

Attachment 1

Excerpts from State Records Office of WA, Consignment 3412, NDG 33/3/1a, 'Social Services. Pensions – general'

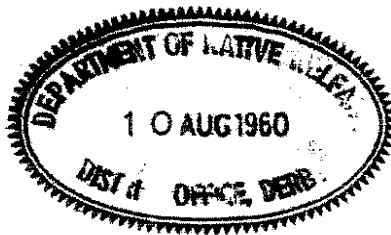
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

in replying please quote

ALL CORRESPONDENCE MUST BE
ADDRESSED TO

"THE DISTRICT OFFICER
OF NATIVE WELFARE"

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE



DISTRICT,

PLACE,

DATE,

INFORMATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF PERSONS ACTING AS WARRANTEES OR SUPERVISORS - NATIVE PENSIONS.

Your assistance has been sought in obtaining supervision of the pension monies being paid to an pensioner. In this regard the following notes are forwarded for your information and guidance.

For your protection it is essential to keep accurate records of all money received and expended. To this end the keeping of a note book is recommended in which is recorded the money received each fortnight, amount paid for stores (in conformity with suggested stores list attached, dockets to be supplied) or deducted for board, pocket money component, amount banked, toward clothing etc. and other payments - Hospital Benefit R.F.D.S. serial Ambulance sub. etc.

It is essential that a certain amount be given as pocket money each period, preferably in cash, however local conditions will indicate the best policy.

The joining of a Hospital Benefit Fund is essential for every Pensioner as they are responsible for the difference between their Commonwealth Benefit, and the Hospital account - generally about 8/- per day, consequently a high rate of contribution is not necessary.

Some form of savings to provide for clothing bedding etc. is necessary, and to this end the opening of a savings bank account in the pensioner's name is recommended. The operation of a trust account is not very successful as they depend on the trustee entirely and are not operable during their absence. The most satisfactory arrangement is a savings account in the pensioner's name, and they can be assisted to operate the account either by yourself or a Departmental officer as is necessary.

Where resident on a station it is highly desirable for the pensioner and family to join the "Ambulance Aeroplane Contributory Fund." At £1 per annum this is not expensive and provides adequate medical transport cover in the event of illness etc.

A suggested break-up of the money (full pension is £9.10.0. per two weeks) is as follows:

Board or stores, meat etc.	£5 - £6.
Pocket money	30/- - £2.
Bank	£2.

These figures cannot be taken as fixed as local conditions vary. They are a guide only.

Pocket money is to cover such extras as pictures, sweets, tobacco etc. and Bank is to cover clothing, bedding, Hospital Benefits etc.

Pensioners are allowed to earn a limited amount without affecting their pension.

Upon reference to the local office, you will be provided with details.

In conclusion it is wished to emphasise that every co-operation and assistance will be given you by the local Native Welfare Officer in overcoming any problems or difficulties which you may encounter.

Suggested fortnightly list of stores per person for Pensioners where alternative keep is not available.

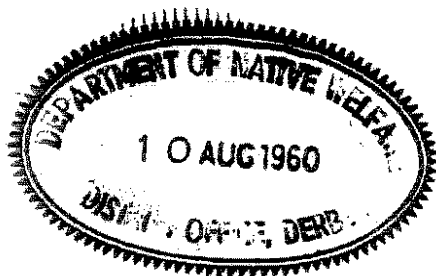
- 3 lb. sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea
- 1 tin Salmon
- 2 tins Sardines
- 1 tin Lamb and Peas
- 2 tins Corned mutton
- 2 tins Camp Pie
- 2 lb. Dripping
- 5 lb. Potatoes
- 1 tin Peaches 16 oz.
- 1 tin Pears 16 oz.
- 2 tins nestles cream (small)
- 1 tin Uncle Tobys Oats or similar
- 1 tin Jam
- 2 small tins sunshine milk
- 2 cakes Palmolive soap
- 1 packet Cheese or block
- 2 lb. Rice
- 1 tin baking powder - Anchor Brand
- 14 lb. Plain Flour (or S.R. if preferred)
- 2 lb. onions
- $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. cooking salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. oranges
- 1 lb. apples

NOTE

Fresh meat is additional to the above suggested stores list.

It is wished to emphasise that this list is not binding and may be altered where a particular item is not favoured. Its purpose is to provide a balanced diet of foods that are required by elderly people without incurring waste.

Noted :- *M.M.H.*
10/8/60



DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.Northern District,
Derby.

29th December 1960.

The Commissioner of Native Welfare,
PERTH.

SUBJECT : Warrantees for Native Pensioners.

REFERENCE : Your DNW. 373/57 of 16th December 1960.

Submitted herewith is the list requested. Without inquiry from individual Warrantees the method of payment cannot be assessed as the information is not contained on the Notification of Grant.

NAME, ADDRESS & OCCUPATION OF WARRANTEE.	WARRANTEE FOR	METHOD MONIES REC.
[REDACTED] Station, [REDACTED]	1	not known.
Superintendent, Balgo Mission.	3	Schedule.
Mrs. [REDACTED] Broome. - Housewife.	3	not known.
Mr. F. [REDACTED], Mornington Station, Manager.	3	"
Mr. N. [REDACTED], Tableland Station.	2	"
Mr. T. [REDACTED], Springvale Station, Owner.	1	"
Mr. R. [REDACTED], Mt. House Station.	1	"
Mr. F. [REDACTED], Gibb River Station.	2	"
[REDACTED] andowns Station.	1	"
Mr. F. [REDACTED], Carlton Station, Manager.	1	"
The Manager, Christmas Creek Station.	3	"
[REDACTED] E, Brooking Springs Station, Manager.	1	"
[REDACTED] H, Glenroy Station, Owner.	2	"
The Manager, Kimberley Downs Station.	1	"
[REDACTED] H, Halls Creek, Road Board Sec.	2	"
The Manager, Yeeda Station.	2	"
[REDACTED] Y, Wyndham, Priest.	3	"
Mr. J. [REDACTED] N, Texas Station, Manager.	2	"

H.R. Tilbrook.
District Welfare Officer - Northern.

Director:

Subject: Survey of Aboriginal Pensioners with special attention to [redacted] and [redacted] Stations.

Area: Pastoral stations in the Kimberley district

Distance Travelled: By air - 3,550 miles
By vehicle - 2,150 miles

Advice was received on 24th March, 1965 from Mr. [redacted] a late owner of [redacted] Station, that he had been provisioning 14 pensioners at [redacted] since 29th November, 1964 and if this was to continue he would require financial assistance from this Department.

An effort was made to arrange an immediate interview with Mr. [redacted] at the station, but as the air-strip was unserviceable, this was impossible. A cyclonic disturbance in the area washed out a second attempt to reach [redacted], early in April.

It was then agreed that a visit should be made as soon as possible and at that time the opportunity should be taken to inspect other stations in the Kimberley area.

I contacted Mr. G. Cornish, the Superintendent of the Department of Native Welfare at Derby and arranged to proceed by air to Derby on 2nd May, 1965. He was requested to charter an aircraft to fly into [redacted] on 4th May, 1965. On arrival at Derby, I ascertained that Mr. [redacted] was no longer at [redacted] and had returned to Wyndham. The station had been sold to the [redacted] and would be managed by Mr. [redacted], who had come out from [redacted] for that purpose. Mr. [redacted] was also at present in Wyndham.

In company with Mr. G. Cornish of the Department of Native Welfare I proceeded to Wyndham and on Saturday, 8th May, 1965 held a joint meeting with Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted]. Mr. Cornish and Mr. D. Roberts, Ass. Superintendent, Department of Native Welfare, Wyndham were present at this meeting held in the D.N.W. office.

The positions of Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] were stated to be as follows :

Mr. [redacted] -

1. He was the original leaseholder at [redacted] and although the property was sold under contract to Mr. [redacted], the leases were still registered in his name.
2. Having heard that [redacted] was in the process of being sold to the [redacted] he returned to the station to protect his own interests.
3. He returned to [redacted] on 27th November, 1964 and remained there until 14th April, 1965.
4. During this period, he provided food and clothing for all of the natives on the station at a total cost to himself of £536.16.0. This amount was expended as follows :

(a) 14 pensers @ £1.7.0 p.w. each	p.w.	£324.18.0.
(b) Mr. [redacted] and 5 stockmen @ £1.7.0/each		158.18.0.
(c) 2 other natives @ £1.7.0 p.w. each		53. 0.0.
		<u>£536.16.0.</u>

5. He produced a statement of expenditure covering this amount of £536.16.0 and advised that receipts and documents in support of this statement has been forwarded to his solicitors, Messrs. Jackson McDonald & Co., I have no reason to doubt that this expense was incurred.
6. Messrs. Jackson, McDonald & Co. were requested to make a claim for the full amount of £536.16.0 on Mr. [REDACTED]. I advised Mr. [REDACTED] that until such time as the result of this action was known, this Department could not consider any re-imbursment of moneys spent on pensioners' maintenance. I also advised him that in the event of his solicitors refusing to proceed in this action, on the grounds that he could not succeed, or in the event of the action being lost, this Department would re-imburse him for all moneys expended on the maintenance of the pensioners at [REDACTED] during the period 27th November, 1964 - 11th April, 1965.

Mr. [REDACTED] is a man of approximately 75 years. He appears genuinely concerned with the welfare of the natives on [REDACTED], but I consider his main reason for returning, was to protect his financial interest in the station. The natives themselves appear to have a genuine affection for him.

I contacted Messrs. Jackson McDonald & Co. by telephone and Mr. Warner advised that Mr. [REDACTED] had no claim whatever against Mr. [REDACTED]. They had, however, submitted a request for re-imbursment of the moneys expended (£536.16.0) to Mr. [REDACTED] through his solicitors, Stone James & Co. and he would advise this Department of the outcome.

Mr. [REDACTED] -

1. He arrived in Australia early in April to manage [REDACTED] station for [REDACTED].
2. He and his wife went to [REDACTED] soon after their arrival, but because of the dilapidated condition and filthiness of the homestead and the lack of transport on the station, they returned to Wyndham.
3. His son came to Perth to take delivery of a four wheel drive pick-up truck and is at present on his way back to Wyndham. As soon as he arrives they will both return to the station. The only vehicle on the station at present, is a tractor.
4. On the 24th April, 1965 Mr. [REDACTED] chartered an aircraft and took a load of provisions into [REDACTED] to provide sustenance for all of the natives there until his return. He also gave them permission to kill one bullock a week to provide them with fresh meat during this period.
5. He is keen to co-operate fully with this Department in doing what he can for the pensioners. He will keep a record of all receipts and disbursements of pension moneys and will act in accordance with our wishes. He pointed out that it would not be possible to introduce a comprehensive ration scale at once, as more urgent things must have priority, but assured me that the pensioners would receive flour, meat, tea, sugar and tobacco until such time as he could make suitable arrangements for the provisioning of his store. He anticipated that all pensioners could be receiving a special ration within 4 or 5 weeks and requested me to forward a suitable ration scale for his guidance, as soon as possible. Until he establishes a store there will be no avenue for the expenditure of pocket money and I

advised him to make no payment for the present. He will proceed with pensioner housing as soon as there is sufficient pension money available for this purpose and will contact Department of Native Welfare regarding the type of houses to be erected. They in turn will contact this Department.

Mr. [redacted] is a quietly spoken [redacted] who impressed me with the apparent sincerity of his statements. He was not prepared to make promises of great things either to myself or Mr. Cornish but indicated that he would do what he could, as time permitted, to see that the pensioners were properly cared for. He fully understands his duties and responsibilities as a warrantee for this Department. He wants a native labour force on [redacted] and understands the role of the old people in the native community.

I advised him that I would recommend to the Director that pension payment be restored from pay-day 29th April, 1965. He should only debit against pension funds, the actual cost of goods supplied to pensioners and the balance should be retained in a separate trust account for the provision of housing and other lasting benefits.

On Sunday 9th May, 1965 Mr. [redacted], Mr. [redacted], Mr. Cornish, Mr. Roberts and I flew into [redacted] station, where we inspected the native pensioners and their general conditions.

The following were identified as the only pensioners on [redacted]

It was also established that pensioner, [redacted] departed [redacted] on 9th April, 1965 for hospitalization in Derby. He will return when well enough. These 8 pensioners have all been on [redacted] since 27th November, 1964.

A further 8 aged natives were interviewed but could not be identified as pensioners. These too, were provisioned by Mr. [redacted] who believed them to be in receipt of assistance from this Department.

It was positively established that Mr. [redacted] provided these 16 natives, together with the stock boys, with food and clothing over a lengthy period and it can reasonably be accepted that this period was 27th November, 1964 to 11th April, 1965.

The present native camp is sited some 1½ miles south of the homestead, alongside permanent water. The 16 natives interviewed occupy 5 tents, 1 iron hut and 4 native style camps. The area is well shaded by tall trees and is ideally situated. The stock boys, occupy separate quarters close to the homestead.

Recommended

1. That the matter of re-imbursment to Mr. [redacted] be deferred for the present pending the outcome of his present claim on [redacted].

- 2. Should this claim prove unsuccessful, then this Department accept responsibility for moneys expended by Mr. [redacted] on the pensioners at [redacted]

This might be accepted as being

$$\frac{8}{14} \times \frac{324.18.0}{1} = £185.13.0.$$

- 3. That the pensions of those 7 pensioners at present resident at [redacted] be restored from 29th April, 1965 and that Mr. [redacted] be appointed as warrantee.
- 4. That a further inspection be made in 3 months time and provided Mr. [redacted] has honoured his promises and the pensioners are receiving the full benefit of their pensions, some consideration be given to making arrears of pension available to finance a pensioners' housing project at [redacted].

STATIONS VISITED

Vi. Hart:

I visited [redacted] in the company of Mr. K. Morgan, Department of Native Welfare, Derby. As there was no-one at the station during my last visit, I was anxious to observe the conditions of the pensioners here.

Payment was being made to 9 pensioners on schedule; a total of £193 per fortnight. The owner of the station, Mr. [redacted] was receiving payment as warrantee.

Mr. [redacted] was not present at the time of my visit and I was conducted over the property by Mr. [redacted], the station manager.

Pocket Money - Mr. [redacted] advised that as far as he was aware the pensioners had never received any cash payments. At no time had he made any payment of pocket money to the pensioners. Mr. [redacted] was usually present at the station from April to November and could have paid pocket money but he was not aware of any. A discussion with the pensioners indicated that at no time had they received any money.

Clothing - At no time has Mr. [redacted] issued any clothing to the pensioners. He stated that he believes Mr. [redacted] sometimes brings clothes with him when he returns to the station after the wet and quoted an instance when he personally got a very nice child's dress from this source. My interview with the pensioners revealed that Mr. [redacted] has provided no clothes whatever. Questioned regarding clothes they were wearing, they intimated that these were charitable gifts from stock boys and other friends. There was little decent clothing in the camp.

Housing - This is completely non-existent and the pensioners live in native wurlies.

Maintenance - Mr. [redacted] produced the following ration scale and stated this was issued to each pensioner every Saturday.

- 25 lbs flour
- 3 tins jam (treacle or golden syrup)
- 1-lb tea
- 3-lbs sugar
- 1 1/2 tins powdered milk

3-lbs rolled oats
 2-lbs rice
 2 sticks tobacco
 Soap
 Salt
 20-lbs meat
 Fresh vegetables - potatoes and onions - as available
 Baking powder
 Matches

There appears little doubt that the pensioners are rationed, but I am not prepared to accept that they receive the above items. I could find no trace of anything except tea, sugar, flour and meat in the camp and my visit was on a Tuesday. The pensioners themselves appear quite satisfied with the food they receive but could not give me full details of their ration.

They have never received any blankets from Mr. [REDACTED].

General - During my visit to [REDACTED] in April, 1963, I had a full discussion with Mr. [REDACTED] regarding his responsibilities as a warrantee. He was profuse in his promises to provide the pensioners on [REDACTED] with food, clothing and shelter of a standard acceptable to this Department. He has done nothing, except keep them alive.

At the present time the pensioners are living approximately 2 miles from the homestead in an area that is inaccessible to a vehicle and necessitating a hazardous journey on foot for some 150 yards. I consider the only pensioner capable of reaching the homestead on foot is [REDACTED]. The pensioners in the camp are cared for by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the latter being a fairly sophisticated non-pensioner native, capable of making himself understood. I estimate that there are at least 100 dogs in the camp.

Being able-bodied, both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are required to attend at the homestead daily and are employed, watering and chopping wood.

A check of the pensioners at the camp revealed that [REDACTED] for whom payment is still being made, died about 1st January, 1964. Enquiries reveal she died about the middle of the 1963/64 wet and the Department of Native Welfare have accepted 1st January, 1964 as the date of death. There appears to be an overpayment of approximately £400 to be recovered in this instance.

It also revealed that [REDACTED] for whom payment is still being made, left [REDACTED] station on 28th September, 1964 and arrived at [REDACTED] on 29th September, 1964 where she stayed until 16th April, 1965. She is now at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were not aware she was a pensioner. There appears to be another overpayment of approximately £200 to be recovered in this case also.

Mr. [REDACTED] is at present in Melbourne and I have written to him requesting him to call at this office on his way to [REDACTED]. I have ascertained that the weekly rations claimed to be issued to the pensioners can be purchased retail in Derby at a cost of £2.14.7. Allowing a further 2/- per lb for meat it means that food alone is charged at £4.14.7 per week which is out of all proportion to other stations in more remote areas.

Pensioner [REDACTED] died on 15th February, 1965 and Mr. [REDACTED] was requested by Department of Native Welfare to advise if she had any estate.

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His reply - "The above pensioner had not any estate that I am aware of" - indicates that he holds no pension money on behalf of the pensioners.

I would appreciate your direction on the course to be taken in this matter.

Flora Valley

This is a cattle station out of Halls Creek, owned by Vestrys and managed by Mr. McLachlan.

Payment is made on schedule to 15 pensioners and a comprehensive set of books is kept by the station book-keeper.

Pocket Money - This is paid at the rate of 30/- per week and is used to purchase luxury items such as fruit, biscuits, etc. in the station store. Occasionally the pensioners save portion of this and spend it in Halls Creek.

Maintenance - The following rations are issued to each pensioner weekly at a cost of £2.7.6.

- 7-lbs flour
- 3-oz. tea
- 1-lb sugar
- 2-lb rice
- 1 tin fruit
- 6-oz. milk
- 1 tin golden syrup
- 3-oz tobacco
- 1 pkt. matches
- 1 bar of soap
- Soda
- Cream of tartar
- Meat as required.

An inspection of the food held by each pensioner indicated that this is a genuine issue.

The pensioners cook and eat in the camp and are well fed.

Clothing - This is issued on a replacement basis and is charged against each separate ledger account. Blankets are similarly issued.

The pensioners are well clothed.

Housing - All pensioners are housed in substantial iron-framed galvanized iron huts that provide excellent accommodation. All have beds and mattresses.

Wood is supplied to the camp area free of charge.

There are no toilets or ablutions in the camp area and water is carted approximately 200 yards.

General - The pensioners here enjoy good conditions and I am satisfied they receive the full benefit of their pensions. They each have bank credits ranging from £75 to £130.

[REDACTED]

This is a cattle station out of [REDACTED], managed by Mr. [REDACTED]. At the time he took over, about September, 1964, there were 4 pensioners receiving warrantee payment, but 2 recently went to [REDACTED], leaving only 2 at [REDACTED]. The Department is at present trying to locate the previous

warrantee, Mrs. [REDACTED] to obtain details of the expenditure of pension moneys she received. To date she has not been located.

Pocket Money - This is paid at the rate of only 10/- per week. One pensioner is totally blind and cannot handle any money and the others in the camp spend it for her. The other has no conception of the value of money and I consider 10/- is sufficient for her to "waste" each week.

Maintenance - At a cost of £3.10.0 per week each pensioner receives the following weekly ration.

- 10-lbs flour
- 4-lbs sugar
- 1/2-lb tea
- 1 piece washing soap
- 1 piece toilet soap
- 2 sticks tobacco
- 1 pkt. matches
- 1 tin fruit
- 1 tin milk
- 1-lb porridge
- 1-tin meat
- 1 tin fish
- 1 tin jam or golden syrup
- 1 pkt biscuits
- Meat is provided as required - both fresh and salt beef

Bread is available from the kitchen as required.

The station has its own vegetable garden and the pensioners also receive pumpkin, beans, tomatoes and melons as available.

A check of the food held by each pensioner made it obvious that this list is genuinely issued. The pensioners eat well.

Clothing - Issued on a replacement basis and charged to each pensioner.

Housing - The pensioners occupy crude but tidy bough shelters. Mr. [REDACTED] will build houses for each as soon as finance is available.

There are no toilets or ablutions in the camp area.

General: Mr. [REDACTED], a young man, appears competent and considerate. He is at present holding a total of £208 for the 2 pensioners. (£116 for one and £92 for the other) and as soon as sufficient is accumulated he will build houses. His wife keeps a set of books and all pension money can now be accounted for.

[REDACTED]

A special visit was paid to [REDACTED] to look at the new pensioners' dining room.

It is quite a large imposing structure (see colour transparency).

It is occupied by all 5 pensioners on the station and the manager has given up hope of it being used as a dining room.

It was in a filthy condition and because of the stench inside, I was forced to retire.

Mr. [redacted] ordered an immediate cleaning up of the whole area and I have no doubt this will be done, but how long it will remain clean is another matter.

As in the case of other [redacted] stations, it is difficult to find real fault with their food, clothing and shelter. They do, however, completely lack any form of supervision.

[redacted]

This is a cattle station owned by Mrs. [redacted]. She receives schedule payment for 9 pensioners - a total of £135 per fortnight.

Pocket Money - This is paid monthly at the same time as the station wages. Five pensioners receive £1 per month and 4 receive £4 per month. When the position was explained to Mrs. [redacted] she agreed to pay £1. per week to all pensioners in future.

Maintenance - Pensioners receive a basic diet of meat and bread and together with lodging, this is charged at 15/- per week. In addition they receive regular twice weekly issues of tinned fruit, tinned meat, fruit, biscuits, jam etc. from the store and from my observations, do very well.

No separate record is kept for each pensioner, but all receive an equivalent food ration. They also receive cow's milk from the station herd.

Clothing - Pensioners are extremely well dressed. Clothing is issued as required and charged against the pensioners account.

Housing - Although somewhat unimaginative, this is adequate and has been in existence some time. Iron or stone hute house all of the pensioners and an excellent kitchen and dining room adjoin them. A solid ablution block and toilets make this an excellent native settlement. Electric light is also provided.

General - The incidence of pensioners and others coming from the showers in clean clothes indicate that here at least the natives have benefited from the pensions paid to them. They are the cleanest group I have encountered.

Mrs. [redacted] does not keep a separate record for each pensioner but is holding a total of approximately £600 for them. She will keep separate records in future.

[redacted]

This is a sheep and cattle station owned by Mr. [redacted]. He was not present during my visit so I interviewed his wife.

There are 6 pensioners here, all of whom receive direct payment.

They are charged £4 per week board and lodging and receive 3 meals a day, cooked in the kitchen and eaten in their camp some 100 yards away. They appear to be well fed and enjoy a varied diet.

The balance of pension is given to them as a credit in the station store and here they purchase the usual tinned fruit, biscuits, etc. They also pay for their clothes from this £2. per week.

Nothing is saved.

Their housing consists of 1 hut approximately 20' x 45' with a 10' verandah and 4 shutters providing good ventilation in a moderately filthy condition - 1 tent and 1 bush shelter. There is another large bush timber thatched hut in the course of erection.

Showers and toilets are provided.

Although Mrs. [REDACTED] states that all pensioners understand the value of money I have my reservations regarding this.

In future she will cash their cheques and give them the cash and then make them pay for board and lodging, etc.

She will also encourage banking.

[REDACTED]

In view of my previous adverse report on this station, I took the opportunity of looking at it again after a 2 year interval.

The only difference was the increase in the pocket money paid to the pensioners, from 25/- to £2 (occasioned by the rise 15/- per week pensions) and the accumulation of bones, old cans, etc. in the pensioners' camp.

The 5 pensioners at [REDACTED] still receive direct payment and have received little or no benefit from their pensions since grant.

Mowanjan Mission

I also paid a visit to Mowanjan Mission and was pleased at the progress being made.

A new ablution and toilet block which will be available to the pensioners is in the process of erection at a cost of approximately £2,000. It will provide 10 showers and 8 hand-basins (half each for men and women) 5 coppers and 5 wash troughs as well as a urinal and water closet. It is not anticipated that any of the cost will be borne by the pensioners. See plan attached.

In addition, all of the pensioner housing is being renovated. White ant infested timbers are being replaced, the floors are to be cemented and all will be painted.

New chrome chairs and formica topped tables have been provided in the pensioners dining room.

I spoke with the pensioners and they are very happy here.

Forrest River Mission

I was requested while in the area, to attend a meeting of the new Forrest River Mission committee at Kummurra at 7.30 p.m. on 7th May, 1965. This on the spot group of local church men have taken over the administration of the Forrest River Mission and will be responsible for its future welfare.

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of this committee and a copy of a subsequent letter to the Department of Native Welfare are attached for your information and I have arranged for a copy of the minutes of the meeting I attended to be forwarded to this Department. These will clearly set out the present position.

I am confident that the position of this Department as far as the future development of the Forrest River Mission is concerned, is clearly understood.

Mr. Alan Hague, the treasurer of this new committee, will be in Perth shortly and I have invited him to call in and meet you and discuss the full position with you.

General comment:

The general position of native pensioners in the Kimberley area remains unchanged. Those on good stations interested in pensioners' welfare, are benefiting greatly, but those whose tribal customs require them to live in areas where the station management has no real interest in them, still continue in the same primitive way as they have done for many years. Furthermore, as they know no other way, they are quite content and even happy with this mode of living. Without guidance neither they, nor the generation that follows them, will gain any appreciation of the value of a pension payment or what comforts it can provide, and the pension money will continue to be absorbed by the stations.

Mr. Cornish, on this trip, has been able to see firsthand the problems that confront this Department as well as his own and I am sure will do everything within the scope of his authority to remedy them. How far he can go will rest with his Department but I believe that without our support the improvement will be limited.

I would like to state my appreciation of the support and co-operation given by Mr. Cornish during this inspection and to thank him for his excellent companionship over 1,900 very dusty miles.

(M. E. DAVIES)
Special Magistrate
19th May, 1965

Director:

The position of the native pensioners on [redacted] Station is as follows -

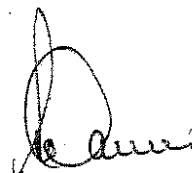
1. Following an overpayment of £367.10.0 caused by Mr. [redacted] failure to advise this Department of the movement of pensioners from his station and the death of one, [redacted] some doubt arose as to whether the pension money being paid to Mr. [redacted] was being spent for the pensioners' benefit.
2. On 4th February, 1964 he promised to forward a detailed statement of how the pension moneys were disbursed, give a list of rations, cost, clothes and pocket money. The officer who interviewed him, believed a very careful survey should be made when the station was visited.
3. A statement showing the cost per pensioner for food, clothing and general services as £6.0.5 per week, was received at the end of February, 1964. This statement was not acceptable to this Department.

A visit was made to [redacted] on 25th April, 1964. Mr. [redacted] was not present, but from investigation and information given by the head stockman, Mr. [redacted], it was established

- (a) Only 5 pensioners were resident on the station although payment was being made for 12.
- (b) No pocket money had been paid since September, 1963. There was no evidence that pocket money had ever been paid.
- (c) The pensioners lived in native-style camps.
- (d) There were no toilets or ablutions.
- (e) There was no evidence that they had received any clothing or blankets.
- (f) The weekly ration issued consisted of
 - 7½-lbs flour
 - 2 pannickers of sugar
 - 2 " " tea
 - 4-lbs salt meat
 - 1 plug of tobacco
 - The bones and offal of 1 beast killed periodically.

5. Pension payment at [redacted] was suspended from 30th April, 1964.
6. On 1st May, 1964 Mr. [redacted] was interviewed at this office and the interviewing officer stated "The whole interview was most unsatisfactory". Mr. [redacted] did not deny that the conditions at [redacted] were as stated.
7. Since this last interview every effort has been made to have Mr. [redacted] provide a detailed statement of the expenditure of pension moneys received by him. This was finally received on 13th May, 1965.
8. An initial examination of this statement indicates that the position is most unsatisfactory. This matter will be followed up.

9. The station was again visited in May, 1965. For the period November, 1964 to April, 1965, Mr. [redacted], the original owner of [redacted] maintained the pensioners on the station. He claimed an amount of £1.7.0. per pensioner per week for this service and was paid £185.13.0 on 1st June, 1965 in full settlement of his claim.
10. Payment of pension was restored from 29th April, 1965 for the 7 pensioners still on the station. Mr. [redacted], the new manager, was to have been appointed warrantee but as his employers have instructed him to remain in Wyndham for the present, the Assistant Superintendent, Department of Native Welfare, Wyndham is acting as warrantee and arranging the maintenance of the pensioners. The Department of Native Welfare have been requested to advise this Department how this is being done. No pocket money is being paid.
11. A total of £9,951.16.3 was paid to Mr. [redacted] for the period 1st January, 1962 to 16th April, 1964.


(M.E. DAVIES)
Special Magistrate
1st July, 1965

2nd July, 1965

The Commissioner of Native Welfare,
250 Adelaide Terrace,
PERTH W.A.

Dear Mr. Gare,

Aboriginal Pensioners

When the Commonwealth Government extended pension rights to aboriginal natives, without discrimination, it was necessary to ask many pastoral station owners and managers to assist in the disbursement of pension to native pensioners.

You are aware that for some time officers of this department have been visiting pastoral stations and missions to observe progress and assess improvements in the living standards of native pensioners following the grant of pensions. Reports on these visits reveal that on some pastoral stations pensioner natives are receiving less than reasonable benefit from the moneys being paid out on their behalf.

Recently, with the co-operation of officers of your department, a survey was made of a number of pastoral stations in the Kimberley area. The situation disclosed in the resultant report, copy of which was forwarded to you, and a further supplementary statement (copy attached) is disturbing.

You will recall the trouble the department has had with [redacted], another pastoral station in this area. There is evidence that for years the native pensioners at [redacted] have received little benefit from their pensions. The position was so bad that payment of pension had to be suspended.

In reporting to the Director-General of Social Services after the last surveys I commented as follows :-

"It is becoming increasingly apparent that many native pensioners residing on stations are not receiving anywhere near the full value of their pension.

The responsibility lies with station warrantees who are supposed to be disbursing the pension for the good of the pensioners as agents for this department.

It seems that some warrantees regard the pension as a form of station subsidy and consider that they are entitled to restrict the value of the benefits flowing to the pensioners for various reasons. One being that wages paid to native station workers will not show adversely by comparison.

The effect is that instead of Commonwealth pension moneys benefiting the pensioner only, they are undeservedly and unnecessarily benefiting the station

2nd July, 1965

to the extent to which value is withheld from the pensioner.

Obviously, some of the Agents appointed are not exercising their trust as the department intended,....."

The Director-General was naturally extremely concerned at the situation disclosed and took the opportunity when in Perth a few days ago to discuss the matter briefly with yourself and the State Under-Treasurer.

You will appreciate that it is not possible for this department to adequately police the expenditure of pensions by and on behalf of aboriginal natives. In fact, there is no requirement by law that it should do so. The responsibility for the welfare of all aboriginal natives including those receiving pensions, seems to rest with your department.

Would you please advise me whether your department is prepared to accept appointment as trustee for the receipt and disbursement of pensions payable to aborigines in the Northern Division and in such other places as may be requested from time to time. The acceptance of this responsibility by your department would bring Western Australia into line with other States of the Commonwealth.

If you are agreeable there can be detailed discussions between our departmental officers to determine ways and means.

I look forward to your reply.


(F.W. HUMPHREYS)

Director

Att.

STATION

This station was first visited in April, 1963. The property had been purchased only a short time before by Mr. [REDACTED]

Only one pensioner was receiving payment at [REDACTED], but during the visit applications were completed on behalf of 8 other obviously eligible natives. These were all subsequently granted pensions.

At that time the 8 claimants were near nude, emaciated bush natives who had wandered into the station and were camped some mile or two from the homestead.

Mr. [REDACTED] agreed to act as warrantee and was fully acquainted with his responsibilities in this regard. He appeared anxious to co-operate with this department and outlined plans for the future housing and general welfare of all pensioners on [REDACTED]

A proposed visit in April, 1964 was deferred as there was nobody at the station, apart from the pensioners.

It was ascertained from the head-stockman Mr. [REDACTED] what

- (a) The pensioners were still living as they were when they walked out of the bush 12 months previously.
- (b) They were receiving rations of meat, flour, tea and sugar.
- (c) These were issued by whoever happened to be at the station.
- (d) No pocket money was paid during Mr. [REDACTED] absence.

A further visit in May, 1965 disclosed -

- (a) The pensioners were still camped in the bush some 2 miles from the homestead, in filthy conditions.
- (b) There was no evidence that they had ever been issued with clothes.
- (c) There was no evidence that they had ever received any pocket money.
- (d) There had been nothing expended on housing.
- (e) Toilets and ablutions, like the housing, was non-existent.
- (f) Pensioners were rationed but the ration scale produced was beyond reason and could not be accepted as genuine.
- (g) Of 9 pensioners appearing on the schedule of payment only 6 could be found and it was established
 - (i) One died 1st January, 1964
 - (ii) One left [REDACTED] 28th September, 1964
 - (iii) One died 15th February, 1965

This Department had not been advised.

Action is proceeding to obtain a full accounting for all pension moneys paid to Mr. [REDACTED].

STATION

This station was first visited in April, 1963. Payment was being made by schedule for 5 pensioners.

The station is owned by [REDACTED] and is managed by Mr. [REDACTED]

The homestead had only recently been established at this new site and building was still in progress.

Investigations revealed -

- (a) Pensioner housing was non-existent
- (b) Pocket money was being paid at the rate of 10/- per week
- (c) Rations were issued weekly at a cost of £4.15.0 per week. The ration scale was not available. Although meals for the stockmen were prepared in the kitchen, the pensioners cooked their own.
- (d) There were no toilets or ablutions and the only water was some 50 yards away.
- (e) Clothing was issued on a minimum replacement basis.

On 9th April, 1964 an amount of £700.14.4 was paid to [REDACTED] from pension moneys held, as re-imbusement for the cost of erecting a dining room on the station, that would be used by the pensioners.

A further visit in May, 1965 revealed that the "dining" room was being used as the living quarters for all 5 pensioners. It was in a disgustingly filthy condition and it was quite apparent that the pensioners receive no supervision.

Good toilets and ablutions had been erected in the camp.

Further enquiries are being made to ascertain -

- (a) The present ration scale and the weekly cost to each pensioner.
- (b) The cost of all other items provided for the pensioners.
- (c) The present pocket money component
- (d) The intention of the station management regarding the provision of housing for the pensioners.

STATION

This station was first visited in April, 1963. Direct payment was then being made to 6 pensioners stated to be capable of handling their own money.

The station is owned by Mr. [REDACTED] and is managed by Mr. [REDACTED]

It was established -

- (a) Pocket money was paid at the rate of £2.10.0 per fortnight. This was paid from the station petty cash.
- (b) Balance of the pension £4. per week was retained for maintenance.
- (c) Meat is issued 3 times a week and in addition receive a weekly issue of 7 lbs flour, 2 lbs sugar and $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb tea. Rations are cooked and eaten in the camp.
- (d) Clothing is issued on a replacement basis. Obviously minimum.
- (e) One large Nissen hut was available for accommodation but the pensioners occupied filthy native camps.
- (f) There were no toilets or ablutions provided.
- (g) These pensioners were not handling their own money although they were direct payment cases.

A further visit in May, 1965 revealed -

- (a) The pocket money had been increased to £2. per week.
- (b) The camp was filthier than ever.

Nothing else had changed.

STATION

This station was first visited in November, 1962. Payment was being made to 12 pensioners by schedule.

It is a [REDACTED] station managed by Mr. [REDACTED]

Investigation revealed -

- (a) Pocket money was paid at 10/-d per week.
- (b) Food and clothing were provided at a cost of \$8. per month. The ration appeared meagre.
- (c) Balance of pension money was held as a ledger balance for each pensioner. There was a total of \$1,680. being held in credit.
- (d) The pensioners were living in poor style native conditions with no houses, toilets or ablutions.
- (e) A housing project was under way and houses were in the process of being pre-fabricated at [REDACTED] Station, for erection at [REDACTED].

A further visit in May, 1965 revealed:

- (a) Pocket money had been increased to 30/- per week.
- (b) Food is now charged at \$2,7.6. per week. The previous ration had been supplemented by

- 1-lb sugar
- 1 tin fruit
- 1-lb rice
- 1-oz. tobacco
- 1/2 bar soap
- Soda and cream of tartar

The issue of dried milk had been reduced from 12-ozs to 6-ozs and 1-lb of peas had been deleted.

- (c) All pensioners are housed in substantial iron-framed galvanized iron huts. All have beds and mattresses.
- (d) All pensioners have book credits ranging from \$75 to \$130.
- (e) There are still no toilets and ablutions and the nearest water is approximately 200 yards away.

113
3rd August, 1965
DNW 435/64

The Director,
Dept. of Social Services,
99 Wellington St,
PERTH.

Dear Mr. Humphries,

Thank you for your letter of 2nd July, 1965, which followed the visit of your Director General and yourself a few days earlier.

I am in full agreement with your opinion that in some parts of the State, and particularly on some Pastoral Stations, native pensioners are not receiving the full benefit of their pensions. The question now is how best to remedy the situation.

As you know, I attended a meeting of the Minister's Aboriginal Welfare Conference held in Adelaide recently and while there was able to discuss this problem with Aboriginal welfare officers from all the mainland States and the Northern Territory. After considering the practices in these other administrations, it seems to me that the following procedure would be the most feasible one to follow, bearing in mind that the officers of this Department have a statutory responsibility to protect natives "against injustice, imposition and fraud" but that their authority is limited.

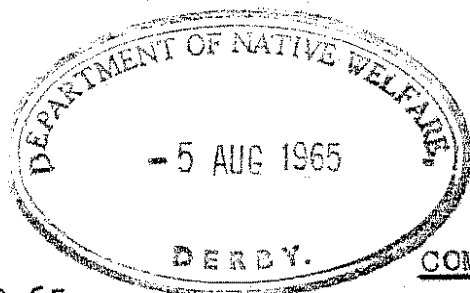
1. Commencing with the Kimberleys, a survey of all native pensioners should be undertaken, preferably in conjunction with your own officers, but if that is not practicable by our field officers alone.
2. Where it is considered that the pensioner is receiving due benefit from his pension, the existing arrangement should continue, always with the understanding that there should be a continual move towards direct payment to the pensioner.
3. Where it is considered that a pensioner is not receiving the due benefit of his pension, the inspecting officers will endeavour to negotiate with the station manager, or other person involved, with a view to continuing the existing method of payment, but with more benefit to the pensioner.
4. If it is not possible to reach agreement in this direction, the manager, etc., should be informed that the Native Welfare Department will offer to act as warrantee for the pension until some better arrangement can be made.
5. If such an offer is accepted by your Department, it will be the duty of the Native Welfare Department thereafter to arrange for the pensioner to receive due benefit from his pension. This again will require negotiation with the manager, etc.
6. If in these circumstances an arrangement can be arrived at satisfactory to the warrantee and to your Department, this should continue unless or until it later becomes possible to revert to either direct schedule or direct payment.

7. In the event that the manager, etc., refuses absolutely to negotiate or to agree to any arrangement satisfactory to the warrantee and your Department, the Native Welfare officer will inform the native pensioner that if he remains where he is, it is possible that his pension will be cancelled by your Department.
8. If he does in fact remain where he is, and if his pension is cancelled, this Department will endeavour to maintain contact with him but will make it clear to both him and to the manager, etc., that the Department cannot undertake to maintain him.
9. If the pensioner in such a situation does agree to move, it will be the duty of the Native Welfare warrantee to advise him where his interests will best be served and, if he accepts that advice, to ensure that he receives due benefit from his pension.
10. In this event it will be the continuing responsibility of the warrantee to look to the pensioner's welfare and to work towards making feasible the direct payment of the pension to the pensioner.

It is the essence of the foregoing proposals that officers of the Native Welfare Department will be acting in full accord with the requirements of the Native Welfare Act. No change in fundamental policy will be involved, but providing the additional necessary staff is authorised and can be obtained, it should be possible to materially increase, where justified, the degree of supervision exercised by field officers over pension payments.

Would the foregoing proposition meet the requirements of your Department, please?

Yours sincerely,



[Signature]
COMMISSIONER OF NATIVE WELFARE

3.8.65

Supt. of Native Welfare,
Northern Division,
PO Box 73, DERBY..W.A.

For your own information.

[Signature]
COMMISSIONER OF NATIVE WELFARE

22nd February, 1966

DNW 435/6

Ex.1/115

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

The proposition contained in the foot-note to your memorandum of 10th November, 1965 has been thoroughly examined but it is regretted that this Department cannot accept the responsibility which you outlined. Our existing staff is unable to undertake the substantially increased duties which would be involved, and to enlarge it to the degree which would be necessary, would be to incur expenditure considered to be not warranted in the circumstances.

The Department will however, continue to do what it can in the interests of native pensioners, and will co-operate to the best of its ability with your Department within the legal and practical limitations imposed by the appropriate legislation and the availability of staff and finance.

On the subject of warrantees being required to account to yourself for the proper spending of pensions, it is presumed that your Department will consider the question of whether a change in legislation is justified.

COMMISSIONER OF NATIVE WELFARE.

DCW. 24.2.66

J.S. 25/2/66

SCSW. 2/3/66

file

*DNW. virtually that
acting as warrantees for all native
pensioners north of Hamamun
of the mission and other
missions in the Eastern
Goldfield area.*