

The Age, 27 July 1939, p. 13, Investigation Promised. Sustenance for Aborigines

Representatives of the Aborigines' Uplift Committee, the Australian Aborigines' League and the Central Unemployment Council waited on the Minister of Labor (Mr Mackrell) yesterday, and urged that a party of 44 aborigines at Barmah, including 21 children, be provided with sustenance. The families had recently left the station at Cumerogunga (N.S.W.) as a protest against alleged bad conditions, and had settled in Victoria.

Mr Mackrell replied that sustenance would be made available immediately, pending an investigation. Aborigines should have the same sustenance rights as white men.

Mr G. Patten, secretary of the Aborigines' League, said the party had left the New South Wales station in February, and crossed into Victoria. The children could attend the school at Barmah. but the parents had been refused sustenance.

Mr H. H. Lees, secretary of the Central Unemployment Council, said apparently they had been refused sustenance because the station was open to them to return.