

William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Hon. the Minister for the Interior, Thomas Paterson, 22 February 1936, National Archives of Australia, A659, 1940/1/858

I am forwarding herewith a copy of the constitution of our League, setting out, in a summarised form, what the dark man conceives should be the programme for the raising of the race from its present deplorable condition. We trust that your government will take steps to improve our lot along the lines indicated. Nothing less than the elevation of the race to equality with the white race is entirely satisfactory to the dark folk but everything done to help on the way is deeply appreciated.

We are delighted to see the increasing interest evidenced in our race[,] a desire which extends to the administration. It does appear that there is, on every hand, a willingness to mitigate the conditions applying rather than to regard them as the permanent condition.

Though our previous approach to you was not entirely successful, we do feel, and are glad to say it, that we did consider you were anxious to help us and for that we thank you.

We will later take an opportunity of requesting you to meet us again when we will move for further ameliorative effort.