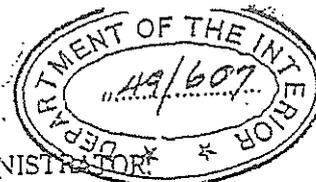
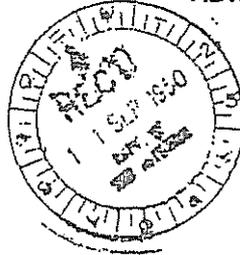


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49/467.ADMINISTRATOR
DARWIN, N.T.

30th August, 1950.

Director,
Northern Territory Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
CANTONMENT, A.C.T.REVIEW REPORT OF MISSIONS
"THE RETTA DIXON" HOME
ABORIGINES INLAND MISSION
BAGOT RESERVE, DARWIN, N.T.Origin, Nature and Object.

The "Retta Dixon Home" for part aboriginal children functioning under the auspices of the Aboriginal Inland Mission of 242 Pitt Street, Sydney, is located on Bagot Aboriginal Reserve, approximately five (5) miles north of Darwin.

Part aboriginal children and expectant women of mixed blood are cared for.

The Mission extends its influence throughout the Territory and caters for people of the Protestant denominations and aims at providing a Christian Home for coloured children where they are loved, educated and trained to take their place in the community as good citizens.

The Mission commenced its activities in the Northern Territory in 1939 working amongst the part aboriginal people of Darwin.

In 1940 a representative was invited to Delissaville Native Settlement as a welfare worker, and later to Bagot in 1941 in order to care for a number of coloured women and children considered unsuitable by other Missions for absorption into their establishments.

In 1942 the Superintendent, a Miss A. N. Shankleton escorted seventy two (72) part aboriginal child evacuees to Balaclava, South Australia and remained there until 1946. On their return they were established in certain unoccupied buildings at Bagot Reserve.

Pre-natal and after care is given to young mothers who are in poor circumstances and/or are unable to make other arrangements for confinements.

Part aboriginal children of all ages are admitted to the Home on the understanding they remain until the age of eighteen (18) years.

They attend the Darwin State School from the age of five (5) years to sixteen (16) years and upon leaving school are encouraged to train for some vocation.

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After being tutored to take their place in Society every endeavour is made to find them suitable work.

Statistical

The average monthly number of children cared for during the period 1.7.49 to 30.6.50 was seventy (70). The average number of women for the same period was eight (8).

Housing.

The community is established in well constructed Government buildings all in excellent state of repair at Bagot Reserve. The grounds embrace an area of approximately ten (10) acres on which are located the buildings occupied by the Society:-

- 1 - girls dormitory - concrete.
- 1 - staff quarters - concrete.
- 1 - recreation - dining room with kitchen attached - concrete.
- 1 - store room - concrete.
- 1 - nursery, converted S.W. type building.
- 1 - boys dormitory, converted S.W. type building.
- 1 - young women's quarters " " " "
- 1 - garage and workshop " " " "
- 1 - ablution block.

Several other buildings at present used as stores can be made available should the necessity arise.

Food: Storage, Preparation and Consumption.

Food is supplied by the Northern Territory Administration through its Native Affairs Section. During the year ended 30th June, 1950 the following supplies were purchased for the Missions use:-

Meat	£355.0.0.	
Bread	403.0.0.	
Fruit, Vegetables, Butter	883.0.0.	
Groceries	415.0.0.	£2057.0.0.
Issues from Bagot Bulk Ration Store		560.0.0.
		<u>£2617.0.0.</u>

Food is prepared under supervision in the well appointed kitchen attached to the dining room. Proper storage facilities are available, and refrigeration is installed. Food comes to the table well prepared and appetising. Attention has been given to the necessity of providing a balanced diet.

General Storage.

Sufficient storage is available for present demands. However if additional space is required another concrete store-room can be made available.

Health.

The health record of the community is good. Apart from an epidemic of whooping cough, some twelve months ago, no serious illnesses have occurred in the history of this Institution.

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Primary Education

Forty four (44) children are attending the Darwin Public School. They are carried to and from the school by Administration transport.

These children enjoy the same privileges and are afforded the same facilities as Europeans.

Spiritual teaching and worship.

Sufficient instruction in religious doctrine is given children and attendance at spiritual worship is insisted on to such an extent that is reasonable and advantageous to them.

Employment placement.

On leaving school ex-students are encouraged to train for some special vocation such as motor mechanics, engineering, nursing, dressmaking, domestic or clerical work. When a child remains to help and train in the Home a weekly allowance will be made.

Every endeavour is made to assist them to take their place in normal Society and to find suitable work.

Two young women from this Institution have passed through the Society's Native Training College in Sydney, one is doing a nursing course and the other has returned to the Home as a trained missionary.

It is too early in the Missions career to have turned out more than those referred to above.

Recreation and Social Life:

Organised indoor games are held at least one evening each week. Socials, birthday parties etc. all of which the children help to arrange and prepare.

Football, tennis, swimming, basket ball and other outdoor sport is encouraged.

Special instruction for older children in music, craftwork, domestic science and agriculture is provided through classes and individual teaching.

The Society has two hutment type of buildings at Casurina Beach. Children are taken here for periods of rest and change during holidays.

Transport and Communication.

A regular service bus runs past the Reserve and the Mission makes use of this as well as utilising their own vehicle. Transport facilities are considered adequate. The method of transporting school children has been dealt with.

Staff and Supervision.

Under the supervision of the Superintendent, Miss A. N. Shankleton, the Staff comprises:-

- 1 - male European trained Missionary.
- 2 - Female European trained Missionaries.
- 2 - female part-aboriginal trained Missionaries.

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The Staff is adequate for present needs, and can be increased by new appointees as demands increase.

Finance.

BALANCE SHEET

FOR YEAR 1949 - 1950.

Income

Contributions from inmates of Home and parents of children.	£134. 5. 0	Provisions	£148. 9. 0
Donations from Mission Sources.	218. 14. 6	Staff wages and Travelling expenses.	573. 6. 1
Child Endowment	1808. 12. 7	Transport	215. 6. 2
Staff Allowance grant	1000. 0. 0	Childrens clothes, bedding, linen, School requisites, recreation expenses.	1490. 10. 1
		General Expenses- Utensils, Electrical appliances, Repairs etc.	176. 13. 4
		Telephone A/c.	31. 13. 2
			2635. 17. 10
		Balance	525. 14. 3
	<u>£3161. 12. 1</u>		<u>£3161. 12. 1</u>

The financial assistance given this Society in addition to the value of food and other supplies mentioned above, is at present a £1,000.0.0. grant as a Staff Subsidy.

The assistance is considered adequate and its continuance is recommended.

Summary.

I am satisfied with the work of the Institution and consider the staff is conscientiously applying themselves to the welfare and betterment of their charges.

Remarks to Admin

① I should advise in providing a better list of financial cost if Capital and maintenance were shown & income receipts are included (Continue) all Govt expenditure on life of the business

(Signature)
(A. R. Driver)
ADMINISTRATOR.

② Voluntary contribution is very small. Could greater effort be made by the members?

AGH
30/4/51