Major Developments in Aboriginal Policy & Welfare 1930-1960

I. Aborigines Dept. becomes the Native Affairs Branch of the N.T. Administration (1939) with a development of policy from negative protection to more positive welfare. Field Officers appointed.

II. Army Control Camps 1943-1945
Aborigines in the contact areas of the overland route gathered into Control Camps, within the staging camps, between Alice Springs and Darwin. Aborigines fed, clothed and housed according to Army standards, with employment and health services.

III. Child Endowment payments for Aborigines on Missions 1948
On the basis of average numbers of children on station each week. This provided the Missions with necessary finance to employ teachers, nurses and provide Mother and Child clinics, with improved nutritional services and purchase of implements for growing food crops. Government subsidies were increased.

IV. The 1949 Pastoral Industry Regulations
These regulations laid down a scale of rations, clothing and housing and a list of medicines to be kept, and a small wage to be paid.

Patrol Officers of the Native Affairs Branch inspected all pastoral properties to implement the Regulations.

V. Education (The 1950s)
Schools for aborigines under Commonwealth Office of Education in the 1950s.

Well equipped schools under specially trained teachers, with a special curriculum made education available to the majority of aboriginal children in the N.T. Native assistants in schools.

VI. The Northern Territory Health Dept – Health Services for Aborigines (The 1950s)

VII. Native Affairs Branch becomes the Welfare Branch (1954)
Welfare Ordinance passed and Director of Welfare appointed. Aborigines have full citizenship rights with Social Service payments and Award wages. In theory all legislation now applies equally to whites and aborigines.