

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.
HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION BRANCH.

No. H46/196.

THE SECRETARY:

MULWALA HOSTEL - FURNITURE.

With reference to the Minister's inspection this morning of the Mulwala Hostel regarding the question of fixed beds in the sleeping quarters, and the decision to substitute the normal type of movable bed, I desire to inform you that, following the Minister's telephone conversation this afternoon, arrangements have been made for the two types of beds in Sydney offered by the Department of the Army to be inspected, with a view to ascertaining their suitability for use in the new hostel.

Some doubt exists on this point as the ordinary Army type bed is of tubular steel frame with large wire mesh. This type would not be satisfactory. The ordinary Army hospital bed type, which I understand is also available, is of a much better standard and may be suitable.

The alternative would be to purchase the necessary number of new beds, the cost of which is estimated at £512.

Dressing Tables:

In regard to the fixed dressing tables, which, it has been suggested, should also be replaced, I have arranged with the Director of Works that the Furniture Officer should proceed to Sydney immediately, with the object of ascertaining whether a suitable type of dressing table can be obtained. Dressing tables of the type purchased for the Acton Guest House would cost £1,350.

Installation of Wash Basins in Bedrooms:

No arrangement was made for the installation of wash basins in the bedrooms of the sleeping quarters, washing facilities being provided at the end of each corridor. This was ~~not~~ considered to be inadequate, and the Director of Works has investigated the cost of equipping each bedroom with a wash basin. Alternative estimates of providing hot and cold water have been furnished as follows :-

(a) Basins to each bedroom with hot and cold water	£4,305
(b) Basins to each bedroom with cold water only	£3,725

In view of the much greater amenity which would be provided for comparatively little additional cost, alternative (a) is recommended.

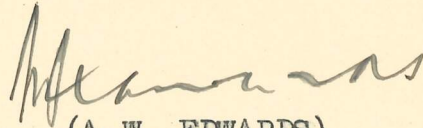
Apart from the fixed wardrobe, bed and dressing table, no other furniture was provided in this establishment at Mulwala, and it has been necessary to arrange with the Works Director to purchase 171 small bedroom tables and chairs at an estimated cost of £430.

(2)

Canberra, including furniture, furnishings, kitchen equipment, etc.

The improvements suggested are considered necessary for the proper and reasonable functioning of a boarding house of this description.

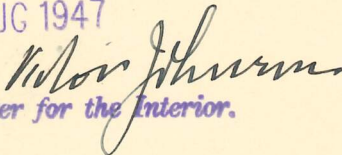
A requisition for an additional £6,597 is submitted herewith for the Minister's approval. Funds have not yet been made available, and it will be necessary to approach the Treasury for the additional amount.



(A.W. EDWARDS)
Assistant Secretary,
Housing and Accommodation Branch.
18/8/47.

APPROVED *Requisition signed*

20th AUG 1947



Minister for the Interior.

