

***Daily Telegraph (Sydney), 30 November 1938, Aboriginal Charges Cruelty***

At Cummeroogunja Reserve in the last 22 months the death-roll was six adults, four children, and fifteen babies died at birth, it was alleged yesterday.

Mr J. T. Patten, president of the Aboriginal Progressive Association, said that babies were dying of malnutrition.

“Mental and physical cruelty is inflicted by white men in charge of reserves,” he continued.

“If orders are not obeyed, food supplies are stopped,” declared Mr Patten, who is himself an aboriginal. “Aborigines are starved.

“Children are allowed meat once a week, with three onions and two potatoes.

“These rations are slowly exterminating the aborigines.

**Reserves Leased**

“Aborigines were granted 2900 acres. They are living on fourteen acres. The rest is leased to white men by the Aborigines Protection Board.”

Mr Patten suggested that the 96 reserves in the State should be combined into one agricultural colony, worked by aborigines.

**Abolition of Board**

The association is asking for: Abolition of the Aborigines’ Protection Board, full citizen rights for aborigines; repeal of the Aborigines Act; equal opportunities and education; facilities to work the land in reserves.