities for four to six weeks. The men concerned have contacted me with this question – “Will this period of time away from their families interfere with their Social Services”? What prompts this inquiry is the result of former experience.

It must be borne in mind that at this time of the year most men are on Social Services because there is little seasonal work available.

Is there any way this problem can be solved so as to protect the men and their families? In other words, they will be staying on so as to complete their Summer School studies. It would affect three to four, or maybe five, men.

Please advise me as soon as you can so that we can make arrangements for the men concerned.

With every good wish, and may 1973 continue to be good to you and yours.

Yours sincerely,

W.A. Clint  
General Secretary

C.C. Hon. Gordon Bryant

Excerpt 8: page 6

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
MINUTE PAPER

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would be pleased if action can be taken to see that the men from the Yarrabah community who are involved in this Aboriginal Co-operative Summer School are not disadvantaged nor are their families disadvantaged by their temporary absence.

(BILL HAYDEN)  
15/1/1973

Mr Prowse.

Excerpt 9: page 5

DEPARTMENTAL COPY

18 JAN 1973

Dear Mr. Clint,

I refer to your letter of 10 January concerning the Social Security position of some of the men who will be leaving Yarrabah to attend the 15th Aboriginal Co=operative Summer School, Glebe, beginning on 5th February, 1973.

I have issued instructions to ensure that the men of the Yarrabah community who are involved in the Aboriginal Co-operative Summer School will not have their Social Security payments disturbed during their absence from Yarrabah.

The Registrar of Social Security at Cairns will ascertain the names of the men attending the Summer School so that he may ensure that payments are continued according to their wishes.

Yours sincerely,  
(BILL HAYDEN)

Mr. W. A. Clint,  
General Secretary,  
Co-operative for aborigines Limited  
19 Goodwin Street,  
NARRABEEN. N.S.W. 2101

Copy sent to Mr Atkinson to-day.  
P 26/1/73

DEPARTMENTAL COPY