

Aborigines Protection Board, Colony of Western Australia

1890 – 1898

Details

The Aborigines Protection Board in the Colony of Western Australia continued the role of the Aboriginal Protection Board in the Crown Colony of Western Australia from 1890. The Board was responsible for the welfare of all Aboriginal people in Western Australia. This included the care, custody and education of all Aboriginal children, and the power to apprentice any Aboriginal child. The Aborigines Protection Board was replaced by the Aborigines Department and the Chief Protector of Aborigines in 1898.

The functions of the Aborigines Protection Board included submitting proposals to the Governor relating to the care, custody or education of the children of 'Aboriginals' and exercising a general supervision and care over all matters affecting the interests and welfare of the 'Aboriginals'. Under the Protection Act, the Board could appoint 'honorary local protectors' to oversee rationing and medical care of Aboriginal people and report on the condition of Aboriginal children.

The Act gave Resident Magistrates, acting under instructions of the Board, the power to apprentice any 'Aboriginal' or 'half-caste' child of a 'suitable age' until the age of 21 years, provided that 'due and reasonable provision is made for [the child's] maintenance, clothing and proper and humane treatment'.

Aboriginal matters played an important role in achieving representative government. Battye, in his (1924) history of colonial Western Australia (p.397), reports that the existence and funding of an Aboriginal Protection Board was a requirement of the Constitution of the Colony of Western Australia. The British government was concerned that, without this provision, authorities in the colony would not put money aside to meet the needs of the Aboriginal people who were being displaced from their traditional lands and ways by the settlers.

More info

Chronology

- Aborigines Protection Board, Crown Colony of Western Australia (January 1887 - 1890)
 - **Aborigines Protection Board, Colony of Western Australia (1890 – 1898)**
 - Aborigines Department, State of Western Australia (1 April 1898 - 31 December 1908)
 - Department of Aborigines and Fisheries, State of Western Australia (1 January 1909 - 1 January 1920)
 - Fisheries Department, State of Western Australia (1920 - 1964)
 - Aborigines Department, State of Western Australia (1926 - 1936)
 - Department of Native Affairs, State of Western Australia (1936 - 1954)

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Beagle Bay Mission \(1895 - 1976\)](#)

The Aborigines Protection Board had responsibility for the welfare Aboriginal children housed in Beagle Bay Mission.

- [St Mary's Mission, New Norcia \(1848 - 1974\)](#)

The Aborigines Protection Board had responsibility for the welfare Aboriginal children housed in Beagle Bay Mission.

- [Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1936\)](#)

The role of Chief Protector, head of the Aborigines Department, took over the responsibilities of the Aborigines Protection Board..

Related Legislation

- [Aborigines Act 1889, Western Australia \(1890 - 1898\)](#)

The *Aborigines Act 1889* clarified the power of the Governor to appoint and remove members of the Aborigines Protection Board.

- [Aborigines Act 1897, Western Australia \(1898 - 1906\)](#)

The *Aborigines Act 1897* abolished the Aborigines Protection Board

Related Concepts

- [Aboriginal Protection in Western Australia \(c. 1832 - c. 1972\)](#)

Resources

- [Aborigines' Protection Board](#), The Inquirer & Commercial News, 11 November 1898

Records

Records

- [Files - Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1908\)](#)
-

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/aborigines-protection-board-4/>