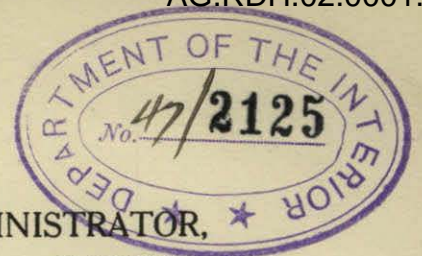


44/322
LSADMINISTRATOR,
DARWIN, N.T.

16th September, 1947.

The Secretary,
Department of the Interior,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

23 SEP 1947

ABORIGINES INLAND MISSION HOSTEL, BAGOT ROAD, DARWIN.

During the war when half-caste evacuees from the Northern areas were accommodated at various centres in South Australia, invaluable assistance to the Superintendent at Saints Farm, Balaklava, was given by members of the Aborigines Inland Mission. On the return of the half-castes to the north in May, 1946, Miss Shankleton of the Mission accompanied them and established at Bagot Road Aboriginal Reserve, Darwin, a home for half-caste children and mothers, and a hostel for young half-caste women. These institutions have been housed in buildings provided and furnished by the Administration. Certain repairs, renovations and interior painting have been effected by other honorary workers who have since arrived, while additional items of furniture have also been supplied by the Mission.

The aim of the Aborigines Inland Mission at Darwin is to care for their half-caste wards and train them to become worthy and responsible citizens. The Hostel is intended to be a congenial home for young women employed in Darwin where they will receive advice and guidance. At present there are 48 children, two mothers and six single women in the institution. All rations are supplied by the Native Affairs Branch.

Clothing for the children is provided by the Aborigines Inland Mission except in those few instances where the mothers are working and are able to provide funds for this purpose. The children of school age are transported by the Administration to the Darwin Public School, while any medical or dental cases go to the Darwin Hospital. Recreational facilities for the children are provided and a library is available to the adults. The young women are encouraged to assist in the kitchen and learn domestic arts. A holiday camp has been established at Casuarina Beach, six miles from Darwin, where the children are taken each school vacation.

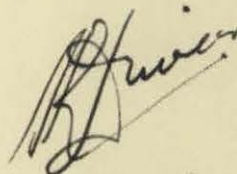
The future programme of the Mission provides for proper training in trades, nursing, dressmaking, etc., of the children when they reach the appropriate age for such instruction. At present the oldest child is only 12 years of age, so that a few years must elapse before this feature will be introduced. Other improvements envisaged are a sewing-room for the women, separate self-contained quarters for the single women, and provision of an adequate social life within the establishment. With the recent appointment of a new worker to the staff, agricultural work is now proposed and should soon be an important adjunct to the Mission's activities.

In addition to the work associated with the Home and Hostel, the Mission staff undertake the general welfare and spiritual work among the half-caste families living on the Reserve.

The staff at present number six, made up of three single women, one married man and a married couple. Under the leadership of Miss Shankleton, they represent a vigorous team displaying an abundance of initiative and zeal.

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A request has been made for a subsidy to assist this Mission, and in view of their undoubted contribution to the solving of the half-caste problem, I favour a grant to cover salaries only. An amount of £1,000 has been provided in the 1947/48 Estimates for this purpose, and I accordingly recommend to the Honourable the Minister that he approve of this payment to the Aborigines Inland Mission for salaries of staff at Bagot Road, Darwin. Such a subsidy will bring this Mission into line with other half-caste establishments such as Mt. Blatherskite, and will represent a desirable controlling interest in its activities.



(A. R. Driver)
Administrator.

Secretary

This recommendation is supported. This scheme differs from the arrangements made with other religious missions caring for half-castes to the extent that in the present instance, the inmates and staff are rationed by the Department. The mission provides a staff of six, clothing for the children and other amenities. It is considered there is every justification for payment of £1000 to the mission in respect of their activities in the interests of half-castes at the Bagot Reserve.

The Mission has for some years past been paid the sum of £200 per year towards the cost of its aboriginal welfare work at centres outside Darwin. A separate submission will be made regarding this subsidy of £200.

J. R. ...
20/11/47

APPROVED

21 21
NOV 1947

Victor Johnson
Minister for the Interior.

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To be dealt on general Submissions "Subsidies to Missions"