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CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1936.

The Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) has made available the following particulars obtained from the Census of Australian Aborigines which was taken in all States of the Commonwealth on the 30th June, 1936.

With the assistance of the State Statisticians, the Protector of Aborigines and the Police an annual Census of the aboriginal population of Australia has been taken since the year 1924. Certain particulars had been ascertained before that date in some States, but an annual Census had not been attempted.

In previous reports reference has been made to the difficulties of collection, in consequence of which the figures published in the following tables should not be taken as more than reliable estimates.

FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS.

From 1921 to 1933 the total number of full-blood aborigines in Australia did not vary more than 5 per cent from the number in 1921. In 1934 a complete check was made of most of the outlying stations in Western Australia and the Northern Territory and, as a consequence of these special investigations, the figures for 1934 showed a marked decrease on those recorded for 1933. In 1935 the recorded number fell further to 54,378 full-bloods, whilst for 1936 there was a further decline to 53,698 full-blood aborigines, made up of 29,461 males and 24,247 females.

In 1921 the full-blood aborigines represented 82.3 per cent of the total aboriginal population and half-caste aborigines 17.7 per cent. Since that year the proportion of full-bloods has steadily fallen to 69.6 per cent in 1936, whilst the half-caste population has risen to 30.4 per cent. of the total aboriginal inhabitants.

At the 30th June, 1936, there were 11,301 full-blood aborigines in regular employment as compared with 9,206 in 1935 and 10,925 in 1928. 22.7 per cent of the adult full-bloods were recorded as being in regular employment in the year 1928. This proportion fell fairly steadily to 19.5 per cent in 1933. In 1934 and 1935 there was a recovery to 20.4 and 21.7 per cent, respectively, but in 1936 the proportion rose steeply to 26.9 per cent. The chief industries in which the male full-bloods are engaged, in order of importance, are:- grazing, fishing, farming, domestic service, pearling, road construction and black tracking. The females are mainly engaged in domestic service.

HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS.

At the 30th June, 1936 there were 23,461 half-caste aborigines in Australia, and this total was made up of 12,326 males and 11,135 females. New South Wales had the largest number with 9,777 persons, followed by Queensland with 5,785; Western Australia, 4,266; South Australia, 1,814; Northern Territory, 884; Victoria, 586; Tasmania, 270, and Federal Capital Territory, 79.



/Reliable

Reliable figures for the half-caste population are available from the year 1901 when the total number of half-castes was stated as 7,370 persons. In 1911 the half-caste population had risen to 10,113 persons, which was equivalent to an average annual rate of increase of 3.2 (compared with 1.6% for the general population of the Commonwealth). From 1911 to 1921 the half-castes increased at an average annual rate of 2.2 (2.0) per cent to 12,630 persons, but in the fifteen years since 1921 they have increased at a very high annual rate of 4.1 (1.5) per cent. (The figures shown in parentheses are the corresponding average annual rates of increase of the general population of the Commonwealth.) It will be seen that since 1901 the half-castes have been increasing at a consistently higher average rate than the white population.

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FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS.

State or Territory	Adults					Children				Total Full-Blood Aborigines
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps(a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In Supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	
MALES										
New South Wales ..	37	247	86	59	429	2	55	27	84	513
Victoria ..	-	22	2	7	31	-	7	-	7	38
Queensland ..	995	2,767	1,358	204	5,324	192	1,280	196	1,668	6,992
South Australia ..	507	192	18	31	748	116	15	37	168	916
Western Australia ..	6,649	2,380	380	361	9,770	1,428	243	379	2,050	11,820
Tasmania ..	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Territory ..	3,956	2,156	836	188	7,136	1,341	645	49	2,035	9,171
Total Males:	12,144	7,764	2,680	851	23,439	3,079	2,245	688	6,012	29,451
FEMALES										
New South Wales ..	21	115	82	38	256	7	62	31	100	356
Victoria ..	-	-	11	-	11	-	6	-	6	17
Queensland ..	720	857	1,929	251	3,757	194	1,223	171	1,588	5,345
South Australia ..	352	69	14	48	483	101	11	32	144	627
Western Australia ..	6,115	1,602	313	310	8,340	1,368	209	310	1,887	10,227
Northern Territory ..	3,316	894	1,306	148	5,664	1,268	694	49	2,011	7,675
Total Females:	10,524	3,537	3,655	795	18,511	2,938	2,205	593	5,736	24,247
PERSONS										
New South Wales ..	58	362	168	97	685	9	117	58	184	869
Victoria ..	-	22	13	7	42	-	13	-	13	55
Queensland ..	1,715	3,624	3,287	455	9,081	386	2,503	367	3,256	12,337
South Australia ..	859	261	32	79	1,231	217	26	69	312	1,543
Western Australia ..	12,764	3,982	693	671	18,110	2,796	452	689	3,937	22,047
Tasmania ..	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Federal Capital Territory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Territory ..	7,272	3,050	2,142	336	12,800	2,609	1,339	98	4,046	16,846
Total Persons:	22,668	11,301	6,335	1,646	41,950	6,017	4,450	1,281	11,748	53,698

(a) This figure does not include those living in supervised camps who were in regular employment.

Note:- The figures for Western Australia include 10,000 Full-blood Aborigines estimated to live outside the influence of Europeans. These have been distributed as follows:- 4,000 male adults; 4,000 female adults; 1,000 male children; and 1,000 female children.

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HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS.

State or Territory	Adults					Children				Total Half-caste Aboriginals
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps(a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In Supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	
MALES										
New South Wales ..	340	1,696	423	607	3,066	157	799	1,212	2,168	5,234
Victoria ..	4	130	6	54	194	-	-	110	110	304
Queensland ..	18	1,136	193	285	1,632	13	692	580	1,285	2,917
South Australia ..	140	299	100	19	558	156	159	66	381	939
Western Australia	283	684	109	147	1,223	313	294	467	1,074	2,297
Tasmania ..	-	71	35	1	107	-	29	10	39	146
Federal Capital Territory	-	32	2	-	34	-	10	-	10	44
Northern Territory	5	216	15	5	241	7	167	30	204	445
Total Males:	790	4,264	883	1,118	7,055	646	2,150	2,475	5,271	12,326
FEMALES										
New South Wales ..	201	916	574	823	2,514	149	747	1,133	2,029	4,543
Victoria ..	2	39	51	67	159	-	-	123	123	282
Queensland ..	7	766	343	461	1,577	16	682	593	1,291	2,868
South Australia ..	119	58	197	72	446	155	173	101	429	875
Western Australia	260	496	117	158	1,031	244	304	390	938	1,969
Tasmania ..	-	7	75	2	84	-	34	6	40	124
Federal Capital Territory	-	-	20	-	20	-	15	-	15	35
Northern Territory	6	167	31	47	251	7	142	39	188	439
Total Females:	595	2,449	1,408	1,630	6,082	571	2,097	2,385	5,053	11,135
PERSONS										
New South Wales ..	541	2,612	997	1,430	5,580	306	1,546	2,345	4,197	9,777
Victoria ..	6	169	57	121	353	-	-	233	233	586
Queensland ..	25	1,902	536	746	3,209	29	1,374	1,173	2,576	5,785
South Australia ..	259	357	297	91	1,004	311	332	167	810	1,814
Western Australia	543	1,180	226	305	2,254	557	598	857	2,012	4,266
Tasmania ..	-	78	110	3	191	-	63	16	79	270
Federal Capital Territory	-	32	22	-	54	-	25	-	25	79
Northern Territory	11	383	46	52	492	14	309	69	392	884
Total Persons:	1,385	6,713	2,291	2,748	13,137	1,217	4,247	4,860	10,324	23,461

(a) This figure does not include those living in supervised camps who were in regular employment.