

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

NORTHERN TERRITORY DIVISION
P.O. BOX 13, ALICE SPRINGS, N.T. 5750

61/17

The Manager,
NAPPERBY STATION,
Via Alice Springs. N.T. 5750.

Dear Sir,

In the near future, the Government proposes to phase out the maintenance scheme for Aborigines and replace it with social services payments, e.g. unemployment benefits, widows pensions and other pensions as appropriate.

With such a new system as this, there will need to be assistance provided to Aborigines by way of facilities for cashing of cheques and purchase of food and clothing. At this stage it is likely that the new scheme will not be implemented until such time as such services can be provided; subject to mutual co-operation by station management, this Department and Aborigines. Unfortunately, due to staff shortages, we will not be in a position to provide as much assistance with this new scheme as we would like. However, if you feel you need some explanation of the system, please advise by 'collect telegram' and we will send out an officer of this Department to explain the new scheme as soon as it can be arranged.

It will probably not be until February that we will have the staff available to provide the support service to fill in the necessary forms, etc. to get the scheme working. However, in the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact this Department.

Yours faithfully,

(A. C. WEBER)
Regional Advisor (Alice Springs)