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DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ABORIGINALS IN
COUNTRY TOWNS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Commissioner for Community Relations

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COMMISSIONER FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ABORIGINALS IN COUNTRY TOWNS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Racial Discrimination Act 1975 came into operation on 31 October 1975 and since then the Commissioner for Community Relations has received 183 complaints of racial discrimination against Aboriginal people in country towns of New South Wales. This paper details those cases and the outcome of the Commissioner's actions. For the purposes of the paper, cases received from Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong have been excluded.

Of the 183 complaints received, 167 have been concluded. They involved 310 complainants, 489 specifically mentioned aggrieved parties and 191 respondents. These figures exclude numbers involved when entire Aboriginal communities joined as aggrieved parties in various complaints. In these cases, several thousand people were involved. Complaints came from 71 country towns from all over New South Wales. Of these 71 towns, 49 were visited by officers on field trips to investigate complaints.

The complaints demonstrate that racial discrimination is widespread throughout the whole of New South Wales and that the rights of Aboriginal persons are infringed extensively in a way which affects many Aboriginal communities and individuals in practically all aspects of their daily lives. Public facilities and public services are often denied Aboriginal people.

The purpose of this paper is to present the factual picture of racial discrimination against Aboriginals in New South Wales country towns as shown in complaints to the Commissioner for Community Relations. From this, a general picture of the position of Aboriginals in those towns can be drawn. The Commissioner and his officers have travelled to most country centres and have dealt with complaints in many. They have observed discrimination within the community and have been confronted with racial prejudice and racial discrimination.

The complaints have come in the main from the more aware, the more articulate, the more self-reliant and the more proud Aboriginal people. The fact cannot be ignored that complaints from places such as Bourke, Walgett, Brewarrina, Collarenebri, Wilcannia, Menindee and Dareton, where Aboriginal people amount to nearly half the population in some cases, are few by comparison with those received from tableland and coastal centres.

Overall, our experience has shown wherever there is a significant Aboriginal presence then racial discrimination is almost inevitable.

METHODS

The following methods were employed in dealing with complaints:

11 by telephone from Canberra

9 were referred to and handled by local Consultative Committees on Community Relations and individuals organised to cooperate with the Office

75 by correspondence from the Commissioner

72 were handled on the spot by officers during field trips.

In 11 cases, telephone contact with the complainants, respondents and members of the community was sufficient to enable settlement of the complaints.

Consultative Committees on Community Relations and people of goodwill assist the Commissioner from time to time and always participate in cases within their town and district. The Committees achieved settlement in 9 cases referred to them by the Commissioner.

In 75 cases correspondence was sufficient to effect a resolution of the complaints following contact with complainants, respondents and people in the community.

Field work was necessary in most cases and is essential in the combat of racial prejudice and racial discrimination. It is the most effective means for educating the community and for settling complaints of racial discrimination. Field work is undertaken whenever possible.

Of the 72 cases handled by officers on field trips, 54 were solved by informal conferences with the parties involved and by compulsory conferences.

Following two compulsory conferences, the Commissioner issued certificates to enable the complainants to pursue their complaints in court.

In all, 135 complaints were brought to conclusion by the direct intervention of the Office.

A further 32 cases were pursued by the Office but it was found at some stage in the proceedings that the complainants did not desire to pursue the matter further or had solved the problem by other means.

THE NATURE OF COMPLAINTS

Complaints of racial discrimination received against Aboriginal people can be divided into 11 main areas and are summarised under the following headings:

Hotels

Aboriginal complaints involving hotels resulted from either the personal conduct and attitude of the publican against Aboriginal people generally or from publicans attributing the acts of violence or drunkenness of a few Aboriginal patrons to the whole of the Aboriginal race.

Aboriginals were refused service or were refused access to hotels in many cases and in others, if they were served, they were subjected to racially discriminatory rules applying only to Aboriginals — such as only being allowed to have two drinks or only being allowed to drink in back bars.

In a few cases the conduct of the publican was found to be non-discriminatory but the application of across-the-board standards had been misunderstood by some Aboriginal patrons. The misunderstandings were resolved.

The Media

The majority of complaints related to reports highlighting the Aboriginality of people in trouble.

Front page headlines referring to 'Race War' were felt to be inflammatory and discriminatory.

Complaints also related to the propagation of racist ideas and the publication of racist jokes and cartoons, serving to heighten racial tension.

The Police

Complaints were mainly of undue harassment and assaults by Police, and of unfair treatment. The following are some examples of cases.

An Aboriginal woman complained that whenever Police were called to the south side of the town they always seemed to go to her home first and either arrest her or harass herself and her friends.

Following a fight involving whites and Aboriginals, the complainants claimed that the Aboriginals were arrested but the white men were sent home.

An Aboriginal who was drunk staggered against a Police officer. He was taken into custody and charged with assault. The Aboriginal complained that he was handled roughly and at the Police Station he was struck in the back of the head with a closed fist. An associate of this Aboriginal complainant wrote saying that he was told he would be shot if ever he was found drunk again.

It was complained that a Police Detective produced a firearm and discharged it in the presence of Aboriginals.

In another case, Police were called to a hotel by a publican because of a brawl. Two Police arrived and when they saw Aboriginals standing around outside they called for backup. Two more Police cars arrived on the scene with sirens blaring. One Detective Constable emerged from his vehicle carrying a firearm.

Following a case in which a Senior Constable was alleged to have assaulted two Aboriginal boys by striking one of them with a torch and kicking the other, the family reported that they were told to drop the charges of assault against the Senior Constable or the Police would charge two Aboriginal boys from another family with stealing.

In another incident, a Senior Constable said to a white person 'he was probably a black bludging bastard like the rest of the black bludging bastards' in reference to a 17-year-old Aboriginal boy who had died of a heart condition in the local hospital. A relative who went to identify the boy felt that he

received very little respect from this officer who continued to make disparaging remarks in his presence.

Accommodation

Complaints related to discrimination from landlords, real estate agents and neighbours. This discrimination usually resulted in having to either go elsewhere for accommodation or in some cases move out from their present house.

With accommodation cases, it was very common for an Aboriginal to make telephone contact with a person who had advertised houses for rent and be told that the houses were available. However, as soon as the landlord realised that the prospective tenant was Aboriginal, often during the inspection of the house or flat, then the flat became unavailable for some reason (e.g. for repairs). Subsequent inquiry by a non-Aboriginal person revealed that the houses or flats were still available.

These discriminations were without any inquiry as to the Aboriginals' ability to pay the rent or their previous history of renting flats or houses.

Real estate agents were often given directions by the owners that their house should not be let to Aboriginals.

Aboriginals in Housing Commission homes complained their lives were made difficult by neighbours harassing their families and making frequent complaints to Police and the Housing Commission to get them transferred or evicted. Subsequent investigation by this Office often showed that the neighbours' complaints were greatly exaggerated.

Government

Aboriginals reported problems with local councils trying to resume Aboriginal lands for various purposes. In one coastal town the council wanted to build a sports complex on Aboriginal lands which were held to comprise a sacred site embracing a burial ground.

In another town when Aboriginals tried to secure land for a rehabilitation centre, they had no difficulty in finding someone who would sell them suitable land. The local council, however, allowed itself to be intimidated by some white residents who opposed the centre and, although a number of possible sites were presented to the council, none was approved. The debate went on at great length as different sites around the town were presented only to be rejected by the council.

The Aboriginal organisation, tired of continuing resistance from council, obtained land in a neighbouring shire. The land was readily approved for their project which is now in operation.

In another town, an Aboriginal community complained about the road servicing their settlement. They stated that they knew of no white community of 450 people that was left dependant on four miles of unsealed dirt road for medical services, food supplies and communication. In wet weather they claimed that the road was impassable. Despite many pleas to the authorities,

nothing had been done about the road. They feel that 'had we been a white community the road would have been sealed years ago'.

Education

Complaints related to the attitudes of teachers and in some cases, headmasters, towards Aboriginal children. In one matter, a principal was heard to refer to Aboriginal children as 'rubbish'. White children themselves in some cases made life a misery for Aboriginal children with harassment and name calling in reported incidents.

These complaints are regarded as particularly serious since the school is where the fight against racism and discrimination should begin for future members of the community.

The Law

Complaints have been made that magistrates have in some cases, discriminated against Aboriginals. In one case a magistrate showed himself to be grossly prejudiced against Aboriginals when he suggested that a defendant was a member of a 'pest race'.

Recreation

Aboriginals were refused access to recreation facilities such as swimming pools and amusement parlours. It was claimed that many clubs would not allow Aboriginals as members.

In the case of a returned servicemen's club, Aboriginal servicemen were allowed to be members but their wives had difficulty in becoming members. The complainants felt that the wives of white servicemen did not have the same problem.

Health

A number of complaints were received that hospital and doctors were giving preferential treatment to whites.

One complaint stated that a hospital was discriminatory in dealing with Aboriginals in outpatients wards, making them wait for long periods for treatment. It was also complained that some of the staff at this hospital expressed racist remarks to the waiting patients.

Another complaint was received that a hospital doctor, when presented with an Aboriginal child, performed a cursory examination and said 'it is not unusual for Aboriginal children to get sick and have sores'. He then sent the child off without giving any medication. A second doctor who examined the child diagnosed the problem and prescribed what he considered necessary medication.

Transport

Aboriginals were refused by taxi drivers or white people were given preference. In one case three Aboriginals complained that they came out from

bingo one night and went to the taxi rank. One taxi was waiting there but they were told by the driver that it had been booked. They stated that they then sat down and waited for the next taxi. After a short period a second taxi arrived. The Aboriginals had just got into the taxi and were about to depart when two white ladies came up and told the Aboriginals that the taxi was reserved for them because 'they always got the first taxi after bingo'. After the discussion went on for a while the taxi driver agreed that the white ladies had reserved the taxi and the three Aboriginals had to get out and wait again.

Community

Complaints were received concerning discrimination by individuals and shopkeepers. Neighbours of Aboriginal families were said to have engaged in harassment and abuse over the fence and in the street, calling the Police for matters which seemed to the complainants to be trivial.

A complaint was sent to this Office about a float which was entered in a country town festival procession. The float was reported to depict Aboriginals as drunkards and layabouts with white people painted black swilling from wine flagons and rolling drunk.

BASIS OF SETTLEMENT

Complaints set out the following six main bases of settlement:

- cash damages
written apology
oral apology

- public apology

- on the spot investigations to validate the complaints

- visits by officers to demonstrate unacceptability of racial discrimination.

Of these six groups, by far the most common was the desire of complainants to have investigations carried out to validate the complaints and demonstrate that such conduct is unacceptable under the law.

The first five groups were only specified by 15 complainants in their letters.

During investigation, however, complainants made known further requirements for settlement which spanned all six bases.

SETTLEMENTS ACHIEVED

As the schedule of complaints shows, numerous apologies and assurances, written and oral, were obtained on behalf of aggrieved parties.

Several public apologies have been published in country newspapers.

Damages ranging from \$25 to \$1000 have been obtained.

Payment in kind has featured in several cases. A recent example involved

a counter offer of free service of squash in a hotel for an hour. This was not regarded as an appropriate response.

Another offer to assist with securing accommodation and costs associated with the tenancy agreement was accepted.

Many Aboriginals find the conciliation process unsatisfactory as a form of redress for the humiliation and loss of dignity suffered as a result of racial discrimination. They are now moving to seek stronger action and are insisting upon court action.

There is resentment that under the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* the burden of seeking relief from discrimination and oppression lies with the victim who is often the least equipped to face his oppressors or to cope with courts if conciliation fails.

REALITIES OF SETTLEMENT

A review of cases in the schedule presents a largely favourable view of the settlements achieved through conciliation.

The settlements in many cases reflect the lack of vindictiveness by Aboriginal complainants and their modest demands.

There is no doubt that these attitudes arise from the lowly position of Aboriginals in our society. When the *Racial Discrimination Act* came into operation in 1975 it was the first time an avenue was available to the oppressed.

Aboriginal complainants had little expectation of justice and the respondents, confronted with Aboriginals seeking even modest apologies and undertakings not to discriminate again, found it difficult in some cases to take the proceedings seriously and in other cases demonstrated arrogance, anger and resentment.

Up until the present time Aboriginals, in association with the Commissioner for Community Relations, have been pioneering the recognition of basic rights. This has to be kept in mind in recognising that the settlements sought by Aboriginals often seem inadequate for the grave offence which they have suffered and which in the courts of law relating to whites would attract punitive remedies and greater monetary damages in many instances.

Six years ago it was a revolutionary act to get a white man of power and affluence to say 'I'm sorry' to an Aboriginal even when he knew he had broken the law by discriminating against him.

Today there is a more widespread awareness among Aboriginal people of their rights and less inclination to accept less than a full measure of justice.

It should be added that settlement or not, the success of conciliation in an individual case does not necessarily reflect success in improving race relations in the town, district or suburb.

An example of this is in Aboriginal/Police relationships existing at Kempsey. Officers have worked in this town with senior Police and Aboriginal

community leaders and Aboriginal complainants to deal with specific matters and to improve overall Police/Aboriginal relationships. Despite these endeavours and the creation of effective liaison, Aboriginal/Police relationships in Kempsey have not improved to a point where the Aboriginal community is satisfied that Police deal with them on the same basis as other members of the community. They continue to complain not only to the Commissioner for Community Relations, but to other authorities such as the Premier, the Attorney-General, the Ombudsman and the Police Commissioner.

Officials have conducted many inquiries in Kempsey into these complaints, and they have set out repeatedly to establish and re-establish communications between the Police and the Aboriginal community.

These efforts have still not been successful in ending the concern and the tension among Aboriginal people in relation to Police administration.

It is also relevant to settlement that inadequate resources have not enabled full attention to all matters. Settlement in many cases has not been pressed. For example where a publican has left the establishment in which the alleged act of racial discrimination occurred, the matter has been finalised with only the new publican. In these cases, complainants have not sought to pursue the respondent to the complaint and the Office has not taken the initiative.

Racial prejudice and racial discrimination against Aboriginals exist on a wide scale in country towns of New South Wales and Aboriginals suffer grievously from their consequences.

The complaints of racial discrimination represent only the tip of the iceberg and it is for this reason that conciliation processes have been associated with education processes. The hope for the future lies in re-educating communities which have lived in division and discrimination for 100 years and longer.

COMPULSORY CONFERENCES

The largest number of compulsory conferences under the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* have been convened in New South Wales country towns. Compulsory conferences bring complainants and respondents together and afford to each a measure of protection not available in informal conferences. They are an effective means for resolving complaints and bringing respondents, often for the first time, to the table with Aboriginal people. They are a means of educating those with power that they are not above the law and that Aboriginal people have rights under the law for the first time in 200 years.

CERTIFICATES

If conciliation through compulsory conference fails to settle a complaint, the aggrieved parties may take their complaints to court but this can only be done after receiving a certificate from the Commissioner for Community Relations that at the date of the certificate the matter has not been settled.

In two cases in New South Wales country towns the Commissioner issued certificates at the request of the aggrieved parties but neither case was taken to court.

In one case the aggrieved persons and the respondent changed their minds and sought conciliation by the Commissioner. The case was settled by written apologies and assurances and damages of \$1,000 were obtained for the four complainants.

In the other case, the complainants have not yet proceeded to court although the certificate was issued four years ago.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The whole process of complaint investigation and conciliation is part of an overall community education program without which complaint handling becomes merely band-aid operations.

The cases reported to the Office arise out of general attitudinal discrimination present in the community generally.

The integrated program of casework and community education involves all the opinion makers in the community both in organisations and as individuals.

These community education programs have assumed a new priority with the rise of tension and outbreaks of violence associated with the denial by individuals of equal rights for Aboriginal people.

CONCLUSION

Racial discrimination occurs when an individual is treated differently because of his race, colour, ethnic background or place of birth. As has been shown in previous studies, this discrimination comes from all sections of the community and the greatest body of discrimination is directed against Aboriginal people and discrimination dominates many aspects of their daily lives.

Discrimination can result from a deeply embedded mistrust or fear that has possibly grown with a person from his earliest childhood. This can lead to attitudes which in reality are not based on fact or experience but on racial slanders passed on from generation to generation or simply plain ignorance. Time and again a whole race is blamed for the misdemeanours of a few. This is compounded by the negative stereotyping typical in many so-called textbooks used in Australian schools over the years.

In the case of accommodation, for example, some owners of houses for let are aghast at the thought of Aboriginals moving in because of some past experience they have had (or have heard of) where an Aboriginal has damaged the house or has built up large arrears.

Publicans of some hotels who have had experience with drunk or violent Aboriginals have blamed the entire people and sought to confine them to one

bar or refused them service altogether or only served them a limited number of drinks.

It is not the intention of the Office to interfere with rules by publicans designed to protect patrons from rowdy or violent behaviour, or to interfere with flat owners' desires to let a house or flat to a person who can show that they will look after it.

The objective of the Office is to ensure that rules and practice are applied equally to Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals alike.

The intervention of the Office in cases of discrimination has created new dialogue and communication between the parties involved.

Discrimination against Aboriginals forms a complex web entangling their daily lives often in mistrust and ridicule. This situation provokes the tension and sometimes the violence which are then used as an excuse to continue or even intensify the discrimination. The circle must be broken, and to achieve this, discrimination in all its forms against Aboriginal people must come to an end and their rights under the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* must be recognised.

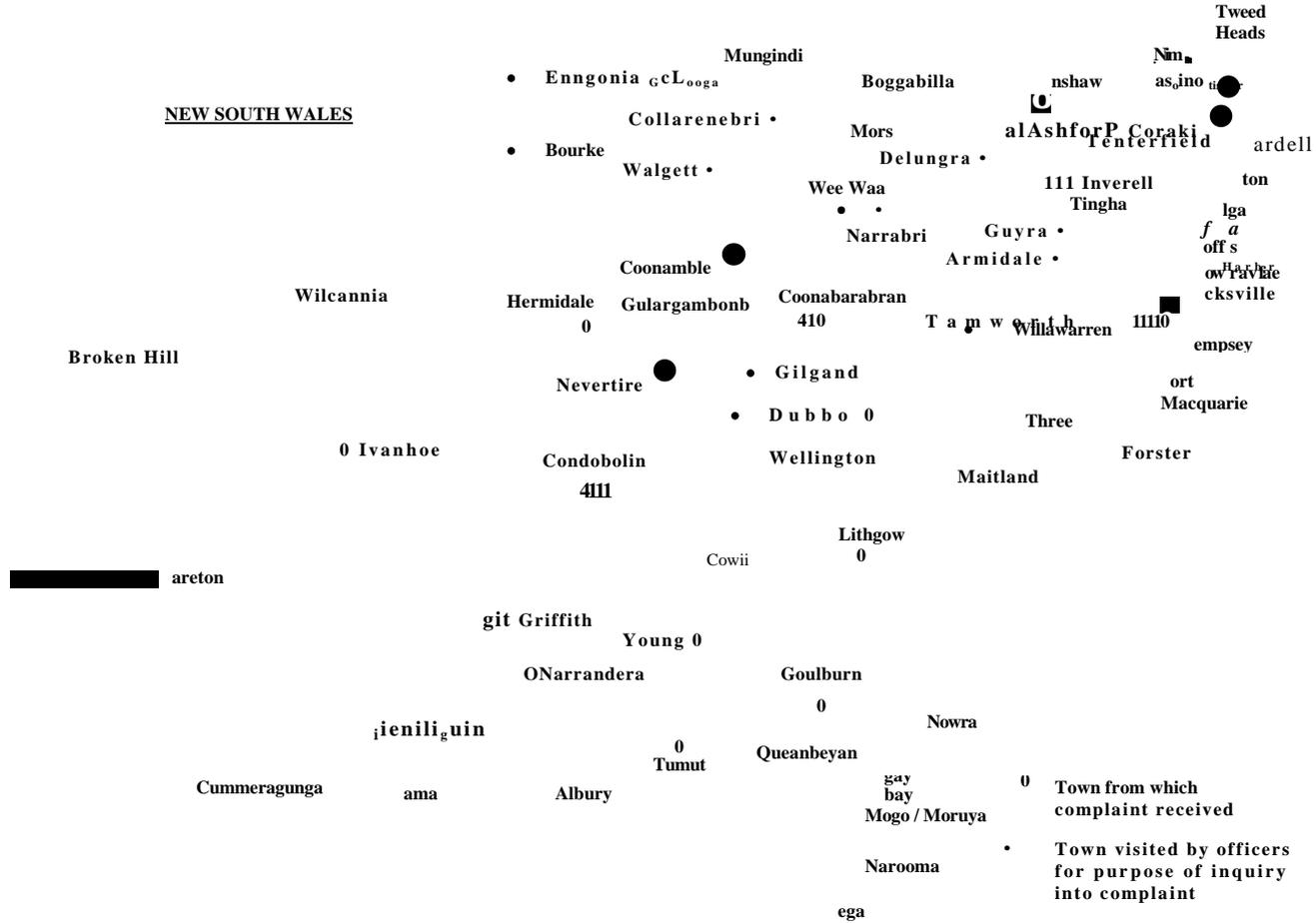
*TOWNS VISITED BY OFFICERS FOR THE
PURPOSES OF INQUIRY*

Albury	Cowra	Moruya
Annidale	Delungra	Moree
Ashford	Deniliquin	Mungindi
Bat emans Bay	Dubbo	Narooma
Bega	Enngonia	Narrabri
Bellbrook	Forster	Nevertire
Boggabilla	Gilgandra	Nowra
Bourke	Goodooga	Port Macquarie
Bowraville	Goulbum	Tamworth
Cummeragunga	Grafton	Taree
Casino	Griffith	Tingha
Coffs Harbour	Guyra	Walgett
Collarenebri	Inverell	Wardell
Condobolin	Kempsey	Wee Waa
Coonabarabran	Lismore	Wilcannia
Coonamble	Moama	Willawarren
Coraki		

TOWNS FROM WHICH COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED

Albury	Deniliquin	Narrabri
Armidale	Dubbo	Narrandera
Ashford	Enngonia	Nevertire
Batemans Bay	Forster	Nimbin
Bega	Gilgandra	Nowra
Bellbrook	Goodooga	Port Macquarie
Berowra	Goulburn	Queanbeyan
Boggabilla	Grafton	Richmond River
Bonshaw	Griffith	Tamworth
Bourke	Gulargambone	Taree
Bo wraville	Guyra	Tenterfield
Broken Hill	Hermidale	Tingha
Cummeragunga	Inverell	Tumut
Casino	Ivanhoe	Tweed Heads
Coffs Harbour	Kempsey	Walgett
Collarenebri	Lismore	Wardell
Condobolin	Lithgow	Warners Bay
Coonabarabran	Macksville	Wee Waa
Coonamble	Maitland	Wellington
Coraki	Moama	Wilcannia
Corindi	Moruya	Willawarren
Cowra	Moree	Wreck Bay
Dareton	Mungindi	Young
Delungra	Narooma	

NEW SOUTH WALES



<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
81/7422	Armidale	HOTEL Service refused by publican who said that complainant had been involved in a fight the week before. Complainant had not been in the hotel when the fight took place.	Complaint made by telephone. Complainant asked to forward details of the incident in writing
81/7404	Tamworth	ACCOMMODATION When making enquiries at a real estate agency about a house advertised for rental, two women were told that it had been taken. A few minutes later, another person was told that the house was available.	Compulsory Conference held. Basis of settlement agreed upon included payment of \$35 to one complainant, assistance for the other complainant to obtain a house to rent with stamp duty and other set costs to be met by the real estate agent and a public apology in local newspaper.
81/7386	Coonamble	HOTEL Woman refused service and told that she had been barred from hotel.	Matter conveyed to publican whose reply is awaited.
81/7383	Griffith	MEDIA Racist newspaper article.	The propagation of ideas based on racial superiority and hatred is not unlawful under the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> . Matter referred to editor in the interests of community relations and to encourage tolerance and understanding concerning articles about racial and ethnic communities.
81/7363	Moree	MEDIA Emotive reporting on some television channels of an incident in an hotel involving Aborigines and police.	Complainant was advised that individuals and community organisations had lodged complaints with the Australian Press Council and that officers had visited the town to ease community tensions.
81/7357	Boggabilla	MEDIA Article in a local newspaper that complainant believed would reinforce racial prejudice. Complainant wrote to the editor about the article.	Officers discussed matter with complainant during a field trip. Editor published later. Complainant required no further action.

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
81/7351	Goondiwindi/ Toomelah	HOTEL Aboriginal woman was refused tickets for 'Les Girls' revue.	Compulsory Conference held but matter not resolved. Complainants requested a certificate under the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> and this is in process of issue.
81/7330	Nimbin	MEDIA Discrimination implied in newspaper headline 'Aborigine convicted of assaulting policeman'.	Matter referred to newspaper's general manager who contended that mention of the defendant's racial origin was relevant to the report and consistent with the Code of Conduct for Journalists. Reply conveyed to complainant whose response is awaited. -----
81/7327	Inverell	POLICE Harassment by police who are called by neighbours. Complainant held discussions with police but there was no improvement.	Complainant asked to provide additional information. Matter to be dealt with during a future field trip.
81/7323	Gulargam- bone	HOTEL Aboriginal people are not treated equally. Fights involving Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals result in Aboriginals being barred. Aboriginals are refused service even when they have conducted themselves in an orderly manner.	Matter referred to publican who declined reply in writing or to discuss the complaint on the telephone. Information sought from complainant about specific incidents and this is awaited. Sergeant of police undertook to assist by talking to the publican. Matter will be dealt with during a future field trip.
81/7313	Griffith	COMMUNITY Aboriginal people attacked members of a cricket club on a picnic.	Complainant asked to specify his complaint. As reported the matter was a civil disturbance and one for police to deal with.
80/7271	Armidale	HOTEL Three men went into a bar and asked for one round of three beers. Barman said they could only have two beers.	Conference held between Aboriginal community leaders and new licensee. Explanation given that the third member of the party was refused service because of his condition. Complainants satisfied with explanation.

Outcome/Basis of Settlement

Incident reported in person to Inspector of police by officers accompanied by an Aboriginal leader. Matter taken into account by defence counsel.

Conference held between Aboriginal leader, one of the complainants and publican. Publican said he had mistaken complainant for another person who had caused trouble the night before. An oral apology was offered and accepted and assurance given of service in the future.

Conference held between parties. Publican stated he had indicated at the time that some members of the group were barred and that group had subsequently left. Persons in the company of barred persons were not served in the hotel. Complainants satisfied with explanation.

Conference held between Aboriginal complainants, Aboriginal community leaders and principals and licensee of hotel. Complainants satisfied with assurances on service. Adulteration of beer could not be established from evidence and enquiries. Police alerted and undertook to keep under notice.

Conference held between hotel licensee, complainant and members of Aboriginal community. Complainant satisfied with the meeting and that he had related his complaint directly to the publican. Publican's assurances acceptable and matter resolved.

File Number Locality

Complaint as Stated

80/7268	Armidale	<p>POLICE Aboriginal who was drunk staggered into a police officer. Police officer handled him roughly and at the police station struck him in the back of the head with a closed fist. Another Aboriginal was told that he would be shot if he was ever found drunk again.</p>
80/7269	Armidale	<p>HOTEL Complainants entered hotel and were told that they were allowed two beers only.</p>
80/7270	Armidale	<p>HOTEL A group of Aboriginals entered a bar and sought service. They were refused and told to leave. No reason was given.</p>
80/7260	Armidale	<p>HOTEL 'When I bought the second beer I tasted it and it seemed to have pepper or 'pick me up' in it. The publican just wanted us out of the hotel because we are Aboriginal. He's doing this to other Aboriginals as well.'</p>
80/7261	Armidale	<p>HOTEL 'We had had about five rounds of drinks and had \$1 .80 in the juke box for music. Suddenly the juke box stopped and the manager told us that the bar was closed. We left (9.15 p.m.). Later a girl went back to find the bar still open and the juke box playing.'</p>

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
8017264	Tingha	POLICE Aboriginal was booked for a towbar which obscured his car number plate. Complainant noticed four similar cars in the vicinity which were not booked. He felt he was singled out because he is Aboriginal.	Complainant declined to attend conference with police. Matter was raised in his absence by representatives of Aboriginal community with senior police of the district and local police at meeting convened by officers. Complainant advised of police response.
80/7283	Goondiwindi/ Toomelah	HOTEL Two Aboriginals from Toomelah were refused service.	Compulsory Conference held but matter not resolved. Complainants requested a certificate under the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> and this is in process of issue.
80/7252	Toomelah	GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT 'We know of no white community of 450 people that has been left dependant on four miles of unsealed road for access. We believe that if we had been a community of whites, the road would have been sealed years ago.'	Officers have visited community on numerous occasions, have noted poor state of access road and have discussed the matter with community leaders and residents. Complaint referred to Minister for Roads. A reply is expected soon.
80/7038	Maitland	GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY General complaint concerning racist conditions for Aboriginals in some NSW jails especially Grafton and Goulburn.	Arrangements have been made for Commissioner to have talks with the Commissioner for Corrective Services. Commission has advised that positive developmental programs for Aboriginals are underway.
80/7198	Broken Hill	COMMUNITY Service refused to a man who ordered a hamburger.	Complainant requested no action pending his own initial enquiry on behalf of aggrieved party. He advised later that investigation had shown that racial discrimination was not involved.
80/7211	Richmond River	EDUCATION School principal referred to Aboriginal students as 'rubbish'.	Matter reported by Commonwealth Education Officer conducting a program to help school teachers understand difficulties faced by Aboriginal students. Program was commenced following a visit to the district by Officers who advised the Department of tensions at schools. Education officer is working to overcome this particular difficulty.

<i>File number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
80/7256	Inverell	TRANSPORT After bingo, Aboriginals hailed a taxi. White women came up and stated that they always got the first taxi. Aboriginals were asked by the driver to get out of the cab.	Conference, at which oral apology and assurances given, held between complainants, driver and principal of taxi company. Subsequently, driver and taxi company forwarded a written apology per the Office. Apology accepted by complainants.
80/7245	Armidale	HOTEL Service refused to a man who was told to see the manager. He was not entitled to a drink because he was not known by staff.	Community worker requested that the complaint be referred to the Counsellor for Equal Opportunity. The complainant's agreement to this has been sought and his response is awaited.
80/7101	Lithgow	MEDIA Racist article in newspaper.	Complainant was advised that ideas based on racial superiority are not unlawful under the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> . He was also advised to take the matter up directly with editor and Australian Press Council.
80/7148	Dubbo	COMMUNITY Large number of Aboriginal people rejected for membership of Aboriginal association.	Oral complaint was not subsequently made in writing and appeared to be a matter for resolution within the Aboriginal community.
80/7152	Corindi	COMMUNITY Aboriginal community encountered difficulty in finalising a land purchase.	Matter referred by Department of Aboriginal Affairs officer. Aboriginal community requested that the Office not intervene.
80/7162	Kempsey	HOTEL When several Aboriginals entered bar, publican held up his finger and said, 'One only, then you go.'	Conference held between police licensing Sergeant, licensee and officers. Licensee was informed of his obligation to serve people on an equal basis. He advised that one of the men had been barred.

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
80/7162	Kempsey	<p>HOTEL A group of Aboriginals were drinking in a hotel. When serving a round of drinks, the licensee said that he would not serve a drink to one member of the group. Some members of the group left in protest.</p>	<p>Conference held between police licensing Sergeant, licensee and officers. Licensee disagreed with account of incident. He advised that person to whom he refused service had been barred from the hotel for breaking a glass and a window on a previous occasion. Officers informed Aboriginal community of outcome and arranged for licensee to meet Aboriginal community leader at a later date.</p>
80/7063	Dubbo	<p>MEDIA Local newspaper used sensational headlines when reporting on a matter involving Aboriginals. Front page headlines read: 'We are headed for a race war.' Anonymous complainant believed that such reporting would create racial tensions.</p>	<p>Matter to be dealt with during a future field trip.</p>
80/7079	Collarenebri	<p>HOTEL Two Aboriginal women were drinking in a bar when a non-Aboriginal man began annoying them. After ignoring him for some time, one woman threw beer at him. She was subsequently barred but the man was not.</p>	<p>Matter was conveyed to the publican who consulted with Aboriginal community leaders. It was subsequently reported that the matter had been settled directly between the publican and the Aboriginal community.</p>
80/7172	Tingha	<p>MEDIA Letters to the editor of a local newspaper referred to the benefits available to Aboriginals. Complainant believed that the letters created controversy and that they did not present a factual picture.</p>	<p>Officers met with the editor during a field trip to discuss tensions and difficulties caused in the community by the letters. Editor said that he felt obliged to publish letters which reflected all points of view. His paper had recently produced a feature article on the positive achievements of the local Aboriginal housing corporation.</p>

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
80/9569	Moama	<p>ACCOMMODATION</p> <p>Aboriginal enquired by telephone about vacancies at a caravan park. He was told there was none. A white person rang shortly after and was told 'it should be pretty right' and was given application forms. The forms were not given to the Aboriginal when he went there later.</p>	<p>Respondents denied that racial discrimination was involved as an Aboriginal family had been accommodated during the Christmas holidays. Response was conveyed to the complainants who did not pursue the matter further.</p>
80/7040	Grafton	<p>EDUCATION</p> <p>Aboriginal parents complained of name-calling of their children by non-Aboriginal school students. It was felt that this was due to a television comedy show in which abusive terms were used.</p>	<p>Officers visited town and met with representatives of Aboriginal community. Principal of school was contacted and informed of situation. Commonwealth Education Officer was advised of need and a local program to increase understanding was commenced. Relations between students reported subsequently to have improved.</p>
80/9493	Coffs Harbour	<p>RECREATION</p> <p>Aboriginal children refused access to roller-skating rink.</p>	<p>Action not based on racial discrimination.</p>
80/9503	Narrabri	<p>HEALTH</p> <p>Doctor alleged to have performed a cursory examination of child and to have said 'It is not unusual for Aboriginal children to get sick and have sores.'</p>	<p>Written complaint not forthcoming. No action taken. Aboriginal community worker is monitoring the situation.</p>
80/9519	Wee Waa	<p>HOTEL</p> <p>Allegation received that publican who had been subject of a previous complaint, boasted that he had deceived officers.</p>	<p>Matter referred to local Sergeant of police who advised that as far as he could ascertain, Aboriginals had no difficulty in obtaining service on the same basis as others.</p>

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
80/9541	Tamworth	<p>ACCOMMODATION</p> <p>Aboriginal organisation negotiated for three weeks with a real estate agent to lease office accommodation. Shortly before the lease was to be signed, the agent advised that the owners had decided not to proceed because too many Aboriginals would be using the premises.</p>	<p>Matter was raised in correspondence with the real estate agent who advised that the office was offered for lease on the basis that people would not be calling on it. The entry hall was too narrow to allow further people to do their business without causing discomfort to the clients of established businesses. Response was conveyed to the complainant. No further action sought as organisation had subsequently obtained another office.</p>
80/9402	Forster	<p>RECREATION</p> <p>Local Aboriginal children were not welcome in an amusement parlour.</p>	<p>Officers met with Aboriginal community leader and attempted to meet proprietor. As he was away, matter was raised with local police who undertook to take the matter up with the proprietor on behalf of the Aboriginal community when a specific incident was reported to them.</p>
80/9417	Moree	<p>RECREATION</p> <p>Manager of bore baths evicted Aboriginal children because of their race or colour.</p>	<p>Officers arranged a series of meetings between parties including the manager, Town Council representatives, members of the Aboriginal community, parents and police. Understanding between the manager and Aboriginal parents was achieved and community tension eased. Legal action commenced by both parties discontinued.</p>
80/9453	Inverell	<p>COMMUNITY</p> <p>Application for credit account refused by department store to Aboriginal organisation.</p>	<p>After telephone contact with the store manager, the matter was raised with the State credit controller. As a result approval was given to the organisation to open an account.</p>
80/9408	Wilcannia	<p>EDUCATION</p> <p>Discriminatory treatment of Aboriginal children by school principal.</p>	<p>Meeting held between Commissioner and Director-General of Education, who undertook to institute measures to overcome difficulties between staff, Aboriginal students and their parents.</p>

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
80/9364	Kempsey	HOTEL Aboriginals served cans and bottles, but could not obtain a drink in a glass.	Matter taken up initially by a trade union organisation and local Consultative Committee on Community Relations. Subsequently it was reported that service was available on an equal basis. Later, on a field trip, officers met with licensee to discuss the matter and to inform him of his obligations.
80/9425	Inverell	HOTEL 'In all we had two rounds of drinks. The publican came out and pointed her finger in my face and said, "All you black people will have to go out, you cause too much trouble".'	Compulsory conference held. Respondent offered an oral apology which was accepted by the complainants.
80/9480	Kempsey	HOTEL One beer was served by the publican and two beers were served by the barmaid. Another barmaid came on duty and recognised the complainant as person who assaulted her two years ago. The publican then refused service to him.	Local Consultative Committee on Community Relations, Sergeant of police and Aboriginal community leader met the licensee to discuss the complaint. No further action was required.
80/9288	Inverell	HOTEL Aggrieved persons called at hotel and were refused service. 'We don't serve blacks.'	Compulsory conference held. Matter was settled by a public apology in the <i>Inverell Times</i> of 21 November 1980
80/9305	Armidale	LAW The brother of an Aboriginal, convicted of a serious crime and sentenced to 16 years jail, felt that justice had not been done.	Complaint made orally. Complainant asked to send details in writing. These were not forthcoming.
80/9325	Inverell	HOTEL Service refused. Complainant stated that there was a ban on all Aboriginals at the hotel.	Publican was contacted by telephone. Ban had been imposed after two Aboriginals had smashed glasses. Publican lifted the ban following the telephone call. Officers visited hotel on a field trip and advised publican of his obligations under the law. No further difficulties were reported by Aboriginal community.

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome /Basis of Settlement</i>
80/9368	Toomelah	<p>POLICE</p> <p>Alleged that during a telephone discussion about the death of an Aboriginal, a senior constable of the Queensland Police Force used words disparaging Aboriginals to a non-Aboriginal accountant of an Aboriginal organisation.</p>	<p>During a field trip, officers raised the matter with the police officer who admitted to certain difficulties during the discussion but denied making disparaging remarks. Officers arranged for the constable to negotiate directly with Aboriginals with the help of a Catholic priest. Local Sergeant (NSW) undertook to assist liaison between the parties.</p>
80/9335	Boggabilla	<p>POLICE</p> <p>Police attended a disturbance in an hotel. They called for reinforcements which arrived, sirens blaring, from Goodiwindi. One constable produced a firearm. Local Sergeant arrived and with the co-operation of the Aboriginals present eased the tension caused by the early closure of the hotel and the actions of police. Aboriginals were barred from the hotel as a result.</p>	<p>A meeting was arranged between members of Aboriginal community and Police Superintendent of district and local Sergeant. Community Relations officers also took up matter with Queensland Police. Understanding developed between Aboriginals and police. Local Sergeant undertook to liaise further with Queensland police and Aboriginals. Community Relations officers also convened a meeting between the publican and the complainants. Publican refused to lift ban on some complainants because of past anti-social behaviour and a fear of violence in the hotel. Aboriginal community leaders satisfied that there had been discussion about the incident.</p>
80/9382	Bowraville	<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</p> <p>Graves of Aboriginal people were sited away from other graves in the cemetery in a location subject to flooding.</p>	<p>Council advised that although burials were permitted throughout the cemetery, a section was set aside principally for Aboriginals at the request of relatives. Council constructed a drain to direct surface water away from Aboriginal graves.</p>
80/9365	Kempsey	<p>HOTEL</p> <p>Service refused.</p>	<p>Matter taken up initially by a trade union organisation and Consultative Committee on Community Relations. Subsequently, it was reported that service was available on an equal basis.</p>

Outcome/Basis of Settlement

Officers arranged a meeting attended by Inspector and other senior police, and members of the Aboriginal community and local Constultative Committee on Community Relations to discuss ways to improve Police/Aboriginal relations. Arrangements made for regular liaison between Police and Aboriginal community.

Complainant was advised that the propagation of ideas based on racial superiority and hatred is not unlawful under the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*. Complaint also made to the Anti-Discrimination Board which wrote to the editor to encourage more positive attitude to Aboriginal people. Commissioner decided that nothing would be gained by taking the matter up as well.

Officers and representatives of the Aboriginal community held discussions with the publican and informed him of their concern. Police assisted to arrange meetings. Members of the Aboriginal community were satisfied with the discussions and sought no further action.

~~Officer accompanied by two representatives of the~~ Aboriginal community met with licensee. Discussion served to inform publican of obligation to serve all people equally. Members of Aboriginal community were satisfied that they had been able to state their complaints directly to the publican.

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>
80/9366	Kempspey (Burnt Bridge)	POLICE Police detective produced a firearm and discharged it in the presence of Aboriginals.
80/9332	Nowra	MEDIA Racist article in newspaper.
80/9363	Bowraville	HOTEL Aboriginals subjected to special rules which restricted their use of toilets and encouraged them to drink in a shed at the back of the hotel.
80/9384	Bowraville	HOTEL Aboriginals were not served schooners nor allowed in the lounge between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
80/9482	Armidale	HOTEL Barmaid informed complainants that they would be served only two rounds of drinks. After speaking to another staff member they obtained further service. However, the dartboard was taken down and they were humiliated in front of the other customers.	In the company of Aboriginal community leaders, officer visited hotel during a field trip and spoke to the new publican who could not answer for his predecessor. He gave assurances that while he held the licence, service would be given even-handedly.
80/9524	Armidale	HOTEL After four rounds of drinks the barmaid said there would be no more service. The publican also refused more service.	In the company of Aboriginal community leaders, officer visited hotel during a field trip and spoke to the new publican who could not answer for his predecessor. He gave assurances that while he held the licence, service would be given even-handedly.
80/9322	Inverell	HOTEL Out of town Aboriginals were not served. Aboriginals were also required to show identification before being served. This did not apply to non-Aboriginals.	Compulsory conference held. Matter was settled by an oral apology and payment of \$160 to each complainant.
79/9275	Delungra	HOTEL Publican told complainant that he was barred from the hotel. When asked for a reason he said, 'How about swearing?' and then swore at the complainant. On another occasion the publican assaulted him by pulling his hair.	Officer met the licensee who advised that the complainant had been barred from the hotel for anti-social behaviour and for assault. Incoming licensee agreed to lift the ban on the complainant when he took over the hotel.
79/9277	Narrabri	HOTEL Aboriginal complained that he and several companions were barred from four hotels without any explanation. Officers on a field trip visited the four hotels and spoke with three licensees. Officers concluded that	racial discrimination was not a factor in the events complained of. Officers informed the complainants of their findings.

5)	<i>File Number Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
	79/9280 Bonshaw	<p data-bbox="564 200 805 223">HOTEL AND POLICE</p> <p data-bbox="564 255 1099 330">Complainants served drinks but were asked to leave before finishing. Brawl developed between 10 whites and 6 Aborigines. A shotgun produced.</p>	<p data-bbox="1201 227 1736 251">Matter sub judice. No written complaint received.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1201 385 1756 540">Officers met administrative secretary of the club. Club rules provide that a person who has made an unsuccessful application for membership may not enter the club premises as a visitor. The same rule had disadvantaged a non-Aboriginal workmate of the complainant who accepted this explanation.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1201 568 1775 642">Officers visited the hotel on a field trip to discuss the complaint with the licensee. They were satisfied that licensee was even-handed in dealings with patrons.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1201 676 1765 856">Compulsory conference convened. Respondent denied that racial discrimination was a factor but acknowledged the complainant's point of view. Respondent agreed to assist in finding other accommodation. Complainant asked that the matter go no further and was satisfied that she had been able to put the complaint directly to the respondent.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1201 883 1775 961">Matter was referred to the Housing Commission Chairman who advised that accommodation had been provided and that the delay had been caused by a shortage of housing.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1201 989 1756 1063"><u>On a field trip, officers discussed the situation with Aboriginal community members who advised that the hotel did not practise racial discrimination.</u></p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="564 1112 913 1136">Aboriginals arrested and charged.</p>
	79/9247 Ashford	PRIVATE CLUB	

Aboriginal refused access to the premises to attend a Christmas party organised by his employer.

79/9255	Ashford	HOTEL Aboriginal refused entry to an hotel for ten years.
79/9274	Narrabri	ACCOMMODATION An Aboriginal woman enquired about a house for rent. When the landlord saw that she was Aboriginal, he said the house was for sale and not for rent.
79/9189	Lismore	ACCOMMODATION An Aboriginal woman and her children living in a women's refuge waited a long time for Housing Commission accommodation.
79/9220	Coonabara- bran	HOTEL Aboriginals were thrown out of a hotel and hosed down by the publican.

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
79/9223	Wee Waa	PRIVATE CLUB Aboriginal refused membership	Additional information was sought from the complainant in writing. No response was received. Complainant did not appear to wish to pursue the matter.
79/9237	Wellington	EMPLOYMENT Woman employed at a hospital complained that a change by administration to duty roster precluded her from weekend work for which higher pay rates applied. She felt that her exclusion from weekend work was because she was Aboriginal.	Community Relations officer raised matter by telephone with administration. Information given that roster determined by Health Commission and not hospital. Hospital administration co-operated by negotiating with individual staff members who agreed to changes which enabled woman to work at weekends. Complainant subsequently reported that she was not fully satisfied and was advised to contact union representative. Complainant later reported that the matter had been resolved to her complete satisfaction.
79/9242	Inverell	HOTEL Ban on service to Aboriginals.	Matter was discussed with the publican by telephone. On a field trip officers met the publican and were satisfied that his approach was even-handed.
79/9210	Tingha	POLICE Allegations were made that police were under the influence of alcohol when making an arrest. General complaints of discrimination by police were also made.	Officers held an informal meeting with A/Inspector of Police, members of the Aboriginal community and local police officers. A prior meeting had been convened between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members of the community. As a result of the discussions hostility and tension were eased. Follow-up by local organisations and government department was arranged. Subsequent reports indicated that harmonious relations had been established.

①	<i>File Number Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
79/9241	Armidale	<p>HOTEL Service was refused because of inadequate footwear when other patrons were wearing shoes that were worse. The complainants were barred for life for arguing.</p>	<p>Officers met the licensee who agreed to have a discussion with the complainants with a view to lifting the ban on them. Complainants were advised to contact licensee.</p>
79/9258	Grafton	<p>COMMUNITY A flat in a festival procession depicted Aboriginals as drunkards and layabouts by white people painted black, swilling from wine flagons and rolling drunk.</p>	<p>Festival Secretary met with complainants. Festival organisers were concerned that offence had been taken, advised that the float was not a registered entry and undertook to exercise greater control over participation in future processions.</p>
79/9165	Taree	<p>ACCOMMODATION Aboriginal prospective tenant was informed that a flat had been leased. White person contacted the lessor and was told that the flat was available.</p>	<p>Compulsory conference held. Matter was settled by an oral apology and payment of \$100 to each of the two complainants.</p>
79/9172	Narrabri	<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT Aboriginal council employee resigned his job of six years because he felt discriminated against. He had to vacate his council house.</p>	<p>Enquiry revealed that eviction proceedings had been commenced against the complainant. Matter taken up with the Council which advised that the complainant had vacated the house.</p>
79/9098	Moree	<p>HOTEL After serving one beer, a publican told two Aboriginals they would have to leave unless they identified an Aboriginal who had been in a fight with him. Complainants saw a white man involved in the fight being served.</p>	<p>Compulsory conference held. Matter was settled by payment of \$100 to each of the two complainants, a written apology and assurances about future service.</p>

Outcome/Basis of Settlement

Matter was the subject of a court hearing. Complainant requested by telephone that an officer be present. He was advised to engage a solicitor and to contact this Office if further help was needed. Complaint considered settled by legal proceedings.

Matter was forwarded in writing to the prisoner's legal representative. Request was made for confirmation that racial discrimination was involved. No reply was received which was taken to mean that further action was not required.

Club president denied that racial discrimination was involved and invited officers to visit the town to discuss the matter. Matter to be pursued during a future field trip.

Publican denied that racial discrimination was practised as both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginals had been barred and Aboriginals were employed in the hotel. Matter to be pursued during a future field trip.

Officers held a meeting between complainants, Aboriginal community leader and publican. Publican offered an oral apology to those involved. This was accepted.

Matter taken up by local Consultative Committee on Community Relations.

File Number Locality

Complaint as Stated

79/9138	Albury	COMMUNITY A woman punched the complainant's 14-year old daughter, spat in her face, yelled abuse and tried to hit her over the head with a stick.
79/9141	Goulburn	GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY Allegation by prisoner of Goulburn Gaol that the Superintendent had a racist attitude.
79/9152	Ivanhoe	PRIVATE CLUB Some Aboriginal wives of RSL members were not granted membership while other Aboriginal wives of white appearance were.
79/9152	Ivanhoe	HOTEL Service was refused to Aboriginals at an hotel.
79/9065	Armidale	HOTEL Drinks were served to a group of Aboriginals. Later police arrived and asked them to leave for no apparent reason. Police said that they were acting on a request from the publican. The Aboriginals were not misbehaving and were tidily dressed.
79/9066	Kempsey	ACCOMMODATION Employee of Municipal Council Library was refused accommodation because she was Aboriginal.

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
79/9082	Moree	<p>ACCOMMODATION</p> <p>Manager stated that complainant's caravan could not be brought back to the caravan park because her husband was a `blackfella'.</p>	<p>Compulsory conference held. Matter was settled by a written apology. Council undertook to make instructions clearer in future.</p>
79/9093	Bega	<p>MEDIA</p> <p>Local newspaper printed articles about the protection of sacred sites threatened by logging. The comments caused offence to Aboriginals and also evoked ill-feeling toward the Aboriginal community.</p>	<p>Editor printed an apology and stated in correspondence that there was no intention to offend or upset anyone. Response conveyed to complainants. No further action sought.</p>
79/8552	Wilcannia	<p>LAW</p> <p>Stipendiary Magistrate referred to an Aboriginal appearing before him as coming from 'a pest race'.</p>	<p>Matter referred to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and dealt with by State authorities. Magistrate transferred to a metropolitan district.</p>
79/9072	Taree	<p>POLICE</p> <p>Alleged police inactivity in enquiring into assaults on Aboriginal juveniles and young pregnant Aboriginal women on two separate occasions. The Aboriginal community decided to take action itself and a gathering of about 120 Aboriginals took place in a public park and disturbances occurred which resulted in twelve Aboriginal persons being charged.</p>	<p>Officers held discussions with local Consultative Committee on Community Relations, police, members of the Aboriginal community and defendants. A meeting arranged between police and members of the Aboriginal community laid the basis for the establishment of good relations. Charges were laid against a number of Aboriginals and were heard in court. Subsequently the Aboriginal community requested per the Aboriginal Legal Service that enquiries into alleged police misconduct be discontinued.</p>
79/9064	Port Macquarie	<p>HOTEL</p> <p>Service refused. 'We won't serve Aboriginals unless they are vouched for by whites.'</p>	<p>At Office's request, Department of Aboriginal Affairs officer and Aboriginal community leader discussed complaint with publican. Matter was not resolved at this meeting. Subsequently, when on a field trip, officers met with respondent who forwarded written apologies to complainants.</p>

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
79/8505	Boggabilla	<p>COMMUNITY</p> <p>Service station attendant produced a gun in the presence of Aborigines. Aboriginal said that if he had done something like this he would have ended up in gaol.</p>	<p>Enquiries made through the Sergeant of Police revealed that police had investigated the matter and that the object produced had been a piece of tubing attached to a spray gun. No further action taken.</p>
79/8515	Nowra (Browns Flat)	<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</p> <p>'Council intends to remove shanty town from Browns Flat where Aborigines have lived for centuries.'</p>	<p>Matter referred to Council which advised that the land in question was under discussion for transfer to the Aboriginal Lands Trust. Council also advised that it had resolved to make representations for the Housing Commission to provide accommodation to Aboriginal families in the Shire and that existing structures would be demolished when satisfactory housing had been provided. Complainant was advised of response.</p>
79/8502	Kempsey	<p>POLICE</p> <p>Aboriginal community was concerned that police preferred no charges following traffic accidents which caused the death of Aborigines.</p>	<p>Local Consultative Committee on Community Relations undertook to pursue the matter with the Inspector of Police and to compile information. During subsequent field trip, officers were requested by members of the community to discontinue enquiry.</p>
79/8454	Kempsey	<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</p> <p>In a proposal to resume Aboriginal Trust land for a boat harbour and caravan park, Council was more concerned with commercial potential than the needs of the Aboriginal community.</p>	<p>Matter referred to Minister for Public Works and Ports who gave an assurance that development would not affect Aboriginal Trust land. Officers and Aboriginal community leaders met with a number of Councillors and Council officials to discuss the issue and the concern of the Aboriginal community. Talks produced a basis for mutual understanding and future co-operation.</p>

d)	<i>File Number Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
79/8457	Kempsey	<p>POLICE Legal proceedings were commenced by parents over the alleged assault of two Aboriginal boys by a police constable. An Aboriginal community leader was allegedly approach to have proceedings discontinued. In return charges against two other Aboriginal boys would be withdrawn.</p>	<p>Sub judice involved. Matters proceeded to court after which the complainants did not wish to pursue the complaint further.</p>
79/8504	Moree	<p>POLICE An Aboriginal died after being hit by a police car. Aboriginal community wanted charges to be laid against the police involved. When this did not eventuate, unrest developed which threatened to erode Aboriginal/police relations.</p>	<p>Liaison between Police Superintendent, Aboriginal community leaders and clerk of court assisted to have the coroner's inquiry into the incident held at an early date. Officers on a field trip convened a meeting between Superintendent and Inspector of police and Aboriginal leaders. Discussions centred on the alleviation of community tensions.</p>
79/8412	Coonamble	<p>PRIVATE CLUB Entry refused to a golf clubhouse. Aboriginal told he had to be signed in by member. This was done but he was still refused entry.</p>	<p>Secretary/Manager of the club replied that the group the complainant was with appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and was not accompanied by a member. He further advised that about 30 of the club's 400 members were Aboriginal. Assurances given that no racial discrimination intended. Complainant satisfied with response.</p>
79/8435	Armidale	<p>ACCOMMODATION Request by tenant that another couple also move into a flat acceded to until the landlord realised that they were Aboriginal. He terminated the tenancy because of the tenant's association with Aboriginals and made racist remarks.</p>	<p>Complaint did not identify the respondent and this prevented enquiry. Efforts to contact complainant were unsuccessful.</p>

File Number Locality

Complaint as Stated

Outcome/Basis of Settlement

79/8363	Tenterfield	HOTEL Aboriginal woman complained that she was not allowed into an hotel and that her son was thrown out for no reason.	Commissioner wrote to the licensee who replied that racial discrimination was not practised and that the complainants had been barred for anti-social behaviour. This reply was passed on to the complainant who sought no further action.
79/8372	Bega	ACCOMMODATION Neighbours discriminated by writing letters to NSW Housing Commission complaining about visitors.	Senior Housing Commission officers from Sydney and Bega met in conference with the complainants, Aboriginal leader and Community Relations officer. It was agreed that harassment of Aboriginal family by neighbours would be dealt with by Commission and Commission's actions relating to Aboriginal family discontinued. Commissioner for Community Relations pursued matter of Aboriginal tenants of Housing Commission and difficulties regarding neighbours and the Commission with Chairman of the Housing Commission. Police requested to investigate anonymous complaints against Aboriginal family.
79/8373 79/8374	Bega	HOTEL Bans were imposed for life upon Aboriginals while similar bans were not imposed for the same misdemeanours on non-Aboriginals.	Officers visited town and held discussions with all publicans. A meeting was arranged between publicans and Aboriginal community leaders. Publicans declined to lift severe ban on Aboriginal in question because of past anti-social behaviour. Aboriginal community satisfied that racial discrimination was not a factor.
79/8402	Albury	MEDIA Aboriginal community felt that a community news letter article misrepresented a resettlement program and placed Aboriginals in a poor light.	Matter was taken up in writing with the Editor to encourage him to adopt a more positive attitude to Aboriginal people.

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
79/8404	Wreck Bay	GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT Camping allowed on sacred Aboriginal burial grounds.	Matter referred to Department which advised that camping was not permitted at the location. Complaint related to a long weekend when campers were asked by a ranger to move on. The Department advised that a sign indicating that camping was not permitted, had been subsequently erected.
79/8294	Nowra	COMMUNITY Harassment of Aboriginal families by neighbours. This took the form of abuse, rubbish thrown into backyard, children assaulted and an offensive garden statue.	Matter taken up with Housing Commission which requested the harassing neighbour to remove rubbish and offensive statue. Local solicitor liaised with Office and offered to assist by talking to both parties about the difficulties. Complainant declined efforts towards conciliation and sought alternative accommodation. Complainant was assisted to obtain this.
78/8306	Guyra	HOTEL 'Served beers in public bar. When publican saw me ordering drinks in the saloon he refused me service.'	Officers met respondent during a field trip. Publican apologised in writing to the complainant and gave assurances of future services. Complainant accepted apology.
78/8021	Batemans Bay	HOTEL Service was refused to Aboriginals who were given the reason that an Aboriginal had misbehaved in the hotel three weeks before.	Officers met with publican during a field trip and settled the matter on the basis of a written apology and an assurance that equal treatment would be given in future.
78/8021	Batemans Bay	HOTEL Aboriginal woman was refused service in a hotel	During a field trip officers convened a conference between the parties. Matter was settled on the basis of an oral apology and assurances about future service. Matter was also subject of a complaint to the Counsellor for Equal Opportunity. Officers worked in consultation with Counsellor who requested that complaints to him be settled on his behalf and together with complaints under <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> .

File Number Locality

Complaint as Stated

Outcome !Basis of Settlement

78/8021	Batemans Bay	HOTEL Similar complaint dealt with as above.	
78/8037	Cowra	HOTEL Aboriginal claimed he was barred because of a general policy of discrimination against Aboriginals.	Matter taken up by letter with the publican who advised that the man was barred for insulting language. He stated that he would bar anyone from his hotel for anti-social behaviour. The publican's response was forwarded to the complainant who did not seek further action.
78/8038	Deliliquin	POLICE An elderly woman went to a police station to enquire about an incident involving the arrest of her son. Police told her to leave. When she would not go they allegedly dragged her to the doorway and pushed her outside.	The matter was referred to Commissioner of Police who reported that there were difficulties with his enquiries because the complainant would not provide a statement to police. During a field trip, officers raised the matter with Inspector and local police. Officers conveyed police regret and assurances about the complainant who subsequently required no further action.
78/8045	Narooma	MEDIA Aboriginal leader reported that an article in a news letter about sacred sites threatened by logging attacked his personal integrity and credibility as an Aboriginal leader.	Officers met with complainant during a field trip. Complainant accepted that the matter did not come within the terms of the <i>Racial Discrimination Act</i> 1975.
78/5071	Griffith	Farmer advised a health worker assisting an Aboriginal family that he had two houses to let. When it became known that an Aboriginal family sought the tenancy of one house he said the houses were for his son and for seasonal fruit pickers. The next week a non-Aboriginal family was given the tenancy of one of the houses.	Matter taken up in writing with the landlord who advised by letter that his son had changed his mind about moving into one of the houses. Because of this, the house had been given to another family who sought the tenancy. He apologised to the Aboriginal family and said he would be happy to have them as tenants provided they met the usual requirements. The response was conveyed to the complainant who did not reply.

<i>File Number</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Complaint as Stated</i>	<i>Outcome/Basis of Settlement</i>
78/	Goodooga	RECREATION Use of hall by Aboriginals terminated.	Organisation did not refuse use of hall on grounds of race.
78/8056	Coffs Harbour	POLICE Aboriginal youth was charged with offences which he could not have committed because he was home at the time	Inspector of Police was contacted by telephone. He undertook to make enquiries and to discuss the matter with the boy's father. On a subsequent field trip, officers met with parent and the Inspector who confirmed that the racial discrimination was not a factor and that it was a police matter.
78/8109	Nevertire	COMMUNITY Young non-Aboriginal people harassed an Aboriginal business woman by causing disturbances in her cafe in an apparent attempt to make her leave town.	Matter raised with Police Superintendent, local Sergeant and local representatives of Commonwealth and State departments. Support and assistance was given by these agencies to the woman who later left the business because of financial difficulties.
78/8147	Boggabilla	LOCAL GOVERNMENT Non-Aboriginal man was appointed to a position with a Shire Council when complainant considered that he met all eligibility criteria and that he was the only permanent Council employee who had applied.	Matter was taken up in writing with the Shire President and Shire Clerk who advised that the race of applicants for the job was not a factor in the selection process. The successful applicant was eligible for appointment as a permanent employee under an industrial award because he had been previously employed by the Shire.
78/8152	Griffith	HEALTH AND ACCOMMODATION Community health worker complained that accommodation for Aboriginals at a reserve was poor, and that overcrowding increased susceptibility to disease. He reported that conditions at the reserve were among the worst he had seen.	Commissioner advised complainant that the matter was not within the provisions of the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> . Officers on a field trip, accompanied by local member of the National Aboriginal Conference, had discussions with reserve residents to support the establishment of a local Aboriginal housing co-operative.

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78/8153	Condobolin	<p>HOTEL An Aboriginal woman visiting the town complained that when she had gone to a hotel with some friends, they were told they would not be served because they were black.</p>	<p>Commissioner wrote to the licensee who advised that service was refused because of anti-social behaviour. This was passed on to the complainants who did not seek to pursue the matter further.</p>
78/8168	Cummeragunga	<p>POLICE Representative of Cummeragunga Co-operative Society complained of the threatening manner of police who entered the community property without permission when serving warrants and when on patrol.</p>	<p>Community Relations officers on a field trip spoke with police and with Aboriginal community leader. Police and Aboriginal leader agreed to meet to discuss the situation and to determine mutually acceptable arrangements.</p>
78/5164	Lismore	<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT City Council heeded objections of residents to the establishment at various sites of an alcoholic rehabilitation centre for Aboriginals.</p>	<p>Compulsory conference held with directions to attend issued to the Mayor, the Town Clerk, the National Aboriginal Conference member and directors of the Aboriginal organisation. Two other Councillors also attended. Matter not resolved. Aboriginals did not seek a Certificate under the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> but purchased land in a neighbouring Shire.</p>
77/5479	Inverell	<p>POLICE Assault by police.</p>	<p>Conference held between senior police, Aboriginal complainants and representatives of Aboriginal community. With agreement of parties, conference was convened as Compulsory Conference. During conference, complainants withdrew their complaint but matter was pursued further by Community Relations officers. Parties agreed that evidence did not support allegation.</p>

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77/5479	Inverell	<p>POLICE Forceful entry into house on several occasions by police and harassment by police.</p>	<p>Enquiries by Police Superintendent and Community Relations officers in conjunction with Aboriginal leaders in community. Allegations not substantiated, however police concerned received appropriate counselling.</p>
77/5335	Taree	<p>HOTEL Young Aboriginal man visiting a town and two young local Aboriginal women sought entry to a dance in a hotel. The doorman said that the women could go in but not the man. When they protested he told the two women that they need not bother to come back.</p>	<p>Compulsory conference held. Matter settled on the basis of payment of \$1,000 to the complainants, a public apology in the local newspaper and an assurance of future admission.</p>
77/5340	Walgett	<p>HOTEL An Aboriginal, in the company of another Aboriginal and a non-Aboriginal was refused service in a hotel. The publican's wife said, 'You two white boys can stay here but that dark boy will have to get out.'</p>	<p>Complaint referred by a third party. Aboriginal community leader advised that he had discussed the matter with the aggrieved party who did not wish to pursue the complaint.</p>
77/5349	Bourke	<p>PRIVATE CLUB Application to hold a private function at a club was refused because Aboriginals would be attending.</p>	<p>Officers discussed the matter with the complainant during a field trip. At her request a direct approach to the club was not made. The complaint was reported in Commissioner's Annual Report. Provisions of <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> do not apply to private clubs.</p>
77/5420	Gilgandra	<p>HOTEL Aboriginals were stopped from entering a dance in an hotel. They were told that invitations had been sent out. Enquiry revealed that an invitation was not required by non-Aboriginals to gain entry. It was also complained that the publican was carrying a whip and an iron bar and had two dogs on a leash.</p>	<p>Compulsory conference held. Matter settled on the basis of a letter from the respondent to the complainants stating that Aboriginals were welcome in the hotel and could receive the same service as others. Complainants were satisfied that they had been able to put the complaint directly to the publican.</p>

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7715146	Casino	EDUCATION Catholic priest allegedly said to a public meeting of parishioners that he would not permit Aboriginals to attend his school.	Matter referred to local Consultative Committee on Community Relations which could not obtain further details about the incident from informant or other sources.
77/5176	Warners Bay	GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY Aboriginal family experienced difficulty in obtaining a housing loan from a Commonwealth authority.	Matter referred to the authority which undertook to contact family and to give all possible assistance.
77/5240	Nowra (Orient Point)	LOCAL GOVERNMENT Shire Council proposed to resume land which was the site of an Aboriginal burial ground and to build a sporting complex.	Matter taken up in writing with State Government authority responsible for the protection of Aboriginal relic and mythological sites. Authority advised that it was aware of a conflict of interests regarding the site and that it was working to resolve the difficulty. Complainant was informed and sought no further action.
77/5326	Moree	HOTEL Four Aboriginals sought service in a hotel. The publican said that they could have one drink and then they would have to leave. When the men protested the publican told them to leave or he would call the police. Inspector of police was in the hotel office at the time and became involved in the discussion. He allegedly supported the publican and would not listen to the Aboriginals' point of view.	Compulsory Conference held. Directions to attend were issued to publican, the Inspector of police, complainant, witnesses and a member of local Consultative Committee on Community Relations. Respondent, who did not attend, and Inspector advised that the matter to be dealt with at Compulsory Conference was sub judice because of a charge of unseemly words against one of the complainants. Summons relating to this charge had been served in the late afternoon of the working day prior to the Conference. A second Compulsory Conference was called to which all previous parties, except the complainant charged with unseemly words, were directed to attend. Publican left the conference unexcused claiming the matters to be discussed were still sub judice. Inspector was excused from the Conference with the consent of the complainants for the same reason. The conference <i>(continued)</i>

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			<p>failed to settle the matter. A certificate under the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> was issued to complainants. A challenge by the respondent to the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> was foreshadowed. Senior Counsel had advised on this challenge. At the request of the principal complainant, Officers settled the matters between the parties on basis of the payment \$1,000. Further action by the Commonwealth against the respondent for non-compliance with a direction to attend a Compulsory Conference was discontinued in the consideration that the matter had been settled.</p>
77/5056	Batemans Bay	<p>PRIVATE CLUB Aboriginals were barred from a club and told that they would have to become members. Complainants believed this was because of a domestic dispute between an Aboriginal couple said to have taken place there the weekend before.</p>	<p>Oral complaint which was not subsequently made in writing. Provisions of <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> do not apply to private clubs.</p>
77/5064	Gilgandra	<p>HOTEL Aboriginals entered a hotel. One of the group was asked to leave because he was barred. When the man had left the others asked for service several times but were refused. They were told it was hotel policy that Aboriginals could buy alcohol but not consume it on the premises. The same policy applied to cigarettes.</p>	<p>Compulsory conference held but did not settle the matter. A certificate was issued under the <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i>. The matter had not yet come to court.</p>
77/5109	Young	<p>ACCOMMODATION Three young Aboriginal women approached a real estate agency to rent a flat. They were told that none was available. Earlier that day a non-Aboriginal friend had made enquiries and had been informed then there were four flats vacant.</p>	<p>Complaint was referred by a third party. The aggrieved parties' consent to the complaint being pursued was sought but no response was received.</p>

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76/5854	Ashford	HOTEL Aboriginals served only in public bar. served	Officers visited hotel and found that Aboriginals were on same basis as other patrons. Respondent replied that he was entitled to refuse service in parts of hotel where dress regulations applied.
76/5907	Mogo/ Moruya	HOTEL 'As we walked in the door the publican greeted us by saying, "out that way". He then said, "I don't want your kind in here":	Complainants were informed of the fact that publican had left. They required no further action.
76/5991	Enngonia	HOTEL No Aboriginal permitted in lounge area, while rear section of adjoining shop reserved for Aboriginals. Non-Aboriginals were served at the front of the shop.	Officers visited establishment and inspected premises and raised complaint with manager. Manager said that rules of dress and behaviour were the only grounds of exclusion. He stated that without business from Aboriginals the complex would not be there.
76/6009	Tweed Heads	POLICE Harassment by police.	The problem was based on a neighbourhood dispute which was ongoing and bitter. Police answered calls to incidents in the area and appeared to be doing what was possible.
76/5772	Condobolin	HOTEL Service refused in several hotels following a football match. Police called but did nothing to help.	Compulsory Conference convened. Three hotels were subjects of complaints. Rumours of threats against hotels and violence by visiting Aboriginals caused publicans to act to contain potential trouble.
76/5817	Kempsey	ACCOMMODATION 'Before asking who I was or whether I could pay the rent, he said I was wasting my time as he wouldn't even consider renting a place to me.'	Local Consultative Committee on Community Relations advised that real estate agents had been visited and the problem discussed. Understanding of position of Aboriginals was reached. Complainant housed.

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76/5818		Griffith	COMMUNITY Aggrieved family has become the subject of torment and ridicule from the neighbours, especially the children — life has become very difficult in the home and she (wife) dislikes allowing her children out to play.	Complainant did not contact this Office following civil court action. A request for information on the situation by Commissioner was not replied to.
76/5633		Hermidale	POLICE AND HOTEL Harassment by police officer. Also assaults. Police officer told local publican not to serve anyone from house occupied by an Aboriginal family.	On enquiry it was found that the complainant was continually the subject of police and community attention for anti-social behaviour. The publican stated that he did not practise discrimination. The police stated that discrimination was not a factor.
76/5736		Armidale	HOTEL Fifteen Aboriginals refused service at hotel.	No information was forthcoming.
76/5747		Armidale	HOTEL AND ACCOMMODATION Report of discrimination — refusal of service in hotels — uneven treatment by real estate agents.	Further information not forthcoming.
76/5769		Narrandera	POLICE On going to see a police inspector at the station, the complainant was introduced into the inspector's office by a constable who said, 'There's a black-fellow to see you.'	Police Commissioner replied that constable had apologised to complainant.
76/5351		Narrandera	MEDIA 'News item which I find objectionable because of its obvious racist writing.' Court reports seemed to pick out the fact that defendant was Aboriginal.	Racist publication is not unlawful under <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> . Complaint brought to attention of Editor.

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76/ 5417	Wardell	HOTEL Refusal to serve Aboriginals in all sections of the hotel.	Complainant did not proceed with case.
76/5503	Coraki	HEALTH Aboriginals received different treatment from hospital staff with respect to out-patient facilities, treatment and rude, racist remarks.	Officers pursued matter with hospital administrators. A nun worked with Aboriginal community and staff to develop better understanding.
76/5576	Berowra	ACCOMMODATION 'After he had invited an Aboriginal to his caravan he was forcibly evicted from the caravan park. He felt sure that this was because of the race of his guest.'	Complainant did not proceed with action.
76/5198	Coonamble	MEDIA Complainant offended by comment 'guess who the bunnies are' (referring to taxpayers) in connection with relief given to Aboriginals at local showground during floods.	Officers pursued complaint with editor who responded by supporting Community Relations activities in town. No offence intended. Positive reporting foreshadowed.
76/5227	Tumut	MEDIA Objections to advertisement containing the word BRINGYAGROGANGINALONG. Other copies displayed in shop windows showed a picture of an Aboriginal holding a goanna.	Respondents stated that there was no basis for claim of racial discrimination. Complainant did not respond when explanation passed on.
76/5286	Kempsey	HOTEL Aboriginal refused service in hotel.	Local Consultative Committee on Community Relations wrote saying that matter had been put to publican who stated that aggrieved had had too much to drink and that under Liquor Act he was entitled to refuse service.
76/5015	Armidale	HOTEL Refused service.	Assurances given that discrimination was not a factor.

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76/5016	Willawarrin	HOTEL Served one beer and then refused further service.	Assurances given that discrimination was not a factor.
76/5030 76/5031 76/5033	Armidale	HOTEL Aboriginals refused service in four hotels despite satisfactory dress and sobriety.	(1) Officers held conference between parties. In one case publican admitted discrimination and apologised to the complainant. Further action was not required. (2) In other cases complaints were of general nature and assurances were obtained.
76/5113	Coonamble	POLICE Aboriginal went into police station to ask for protection for his son. He son is on a suspended sentence and wants to keep out of trouble but two other men are trying to get him into a fight. Police Sergeant just laughed and told him he was a 'black militant bastard'.	Community Relations officers and Commissioner of Police could not substantiate complaint.
75/1189	Queanbeyan	ACCOMMODATION Estate agency maintained policy discriminatory to Aboriginal,	Estate agent unable to pin-point employee who made comments and said that the firm did not discriminate on grounds of race.

