

***Herald* (Melbourne), 12 December 1939, p. 4, Protest over Sentence. Begging Aboriginal**

Officials of the Aborigines' Assistance Committee intend to approach the Chief Secretary to protest against the sentence of six months' imprisonment imposed by the City Court bench yesterday on an Australian aboriginal for having begged 3d. in a city street.

The committee, which is holding a meeting tonight, will ask the Chief Secretary to review the sentence.

The aboriginal, William Bull, said, in court that he was released from Pentridge on Friday. Two constables said that he had stopped them and asked for 3d. "to buy another drink". When they told him they were policeman he said "In that case I want it for a meal".

He had previous convictions for the same offence.

The president of the Australian Aborigines League (Mr A. P. Burdeu) said today that Bull was a wanderer who should be helped, not persecuted. He would never dream of committing a criminal offence ...