

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Premier of New South Wales, Bertram Stevens, 23 May 1938, New South Wales Archives and Records, NRS 12060, Item No. [12/8749-8750]**

I have just returned from Cumeroogunga, whither I went because of the many complaints I have received as secretary of the League. The result of my trip I have submitted in a series of letters, separate ones for each matter to facilitate early consideration.

I feel, Mr Stevens, that the day should be passed when my people should have to be asking for the removal of disabilities imposed on no other people, not even the children of aliens who happen to be born here. We are not now primitive and, given a chance, we can prove ourselves as capable as any other section of the Community. We want to be real Australians, loyal members of the Australian Commonwealth and we would ask that you now give consideration to the removal of all discriminating legislation. We feel sure that your trust of us will be wholly satisfactory and we shall take a place in the community that will make us a real asset. We can't avoid the disability of colour and the prejudice of the White people when we would come into competition with them, but equality in law would be something.

We have suffered but we do not wish to dwell on that. We have not got what we should, but we seek, by co-operation, full manhood and womanhood. It would be fine if your State were to advocate this ideal to the other States and then set the example of giving us full equality in law. The results will be the best advocacy of similar rights in other States.