

27th. October, 1934.

The Minister in Charge of Sustenance,
Sustenance Department,
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir/

I am directed by His Worship the Mayor (Cr. A. Staples) to bring under your notice the extremely serious position which is developing in Bendigo in regard to miners who are compulsorily out of work owing to the enginedrivers' strike.

I understand that your department has given instructions that these men are not eligible for sustenance. Many of them have commenced work within the last few weeks after lengthy periods of unemployment and they are now unemployed again through no fault of their own. They are willing and anxious to work but, of course, work at the mines or indeed anywhere else is not available to them. From the Mayor's personal knowledge, many of these men with their families are suffering great hardship and I have to respectfully request that you will kindly give sympathetic consideration to the question of making these men eligible for sustenance.

A particularly pathetic case came under the notice of the Mayor yesterday when a man with a wife and 5 children called upon him with the tidings that there was no food in the house and his wife was expected to be confined at any moment. This morning, he called to let me know that yesterday afternoon whilst he was away from home seeking assistance, the child was born. This may be an extreme case, but I can assure you that great hardships exist in many homes.

The Mayor would very much appreciate your prompt and sympathetic consideration of the request.

Yours faithfully,

TOWN CLERK.

Telephone F 2131.

Switch No.

501
577.
558
563.

IN REPLY PLEASE

QUOTE B.101



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

30th October, 1934 MT

The Town Clerk,
Town Hall
BENDIGO.

Dear Sir,

Acknowledging receipt of your communication of the 27th inst. regarding sustenance for miners who have been on strike in Bendigo, I desire to advise you that I have given the matter serious consideration and I enclose for your information copy of an instruction forwarded to the Registrar of Public Assistance in Bendigo on the matter. (P.T.)

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Minister
in Charge of Sustenance

OPY.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR,
SUSTENANCE BRANCH,
MELBOURNE, C.2.

B.101

30th October, 1934

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MEMORANDUM :

The Registrar of Public Assistance,
Law Courts Buildings,
Pall Mall,
BRISBANE.

Respecting miners in Bendigo who are unemployed on account of the recent strike, I am directed by the Hon. the Assistant Minister in Charge of Sustenance to advise that on account of the peculiar and extraordinary circumstances of the case, authority has been given for the granting of sustenance, subject to eligibility in accordance with the Regulations, to all miners at present unemployed who were in receipt of sustenance within a period of four weeks prior to the commencement of the strike.

These men are to be granted sustenance at the lower rates and sustenance may be continued to their families until their first pay after resumption of work. It must be distinctly understood that this special concession must apply only to persons who were actually in receipt of sustenance four weeks before the commencement of the strike and no extension of that period is to be considered.

For the information of the Hon. the Assistant Minister in Charge of Sustenance, kindly advise the number of persons and the value of orders issued in respect of this special concession to miners unemployed on account of the strike.

Officer in Charge