

***Herald* (Melbourne), 28 June 1939, p. 4, "Malnutrition Common". Plea for Aborigines**

The type of administration carried on by the Aborigines' Protection Board had set up conditions which had driven aborigines from Cumeroogunga aboriginal station, New South Wales, the organiser of the Australian Aborigines' League (Mr George Patton), who is an aboriginal, said today.

Mr Patton was supporting a recent statement by the president of the league (Mr A. P. Burdeu) that natives from the station had migrated to the other side of the Murray and had camped near Barmah. This statement was denied yesterday by the manager of the station (Mr A. J. McQuiggan), who said that there was almost the full complement of 200 natives at the station. About 100 had left in February, but had returned in March. Their housing conditions compared more than favourably with those of some whites in Barmah.

"Mr McQuiggan does not say anything about the 25 four-roomed huts and 16 two-roomed huts which are expected to house 260 aborigines", said Mr Patton.

"He says also that at the last medical examination there was no case of malnutrition or tuberculosis. We can prove malnutrition is common in the settlement, and that there are two advanced cases of tuberculosis. Nor does he say anything about the 3/5 worth of rations a week allowed adults, and the 1/9 a week allowed children."