

DEPARTMENT
FOR
COMMUNITY
WELFARE



ANNUAL FOR THE
REPORT YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30

1974





WESTERN AUSTRALIA
1973-74

DEPARTMENT FOR
COMMUNITY WELFARE
ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended
June 30, 1974

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER, M.L.C.
Minister for Community Welfare.

Sir,

*In accordance with Section 11 of the Community Welfare Act, 1972, I hereby submit
a report on the work of the Department for Community Welfare for the year ended
30th June, 1974.*

K. A. MAINE,
Director, Community Welfare

APPRECIATION

The thanks of the Department go to all Governmental and semi-Governmental bodies, religious and community organisations and individuals who, by their active participation or by their friendly support, have contributed in any way to the welfare of those for whom the Department has responsibility in the State of Western Australia.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER, M.L.C.

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INTRODUCTION

The past year has been a time of mixed fortunes. It is pleasing to report that staff have responded well to the possibilities now available to us through the provisions of the Community Welfare Act. That Act strongly emphasises a preventive approach to social problems and an involvement with individuals and groups in resolving their own problems. It will take time as well as money and imaginative staff to discover and utilise the full potential of the Act. The early indications are encouraging despite the limitations set by our continued pre-occupation with the more compelling demands imposed in rendering a general welfare service to the wide community.

There is no cause for satisfaction, however, when the results of the capital works programme for 1973/74 are considered. Expenditure on almost all projects was well below expectations resulting in further delays in the provision of urgently needed buildings and facilities. While some of this delay must be attributable to problems of supply in the private building industry, there does not appear to be enough internal reaction to, and compensation for, these delays in the implementation of the Government works programme.

Methods and procedures that may be quite appropriate during periods of strong activity and competition in the building industry are much less appropriate and indeed frustrating to a Departmental Administrator, seeing time and available funds run away as the established methods of Government building continue on seemingly with very little reaction to changes occurring in the outside market. The carry-over of incompleting projects into the next financial year is serious and further compounds the problems already experienced due to the inadequate range of facilities now available to the Department. An interesting and promising development during the past year has been the encouragement extended to the Department in several instances to involve itself in social welfare issues in some of the new mining towns. This encouragement has come from management and from other Departments. Joint social planning of this kind is not a cure-all for social problems but it will do much to reduce some of the mistakes that have arisen from the past practice of only calling in welfare services when problems have to be removed, instead of an earlier use of such services to prevent or ameliorate the problems.

In the 1973/74 Budget, initial funds were provided for the establishment of a Community Services Training College. This facility will provide basic and advanced training for both Departmental officers and staff from the voluntary agencies and community groups. It will meet a long felt need for improved training programmes and even more importantly, act as a resource centre for all those in the community interested in child care. Early courses will concentrate on training for institutional personnel, but it is hoped that other courses for specialist personnel outside the institutional field will be quickly developed so that a wide and varied cross section of community interest is catered for.

During the year a number of improvements were made to various allowances and rates paid to foster parents and institutions caring for children. The increases were the largest ever made and must help close some of the gap between the actual costs of care and Departmental rates. Higher grants were also paid to Missions to assist in the improvement of facilities.

In the field of Aboriginal welfare, extra funds have been allocated, both from the State and Commonwealth sources, to upgrade some country Aboriginal housing reserves so that the standard of the dwellings is closer to that of conventional housing, thereby providing a more realistic and less demoralising living experience and supporting the other advances now being in the fields of Aboriginal health and education.

Houses on the reserve at Gnowangerup have already been improved and planning is underway to make similar modifications to houses on the Derby and Moora reserves. The number of homemakers employed by the Department has also been increased to work with families moving into new housing. Unfortunately due to the limits of our finance, the growth in homemaker numbers has not kept pace with the rate of provision of new housing by the State Housing Commission and an increase in the level of friction between Aboriginal families and their neighbours must result.

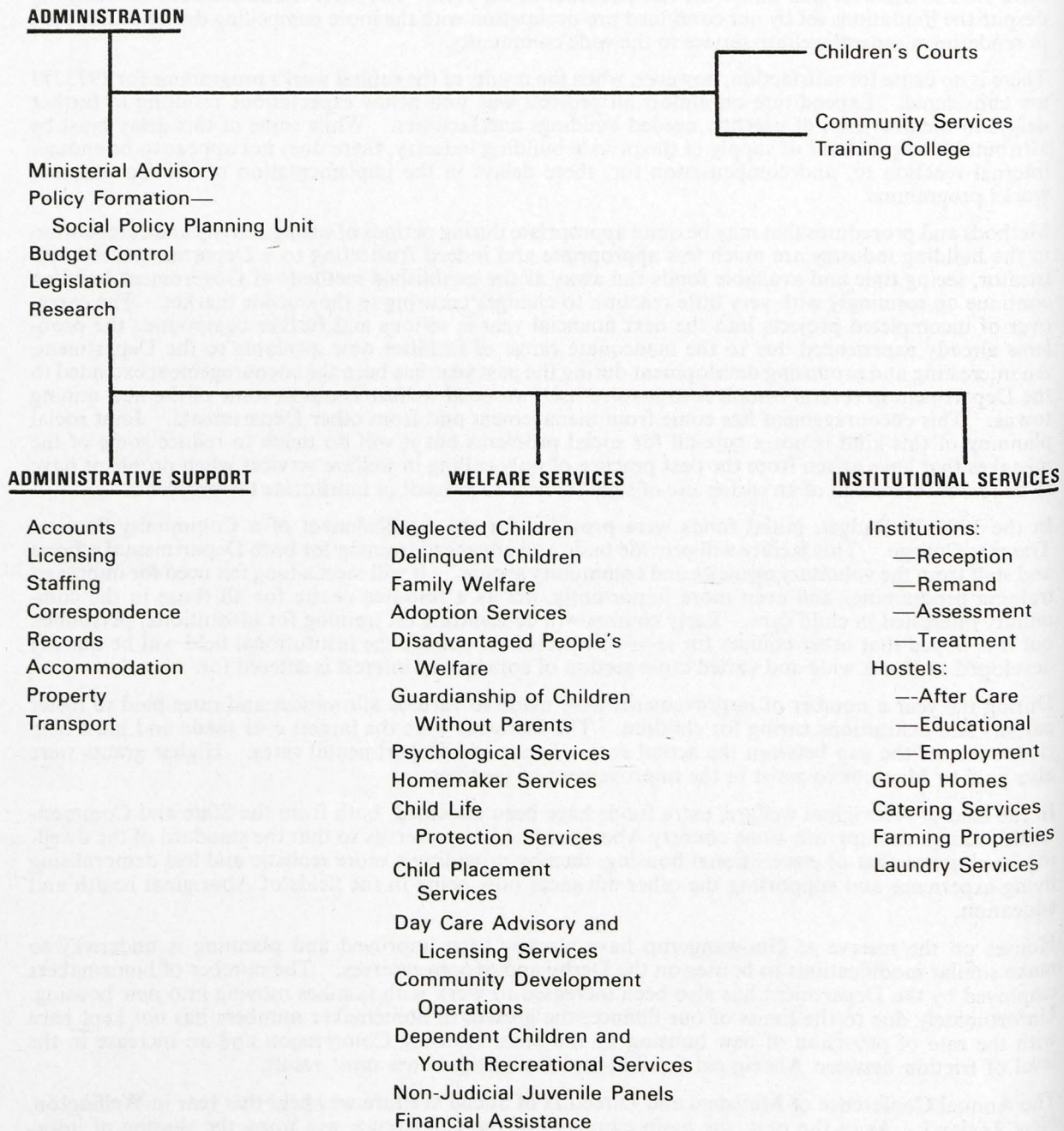
The Annual Conference of Ministers and Directors of Social Welfare was held this year in Wellington, New Zealand. As in the past, the main emphasis of the Conference was upon the sharing of information and the standardisation of laws and practices governing child and social welfare in the various States. One of the matters dealt with at length was the issue of adoption by Australian parents of children from South-East Asia. Proposals have since been put to the Australian Government to overcome some of the legal and practical obstacles that make such adoptions exceedingly difficult at the present time for all but the most determined persons.

My thanks are owed to all staff in the Department at all levels for their continued commitment to their tasks, often in very trying circumstances, with very little reward or recognition except the satisfaction of attempting the most humane of all tasks—helping someone handle their share of problems.

I also wish to express appreciation to all those who work in other Departments or agencies and who co-operate so regularly and readily with us.

K. MAINE,
Director.

FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE



WELFARE SERVICES

METROPOLITAN FIELD SERVICES

Divisions

Services to dependent children, offender-children, families and local communities are provided from 7 Divisional Offices throughout the Perth Metropolitan region. In October 1973 a sub-office of the Victoria Park Division was opened at Gosnells to serve the rapidly growing population between Cannington and Armadale. Growth pressures have also been marked at Rockingham (a sub-office of the Fremantle Division), and at Balga where continued expansion of State Housing Commission estates is creating large population centre.

Youth Behaviour

Behaviour problems with youth continue to cause considerable concern. Field staff offer a service in this area by way of supervising individual children on probation to the Children's Court, advice and guidance to parents and others interested in the child's welfare, as well as by working with children in group situations.

Programmes involving youth in structured activities such as mentioned under "Youth Classes" and with "Mini Bikes" has continued. These are generally seen as offering in many instances a more useful approach to what is basically a group problem.

The Department's Belmont Division is also involved with the Belmont Shire Council and other agencies concerned with youth problems in that area through membership of a committee set up to specifically examine the problem and make recommendations for its alleviation. A proposal to develop a community centre in that area which arose out of discussions has interested the Shire, and a public meeting should be held early in the 1974/75 financial year.

Youth Camps

Several school holiday camps for children in the Department's care have been held at Point Walter. The children involved have included teenage offenders, dependent wards, and children from grossly deprived backgrounds. In general it is the Department's policy to encourage children for whom we are responsible to participate in normal community activities, clubs, sporting associations and the like. Some children, are, however, so grossly disturbed by their experiences as to be unable to fit in with normal children and for these, special attention is given at such camps to help them develop the social and recreational skills which they need to be able to participate in the wider community. Divisional officers who are trained and experienced in handling disturbed and behaviour-problem children have staffed the camps and achieved some notable successes.

Foster and Other Forms of Care

This year saw the formation of a special Child Placement Service in the Department, and Metropolitan Divisional Offices are co-ordinating with this unit and with each other through regular meetings where their experience, special skills, and local resources are shared to the benefit of those children who cannot, either permanently or for short periods, be cared for by their families. Each Division is developing special expertise in this challenging area and the usual practice now is for one or two officers from each Division to concentrate their work load in this area.

Family Support Services

Work in this area continues to grow and many families have benefited from assistance given by Homemakers, Social Workers and Welfare Officers. "Homemakers Centres" are now operating at Medina, Balga, Victoria Park, Midland, Pinjarra and, shortly, at Belmont.

Community Development

The Department believes that there is a pressing need in urban society to foster the growth of local communities by encouraging individual residents to participate as fully as possible in the life of their neighbourhood. To this end full time community workers continue to operate at Fremantle and Balga. By close association with other staff members who are familiar with the nature and extent of welfare problems within the area, they are able to concentrate their efforts in promoting the development by local people of those services which are most needed for the welfare of each local community.

During the year the Social Work Department of the W.A. Institute of Technology, in conjunction with this Department, opened a Community Developing Field Training Centre at Fremantle Division. There is a marked shortage of individuals trained in the techniques necessary for community development work and it is expected that this move will help to ease the position over the next few years.

Aborigines

During the year the State Housing Commission has placed about 190 families in metropolitan housing. There is a pressing need for more trained staff to assist these people to benefit from the opportunities now available to them and to assist them cope with problems created by life in suburban society. The Homemaker programme continues to be the mainstay of work with these people, but it is apparent that the problems entailed in Aboriginal integration cannot be overcome quickly and will require a continuing and expanded effort on the part of all sections of our society.



Luncheon Project for school children and Pensioners at Pinjarra.



After school remedial reading classes at Medina.

Growth of other Agencies

While, on the one hand, it is pleasing to note that an increasing number of Departments and other welfare-orientated agencies are expanding their operations in Perth, this Department is increasingly concerned at the relatively unplanned way in which some of this expansion is occurring. Inefficiencies by way of multiple visiting of problem families, and other duplications of service, must be avoided while yet retaining the variety and scope of services which people need.

At both Midland and Fremantle this Department has played an active part in promoting the development of various forms of co-ordinating committees and other bodies which are essential to ensure rational use of what resources are available. It is inevitable that an increasing amount of work must be done in this area.

Staff and Work Loads

Shortage of experienced and trained Social Workers continues to present a major problem. Vacancies in the metropolitan service cannot always be filled by professionally-qualified people, and a large number of Graduate Welfare Officers have had to be recruited. There is consequently an urgent need for In-Service Training, and the Department proposes to employ a Training and Selection Officer during the coming year.

In every Metropolitan Division, work loads continue to run at an excessively high level. It is only the dedication of field staff who are prepared to work well outside normal hours that has enabled the Department to maintain services at a reasonable level. Unless there is a substantial improvement in the staffing position it may become necessary to cut back on the number of services currently provided.

Metropolitan Divisions

LOCATION OF OFFICES

Belmont	55 Laurie Street, Cloverdale
Perth	A. & G. Building, 79 Stirling Street, Perth
Fremantle	Crane House, 185 High Street, Fremantle
Sub-Office	Rockingham Kent Street, Rockingham
Midland	291 Great Eastern Highway, Midland
Balga	Cnr. Arkana and Ditchling, Balga
Mt Hawthorn	63 Flinders Street, Mt. Hawthorn
Victoria Park	15 Mackie Street, Victoria Park
Sub-Office	Gosnells 2304 Albany Highway, Gosnells

COUNTRY FIELD SERVICES

During the second year of operation the Departmental country services have been consolidating their position and at the same time providing additional welfare services to a wider circle of people. As a result the residents of country areas have had increased access to the welfare facilities provided by the Department. Specialised personnel such as social workers, clinical psychologists and others have made frequent trips to country areas and given a service to those members of the public who need their help. As the staff situation improves and we are able to recruit more specialised and general welfare staff so will our service to the community develop.

One of the major tasks undertaken by the country field service during the past year is to emphasise to the public that we are a comprehensive welfare Department and that our activities and responsibilities are not limited to specific sections of the population such as children or aborigines. In most of the country areas this Department is the only welfare agency and as such is prepared to assist in a multiplicity of welfare situations. As well as providing a service, attempts have been made to foster and encourage local groups so that the community may share with us in helping with the problems of the less fortunate members of that community.

In many of the country areas much of the Department's work has been in the field of aboriginal welfare. The aboriginal people in many areas are still the most predominantly socially disadvantaged group. The possibility of re-housing many aboriginal families in conventional homes has meant that the Department has been able to close down completely a number of residential reserves.

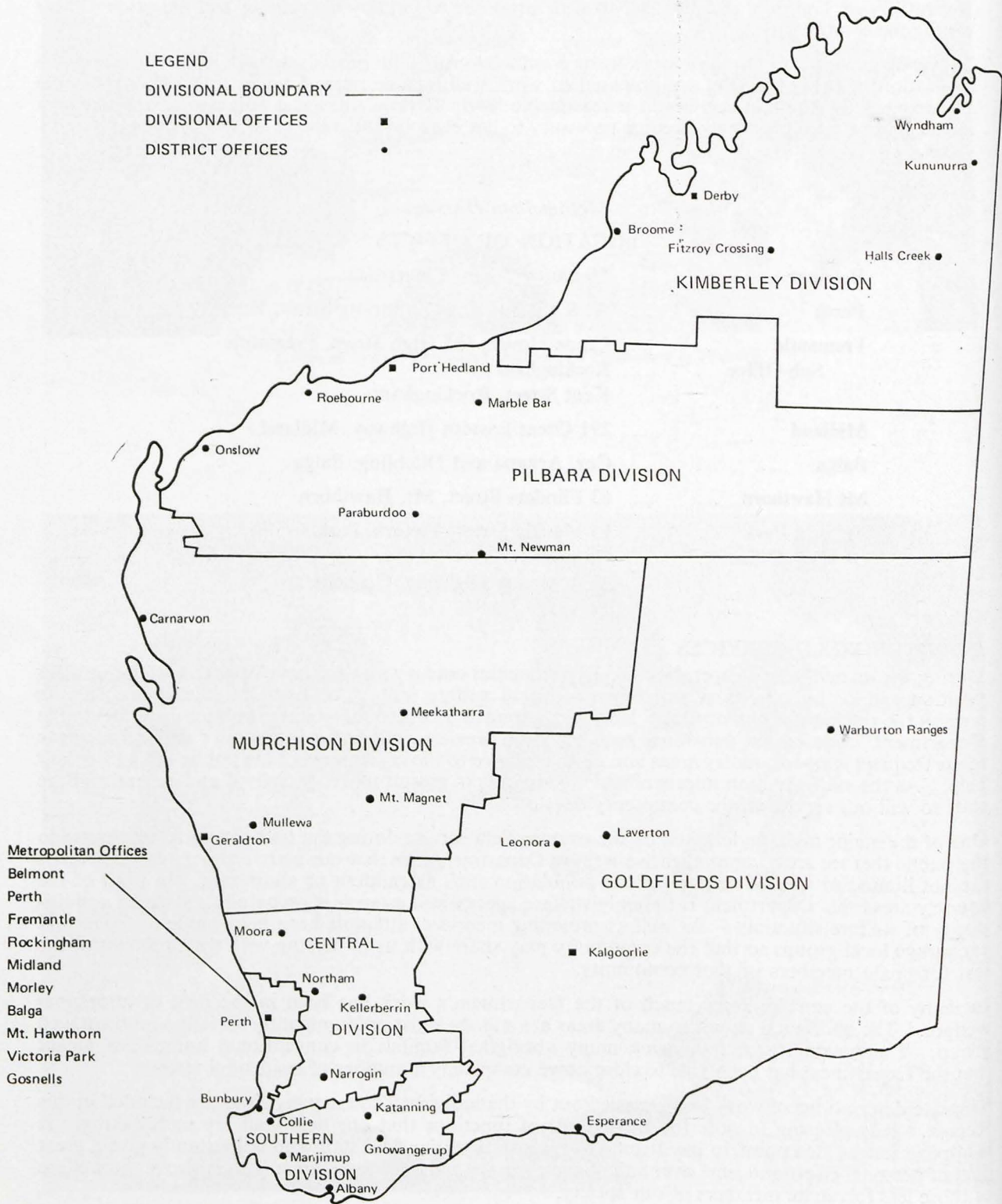
Separate descriptions of work being carried out by the individual country divisions are included in this Report. It is pleasing to note the wide range of functions that our field staff are undertaking. It is appropriate at this point to pay tribute to the efforts of our field staff who unhesitatingly give a great deal of personal effort and time over and above their normal duty requirements to improve the welfare of those less fortunate members of our society.

Kimberley Division

During the past year there have been a number of changes in the division. Greatly increased grant-in-aid moneys to the missions and hostels in this area have enabled some badly needed facilities to be installed. These include a primary school children's cottage in Derby with built-in staff accommodation, as well as new electrical generators and freezer units at Beagle Bay and Lombadina Missions, which have relieved pressing social and physical living conditions. Voluntary institutions in the Division have also benefited from these grants.

The Department has purchased, with Commonwealth finance, an old house in Derby to be used as a short term emergency centre for children.

COUNTRY DIVISIONS AND LOCATION OF OFFICES
OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE

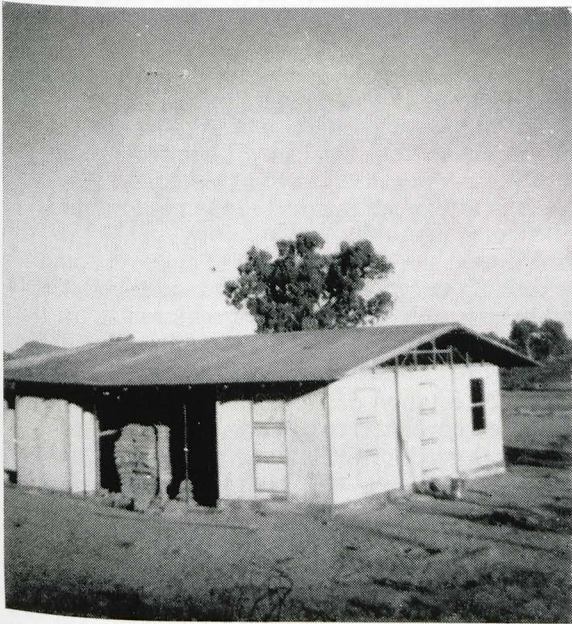


Aboriginal village projects at One Arm Point and Looma are now a functional reality. Departmental staff have continued to assist the relevant State and Federal authorities undertaking these projects in a liaison capacity, whilst at the same time providing a normal welfare service to these remote areas.

The concept of total Aboriginal Communities living an autonomous, independent existence has been welcomed by field staff, as these communities tend to assume more responsibility for the social well-being of their members. The "OOMBULGURRI PROJECT" at Wyndham, under the guidance of a staff member attached to assist the community, has steadily flourished. There is now a community of 200 people living in an area which was an abandoned mission only a year ago.

New divisional office premises were completed during 1973/74 and this has made working conditions more tolerable in the sub-tropical climate.

A considerable amount of time has been spent by officers in educating the local community in the role of the Department, and in placing emphasis on various other authorities to adequately service their own client populations. Continued support and flexibility from head office administration will ensure that the autonomy practiced by local field officers will continue and enable the decision making machinery necessary in remote areas to operate smoothly.



New Design Aboriginal House, one of the many being erected by S.H.C. for Aboriginal Community Settlement.

Pilbara Division

This is the second year of the operations of Community Welfare within the Pilbara Division and some consolidation of the problems experienced in the initial year has occurred.

There exists the very real problem of recruitment of staff to adequately service the community in this area and the approach has been to utilise the current staff establishment and deploy them in locations where they are more readily accessible to people living in the area. Currently a new office has been opened in Mt. Newman township. This office is staffed by one District Officer who was previously located at Marble Bar. Despite this, staff resources remain stretched as we now have single officer posts in four of our five District Offices.

Planning for this division is dependant upon decentralisation and location of population. In this regard the Pilbara Feasibility Study which will be tabled in the near future will serve as a guide to future expansion of the areas of involvement by this department and the location of further personnel.

Difficulties which have been experienced by Aboriginal people in the areas of developing social competence, educational and vocational training, self determination etc. have been tackled at the grass roots level by an able team of part-time homemakers. Instruction in diet, domestic management and community involvement has resulted in some improvement in school attendance, greater feelings of self worth and a re-emergence of self help.

This is very encouraging, although considerable development is still essential in these areas.

The concept of basic vocational training for Aboriginal people, in a complex which incorporates both residential and training facilities, was first conceived in about 1968. Pundulmurra Technical Education Centre was eventually completed in September 1973, staffed jointly by the Technical Education Department, who have provided qualified trades instructors to undertake the vocational training, and the Department for Community Welfare, who have provided welfare staff to undertake the broader personal and social developments of the students.

The first intake of 8 students commenced an 8 week General Pastoral Hand Course on the 1st October 1973, coming from relatively tribalized communities within several hundred miles of Port Hedland. This Course was repeated during first term of 1974, with all students coming from Jigalong. The mobility of ex-students, and geographic distances, has made follow-up difficult. From information received, it appears that almost every Pundulmurra graduate is in employment. Those who have changed jobs, remained in each position longer than prior to coming to Pundulmurra, and are meeting general employer expectations of punctuality, reliability, and advising in advance time to be taken off.

On the 10/6/74, a 2 term Trades Assistant course commenced, with 22 students including 3 married men and their families, coming mainly from the Kimberley, and some from the Pilbara. This is by far the most ambitious course conducted by Pundulmurra in terms of numbers of students, length and level of vocational training, and isolation from kinship group, from which much is being learnt for future courses. This experimental nature will always exist, as Pundulmurra endeavours to adapt to meet the needs of different Aboriginal communities, which in themselves are dynamic and changing.

Major achievements attained in the 1973/74 period include the location of a pre-school centre on the 12 Mile Reserve in Port Hedland, the establishment of Homemaker demonstration units on all Reserves, an increase in homemaker staff, the opening of a district office in Mt. Newman, great involvement with various consultative groups in order to involve the community in planning for areas of need and, of prime importance, an increasing public awareness that this Department serves the community at large rather than only one sector.

Future planning of course will attempt to further consolidate areas of achievement and to develop community resource outlets in fostering, youth work and community-based rehabilitation programmes.

Murchisoa Division

This Division has made considerable inroads into the field of Community Welfare.

Particular attention has been given to areas such as the care of pre-school children, the social and leisure requirements of both school children and adults, and the provision of facilities for senior citizens.

Mount Magnet

The organisation of a Youth Club, the planning and implementation of a programme for nutritional school lunches, the development of a local co-ordinating committee comprising representatives of government and private agencies, and the formation by the local Lion's Club and ourselves of a committee to raise funds for pensioner housing.

Meekatharra

Continually increasing use of the Community/Homemaker Centre by both aboriginal and non aboriginal groups, as instanced by a highly successful fortnightly get-together session inaugurated by the Homemakers.

Following the opening of a Kindergarten by the pre-school Education Board the Homemakers are actively promoting its use by both Aboriginal and non-aboriginal children. In addition our District Officer is a member of a committee of local people concerned with welfare projects in the area (e.g. the raising of funds to provide a bus for transporting children to the Community Centre, Kindergarten, sports meetings, etc.).

Carnarvon

The Adult Aboriginal Education classes are thriving, largely due to the efforts of our Homemakers who also worked with the local aboriginal groups to obtain a kiln from the Education Department and a promise of a spinning wheel from the Commonwealth Government.

Local Officers are actively engaged with the Shire Council in ascertaining the need for and the planning of a pre-school centre.

They have also supported the use of Grant-in-Aid funds by the local mission for the changeover from a dormitory to a cottage-type residential system for children up to 16 years of age.

Mullewa

The idea of a drop-in coffee shop originated some months ago from the High School students. Our local Officer chaired the first meeting and it was agreed to encourage the students to organise and run it themselves, with an advisory committee of adults (including our Officer) available on request.

Geraldton

The increasing use of the Community Centre by local organisations has been initiated by field officers, as has the creation of an Autumn Club by the Senior citizens in Geraldton. Our community image, client relationship, and staff morale have been enhanced by the improved working conditions of our new office.

Throughout the Murchison Division a capable band of aboriginal and non-aboriginal homemakers is tackling the difficulties some families have in meeting the standards of the wider European community. Progress has been made in such areas as regular attendance at school, practical budgeting, social competence and an awareness of the functions of other government and private agencies.

Future development in this Division includes a Family Planning Centre, a Drop-in Coffee Shop, further District Officer and Homemaker training programmes, Group Work with delinquents, foster parents, probationers, co-ordinating committees and preparation for the operation of the Australian Assistance Plan in the Central West Regional area.

It is also planned to maintain co-ordination with Commonwealth and State bodies in the construction of a village concept development at Wiluna.

Problem areas in the coming year are likely to revolve around rehousing and resettlement of aboriginal families and groups. The situation is complicated by the composition of the groups in separate locations within the Division. For instance, the village proposal at Wiluna is delayed pending agreement between the different tribal groups as to its location, whilst at Carnarvon the problem is rehousing pensioners.

The progress that has been made is largely due to the hard work and enthusiasm of both full time and part time staff.

Goldfields Division

During the 1973/74 year there was a continued transition of welfare activities from fragmented services especially designed for isolated individuals and disadvantaged groups to the implementation of programmes adaptable to local needs and geared to involve the wider community. This gradual change is being brought about through the efforts of field officers to educate all elements of the community.

A major problem in the Goldfields has been the incidence of juvenile crime and delinquency, involving a large number of white and Aboriginal children in Children's Court appearances. It has been found that it has not always been desirable to treat children as entities separate from the social environment in which they live and it became obvious that some constructive community involvement and participation was essential if a treatment plan was to be successful.

At Kalgoorlie the Department provided a Mini-bike programme for children who have come under the notice of the department. Officers have conducted weekend and after school activity groups using the machines. This in turn aroused the interest of other children and many of the less socially competent young folk were acquiring sufficient confidence and expertise to participate in the more formally organised trail bike and motor clubs. Mini-bike activities were also introduced at Esperance towards the end of the financial year.

For the older children the Department helped finance an informal drop-in centre, complete with stereo record player and coffee facilities. The drop-in centre was initially supervised by Departmental officers but more recently by volunteer workers from within the community. There are indications that other town authorities at Kambalda, Menzies and Leonora are becoming interested in this type of project which provides a non threatening medium where adolescents can develop constructive skills in social interaction and be better equipped to move into organised social groups.

Another important development has been the expansion of the Homemaker service at Kalgoorlie, Esperance, Leonora, Laverton and Warburton. The primary aim of this service is to provide informal education and support for Aboriginal women in the skills of housekeeping, child care and social participation. Homemakers are also giving valuable preventative support to white families with economic, emotional or marital crisis needs and are major factors in the improved attendance of children at Kindergartens, at Esperance, Kalgoorlie and Warburton.

The change in emphasis of welfare function combined with an increasing need for more flexible welfare services has not been without teething problems. At Laverton, the Department's Community Hall, previously an Aborigines Centre, has been used for meetings of the Country Women's Association, for Youth Club activities, badminton, prayer meetings and as a soup kitchen. There are clear indications that the broader functions of the Department are being accepted as a result of active community involvement by our officers.

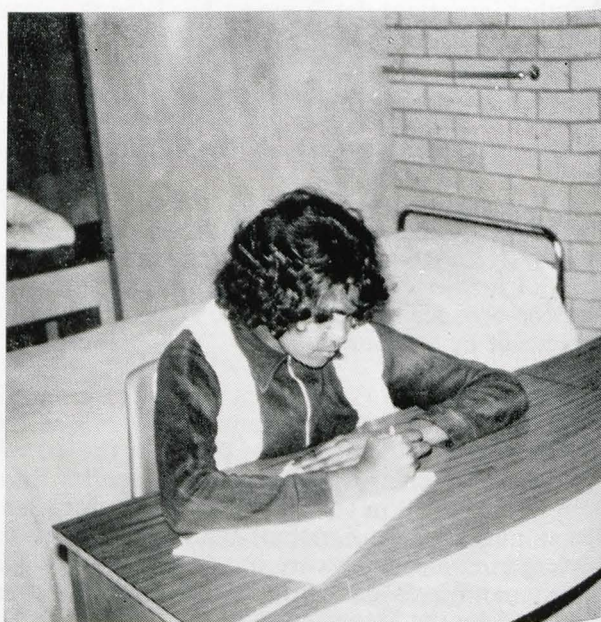
At Warburton, the Department's operations have been directed at Aboriginal welfare and education. Although the settlement is financed by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (formerly A.A.P.A.), this Department provides a shower block for the use of all children and staff, and finances the NYALKU-BAL centre which provides three meals per day for school and pre-school children. Trained staff have been instrumental in teaching local Aborigines facts of nutrition and preparation of food. A Homemaker and Welfare Assistant under the supervision of our District Officer, successfully conducted kindergarten and baby care programmes. The District Officer was also active in the supervision of Aboriginal Wards on the settlement and dealing with juvenile problems. There are 18 Aborigines employed by the Department at the Warburton Settlement.

The Department's Institutional Services staffs and finances the school hostels of 'Nabberu' at Leonora, 'Nindeebai' at Kalgoorlie and working girls and youths hostels in Kalgoorlie. These facilities are used for Aborigine children who normally reside in outlying settlements which have inadequate facilities. Grants in aid were made by the Department to mission authorities which conduct similar institutions at Cundeelee, Kurrawang, Norseman and Esperance. Future provision for a further school hostel at Laverton and the establishment of a vocational treatment and training centre for Aborigine Youths at Esperance are in the planning stages. It is desirable, as far as possible, to train young people in their local environment.

The major problem areas in this Division were the juvenile crime rate, family disruption and Aboriginal social development. A compounding factor associated with all of these problems has been the rapid social economic and technological changes brought about by the development of the mining industry. Despite the preliminary boom having subsided mining operations are continuing at full scale around the clock; shift work and the absence for prolonged periods of the father figure is a feature of this kind of life, combined often with a sudden shift in geographic locality. In some instances this has led to family stress and breakdown. For the Aborigines it has meant a more intense effort to try to cope with technological and complex social development not previously known to them.



Nindeebai girls at cooking classes, Eastern Goldfields Project School.



A student from Warburton at Nindeebai Hostel.

At Laverton the Department was involved with the local Shire, Department of Development and Decentralisation, and State Housing Commission in planning for the social change which will follow from the development of the town of Laverton. Our officers were engaged in catalysing local community organisation, setting up youth activity groups, liaising with Aboriginal members of the community, arranging the supply of furniture and other material requisites and extending the homemaker service so that the growth of the town can take place as smoothly as practicable for all people concerned. It is anticipated that this kind of planning will form a model for future social developments and the gaps which have appeared in the resources and facilities of other towns, with the resultant social break down for families and individuals, will not reach the same magnitude in future.

Central Division

In light of the increased emphasis upon community involvement, the rethinking of the Department's traditional responsibilities in the areas of Aboriginal and Child Welfare has been a priority in Central Division during the past year. By reviewing our activities and programmes there has been a gradual increase in overall involvement by staff concerned. This has resulted in a heightened awareness of the Department's role in its community.

Considerable encouragement has been given to aboriginal residents of reserves to take their place in the general community. The Homemaker Service has assisted in the preparation of these families for a more independent life-style and, upon movement, have lent support in the initial periods of adjustment. The readiness of families to make the transition together with the gradual availability of suitable town housing has allowed the Department to close or reduce reserve facilities.

By necessity, the schedule of reserve closure depends upon the availability of suitable alternative accommodation. It is pleasing to see the co-operation given in this respect by Local Government, the State Housing Commission, Aboriginal groups and interested members of the public. As families move into the general community, Departmental involvement increasingly redirects itself accordingly. Hence, closure of a reserve allows Departmental resources to be more positively spent in the community rather than by sustaining self-perpetuating problems inherent to reserve environments.

During the year a 30 per cent. reduction of reserve facilities has been achieved. This has included the total closure of reserves at York and Narrogin. It is anticipated that in the coming year, a further reduction of the remaining six reserves of the Division will amount to 50 per cent. and include the total closure of another reserve.

Regretably, in some areas, it is not feasible to plan for early reserve closure due to large population concentrations and the lack of alternative accommodation. Where this is the case, it is planned to upgrade facilities and provide a better standard of living and lower the disparity between reserve and town housing. Six reserve cottages are at Moora presently being renovated as self-contained units.

Staff and Homemakers have combined well and with the co-operation of responsive families, the expanded Homemaker programme continues with success. Reserve living standards are constantly improving and further community centres have been established at Bruce Rock and Northam. Soon another centre will open at Goomalling and it is hoped that a "model home" complex with associated facilities will be opened at Moora during the coming year.

The serious lack of employment opportunities for Aboriginals, particularly young girls, remains a pressing problem for Central Division staff. Some success has been obtained in the area as instanced by an all Aboriginal shearing team based at Kellerberrin that commenced operations during the year. The team has sizeable contracts for the coming twelve months.

The closure of St. Mary's Hostel for Aboriginal boys at New Norcia necessitated relocation of the lads concerned. This situation was successfully resolved and all youths in the Central Division, under the statutory care of the Department, are now living in family situations. Central Division staff are responsible for the care of 310 children of which approximately 85 per cent. are wards. Case management generally has improved due to more thorough and sensitive planning and by greater access of staff to specialised services.

Despite moderate staff depletions throughout the year essential activities have been carried out at a satisfactory level. The Department continues to fund and manage community programmes mainly related to its statutory areas of interest and in addition is actively engaged in assisting and stimulating local communities to interpret and act upon general social problems.

In seeking the closer co-operation of governmental, church and voluntary organisations, the Division has met a favourable response from the general public. This co-operation has demonstrated good potential towards increasing community resources and improving the delivery and variety of welfare services at the local level.

Southern Division

Southern Division, during the period covered by this report, became the first area in Western Australia to see the development of the Australian Assistance Plan. This, together with our own Department's developments in community activities has seen a general increase in awareness of the need for the co-ordination of Welfare Services at a local level, as well as an increased awareness of social problems within the area.

During the year Aboriginal residential Reserves were closed at Kojonup, Katanning, Ongerup, Darkan and Mt. Barker, leaving four remaining Reserves in the Southern Division. Gnowangerup is the only one of the four that is of any size and as there are no plans in the near future for its closure. This Reserve was upgraded during the year with the connection of 240 volt electricity, extensions to houses and the painting of facilities, some of which was contracted to the Gnowangerup Noongar Centre and under-taken by local aborigines. Families from the closed Reserves moved into larger towns and were assisted with rehousing by the State Housing Commission.

Community/homemaker centres have been established at Wagin and Manjimup. The homemaker centre at Gnowangerup was established by homemakers without Departmental financial assistance and continues to be self-supporting. These centres together with previously established centres at Collie provide a base for homemaker activities and facilitate increased client participation in educational and social activities.

The centre for single parent families established at Withers (Bunbury) had to be closed during the year due to various problems. As a result Departmental support has been focused on fostering individual participation in existing community groups rather than developing separate groups for people with common problems. During the year financial assistance was provided to a women's activity group which enabled them to extend invitations to individual single parent families to participate in organised activities.

It is often the case that social and educational problems are intrinsically involved. Consequently education groups have been fostered in every district. Pre-kindergarten and play groups have been established at Collie, Albany and Gnowangerup; the success of these ventures is attributable largely to the efforts of homemakers and field staff in the Districts. Adult Aboriginal Education commenced at the homemaker centre at Gnowangerup during the year, school holiday activity groups were conducted at the Collie Homemaker Centre, and a pre-school centre established at the Departmental Hostel at Katanning.

Throughout the year Albany District continued to be actively involved with the Albany Voluntary Group which meets weekly at the Departmental office. This body is made up of members of welfare and service organisations and is unique in this state. The group provides an opportunity for the sharing of ideas, and co-ordinates and stimulates the welfare services in the District. It is anticipated that a similar body will be shortly established at Bunbury. Collie District, in co-ordination with local voluntary groups and the W.A. Fire Brigade staged a Christmas party for 200 children from disadvantaged families in addition to the annual visit to the Royal Show by chartered bus.

The problems handled by the Department vary within the Division. Gnowangerup has a large aboriginal clientele compared to Manjimup with a high percentage of migrants living in isolated mill towns. The basic need is for individual casework support. The situation is aggravated by the lack of employment opportunities especially for juveniles and Aborigines which exist in most centres. Initial problems associated with the aboriginal housing programme have reduced and the majority of aboriginal families have made an acceptable adjustment to the community.

Anticipated developments throughout the Division in the future include the closure of further Aboriginal reserves at Albany, Tambellup and Borden. The Gnowangerup Reserve is expected to be the last reserve closed in the Division and this event will depend greatly on future State Housing Commission building programs in that District. In Manjimup the development of the canning and woodchip industries may mean an influx of a migrant population in that District and could demand an increase of out activities in that area.

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNITY WELFARE

Community Planning and Development

During 1973/74 the Department's Community Planning Consultant was engaged in helping rural communities in the South-West to form self-help organisations and to take advantage of the opportunities offered under the Australian Assistance Plan. The Department was instrumental in preparing and presenting a submission to the Social Welfare Commission recommending that several areas in Western Australia should become candidates for financial grants under the Australian Assistance Plan. Two of these recommendations were accepted and these efforts secured grants totalling over \$1 000 000 for the financial years 1973 to 1976. The two areas approved were the Southern Agricultural Region and the Eastern Goldfields region. Both areas now have their own regional boards which assume full responsibility for the operation of the plan in their regions.

The Consultant has provided ongoing support services for divisional staff requesting help in dealing with community groups or encouraging local organisations to develop a welfare orientation. Most of these activities have been confined to the metropolitan area for reasons of time and economy but there have been some opportunities for the Consultant to visit country areas and assist Divisional staff in encouraging local initiative there.

Significant progress has been made by the Department's full time Community Workers in Balga and Fremantle and this is described in detail in the divisional reports for these areas.

During the year a large number of organisations have either employed full time Community Workers or encouraged their staff to undertake a community development role. The Consultant has been engaged in a number of meetings with these people in an effort to co-ordinate and direct the many interests and varied programmes of service groups now operating in the community.

The main direction of the Department's work in the community remains the encouragement of local groups wishing to undertake a self-help approach to their welfare problems. Experience has shown that once clients become involved in the process of solving their own difficulties, they make much more rapid progress towards assuming their rightful place in the community and attaining the goal of independence from the welfare system.

We are pleased to report that some of our Aboriginal clients have formed very successful co-operatives and business societies. Although the prime responsibilities now lie with other organisations, the Department intends to encourage further developments along these lines.

It is hoped that the Department will be able to increase the number of its staff available for full time community development work as it is now felt that the progress in other areas has fully justified this as a social work method likely to produce significant benefits for not only our clients but the community as a whole.

CHILD PLACEMENT SERVICE

The Child Placement Service (C.P.S.) is a specialist section comprising a Social Work Supervisor, a Psychologist, 3 clerical officers and the Child Placement Committee. The section concerns itself with children who live apart from their families in foster homes, group homes, hostels, boarding houses and residential facilities.

The service was established in October 1973 to assist field staff and administrators to achieve three major goals—the reduction of the number of children who must be placed away from their own family, an increased range and quality of services to children and families involved in substitute care, an increased rate of successful substitute care placements (the ultimate aim being to reunite the child with its family.). Consequently, the Service was designed as a core section responsible for the provision of supports and services in the following areas:—

1. Consultation

A. *Field Consultation*

The vast majority of the department's welfare services are delivered to the community through regionalized District/Divisional Offices. The scope of the department's welfare involvement makes untenable the idea of each Division containing the level of knowledge and expertise required to develop desirable standards in each of these areas. Even if this were possible, the resultant duplication of services and the disruption to standards as a result of continuous staff turnover confirm the limitations of any system of total regionalization. The onus for the development of practical expertise in this specific area rests with the Specialist Social Work Supervisor, with support for the theoretical aspects being provided by the psychologist in the Section.

Consultation during the past twelve months has taken the form of—

- (i) Discussion of specific cases—informally, via letters, and through case conferences.
- (ii) Individual discussion with new officers and country staff visiting metropolitan centres.
- (iii) Attendance at staff conferences (each metropolitan division, Southern, Central and Kimberley Country divisions).
- (iv) Involvement with divisional child placement projects—e.g. McCall Centre Training Programme, Mt. Hawthorn group selection experiment, Mt. Hawthorn/Morley Foster Parent group, Perth Division multiple staff involvement in foster assessments.

Significant development of this aspect is limited by restrictions on Divisional staff resources for innovative/project work. These activities call for further development of the specialist roles at the Divisional level. The delays involved in this approach, however, seem more satisfactory than the alternative approach of building up staff of specialist sections into a unit where they are solely responsible for operations in a particular area.

- (v) Fortnightly participation with field representatives on the Child Placement Committee.

The activities of this committee have included:

- (a) Review of eligibility requirement for foster parents.
- (b) Participation in the recruitment and selection of foster parents for the McCall Centre Training Programme.
- (c) Review of factors in developing a programme of foster placement with Aboriginal families.
- (d) Description of the problems associated with long term foster care.
- (e) Development of the components and procedure for refusing foster applicants.
- (f) The development of desirable forms of field support of foster parents, (including definition of the role of the Welfare Assistant in foster cases).
- (g) A survey of staff attitudes towards a departmental clothing store.
- (h) A review of department's needs in the area of hostel facilities.
- (i) A review of the department's policy and involvement in private fostering.
- (j) A full review of Scatter Cottages, their operation and policy.
- (k) The development of a Placement Forum for the matching up of children with available placement resources.
- (l) The development of the booklet 'A Guide to Foster Assessment' together with new forms for foster selection.
- (m) The establishment of a committee to fully review the Annual Picnic for Departmental Wards.

B. Consultant to Administration

The development of expertise in one specific area of the department's operations (through full-time involvement in that area, together with regular contact with field staff), enables the Specialist Section to provide Administration with an advisory service in areas of child placement practice.

Included here is the preparation of submissions involving formal policy review, major examples of which are the Reports and Recommendations on Scatter Cottages and Group Homes.

C. Community Consultation

The section's role in both the areas of hostel care and residential care has developed largely as a result of requests from external agencies for advisory-type involvement.

Examples include:

- (1) An Advisory Committee for the Catherine McAuley Centre.
- (2) Liaison with the Commonwealth Research Programme on the evaluation of the Aboriginal Secondary Grants Scheme.
- (3) Liaison with the Presbyterian and Anglican Departments of Social Service.

2. Co-ordination

The C.P.S. is responsible for the co-ordination of both resources as well as standards.

As inter-divisional placement of children is often necessary, particularly in the metropolitan area, the inter-divisional co-ordination of resources is very important. A central section with a comprehensive and up-to-date index of placement resources in the areas of foster care, group homes, and hostels facilitates the best distribution of these resources.

The co-ordination of standards is the responsibility of the Social Work Supervisor and to date has been largely confined to participation in approving foster assessments.

The major objective is the reduction of significant differences in standards from one division to the next. This co-ordinating role is viewed as necessary in any professional agency with an emphasis on regionalization of services.

3. Education

A. Specialist Library

The Section possesses a comprehensive collection of articles and books on all aspects of foster and group home care. This is supplemented by a card index which contains a full precis of each article for a quick overview of available information. Bibliographies have been sent to each office, and copies of any material (up to a maximum of four articles at any one time) are available to staff.

Where a division is actually involved in a project in a particular sphere of child placement activity, the C.P.S. will prepare a file containing relevant literature for their guidance (files on recruitment, selection of foster parents by group method, foster care of disturbed children and foster parent groups have been prepared to date) while specific articles are often included in written replies to staff on individual cases.

B. Agency Publications

Preparation of literature directly relevant to child placement activities within this department is viewed as an important function of the C.P.S. The booklet 'A Guide to Foster Assessment' is the first of these to be prepared. A booklet for foster parents, together with pamphlets on the department's placement activities (designed for public education/recruitment purposes) are intended for the future.

C. Films

Three films, "The Deep Well", "Debbie", and "John", dealing with aspects of substitute child care have been obtained on loan from the Commonwealth Visual Education Section. Screening of these have been organised by the C.P.C., and these have included participation by foster parents and staff of outside agencies such as the Catherine McAuley Centre.

D. Minutes of Meetings of the Child Placement Committee

The minutes are prepared as a full summary of the discussions occurring at these meetings. Copies are circulated to all divisional supervisors and several members of the administration. It is felt that they offer considerable educational benefits, particularly where they may form the basis for further discussion amongst staff members. Staff, in turn, are encouraged to offer feed-back in the form of comments/suggestions to the Section for further review.

E. Public Education

Talks to groups such as the Friday Forum at the Community Development Centre, the Albany Friday Forum, and W.A.I.T. students are aimed at clarifying a number of misconceptions, particularly about foster care, which prevail in the community. In general, however, it is considered that the divisional Child Placement Representative is the most suitable person to address local groups. The C.P.S. again, is prepared to supply information and even provide direct assistance, if necessary, for the preparation of the material.

Activities such as the publicity display on foster care at Bridgewater's "Open Day" are other forms of this public education role, where direct participation by the C.P.S. would seem quite appropriate.

4. Research

Professional workers and agencies are increasingly being called upon to demonstrate the effectiveness of their services. Two main methods for this are the establishment of goals (both short and long term) and the development of measures to gauge progress towards these goals. At the inception of the Child Placement Service, neither goals nor measuring instruments had been developed.

The goals of this section have been mentioned previously. Examples of statistics now being compiled as a basis for future research and evaluation include:

- (1) A statistical analysis of foster parent resources currently maintained by the department.
- (2) The number, nature, and course of foster applications and approvals.
- (3) The number, nature, and use made of placement requests by the field; the average period of time between referral and actual placement; and the number of placements made per month.
- (4) The rate of placement breakdowns and the analysis of factors contributing to this (revised Subsidy-Movement Advice form). The value of computerizing this data has been explored, but in the face of limited specific skills in this area, the scope has not been confirmed.

Child Placement Service Psychologist

The allocation of a psychologist to the Section has been an important development. To date the roles of this officer have been flexible, involving participation in most areas of the Section's activities. However, while it is anticipated that future practice will necessitate considerable interchange between the functions of the psychologist and the Social Work Supervisor, two particular roles have emerged:

- (i) Supplementing the availability of psychologist resources in the field. Involvement in the form of assessment, counselling, etc. is available to all divisions, but restricted to child placement cases.
- (ii) Research—This area has received considerable attention during the year. Activities have included:

1. *Research Reviews* of U.S., British and Australian literature have been prepared on the following topics: The Recruitment of Foster Parents, The Assessment and Selection of Foster Parents, Supportive Services to Foster Parents, The Foster Child and A Permanent Home for Every Child. These reviews have been compiled as a unitary and comprehensive referral source when new programmes and services are being developed either centrally by the C.P.S. or locally by the Divisional Officer.

2. *The Development of a "Management Ratio" for Group Home Placements* has been completed as the Section's first "pure" research study. The concept of a "management ratio" (M.R.) has been proposed to act as a numerical index of the optimal number of children who can be placed in a given Group Home without exerting excessive pressure on the family structure or any one individual thereby predisposing the unit as a whole, or any one placement, to breakdown. The M.R. assigned to a given child increases (beyond the "normal" base value of 1) as a function of the number and severity of the behavioural/intellectual/medical problems displayed by the child and/or the time and energy expended by the Group Home Parents in caring for such a child. This study provided a guide as to what M.R. values should be assigned to departmental wards in relation to the particular management problems they present. On the basis of the results of the study a form was devised to function as a convenient instrument for calculating the M.R. of each child.
3. *A Study of a Conceptual Model for use in Social Welfare Policy* was initiated in an attempt to provide a theoretical framework within which long term fostering policy, of an applied nature, could be accommodated. A theoretical model of the types of children entering care was developed—in terms of actual and perceived behaviour. A number of practical hypotheses were derived from the model. Among these was the possibility of demonstrating, in theoretical terms, the probability that with increased emphasis on improving the quality and quantity of foster care available, the number of children entering care might increase. The model predicts that a percentage of these children may not, in fact, need to be in the care of the Department, i.e. they have entered the system as a result of the increased sensitivity of field staff to facets of foster care. The model may provide the rationale for instituting departmental policy aimed at, for example, increasing the alternatives to foster care, i.e. increased support for natural parents, enabling them to keep children with them.

Summary

The establishment of the C.P.S. as a central co-ordination and service section to the field, without specific field operations, is an innovation in the department's structure.

The development of the section's role, and relationship to existing structures, has posed a series of complex organizational problems with inevitable confusion and stress for the participants. It is hoped that as a number of these issues have been resolved, the direction is set for future success.

It is considered that a number of problems confronting bureaucracies, particularly those developing a regional structure, can be assisted by the creation of such a specialist section as this. Such problems include communication, co-ordination, development of skills, and support to staff morale by creating opportunities for real participation in policy development and review.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Youth Activities section of the Department has continued to provide a service to the Divisional offices and Institutions. In addition to being able to consult with and assist other sections of the Department regarding their own programme it also makes available a programme of activities for children under notice of the Department. This programme provides a service to children in Foster Homes, Group Homes, Scatter Cottages, Hostels and children from homes where support is requested as well as providing a means of working with children who have behavioural problems. A diversification of activities and involvement by the children is an important feature of all our programming.

Camps

Thirty three different camping activities involving over 600 attendances were conducted. The nature of these camps varied from specific weekend expeditions by foot, canoeing, mini-bike, horseback or even through caves or on a bicycle to general purpose variety camp conducted at any of a number of campsites used by the Department.

Adult leaders were recruited from youth organisations as well as school staff members and various tertiary education institutions. The leaders were briefed before the camps, programme electing discussed and subsequently each leader charged with caring for a group of about five or six children. The leaders adopted a non-authoritative role and encouraged inter relationships. An atmosphere of spontaneity and informality was developed at the camp and as well as participating in a variety of recreational activities of their own choice the campers were able to develop social skills. Participative planning has been an important feature of the camps.

Food supplies were provided by the Catering Section of the Department and in the main the cooking was done by Institution Chefs in their off-duty hours. We are most grateful for that service. On the mobile camps each camper was issued with his own supplies which included individual serves of food, knife, fork and spoon set, plate, mug and billy, in addition to specialist equipment such as riding hat, caving gear or life jacket. In this way each camper was given a special responsibility for his equipment and provisions.

The Department found that the camps facilitated group and individual work and had the effect of the individual or group re-examining personal attitudes towards environment, peers, authority and the Department as a whole. Because of the success in this field the Department appointed an Assistant Youth Organiser to the staff in March 1974 and it is proposed that he should be mainly involved with camping activities.

Campsites

The Department shares a facility with the W.A. Teacher Education Authority at Point Walter. Greater demand will be placed on this camp as this side of the Department's activities develop. The Point Walter facility is ideally located near a great variety of programme resources. We have found it sufficiently isolated to develop a camping atmosphere and sufficiently close to agencies to attract many specialist leaders. It is possible to involve the campers supervising officers and parents or guardians with minimum dislocation of other duties.

A need for the Department's own coastal holiday camp development has been evident for a long time. This is essential for our plan to provide a full range of services to the children in our care. It is unfortunate that negotiations for this much needed facility are progressing so slowly.

During the year the Department used campsites at Point Walter, Dryandra, Binningup Beach, Serpentine, Collie, Point Peron, Stirling Ranges, Mundaring, Garden Island and along the Murray river.

Mini Bikes

Some divisions and institutions used a Mini Bike programme in their work with children. Generally this programme was used as a reward activity as well as a learning experience—road and machine sense, mechanics, riding skills etc. The programme has four important aspects to it—safety, education, recreation and leadership.

Peer Group Leadership

Some peer groups for whom the Department has some responsibility elected to take advantage of a scheme we have been studying whereby a sponsored youth leader works with the group for about ten weeks. To be "eligible" a group's delinquency must be thought to be self extinguishing and an attempt is made to persuade the group to gain their gratification through socially acceptable behaviour rather than anti social behaviour. The youth leader encourages the group to participate in a variety of recreational activities using local resources. During the year one of these groups was involved in a bicycle hike from Perth to Bunbury. The group elected to participate in this activity made arrangements to borrow some road racing bikes from a local group, trained together, made arrangements to camp at Bunbury and to return home by train. The success of this programme depends on the leader acting as a stimulant and the group members making and performing the activity.

Youth Classes

In August 1973 the East Perth Public Hall was demolished to make way for road alteration affecting Wittenoom Street, Hill Street, Lord Street and Moore Street. The Department has been using that hall since 1961 for the purpose of conducting activity classes for juveniles on probation or parole. The loss of the hall was a major blow to the Department's Youth Activity Programme, but it is to the credit of the instructors that they were able to quickly adapt to the totally new environment at the Lincoln Street premises (previously and temporarily used by the Department to house the McCall Centre).

The classes provided the opportunity for children under notice of the Department to participate in a wide range of recreational activities. These included sailing, motor mechanics, pottery, leatherwork, drama, swimming, social games, ball games, gymnastics and visits to places of interest including other youth groups. The class members are encouraged to accept responsibility whilst participating in the programme and given assistance to develop any interests they may find. The numbers making use of this service fluctuated during the year. There was a period during which our tenancy of any building was unsure and it was unreasonable to insist on attendance at a programme which was so insecure. However there was great development in the latter half of the year. During the month of June an average of 25 boys were attending the Youth Classes each Monday, Wednesday and Friday night.

Visits and Liaison with Other Groups

During the year the Youth Organiser attended the Australia-Pacific Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Conference. He also visited the Youth Welfare Service conducted by the Victorian Social Welfare Department and the Adelaide Youth Centre Project conducted by the South Australian Department for Community Welfare. He visited the Department's offices at Kalgoorlie and Laverton and was the Department's nominee to lead a group of Youth Workers on an exchange visit to Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Department continued to liaise with other youth groups and was represented at all meetings of the Community Recreation Council. The Department was invited by the National Youth Council of Australia to, in a small way, assist them to conduct the "Youth Say Project" for the Australian Government Department of Tourism and Recreation. This project involved direct discussion with representative groups of young people between the ages of 12 and 20 and the Department conducted one of these discussion groups.

Conclusion

A range of services and treatment resources has been made available to the field staff. Although the period has been punctuated with uncertainty of venues and future developments this section of the Department's work has been able to make a valuable contribution in the field of "Community Welfare" and can boast "consumer satisfaction".



Scene from a Divisional Camp held at Point Walter during the August School Holidays, 1973.

HOMEMAKER SERVICE AND WELFARE ASSISTANTS PROGRAMME

This year the Homemaker Service has witnessed a period of consolidation. Although numbers showed an increase, with new staff appointed mainly to country areas, efforts were concentrated on improving the knowledge and skills of Homemakers through training programmes. There has also been a conscious attempt on the part of field staff to work with the wider community in an endeavour to familiarise them with the activities and scope of the Homemaker Service and the needs and potential of client families.

Training sessions and staff discussions have been attempting to come to terms with the problem of motivation of families involved in the programme. It has been discovered by all working in this field that for most of the families the problem is not one of insufficient knowledge, ignorance, or lack of experience, but one of motivation. Families who feel they are excluded from the community and rejected by those around them are not motivated to adopt the life style of their neighbours because their efforts are met with failure. Attempts to motivate must therefore aim to assist families to experience success, which provides the incentive to move on to other areas.

Group projects have adopted this philosophy, aiming to allow clients the experience of satisfying and successful social interaction through the process of making their own decisions and sharing activities. The Homemakers participating in these projects play the role of stimulator and resource person, encouraging the group members to assume leadership roles. Twenty-nine of these projects are operating in country towns and five in the metropolitan area. The most remarkable progress this year has been seen in the group operating at Medina, where the client group was successful in obtaining a grant from the Commonwealth Government to secure their own premises. In the Centre, the Medina Aboriginal Cultural Group holds activities and meetings and attempts to provide their own solutions to members' problems. Out of such discussions arose a remedial reading scheme for primary children which has an attendance of 25 and has succeeded in improving the reading and spelling abilities of children who were proud to show their report cards displaying "A". School attendance and interest in school activities has correspondingly increased—success motivates.

An evaluation project is under way in the metropolitan area to determine the goals of the Homemaker programme are being achieved, and it is anticipated that this will provide guidelines for future planning.

Welfare Assistants

Funds were made available this financial year to appoint 26 part-time Welfare Assistants. These appointments have been invaluable, as they have provided much-needed support to field staff by performing many of the tasks which require neither Departmental authority nor special expertise.

In country areas, Welfare Assistants have at their own request been included in Homemakers' training programmes, and metropolitan Welfare Assistants have been invited to join with the Homemakers for sessions of mutual interest and concern. The appointment of Welfare Assistants has increased field staff morale and efficiency by enabling them to provide a wider and more thorough service to clients.

At 30 June 1974 there were 197 part-time staff employed as Homemakers and Welfare Assistants, and an increase of 56 is being sought next year to enable the programme to keep abreast of developments undertaken by the State Housing Commission and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. In country areas the closing of reserves and rehousing of large groups of people, along with the development of new towns requires a major adjustment by families who, with the resources provided by the Homemaker, can take advantage of the benefits to be gained from participation in the community and make an important contribution to community life.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION UNIT

There was a slight increase in the number of suspected cases of non-accidental injury to children under six years reported to the Child Life Protection Unit and subsequently investigated by the Unit's social workers. 119 reports involving 145 children and their families were followed up. Protective legal action was initiated in a slightly smaller proportion of these cases than in preceding years (see below). This trend reflects the increasing willingness of parents to talk about their fears of hurting their children; it also reflects their ability to make use of the growing variety of therapeutic resources that are becoming available to meet their individual circumstances. Of the 145 children who came under the notice of the Child Life Protection Unit, protective legal action was instituted in 18 cases.

Outcome of Action in Cases of Child Maltreatment Referred to Children's Court, 1973/74

Neglect Application by D.C.W. heard in Children's Court—granted	14
Neglect Application by D.C.W.—child placed on probation for 3 years	1
Neglect Application by Police heard in Children's Court—granted	1
Child placed under Director's guardianship for specified time by application of parents to the Minister	2
	18

During the year the staff of the Unit acted in a consulting or supportive capacity to a greatly increased number of agencies involved in family welfare in the community, including Mental Health Services, Child Health Services, Community Health Nursing Services, Kindergartens, and Child Care Centres. Consultation and discussion is also occurring with a growing number of general practitioners.

During the year increased use was made by the Unit of selected Welfare Assistants and Homemakers to ease practical family problems that were a source of increasing frustration to parents with potential for child abuse.

The appointment to the Unit of a psychologist working part-time has been of great value.

A group of mothers met under guidance for two months to learn how to improve their communication skills in ways that would directly benefit family relationships, reduce their social isolation, and increase their confidence in inter-action with professional people and others in authority. These programmes were eagerly used by the participants and will be extended to fathers' groups in the coming year.

Plans had been made earlier for the establishment of a small number of 24-hour crisis centres combined with day care facilities and therapeutic services for both parents and children. These plans have been temporarily shelved because of a lack of funds, thereby causing a setback to the Department's aims to make skilled supportive and therapeutic services readily accessible to parents of young children under stress.

A national conference on the subject of child abuse is in the planning stages and it is hoped that this will be held in Perth in August 1975. The conference will be designed to attract experienced participants and practitioners from the social welfare, medical, legal and law enforcement fields.

Emphasis will be laid on inter-professional education and communication, and will encourage re-thinking by all professions on their traditionally different approaches to the problems of the abused child and his family. This conference will possibly be the forerunner of other seminars to be directed more practically to the needs and education of the many practitioners and people in the community who will increasingly be involved in the diagnostic and preventive aspects of non-accidental injury to children.

DRUG ABUSE UNIT

In contrast to the marked increase evident in 1972/73, the number of referrals to this Unit during the past year shows only a moderate increment. Whether or not this indicates a lessening of interest by teenagers in drug taking is a matter for conjecture. Unsubstantiated reports suggest this is not so and that other variables need to be considered. For example, one possible explanation could be that the W.A. police are now less inclined to charge all youngsters found smoking cannabis (marihuana) or those in possession of small quantities of that substance (which is by far the most commonly abused drug in this State). At present the status of cannabis is in dispute and the controversy regarding its legalisation unresolved. Certainly the use of cannabis no longer has the same emotional connotations for the general public as it had in the past, and this might indicate a greater societal tolerance, in turn reflected in a lower rate of prosecutions.

While the use of cannabis remains illegal, this Department's approach is to counsel youngsters strongly against involvement. The ramifications of prosecution can be traumatic and socially deleterious for adolescents, many of whom otherwise would have minimal conflict with the larger society. In addition, some of those using cannabis will almost inevitably be invited, even pressured, into experimenting with more hazardous substances. The counselling of parents, who sometimes do not discriminate between cannabis and highly addictive drugs, is another important facet of involvement with these youngsters.

While the majority of referrals to this Unit over the past year has resulted from the use of cannabis, other substances involved include LSD, anti-travel sickness tablets, barbiturates, synthetic opiates, hallucinogenic plants and petrol. The last could prove to be a growing problem, particularly amongst Aboriginal youth.

The total number of referrals for 1973/74 was 45, an increase of 4 over the previous year. Of these, 11 were girls. As shown below there appears to be no significant lowering of the mean age of users:

Age	1972/73 Number	1973/74 Number
17 years	29	23
16 years	8	19
15 years	3	1
14 years	0	0
13 years	1	2
	41	45

For those youngsters who appeared before court, decisions included :

Committal	9
Probation	14
Good Behaviour Bond	4
Fine	2
Dismissal under Section 26 of the C.W. Act (i.e. no conviction recorded) with Supervision	11
	40

N.B. 5 cases were not referred to the court.

Decisions normally followed a thorough investigation into the child's social background and emotional needs, and were based upon resultant findings.

A feature of the decisions handed down is the incidence of dismissal without a conviction being recorded, but with supervision by the Unit as a condition of dismissal. This has worked extremely well, and the low rate of recidivism (only 3 of the 45 had previous drug convictions) could reflect the benefits of close supervision, possible when a field officer's case load is of manageable proportions.

Of particular importance are the excellent working relationships which have developed between the Unit and other agencies such as the Drug Squad, the State Government's Special Adviser on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the metropolitan Children's Court Special Magistrate, and various others. This inter-agency co-operation can only be in the best interests of the youngsters we work with and the community at large.

THE ROLE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

Psychologists working with the W.A. Department for Community Welfare provide services in a diverse number of areas. These include the more traditional functions of assessment and treatment, both within institutions and, increasingly, within the field divisions—providing services at a community-based level. Psychologists are also involved in the provision of special services, with the Department's Child Life Protection Unit and Homemaker service, and in areas of staff training and community education. Planning and research are areas in which Departmental psychologists have also been actively involved. The Department also employs an educational psychologist, who works closely with the State Education Department.

There follows a brief description of each of these areas, as well as a more detailed discussion of a few services provided by departmental psychologists, which it is felt will be of significant interest.

Assessment

Departmental policy requires that all children committed to its care as wards are to be fully assessed by a psychologist, a social worker, and other personnel where appropriate, e.g. a psychiatrist or school guidance officer. Children are assessed either within the community or at one of the Department's three assessment centres. Psychological assessment includes the child's personality development and functioning as well as his intellectual functioning. The psychologist then attends a Case Conference, at which a concrete plan is formulated for the child's future placement, management and care.

The three assessment centres include one open centre for the short-term care of destitute and neglected children; an open remand and assessment centre for children on police charges; and a maximum security remand and assessment centre for adolescents.

During the 1973/74 financial year, 849 children were assessed by these three institutions, of a total number of 2 749 admissions.

Treatment

The Department has five treatment centres. Three of these are for delinquent juvenile offenders; one centre is a residential treatment centre for behaviourally disturbed children of primary school age, and the last is a day attendance centre for primary school children with behaviour and learning problems.

At the first three of these centres, token economy or points incentive schemes are in operation as overall treatment programmes.

Within this overall context, psychologists are also involved in designing and implementing programmes for individual children. In institutions where no overall treatment programme is currently available, individual treatment programmes are designed. There is, generally an orientation towards treatment based on operant behavioural psychology; however, this has not precluded the use of other treatment orientations, e.g. play therapy and dynamic psychotherapy are seen as useful in the treatment of some children.

There is a recognition of the need to provide a treatment programme, in the institutional setting, which is directly relevant to the child's life in the open environment. Psychologists are therefore involved in designing programmes to assist children in moving from institutions to open community environments.

Planning

Psychologists in this Department have been actively involved in the planning of projects such as the design of institutions, staff selection and the provision of training for psychologists in this State. A number of people trained as clinical psychologists now occupy administrative positions. Three senior administrative officers come into this category; and the positions of Superintendent at three institutions are currently filled by clinical psychologists.

Field and Community Work

The role of the psychologist in the field divisions is a relatively recent development in this State. The services which psychologists are providing include the more usual areas of assessment and counselling. In addition, the field divisional role is becoming increasingly one of consultation and supervision. Consultation and advice are provided to field officers, community organisations, teachers and parents, on areas such as normal and abnormal behavioural patterns. Field officers, teachers and parents are also being trained in behavioural management programmes, by psychologists, who then supervise and follow up the progress of these programmes.

Two examples of the special services provided by psychologists at the community level give a clearer picture of this increasingly important area of concern for the psychologist. This interest and concern is a reflection of the overall aim of the Department, that of providing community-based welfare services for the family or larger group as entity.

1. *Child Life Protection Unit*

Here the role of the psychologist includes assessment, participation in case conferences, ongoing action and involvement with cases and research.

Assessment includes both testing and behavioural observation in homes, child care centres, kindergartens, and Departmental institutions.

Based upon the assessment, a plan of action is devised, which will include some of the following techniques:—

- (a) Discussions with parents (individual or group) on values, attitudes and handling techniques.
- (b) Counselling of parents in areas of child care, expectations, play, and running of the home.
- (c) Behavioural programmes and family contracts.
- (d) Modelling, role playing and socialising sessions are provided to teach parents alternative behaviours.
- (e) Ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of plans of action.

It was mentioned earlier that the psychologist also undertakes research, within the Unit. This is a relatively new function and is seen as including such areas as an observation scale to assess child handling techniques and communication to parents of information on child development and the expectations which parents should reasonably have for their children.

2. *The Homemaker Service*

A Departmental Clinical Psychologist works with the Service on a part-time basis. The psychologist is involved in Homemaker staff assessment and training, the instigation of research into the effectiveness of the programme and the planning of some specialized services within the overall programme. These functions emphasise what is felt to be the most productive and useful role for the psychologist in this and other field services. It is a consultative and supervisory role, one in which the psychologist can make use of his specialised knowledge in such areas as behaviour modification, social psychology, and research methods to overcome areas of difficulty for other field staff dealing more directly with the community. An example of this function is seen in the recent development of an incentive programme to help families to modify erratic spending behaviour.

Assessment and training, mentioned above, involve establishing relevant criteria for the selection of Homemakers, as well as providing lectures for field officers and Homemakers in areas such as child development, motivation, personality disorders and plans for working with communities.

The psychologist's function in this Service is not to provide assistance at an individual case level, but rather to provide broad consultation and supervision to Homemaker staff providing a welfare service which deals with problems at a community rather than at an individual level.

3. *Community Services Training College*

The function of psychologists in the area of staff training for persons working in community services has been clearly recognised in the establishment of a planning committee for the Community Services Training College.

The planning committee established in October 1973 included, among other Departmental staff, a number of psychologists. Currently, investigations are being carried out with a view to setting up a board to act in a consultant role in matters relating to programmes and training methods.

Research

Survey analysis has included studies of two diverse but common institutional problems—absconding and enuresis. This type of statistical survey helps to place institutional problems into perspective and to emphasise areas for future research. Client-oriented research has been directed at aspects of assessment, placement, and treatment of individuals within the care of the Department. It is important that assessment and placement procedures be evaluated for local conditions and that innovative treatment procedures be implemented and measured.

Selection and training of semi-professional staff is seen as perhaps the most effective utilisation of psychologists' resources in welfare services.

Although the training of semi-professional staff for community-based services is an important area of future development, the present discussion will be confined to the training of semi-professional institutional staff (Group Workers).

Group Workers initially undertake a special one year technical college course, dealing with developmental psychology, institutional psychology and treatment methods. Part of this course is designed and taught by Departmental psychologists.

Qualified Group Workers within institutions also receive further in-service courses in such areas as advanced treatment methods and counselling techniques. Perhaps the best example of this on-going training of group workers is seen at Nyandi, a treatment centre for delinquent girls. It has been included under the general heading of 'research' because the training techniques, as well as the institution-wide token economy, are under continual objective assessment and modification.

Psychologists at the institution have developed a 'treatment package' for the group worker staff. This includes a manual outlining the basic theory and methods of behaviour modification, presented in a 'programmed learning' format. It also includes video tapes of child and staff behaviour, to teach staff by self-observation of analysis of behaviour, with the aid of psychologists. At least one of the psychologists employed at Nyandi has no professional contact with girls detained at the institution, as staff training and implementation of research are felt to be full-time duties.

ADOPTIONS

During December 1973 the Adoption Centre transferred from temporary premises at 45 Havelock Street, West Perth to newly acquired accommodation at 30 Ord Street. The change was welcomed by the staff and public as better working conditions and facilities are in evidence. Clients are more adequately catered for in comfortable reception areas and interviewed in attractive offices which afford far greater privacy. Building alterations are anticipated which will give each Field Officer a separate office and will further improve the reception areas and the working conditions of clerical staff. The need for a large staff and conference room has long been felt and this too is planned for the near future.

The fall in the number of babies made available for adoption, mentioned in the Community Welfare Annual Report of 1973 has continued. This trend is evident throughout Australia and in many other Western Countries. The reason for the continued decrease is that more and more unmarried mothers are keeping their children. The most significant factor appears to be a change in the community's attitude towards the expectant and unmarried mother and more importantly, the unmarried mother's own perception of her acceptance in the community.

The number of babies placed for adoption by the Department climbed to a peak in 1970/71 when 492 babies were placed. In 1971/72 the number dropped to 448 and in 1972/73 to 342. In the year 1973/74 the number of babies placed dropped by a further 100 to 242. As a consequence many families are waiting to adopt children and if the trend continues we may introduce more stringent selection criteria or perhaps cease to register the names of prospective adopters as some Eastern States have done. The existing criteria relate to the age of the applicants, the length of time applicants have been married, the number of children they have, inability to have children or more children, and the length of their residence in Australia for those families not Australian born. At present applicants who are approved are being allowed a total of two children (either natural or adopted). Applicants who take difficult-to-place children are not subject to the normal criteria but are carefully assessed for motivation.

The Department also gave permission for 60 children to be placed for adoption by hospitals and doctors. This number is also a considerable reduction from the numbers placed the previous year.

As at 30th June 1974, there were approximately 300 families who had applied to the Department for a child for adoption awaiting assessment. Most are not seen for their first interviews until approximately 9 months from the date of their original application. This delay is likely to become longer. Adoption staff are very aware of the anxiety caused to applicants at this time and every effort is made to explain to them the reasons for the procedure being introduced. The branch has introduced this waiting period prior to investigation and assessment primarily to have a more up to date assessment when a suitable child for adoption becomes available, and to reduce the number of reassessments necessary, as the Department's policy is to have adoptive families assessed within 6 months of placement of a child. It has been found that during the waiting period a number of applicants withdraw because of changed circumstances, marital disharmony and pregnancy even in those medically certified as unlikely to conceive. To overcome anomalies in the waiting period all applicants are now given priority from their date of application and not, as previously, from their date of approval. Any delays in processing applications does not then affect the prospective adopting parent's priority.

The number of adoption orders granted to applications sponsored by the Department during 1973/74 was 43 more than the previous year and almost double that of 1971/72. The volume of work produced by the legal clerks therefore has increased greatly over that period. The department's staff have developed their skills to the extent that they are now able to prepare any type of adoption application no matter how complex the case is.

On 1st March 1974, amendments to the Adoption of Children Act, passed in November 1973 were put into effect. The amendments had the effect of strengthening the protection the Act provides in 3 areas to the parties involved in adoption processes. The amendments:

1. Closed a loophole, relating to consents to adopt, in the legislation which in some rare cases placed in jeopardy the prospective Adoptors' right to the child which was placed with them for adoption.
2. Extended the restriction on the publication of the identity of parties involved in the adoption processes.
3. Removed the provision which made an investigation by the department necessary whenever a parent of the child wished to adopt the child into the marriage.

Since 1970, adoption applications concerning children related to either or both of the applicants, which were previously prepared by the Department have been handled by private solicitors. This was due to the rapid increase in the number of children who were being placed by the Department, and, more importantly, to the lack of staff necessary to cope with the work. It now seems that many of these people are unable to afford the fees charged by solicitors and consequently have been applying to the Crown Law Department to have their child known by the same name as other members of their family. This method does not give the child the same status within the marriage as would be the case if they were legally adopted.

During the last year there have been many requests for the Department to undertake adoptions of this type, however this will not be possible until the difficulties of the department caused by lack of staff are overcome. It has been estimated that there are many thousands of ex-nuptial children who have not as yet been legally adopted or legitimated. This type of application is not now normally subjected to investigation and assessment by the department's offices as is the case with the more routine type of adoption.

In order to improve and standardise assessment procedures the responsibility for the investigation and assessment of adoptive families applying to hospitals and doctors for their child, in the metropolitan area, was transferred from the officers in the Field Division to Adoptions Branch officers, experienced in adoption procedure. This has led to an increase in the volume of work for the adoptions staff.

The temporary foster care scheme which was introduced in 1971 as a means of providing home rather than hospital care for babies awaiting placement for adoption is still in operation and continues to be a most valuable service.

In our last Annual Report we had anticipated improving our services in the area of assessment techniques through group sessions and also the development of an after-placement service for adoptive parents who require help. Unfortunately due to backlog of work the transfer of other work into the branch and staff changes these services have not yet been implemented.

Adoptions Branch continues to play a part in student-training and it has just completed a second placement session with a student from W.A.I.T. The placement period of nine weeks is seen as being basically too short, even though it is on a full-time basis and sessions of eighteen weeks could probably prove more valuable.

The establishment of the Child Placement Service and the Child Placement Committee has been of direct interest to the Branch, and the voluntary participation of Adoptions Supervisor and staff on the committee has proved very valuable to Adoptions, in that it has highlighted areas of concern shared by adoptions and fostering staff, and has led to considerable co-operation between the two groups.

The adoption of Aboriginal children by Aboriginals has also received considerable attention and has far reaching implications relating to the values and attitudes of our culture reflected in our assessment processes that should be applied when assessing aboriginal families.

The branch is mindful that it must continue a high standard of service in the country areas as well as the metropolitan area. Visits to country divisions by Adoption Officers have been implemented, but they have not been as frequent as planned due to pressure of work, and fluctuation in the number of trained field staff available. The Branch has welcomed an In-Service Training Scheme which enables country field officers to spend two week periods in Adoptions Branch so they return to their country areas much more aware of adoption practice. This appears to be a far better practice than previously when only one half a day was allowed for training.

The functions of the Adoptions Branch are becoming more complex and it is becoming increasingly necessary for us to seek information from specialists in other disciplines

We would like to express our gratitude towards these social workers, nurses, doctors and solicitors both within and outside the Public Service, who have assisted the Branch in discharging its responsibility.

ADOPTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1974

Departmental Adoptions

	Male	Female	Total
NUPTIAL—			
Relationship to Adoptive Parent:			
Natural Parent	1	0	1
Related....	0	0	0
Unrelated	8	10	18
	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>19</u>

EX-NUPTIAL—			
Relationship to Adoptive Parent:			
Natural Parent	3	2	5
Related	0	0	0
Unrelated	322	235	557
	<u>325</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>562</u>

AGE OF CHILDREN AT ADOPTION—			
Under 1 year	12	9	21
1	148	95	243
2-5	164	133	297
6-12	7	8	15
13-15	2	1	3
16-20	1	1	2
	<u>334</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>581</u>

Non-Departmental Adoptions

	Male	Female	Total
NUPTIAL—			
Relationship to Adoptive Parent:			
Natural Parent	39	23	62
Related	0	0	0
Unrelated	1	1	2
	<u>40</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>64</u>

EX-NUPTIAL—			
Relationship to Adoptive Parent:			
Natural Parent	23	19	42
Related....	7	7	14
Unrelated	44	38	82
	<u>74</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>138</u>

AGE OF CHILDREN AT ADOPTION—			
Under 1 year	23	24	47
1-2	25	19	44
3-5	23	16	39
6-12	35	24	59
13-15	8	2	10
16+	0	3	3
	<u>114</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>202</u>

CHILDREN'S COURTS

Metropolitan

Special Magistrates:—

G. R. HITCHIN
W. FELLOWES

Members:—

Mesdames—

D. DETTMAN, J.P.
K. RIGG, J.P.
L. SMITH, J.P.
J. TROTMAN
G. GORDON
D. LEVINSON
M. HANSEN
G. YARRAN

Rockingham

Mr. D. McRae, J.P., E. Cook, J.P., R. Grigg, J.P.

Courts in the Metropolitan area are held regularly. Perth, Fremantle, Midland and Rockingham.

Charges

	1973 /74
Perth	9 252 charges (Traffic 2 418; Other 6 864)
Fremantle	2 302 charges
Midland	1 162 charges
Rockingham	673 charges

Arrests

The number of children arrested, many for petty offences, is far too high and represents approximately 85 per cent. of children appearing.

Action where necessary could be taken in a simpler form by notice or summons.

This would avoid the use of expensive and frustrating mechanisms where arrests are involved. To say nothing of time of officials and expensive facilities required.

The acid test as to whether a child should be arrested should be:—

1. Has he a fixed home.
2. Is he likely to desist.
3. Will he be available at the Hearing.

These matters were referred to in last year's report, little progress appears to have been made to rectify the situation.

Alcohol

The ease with which young people can now acquire alcohol is a problem. The use of alcohol often accelerates law breaking on the part of the young person.

Apart from parental responsibility those involved in the sale and supply of liquor have both legal and moral obligations to see that young people are not supplied, contrary to the provisions of the Liquor Act.

Those engaged in this industry have the responsibility of not serving under aged persons.

Pool Rooms and Pin Ball Parlours

These continue to take a toll judging by the considerable number of young people who resort to stealing in order to maintain interest and activity in this form of recreation.

The cost of caring for children in custody, transporting and escorting is exceedingly high.

These parlours are a haven for school dodgers during school hours and account for considerable amount of "lunch money" provided by parents.

Traffic

The Metropolitan Children's Courts are indebted to the National Safety Council for continuing its work with Driver Training and the results, it is believed, justify the action taken.

Lack of parental responsibility for young people who have been provided with motor vehicles, whether it be a Mini Bike, Trail Bike, Beach Buggy, "bomb" or car continues to add to the list of children appearing for traffic offences.

This also causes a considerable hazard and is time consuming for police and traffic and court officials and Welfare Officers.

Provision of licensed supervised "trial areas" could be the answer.

Unlawful use of or driving motor vehicles is claiming considerable attention without appreciable results.

Merchandising

Modern techniques of selling and displaying goods with a view to breaking buyer resistance also increases the acquisitive desire among young people hence we are concerned with the increase of shop-lifters.

Adventure Centres

Without entering the controversy over pre-school, kindergarten and education centres there is a vast need for "adventure centres".

Local authorities should be setting aside and maintaining areas for this form of activity which is apart from normal football, cricket etc. Also these centres should cater for the older child.

Children playgrounds have been provided in the past few decades but there are no "rough and tumble" areas. Where do youngsters not engaged in team games go to let off steam?

Another type of activity needed is for subsidies for pop groups and performers which could draw young people away from hotel and nightclub areas which on account of age are forbidden them.

There should be centres available also where young people can have the opportunity of mechanic activity.

Legal Service

The legal service provided for Aborigines is fully availed of in courts when dealing with young persons ensuring that representation is obtained.

The problem of non-Aborigine people is one that remains to be considered. It is noted that services are available in the adult court—but as yet no more has been provided to render assistance to this group.

If action is taken by not "arresting", courts could arrange lists so that reasonable opportunity was given to seek advice and what is more that counsel involved would have more time to prepare than exists at present. There is a vast amount to be done in this regard.

Legal advice could also aid the Department for Community Welfare in its efforts to "prepare and be heard" in matters before Children's Courts at the present time. The proper effect of the legislation with respect to juveniles and the Child Welfare Act leaves a lot to be desired.

Too much time is taken up in Court "doorstep inquiries" which in the main is a waste of valuable resources and leads to considerable frustration.

JUVENILE PANEL

Metropolitan

This scheme to deal with some first offenders has now been in existence for ten years. The function of the Panel which consists of an officer of the Department for Community Welfare and a retired Superintendent of Police, is to have children appear before them instead of their having to go to the Children's Court. For the past three years offenders under the age of 16 years are seen.

There has been almost a 40 per cent. increase in the number of children seen by the Panel compared with the year 1972/73 when a total of 1 075 children being 635 boys and 440 girls were seen. For 1973/74 these figures are 1 493 children; 811 boys and 682 girls.

Panels are held at Perth, Fremantle and Midland. The following table gives the figures for the children seen at these venues for this year.

				<i>Number and Sex of Children Appearing</i>			
				Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Totals
Boys	....	....	....	539	205	67	811
Girls	....	....	....	472	175	35	682
Totals	....	....	....	1 011	380	102	1 493

As in previous years the age range of the children indicates that more boys offend at an earlier age but from 13 years upwards the number of girls exceed that of the boys.

Age of Children Appearing											
Age	....	....	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Boys	....	....	3	16	30	72	76	126	186	173	129
Girls	....	....	....	4	9	14	46	85	192	197	135

Over the past 3 years when the upper age limit has been 15 years of age a total of 3 502 children have been dealt with by the Panel. In this period 367 of these children have re-offended and appeared before a Children's Court. This is 10·79 per cent. of the total number. Of the 367 children 293 were boys and 74 girls which makes 15 per cent. for the boys and 4·8 per cent for the girls.

Country

Juvenile Panels are held in the major country towns in the Southern part of the State; as yet it has not been possible to establish them in the North.

In 1972/73 there were 69 children seen and in this year the figure rose to 97; 62 boys and 35 girls.

In the country areas the Panel consists of a Community Welfare Field Officer and a Commissioned Police Officer.

Number and Sex of Children Appearing in Country Areas

						Boys	Girls	Totals
Albany	....	....	....	....	....	12	8	20
Bunbury	....	....	....	....	....	21	13	34
Collie	....	....	....	....	....	3	5	8
Geraldton	....	....	....	....	....	3	3	6
Kalgoorlie	....	....	....	....	....	7	3	10
Katanning	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Narrogin	....	....	....	....	....	7	1	8
Northam	....	....	....	....	....	9	2	11
Totals	....	....	....	....	....	62	35	97

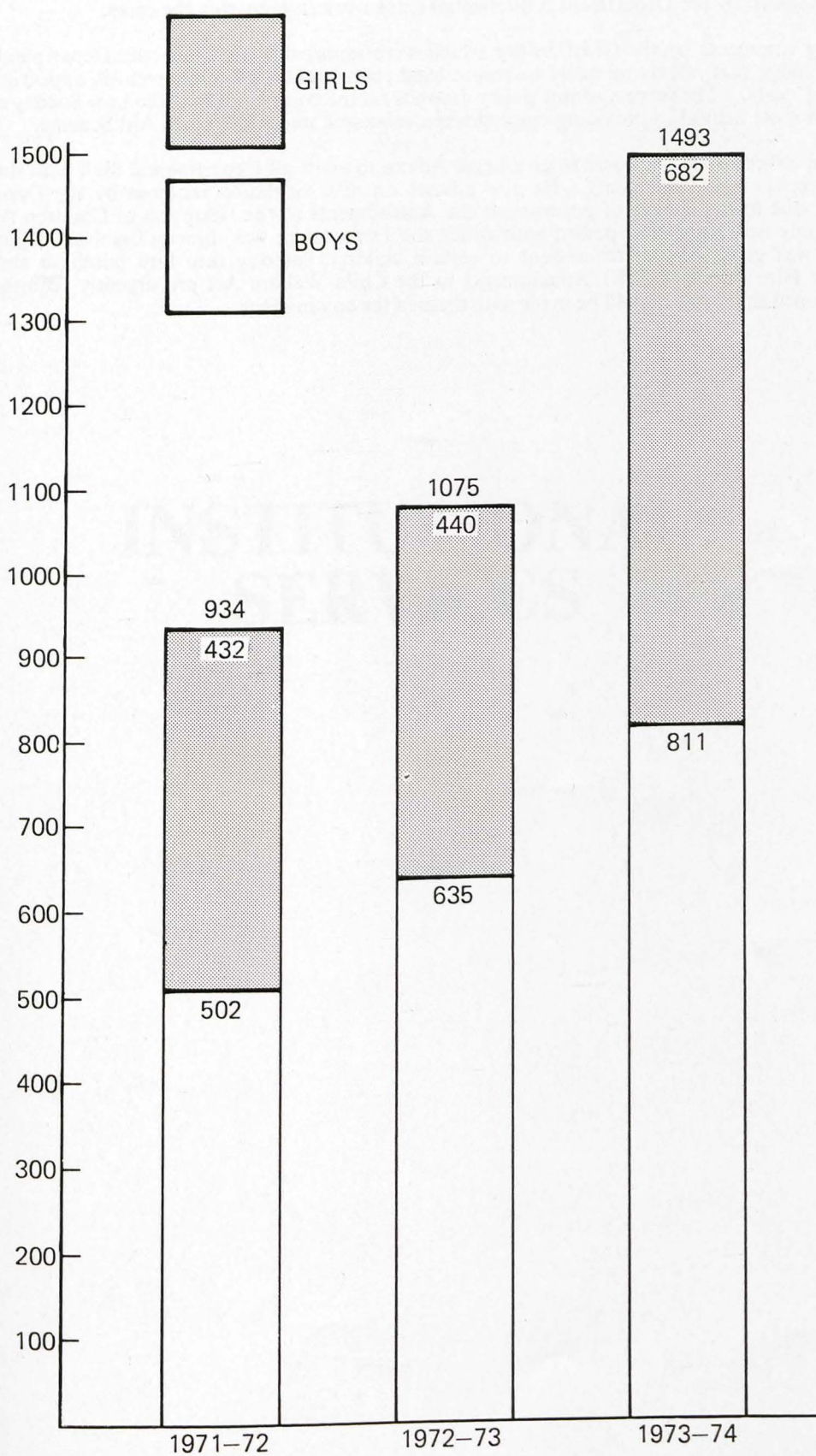
Legal Branch

The Legal Branch consists of the Legal Officer, the Court Officer and the Court Clerk.

The Court Officer and the Court Clerk are responsible for obtaining and presenting social reports to the various Children's Courts in the Metropolitan area. The Department tries to prepare a report on every child who appears in Court on a criminal charge; the only exception is minor traffic charges. When a child is charged by the police the office of the Departmental Division where he lives is informed and an officer is allocated to prepare a report. The Court Clerk is responsible for checking that the reports come in and that the Court decisions are recorded. The Court Officer is the Department's representative in Court and exercises the Department's right to appear and be heard. He also advises members of the public at Court.

In the past there have been complaints from the Special Magistrates that reports from the Department are not ready in time for the hearing. The difficulty is that most of the children appearing in Court are arrested by the police and appear first thing in the morning at the next Court giving the officer very little time to prepare a comprehensive report. To overcome this difficulty we have begun a new system this year. Each Division now has an officer who specialises in Court work and he comes to the Court each Court day and makes enquiries and prepares reports on children in his Division who have only just been arrested. In each case he is an officer who knows the Division and very often he will have some knowledge of the offender's family; if he thinks that a remand for further enquiries is necessary he is in a better position to explain why than the Court Officer. This new system is working well and appears to be assisting the Special Magistrates.

NUMBERS AND SEX OF CHILDREN APPEARING
BEFORE THE JUVENILE PANEL IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA
FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS



This year has seen the formation of the Aboriginal Legal Service which provides assistance to all Aboriginal children who appear in Court. Mrs. Joan Isaacs is their liaison officer who specialises in the Children's Court and Officers have established a good working relationship with her and with the various solicitors who appear on behalf of Aboriginals.

The Legal Officer is responsible for defending wards of the Department who deny committing an offence. His work in this field has been slightly reduced because Aboriginal wards are now defended by counsel appointed by the Aboriginal Legal Aid Service. However he is also responsible for representing the Department when an application to have a child declared neglected is made and the case is defended by the parents. More parents are now able to obtain counsel through the Legal Aid Scheme and whilst this is welcomed by the Department it does entail extra work in preparing the cases.

Following comments by the Chief Justice which were reported in the press the Department agreed with the Judge that efforts be made to secure legal representation for all juveniles appearing in the Supreme Courts. The success of this policy depends on the co-operation of the Law Society and they have been most helpful in providing counsel when requested under the Legal Aid Scheme.

The Legal Officer is also required to give Legal Advice to assist all Departmental Staff with their work and to prepare legal documents. He also advises on new legislation required by the Department. This year due to the change of government the Amendments to the Adoption of Children Act 1973, was the only new legislation passed with which the Department was directly involved, although the Director was given powers to consent to certain children entering into hire purchase agreements under the Hire Purchase Act. Amendments to the Child Welfare Act are urgently required and it is to be hoped that progress will be made with these in the coming year.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

INSTITUTIONS

The Institutional services are an important aspect of the overall programme for the welfare of families and children. Their effectiveness is determined, to considerable extent, by the relevance they have to community needs and community resources and thus close contact with the community through preventive and after care workers is considered essential.

Emphasis in child care is placed upon keeping the family together. Placement in an institution is not considered until other avenues have been fully explored. Even then, the aim is always to return the child to a family situation as soon as possible. For these reasons the trend has continued during the past twelve months to make institutional programmes more flexible and to strengthen after-care services.

The Institutional services may be grouped under five headings. Firstly there are temporary care and assessment centres, for the initial reception of children in need of care. Secondly, there are specialised treatment centres for those children whose problems cannot be entirely managed in the community. There are hostels and group homes for the care of older children who cannot live at home, and finally a range of ancillary services to support the institutional facilities.

Temporary Care and Assessment

Where circumstances necessitate the placement of children away from their present home, every effort is made to provide care without institutional placement. When this is not possible, or where a comprehensive assessment of the child and the situation is required, temporary placement in an institution is necessary.

The assessment procedures involve an appraisal of the child's adjustment in such settings as the family, the school, the community and in employment where relevant. Within the institutions, medical, psychological, educational and behavioural assessments are carried out so as to provide a comprehensive picture of the child and his potential strengths and weaknesses.

The information gathered from the various sources is then used to plan the child's future placement with due regard for the needs of the child, the family and the availability of community resources. Where necessary, treatment plans are formulated to deal with areas of difficulty indicated during assessment and if possible they are put into practice while the child is still in the institution.

Those who require a more specialised treatment programme may be transferred to a treatment centre. However, the majority of children return to placements in the community where they are supervised by the Department's social workers and welfare officers.

The continued shortage of accommodation in foster homes, group homes, private board and other longer term placements creates a number of problems. Many children stay in temporary care longer than is desirable or otherwise necessary and it is difficult to use the assessment facilities to the best advantage.

During the year there appears to have been little overall change in the characteristics of the children admitted with regard to age, sex and ethnic ratios. However, there are indications of a trend toward the admission of children with more specialised problems, especially in the younger age groups. Accommodation pressures continue to be exacerbated by children who must be held whilst serving default for unpaid fines.

BRIDGEWATER CHILD CARE AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE

Location and Description

Duncraig Road, Applecross.

Bridgewater is an "open" Child Care Centre comprised of 9 cottages on an 11 acre landscaped site, designed to harmonise with the suburb of Applecross, where the centre is located. The centre can accommodate up to 107 boys and girls.

Function

Short term emergency care and assessment of children from 3 to 18 years in a setting which as far as possible replicates family life. Children who have committed offences are not admitted.

Population Characteristics

(1) Admissions during year:—

	Aboriginal	Caucasian	Total
Boys	64	134	198
Girls	92	209	301
	156	343	499

(2) School/Employment Distribution:—

	Per Cent.
Pre-school	17
Primary school	43
High school	27
Working	13
(3) Length of stay:—	
Less than 3 months	431
More than 3 months	68
(4) Reason for admission:—	
Temporary care	
Wards	108
Non-Wards	165
	273
Assessment	226
	499

(5) Placement on Discharge following Assessment:—269 Case Conferences

	Per Cent.
Parents or relatives	43
Foster placement	32
Treatment Institution	6
Other Institution	10
Other placement	8

During 1973/74 more primary school children were admitted than would be expected statistically; the distribution of other age groups did not change greatly. Consistent with all previous years more girls than boys were admitted.

There has been a rise in the proportion of aboriginal children admitted. This reflects an increased use of Bridgewater for the temporary care of children with handicaps rather than any social change. A significant proportion of aboriginal children require specialist treatment for ear, nose and throat conditions and they are held in care until treatment is effected.

There has been an increase in the proportion of children returning home following assessment. This probably reflects the gradual impact of professional social work in the field and the introduction of the Homemaker Service. Fewer large families have been admitted, the trend being toward the assessment of individual children followed by work with the family. This trend has also led to an increased number of non-wards being assessed, often in co-operation with Princess Margaret Hospital for Children.

Contrary to prediction, there has been a general reduction in admissions since March, 1974, a trend which reflects preventive work by field-staff.

Assessment and Treatment Programmes

Assessment for planning is covered by the observations of Group Workers, formal testing and play observations by the Psychologist and an investigation of family life by the Social Worker in the field. Medical and psychiatric consultants are available when necessary.

Treatment programmes at this Centre have the goal of adaptation to a normal family. The orientation is behavioural developmental, and most programmes are carried out by Group Worker staff under the supervision of Psychologists. Programmes are continued into the family or foster-family setting.

Liaison with specialist services in the Community has been established. In the areas of assessment and treatment, parents and foster parents have been invited to several Case Conferences and family counselling within the Institution has begun. These two developments are germinal but results have been encouraging.

Developments—Current and Proposed

Tennis and basketball courts and an oval have been developed and are being used daily. Indoor activities will be catered for by a proposed recreation centre which is greatly needed for older teenagers, particularly during wet weather.

Camps and weekend activities have been arranged for most children with the co-operation of the Youth Organiser. The support of Applecross and South Perth Lions has been particularly useful with holiday camps at Dryandra Forest.

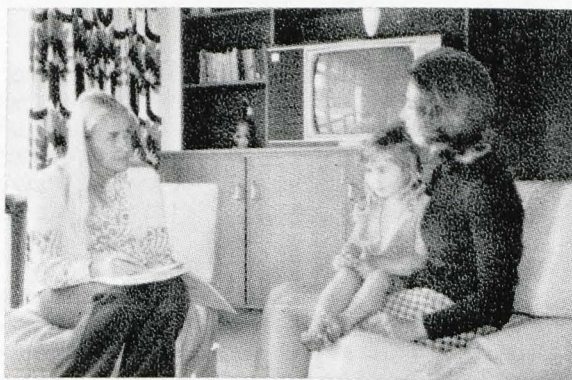
'Open Day' was not greatly publicised but well attended. With the help of students and film societies we were able to present a video of the workings of the institution and the Child Placement Service. A film of minor treatment research is planned for the Australian Psychological Society Conference in August.

The research on absconding has been analysed and is available for comment. Testing of other hypotheses relating to characteristics of children and placement has not yet begun, although this was planned for 1973/74.

Schooling remains a problem to the institution. The inefficient solution of transporting children to their own schools in order to avoid unnecessary readjustments has continued. Schooling facilities on-site for children on Remand and requiring assessment are urgently required.



Playroom assessment at Bridgewater.



Prospective Foster Parent visits Bridgewater.

MT. LAWLEY RECEPTION HOME

Location and Description

Walcott Street, Mount Lawley

The reception Home is an "open" institution. It is based on a large older style suburban home which has been modified and extended to accommodate 44 children. In addition to lawn and garden areas within the grounds a large public park adjoins one boundary and is used for recreation and sporting activities.

Function

Facilities are available for the short term care and assessment of up to 22 boys and 22 girls from seven to eighteen years of age, who require institutional placement but for whom a security institution is not considered appropriate.

Population Characteristics

(1) Admissions during year

	Aboriginal	Caucasian	Total
Boys	119	203	322
Girls	88	118	206
Total	207	321	528

(2) School/Employment Distribution:—

	Per Cent.
Primary School	15
Secondary School	58
Employment	27

(3) Length of stay:—

Less than one week	183
One week to one month	227
One month to three months	102
More than three months	16

(4) Reason for admission:—

Temporary care only	36
For replacement	226
Court Action (charge, action or remand)	85
Assessment	167
Other	6

(5) Placement on discharge

Parents or relatives	38
Private board or foster parents	22
Institution or hostel	38
Other	2

The average age of children admitted was slightly over 16 years and this represents a rise from the previous year. The trend toward an increasing proportion of boys admitted continued this year and it was also noted that they tended to stay for longer periods in comparison with the girls.

More children were admitted for re-placement than for any other reason. However about half of these were transfers from other institutions and if this is taken into consideration the number admitted because of placement "breakdown" has decreased over the past twelve months.

Programme

The number of children receiving full assessment remained at the same level as the previous year. Although assessment has become an important part of the programme the major commitment is still the provision of suitable care and interaction with the community while the children await placement. In addition to help given with employment and schooling, social activities, picnics, outings and visits are arranged. Considering the deprived background of many of the children these activities often represent their first contact with some aspects of community life.

Current and Proposed Developments

In view of the increasing average age and the number of boys and girls needing employment, liaison with employers and potential employers has become very important. In the last year employment was found for 84 children and one staff member is now involved full time maintaining contact with field staff and employers for the purpose of arranging employment and accommodation.

LONGMORE REMAND AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE

Location and Description

Adie Road, Bentley.

Longmore is designed for maximum security and comprises one large building complex with areas for administration, single room accommodation and day to day activities. The activity areas are related to a large open courtyard and cater for a range of assessment situations including recreation, craft activities, schooling and work rooms for woodwork, metalwork, cooking and sewing. At present the Centre has accommodation for 36 boys and 24 girls. Major extensions were commenced during the year and when completed these will relieve chronic overcrowding by the provision of a further 22 beds together with offices and activity areas.

Function

As the Department's assessment and diagnostic centre for teenage offenders, Longmore provides accommodation and facilities for boys and girls between 13 and 18 years of age for whom a security setting is considered temporarily necessary. It also acts as a detention centre for children held pending court appearance, those remanded for pre-sentence and others serving default for non-payment of fines.

Population Characteristics

(1) Admissions during year:—

	Aboriginal	Caucasian	Total
Boys	301	986	1 287
Girls	148	287	435
	<hr/> 449	<hr/> 1 273	<hr/> 1 722

(2) School/employment distribution:—

	Per Cent.
Primary School	...
Secondary School	27
Employment	73

(3) Length of Stay:—

Less than one week	990
One week to one month	464
One month to three months	263
More than three months	5

(4) Reason for admission:—

Almost all children admitted were subject to court action.

Major offences are grouped as follows: "other reasons" include applications to the Court.

Offences—

Property offences	747
Motor Vehicle Offences	418
Offences against good order	368
Default warrants, other Court action	222
Other reasons	139
	<hr/> 1 894

Assessments carried out	456
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(5) Placement on discharge:—

	Per Cent.
Parents or relatives	33
Foster placement or private board	9
Treatment Institution	33
Hostel	18
Live in Employment	2
Other Placement	5

The increase in admissions is similar to the previous year and is insignificant compared to the general increase in the W.A. population.

There has been a continued decline in the number and proportion of aboriginal children admitted, but the trend is less marked than in the previous year. However, there has been an increase in the proportion of non-Aboriginal girls admitted. This reflects the trend toward more court appearances for girls generally.

The proportion of children fully assessed has dropped to 456 out of the total of 1 722. These figures indicate that Longmore acts more as a "holding" centre than as an "assessment" centre. Although the assessment programme takes only two to three weeks, difficulties in finding suitable placements result in prolonged periods at the centre for some children.

Current and Future Developments

It is expected that the problems involved in holding children for reasons other than assessment will be ameliorated to some extent on the completion of the new remand section. This is under construction and will provide facilities for the short term detention of a further 22 girls and boys, including interview rooms and visiting areas for parents.

Research programmes already under way and planned for the future include:

- (a) An investigation of the background and characteristics of a sample of children passing through Longmore and a follow-up of how they fared on leaving.
- (b) A study to gain some insight into the needs of adolescents and the implications these have for future planning, by the use of an "ideal plan" approach at case conferences.
- (c) A study to assess the suitability of the Jessness inventory in the assessment of juveniles in Western Australia generally, and in the Longmore population in particular.

Treatment Institutions

Where the assessment carried out in a Departmental institution indicates that institution-based behavioural treatment is necessary, the child is transferred to the recommended institution. From this point, the child's experiences are planned by that institution's staff. Such experiences while in the institution are planned to bear similarity and relevance to the experiences that he or she will meet later on, so maximising chances of learning appropriate behaviour. Treatment methods are well removed from the "traditional" institutional training methods, with modern programmes being based upon research reported in professional literature and carried out in Departmental institutions.

The view taken of treatment is that, before a child can live a responsible life (that is, attend school or work regularly, remain reasonably stable in employment and residence, not offend, and so on), a number of periods may be spent in the institution's buildings—security or open sections. These periods may include daily school attendance or work away from the institution. The different periods spent at the institution are regarded as part of a continuing process of treatment, interspersed with further treatment while living in the community. This further treatment is carried out by, or under the supervision of, institution staff. Increasingly, the child participates in planning his or her own programme and is given more responsibility for carrying it out.

The emphasis in institutional treatment in the past has been on the training of juvenile offenders. In July 1973 the McCall Centre, a facility for the treatment of behaviourally disturbed children of primary school age, was established in its permanent premises, and in February 1974 a new centre "Koorana" was opened at Bentley for the treatment of children with severe schooling problems. Both these centres represent movement beyond the treatment of juvenile offenders into preventive work, providing specialist help in areas where a need has been apparent for a number of years.

The institutions which are established for juvenile offenders do not emphasise the "offending" aspect of the child's behaviour as much as in the past. They are being seen as treatment centres where problem behaviour that does not necessarily include offences can be changed. Nevertheless, because of the Department's mandate to reduce the likelihood of offending in juveniles, offenders must form the majority of the admissions to treatment centres for adolescents. An increasing demand for such admissions is reflected in the statistics which follow.

"HILLSTON"

Location and Description

Stoneville Road, Stoneville

Hillston is an open treatment institution situated in a semi-rural area 25 miles from Perth. Facilities on the 367 acre property include a school, a mixed farm and trade workshops. These provide for general education and training in a wide range of rural and urban occupations as well as a variety of leisure and sporting activities.

There is accommodation for 79 boys; 60 in the main section of the institution which has provisions for security, 12 in transportable accommodation which provides for a greater degree of individual responsibility and 7 in a separate cottage on the property in an open "group home" atmosphere.

Function

Treatment and training of boys between the ages of 11 and 18 years who have been committed to the care of the Department and who, as the result of a Case Conference, are placed at the Institution. A smaller section of the population are serving default for the non-payment of fines.

Population Characteristics

During the year 1st July 1973—30th June 1974 a total of 251 boys were admitted to the institution this being a slight increase over the 1972/73 figures. The breakdown of admissions is as follows:—

Total Admissions	....	....	....	....	....	251	
New Admissions	....	....	....	....	....	144	{ Caucasian 98 Aboriginal 46
Re-admissions	....	....	....	....	....	107	{ Caucasian 72 Aboriginal 35
Admissions include:							
Defaulters	....	....	....	....	....	33	{ Caucasian 20 Aboriginal 13
Average Age	....	....	....	....	....	14 years 11 months	
Average Length of stay	....	....	....	....	....	83 days (Range 4—206 days)	

Many boys who come to Hillston are educationally retarded and have emotional social and behavioural problems associated with poor adjustment at home, in school or in employment. The institution's programme of training and activities takes into account the varying ages, needs and abilities of the boys and is designed to stimulate interests and develop potential skills which will help them meet the challenge of returning to school or employment in the community with an attitude of responsibility and self-confidence.

Treatment Programmes

The Hillston programme endeavours to provide an individual approach to the needs of each boy and being an open institution, maximum involvement with the community is possible. Within the framework of the programme there is provision for:—

- (i) General education, including both academic and practical subjects.
- (ii) General work training and specific trade instruction.
- (iii) Organised and "free" sporting and other physical activities.
- (iv) Participation and guidance in a variety of creative leisure activities and hobbies.
- (v) Social training.
- (vi) Involvement with the family through visiting, home leave, etc.
- (vii) An after-care system which provides supervision and support during the period of adjustment in the community after a boy leaves the institution.

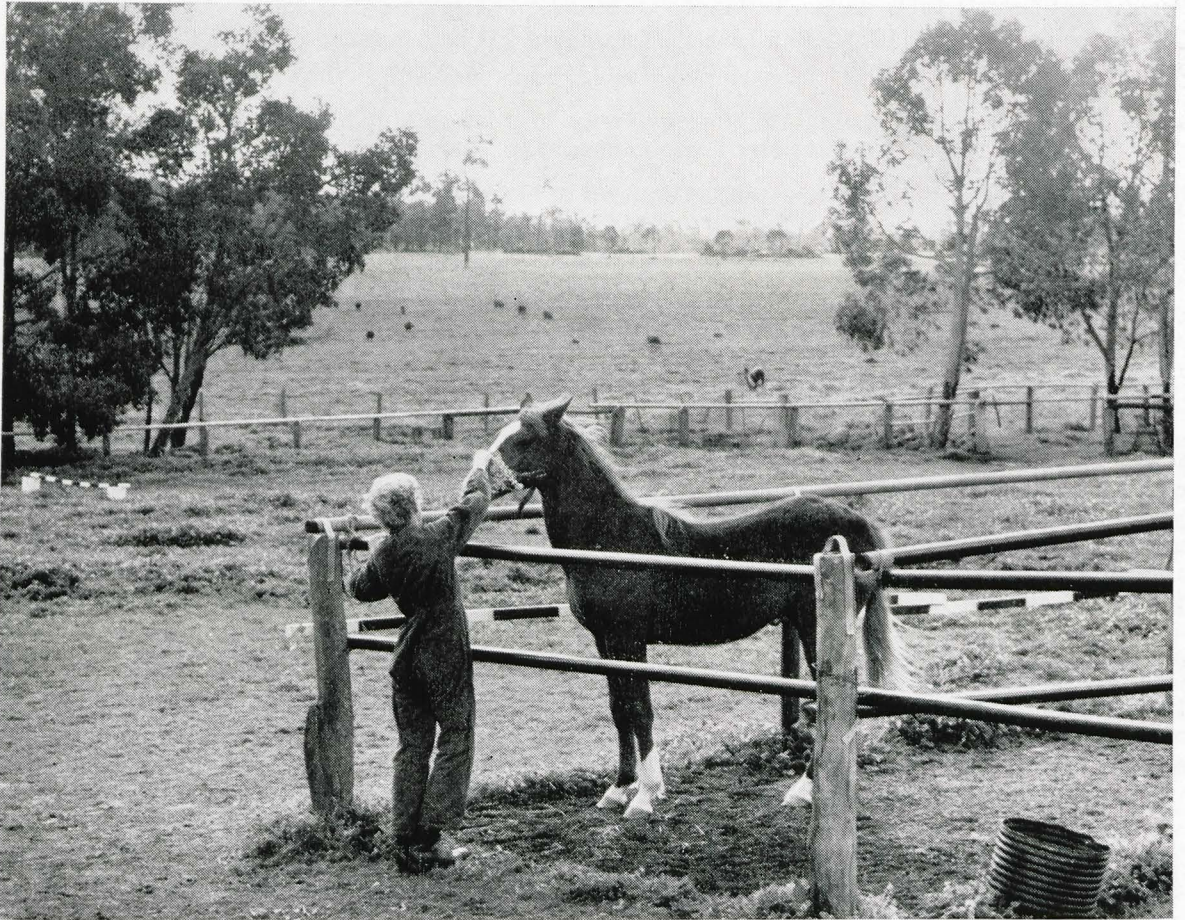
Weekdays between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. are divided into five periods and during each of these periods it is possible for boys to earn points. This system is easily comprehended by the wide range of boys who combine to form the total population at any one time, and provides for boys to assess their progress in specific areas of their programme. Points earned are converted to privileges and in effect the greater effort a boy makes in all aspects of his programme the greater number of privileges he earns.

Extension of programmes into realistic community based situations has continued, particularly in the area of school and work. The opportunity to progress to a normal school situation whilst living in a supportive environment has shown itself to assist in both educational and social adjustment and facilitates a boy's return to his old school on discharge from Hillston.

A programme of "Work Release" has been developed during the year which provides for an extension of the institution work training programme into a realistic working situation and it is usual for approximately eight boys to be engaged in this type of programme at any one time. Boys engaged in such a programme earn wages, develop a responsibility in budgeting by paying board into the Department, paying off any outstanding fines and restitution, purchasing personal items, providing weekly spending money and banking with the local Savings Bank. This programme to date has proven to be an unqualified success and appreciation is expressed to local employers, particularly the Tip Top Abattoirs, Wooroloo, the Mundaring Shire Council and the Commercial Bank for their co-operation in making it possible.

Badgingarra

Hillston is closely involved with the development and operation of the Department's farming property associated with the "Warramia" Group Home at Badgingarra and opportunities occur for boys to be placed on this property during the year for periods of varying duration. Such placements are keenly sought and provide an opportunity to assess reliability, industry and attitudes generally in a relaxed, informal working situation. Produce from the Hillston Farm and this property, in the form of milk, eggs, butter, cream, mutton, beef, pork and poultry to the market value of \$17 975 was used in Hillston and other metropolitan institutions during the year.



Facilities at Hillston provide for training in rural as well as urban occupations.

After-Care

There is no specific length of time a boy spends in Hillston and how long he stays depends largely on his personal progress. When released he remains on "trial leave" under the supervision of one of Hillston's After-Care Officers. While on trial leave he may be returned to the institution if he fails to comply with the conditions of release that are imposed. The After-Care Officers' efforts however, are concentrated on keeping their boys out of the institution and on solving any problems that arise before they become serious enough to necessitate even a brief return to Hillston.

Developments

The development of the programme which allows for boys to transfer to normal school after a settling period, whilst continuing to live at Hillston, has indicated the advantage of the type of planning which allows for at least fringe contact with the community. This programme will be expanded to allow for greater community involvement.

During the latter part of the current year the Children's Court has accepted recommendations made to it for boys who have re-offended whilst on trial leave to be given week-end detention. This has been achieved by the Court imposing fines and ordering default to be served on a number of consecutive week-ends. This method of dealing has allowed boys to continue in their normal school or work programme during weekdays but has curtailed their week-end programme. Although the sample, to date, has been too small to form any valid opinions, the system does seem to be worthy of continued application in some individual cases.

With the continuing large number of admissions and the ever present demand for accommodation in the institution, some possibly premature releases to trial leave are inevitable and the need for increased support on after care is most apparent. To enable more effective after care supervision, which is so necessary when a boy leaves the institution, one additional Senior Group Worker item has been created by transfer from the institution staff establishment and this will allow an increase in After-care staff.

KOORANA

Location and Description

Allen Court, Bentley.

Koorana is a non-residential "open" day attendance centre, the children being transported daily from where they live.

Physical facilities exist for the enrolment of forty children; treatment procedures restrict the number to something less than that.

To date maximum capacity has not been reached.

The buildings were completed in 1973 and opened in February 1974. They include seven main teaching or treatment areas, and grounds that are used for specific or general play activities. Staff include teachers, group workers, an occupational therapist, a social worker and a clinical psychologist.

Function

The population is limited to children of primary school age and grade placement.

The major referring problem is that the child's behaviour is such that he is unable to progress as well as his ability would allow in a normal school setting. Other relevant issues may be that his behaviour is excessively interfering with the progress of other children in his class, and that his formal learning is much below what could be expected. Koorana does not accept children unless the local school, working with the staff of the Guidance and Special Education Branch of the Education Department has been unable to improve the child's level of functioning.

Wardship is not necessary for referral to Koorana. Admissions are determined on the need of the individual case seen in the light of alternatives available, with some slight weighting given to wardship.

Population Characteristics

Referrals were slow for the first term of 1974, with steep increases in the rate of referral with the start of the second term.

Referrals February 1974—June 1974	....	....	....	....	....	....	37
Admission for full-time treatment	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Some treatment responsibility accepted but carried out in local school	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Referrals in process	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Age range at admission	....	....	....	....	....	....	8—11 years

All referrals, except two, have been boys. Four have been Aborigines.

All children enrolled at Koorana were referred primarily for problem behaviour within the school setting. In all cases the children were also significantly retarded educationally and their behaviour outside the school setting caused concern. Twelve of the children referred have been wards, four of whom have been enrolled. Some other children have been from families which have had some earlier contact with this Department.

In almost every case, considerable family work is necessary. No characteristic patterns of family operation are discernable yet, but there is no established tendency for referrals to come from schools serving disadvantaged areas.

Assessment and Treatment Programmes

Being a new institution and different in its functions from others operating in this Department or elsewhere, both assessment and treatment programmes must be exploratory and innovative.

Assessment includes educational, physical and psychological testing to supplement that available from the referring, and other agencies. The most important type of assessment though, is that done through general and specific behavioural observations of the child in his own school setting. This assists in making the decision to accept for full-time, part-time or sessional treatment at Koorana, or for treatment within his own school setting working with his own teacher and other Education Department staff. A social work assessment contributes to this decision.

Treatment programmes are devised according to the needs of the individual case, and the contribution of the different professional personnel varies with each case. Various theoretical and practical approaches are being investigated, but it is unlikely that Koorana will make a full commitment to any one therapeutic approach.

Because Koorana's obligation is seen as initiating change in a child's level of functioning to a stage where full time attendance at the local school is possible, the means of maintaining the change will need to be ones that can be transferred to the setting of the local school. Though the children have been referred primarily for reasons of behaviour, in every case there has been a serious retardation in formal learning, particularly in literacy and numeracy. Remedial teaching is essential.



Koorana—using recorded material for training sustained concentration and rapid response with interfering background noise.



Koorana—using speech recording machine for immediate playback of voice reading



Koorana—using Oscilloscope for training speech volume and fluency.

Developments—Current and Proposed

Koorana is at such an early stage of development that all approaches require further refinement and modification.

The biggest problems are anticipated as being in maintaining the child's improved level of functioning at that new level when he returns to his own school. The additional skills required for that will be developed over the next few months, when the children now attending Koorana begin to return to their own schools. More involvement of parents in the scholastic progress of their children is necessary and is projected for the near future.

McCALL CENTRE

Location and Description

2 Curtin Avenue, Mosman Park.

McCall Centre is an "open" institution, set in 3 acres of land, on the site of the old Cable Station. The alterations and additions were completed in July, 1973 and the Centre was then transferred from its temporary premises in Highgate.

The buildings are highly functional and include accommodation for 20 children, treatment rooms, classrooms, activity rooms, offices and a playing field.

The Centre was officially opened by the Minister for Community Welfare, on 14th September, 1973.

Function

McCall Centre is a long term residential treatment unit for children who because of their behavioural and emotional problems need specialised assistance. It is part of the Department's efforts at preventive work, the aim being to help the children overcome their problems while they are still young, and thus not become a burden to the community later on.

Population Characteristics

New Admissions	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Age Range	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5—12 years
Length of Stay	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	average 10 months

The most commonly found characteristics of the population on admission are:—

- a. Acting out, impulsive, uncontrollable behaviour,
- b. educational backwardness, though children of average intelligence, and
- c. retardation in physical abilities, though physically healthy.

Children are admitted after close individual assessment of their history, behaviour and need for help. About 70 per cent. of the children are boys and 30 per cent. girls.

Treatment / Training Programmes

Programmes are devised according to the needs of the individual child and the potentialities seen in that child and family. They encompass the applications of behaviour modification techniques, play therapy, group therapy, occupational therapy, remedial education, speech therapy, and a wide range of other activities. Various theoretical and practical approaches are attempted, without commitment to any one therapeutic framework.

Parents or substitute parents are involved in the programmes as much as possible. Considerable effort is put in to teach them management skills that are lacking, and if necessary, especially for parents living in the country, they can come to the Centre for intensive work, and be accommodated in the specially designed Parent Unit. Every endeavour is made to return the child as quickly as possible to the community.

On discharge, a child is followed up, for a minimum period of two years, in order to continue the evaluation of the efficacy of the treatment programme.

Developments

Over the last two years difficulties have been experienced in finding suitable foster homes for the children. To overcome the problem a training course of six weeks duration for prospective foster parents was instituted. It is proposed to have three such courses per year.



McCall Centre.

NYANDI

Location and Description

3 Allen Court, Bentley

A treatment and research centre for adolescent girls most of whom have been deemed as delinquent by the courts and society.

Function

Nyandi has a twenty bed maximum security section with an adjoining ten bed minimum security cottage. It provides a system to cater for several day-attendance programmes plus after-care personnel who cater for over one hundred girls in the community.

All facilities and systems emphasise a learning and demonstration of skills which are designed to help the girls toward a more successful adjustment to society's standards.

Social, academic and vocational skills are the three broad, interwoven areas that receive therapeutic effort. Specific social skills may include such things as compliance, greetings, table manners, accepting criticism and so on. In fact a list of no less than fifty-five social and survival skills have been developed. Each girl learns a relevant group of skills from this list. Eighteen of these skills are learnt by all girls prior to discharge.

Academic skills are learnt within a well equipped classroom which caters for all grades and for many behavioural problems found in the normal schoolroom.

Vocational training is provided at various levels. Office work, factory work, domestic chores and cooking are all provided in the vocational system.

The introduction of the above skills into the girls' repertoire of behaviour reaches effectiveness through the specialisation of staff in teaching methods and the application of a points system which encourages the girls to exhibit appropriate behaviour.

Maintenance of the skills learnt in Nyandi is provided by an after-care system which elicits the help of employers, families, schools and peer groups etc. in the community.

Research at Nyandi is an ongoing and integral part of the centre. It provides new and stimulating ideas which ensure that the latest and best methods available are applied to the task.

Population Characteristics

New Admissions....	....	....	....	64	{ Caucasian 32 Aboriginal 32
Age Range	....	....	....	13 to 18	Average 16.4 years
Length of Stay	....	....	....	30.6 days	for first admission in security section. Re-admission 16.8 days

The majority of the girls have had several contacts with the courts and have spent an average of three and a half months in other institutions.

Therapeutic Programmes

All therapeutic programmes are tailored in an effort to meet the special needs of individual girls. These programmes comprise teaching in those skills which are considered relevant and necessary for each girl's effective re-adjustment within the community.

Performance skills are currently assessed on 55 dimensions using a comprehensive testing battery developed by the occupational therapist. Assessment takes place within the first two days of admission and on the basis of the test individual teaching targets are prescribed.

These targets are expressed in grade levels (A, B, C etc.) and are utilized as criteria for discharge. That is, when a girl has demonstrated proficiency at the prescribed level on retesting those skills listed as her targets, she is considered to have fulfilled, in large measure, the criteria for discharge.

The advantages of clearly listing all the elements of each skill are that teaching becomes more effective and subsequent monitoring is highly reliable. Inconsistencies due to interpretation are largely eliminated. The skills are taught by the teaching parent in the course of normal social interaction between girls and/or staff and girls. Teaching parents receive individual training in techniques for teaching. Their training sessions involve video recorders and extensive use is made of feed-back from trained staff.

All therapeutic procedures employed by Nyandi staff are clearly described in a comprehensive manual which functions as a training and reference text. The manual has evolved out of the obvious need to ensure that there is consistency in the application of the complex skills and teaching methods used within Nyandi. It is believed that the manual could be effectively used by other therapeutic centres of both security and open types.

The common goal of all the therapeutic programmes within Nyandi is to teach the greatest number of skills within the shortest possible time. Teaching, therefore, is intensive, often on a one to one basis, and takes place at every possible opportunity. Average length of stay has been reduced from two months in 1970 to 46 days in 1973 and 32 days in 1974.

Success can be gauged from the observation that the girls are spending increased amounts of time in the community.

The increased efficiency with which training within Nyandi has been achieved has resulted in a reallocation of resources to provide an effective after-care service without any increase in staff numbers since Nyandi's inception in 1970. Consistency in treatment is facilitated by the use of a uniform system of monitoring for both Nyandi and after-care services. A manual for after-care, similar in function to the treatment manual, is currently being developed.

Developments: Current and Proposed

1. The most recent developments include specialized teaching methods and training manual which have come directly from research into effective treatment techniques and staff training methods. This research was made possible by a generous grant from the Australian Criminology Council.

2. Some tentative observations have suggested that working directly in the community with our clientele is at least as effective as admitting them to institutional care.

This drive toward community based treatment has led to the growth of a Homemaker group which is attached to the Nyandi aftercare service. The homemakers are establishing their treatment goals and in their family contacts are using the same therapeutic principles as employed by other staff in the institution. Current Homemaker projects include the development of a consumer questionnaire. The consumer questionnaire is being designed to provide a reliable channel for feedback about Nyandi's effectiveness from those who utilize Nyandi's services, e.g. employers, families. As soon as these treatment goals have been identified it is proposed that both Homemakers and other staff will further increase the amount of therapeutic contact established with families directly in the community.

3. A good deal of effort is being applied to the designing of a Behaviour Monitoring Sheet. This project will do several things. It will allow all staff to readily ascertain where the girl is currently placed in reaching her target behaviours. It allows the girl to monitor her own efforts and it also structures accountability on staff effectiveness. It is envisaged that the Behaviour Monitoring Sheet will produce a situation where the girl will become a part of the therapeutic force.

4. Research undertakings at Nyandi are fully reported and, where applicable, are submitted for publication to reputable journals.

Eight such reports have been compiled this year.

RIVERBANK

Location and Description

Hamersley Road, Caversham.

Riverbank accommodates 43 boys in a maximum security setting. A Hostel at "Fourteen" Francis Street, Perth and Half Way House in Hamersley Road, Caversham provide additional accommodation for boys who lack family support or who need gradual reintroduction into the community.

Function

Treatment of adolescent, male offenders who are aged between 13 and 18 years, in an environment which provides maximum security and supervision commensurate with a lad's growth towards maturity. It achieves this aim by replicating within its walls an outside community equipped with its own factory workshops, school and token economy system, fines for specific offences and "spending" areas such as films, games, music and television area. In this way, a boy is allowed to present his real self, including a limited degree of poor behaviour, to allow a base line to be established from which more acceptable behaviour can be shaped over time.

There are definite limits to such a programme within a walled environment and specialized use of the Hostel and Half Way House is needed in some cases to encourage fuller growth before a boy's complete discharge to the community under the supervision of an After-Care officer.

Population Characteristics—General

Although Riverbank does accommodate the serious offender, many of the boys are less serious offenders who will not remain in more open environments long enough to accept counselling towards change. A significant proportion of the population come from an incomplete family in which, often through no fault of parent or child, their socialization process has been defective. Most boys are from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and have left school prematurely.

Total Admission Events	....	....	....	....	318	
New Admissions....	....	....	....	....	82	{ Caucasian 43 Aboriginal 39
Re-admissions	....	....	....	....	236	(including 97 boys)
Length of Stay	....	....	....	....	54.1	days (average)

These figures reveal slightly higher overall rates compared with 1972/73 except for re-admissions. The average length of stay remains virtually unchanged.

Compared with the previous year, there was a higher proportion of aboriginal boys amongst the new admissions.

Training Programme

In the last annual report the rapid change in training programme was discussed and in the past year there has been much effort involved in consolidating the change in attitude in both boys and staff. Pathetically, a few of the more damaged boys resisted the new emphasis on living in a more relaxed treatment environment and demanded a return to the former Obedience Training programme. These boys have required much patience and skill from staff to assure them they can eventually cope with a more natural life style within the institution. It is to the immense credit of all, both staff and boys, that the transition has been as smooth as it was. The faith of treatment staff that the present treatment mode is to be preferred, received considerable bolster recently from tightly controlled research, comparing the present with the past outcomes. Present results measured by the rate of non-offending after discharge are significantly increased, and almost doubled.

The trend to involve the local community with the boys in such things as barbecues, dances and films has continued and helps to normalise Riverbank. Likewise, the Safety Driving Instruction course continues to produce safer motor car drivers from a decidedly 'at risk' population. Many of the staff have also completed a Driver Instruction Course in Mini-bikes in the belief that safe driving on the more exposed, but controlled, bikes teaches a sense of caution as a pre-requisite for safe motor-car use.

Two aboriginal trainee Group Workers have recently settled into Riverbank's staff and are providing a valuable contribution in interpreting cultural differences. Whilst they are equally concerned with the care and treatment of non-aboriginal children, their acceptance of and by aboriginal children is specially beneficial.

Riverbank's programme is directed toward treatment of the individual child, aboriginal or caucasian.

Developments—Current and Proposed

Two developments have currently been commenced. Both are significant in Riverbank's overall programme.

(a) Revised Basic Social Training Course

For some time the school classroom, in addition to traditional high school subjects, has specialized in increasing the social knowledge and skills of boys. It has provided a course involving generalised instruction on health education, sex education, hygiene etc. From this pilot study, it has become obvious that the course has to be more individualised to allow each boy to progress at his own pace. Steps are now in progress to individualise, by separate booklets and teacher attention, this basic and essential knowledge necessary for a boy's post-release, social survival.

(b) Alcohol Treatment Programme

There are some boys admitted to Riverbank who appear to offend primarily when drunk. Such boys frequently express concern about the relationship between drinking and offending and appear motivated to accept some form of treatment. Riverbank is therefore taking steps to implement techniques which will help these boys to establish control over their social drinking, an approach which is more realistic than expecting total abstinence.

Hostel Facilities

The Department is fully or partly responsible for the operation of several hostels in both Metropolitan and Country areas. Broadly they can be divided into two categories. Firstly those providing specialised care for older adolescents as an extension of the Department's treatment and training programmes, and secondly those catering for students and young working people who need accommodation. In the latter case most of the residents are Aboriginal boys and girls from areas where opportunities for education and employment are limited.

TREATMENT AND TRAINING HOSTELS

A number of young people who come under the notice of the Department do not need institutional treatment but do require a certain degree of guidance and supervision. Where this cannot be provided in the home situation or elsewhere in the community these hostels offer an alternative setting. They are designed to allow young people to live and work in the community while at the same time preparing them for independence.

Each admission is preceded by close consideration of individual needs and circumstances by the institutional staff, and field officers concerned with the placement decision. Ongoing supervision is provided by field officers who work in co-operation with the hostel staff. Where necessary they also maintain contact with the family, employer and other people involved with the young people assigned to them.

The location of the hostels in the inner metropolitan area allows convenient access to employment and most community facilities.

STUART HOUSE

Location

Lawley Crescent, Mount Lawley.

Population

Eight working girls aged 15-18 years.

General

For girls who are unwilling or unable to live at home, Stuart House provides a stepping stone to independence. Most of the girls are placed here from the assessment centres and their previous behaviour has shown general lack of maturity in social and personal adjustment. None have presented serious behavioural problems.

They are encouraged to maintain stable employment, and are helped to develop social skills in areas where these may be lacking. Leisure time is supervised to some degree and guidance is given on how to use it to the best advantage.

When the girls are considered ready to move out placement is arranged in consultation with the girl, hostel staff and the field officers. Generally the girls are encouraged to move into private board rather than flats in order to make the transition to complete independence more gradual.

During the 1973/74 year 21 girls passed through Stuart House. Average length of stay was 6 months and the range was between 3 and 12 months.

WATSON LODGE

Location

Aberdeen Street, Perth

Population

Ten working girls 15 to 18 years.

General

Watson Lodge is designed to provide a more structured environment for girls who have experienced previous difficulties in personal and social adjustment. Before undertaking outside employment the girls participate in a four week programme that provides training in a range of social and domestic skills. This time also allows the girls and the staff to develop a mutual understanding for each other and the requirements of the hostel situation.

The girls are then helped to find suitable employment and maintain it by developing the necessary work habits such as punctuality and appropriate standards of appearance and behaviour. At the same time advice and guidance is given on leisure time activities.

In order to determine when the girls are ready to leave progress is monitored by hostel staff, field officers and a psychologist. At the same time contact is maintained with other significant figures in the girls' life such as the family, employer and boyfriend.

On leaving most girls move to a flat or private board where contact is maintained and the girls are encouraged to return for periodic visits and advice where necessary.

In the 1973/74 year 35 girls have been accommodated. Four were for a short stay, and the others for periods ranging from four to twelve months. Average length of stay was 83 days and the average number of girls in residence at any time was 7.5.

TUDOR LODGE

Location

Chelmsford Road, Mount Lawley.

Population

Fourteen working boys 15-18 years.

General

While most of the boys admitted to Tudor Lodge come from the assessment centres after case conference about one third come from treatment centres. In all cases the aim is to provide a supervised environment in which the boy can be helped to settle into employment, and to make any other adjustment that may be necessary while arrangements are made for return home or placement in private board.

The programme is designed to enable the boys to develop necessary social skills such as managing their own money, choosing suitable companions and arranging their own social activities. Supervision is progressively relaxed as the boys learn more responsibility and move towards independence.

During the past twelve months 34 boys have stayed at Tudor Lodge and the average length of stay has been from four to six months.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HOSTELS

In areas outside the major population centres facilities for education and employment are often limited and young people in these areas may not have the opportunity of developing to their full potential. The provision of education and employment hostels is one way in which this situation may be overcome.

Although the policy is to provide accommodation as close to the children's homes as possible, the location of the hostels is largely determined by the availability of schools, technical centres and employment opportunities. In the past year a new hostel was opened at Kalgoorlie and other hostels are under construction or planned for areas where industrial and residential development has resulted in the necessary facilities becoming available.

Most of the children involved are Aborigines and the hostels are especially geared to meet their needs. The trend is towards smaller hostels and apart from the older established ones in the country they are run along "cottage" lines with between 6 and 14 young people in each. Smaller numbers allow for greater personal contact with hostel "parents" and for individual help to be given for both education and social development.

Apart from the Applecross hostel, which is privately owned, the hostels are owned and maintained by the Department. The metropolitan hostels and the Geraldton hostel are operated by church groups or private individuals under an agreement with the Minister for Community Welfare. The other country hostels are operated and staffed by the Department.

The list below shows the location and function of the hostels and includes the ones at Kewdale and Katanning which are expected to be completed for the 1975 school year. Another hostel at South Hedland is in the planning stages.

Metropolitan

Applecross	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Primary School
Ardross	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary School
Bedford Park	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary School, business college (girls)
Bentley	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary School
Como	....	....	"Kyewong"	....	....	....	....	Employment (girls)
East Perth	....	....	"Bennett House"	....	....	....	....	Transit Hostel
Greenmount	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary School (boys)
Hamilton Hill	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary School (girls)
Kewdale	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary School
Medina	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary School (boys)
Melville	....	....	"Karingal"	....	....	....	....	Primary and Secondary School (girls)
Mt. Lawley	....	....	"Cooinda"	....	....	....	....	Secondary School, employment (girls)
Mt. Lawley	....	....	"Katakutu"	....	....	....	....	Employment (boys)
Mt. Yokine	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Primary and Secondary School (boys)
Mt. Yokine	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Secondary School (girls)
Subiaco	....	....	"Myera"	....	....	....	....	Secondary School (girls) Employment (girls)
Mosman Park	....	....	"Ocean View"	....	....	....	....	Primary and Secondary School
Mt. Lawley	....	....	"McDonald House"	....	....	....	....	Employment (boys)

Country

Boulder	....	....	"Nindeebai"	....	....	....	....	Secondary School
Boulder	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Employment (boys)
Cue	....	....	"Kyarra"	....	....	....	....	Primary School
Geraldton	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Employment (boys)
Halls Creek	....	....	"Charles Perkins"	....	....	....	....	Primary School
Kalgoorlie	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Employment (girls)
Katanning	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Employment (boys)
Leonora	....	....	"Nabberu"	....	....	....	....	Primary School
Marble Bar	....	....	"Oolanyah"	....	....	....	....	Primary School
Onslow	....	....	"Gilliamia"	....	....	....	....	Primary School
Port Hedland	....	....	"Moorgunya"	....	....	....	....	Secondary School
Roebourne	....	....	"Weerianna"	....	....	....	....	Primary School
Yalgoo	....	....	"Warrambo"	....	....	....	....	Primary School

A programme for the upgrading of the older country hostels, has been prepared and is expected to commence during the 1974-75 financial year.

GROUP HOMES

The Department now owns three buildings which are used as group homes for children who need a more specialised type of family care than can be provided in a normal foster home or boarding placement. The children placed in these facilities are not necessarily problem children, but because of their circumstances they would find it difficult to settle into a private family. The Departmental group home can provide a skilled and stabilising environment as a stepping stone to future return home or foster placement.

CANOWINDRA

A group home at Gelarup which is at present being renovated and extended to provide accommodation for 8 children.

DARLINGTON COTTAGE

A large group home at Darlington was purchased during the year to provide skilled care for school-age boys who would be unable to settle in foster homes.

WARRAMIA

A group home situated on the Department's farming property at Badgingarra. Accommodation is available for up to eight primary school children who need a relaxed, stabilising experience prior to longer-term placement.

Ancillary Services

The Department's institutional facilities are supported by a catering service and a laundry.

CATERING

The Department's Catering Service, which was first established in 1972, has continued to expand during the year. Meals of maximum nutritional content and child acceptance, designed to meet the different needs of each establishment, are provided more economically than before. In all, it is estimated that efficient ordering of foods by the Service has brought about total savings in excess of \$100 000 over the last two years.

Recently a cooking instructress was appointed to the dining room operated by the Department in the Warburton Ranges to train local women in the basics of cooking. "Nyalkubai" (Wongi dialect for eating place) caters for 3 meals per day for an average 130 children. The trainees, inhabitants of the surrounding desert country, arrive prior to meals wash and don clean uniforms supplied by the Department and assist with the preparation of meals. The women are proving their ability and have on occasions, without supervision for short periods, run the dining room efficiently.



Women from surrounding desert country gather prior to assisting with the preparation of meals for children at the Warburton Ranges.

In conjunction with Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority a trainee cook scheme is currently in operation in the Goldfields. It is hoped that girls currently employed under the scheme will attain a sufficiently acceptable level of ability on the basics of cooking to enable them to be employed in departmental hostels and after further experience the outside employment market.

The catering officer is constantly endeavouring through negotiation with manufacturers to have special foods developed. The purpose is to develop foods with added vitamins which are better suited to the dietary needs of aboriginals in outback areas. In these areas fresh food is not always readily available due to local conditions and research is necessary to overcome the problem.

Continuing liaison is maintained by the catering officer with dieticians and food technologists throughout Australia keeping abreast with modern trends associated with diets and the food industry and new methods of supervising and administering food programmes.

Besides catering for Departmental needs, the catering service offers advice and expertise to other private agencies working in related fields.

To ensure a continually improving service, additional staff would need to be appointed to assist with research and planning. This would ensure that all concerned receive optimum nutritional value from meals provided.

LAUNDRY

A laundry, located at Mount Lawley, is operated by the Department and provides an efficient service to its institutions, hostels, and group homes.

More than 3.5 dry tons of clothing and linen are laundered each week by a staff of five at a cost of approximately 8 cents per dry pound. This represents a considerable saving when compared with commercial rates.

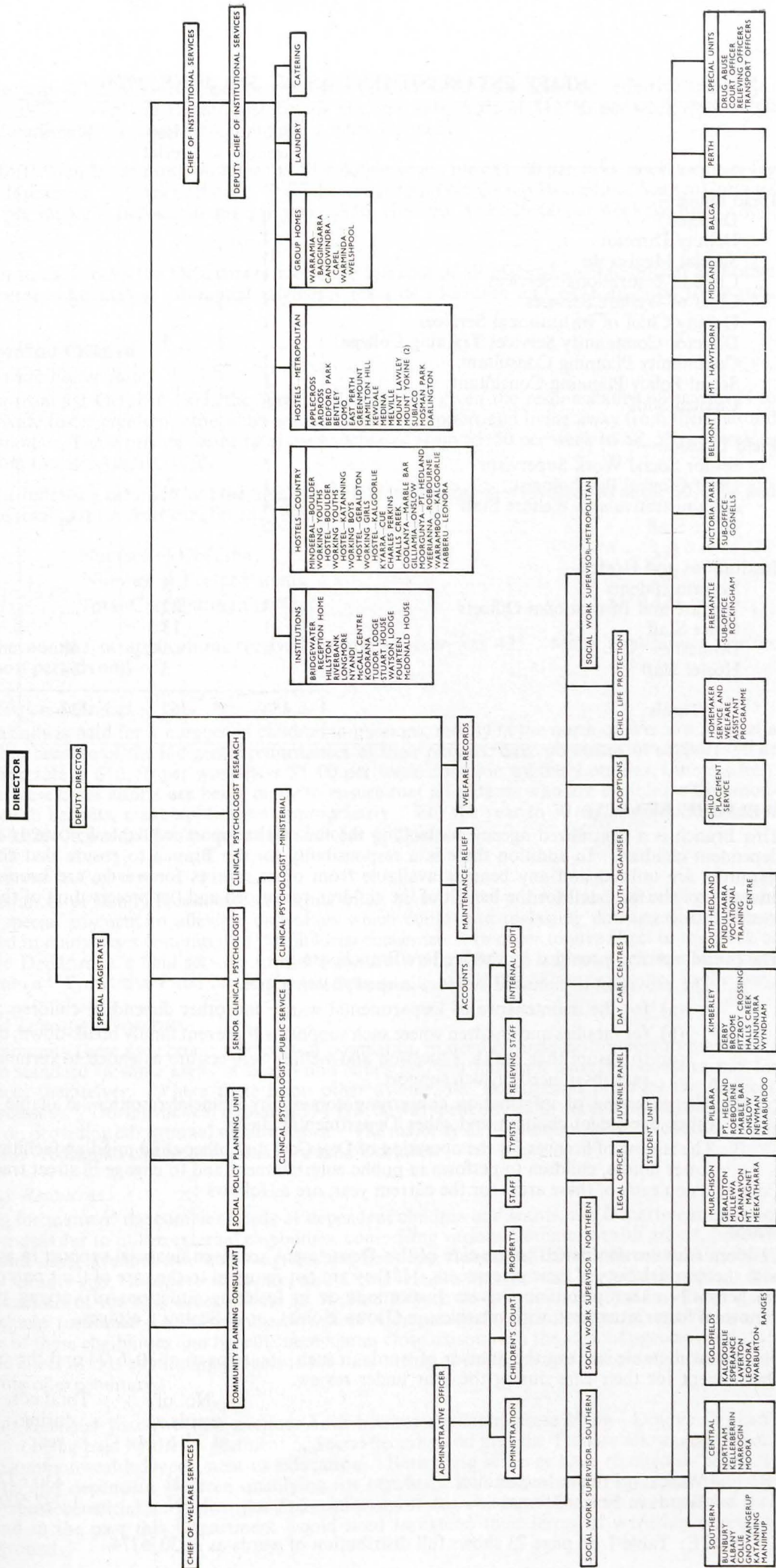
It is expected that the efficiency of the laundry will be further improved by a new boiler and ironer, which are currently being installed.

In addition to maintaining linen supplies and a laundry service, the facility also provides the resources for some wards to obtain work-training.

Young people who would otherwise find it difficult to cope with employment are paid award rates whilst they learn work skills in a tolerant environment. On average about 10 wards are involved in this programme each year, and to date have encountered a good degree of success when subsequently employed in the community.

ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE
ORGANISATION CHART AS AT 30.6.74



STAFF ESTABLISHMENT AS AT 30th JUNE, 1974

	Public Service	Ministerial	Wages	Total
Head Office—				
Director	1	....	....	1
Deputy Director	1	....	....	1
Special Magistrate	1	....	....	1
Chief of Institutional Services	1	....	....	1
Chief of Welfare Services	1	....	....	1
Deputy Chief of Institutional Services	1	....	....	1
Director Community Services Training College .....	....	1	....	1
Community Planning Consultant	1	....	....	1
Social Policy Planning Consultant	1	....	....	1
Clerical Staff	168	....	1	169
Field Division—				
Senior Social Work Supervisor	3	....	....	3
Chief Clinical Psychologist	1	....	....	1
Administrative and Welfare Staff	224	....	....	224
Office Staff	45	....	20	65
Institutions and Hostels—				
Superintendents .....	....	8	....	8
Welfare and Institutional Officers	3	342	....	345
Office Staff	1	13	....	14
Domestics .....	....	....	48	48
Hostel Staff .....	....	3	64	67
Totals	453	367	133	953

WELFARE BRANCH

This Branch is a centralized agency controlling the financial support available for wards and other dependent children. In addition there is a responsibility for the Branch to ensure that community resources are utilized and any benefits available from other sources for wards, are brought to the attention of the field staff for the benefit of the children concerned and the preservation of the Department's finances.

The overall services provided by the Welfare Branch, are :—

1. The provision of financial support in the following areas—
 - (a) for the maintenance of Departmental wards and other dependent children ;
 - (b) for families and children where such support will prevent family break-down, or neglect;
 - (c) to ensure that health, education and welfare services are extended to certain destitute persons in need of such support.
2. The gathering of information concerning community financial resources available to wards, other dependent children and other Departmental clients.
3. The issuing of licences for the operation of Day Care and other child minding facilities, private foster homes, children to perform in public entertainment and to engage in street trading.

Comments on each of these areas for the current year, are as follows :—

Wards

Children who are committed to the care of this Department are given financial support in accordance with the requirements of their placements. If they are not returned to the care of their parents, wards are generally either placed in Private Institutions or in fostering situations of varying types—i.e. in normal foster situations, with relatives, in Group Homes, or in Scatter Cottages.

The following table sets out the number of wards in such situations as at 30/6/74 and the cost to the Department for their care during the year under review.

	No. of wards as at 30/6/74	Total cost during year \$
Wards in Private Institutions	722	430 627
Wards in Foster Homes	1 565	1 292 509

NOTE: Table 1 on page 73 shows full distribution of wards as at 30/6/74.

During the year substantial increases in the basic subsidy rates were achieved, effective from 14th November, 1973. Wards in Private Institutions are now subsidized at \$12.50 per week (less \$1.00 per week donation by the Lotteries Commission, when claimed).

Wards in foster homes are now subsidized at \$13.00 per week, plus \$1.00 per week pocket money for student children aged 15 years or more. Special rates are paid for Group Homes and Scatter Cottages at \$14.00 per week for pre-school and primary school children, and \$16.00 per week for high school students.

In addition to these rates the Department meets the full cost of all medical, dental, optical and other health expenses and makes substantial payments towards education and clothing costs for wards.

Other Dependent Children

(a) Private Foster Rates

As from 1st October 1973, the Welfare Branch was given the responsibility of payments to private foster children, other than wards, requiring support and living away from their natural parents. These private foster rates were increased from \$5.50 per week to \$8.50 per week as from the 8th August, 1973.

The following table sets out the number of children and families involved as at the 30/6/74 and the total cost for their care for the year.

Number of Children	....	....	....	....	....	....	334
Number of Foster Parents	....	....	....	....	....	....	208
Total Cost During the Year	....	....	....	....	....	....	\$150,420

The number of applications received during the year was 425. Many applications are for short periods only.

(b) Mission Subsidies

Subsidy is paid for a number of children in missions, mostly in the north of Western Australia who, because of the indigent circumstances of their parents, have no means of support. The basic rate is \$12.50 per week (less \$1.00 per week donation by the Lotteries Commission). In these cases efforts are being made to ensure that all parents who are eligible for Commonwealth benefits, make application appropriately. For the year to 30/6/74 a total amount of \$64 028.00 was paid to missions for the care of children.

Preventive Payments

Instances of family breakdown can quite often be avoided by the immediate arrangement of a special payment to alleviate difficulties which could lead to lasting damage to the family and in many cases committal of the children concerned. In order to give effect to the work of the Department's field services in this area, the Welfare Branch approves releases of moneys from a "Preventive Fund". In the last year a total of \$31 063.00 was expended in this way.

Health and Education Payments

In the community there are certain segments of population in need of financial support to maintain a reasonable standard in some areas of health and education, but have not enough income to pay for such services themselves. Where there is no other avenue, the Department provides the financial support necessary. During the year a total of \$34 778.00 was spent on health necessities and \$62 298.00 was spent on providing educational requirements. The majority of the amount spent on education was expended for Aboriginal children to attend pre-school centres.

Community Resources

In catering for many of the complex needs of dependent children and wards, the Department has continued to endeavour to utilize external eligibilities, comprising various Commonwealth grants, benefits, pensions and other avenues available—e.g. Invalid Pensions, Subsidized Health Benefits, Aboriginal Secondary Grants and Transport assistance, also Dental Health Services and Hospital Benefits. It is also the function of the Resources Officer in Welfare Branch to take initial action for Third Party Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust coverage, Workers' Compensation and damages claims for wards. Pursuance of these eligibilities and benefits necessitates close liaison with the various agencies and their staff. The effect of this continuing process is the minimizing of delays in applications and claims, and also a saving of expenditure.

During this financial year two new avenues have become available, these being—Double Orphan's Pension now being paid by the Department of Social Security and also the Tertiary allowances scheme from the Commonwealth Department of Education. Both these schemes have resulted in benefit to those wards and dependent children qualifying for benefits. It is important to note that the latter scheme is most beneficial as it provides financial support for children who wish to continue their studies, and in the past this Department would need to extend their terms of wardship purely on financial grounds.

Licensing

The licensing function of the Department is maintained by Welfare Branch and is a safeguard against "child exploitation" and is a protection for infant life. The care of very young children by non-related persons is subject to the Director's control and foster mothers and institutions undertaking the full time care of these children under the age of six years must be approved and licensed by this Department. Day Care and other Child Minding Centres catering for children of working mothers, must be similarly approved and licensed by the Department. Children who engage in public performances for entertaining purposes for gain or reward in commercial advertising, or in street trading, must also receive the prior approval of the Department.

Foster Mothers and Institutions Caring for the Young

There was a total of nineteen licensed foster mothers caring privately for twenty-two unrelated children under six years for the year ending 30/6/74. For the same year there were ten institutions licensed to care for a total of 276 infants.

Children involved in Public Performances and in Commercial Advertising

During the year 88 licences were issued in respect of 4 335 children, mainly concerning children who were appearing in annual concerts organized by dancing schools and children's television programmes.

Street Trading by Children

During the past year 349 street trading licences were issued for boys between the ages of 12 and 16 years and in most cases this was for the purpose of selling newspapers after school hours. Boys under 12 years of age are not permitted to engage in street trading.

Permits to Enter Camping Reserves

During the year to the 30/6/74 the Department issued 38 permits for persons to enter Aboriginal camping reserves adjacent to major towns. Departmental regulations provide that a permit should be issued in cases where persons are entering Aboriginal reserves. Before the Department will issue these permits it must ensure that the Aboriginal council residing on the reserve agrees and that the business to be conducted will not jeopardize the welfare and well-being of those resident on the reserve.

Day Care and Child Minding Facilities

As the trend for mothers to engage in employment continues to grow, so does the demand for placements for children to be cared for during working hours.

The Child Welfare (Care Centre) regulations proclaimed in 1968, recognizes three types of child minding facilities: they are—

- (a) "Family Care Centres", meaning child minding centres conducted in a private dwelling and in which children are received for care in a family environment.
- (b) "Occasional Care Centres", meaning centres conducted for the casual care of children on an hourly basis during business hours.
- (c) "Day Care Centres", meaning child minding centres which are neither "Family Care" nor "Occasional Care Centres" and refer generally to the type of establishment often called a "Day Nursery".

The following table shows the growth of licensed centres since Care Centre regulations were proclaimed in 1968.

Year ended	Day Care Centres	Family Care Centres	Occasional Care Centres
30/6/68	11. Centres (256 children)	....	1. Centre (20 children)
30/6/69	18. Centres (457 children)	9. Centres (44 children)	2. Centres (120 children)
30/6/70	28. Centres (711 children)	3. Centres (36 children)	1. Centre (75 children)
30/6/71	41. Centres (1 098 children)	19. Centres (63 children)	1. Centre (75 children)
30/6/72	43. Centres (1 164 children)	52. Centres (190 children)	4. Centres (150 children)
30/6/73	46. Centres (1 260 children)	59. Centres (216 children)	6. Centres (200 children)
30/6/74	58. Centres (1 560 children)	121. Centres (472 children)	8. Centres (245 children)

The following nurseries were recipients of financial assistance from the Australian Government up to the 30/6/74:—

Esme Fletcher Day Nursery	....	....	....	....	Fremantle
Marjorie Mann Day Nursery	....	....	....	....	Mt. Lawley
Ngal-a Day Care Centre	....	....	....	....	South Perth
Catherine McAuley Care Centre	....	....	....	....	Wembley
Children's Protection Society Care Centre....	....	....	....	....	Perth
Len Taplin Day Nursery	....	....	....	....	Port Hedland
Benedictine Day Care Centre	....	....	....	....	Girrawheen
Unicare Occasional Care Centre	....	....	....	....	Nedlands
Goldfields Day Care Centre	....	....	....	....	Kalgoorlie
W.A.I.T. Occasional Care Centre	....	....	....	....	Bentley

Under the Child Care Act 1972 the Commonwealth can make financial assistance available to certain types of non-profit making organisations for the establishment and operation of child care centres giving priority of admission to the children of needy families. It is anticipated that a further three centres will be established in the near future and these will qualify for this Commonwealth assistance. It is hoped that further centres will be established in the coming year by Local Government authorities and organisations, in areas where there is the greatest need.

A one year part-time In-Service course for untrained staff working in Child Care Centres, including Family Care Centre mothers, commenced in February 1973 at a Technical Education Centre. This course which is in its second year, is arranged by the Department for Community Welfare pre-school officers, who also lecture in child development and early childhood education.

As there is an increasing need for trained staff in this expanding field of day care, this Department has made available financial assistance for ten successful applicants for the Child Care Certificate Course, who intend to work in Day Care Centres.

The current year was one of rapid increase in the number of Child Care Centres and also of rapid increase in the demand for child care facilities, to the extent that there has been long waiting lists at established centres.

Records Branch

Community Welfare Records are maintained by a staff of thirty. The majority of new young D.C.W. clerical staff commence in the Records Branch in order to receive basic grounding and to gain knowledge by direct contact with all sections and branches of the Department. Once this has been achieved, these officers are then moved out to take up positions in other sections and so make way for further young officers to learn the recording function. Although much of the work is repetitive, there is a wide area of interesting activities—e.g. Communications and Micro Filming. During the year to the 30/6/74 the increased efficiency has been due to the enthusiasm of the Records Branch staff, together with the increased use of mechanical aids, such as the Micro Film Unit, the Telex System and a more versatile Photocopying Machine.

The continuing decentralisation of the Department has created a need for a more complex recording system, together with improved communication between the main office, district and divisional offices, institutions and other Departmental facilities. During the year 5 000 new files were created. The Branch is currently maintaining 5 500 active files and there are some 21 500 additional files kept in storage at Head Office. These are readily available for the convenience of the field and clerical services.

FINANCIAL AID

Assistance to families in need is granted under the provisions of the Welfare and Assistance Act, 1961, which also regulates the recovery of moneys advanced.

The rates of assistance have been reviewed and subsequently increased twice during the current financial year. An additional payment of \$1.50 per week for the parent and 50c for each child was made from 10/10/73 and a further increase of \$3.00 per week per family from 27/3/74.

Although a considerable increase in the number of families claiming assistance occurred during the year, the implementation from 3/7/73 of the Supporting Mothers Benefit by the Commonwealth Government led to a substantial reduction in the amount of money expended on assistance for these families. Whereas this Department had previously been supporting many families for indefinite periods, the eligibility provisions in the Supporting Mothers Benefit now allow for the transfer of families in receipt of payment to the Commonwealth Department of Social Security after a qualifying period of six months.

Expenditure this year totalled \$1 466 476 after recoup of \$1 008 500 from the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Thus a total of \$2 474 976 was paid to families receiving assistance.

Expenditure				1972/73	1973/74
				\$	\$
Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	....	....	....	2 431 375	1 400 148
Unemployment Relief	....	....	....	67 130	66 328
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Revenue by Recovery	....	....	....	2 498 505	1 466 476
Recovery of maintenance for Wards	....	....	....	235 203	269 341
				59 921	56 132

Applications Granted

Category	1972/73			1973/74		
	Applica- tions granted	Receiving assistance as at 30th June		Applica- tions granted	Receiving assistance as at 30th June	
		Families	Children		Families	Children
Deserted Wives	2 557	1 520	3 815	3 313	780	1 737
Unmarried Mothers	916	965	1 213	807	205	224
Wives/De facto of Prisoners	521	115	305	473	62	139
Other	151	159	488	168	35	45
Totals	4 145	2 759	5 821	4 761	1 082	2 145

Variations in Rates

Units	9/10/73	10/10/73	27/3/74
	\$	\$	\$
Parent	21.50	23.00	26.00
Parent plus 1 child	30.00	32.00	35.00
Parent plus 2 children	34.50	37.00	40.00
Parent plus 3 children	39.00	42.00	45.00
Parent plus 4 children	43.50	47.00	50.00
Parent plus 5 children	48.00	52.00	55.00
Parent plus 6 children	52.50	57.00	60.00
Parent plus 7 children	57.00	62.00	65.00
Parent plus 8 children	61.50	67.00	70.00

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE

WELFARE AND ASSISTANCE ACT, 1961

Statement of Receipts and Payments 1/7/73 to 30/6/74

Payments:—

Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	\$
Unemployment Relief	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 400 148.37
Receipts	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	66 328.08
									228 004.69

Departmental Property

The function of this section is to arrange for acquisition, furnishing, maintenance and disposal of Departmental property.

Office and Institutions

There are 49 Departmental offices situated throughout the State; in addition, there are 26 Departmentally-controlled establishments for the placement of children for educational assessment and training purposes. In the metropolitan area there are 9 controlled Homes for the placement of country children undertaking advanced learning or work programmes. During the year, new office centres were opened at Mt. Newman and Mandurah, and new office accommodation was obtained at Geraldton, Kununurra, Gosnells and Northam.

Negotiations are still continuing for new accommodation for Head Office, and at Carnarvon, Bunbury, Laverton, Kalgoorlie and Paraburdoo.

Vehicles

This Department operates a fleet of 119 vehicles stationed at 48 centres throughout the State. During the past year these vehicles covered 1 613 433 miles on official business. The cost to operate these vehicles for the year was 8·37 cents per mile (including capital outlay on vehicle purchase). Cost of operation has increased from 5·72 cents per mile in 1972/73 to 8·37 cents per mile in 1973/74 mainly due to increased costs and the fact that vehicles are no longer automatically replaced at regular intervals as was the case previously.

Private vehicles used on official business during the same period covered 608 417 miles.

In addition to conventional vehicles, the Department has the following units located throughout the State:

6 Trucks
20 Trailers
10 Buses
4 Tractors
4 Caravans

Write Offs

Uncollectable debts written off with the approval of The Hon. Minister over the past three years are as follows:—

	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74
	\$	\$	\$
Maintenance of Wards	8 548	5 508	3 674
Maintenance of Aboriginal Wards	1 263	1 834	....
Recoverable Financial Assistance	4 551	18 777	31 662
	<u>\$14 362</u>	<u>\$26 119</u>	<u>\$35 336</u>

Trust Funds

Total receipts for the year compared with the previous year are as follows:—

1972/73	1973/74
\$	\$
479 846	319 809

Savings Bank Funds—Wards

Deductions from wages by employers for Wards under the terms of Service Agreements received for Banking purposes.

	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts .....	....	78	14
Balance as at 30th June	1 242	367	381

Other Remittances Received for Banking Purposes

	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts	2 181	5 101	12 983
Balance as at 30th June	19 163	20 864	31 986

Australian Government Financial Grants 1973/74

Project	Amount
	\$
Kewdale Hostel (Additional)	20 000
Port Hedland Hostel (Additional)	13 500
Kalgoorlie Working Girls Hostel (Additional)	6 500
Homemaker Community Centres Derby (Additional)	25 000
Kununurra (Additional)	25 000
Warburton Ranges—Ablutions	22 500
Meekatharra Community Centre....	4 000
Geraldton Working Boys Hostel	2 000
Boulder Working Boys Hostel	3 000
Derby—Transient Hostel	30 000
	<u>\$151 500</u>

Mission Grants in Aid 1973/74

Mission			Project	Amount \$
Roelands ....	....	....	New Cottage	25 955.25
Norseman ....	....	....	New Cottage	36 500.00
			Additional costs 30 000 gallon tank	3 341.69
A.A.E.M. Hostel Esperance			Furniture	878.45
Fairhaven ....	....	....	Beds and Bedding	1 500.00
Carnarvon ....	....	....	Convert Senior Boys Section	11 286.00
Karalundi ....	....	....	Improvements to Dormitories	830.00
			General Improvements....	1 150.00
			New Power Plant	3 000.00
Wiluna ....	....	....	New Washing Machine	300.00
St. Joseph's Derby	....	....	Renovate Old Dining Room	5 000.00
			Two Trampolines and Pool Tables	700.00
Lombadina ....	....	....	Two Generators	11 000.00
			Freezer	4 000.00
Balgo ....	....	....	Laundry	9 000.00
U.A.M. Fitzroy Crossing			Ablution Block	3 800.00
Tardun ....	....	....	Power Plant	7 000.00
La Grange ....	....	....	Single Boys Hostel	17 000.00
Mowanjum ....	....	....	Water Supply	1 614.00
			Area Lighting	896.00
Kurrawang ....	....	....	Cottage Home	19 740.00
			Generator	2 395.82
Amy Bethel ....	....	....	Self Contained Cottage for 12 children and with staff accommodation	31 000.00
Beagle Bay ....	....	....	Modernisation Girls Dormitory	11 000.00
			Electrical Wiring	10 400.00
Cundeelee ....	....	....	Two sets of Toilets	9 200.00
			Extra Ablution Blocks	865.00
Sr. Michaels ....	....	....	Alterations and Equipment	1 520.07
Yaandina ....	....	....	Alterations and Additions to Buildings	20 000.00
New Norcia ....	....	....	Camping Equipment	300.00
				<hr/> \$251 172.28 <hr/>

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1974

1972-73	Particulars	1973-74	General Admin.	Field Operations	Ward Expenditure		Non Ward Inc. Migrant	Reserves	Financial Assistance	Departmental Institutions		
					Private Institutions	Boarded Out				Assessment	Treatment	Hostels
4 571 833	Salaries and Wages	5 810 836	1 199 839	1 828 432	...	...	...	...	...	1 220 568	1 154 936	407 061
141 745	Administration	135 644	135 644	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27 139	Printing	20 851	10 426	10 425	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 048	Departmental Housing	60 372	...	60 372	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
413 736	Field Expenses	553 225	...	527 860	...	...	25 365	...	...	...	...	...
828 985	Community Welfare Assistance	794 880	4 800	347 749	...	...	...	...	442 331	...	...	...
1 460 360	Maintenance of Children	2 153 123	...	...	439 016	1 292 510	421 597	...	...	...	...	...
81 575	Adoption of Children	142 139	...	...	...	...	142 139	...	1 400 148	...	...	...
2 431 375	Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	1 400 148	...	...	...	...	...	...	66 328	...	...	...
67 129	Unemployment Relief	66 328	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
589 641	Institutions	763 630	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	175 554	206 859	381 217
193 897	Residential Reserves	260 866	...	...	...	...	...	260 866	...	...	...	...
10 852 463	Total Payments	12 162 042	1 350 709	2 774 838	439 016	1 292 510	589 101	260 866	1 908 807	1 396 122	1 361 795	788 278
74 290	Against which Receipts were:—	...	...	...	...	56 132	...	...	...	...	...	...
235 807	Maintenance of Children	56 132	...	...	...	...	...	...	228 005	...	...	...
179 497	Recoverable Assistance (Wel. and Asst. Act)	228 005	11 121	3 744	...	...	17 250	9 979	17 438	1 253	12 439	230 710
...	Other Revenue	303 934	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
489 594	Total Receipts	588 071	11 121	3 744	...	56 132	17 250	9 979	245 443	1 253	12 439	230 710
10 362 869	NET EXPENDITURE	11 573 971	1 339 588	2 771 094	439 016	1 236 378	571 851	250 887	1 663 364	1 394 869	1 349 356	557 568

STATISTICS

The Statistics relating to offences by children dealt with by the Children's Court and other details related thereto, which appear in the following tables, have been systematically gathered from standardised informative reports on each child appearing before a Children's Court and collated by use of the Government computer, with the co-operation of the staff of the Computer Centre.

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TABLE 1
STATUS, NUMBERS AND PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER NOTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT
AS AT 30th JUNE, 1974

1. Wards											
1.1 In Departmental Institutions—											
	Mt. Lawley Reception Home	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	28
	Longmore	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	69
	Bridgewater	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	60
	Riverbank	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	45
	Hillston	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	81
	Nyandi	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	28
	McCall Centre	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
											323
1.2 In Departmental Hostels—											
	Tudor Lodge	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
	Fourteen	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
	Stuart House	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
	Watson Lodge	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
	Bennett House	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1.2.1 In Educational Accommodation—											
	Metropolitan Hostels	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
	Country Hostels	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	54
											83
1.3 In Denominational Children's Institutions—											
	Roman Catholic	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	243
	Anglican	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	21
	Presbyterian	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	56
	Salvation Army	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	31
	Methodist	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	39
	Church of Christ	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	98
	Baptist	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	45
	Seventh Day Adventist	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	53
											586
1.4	In Non-Denominational Children's Institutions	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	136
1.5	In Foster Homes (including relatives)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 565
1.6	Self-Supporting (in Foster Homes and other)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	580
1.7	In the care of Parents	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 614
1.8	Miscellaneous (in gaol, hospital, absconded or missing and other)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	159
											4 054
2. Migrant Children											
2.1	Institutions	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
2.2	In Board and Employment	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	62
											74
3. Other Children											
3.1	Denominational Missions	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	51
3.2	Departmental Hostels	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	318
											369
4. Children Under 6 Years of Age											
4.1	Placed privately with foster parents or in institutions	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	298
4.2	In Nurseries or other Child Minding Centres	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2 277
											427
5. Children Under Guardianship Pending Adoption											
6. Children in Families Receiving Monetary Assistance including 334 Private Foster Cases											
Total											10 970

TABLE 2
JUVENILE OFFENCES

Cases appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia which were attended by Departmental Officers during the past 3 years

		1971/72			1972/73			1973/74		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Offences against property	(A)	6 556	817	7 373	7 588	807	8 395	7 701	907	8 608
	(B)	2 618	545	3 163	3 112	447	3 559	3 399	595	3 994
	(C)	1 931	403	2 334	2 074	351	2 425	2 270	462	2 732
Offences against person	(A)	239	19	258	271	26	297	319	29	348
	(B)	198	15	213	217	17	234	247	22	269
	(C)	144	11	155	152	9	161	186	13	199
Offences against good order	(A)	1 321	231	1 552	1 578	312	1 890	1 669	414	2 083
	(B)	555	180	735	649	232	881	615	278	893
	(C)	410	117	527	403	156	559	460	172	632
Total	(A)	8 116	1 067	9 183	9 437	1 145	10 582	9 689	1 350	11 039
	(B)	3 371	740	4 111	3 978	696	4 674	4 261	895	5 156
	(C)	2 485	531	3 016	2 629	516	3 145	2 916	647	3 563

(A) Number of offences for which children were charged.

(B) Number of child appearances (including appearances of children who appeared on two or more occasions).

(C) Number of individual children concerned.

Offences against property—Includes stealing and receiving (largest category); breaking, entering and stealing; unlawful use of motor vehicles; wilful damage; false pretences.

Offences against the person—Includes assault; sex offences; robbery with violence.

Offences against good order—Includes disorderly conduct; false name and address; resisting arrest; liquor; betting and traffic offences.

TABLE 3
JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Departmental placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Department for Community Welfare for the year ended 30th June, 1974.

		Male	Female	Total
Released to Parents	(A)	166	31	197
	(B)	128	38	166
Released to Relatives	(A)	17	6	23
	(B)	23	6	29
Released to persons other than relatives	(A)	20	10	30
	(B)	16	5	21
Released to employment	(A)	15	3	18
	(B)	30	5	35
Placed in Riverbank or Longmore	(A)	50	....	50
	(B)	186	....	186
Placed in Hillston	(A)	40	....	40
	(B)	185	....	185
Placed in independent institutions	(A)	19	4	23
	(B)	39	9	48
Placed in Neuville	(A)	....	3	3
	(B)	....	7	7
Placed with foster parents	(A)	39	18	57
	(B)	55	17	72
Placed in Nyandi	(A)	....	9	9
	(B)	....	56	56
TOTALS	(A)	366	84	450
	(B)	662	143	805

(A) Committed to care of Department.

(B) Re-committed to care of Department.

Note that most of children committed to the care of the Department are placed for assessment in one of the Department's assessment centres, viz. Longmore, Bridgewater or Mount Lawley Reception Home, prior to being placed as detailed above.

TABLE 4
JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR

Cases of juvenile misbehaviour appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1974.

	7 years			8 years			9 years			10 years			11 years			12 years		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Uncontrolled	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Neglect (generally uncontrolled)	1	....	1	2	....	2	1	1	2	....	1	1	1	1	2	1	....	1
Neglect (involving sexual misconduct)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Truancy	2	2	4	2	....	2	2	1	3	1	....	1	2	....	2	3	....	3
Breaking terms of probation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1
TOTAL	3	2	5	4	....	4	3	2	5	1	1	2	3	1	4	5	....	5

	13 years			14 years			15 years			16 years			17 years			TOTAL		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Uncontrolled	1	1	2	....	2	2	1	4	5	2	1	3	....	....	....	4	8	12
Neglect (generally uncontrolled)	1	10	11	1	10	11	2	23	25	1	17	18	1	7	8	12	70	82
Neglect (involving sexual misconduct)	....	5	5	1	10	11	....	10	10	....	9	9	....	8	8	1	42	43
Truancy	10	7	17	2	6	8	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	24	17	41
Breaking terms of probation	....	....	....	1	1	2	1	1	2	....	1	1	....	....	....	3	3	6
TOTAL	12	23	35	5	29	34	4	38	42	3	28	31	1	16	17	44	140	184

B—Boys appearing
G—Girls appearing
T—Total appearing

TABLE 5
CHILD NEGLECT

Cases of Parental Neglect and Destitution appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1974.

Reason for Appearance				AGE									
				Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Parental Neglect	Boys	....	....	8	8	2	2	6	4	4	6	6	3
	Girls	....	....	9	4	9	5	6	8	5	3	3	7
Destitution	Boys	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	1	1	....	....	1
	Girls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	1	....	....	....
TOTAL	Boys	....	....	8	9	3	2	6	5	5	6	6	4
	Girls	....	....	9	4	9	5	6	10	6	3	3	7
GRAND TOTAL	....	....	....	17	13	12	7	12	15	11	9	9	12

Reason for Appearance				AGE								TOTAL
				10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Parental Neglect	Boys	....	....	10	6	6	3	1	2	....	1	78
	Girls	....	....	4	6	6	3	6	1	1	....	86
Destitution	Boys	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	6
	Girls	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	1	1	1	8
TOTAL	Boys	....	....	10	6	7	3	1	2	....	1	84
	Girls	....	....	5	7	6	3	6	2	2	1	94
GRAND TOTAL	....	....	....	15	13	13	6	7	4	2	2	178

TABLE 6
JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR AND CHILD NEGLECT

Court decisions in regard to cases of juvenile misbehaviour, neglect and destitution in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1974

Court Decision	Male	Female	Total
Cautioned .....	....	....	....
Dismissed with Supervision .....	....	3	3
Placed on probation	3	17	20
Committed to care of Department	121	212	333
Recommitted to care of Department	6	5	11
Fined .....	....	1	1
TOTAL	130	238	368

" Juvenile misbehaviour " includes cases where the child is deemed uncontrolled or to be neglected by virtue of his own behaviour, for example sexual misconduct. Truancy and failure to comply with Court-imposed terms of probation are also included in this section. The children involved are not regarded in the same light as juveniles convicted of criminal offences.

" Child neglect " covers children neglected by their parents or who are destitute.

TABLE 7
JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR AND CHILD NEGLECT

Departmental placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Department for Community Welfare for juvenile misbehaviour, parental neglect or destitution in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1974.

Departmental Disposal	Male	Female	Total
Released to parents	50	88	138
Released to relatives	11	15	26
Released to other than relatives	5	20	25
Placed with foster parents	37	53	90
Released to employment .....	....	2	2
Placed in independent institutions	21	30	51
Placed in Neuville	1	4	5
Placed in Hillston .....	....	....	....
Placed in Nyandi .....	....	3	3
Placed in Riverbank	1	2	3
Total	126	217	343

" Juvenile misbehaviour " includes cases where the child is deemed uncontrolled or to be neglected by virtue of his own behaviour, for example sexual misconduct. Truancy and failure to comply with Court-imposed terms of probation are also included in this section. The children are not regarded in the same light as juveniles convicted of criminal offences.

TABLE 8
MINISTERIAL COMMITTALS

Children placed under the care of the Department for Community Welfare by means of Ministerial Committal for the year ended 30th June, 1974

					AGE									
					Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Section 47A	....	....	Boys	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	2	....	....	2
			Girls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....
Section 47B	....	....	Boys	....	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	....
			Girls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
Section 47C	....	....	Boys	....	2	6	3	2	....	5	....	4	1	4
			Girls	....	1	....	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	....
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	3	7	5	5	2	8	4	5	5	6

					AGE								Total
					10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Section 47A	....	....	Boys	....	....	....	1	1	1	....	....	....	8
			Girls	....	....	....	....	3	....	....	....	....	5
Section 47B	....	....	Boys	....	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
			Girls	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	1	....	4
Section 47C	....	....	Boys	....	2	....	3	1	1	....	....	....	34
			Girls	....	....	....	....	....	3	2	2	....	19
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	4	....	5	6	5	2	3	....	75

NOTE: These committals are authorised by the Hon. Minister by virtue of power given to him in accordance with Sections 47A, 47B, and 47C of the Child Welfare Act, which provides for power to commit those cases which may not otherwise be committed.

47A deals with children left by their parents in Institutions or with other persons and no maintenance.

47B deals with children who have no legal guardian but who are not destitute.

47C deals with children whose parents consider it is in the best interests of the children to be committed.

TABLE 9
NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES OF CHILDREN IN METROPOLITAN AREA—1973/74

Local Government Area					Caucasian			Aboriginal			Total
					Male	Female	Sub-Total	Male	Female	Sub-Total	
Stirling	....	....	....	....	574	202	776	72	29	101	877
Perth (C)	....	....	....	....	388	145	533	43	15	58	591
Bayswater	....	....	....	....	250	90	340	15	23	38	378
Melville (T)	....	....	....	....	241	113	354	10	6	16	370
Canning	....	....	....	....	198	76	274	23	47	70	344
Belmont	....	....	....	....	225	57	282	42	7	49	331
Fremantle (C)	....	....	....	....	222	48	270	16	4	20	290
Swan-Guildford	....	....	....	....	159	50	209	45	17	62	271
Cockburn	....	....	....	....	95	68	163	51	8	59	222
Gosnells	....	....	....	....	167	37	204	6	6	12	216
Wanneroo	....	....	....	....	96	63	149	2	2	4	153
South Perth (C)	....	....	....	....	102	45	147	1	4	5	152
Kwinana	....	....	....	....	87	25	112	11	6	17	129
Kalamunda	....	....	....	....	92	31	123	2	3	5	128
Armadale-Kelmscott	....	....	....	....	68	18	86	30	6	36	122
Mundaring	....	....	....	....	71	14	85	24	6	30	115
Bassendean	....	....	....	....	73	28	101	8	4	12	113
Rockingham	....	....	....	....	70	19	89	5	....	5	94
East Fremantle (T)	....	....	....	....	62	12	74	....	....	....	74
Nedlands (C)	....	....	....	....	42	8	50	....	....	....	50
Subiaco	....	....	....	....	22	8	30	....	3	3	33
Cottesloe (T)	....	....	....	....	22	10	32	1	....	1	33
Claremont (T)	....	....	....	....	14	12	26	....	....	....	26
Mosman Park (T)	....	....	....	....	11	3	14	2	....	2	16
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	....	....	....	....	5	....	5	....	2	2	7
Peppermint Grove	....	....	....	....	3	....	3	....	....	....	3
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	3 359	1 172	4 531	409	198	607	5 138

(Refer Graph 10)

GRAPH 1

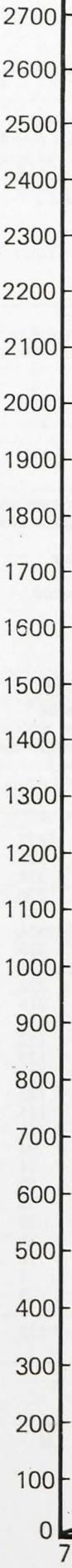
JUVENILE OFFENCES

Number of offences with which children were charged in terms of the children's ages. (Children's Courts in Western Australia).

1973/74

AGE (Years)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	TOTAL
BOYS	10	29	97	149	256	445	1095	1380	1618	1826	2686	9591
GIRLS	1	1	1	4	11	56	105	200	269	389	314	1351
TOTALS	11	30	98	153	267	501	1200	1580	1887	2215	3000	10942

Number of offences



BOYS
1973/74

BOYS
1972/73

GIRLS
1973/74

1972/73

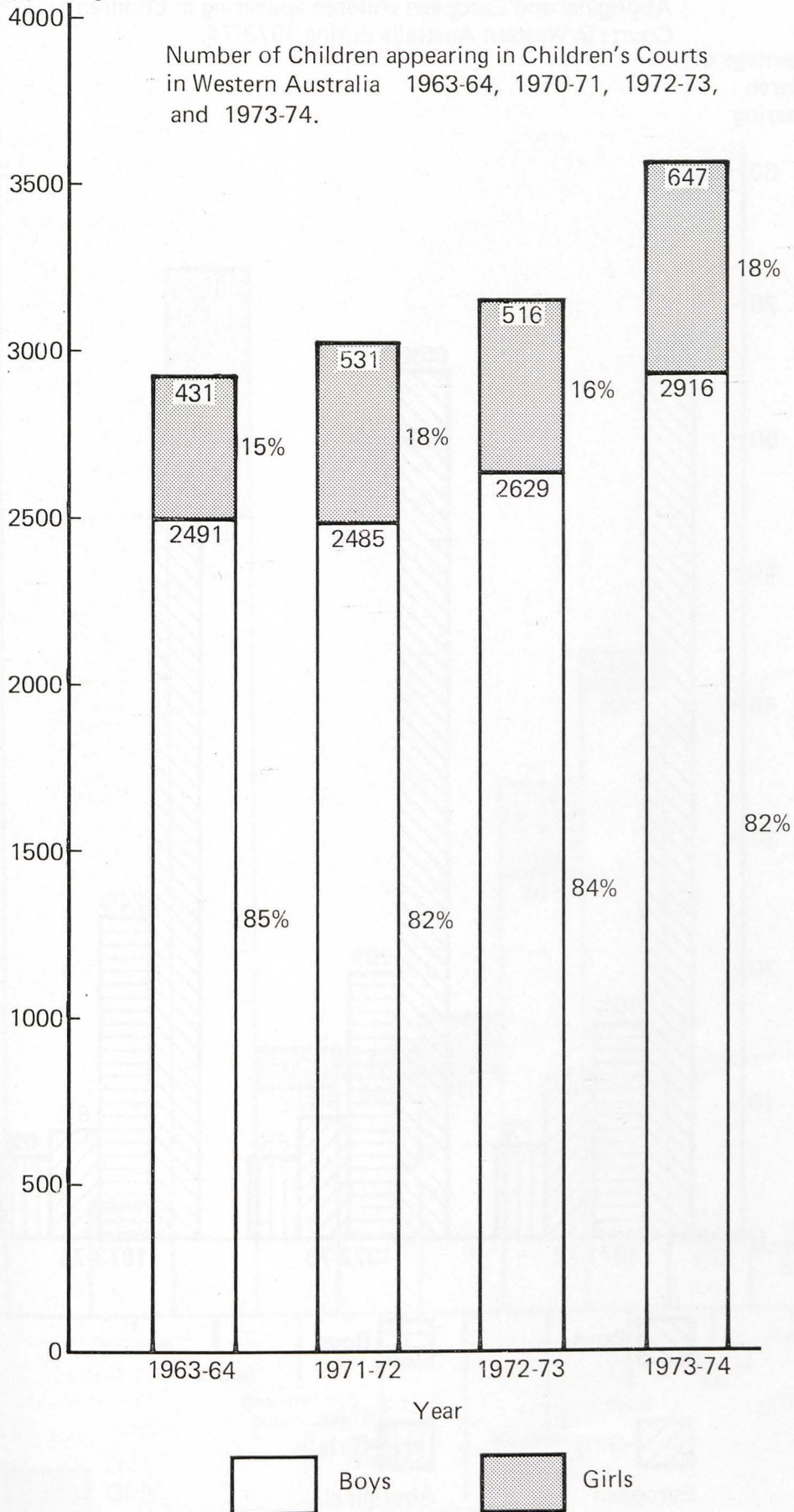
Age

GRAPH 2

JUVENILE OFFENCES (Refer to Table 2)

Children
Appearing

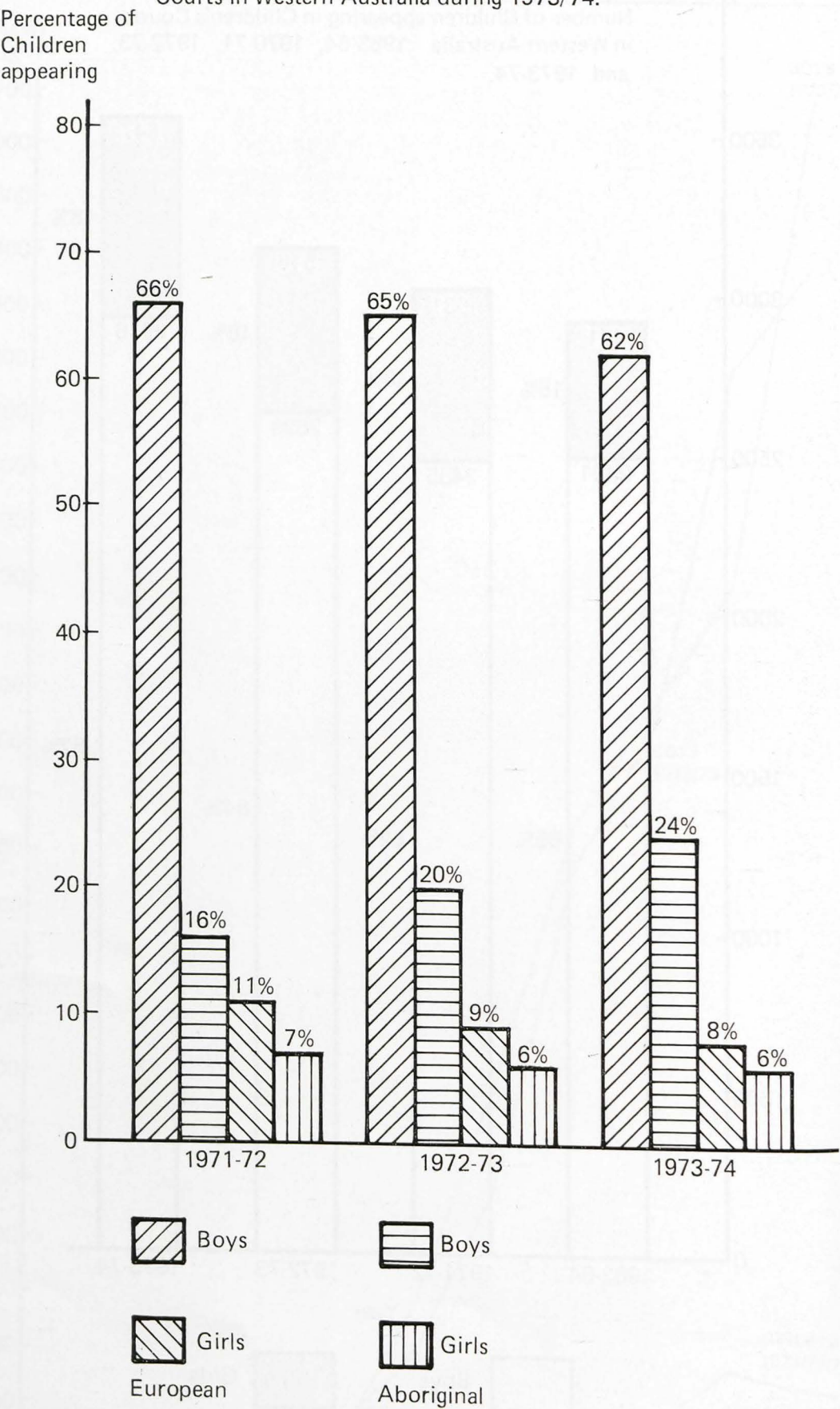
Number of Children appearing in Children's Courts
in Western Australia 1963-64, 1970-71, 1972-73,
and 1973-74.



GRAPH 3

JUVENILE OFFENCES

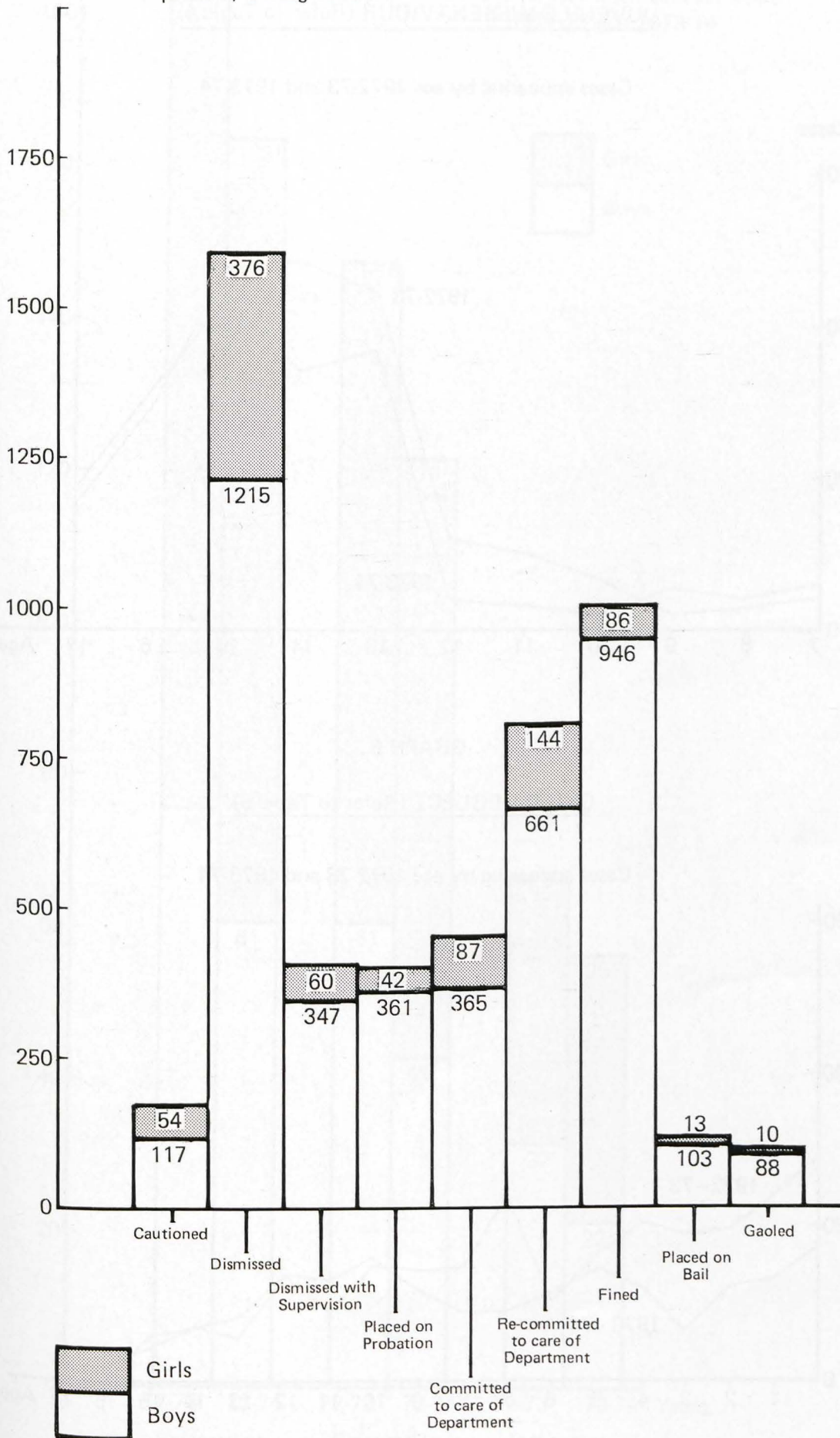
Aboriginal and European children appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia during 1973/74.



GRAPH 4

JUVENILE OFFENCES

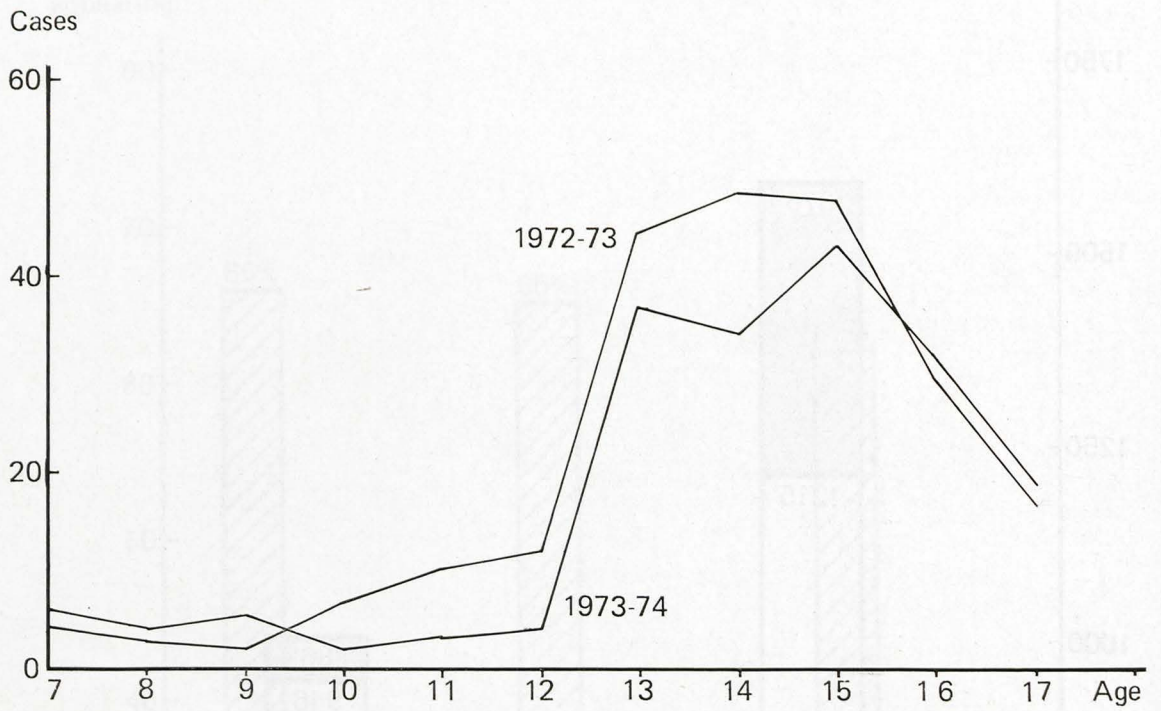
No. of Court Decisions
Court decisions on cases appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia (at which Departmental Officer were present) during 1973-74.



GRAPH 5

JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR (Refer to Table 4)

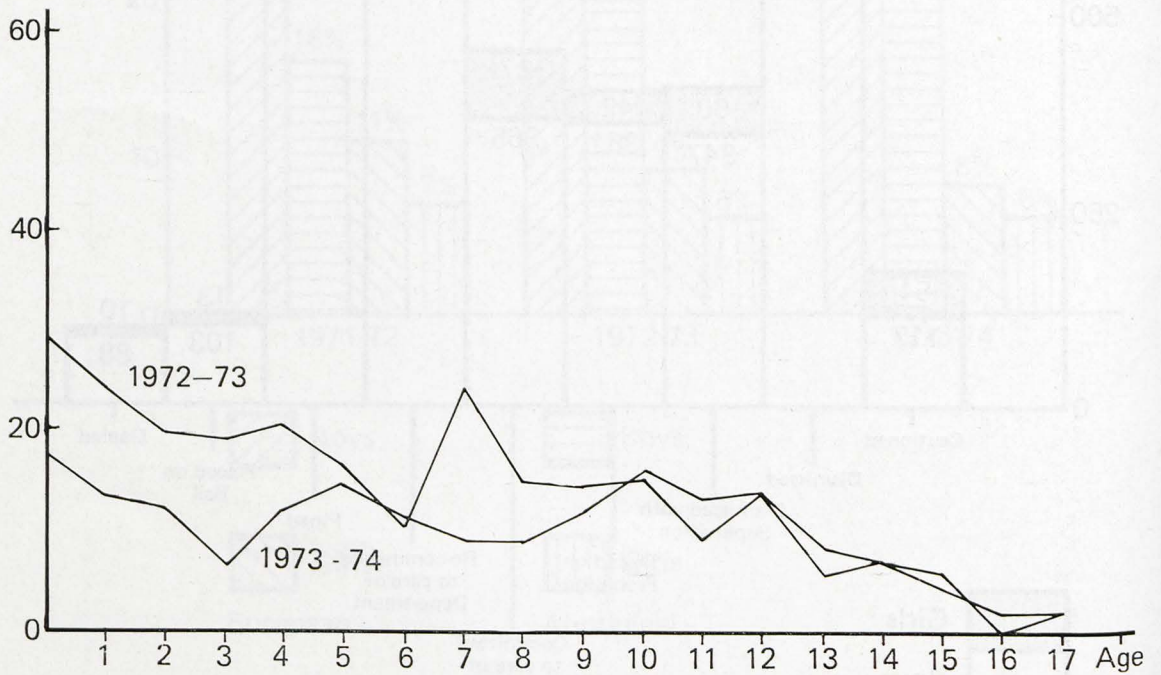
Cases appearing by age 1972-73 and 1973-74



GRAPH 6

CHILD NEGLECT (Refer to Table 5)

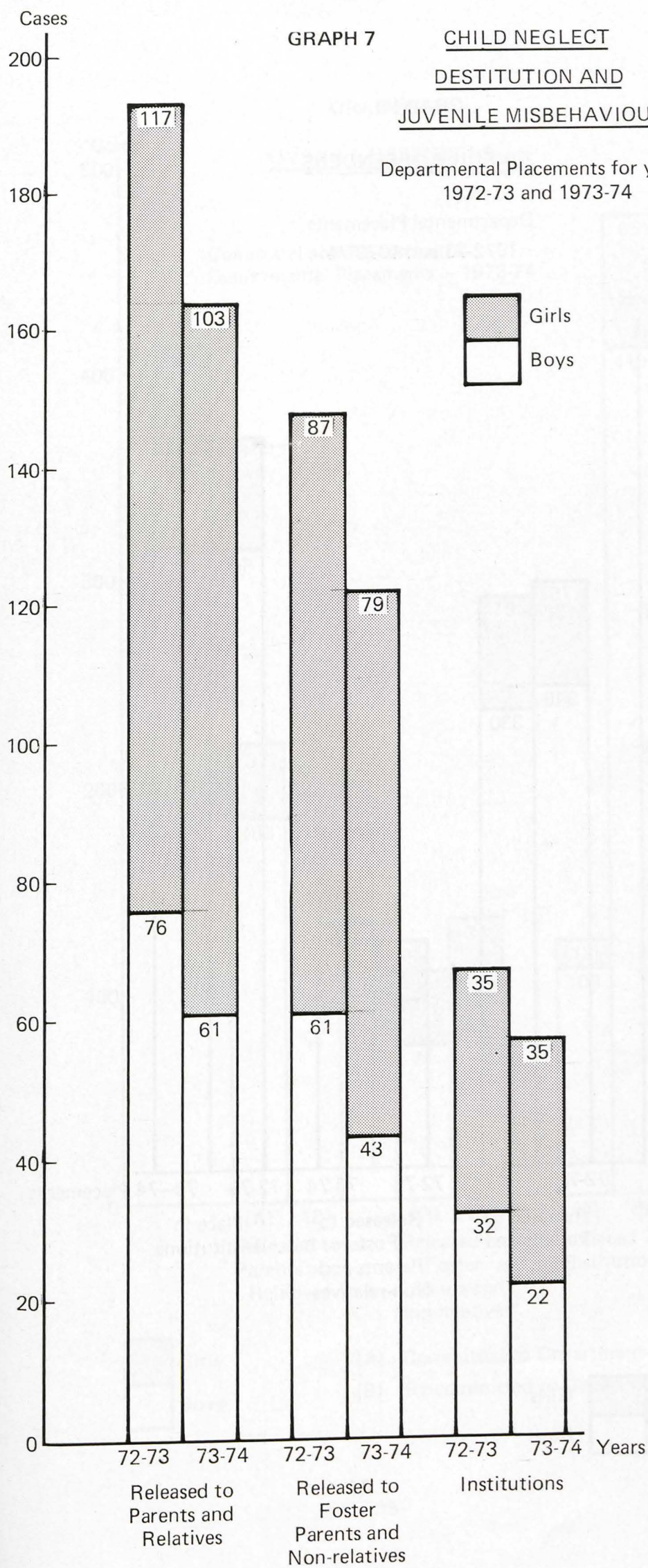
Cases appearing by age 1972-73 and 1973-74



GRAPH 7

CHILD NEGLECT
DESTITUTION AND
JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR

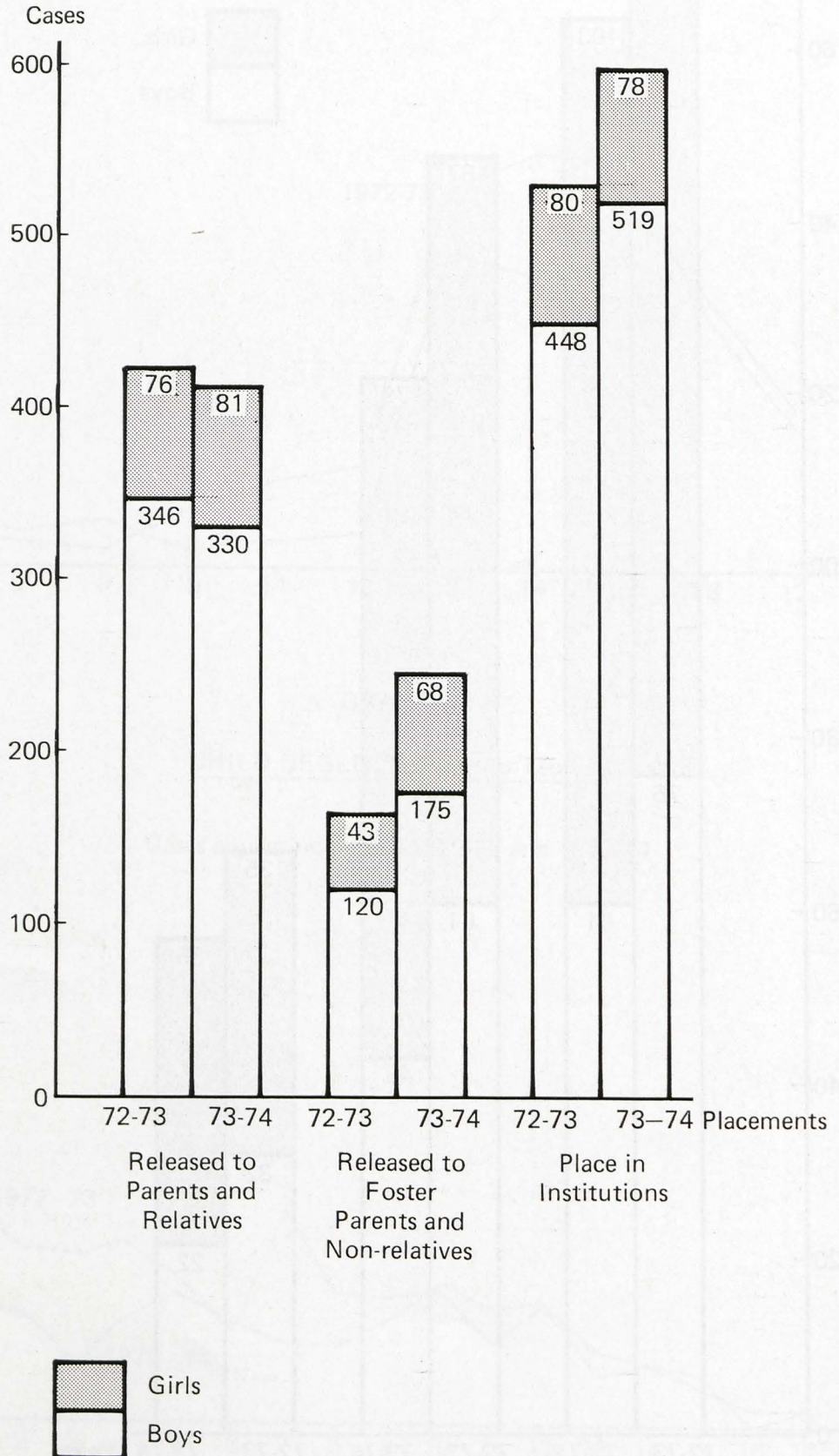
Departmental Placements for years
1972-73 and 1973-74



GRAPH 8

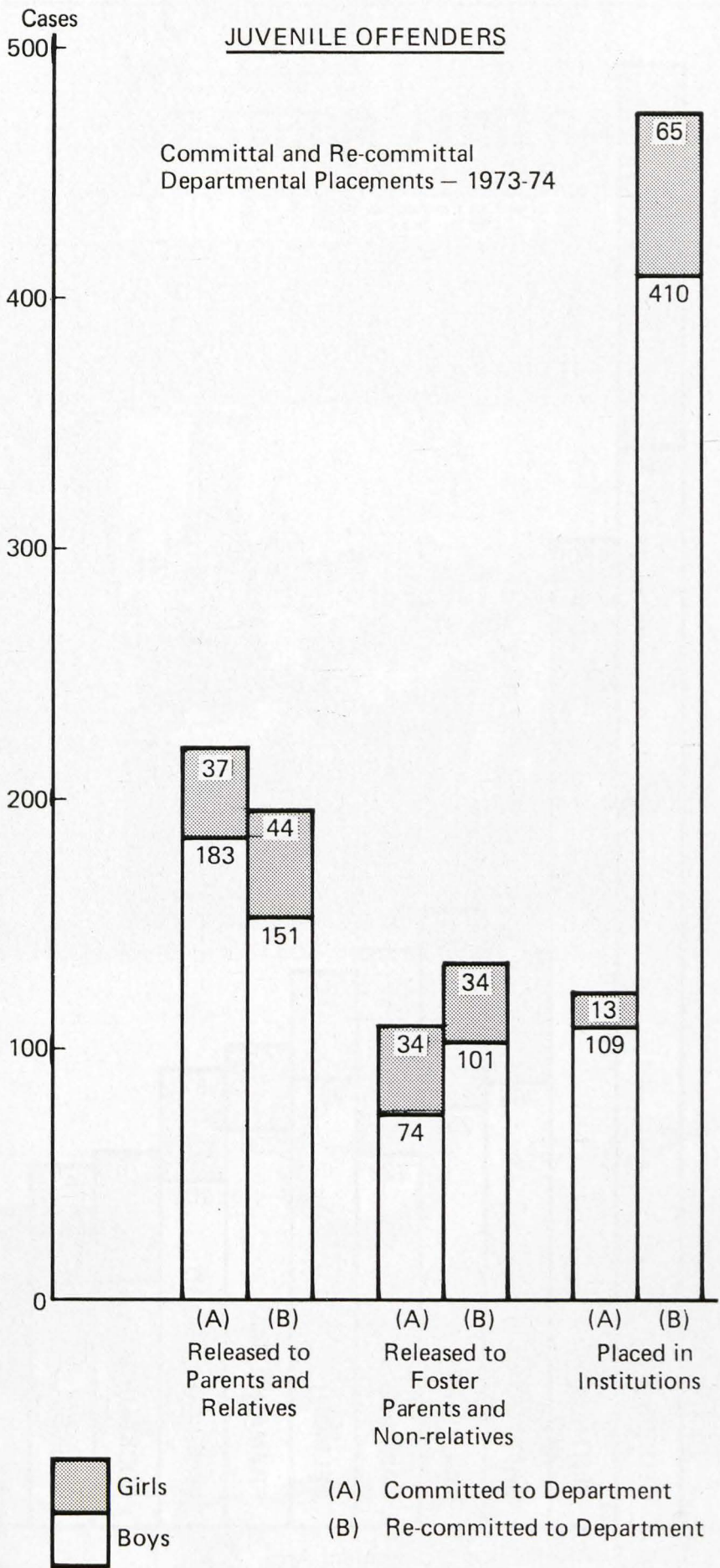
JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Departmental Placements
1972-73 and 1973-74



GRAPH 9

JUVENILE OFFENDERS



GRAPH 10

TEN HIGHEST NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES OF CHILDREN IN
METROPOLITAN AREA — YEAR ENDED JUNE, 30 1974. (Refer to Table 9).

