

Sub Division 3Item 3 - Assistance to Missions

<u>1962/63</u> <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>1961/62</u> <u>Expenditure</u>
£601,000	£344,226
	Increase <u>256,774</u>

This provision is for the purpose of making grants to Missions to enable them to carry out their work in the Northern Territory in relation to the care, welfare, education and advancement of aborigines and coloured children. The responsibility for this work rests with the Commonwealth Government, but it has been found both convenient and economic to utilise the services of the Missions for this work. There are six denominational authorities conducting 14 aboriginal Mission Stations and four part-aborigine children's hostels.

Comparison of 1962/63 appropriation with 1961/62 expenditure is as follows :-

	<u>1962/3</u> <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>1961/62</u> <u>Expenditure</u>
<u>Aboriginal Missions</u>		
Maintenance subsidy	226,000	188,656
Special operational subsidy	166,230	
Capital projects - grant	79,365	59,676
Unemployment relief projects	<u>10,000</u>	
	481,595	
<u>Part Aboriginal Child Hostels</u>		
Operational subsidy	85,884	73,134
Capital projects - grant	<u>33,521</u>	<u>22,760</u>
	£601,000	£344,226

In explanation the amounts included under each of the above heads of expenditure is set out below in order :-

(A) Maintenance Subsidy - Aboriginal Missions

This covers the needs of children, hospitalised cases, pregnant and lactating women and aged and infirm persons who are not eligible for a social services pension, all of whom are fully maintained by the Mission. Comparative numbers are :

	<u>1962/63</u>	<u>1961/62</u>
Aged and Infirm	298	559
Children	2,739	2,588
Hospitalised cases	1,927 case wks	2,314 case wks
Pre and post natal cases	4,914 " "	4,741 " "

An increase in the number of children and of pre and post natal cases and a decrease in the number of aged and infirm and of hospitalised cases have been allowed for. Increases arise from natural increase, and decreases from additional persons becoming eligible for social services pensions and from an expected improvement in the general health of the population and anticipating no epidemic outbreaks.

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The increase over the 1961/62 year is attributable in the main, however, to an increase in maintenance rates to bring the rationing of dependent wards up to the same standard as that obtaining on Government Settlements. For the 1962/63 year an additional component has been added to provide special reimbursement rates to missions in Central Australia who have to buy meat at astronomically inflated prices which has resulted from the shortage of cattle following the long drought period. Comparative reimbursement rates are :

	<u>1962/63</u>	<u>1961/62</u>
Aged and Infirm (Annual)	£89.13. 1	£84.10. 0
Children (Annual)	64. 7. 0	20. 9. 6
Hospitalised cases)		
Pre and post natal cases)	1.14. 6	1.12. 6

The amount provided contains the two components:

Regular rates	£211,000
Special "meat" rates	15,000
	<u>£226,000</u>

(B) Special Operational Subsidy - Staff

This provides for 142 Mission staff and additional native assistants in approved categories. It also provides for a small additional amount of £1,000 in the subsidy for European staff. Included in this amount is provision for social workers and hygiene supervisors as approved by the Minister following the last Missions/Administration Conference.

(G) Capital Projects - Aboriginal Missions

This provides for approximately 50% more capital development on missions than was provided in the 1961/62. Missions expect to be able to encompass this work following the assurance at the last Mission/Administration Conference by the Minister that they could be reimbursed for the cost of contract labour used to erect buildings and to install services which are regarded as essential. Within the programme £21,000 is proposed for water supply, £27,000 for schools and £4,000 for native housing.

(D) Unemployment Relief Projects - Aboriginal Missions

Provision is made here for missions who may take advantage of the Minister's offer to consider providing special assistance to those missions who find difficulty in solving their local labour problem. Any mission may come forward with a proposal but there is no firm indication from any mission society as to the extent or nature of proposals that are likely to come forward in the next financial year. Therefore a tentative amount of £10,000 has been included for this purpose.

(E) Operational Subsidy - Part Aboriginal Children's Hostels

The additional provision of approximately £12,000 over the 1961/62 expenditure arises from three sources : it is expected that there will be additional children maintained at Garden Point, Groker Island and St. Mary's Hostels; the Retta Dixon Home will be operating for a full year on the higher rate of operational subsidy provided in respect of the new Home and the application to it of the per capita financial subsidy scheme; and a substantial increase in the amount needed at St. Mary's Hostel for food which follows an investigation by

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the Welfare Catering Officer of menus and food items supplied. (This investigation revealed that important nutrients were not being fed to the children.)

(F) Capital Assistance to Part Aboriginal Children's Hostels

It is expected that the volume of Capital assistance in 1962/63 will warrant the increase over the 1961/62 expenditure.