

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Minister for the Interior, Thomas Paterson, 9 May 1936, National Archives of Australia, A659, 1940/1/858**

At a meeting, held on 16th ulto., which was convened by my league, which was convened by my league for the purpose of considering the coordination of the work of the various Aboriginal ameliorative societies in Melbourne, the following resolutions were carried by a very representative and influential gathering:—

That this meeting, consisting of representatives of aboriginal ameliorative societies, and interested friends, welcomes the proposal to form a council of such bodies and recommends that the representatives of the societies concerned submit this proposal to their own organisations.

That this meeting supports the claim of the Australian Aborigines League that all aborigines, of full or mixed blood, should be afforded opportunities of education in common with other citizens of the Commonwealth, and urges that where such opportunities are not already provided, special schools be established under competent teachers, with special training. It further draws attention to the rapidly increasing number of half castes, which now exceeds 22,000 persons, the majority of whom are without occupation, and emphasises the need for vocational training for all adolescents.

That this meeting protests against the discrimination still being exercised against the aboriginals of Australia. We urge that full citizenship rights be accorded to those of full aboriginal or mixed blood who may be qualified to exercise them, and that, pending the elevation of the whole race, parliamentary representation in each legislature, State and Federal, for the safeguarding of aboriginal interests, be accorded.

We would request your consideration to the proposals embodied in the last two resolutions.