

Australian Aborigines' League Constitution, National Archives of Australia, A659, 1940/1/858

1. *Name* THE Name of the League shall be the "AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES' LEAGUE".

2. *Membership* Membership shall be either Full or Associate.

Full Full Membership shall only be open to persons possessing some degree of aboriginal blood. Any person who has attained the age of 18 years and is fully or partly of aboriginal descent may register as a member. Those under 18 years may register as Junior Full members.

Associate Any person, other than an aboriginal native, who is sympathetic with the Aims of the League may register as an Associate Member.

Life Membership Membership, for life, Full or Associate, may be granted on the payment of One Pound (£1) toward the Funds of the League.

Honorary Life Membership Honorary Life Membership, for services rendered, may be granted at the pleasure of the Executive of the League.

3. *Badge* Any member, Full or Associate, shall be entitled to wear any badge which may be adopted by the League.

The Badge of the League shall be sold to members, full or associate, at a price to be determined, but, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, a badge may be given to any person who, in the opinion of the Executive, should be so recognized.

4. *Officials* While the administrative positions in the League should primarily be filled by full members, it shall be competent for Associate members to be appointed to any position.

5. *Contributions* Excepting for Junior Full members, whose annual contribution fee shall be sixpence (6d) the annual fee for membership shall be One Shilling, for either Full or Associate Membership, to be payable in advance. It shall be competent for the Executive to admit aboriginals to full membership without such charge if this course is justified.

6. *Annual Meeting* The Annual Meeting of the League shall be held, if possible, in the month of November each year, on a date to be arranged by the Executive. At this meeting the occupancy of all offices shall be considered. At this meeting the Treasurer shall present a statement of receipts and expenditure, duly audited.

7. *Objects* The Objects of the League shall be to cooperate with any Organization working for the promotion of a national policy, or for the amelioration of the disabilities of aboriginal natives of Australia or to make representations as may be necessary to promote the well-being of the said natives.

The ultimate object of the League shall be the conservation of special features of Aboriginal culture and the removal of all disabilities, political, social or economic, now or in future borne by aboriginals and to secure their uplift to the full culture of the British race.

8. *Immediate Programme* The immediate programme of the League shall be the progressive elevation of the aboriginal race by education and training in the arts and crafts of European culture in the manner as set forth hereunder:

For Primitive aborigines

Until such time as the primitive aborigines are civilised, and while living in their primitive state, to secure the unalienable possession of adequate reserves, to which white men shall only have access by the authority of the Chief Protector of Aboriginal Natives.

Offences by white men against aboriginal natives to be punishable by similar penalties to those inflicted for like offences against white men.

The establishment of special Courts of Justice for the trial of native prisoners in which the recognition of Aboriginal tribal laws and customs as complementary to the laws of the land shall be given effect to.

Full sustenance to be ensured to all natives.

Progressive civilisation of the young people by the medium of education, including Industrial Training.

For the Semi-Civilised and De-tribalised Natives

The provision of reserves of land suitable for stock, agriculture or other farming, with adequate machinery, equipment and training, to be unalienable and to which white men shall have access only by the authority of the Chief Protector or Aboriginal natives.

The safeguarding of the interests of aboriginal natives who may be in the service of white men.

The right to work for adequate remuneration or the provision of full rations and housing for aboriginal natives of both sexes.

Invalid or Old Age Pensions, or their equivalent in rations and housing to be available to all aboriginal natives similarly as to white people. No aboriginal who is living privately can be compelled to return to a settlement before becoming entitled to this provision, unless in special circumstances, as may be decided by the Chief Protector of Aboriginal Natives.

Free education in State Schools or the provision of special schools, with qualified teachers, for native children: Scholars to be encouraged to qualify up to the standard of White education. High Schools or secondary colleges to be available to aboriginal

children qualifying to enter same or the provision of special schools in which shall be provided the same privileges as obtain in similar schools for white children. Education to include technical training.

Legal protection for natives. Punishment of offenders to be rigorously enforced as in the case of offences against white people.

For Civilised Natives

The provision of allotments of land suitable for agriculture or other farming, with requisite machinery and equipment, to be available to natives to work for their own profit. Such land to be unalienable property of the native concerned, and to be disposable by Will to the next of kin of the native concerned.

The right to work for adequate remuneration or the provision of full rations and housing for aboriginal natives of both sexes.

Invalid or Old-Age pensions, or their equivalent in rations and housing, to be available to all aboriginal natives similarly as to white people. No aboriginal who is living privately to be compelled to return to a settlement before becoming entitled to this provision, unless in special circumstances, as may be decided by the Chief Protector of Natives.

Free education in State Schools or the provision of special schools, with qualified teachers, for native children: Scholars to be encouraged to qualify up to the standard of the White education. High Schools or Secondary Colleges to be available to aboriginal children qualifying to enter same or the provision of special schools in which shall be provided the same privileges as obtain in similar schools for white children. Education to include technical training.

Full political, social and economic rights to be available, including the Franchise and eligibility for maternity bonus.

Legal protection for natives. Punishment of offenders to be rigorously enforced as in the case of offenders against white people.

Amendment of Constitution Additions and alterations to this Constitution may only be made at the Annual General Meeting, or at any Special Meeting called for that purpose, and of which due notice shall be given.