

Folder 4

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

SUSTENANCE BRANCH,
GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM BUILDINGS,
GISBORNE STREET,
MELBOURNE, C.2

CIRCULAR 8/34

27th March, 1934

For the information of
Town Clerks and Shire Secretaries.

Dear Sir,

In connection with work in return for sustenance being performed in your municipality in accordance with Section (3) of the Unemployment Relief (Administration) Act and adverting to a communication from this Department dated 13th March, I am directed by the Honorable the Assistant Minister in Charge of Sustenance to state that it is definitely advisable from a point of view of uniformity that the policy in operation in respect of governmental work in return for sustenance should prevail in all municipalities in regard to such work. The policy referred to is as follows :-

- (1) Where men who are regarded as able to work and in the opinion of Foremen, Gangers, or their authorised representatives show an unwillingness to work or to work in a reasonably satisfactory manner (in accordance with the capacity of the individual concerned) steps should be taken for such men to be dismissed immediately and arrangements made with the Registrar or Secretary of Public Assistance for the cancellation of sustenance (Vide also page 8 of Sustenance Handbook under "Reasonably Satisfactory.")
- (2) Those who, because of mental or physical disability, are regarded as unfit for work are not to be continued to be employed working in return for sustenance and outside the metropolitan area arrangements for the issue of orders at the lower rates of sustenance will be made by Secretaries of Public Assistance Committees. In the metropolitan area such persons are to be dealt with in accordance with instructions issued in Circular 6/34 part (2), dealing with cases transferred from sustenance to benevolent societies.
- (3) Those who are willing to work but able to do only light work will be given light work where available and paid at the higher rates. If no light work is available, they may be kept on the sustenance list at the lower rates.
- (4) Men employed on working in return for sustenance who participate in Stop Work Meetings will be dismissed from the job and sustenance will be cancelled.
- (5) The practice hitherto followed of granting leave to delegates to place matters in dispute before their organization will be discontinued. Any representations desired to be made in respect of alleged grievances in connection with work in return for sustenance must be made outside of working hours as is done in all industrial disputes.

The Honorable the Minister desires to impress upon your Council the necessity of complete co-operation in respect of the above matters so that at least a reasonable efficiency may be obtained from men working in return for sustenance.

A copy of this communication has been forwarded to the officer administering sustenance in your municipality.

Yours faithfully,

