

Survey of Native Affairs, State of Western Australia

1947 – June 1948

Other Names: • Bateman Survey

Details

The Survey of Native Affairs was undertaken from 1947 to 1948 by Magistrate F.E.A. Bateman. WA historian Neville Green has written that the Survey was undertaken because it was thought that Aboriginal protection policy in Western Australia was 'out of step with international agreements for Indigenous people'. Bateman's report was presented in June 1948.

WA historian Neville Green has remarked that royal commissions and inquiries into Indigenous matters in Western Australia have generally been motivated by one of two themes: either to identify problems and improve legislation and/or policy; or to 'address concerns of abuse and injustice.'

Green (p.781) described the 1947 *Survey of Native Affairs* undertaken by Magistrate F.E.A. Bateman:

By 1947 the protection policy [in WA] was out of step with international agreements for Indigenous people, and the government decided upon a review... The assimilation of migrants and Indigenous people was the emerging policy, and this is evident in Bateman's report... Education and training were important considerations, but Bateman, as with many of his generation, could not see beyond a future of trade and domestic employment for Indigenous people. He could not visualize Aboriginal people in professions, as teachers, nurses, lawyers and doctors.

More info

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Department of Native Affairs, State of Western Australia \(1936 - 1954\)](#)

Related Concepts

- [Aboriginal Protection in Western Australia \(c. 1832 - c. 1972\)](#)
- [Commissioner for Native Affairs \(1936 - 1954\)](#)

Resources

- [Native Affairs Inquiry](#), The West Australian, 7 August 1947
- [Steps to Improve Lot of Natives in W.A.](#), The West Australian, 21 June 1949

- Bateman, F.E.A., [*Report on Survey of Native Affairs, 1948*](#), 2008
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