

***The Age*, 9 May 1938, p. 10, Aborigines' Pleas. Special Department Urged**

A resolution carried at a meeting of the Australian Aborigines League on the Yarra bank yesterday, urged the Federal Government to establish a Department of Native Affairs under the control of an administrator, to be assisted by a council on which the aborigines would be themselves represented.

The president of the league (Mr A. Burdeu) said the aborigines needed a spirit of desire on the part of the white folk to interest themselves in the aboriginal problem. He urged that full citizen rights be granted to all civilised aborigines in Australia, including the right to own land, the old age pension, and the basic wage.

Mr D. Nicholls said that the aborigines wanted to work in full co-operation with the whites. There was no feeling of antagonism by the blacks to the whites. He referred to the promise made by the Prime Minister (Mr Lyons) to a deputation recently that the matter of rights for the aborigines would be discussed with the Premiers.

The meeting also carried a motion criticising the Government of West Australia for "the deplorable conditions among the aborigines and half-castes, where, in the south-west only a few of the children are receiving any education". It was requested that a Federal grant be made to West Australia to provide education and medical attention.