

William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, Circular Letter, 24 November 1939, Association for the Protection of the Native Races Papers, University of Sydney Archives, S55, Item 7

The sad condition of aborigines in Australia, differing in degree in each state, shows no marked improvement anywhere though amending legislation concerning our people has been effected or is contemplated in most States. The fact that no legislation ever improves our lot leads me to present what I consider the most likely way of effecting improvement, and I would request, in the name of the Aboriginal population, that you give consideration to this aspect, not by any means new, of course, and actually being in the policy of every organization working for better conditions for aborigines.

To every request for help or plea for better conditions comes back the cry, "There is no money", and, when it is remembered that Aborigines interests are a State matter and the States with the largest aboriginal population have the smallest white population, the statement seems reasonable. If, however, aboriginal interests are federalised, the whole population would bear the expense of aboriginal administration on a per capita basis. Beside this, the Federal Government has the new Federal policy for aborigines and are pledged to put it into operation.

We therefore request that you afford your support to our plea for Federal control under the new Federal policy and we would request that you write the Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister and the Hon. The Premier of your State indicating your support. We would also like to be advised of your decision in due course.