

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

If Telephoning or Calling with reference to this letter please ask for

WELF, PERTH

21 8424

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE

638 MURRAY STREET

- 9 MAR 1966

BOX R 1268, G.P.O., PERTH

Mr.

DNW 435/64

OUR REF.

YOUR REF.

ALL FIELD OFFICERS:

The Director of Social Services has notified this Department of an opinion from the Commonwealth Deputy Crown Solicitor that Warrantees appointed to assist in the disbursement of pensions are not agents of the Social Services Department, but are in fact, agents of the pensioner.

It follows from this opinion that the Social Services Department cannot legally require a warrantee to account for pension monies. However, the native pensioner is entitled to an accounting.

The opinion given in a ruling from the State Crown Law Department is that the authority of officers of this Department to handle pensions for natives rests in Section 23 of the Native Welfare Act. Therefore, in the case of adults, Field Officers may handle pensions only with the consent of the pensioners.

In view of the above information, an authority under Section 23 of the Native Welfare Act should be obtained for the Commissioner of Native Welfare to handle pension monies in every case where Departmental officers are acting as Warrantees.

Could you please arrange to secure such authorities where they are not already in existence.

Your attention is drawn to the provision of instruction B-23-6 and A-1-2 of the Department's Instruction Manual.

*Wyndham
Darby.
Halls Creek
Broome*

[Signature]
COMMISSIONER OF NATIVE WELFARE

*Fwd
17/3/66
[Signature]*

immediate implementation, please.

*[Signature] 17/3/66
SND*

Director

Subject: Survey of Aboriginal Pensioners
22nd May, 1966 to 4th June, 1966

Area: Pastoral stations in the Kimberley
area

Distance Travelled: By air - 4,000 miles
By vehicle - 1,500 miles

Previous visits to this area had confirmed suspicions that the pensioner conditions on some stations were below the standard required. The station management had been advised of their shortcomings in this regard and it was hoped that some improvement would be evident.

In conjunction with Mr. Kevin Johnson, Superintendent of the Department of Native Welfare, Northern Division, I made surveys of the pensioner conditions on the following stations.

██████████ - There are 5 pensioners here.

During my previous visit in 1963, I was unable to contact the station management. I inspected the pensioner's housing and my enquiries indicated that they were well cared for and enjoyed reasonable conditions.

Although the station manager, Mr. ██████████, was away at the time of this visit his wife was able to supply the following particulars.

Pocket Money: Pensioners receive \$6.00 per month. None of this is spent in the store and it is thought to be given to the younger folk, or lost gambling.

Maintenance: Pensioners receive a weekly ration of -

- 7 lbs flour
- 2 lbs sugar
- ½ lb. tea
- Tobacco
- Soap

In addition they are each free to make a selection from the tinned goods and other food available in the store. There has been no cause to date to place any restriction on this weekly selection. Mrs. ██████████ herself makes this issue and records the items supplied. A typical order would be -

- 2 tins meat
- 2 tins fruit
- 1 tin milk
- 1 tin beetroot
- 2 tins vegetables (peas, beans, carrots)
- 1 bottle squash
- 1 packet biscuits

Fresh meat is available at all times and the pensioners are not restricted in this regard. They receive all they want.

Mrs. ██████████ was unable to state the amount charged for the basic ration of flour, meat, tea and sugar. She believed that the actual cost of the items supplied by the store were debited against the pensioner's account and the balance remaining in this account each fortnight was transferred to a pensioners building fund.

Housing: Good huts, toilets, ablutions and washing facilities are available to the pensioners. During my visit they were camped in the open but I have no doubt, would move inside during the "wet".

cont'd

Clothing: Issued as required from the store and debited against the pensioners. All pensioners appeared well dressed.

General: This station is run in conjunction with and the bookkeeper at keeps all records. Unfortunately, no-one occupies this position at present and Mr. is looking after things, pending an appointment.

I was unable to investigate the pensioners' financial position here or to ascertain how much is being held on their behalf. Mrs. did advise that separate accounts were NOT kept for each pensioner.

I will endeavour to obtain more information by correspondence but a further visit appears necessary.

 - There are 6 pensioners paid by schedule.

This is a cattle station owned by and managed by Mr. . After a visit by Mr. Daniel in 1962 he reported "The manager receives the pension cheques (schedule) and forwards it to the Perth office of . He draws a station cheque to cover the pocket money. He keeps no records and could not estimate the cost of the food issue".

Mr. Daniel appeared reasonably happy with the pensioners' maintenance, clothing and housing.

The present position is as follows :

Pocket Money: The pension cheque is forwarded to the company Head Office in Perth who return sufficient cash for the pocket money and retain the balance. Each pensioner received \$4.00 per fortnight in cash. This is usually spent in the station store on biscuits, lollies and cool-drinks.

Maintenance: Each pensioner receives a daily ration of 1 loaf of bread. A weekly ration of -

- 10 lbs beef
- 10 lbs flour
- 2 lbs sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea
- 6 tins vegetables (carrots, peas, beans, beetroot)
- 1 tin cheese
- 1 tin sunshine milk
- 1 bottle tomato sauce
- 1 jar pickles
- 1 tin jam
- 1 pkt spaghetti, vermicelli or macaroni
- 1 cake washing soap
- 1 cake toilet soap
- 2 plugs sunlight tobacco

is also provided. An inspection of the camp area and questioning of the pensioners indicated that they did receive these things. They certainly appeared well fed.

Clothing: Mr. advised that the pensioners received approximately 7 sets of clothes each year. In addition they received an annual issue of -

- 1 blanket
- 1 towel
- 1 mosquito net
- 1 6' x 8' ground sheet
- Boots
- Sandshoes
- Woollen jumper
- Mirror, comb, razor blades and hair oil

██████████ cont'd

There was no shortage of good clothing in the pensioner's homes.

Housing: The housing on all ██████████ stations, with the exception of ██████████ is the same. All natives, pensioners or otherwise, are housed in small iron huts approximately 8' x 6' with a door, a window and one side that can be raised horizontal. Although small they provide ideal accommodation for one or two persons.

Toilet, ablution and washing facilities are available. These were in a filthy condition at the time of my visit but instructions given by Mr. Johnson were carried out to the letter and a return visit showed a vast improvement. I believe this large cement brick structure with its septic system, will be kept clean in future.

General: Like other ██████████ stations ██████████ attracts a lot of natives. There are an estimated 150 there at present. Mr. ██████████ is stated by the natives to be a good man and a fair boss and I have no reason to doubt that the information given to me is correct. The pensioners here appear well clothed, housed and fed.

██████████ - There are 3 pensioners here.

This is a cattle station owned by Mr. ██████████ who also runs the property.

Pocket Money: The one male pensioner receives \$4.00 per week and the two females \$2.00 per week each. There is no store at the station. The station is close to Halls Creek and enquiries reveal that the pocket money is spent in the town on food and clothing.

Maintenance: The pensioners receive issues of bread and meat three times a day. No other rations. Soap is issued occasionally.

Housing: There are no houses, toilets or ablutions. Pigs and dogs share the camp with the natives.

Clothing: The pensioners wear only what they buy from their pocket money and are poorly dressed.

General: These 3 pensioners have all come to ██████████ station in the past 15 months. Mr. ██████████ was not home at the time of my visit but he was located at a stock loading yard a few miles distant. He stated that he is prepared to do whatever this Department requires as far as the pensioners are concerned and arrangements have been made for the District Officer, Department of Native Welfare, at Halls Creek to make an early visit to provide him with a comprehensive ration scale and to make the necessary arrangements for these stores to be delivered from Halls Creek each week. Similar arrangements will be made for regular clothing issues. Mr. ██████████ stated that he is holding a credit balance in the pensioners account at present but could give no idea of what this was. A new homestead is now in the course of erection some miles from the present site and he hopes to move in as soon as the building is roofed. He states one house is already available for the pensioners as soon as they move and he will build others as finance permits.

I left no doubt in Mr. ██████████ mind that I was anything but happy with the situation at ██████████ but in view of his assurance that he would take immediate steps to improve things and the fact that the Department of Native Welfare will keep this station under surveillance, I recommend no further action at this stage.

Another visit here will be essential.

██████████ - Four pensioners live at this station and the Manager, Mr. ██████████, acts as warrantee.

I visited this station last year and was quite satisfied with the general conditions of the pensioners. Mr. ██████████ was at that time holding \$416.00 in pension money and stated his intention of using this to provide quarters for the pensioners as soon as possible.

He advised that he had arranged with the District Officer, Department of Native Welfare, Halls Creek to see some plans of approved pensioner housing, but these have not yet been received. Mr. Johnson has personally assured Mr. ██████████ that he will make some available and Mr. ██████████ states he will proceed as soon as he finds a suitable design. In the meantime, he has gone ahead with the erection of a septic toilet and ablution block and this is almost completed. He estimates the final cost at approximately \$400 and has provided the labour himself.

He is at present holding \$895.00 in credit for the pensioners and a separate account is kept for each. His wife keeps an excellent set of books.

Mr. ██████████ was unable to throw any light on the present whereabouts of Mrs. ██████████ the previous warrantee. It appears that she moved out taking pension money with her, but to date, has not been located.

██████████

This is a cattle station owned by Mr. ██████████. His wife acts as warrantee for 4 pensioners and 2 more claims were completed during my visit. Direct payment has been recommended in each case.

Pocket Money: This is paid at the rate of \$1.00 per week to each pensioner. It is not spent in the store and just disappears. Pensioners are very unsophisticated and it is very doubtful if payment of more would be warranted.

Maintenance: There is no set ration scale and the pensioners receive a bag of rations that varies each week. A list recently provided shows the following -

10 lbs flour	10/-
Baking powder	5/-
Tea	4/-
Sugar	10/-
Milk	5/-
Sardines	2/-
Biscuits	3/-
Rice	3/-
Meat - 10 lbs boned beef	30/-
Soap	2/-
Tobacco	3/-
Matches	1/-
	<hr/>
	£3.18.0 = \$7.80

I discussed this ration scale very fully with Mrs. ██████████. I expect that as soon as she catches up on providing them with the other essentials they need at present, it will be increased by providing tinned fruit and other delicacies that will provide a more balanced diet.

Clothing: Replacement of the pensioners clothing is in progress and this has been given priority. Although reasonably dressed by native standards, Mrs. ██████████ is keen to see the position improved.

██████████ cont'd

Housing: Two huts are available for the pensioners only a short distance from the homestead but they prefer to camp on a reserve near the river some distance away. There are no toilets or ablutions, but water piping is now on order and as soon as it is received, water will be laid on to the reserve and the owner will embark on a building programme.

General: Mr. and Mrs. ██████████ were previously on ██████████ Station and took over ██████████ from Mr. ██████████ only about nine months ago. Mr. ██████████ had a poor reputation in this area.

The first 15 minutes of my interview with Mr. and Mrs. ██████████ were spent in listening to them defend themselves on the count of treatment of pensioners before I had even a chance to speak and I was a little perturbed by this onslaught. I had made enquiries in the area and the general opinion was that they were honest people; loquacious but genuine.

In the 9 months they have been at ██████████ there is nothing to see for the pension money paid during this period and there is a credit balance of only \$20.00 (approx).

I have made the position very clear so far as this Department is concerned and entertain no doubt that Mr. and Mrs. ██████████ fully understand.

A further visit here is essential.

██████████ This is a cattle station owned by Mr. ██████████ of Derby. The manager, Mr. ██████████, acts as warrantee for 9 pensioners and receives schedule payment.

I have tried on each occasion I have been in this area, to visit ██████████ but the roads have always been impassable. On this occasion I chartered an aircraft and flew in.

Pocket money: As the natives are very primitive and the station store carried little in the way of delicacies, Mr. ██████████ has a standing order placed with Beans Ltd. of Perth and every fortnight each pensioner receives a parcel containing 3-lbs of lollies and 6 packets of biscuits at a cost of \$3.00. These parcels and the accompanying vouchers had just been received at the time of my visit and were available for inspection. No cash is issued.

Maintenance: Rations for the pensioners are purchased independently by Mr. ██████████ and are kept separate from the normal station stores. I sighted vouchers confirming that the following goods are received three times each year from J. & W. Bateman.

1 ton sugar
 100 lbs tea
 6 doz. tins jam
 6 doz. bottles tomato sauce
 1 gross matches
 33 lbs. tobacco
 1,000 lbs S.R. Flour

The total cost of these items, exclusive of freight, was \$343.65.

In addition, evidence was produced to confirm that each fortnight, fresh fruit consisting of apples or pears and oranges is purchased from R.H. Mooney at an average cost of approximately \$17.00.

cont'd

A meat ration is made available by the station and this is stated to be 8 lbs of beef per pensioner per week. I entertain no doubt that the pensioners do receive this amount.

On a weekly basis, these stores would provide the following rations for each pensioner -

8 lbs sugar
2/3 lbs tea
1/2 tin jam
1 bottle tomato sauce
1 packet matches
4 ~~oz~~ tobacco
7 lbs flour
1 1/2 lbs apples or pears
6 oranges
8 lbs fresh beef

This constitutes a reasonable scale and with the addition of say -

1 tin milk
3 tins fruit
3 tins meat or fish
2 lbs rice

could be accepted as very good.

Housings: An excellent 2 roomed 24' x 10' galvanised iron hut with 2 doors and 5 beads glass louvres at each end and side with a verandah in front has been erected for the pensioners on an excellent site only a short distance from where they are camped on the bank of the river. It is not used. The pensioners prefer to camp under ground sheets and windbreaks in the open. It is not possible to build any closer to the river as the area the pensioners now occupy is under water in the wet season.

This first house was built by Mr. about 2 years ago, at a cost of approximately \$800.00. Since then 2 more of the same type have been erected in the main stock camp on the opposite side of the river to the pensioners but they refuse to live in them and they are occupied by working natives. Mr. explained that during the 'wet' the pensioners move to the homestead side of the river and he hopes they will then use these 2 buildings.

No toilets or ablutions are available at either side of the river.

Clothing: Each male pensioner receives each year -

2 blankets
1 mosquito net
6 pairs trousers
6 shirts
2 pairs sandals or sandshoes

The females receive the same issue except that they receive 6 dresses instead of trousers and shirts.

The annual cost per male is \$47.00 and for females \$35.00.

The pensioners appear well dressed.

General: I made a complete check of the vouchers supplied by Mr. and the approximate cost of maintaining the 9 pensioners for the past year would be -

General stores - R.W. Rowell	}	1,080.00
J. & W. Bateman)		
Fruit - R.N. Mooney		442.00
Clothing - females (5)		175.00
Clothing - males (4)		188.00
Meat - 72lbs per week @ 10c per lb		374.00

██████████ cont'd

This leaves a balance of \$5,500.00 to be refunded.

I realize that in making this calculation, I have accepted that the provisions and services the pensioners are receiving now have been standard for over 5 years and this is hardly likely. However, it would be almost impossible to obtain sufficient information to make an accurate assessment of the situation and it is recommended that this arbitrary assessment be accepted and Mr. ██████████ be requested to refund the amount of \$5,500.00 to the pensioners account.

Mr. ██████████ advised that he would take immediate steps to see that the pensioners receive tinned fruit as part of their diet. He requests that this Department advise him of the best way to reduce the balance in the pensioners' account and for their benefit. I advised him that I would contact him on this matter after discussion with yourself.

██████████

In my previous reports I have been very critical of this station. On this visit the situation if anything, was worse. However, as I was not able to positively identify the pensioners here, I have requested the Department of Native Welfare to furnish me with a report of their proposed visit this week with a native interpreter and I will then furnish further details.

GENERAL COMMENT

Following a statement by police inspector, A. Gallagher of Broome, during a discussion at Fitzroy Crossing, that the pensioners on the Broome native reserve were not being properly cared for and in fact were suffering from malnutrition Mr. Johnson and I made a hurried trip to Broome to investigate the situation. I found the pensioners there in excellent health, enjoying excellent conditions and being well cared for.

During the whole of this survey I have gained the impression that the station management have reconciled themselves to the fact that there is going to be an accounting as far as pension money is concerned. Those who have done the right thing to date are openly anxious to please, as are those who have not previously appeared anxious to fall into line. I even had two instances of stations suggesting I look into conditions on other stations and this, I feel, is an important break-through.

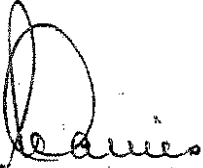
In the past, I believe that ██████████ station has set the pattern and this name comes up on each survey with monotonous regularity. As the home station of ██████████ they are almost a law unto themselves and it has not been possible to do a thorough survey of the position here to date.

I believe that ██████████ station presents a problem but I was unable to go in on this visit as the station management was away.

In as much as ██████████ and ██████████ are two of the biggest stations in the Fitzroy area, I feel that an inspection should be made of these properties, as soon as the mustering is over - approximately early August - so that the smaller stations can see that they are "all in the same boat". At that time, the position at ██████████ could be discussed with Mr. ██████████, the

situation resolved and follow-up calls made on [redacted] and [redacted]

I would like to express my appreciation of the very valuable assistance and co-operation extended to me by the Superintendent, Department of Native Welfare, Northern Division Mr. Kevin Johnson and in fact all of his staff who have extended me every courtesy.


(M.E. Davies)
Special Magistrate
10th June, 1966

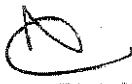
Commissioner of Native Welfare,
PERTH W.A.

Referred for your information.

As with previous reports there is evidence that the handling of pensioners' money by the Stations is far from satisfactory.

Might I suggest that your Department look closely at the position on some stations and decide whether or not the present method of payment should be varied. I would personally prefer all payments to be made to your Department on behalf of all native pensioners.

Perhaps you would be prepared to discuss this further with myself and senior officers when you have a little time to spare.


(F.W. HUMPHREYS)
Director
17th June, 1966

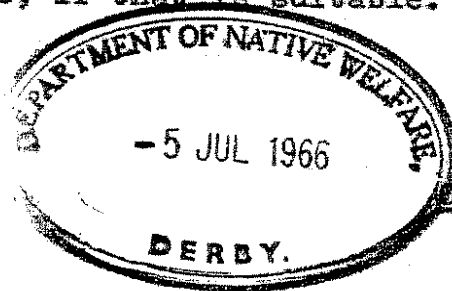
1st July, 1966

DNW 435/6

Director of Social Services,
G.P.O. Box P 1187,
PERTH.

Thank you for the copies of the very informative reports prepared by Mr. Davies on the stations which he visited in the Kimberleys recently. I will pass these on to the Superintendent of Native Welfare in Derby with a request that he take whatever steps are practicable to remedy unsatisfactory features.

For the reasons which I set out in my advice to you of 22nd February 1966, it is not possible to increase our commitments in respect of pension payments to natives, but I am quite willing to discuss the general situation with you at any time. In regard to the Kimberleys in particular, an appropriate time might be soon after our field supervisor, Mr. McLarty, returns to Perth from his current inspection of that area. This would mean a meeting in about three week's time, if that is suitable.



M.
COMMISSIONER OF NATIVE WELFARE

Superintendent,
NORTHERN DIVISION:

For your information and appropriate action, please.

A copy of each of Mr. Davies' reports is attached for your information and I would appreciate your comment as to whether any remedial steps can be taken by this Department.

A copy of my advice to the Director of Social Services dated 22nd February 1966 is attached for your information also.

M. C. ...
COMMISSIONER OF NATIVE WELFARE

Commissioner of Native Welfare,
Box B.1268, G.P.O.,
PERTH...W.A.

Perth

DERBY...W.A.

8th August, 1966

DDG 33-3/1

Report by Mr. M. Davies.
Dept. of Social Services,
DW 435/64 of 1st July 1966

Thank you for the above report. This has been per-
used and the following comments are offered.

This survey gave me an opportunity to visit various
Stations and observe conditions under which the pensioners
live and the methods of payments under the warrantee system.
I was also able to observe Mr. Davies's approach to this matter
and his method of assessing the situation. This proved to be
of great value and I have passed this information on to my
officers.

I most certainly agree that the warrantee pension
payment situation on many Stations in this area is far from
satisfactory, and have had it stated to me in a colloquial
form, "They are all making a quid out of the pensioners".

Certain Stations appear to have assessed the powers
of the Commonwealth Government and the Social Services Act,
and coupled with the ignorance of the native pensioners, have
refused to produce records. [redacted] Stations have set the
pattern in this regard and Stations such as [redacted] have
been quick to follow suit. Other Stations have very inadequate
or carefully doctored records, but it is all very obvious
from what the pensioners say, their condition and clothing,
plus accounting by the Department of Social Services and this
Department, that they are not receiving full benefit of their
pensions.

Mr. Davies has contacted this Office and advised
that he is returning to the Kimberley for another survey plus
follow up on the unsatisfactory Stations. Other doubtful
Stations will be checked this trip.

It is Mr. Davie's intention to spend another fort-
night on this survey and will arrive in Derby on 20th August.
He has requested assistance from this Office and I have in-
timated that this will be forthcoming fitting his survey to
suit Departmental needs at the same time. This will also be
of value to my Officers, and Stations should soon realize
that serious efforts are being made to rectify unsatisfactory
situations in regard to warrantee and other pensioners.

I shall submit an itinerary with this report.

Comments on the various Stations visited will be
taken in the order submitted in Mr. Davies report.

[redacted] Station.

This Station has been inspected this year but I am
not satisfied with the patrol report and another inspection
has been ordered. It is further advised that Mr. Davies is
returning to [redacted] Station for follow up.

Station.

This Station is owned by [redacted] and apart from not having records to substantiate claims, I agree with Mr. Davies. The Manager Mr. Don Laidlaw plays a large part in the contentment and happiness of his natives. He is most popular and goes well beyond his duties in the treatment of the Christmas Creek people.

Station.

This Station is exactly as described by Mr. Davies. I have promised an early patrol but this did not eventuate owing to Mr. Haulton being on leave and consequent transfer to Broome. The new District Officer will carry out a visit in the near future. [redacted] Station has been included in Mr. Davies itinerary for Follow up and this will be carried out in conjunction with the Hall's Creek Officer.

It is anticipated that Mr. [redacted] will have the required balances available for perusal on the next visit.

Station.

As promised, plans have been made available to this Station.

This is a very satisfactory Station.

Station.

This Station is to be re-visited by Mr. Max Davies on his next survey.

Mr. and Mrs [redacted] have received much service and attention from this Department and I feel sure that the situation will improve.

As stated by Mr. Davies, Mr. and Mrs [redacted] are most loquacious and spend a good deal of time endeavouring to impress all in general of the good job they are doing, but I am not entirely satisfied at this stage that the pensioners are obtaining full benefit from their pensions.

Station.

Completely satisfactory at Station as Mr. [redacted] Manager, does an extremely good job of looking after his staff and pensioners.

I am not completely in agreement in regard to pensioner housing. It is very obvious that after building the first large 24' x 10' galvanised hut near the pensioners camp, that the next two huts were built in the stock camp with the sole intention of providing quarters for the workers. This is using Commonwealth monies to erect buildings which should be [redacted] on responsibility, and the same time these buildings are increasing the value of the Station.

In regard to the other unsatisfactory feature of depositing \$2000 per annum into the Station account, I feel sure Mr. [redacted] will refund the \$5,500 as laid down by Mr. Davies. This will be taken up again on Mr. Davies return

Station

Since Mr. Davies visit I have sent a patrol into but this did not yield results as required. I have advised you of the position; my MDC 36-67 of 22nd June refers. Your reply DNW 735/47 of 21st July, 1966, has advised of your requirements. Mr. Davies and I shall be visiting in near future and further action as necessary will be taken.

It is felt that although this Department cannot increase its commitments in respect of pension payments to natives that a suitable alternative solution must be found.

In the past if a Station offended, the pensions could be suspended, but the only persons to suffer were the native pensioners, although in some cases it appeared that they could hardly be worse off.

If the Social Services continue to send inspectors to this area regularly to carry out surveys under amended Legislation to allow more power in regard to warrantee pensions, this should help.

Officers of this Department will continue to check all pensioners and where ever possible inspect records. If continual checks are made, the pensioners themselves will come to realize in time where they are not receiving full benefit from their pensions.

It is sincerely hoped also that the Station case will be highlighted as publicity in this regard will cause offending Stations to re-consider if they are not correctly administering pension monies or keeping correct records.

I am looking forward with anticipation to any possible suggestions that may have come from a top level meeting between yourself, Field Supervisor and Officers of the Department of Social Services.

K. T. Johnson .
Superintendent - Northern Division.

Acting Director,

Subject - Survey of Aboriginal Pensioners
19/8/66 to 2/9/66.

Area - Pastoral stations in the Kimberleys.

Distance travelled - By air - 2,300 miles
By vehicle - 2,100 "

This survey was planned for the purpose of ascertaining the present conditions on [redacted] and [redacted] stations and to follow up my previous visits to [redacted] and [redacted].

I was accompanied on the first leg of my survey by Mr P. Stevens, the Assistant Superintendent, Department of Native Welfare, Derby and together we visited the following stations.

[redacted] - Conducted by [redacted] and managed for them by Mr [redacted]. [redacted] is one of the largest properties in this area. There are approximately 200 natives on the station of whom 14 are pensioners. Payment is made by schedule to Mr [redacted] as warrantee.

I interviewed Mr [redacted] and he provided the following information.

The fortnightly cheque is signed and sent to the head office of [redacted] in Perth, together with a copy of the schedule of payments.

Pocket money -

Each Sunday he pays out of station funds, pocket money of \$4.00 per week to each pensioner. A book record was produced to confirm this payment. According to Mr [redacted] the pocket money is spent both in the station store and the store at Fitzroy Crossing on tobacco, lollies and coal drinks. It is also used in gambling.

Maintenance -

Three meals a day of bread, and meat are issued from the kitchen. In addition the pensioners receive a weekly ration of

- 3 lbs flour
- 4 " sugar
- 1/2 " tea
- 4 packets biscuits
- 4 tins sardines
- 2 " meat

Those who don't like fish receive an additional 2 tins of meat.

Timed fruit and jam are not issued regularly but are available to the pensioners, and are issued on request. At least 4 or 5 pensioners receive these items each week.

One pensioner lines up with the children each day, for an issue of fresh fruit and the remaining pensioners could do this if they wished.

Kerosene and wood are provided for all pensioners.

Housing -

The pensioners are housed in 10' x 8' galvanized iron huts, the sides of which open up for ventilation. These huts are common to all [redacted] stations with the exception of [redacted], and provide a reasonable standard of accommodation.

Good toilet, ablution and washing facilities are available.

Clothing -

Clothing is issued as required and pensioners receive approximately 6 sets of underclothes each year as well as a mosquito net, 2 blankets and a ground sheet.

General -

[redacted] management have always taken the view that once the pocket money has been paid, the balance of the pension is payable to the station as re-imbursment for the maintenance provided. Apart from the one book record showing the pocket money paid, no records have been kept. After some discussion with Mr [redacted], he agreed that in future he would keep a record of the items of food and clothing actually issued to the pensioners and that this record would be available to this Department for inspection on any subsequent visit. I realize of course, that without supporting vouchers, these records will be of little value, but it does at least indicate a willingness to co-operate - a step in the right direction.

Mr [redacted] would not accompany Mr Stevens and myself to the pensioners' camp as he did not want to influence them in any way in their discussions with us.

Assisted by the younger people in the camp, I was able to establish that the information given to me by Mr [redacted] was correct. All of the pensioners appeared in good condition and were reasonably dressed. A check of their houses disclosed rations consisting of flour, tea, sugar, tinned meat and fish still on hand and cash ranging from \$1.00 to \$15.00 was produced for my inspection.

I was later able to establish from the wife of the police constable at Pitaroy Crossing that the natives of [redacted] and [redacted] seldom purchase food or clothing at the store in Pitaroy Crossing. This has been commented on in the area.

[redacted] - Mr [redacted] is still manager of this cattle station that was previously visited in 1963.

Payment is made by schedule to 7 pensioners, 5 of whom are pocket money/maintenance cases and the remaining 2 capable of managing their own affairs.

Pocket money -

The employees on the station receive their wages each month. Pocket money is paid to the pensioners at this time. Male pensioners receive \$8.00 per month and female pensioners, \$4.00 per month.

In addition, the male pensioner capable of handling his own affairs receives a cash payment of \$8.00 per week, and the sophisticated female \$6.00 per week.

The pocket money is spent on biscuits, lollies, cool drinks and gambling.

Maintenance -

All of the pensioners receive 3 meals a day, prepared in the kitchen. This consists of bread, beef, potatoes, onions and any other vegetables in season. [REDACTED] has a large vegetable garden and there is no shortage of such items as pumpkin, peas, beans, cabbages. In addition, goats milk is available at all times.

They also receive a weekly ration of

5 lbs sugar
1/2 " tea
1 1/2 " rice

Clothing -

The males receive an issue of trousers and shirt every 6 weeks and the females receive a dress.

In addition all pensioners receive an annual issue of

1 blanket
1 mosquito net
1 rug cover
2 pairs boots or sandals
1 hat for the men.

Smoking tobacco is available to all pensioners as required.

Housing -

Since my previous visit, 5 new houses have been erected for the pensioners, and these provide adequate accommodation. Plans are already under way for the erection of an ablution block during the "wet" season.

General -

[REDACTED] is still trying to guard against differentiation between pensioners and workers. All of the pensioners that are at all capable of work have menial tasks to perform and when they line up for their pocket money each month, they receive this in the form of "wages" with the remaining employees.

In the case of the 2 sophisticated natives receiving direct payment, the male receives a total of \$10.00 per week from his pension and the female \$7.00 per week - the balance is retained by the station for maintenance.

With the unsophisticated males who receive \$8.00 per month pocket money the balance of their pension is retained for maintenance.

With the unsophisticated females, in addition to the \$4.00 per month pocket money a further \$2.00 per fortnight is banked for each. The bank books were produced for my inspection and each had a credit balance of \$14.00. I was assured that this would be spent on the pensioner's welfare as soon as opportunity offered.

Mr [redacted] keeps no books in connection with these pension payments. After discussion with him, he has agreed to increase the food ration by adding tinned fruit and other delicacies and has assured me he will keep a record of all issues in future.

[redacted] - My visit to this station last year revealed that 2 pensioners were receiving direct payment here. Since that visit Mr [redacted] and his wife have left and the station is now being managed by Mr [redacted] whose wife is the sister of [redacted]

Following my report of 19 May, 1965, Mrs [redacted] has fully stated this Department's requirements regarding the pensioners and Mrs Hammond who has assumed the responsibility for their welfare appears anxious to co-operate.

The pocket money has been increased to \$4.00 per week each and this is spent in the station store on tinned fruit, cakes and biscuits. Some is saved and one pensioner is holding \$30.00, saved towards the purchase of a radio.

The balance of the pension is retained for food, clothing, maintenance and housing.

The pensioners have 3 meals a day prepared in the kitchen and these are varied to provide an excellent diet. A large garden assures an adequate supply of fresh vegetables. Fresh fruit is also made available.

Two thatched houses have been erected since my previous visit and the camp area was clean and tidy.

Mrs [redacted] will keep records of the expenditure of all pension moneys received and this will be available on any future inspection.

There is every possibility that American interests may soon take over [redacted] and the present management will move to [redacted] some few miles to the north.

[redacted] - Previous visits to this station have revealed a very unsatisfactory situation. During my last visit in May this year, I was unable to identify, with any certainty, the pensioners here and for this reason, withhold comment.

Mr E. Johnson, the Superintendent, Department of Native Welfare in this area made a special trip to [redacted] to be present at this inspection and brought with him a native interpreter. I interviewed the following -

- Previously paid at Sherburn Station. Arrived at [redacted] about June and now living at [redacted] on an outstation of [redacted] Nil paid here to date.
- Direct payment being made to Individual Station who have been forwarding the cheques on to [redacted] since early December 1965. Payment suspended on my return.
- Pension suspended 15/4/65 for failure to return Form B. Restored 17/3/66. He is long overdue for a S.M.R. review and in my opinion is NOT P.L. Efforts have been made to enlist the co-operation of the station management to enable this review to be carried out but there has been no success so far.

- Pension suspended 23/10/65 for failure to return Form R. Would have been cancelled but file has been with me.
- Pension suspended 22/1/65 - failure to return Form R and cancelled on 6/1/66.
- E. & W. are living at [redacted], an outstation of [redacted]. Husband's pension is being paid. Wife's pension suspended 3/2/66 for failure to return Form R.
- A new claimant. Pension ready for grant.
- A new claimant. Pension ready for grant.

The manager, [redacted] was not available for interview when we first arrived but authorized me to interview the pensioners. I found the situation unchanged and the conditions of the pensioners just as bad as they had previously been. It was established that they receive some pocket money but I was unable to ascertain exactly how much. There was no evidence of any money in the camp at the time of my visit and I could find no food although we arrived just prior to what we thought would be lunch time.

Mr [redacted] subsequently made himself available for interview and produced what records he had for inspection. These consisted of the monthly petty cash statements showing the following pocket money payments:

\$15.00	
\$15.00	
\$15.00	
\$12.00	- cancelled 22/1/65
\$12.00	- suspended 23/10/65
\$12.00	

It appears that wages are paid monthly and pocket money is paid at this time. All of the pensioners, capable of any work are required to perform some duties.

Mr [redacted] also produced a small file on which he kept copies of correspondence forwarded to this Department. I also noted that on this file were the Forms R forwarded from this office which had caused the suspension and even cancellation of at least 2 pensions.

Questioned about maintenance, Mr [redacted] stated that the pensioners receive a weekly ration of

7 lbs flour
2 " sugar
4 " tea

They also receive as much meat as they require.

I challenged Mr [redacted] on the cost of maintaining the pensioners compared to the payment the station was receiving from this Department and stated that my investigation indicated they were not receiving anywhere near the value of their pensions. I then told him that until a satisfactory ration scale was provided and I could be assured that there would be an improvement in clothing issues, I would not be prepared to recommend the grant of [redacted] and [redacted] and would recommend the suspension of these pensions being paid to [redacted].

Mr [redacted] stated that without the authority of the owner, he neither could nor would vary the existing procedure. He further stated, however, that he would be in Derby within 3 or 4 weeks and would discuss a suitable action with and submit of keeping records with the Department of Native Welfare and would submit a report to the owner Mr [redacted] for his decision.

I am certain in my own mind that Mr [redacted] will authorize nothing and this Department will be faced with the following alternatives:

1. Granting the two applications pending - restoring these pensions under suspension and continuing payment to 9 pensioners under the existing conditions
- or
2. Suspending all payments at [redacted] and requesting the Department of Native Welfare to place these pensioners where they can be expected to receive the value of their pensions.

Although it appears a retrograde step, these pensioners and would-be pensioners are RM capable of managing their own affairs and should be unassisted cases.

I would appreciate your early direction in this matter.

[redacted] - I called at [redacted] to see Mr [redacted] the manager. I had with me cheques cashed on behalf of [redacted] after she had left [redacted] and had gone to Kuluigal and intended to arrange with him for the repayment of these moneys.

Unfortunately, Mr [redacted] was away. I interviewed Mr [redacted] the acting manager and confronted him with the evidence I had. He was not in a position to assist as he had no access to the books but he promised to present the facts to Mr [redacted] on his return.

Mr [redacted] to the bank at the station in approximately 2 weeks and the position will be resolved by correspondence.

[redacted] - On my return to Derby I arranged an interview with Mr H. [redacted] the owner of [redacted] station to discuss the refund of moneys from the station account to the pensioners' account.

In my previous report of 13 June, 1964, I calculated that there was an amount of \$1,500.00 to be refunded.

I presented the facts and the assessment of the over-payment to Mr [redacted] and he appeared to accept the position as stated. He requested a copy of the assessment so that he could go through it more thoroughly and this was made available to him. He has promised to write to this Department as soon as he has fully examined the position.

In the meantime he assured me that the moneys of the pensioners on [redacted] had been supplemented by the provision of kinned fruit.

Concerning the expenditure of the large balance in the pensioners' account, he stated that he would start at once to plan the erection of suitable toilets and ablutions for the pensioners at [redacted] and would explore every avenue to ensure that they received the full benefit of the moneys held.

Although Mr [redacted] has appeared to accept the situation put forward by this Department he is reputed to be a hard business man and I would be surprised to see him accept the position as stated without some form of protest, even though he gave no indication of this.

The second leg of the survey was planned to investigate the position in the Halls Creek area and in this I was accompanied by Mr E. Johnson, Superintendent, Department of Native Welfare, Derby.

[redacted] - This is a cattle station [redacted] of Halls Creek, managed by Mr [redacted]. He was away at Alice Springs at the time of our visit, but his wife provided the following particulars.

Payment is being received for one pensioner only - [redacted], but two other pensioners [redacted] and [redacted] are also living on the station at present. [redacted] a wife's allowance is there with him.

[redacted] received payment at [redacted] from 20 February, 1964 to 12 November 1964. Due to this pensioner becoming mixed up with one [redacted] of Christmas Creek payment was transferred from [redacted] to Christmas Creek on 26 November 1964. When the error was discovered repeated attempts were made to obtain information from the manager of [redacted] without success. The matter was finally resolved but in view of the unco-operative attitude of Mr [redacted] payment for [redacted] made on the Department of Native Welfare schedule Halls Creek and the G.L.C. was requested to provide for her needs and at the same time ascertain from [redacted] how much had been expended on her maintenance during the period payment was made at Christmas Creek.

Mrs [redacted] wrote to Department of Native Welfare, Halls Creek, and advised that the cost of maintaining pensioner during the period payment was made to Christmas Creek was \$528.00. She could produce no evidence of this expenditure.

Department of Native Welfare, received arrears of \$412.00 for [redacted] on 28 October, 1965 and have been accumulating pension at the rate of \$24.00 per fortnight since - a further \$276.00. They are therefore holding a total of \$708.00. [redacted] was out in the bush and not available for interview at the time of my visit.

[redacted] and his wife [redacted] left [redacted] early in December 1965 and went to [redacted] mission. They remained at [redacted] until approximately 14 April 1966 when they went to Start Creek. They left Start Creek and returned to [redacted] on 19 July 1966.

During the period 9 December 1965 - 17 March 1966, Mr [redacted] cashed their cheques. The cheques for 11 March 1966 and 14 April 1966 were returned and repaid. It has been established that for the period they were at [redacted] Mr [redacted] paid the Mission \$108.00 for the cost of their maintenance. He has been requested to refund to this Department the sum of \$298.00 received during this period, less the \$108.00 paid to [redacted].

It can be seen from the problems that have already arisen at [redacted] that the position is far from satisfactory. Mrs [redacted] appears a very competent and capable woman and

was genuinely interested in the constructive criticism I had to offer. I feel confident that if he was allowed to handle the pension affairs the situation could be resolved but correspondence received from her husband indicates that he could be very difficult to deal with.

Mrs [redacted] stated that pocket money is paid at the rate of \$10.00 'about' every 3 months but every time she goes to Halls Creek she spends about \$10.00 on the pensioners.

She produced a ration scale obviously just written out for my benefit which showed the following weekly issues -

4 lb tea
4 lbs sugar
Bread - (7 lbs flour when bread not available)
1 tin jam
1 bottle tomato sauce
1 tin fruit
2 cans tobacco
1 bar soap
10 lbs meat - sometimes cooked, sometimes fresh

She stated the cost of the ration was \$6.00.

Clothing she stated is issued on a replacement basis and this runs into 4 or 5 sets each year. In addition there is an annual issue of -

1 blanket
1 ground sheet
1 cardigan

Pension cheques are banked in a separate account at the Bank of New South Wales, Alice Springs and an annual adjustment is made with the station account. She has no idea of the present balance.

Mrs [redacted] stated that Mr A. Halton, Department of Native Welfare, Halls Creek, took 5 new applications during a visit 2 or 3 months ago, but a search has failed to reveal any of these claims. The Department of Native Welfare have been requested to look into this matter and have fresh claims completed as soon as possible.

She has indicated her willingness to keep proper records in future and impressed me with her apparent sincerity. If proof of this sincerity arrives in the form of a refund of \$100.00 in respect of [redacted] and [redacted] I believe she should be appointed warrantee for the 3 pensioners and 1 wife's allowance on [redacted] and advised what is expected of her. The arrears due to [redacted] less a reasonable amount of maintenance of say \$6.00 per week (i.e. half of the amount held) that is logically payable to the station, could be held, pending an application from the warrantee for its expenditure in any specified manner. There appears no alternative.

[redacted] - As Mr Johnson had business with [redacted] of [redacted], I took the opportunity of looking at the pensioners here.

A very comprehensive housing project is under way and some 30 houses are in the course of erection. Materials are iron frames with galvanized iron roofs and part sides with a second room enclosed to dado height with local sandstone. They appear to offer excellent accommodation and [redacted]

is anticipated they will all be completed during this wet - all will have roofs on prior to then.

During the 4 months [redacted] were at [redacted] they were paid pocket money of \$4.00 per week each and maintained as pensioners at a further cost of \$6.25 per week each. [redacted] was aware that they were pensioners as they were originally granted at [redacted]. When Mr [redacted] offered the \$100.00 as their maintenance for the period, he was not in a position to argue, as he gets all of his beef from [redacted] who have also contracted to supply him with breads over a 3 year period. Relations have been severely strained of late and he could not afford any further spots.

It seems reasonable therefore to adjust maintenance for [redacted] and [redacted] as follows:

13 weeks @ \$10.25	134.50
13 weeks @ \$6.00	78.00
	<u>212.50</u>
Less received from [redacted]	100.00
Payable	<u>\$112.50</u>

It is recommended that the amount of \$112.50 owing by [redacted] be paid to [redacted] when received.

[redacted] - This is [redacted] station managed by Mr [redacted] and was previously visited by Mr [redacted] and Mr [redacted] in November 1962. Conditions were considered excellent but at that time there was no housing provided for pensioners.

Housing has now been provided and there are 5 houses 20' x 12' with a 6' verandah in front and ventilated by 6 sets of glass louvers. They provide excellent accommodation and cost approximately \$900.00 each to build, free of labour charge.

Pocket money has been increased to \$4.50 per week, and the pensioners receive \$9.00 in cash every second Thursday. This is spent in the station store on tinned fruit, milk and fish. The manager's wife who handles the pensions stated that the pensioners on [redacted] were tinned fish addicts.

Maintenance is now charged at \$5.00 per week and the pensioners receive a substantial and varied diet as well as an excellent clothing issue.

The balance of the pension money is retained in a trust account and has been used to provide housing. There was a balance in this account at 11 July 1966 of \$222.94 and this will soon be used to erect another house.

Altogether there are 10 pensioners on [redacted] and they enjoy conditions that stations in far less remote localities have been unable to provide.

[redacted] - Following my discussions with the owner of [redacted] Station in May, I returned to ascertain the present position.

Since my previous visit, one pensioner has died - one has gone to reside on the Halls Creek reserve and only one remains on the station.

Payment for this pensioner, [redacted], has now been transferred to the Halls Creek schedule and arrangements have been made for her to receive her pocket money and maintenance weekly. It seems likely that she will shortly move to the Halls Creek reserve.

██████████ - Following my last visit in May, I was surprised and pleased with the improvement already evident.

Mrs ██████████ has made herself responsible for looking after the pensioners. She makes the ration issues and keeps a very satisfactory book record.

There is no set ration scale, although the basic requirements of flour, tea and sugar and beef are issued every week. Each week, Mrs ██████████ issues a ration that will provide variety, together with any other articles the pensioners may need.

The following are 3 weekly ration lists -

<u>20/5/56</u>	<u>2/7/56</u>	<u>23/7/56</u>
Flour 1.00	Flour 1.00	Flour 1.00
Sugar 30	Sugar 30	Sugar 30
Tea 40	Tea 40	Tea 40
Milk 30	Tobacco 30	Oranges 30
Fruit 30	Soap 30	Potatoes and onions 30
Tobacco 30	Milk 30	Hot sauce 30
Soap 40	Potatoes and onions 30	Biscuits 30
Matches 10	Eggs (3) 30	Soap 30
Sardines 20	Sardines 30	Tobacco 30
Oatmeal 30	Fruit 30	Vita Mints 30
Biscuits 30	Vicks 30	Milk 30
Hot. sauce 40	Aspro 20	Eggs (3) 30
Golden syrup 30	Meat 3.00	Baby powder 30
Shoes 2.50	Pillow slip 70	Vicks 30
Meat 3.00		Aspro 30
		Meat 3.00
<hr/> <u>11.30</u> <hr/>	<hr/> <u>9.10</u> <hr/>	<hr/> <u>20.00</u> <hr/>

Pocket Money

Pocket money is paid at £1.00 per week and the balance remaining after payment of this and the weekly issue, is retained as a credit in the pensioner's account. This will be used to provide them with money for the rice and other necessities or luxuries they may require from time to time.

The pocket money is not spent in the store and just disappears in the camp - gambling.

Rations are issued every Saturday apart from the meat which is issued each day.

I visited the pensioners and found them all in good health and very satisfied with the new owners. A search of their camps revealed large quantities of food together with such items as torches, plastic buckets and sandwiches issued to them in the previous weeks.

I am quite satisfied that the pensioners are being well cared for here. The piping Mr ██████████ had an order has now arrived at the station and water will be laid on to the pensioner's camp as soon as possible. The housing situation is far from good but this will take time to remedy.

Although pocket money is paid at only £1.00 per week these pensioners are receiving issues of the things they would normally buy with the money.

General comment

On this survey I felt I was received by managers and owners who were far more anxious to please than had been the case on previous visits. Without exception, I found every station I visited anxious to co-operate and books will now be kept for the first time in a number of instances.

This visit, following so closely on the previous survey of this area, was timed to perfection and I believe will bring a definite improvement in the conditions of the pensioners on many of the stations in the Kimberleys, apart from those actually visited.

I received the full support and co-operation of the Department of Native Welfare, at each station visited and would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr K. Johnson the Superintendent at Derby for his generous contribution to the success of the survey.


H. W. DAVIES
Special Magistrate.

Director-General:

Referred for your information.

It will be observed that investigations have been in the form of past visits as the survey had been conducted prior to receipt of your memorandum A.2876/281 of 7th September, 1966.

Whereas there are still many unsatisfactory features, indications point to a more co-operative attitude on the part of the managers and owners who were visited.

Based on your memo of 7th September, 1966 a letter has been prepared and will be despatched to all missions and pastoral stations advising that the new rate of pocket money is to be increased to \$4.50 a week (\$9.00 per fortnight). This should overcome the differences in payment which now exist between stations although it is expected that some objections will be received. The Commissioner of Native Welfare has been informed of the new arrangements.

The position at [REDACTED] is most unsatisfactory. I am awaiting further advice on the outcome of further discussions between the Manager and the Department of Native Welfare. In the meantime pensions at present suspended or cancelled will remain so, pending more satisfactory arrangements concerning the pensioners' well-being. If agreement cannot be reached promptly in this regard the Department of Native Welfare will probably arrange for the pensioners to be moved to a new location where their interests will be protected. This matter will be kept under constant notice and pensions restored as soon as possible.

Other matters requiring follow-up action at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will be kept under notice until satisfactory conclusions are reached.

7th September, 1966.

The Director of Social Services,
PERTH, W.A.

Pensions for Aborigines
Increase in Pocket Money.

As a result of the Amending legislation for 1966, the institutional rate of pension payable to pensioners in benevolent homes will be increased, in standard rate cases, from \$8.40 per fortnight to \$9.00 per fortnight.

2. Consequent upon this increase it is necessary to give consideration to the rate of pocket money payable to Aboriginal pensioners on Church Missions and pastoral properties in your State. In arriving at a decision in this matter full regard has been had to the information contained in Mr. Davies' report on his recent visit to the Kimberleys.

3. It is noted from the report that [redacted] Station apparently sets the pattern for other properties in the Kimberleys. Mr. Davies states that [redacted] are a law unto themselves. You advised by telegram that the rate of pocket money on [redacted] is \$2.00 a week.

4. This has led to the view that the Department must now take positive steps to substantially increase the rate of pocket money in your State.

5. Factors which influence this view are -

- (a) The Commonwealth has been paying pensions on most of these properties for over five years.
- (b) The Minister has stated that he hopes all Aborigines will receive their pensions direct in the not too distant future and that the Government is actively working towards that end. If the Government errs in this matter it would prefer to be too early rather than too late.
- (c) The minimum rate of pocket money in Queensland is being increased to \$9.00 per fortnight and in South Australia and the Northern Territory to \$11.00 per fortnight.
- (d) Section 137A and other references in the Act to Aborigines are being repealed.

6. It is accordingly desired that the rate of pocket money be increased to \$4.50 a week (\$9.00 per fortnight) on all pastoral properties in your State on which this rate does not already apply and that the balance of the pension then be accepted as being wholly absorbed for the pensioners' maintenance. When this has been done it will only be necessary on future visits to the properties for our Departmental officer to satisfy himself that the pensioners are receiving their correct rate of pocket money.

7. The rate of pocket money payable to Aborigines on all Church Missions should also be increased to \$9.00 per fortnight.

8. These increases should date from the appropriate pay-days on

which the general increases in pensions will operate.

9. Will you please advise the Commissioner of Native Welfare of this decision.

L.B. HAMILTON
Director-General
