

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to N. M. Morley, 7 March 1936, A. P. Elkin Papers, University of Sydney Archives, P. 130, Series 12, Item 148**

We feel that it is our duty to draw the attention of people to the undisputable neglect of the Aborigines and the unsatisfactory conditions under which they exist.

We the descendants, who are educated and cultured to some extent, now become deeply concerned with the hardships and the disabilities of our defenceless primitive people, the most pitiful on earth who lived in a forest in peace and quietness before civilisation for thousands of years and when the early comers came here from overseas there was no consideration for the Aborigines, neither did they realise the extent to which trade was responsible for the development of civilisation which apparently was, and still is, passing the original owners of the land.

We still find people who are so apt, with their British sense of superiority to look down on us of another colour, whereas they should make themselves friendly, sociable and give credit for the fine qualities which the Aborigines possess. They were people of very high standard of moral character until they came in contact with the worst side of civilisation.

One of the greatest qualities ever shown in history was when at least one thousand Aborigines enlisted to take part in the World's War from 1914 to 1918 for the protection of the British Empire for which they gave the supreme sacrifice and unfortunately received no better consideration for their valuable services at that war. It is now the duty of every level minded person to take up this great cause for the protection of the Native people, who are His Majesty's subjects, and should be considered as much under the safeguard of the Law as any other man and equally entitled to the privileges of British subjects. People who are deeply concerned about the Aborigines should help to bring pressure to remove all hardships of our less fortunate brothers and sisters and to uplift them morally, socially, intellectually and spiritually.

The ultimate object of our League shall be the conservation of special features of the Aborigines culture and the removal of all hardships Political, social or economic.

I now take the liberty of presenting our compliments by forwarding a copy of the constitution of our League and I am again seeking your urgent assistance for the help of the Australian Aborigines throughout the Continent, to afford them every protection and facilities for their future well being, as this is a movement of National interest and behoves every citizen to aid their less fortunate brethren in our serious plight. I am in hopes you will, to the utmost, give our serious plight every consideration for the betterment of this weak race.