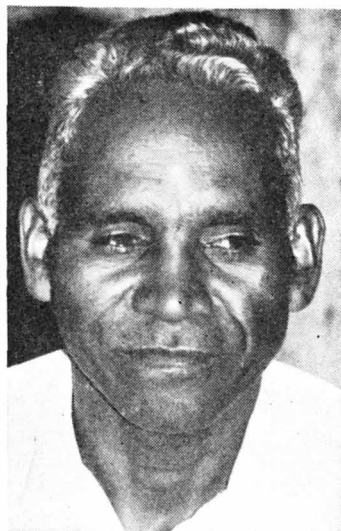




▷ Aborigines are integrating well. Many budget and cook well and provide healthy food and conditions for their families.

○ Their food is appalling—often only damper and jam. There's never any fruit or vegetables. Diseases such as bronchial trouble, malnutrition, worms and cirrhosis of the liver are a problem. Aborigines have lost their old knowledge and reject white standards. The only standards left are those of demoralization and disaster.

It is impossible to generalize. There are as many facts, opinions, and situations as there are Aborigines. However, in the article below, speakers all highlight some aspect of Aboriginal life today. Where a statement is headed *COMMENT*, it means that the words of white people who work with Aborigines are being used. It may also cover the identity of Aboriginal speakers who did not want their name used.



Bill Charles

## Independence or Life in the Group?

Bill Charles (Woodenbong): "Can an Aboriginal live an independent life in the group? I've done it, but not in the group. Back home, with the relations, I can't live like Europeans do. I just



Mrs Lola Close



(l to r) Ken Buchanan, Jim Kelly, Mrs Sylvia Hart, Mrs Grace Roberts

can't. Aborigines *can* live a better life. Friends of ours, the Donnellys are living like Europeans in Alexandria, Sydney. I would like to do it too, but I had to come back because of my mother. Later I will go back, too. Here, there's always the hangers-on, coming to you for help all the time. I don't mind helping people who need it, but I don't like anybody imposing on me. Yet a lot of people *do* let others take advantage of their love and kindness."

*Comment:* "What's the use of buying weekly food and groceries like Europeans do? As soon as you have anything in the 'fridge, anyone can walk in and take it. You can't stop them, either. . . ."