

THE ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

75 Years of Service for OUR People

AWAY back in 1881, the State Government first became interested in the welfare of the Aborigines and appointed a Protector of Aborigines.

The Protector held office until the 5th June, 1883, and then a Board for the protection of Aborigines, consisting of five to seven members, was appointed. In the intervening years the Board was reconstituted several times until it was disbanded in 1940 to be reconstituted once again as the Aborigines Welfare Board with the Under Secretary instead of the Commissioner of Police, as its chairman.

In 1945, another change increased the numbers of members from ten to eleven and made provision for two members to be Aborigines, nominated by the Aborigines themselves.

The Aborigines Protection Act provides that the Board shall, subject to the Direction of the Minister, be the authority for the protection and welfare of Aborigines under the Act, and shall exercise general supervision and care over all the Aborigines and over all matters affecting the interests and welfare of the Aborigines, and protect them against injustice, imposition or fraud.



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The Act provides that the Board shall be constituted as follows:—

1. The Person for the time being holding the office of Under Secretary of the Chief Secretarys Department, who will be Chairman. This is Mr. C. J. Buttsworth.
2. The Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare. This is Mr. M. H. Saxby. Endowed with a natural understanding and sympathy for the Aborigines and their problems, Mr. Saxby pays repeated visits to all the Stations and Reserves.
3. An officer of the Department of Education. This is Mr. N. W. Drummond, B.A. Mr. Drummond, is Director of Primary Education in N.S.W.
4. An officer of the Department of Public Health. This is Dr. C. J. Cummins, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.