



DEPARTMENT  
FOR  
COMMUNITY  
WELFARE  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT 1975











WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
1974-75

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DEPARTMENT FOR  
COMMUNITY WELFARE  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

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for the year ended  
June 30, 1975

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PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

**Cover:** Scenes at Perth Airport during evacuation of Darwin following Cyclone Tracy. (Photographs by courtesy of "West Australian" Newspapers.)







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, 1975.*

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

In spite of the difficulties and limitations encountered during the year reflecting the economic climate the Department has been able to not only maintain the range of services provided to the community but to develop and extend initiatives of both a continuing and short term nature. This has been possible mainly because of the preparedness of staff and field staff in particular to accept additional work commitments when already under considerable pressure involving consistent overtime for which in the main they are not financially compensated.

Their efforts are all the more praiseworthy when made in a climate which not infrequently involves unwarranted and ill informed criticism from various sources relating to Public Servants in general. It is clear that without their additional contribution over and beyond normal hours the range of welfare services offered to the community could not be maintained.

During the past year the Department has moved further in the direction of community involvement in welfare programmes. This form of community participation assists in breaking down the barriers between a bureaucracy and the people it serves. It promotes a spirit of co-operation and better allows for the identification of community needs and the establishment of priorities and the machinery to satisfy these needs.

Arising out of this philosophy new and extended services have been made available to the people of this State. Yaandina Babies' and Children's Centre at Roebourne was opened in April through the joint involvement of the Department and a local Committee. A similar arrangement will see a child care facility open in Broome next year. In February of this year the Community Services Training College commenced operations following joint planning by Departmental Staff and representatives from community groups.

A Parent Help Centre in which the community will play a significant role is in the planning stages and will commence operations by the middle of the next financial year.

In response to community needs the fields of child care and youth activities have been extended.

An "Early Childhood Services" section has been developed within the Department due to the increased number of children requiring day care and to provide the registration and advisory functions to those people or organizations providing the service.

Leisure time activities for young people in the Departments care and other children within the Community are playing an increasingly important role both as a meaningful experience in character formation and as a preventive measure in the mis-use of leisure time. In the latter part of the year development of a site at Port Kennedy (Warnbro Sound) was in progress to provide a much needed facility for this purpose.

In the middle of the year the Department's capacity to respond to an emergency was fully tested in relation to the Darwin Cyclone. With the aid of a willing staff and resources available in the northern parts of the State the Department was able to make a significant contribution.

Due to Cyclone Tracy the annual Conference of Ministers and Directors of Social Welfare could not be held in Darwin as planned. Consequently this State hosted the Conference held early in June. A conference on child abuse, believed to be the first of its kind in Australia at the national level, is to be held in Perth from August 25 to 28, 1975. A Planning Committee with representation from the welfare, medical, legal, law enforcement and community fields has been meeting for several months. It should be pointed out that the need for such a Conference has not been motivated by any alarming increase in child abuse but by a need for increased understanding in the area and optimum co-operation between all those disciplines involved and the community.

Between November, 1974 and May, 1975 the Deputy Director of the Department was appointed by the State Government to chair a Committee enquiring into concessions and fringe benefits available to pensioners. He has asked me to put on record his thanks to the Committee Members for their valuable contribution and support. It is hoped that the Report will not only contribute to an improved understanding of the difficulties with which pensioners are confronted but lead to the introduction of benefits which will soften the harsh impact of inflation on them.

A series of amendments to the Child Welfare Act are currently under consideration by the State Government. They have been in the pipe line for some considerable time and it is to be hoped that some finality will have been reached in the near future. If this State is to maintain its prestige in the field of Child Welfare it is vital that legislation be reviewed frequently and expeditiously in order that those involved in the field can keep pace with change that will benefit both children and the community.

Finally I wish to thank all those people and organisations who have assisted and co-operated with the Department—without their continued support the Department would face an impossible task.

K. A. MAINE,  
Director.



## ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS AND MINISTERS

The 1975 Annual Conference of Social Welfare Administrators and the Council of Social Welfare Ministers was held in Perth from the 9–13 June 1975.

The Conference was scheduled to be held in Darwin but owing to the effects of Cyclone Tracy this was not possible and Western Australia accepted the responsibility for hosting the 1975 Conference. Delegates attended from all the Australian States and Territories, together with representatives from New Zealand, Papua New Guinea; Department of Social Security, Social Welfare Commission and the Children's Commission.

Included on the Agenda were items dealing with Adoption, Guardianship, Delinquency, Training of Welfare Personnel, Social Welfare Commission, Provision of Financial Support Services, Family Welfare, Other Welfare Services, Administration of Social Services and the Children's Commission. During the week of the Conference, visits were made to four children's institutions. The four selected formed a sample of the range of institutional facilities—with regard to function, theoretical orientation and method currently operating in this State.

Immediately following the Conference a party of delegates returned to their home States via a tour of the North West of Western Australia. The tour took in Paraburdoo, Port Hedland, Camballin, Derby, Kununurra and terminated in Darwin.



### REAR—Left to Right—

Mr. J. M. Hemer, Director of Welfare, A.C.T., Mr. A. G. Booth, Director General of Social Welfare, Victoria, Mr. R. W. McHenry, First Assistant Secretary, Social and Commercial Affairs Division, N.T., Mr. C. A. Oram, Assistant Director General, Social Welfare, N.Z., Mr. C. A. P. Clark, Acting Under Secretary, Department of Community and Welfare Services and Sport, Queensland, Mr. N. B. Liosi, Acting Director of Child Welfare, Papua New Guinea.

### MIDDLE ROW—Left to Right—

Mr. N. Brown, Private Secretary to Hon. N. J. King, N.Z., Mr. A. S. Colliver, First Assistant Director General, Social Welfare Division, Department of Social Security, Mr. G. C. Smith, Director of Social Welfare, Tasmania, Mr. W. C. Langshaw, Director of Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs, N.S.W., Mr. M. Wryell, Deputy Director General, Department of Social Security, Mr. I. S. Cox, Director General, Department of Community Welfare, S.A., Mr. R. F. Plummer, Director, Department of Children's Services, Queensland.

### FRONT ROW—Left to Right—

Hon. W. V. Houghton, M.L.C., Minister for Social Welfare, Victoria, Hon. L. J. King, Q.C., M.P., Minister of Community Welfare, S.A., Hon. N. J. King, Minister of Social Welfare, N.Z., Hon. S. G. Mauger, M.L.A., Minister for Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs, N.S.W., Miss H. O'Connor, Private Secretary to Hon. S. G. Mauger, N.S.W., Hon. J. Poe, Minister for the Interior, Papua New Guinea, Miss S. Tongia, Private Secretary to Hon. J. Poe, Papua New Guinea.



# WELFARE SERVICES





## DARWIN CYCLONE EMERGENCY

The devastation of Darwin by Cyclone Tracy on the 25 December 1974, left in its wake a large number of individuals and families who required assistance to return to families, relatives or new homes in Western Australia.

These people required both emergency and longer term assistance and support. The Department for Community Welfare was able to respond quickly to their requirements. The speed and efficiency of Departmental response was possible due to the decentralized structure of the Department and through the flexibility of the Parliamentary Acts under which the Department operates.

It is notable that Departmental assistance in this emergency occurred over a period of public holidays and nothing could have been achieved without the immediate and unconditional support of staff members who were called upon to assist.

Many offered their assistance and many were disappointed that their particular expertise and help were not required. Thanks are also due to wives and families of the many staff members for added support and actual assistance, ranging from the physical care of evacuees to manning telephones. For many years, the Department has provided a volunteer Liaison and Planning Officer with State Emergency Service. The liaison duties during the Darwin emergency were shared with a senior administration officer, providing a 24 hour service for many days.

The demands upon the resources of the Department were lessened because of the assistance to evacuees provided by several Australian government departments. In spite of this, the Department for Community Welfare was involved financially to the extent of \$138 967.43. (A detailed summary of this expenditure is included.) The Department accepted its clear responsibility for parent-unaccompanied children, responsibility for the special needs of certain Aboriginal people and for a versatile social work service attuned to the special understanding and requirements of evacuees.

Phases of Departmental assistance are listed as:—

- (a) Emergency Evacuation Reception Centre, Perth Airport.
- (b) Overland Evacuation Route, Western Australia.
- (c) Reception, Information and Registration Centre, Mt. Lawley.
- (d) Darwin Operations Room, Head Office.
- (e) Darwin Evacuees Co-ordinating Committee.

and more detailed information as contained in this report.

Many planning and assessment meetings were held between 26/12/74 and 3/1/75 by senior departmental staff members, to ensure critical appraisal and effective control of departmental actions.

- (a) *Emergency Evacuation Reception Centre, Perth Airport.*

Rostered metropolitan field staff provided a social work service at all times necessary. Effective, close co-operation was maintained with the Commonwealth Department of Social Security with emphasis on "on the spot" solutions of evacuees' problems and the prompt relief of some of the distress experienced by these people. Departmental Relief Branch officers provided a travel assistance service for evacuee travel to their destinations within Australia.

- (b) *Overland Evacuation Route, Western Australia.*

Departmental officers readily accepted the responsibility of co-ordinating and controlling the relevant reception, care and registration procedures for evacuees using this route. The overland journey was made by hundreds of cars moving families by road into Western Australia.

The weather, with heat and likely flooding in places, plus great distances of necessary travel, often in vehicles ill prepared for such a sudden exodus, added to problems. Persons driving from Darwin to Perth would have travelled upwards of 2 600 miles.

The Department's decentralised offices made ideal reception and welfare centres along this route and the experience and expertise of officers in their normal duties was highlighted in their handling of the many problems of evacuee care. Officers had at their disposal telex, radio and telephone links. In two cases, emergency offices were established in mobile caravans. To assist evacuees on their movement south, the centres were able to provide food, refreshments, monetary aid, petrol, oil, tyres and such ongoing support and assistance as was required as well as arranging accommodation. There were occasions where alternative transport needed to be arranged for weary travellers.

- (c) *Reception, Information and Registration Centre, Mt. Lawley.*

This Centre operated on a 24 hour daily basis from 31/12/74 for over two weeks. In addition to the reception and registration of Darwin evacuees reporting to the Centre, information was given and referrals effected to various services.

- (d) *Darwin Operations Room.*

This enquiry centre was established at Head Office, mainly for telephone queries, and operated with some intensity of enquiries for several days.



(e) *Darwin Evacuees Co-ordinating Committee.*

This Committee, established with Ministerial consent, provided a standing working group of representatives of various organisations involved in the initial stages of assistance to evacuees to ensure the continuation of the high level of co-operation established. The Department's representative, a senior social worker, has carried out the duties of Secretary to the Committee.

**DARWIN CYCLONE EMERGENCY—EXPENDITURE BY DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE**

Type of Evacuees	Form of Assistance	Amount	Remarks
Persons travelling by Road to Perth	Monetary Aid ....	\$ 5 921.73	Paid mainly on first four days after cyclone. Alternative accommodation used only when no space available in departmental hostels.
	Accommodation ....	8 098.33	
	Meals ....	10 568.77	
	Petrol and Oil ....	22 155.05	
	Tyres and tubes ....	11 764.88	
	Vehicle repairs ....	20 530.34	
		79 039.10	
Persons arriving by Air	Air Fares ....	20 978.13	Every evacuee was required to register at Kununurra and was issued with identification which had to be produced at staging points en route to Perth. "Identified" evacuees were provided with assistance, if sought, at each staging point to enable them to reach the next staging point, and ultimately Perth, in safety. Air fares paid for evacuees travelling intra and inter-State after arrival in Perth and, in some cases, for evacuees to travel to Perth from, for example, Kununurra.
	Rail Fares ....	174.30	
	Foster payments for unaccompanied children	3 057.54	
	Clothing ....	1 106.00	
	Telephone Calls ....	962.12	
		26 278.09	
Staff Costs	Overtime ....	31 567.94	For necessary overtime by departmental staff, particularly those in charge of evacuees who arrived by road. For officers posted to the North West to handle the initial influx of evacuees. Additional time put in by part-time homemaker staff.
	Travel Claims ....	1 729.44	
	Other Costs ....	352.86	
		33 650.24	
	Total ....	138 967.43	

**FIELD SERVICES**

Field Services of the Department are divided into 4 main areas. Metropolitan Field Services which consist of 7 Divisional Offices located at strategic points in the metropolitan area and each staffed with between 8-12 field officers.

Country Field Services (North) which consist of 3 main regions, the Kimberley, Pilbara and the Murchison Divisions.

Country Field Services (South) which consist of 3 regions, the Goldfields, the Southern and the Central Divisions.

In addition there are Sections which provide specialized services to the whole of the State. These include Adoptions, Youth Activities, Staff and Student Training, Child Abuse, Child Placement and Drug Abuse.

Field Services continue to have a prime responsibility towards the functions outlined in the Child Welfare Act. This consists of the care, protection, management of children who are at risk for one reason or another, and for the care and management of children whose behaviour has come under notice. The provisions of the Community Welfare Act have also meant that Field Services have had to extend their role to provide expertise and guidance in areas of community support, community organisation and community participation in matters of a Social Welfare nature. Under the Community Welfare Act the Field Services have a responsibility to assist individuals and families who are likely to be in disadvantaged circumstances. Unfortunately many Aboriginal people are still in this category, and considerable demands are made on field staff to service the welfare needs of Aboriginal people throughout the State.



## **METROPOLITAN FIELD SERVICES**

### **General**

Delivery of the Department's welfare services in the metropolitan region are made available through 7 Divisional offices. The Department has always sought to provide these services at locations which are readily accessible to those members of the community in need of them. These people are frequently dependent on public transport and while a superficial examination of a map may suggest a location central to an area, public transport routes dictate another. Those offices located at Victoria Park and Mt. Hawthorn serving the south east and north west corridors respectively are prime examples.

Rapid growth in the North West raises the likelihood of a further office within the region being necessary in the near future. A Departmental study into this aspect has been commenced and results should be available by September 1975. Planning can then commence should the report indicate such a need.

Fremantle and Midland offices continue to be well located in the business districts of natural sub-regions. Belmont office was relocated during the year but remains near the main shopping centre a location to which people now come for a wide variety of reasons.

### **Services**

Each Division provides services covering a wide range of Departmental activities. These include services to children and families where there is a danger of neglect, destitution or maltreatment of children; services in the area of youth behaviour problems; supportive services to families who are in need of economic, social and/or psychological help; and to local community groups and organisations which promote community welfare.

The wide range of groups to whom assistance may be provided creates problems of priority and liaison with other agencies in the health, education, housing and police areas. One of the most pressing problems for Divisional Supervisors is to limit the demand for service to a level which is reasonably commensurate with the resources at their disposal.

### **Child Care**

Much of this work begins with a complaint alleging child neglect; or referrals from schools and other agencies. Whether a child is committed to the care of the Department or not, field staff are obliged to ensure that any action necessary to protect and promote the welfare of children is taken in an effective, yet sensitive way so that the policy of providing support to the natural family is maintained. Where children must be removed from their parents, the Department seeks to place them in a substitute family situation so far as is possible. Foster parents are vitally important members of the welfare team and meetings of groups of foster parents are increasingly becoming a feature of metropolitan divisions. The groups provide mutual support and education in the ways of coping with problem children and their natural parents.

### **Youth Behaviour**

Field staff provide a service to the Childrens Courts by giving information to the Special Magistrate on the family background of each child who has been convicted of an offence and by supervising every child where any subsequent court order makes this necessary. Field staff also supervise children who have, as a consequence of an offence been made wards, and those referred from the Juvenile Suspended Action Panel. Advice and guidance is given to parents and other persons interested in the child's welfare, as well as support and direction to the children concerned.

Group work in this area is also emerging as a valuable addition to the range of treatment programmes available. Groups of "peers" which sometimes involve several children convicted of the involvement in the one incident are led by a trained welfare worker where the aim of the programme is to develop the children's capacity to make constructive decisions about the use of their leisure time. To be successful the programmes require sensitive and skilled staff who are prepared to work outside normal hours.

Youth camps are another feature of developing trends in working with behaviourally disturbed children and most divisions are now active in promoting their use.

### **Family Support Services**

Families in need of assistance come to notice in several ways. They may approach a divisional office themselves, they may be referred from the Department's Relief Branch or from other agencies who consider that they may benefit from the assistance this Department can provide. Some of these families face a complex array of problems and cannot be helped solely by the Community Welfare Department. Services provided by health, education and housing departments are often needed and there is as a consequence a continuing liaison with these bodies.

### **Community Development**

The Department continues to press for the strengthening of neighbourhood-based groups and to expand and extend the network of voluntary help available to people in local communities. Two



full time community development social workers are members of the Fremantle and Belmont teams. The remaining 5 divisions are seeking similar positions but the lack of funds has so far prevented this occurring.

A Community Development Officer, when employed as an integral member of a local based team, has a number of advantages the most important of which is that he is kept in close touch with those groups of people who are in greatest need. The function of the other members of the team is to provide personal services to these groups, and this helps to maintain an appropriate sense of priority in the Community Development officer's work.

The West Australian Institute of Technology Student Unit in community development located in the Fremantle Division has continued to provide training for students and, during the year, undertook a valuable experimental programme promoting the development of tenants associations in parts of the Fremantle region.

As part of the community development programme, an amount of \$8 900 was granted to 28 community organisations in the metropolitan area. This small amount of money representing considerably less than the cost of employing one officer has had a marked effect in assisting voluntary groups of people which comprise not only some 200 or more voluntary workers, but also provide services to a much greater number of recipients.

### **Summary**

1974/75 has seen no major new developments in the Field Services but, where possible, existing services have been extended to meet the needs of the community. Workloads are still too high, but the Department's metropolitan services enjoyed a greater degree of staff stability in this year and this has led to an easing of pressure on individual officers. Nevertheless, the problem of determining the limit of departmental responsibility is still vitally important, as is the problem of co-ordinating welfare and para welfare services provided by 10 to 15 major agencies.

## **DIVISIONS**

### **Balga**

This Division serves a population largely comprising State Housing Commission tenants and purchasers. New families are moving into the area almost every day. Social isolation, severe financial pressures and disillusionment over the lack of public facilities are the major difficulties faced by people who move into a new home in a raw environment.

The Division is involved in assisting these new communities to build up the social links and support services which will reduce some of the strains and stresses. Liaison with State Housing Commission, Community Health Service, Local Government Authorities, churches and other voluntary groups and individuals in the area is a highly relevant part of the Division's work.

Due to the great needs which the many young children in the area experience, concern over their supervision in school holiday periods has led to the running of day activity camps during holiday periods in Balga. The Division is particularly satisfied with the increasingly active part which parents are taking in the organisation of these activities.

Other undertakings in which the Division has played a major role include:

- Setting up of a voluntary transport and child minding service for migrant women attending English classes.

- Commencement of 'general interest' groups for socially isolated mothers.

- Play activities for children living in flat complexes in Balga during the summer school holidays

Balga Division has also encouraged and assisted community enterprises such as:

- A holiday programme of activities for teenagers, organised by the Balga High School.

- A community newsletter covering the suburbs of Girrawheen and Koondoola.

- A children's holiday activities programme in Koondoola.

### **Belmont**

This Division serves a population of about 80 000 people and covers principally the Shires of Belmont and Kalamunda. There is a close working relationship with the Belmont Shire Council which has appointed a Social Welfare Officer. When the office was shifted, the old premises in Laurie Street were converted into a Homemaker centre. A playgroup for children of single parents is also conducted there as well as a second hand store and sewing classes.

### **Fremantle**

This is the largest Metropolitan Division and it serves a population of about 175 000 people. The main points of interest during 1974/75 have been the growth of community development and the Division's role in assisting numerous local community groups.

Fremantle Division has played an active role in promoting out of school activities in the Coolbellup area and has built up considerable skill in handling juvenile offenders using the peer group leadership method. Despite this, demands from the Childrens Court for service continue to run at high level.



### **Victoria Park**

Victoria Park Division has developed some initiatives in the running of youth camps, foster parent groups and youth groups. The camps have been of interest as parents have also been involved in attending with their children. Not all the children have been offenders but all have particular needs which can only be met by having a relatively high ratio of staff to children attending.

The large juvenile population in the Gosnells area has placed a strain on resources but the Division is developing group work techniques which seem to offer a good deal for the youthful offender.

### **Midland**

Midland is a well established centre for the eastern region. Local social development organisations are well developed and the Division is closely involved with the Swan Community Development Committee which held its first meeting in July 1974. A number of public meetings have been arranged by the Local Authority to test the community reaction to more involvement in social welfare.

The Division actively sought financial assistance for local groups and some valuable innovations have occurred in the areas of Toy Libraries, pre and after school groups.

Staff at Midland are also actively involved with an experimental programme conducted by the Home-maker Service. The programme seeks to explore more effective ways of teaching budgetting skills to families on low income.

### **Perth**

Perth Division serves a diverse and varied population from Claremont to Bayswater. Most of the normal work of the Department is represented but special attention has been given to areas of concern which are peculiar to the centre of the Metropolitan region.

Work with aboriginal organisations, the Aboriginal Advancement Council and the New Era Aboriginal Fellowship have been a feature of the Division's special interests. These organisations have co-operated with Divisional staff in providing services to alcoholic ex prisoners and to the aged.

### **Mt. Hawthorn**

The Division serves a population of approximately 140 000 people mainly in the City of Stirling and Shire of Wanneroo. The socio-economic level of the population is generally high by the standards of metropolitan averages and, as a consequence, the demand for Departmental services is both lower and of a different nature. Problems of relationships between parents and children are more evident than overt delinquency.

The North West corridor is undergoing a major growth in population and while, to date, this has been mainly middle class, industrial development could lead to changes which may establish a need for greater involvement by the Department.

## **COUNTRY FIELD SERVICES**

### **Kimberley Region**

Work commitments of the 13 field staff in 6 District Offices throughout the Kimberleys continues to cover a very wide range of duties. There is a large amount of liaison with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, missions, and other bodies and agencies; Social Security work has been a major function in the Kimberleys but this will decrease as the Department of Social Security establishes regional offices first in Broome and later in Kununurra with visiting services to all other localities.

The most significant aspect of district work is the result of the social disorganization inherent in times of rapid social change as indicated by child neglect, excessive drinking, imprisonment for drink-related offences, interpersonal conflict and monetary relief.

Work with child offenders (mainly teenage Aboriginal boys) is important, particularly in Kununurra and Derby. There is a disturbing trend in Kununurra where offences are becoming more serious and the number of very young children involved—indicating a fundamental breakdown in home environments. The intervention alternatives are limited due to the lack of facilities in the Kimberleys and the ineffectiveness of placing offending children in institutions in Perth.

It has been clearly demonstrated in several towns that the kind of social problems mentioned above are greatly reduced if employment is available. The slump in the Beef Industry has meant less work on cattle stations, however, an encouraging development is the more extensive use of Special Works Projects (through D.A.A.) and Regional Employment Development Schemes (through Department for Labour) to create employment and improve town facilities—this has greatly decreased numbers requiring unemployment benefits in all Kimberley towns with the notable exception of Fitzroy Crossing.

Another aspect of the work of field staff is assisting in community planning and continuous involvement in community activities (particularly in townships). The Department is also involved with aboriginal communities which have been established in recent years such as those located at Oombulgurri, Turkey Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Looma and One Arm Point. Of particular note is



that the Department is active in assisting aboriginal communities around Fitzroy Crossing to establish themselves as viable self determining entities with their own land and social economic and housing programmes. These communities are the Kadjina, Wunkajunka (Christmas Creek and Fitzroy Reserve) Bayulu (Go Go Station) and Junjuwa (U.A.M. Mission).

### **Housing Reserves**

Reserve population at Wyndham, Derby and Halls Creek are undergoing changes due to building programmes.

At Wyndham the Oombulgurri Community and State Housing Commission programmes have resulted in a decrease in demand for reserve housing, six houses are being demolished and the remaining six are expected to be demolished within a few years.

The population at Derby reserve has decreased due to State Housing Commission programmes at One Arm Point, Looma and Derby itself. A large number of houses will be provided at Halls Creek by the middle of 1976 but it is expected that reserve housing will be required for a long time particularly for the older people.

Kununurra, as with Halls Creek, has a large number of aboriginal families who are camping near the town without any permanent shelter—even of reserve standard. It is unlikely that the State Housing Commission programme will be able to 'catch up' with housing demands for many years. There are no definite plans for a village to house the Mirrima people who at present are the principle occupiers of the Kununurra reserve.

The State Housing Commission building programme in Broome has not resulted in any reduction in the Broome reserve population during the year. At Fitzroy Crossing the reserve will continue to be fully utilized for many years despite the fact that there are plans for villages at the United Aborigines Mission and at Christmas Creek and Go Go Stations.

It has been a policy to upgrade those reserves which are expected to be required for the foreseeable future—thus during this past year, six type III houses on the Derby reserve have been modified to make them self contained with toilets, laundry, showers, kitchen, extra bedrooms and 240 volt power. Similar projects are being undertaken in Broome (12 houses).

Also, as part of the programme to improve reserves, community centres are being built on Kununurra and Derby reserves. These centres will be used for a variety of purposes including aboriginal council meetings, homemaker activities, adult education projects, health clinics, pre-pre-school, informal office and general recreation.

Another major aspect of the programme for improvements on reserves is a \$52 400 special works project funded by the Department for Aboriginal Affairs—this project included painting, fencing and general clean-up of reserve grounds.

*Homemaker Service:* There are 17 homemakers and welfare assistants employed throughout the division to assist selected families in managing their homes. About half of these homemakers are of aboriginal descent. The home makers are involved in many aspects of home management ranging from basic guidance of reserve residents, to supporting families with difficulties in the care of their children.

*Child Care Facilities:* The Department has purchased a large house in Derby to be used as a group home. While suitable modifications are being planned, the house has been used for youth activities. When operational, this group home will prove to be a valuable resource in the short term care of neglected children or young offenders—it is expected that the child's family will be involved in the rehabilitation programme in a community context.

Departmental funds were approved for the erection of a child care facility for neglected children in Broome. The building which commenced in June 1975 is the result of a combined effort between this Department and a community group to fulfill a community need. It is proposed that the facility will be managed by the community group.

During the year the Department took over the management of two education hostels (in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing) which were previously managed by the United Aborigines Mission. The Department is also operating a similar hostel in Halls Creek.

*General:* This division played an important part in providing a 24 hour service to those driving through from Darwin after the cyclone at Christmas. Petrol, food, repairs and accommodation were offered as required.

Although funds were not great, the Department has been able to give financial assistance to some mission building programmes through grants-in-aid. Through the Community Welfare Assistance Vote, the Department helped a variety of community projects.

In the 1975/76 financial year several developments have been planned with a special \$151 000 grant from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. This includes the employment of twelve Aboriginal Welfare Aides—this is a very significant move in directly engaging aboriginals in the provision of welfare services to their own people. The grant will also allow a psychologist to be employed to provide an important on-the-spot specialist service (the grant includes the purchase of a house in



Kununurra for the psychologist). Some \$40 600 of the grant will provide furniture at reasonable prices. The limited supply and prohibitive costs of furniture in this area have made it difficult for aboriginal families to adequately furnish their homes and this scheme will partly alleviate the difficulty.

## **PILBARA DIVISION**

The past year has seen a stabilization of Staff in this Division as Officers have developed an appreciation of the relevance of the Community Welfare Act to a region such as the Pilbara which is undergoing unique and extensive development.

With increasing staff stability has come increased activity by officers in the communities in which they are stationed. The local knowledge of an officer is a determining factor in the contribution the officer can make to the Community. However, local knowledge alone is not enough in cases of complex community and child care issues in which many officers are involved. There is an urgent need for skilled staff in areas such as Community Development and Child Care, to be based in the Pilbara, to enable local officers with this specialist support to provide a more professional service to their Communities.

Officers of the Department are determined to take advantage of the wide charter of the Community Welfare Act to aid in the Development of a healthy and stable social environment in the Pilbara. The role in the new mining towns, especially Newman and Paraburdoo, is being defined by the experiences of the officers in those towns. As well as providing family services in these towns officers have served as catalysts for the Communities to take action on their own behalf, a trend which is strengthening the peoples identification with the communities within which they live.

The local relevance of the work being done is becoming apparent to the residents of other similar towns, and requests are now being received asking for officers to be stationed in more of these towns. Major developments have occurred in Roebourne. A re-housing programme for the residents of the Roebourne Reserve have been completed and all are now living in conventional State Homes. The shift from the reserve to the new housing has been assisted by an intense homemaker programme which has resulted in many projected problems not eventuating.

A major transition in life style such as has occurred in Roebourne will not be without problems, but with continued support a high degree of success is expected.

The Roebourne Reserve has now been closed.

Juvenile delinquency is a major problem in Roebourne, and the past year has seen some positive moves to cope with this problem.

In September 1974 a Seminar on Delinquency was held and was attended by officers from a variety of Agencies and members of the local community. The Seminar highlighted the factors precipitating the delinquency problem, and the need for community based action to combat it.

The Roebourne Community accepted their responsibility to take action in regard to the delinquency problem at a Public Meeting held in March 1975. As a result of this meeting, a Committee of local residents has been formed to implement programmes to reduce the incidence of anti social behaviour among juveniles. The Community has accepted that it is their problem, and that our officers alone can achieve little; and are now attempting to combat the problem on a total Community basis.

In April 1975 Yaandina Babies and Children's Centre in Roebourne was opened by the Hon. Minister for Community Welfare. This centre provides care for destitute and neglected babes and children and is staffed by Sisters of the Order of St. John of God. The Centre is the product of a partnership between a local Committee and this Department and is an example of what local action supported by this Department can achieve.

Incorporation of the Aboriginal groups in Marble Bar and Onslow has enabled officers to work with identifiable groups, which is far more practical and desirable than the task of individual contact with the aboriginal population.

Marble Bar now services the Jigalong Community and the present indications are that a good future relationship between this Department and that Community will prevail.

Port Hedland, although still expanding rapidly, is stabilizing as a community.

The spectacular growth of Port Hedland has made it impossible for all facilities to be made available at the time they are needed. Departmental Officers are actively involved in Community groups being formed to obtain facilities, and it is expected that our degree of Community involvement will increase in the coming year.

The need for a form of "Time-out Centre" in the Pilbara for young offenders has become desperate in the past year. Because of the transient nature of much of the Pilbara population and the lack of a stable home environment, the juvenile offence rate is relatively high. There are no facilities of any kind for juvenile offenders in the Pilbara and the suitability of transferring them to Perth is questionable.



Although 1974/75 has seen the Department consolidating its role in the Pilbara, the present staff have been stretched to their limit. Emphasis has been placed on planning and preventive work rather than just dealing with crises as they occur, but this is only possible if there is sufficient staff to cope with current problems.

If the Department is to be successful in a preventative role in the Pilbara, it will be essential that staff be made available to cope with ongoing development of the region.

The Pilbara has reached a stage that in order to continue to provide the standard of service at the present level, urgent social planning and preventative measures must be taken.

### **MURCHISON DIVISION**

The Murchison Division has continued to work actively in the area of Community Development and all Districts have been involved in new projects with varied sections of their communities.

A growth in the number and size of various agencies in the Division (including Social Security, Regional Social Development project, Recreation Council, Community Health, Aboriginal Affairs, Education Department, Guidance and Health services) has meant officers are involved in an increasing amount of liaison and co-ordination in the area of both planning and service delivery.

A disturbing trend in the field of Aboriginal welfare is the increasing amount of antagonism shown by whites in small country centres towards spending in this area. Field staff are continually trying to educate various sections of the community in the long term benefits of this programme.

Throughout the Division the R.E.D. Scheme has had a noticeable positive effect on reducing unemployment among Aboriginal men and in helping them regain social and family stability.

Some of the specific activities of interest around the Division are outlined below.

#### **Geraldton District**

The Community Centre, after many delays, is finally coming close to being operational. It should prove to be a very novel and useful facility with institutional care for emergency placement of dependent children and single parent families on the one hand and a base for a variety of community activities on the other.

The Geraldton field staff are continuing their involvement with youth groups in a broad variety of spheres including Guides and Brownies, football and gymnastics, pre-school and Rangers. They held a very successful holiday camp for outback Aboriginal children in Geraldton at Christmas with the aid of Service Clubs and the Department of Corrections. With the help of the homemakers we were able to establish the only Out of School Child Care Centre outside the metropolitan area and this is now fully operational.

#### **Carnarvon District**

The A.P.B.—Pundulmurra course for trainee Weed and Vermin Control Officers—is continuing for the second year. Five local men are currently involved, and receive a week's training at Pundulmurra each month interspersed with practical training in various bush areas.

Adult Aboriginal Education classes are now in their third year. The Arts and Crafts class now has shifted from the Reserve Hall to the Jubilee Hall which is more central and enables more folk to attend the classes. Cookery and Community Responsibilities classes are conducted in the Reserve Hall. It is hoped that a music class will begin at the commencement of second term.

In this, the third year of operation, Special Projects Classes for Aboriginal students have been shifted from the local mission to the school proper. The transfer was made possible as programme expansion enabled equipment and teachers to be added to school staff making it no longer necessary to utilise Mission staff and facilities.

Recent appointment of a male homemaker has enabled us to explore some less structured avenues of approach to the problem of providing more social activities and outlets for our Aboriginal clients. A "Goatskin Rug" project is in the early planning stage and an interest in music has been fostered on the Reserve with guitar lessons, sing-a-longs, and hopefully, a band soon to be formed. Response has been very enthusiastic, and both projects are purposely being kept "low key" with a minimum of organisation, regularity of hours, etc., and a maximum of participation.

#### **Mullewa District**

This busy two man office has been short staffed for the last year and the District Officer has been working very well under extensive pressure. He now has the support of two homemakers and a welfare assistant.

The Drop-In Coffee shop at Mullewa, which was started last year has been very well attended all through the year. It is well organised and run with the teenagers being responsible for the general tone and cleanliness of the hall. Most members of the Department for Community Welfare take their turn at attending in the evening. They do not attend in an official capacity and informality is always the order of the evening.



A major problem in this area is the serious shortage of housing, especially for Aboriginal people. With thirty two conventional houses already occupied and seven currently being built there are still many families that aren't catered for and it can only be hoped that the State Housing Commission will continue their extensive building programme.

#### **Mt. Magnet District**

During the last year the Mt. Magnet camping reserve was closed and all the houses removed. Families have been re-housed in seven new State Housing Commission houses in Mt. Magnet and six in Cue. This has noticeably improved standards in the District.

The District Officer has continued to oversee the local youth club during the year. Recently membership and support has waned but it is hoped this will be revived when they take over a new venue at an old kindergarten hall.

#### **Meekatharra District**

On the whole the Aboriginal school started at Meekatharra this year has shown the benefit of pre-schooling with children who had previously attended kindergarten. The field staff still have to assist with transport to ensure that those children eligible for either pre or pre-pre school attend. There has been some move by the Aboriginal mothers to assist on kindergarten roster occasionally and a young part Aboriginal girl is an assistant at the kindergarten. She recently attended a 'workshop' in Carnarvon with the teacher from Meekatharra.

No further progress has been made on the closure of the Reserve due to lack of sufficient State Housing Commission housing. The planned pensioner accommodation and additional houses have not yet eventuated. Housing continues to be a problem for Aboriginals in Meekatharra as it appears that as soon as one family is housed extra relatives and friends are attracted. It has been noticed in the past year that complaints from neighbours about anti social behaviour are increasing but fortunately this is limited to only one or two families.

The present housing situation is:—34 families housed in S.H.C. rental homes; 23 families, 7 pensioner couples and 11 single pensioners are listed for housing.

A committee has been formed and is in the process of becoming incorporated as the Meekatharra Homes for Senior Citizens Inc. To date interest in and response to fund raising activities has been encouraging.

Wiluna is still a problem area with as yet little progress in housing or associated areas. The Wiluna School has now been gazetted as a Special Aboriginal School and the staff increased. Moves are in hand to obtain the Wiluna Mission and Albion Downs Station for the Community.

A grant of \$200 from the Department for the school shower project at Wiluna should help to ensure that the children start each day clean and tidy. It will also serve to show that we are trying to take a constructive role. Hopefully the re-activation of the Co-ordinating Committee will provide other areas where our Department can be seen in a role other than family support and Child Welfare.

### **GOLDFIELDS DIVISION**

During this third year of our operations as a Department for Community Welfare we have continued to innovate community based programmes despite the constant limitations imposed by a high staff turnover.

In some instances the working conditions in Goldfields towns do not attract officers to remain for long periods and a contributing factor toward this is that there is a general lack of facilities and resources within some of the communities we are endeavouring to serve; this leads to a good deal of frustration on the part of officials of other organisations and on the part of members of the community—this in turn is reflected back to our personnel. By the end of the year the staff situation was more stabilized and hopefully our service will be more continuous and effective in future.

#### **Laverton**

Our field officers have been involved in providing services to benefit the community and their activities have included the setting up of a youth club, a soup kitchen and a pre-kindergarten centre; our officers and homemakers have also continued to assist families recently accommodated in State Housing Commission homes.

One of our most important functions in Laverton, particularly in the light of some of the much publicised controversies which arose during the year has been that of educating the community that we are not an authoritarian organisation for the "controlling of Aboriginals", nor are we an outside authority which has instant solutions to social problems; rather, we are present to be involved with individuals and groups and to assist the community in resolving its own difficulties.

#### **Warburton**

The role of the District Officer at Warburton is unique insofar as he works almost entirely with an isolated Aboriginal community which has no affiliation with a white settlement or town. There is



a serious deficit of resources in the area and no viable economy. Major developmental work is being undertaken by State and Commonwealth organisations other than the Department for Community Welfare and in view of this it was envisaged that our officer be withdrawn during the year under review, however the Department did not go ahead with this plan when it was ascertained that the Aboriginal people at Warburton still relied a great deal on the presence of a Welfare Officer and his removal would cause them bewilderment and undue duress.

Apart from a liaison function with the other organisations involved at Warburton our officer has been involved in setting up a youth recreation centre, supervising and training part-time Aboriginal employees in carrying out minor welfare functions and organising youth excursion groups. At the end of the year under review investigations were continuing to determine safety factors in regard to the use of an additive to discourage the dangerous practice of petrol sniffing at Warburton Ranges.

The Department's kitchen facility at the Nyalkubai centre has played a major role in enhancing the health and nutritional intake of young people at Warburton.

#### **Leonora**

Following the closure of a local mine there has been a decrease in population with the result that the demands for the services of this Department have been largely reduced.

Many of the Aboriginals who were previously resident in the town have moved to station employment and most of those people who were living on the Reserve are now accommodated in townsite houses.

Our future role at Leonora is under consideration at present and our continued presence will depend partly upon plans for future mining development in the area.

#### **Esperance**

Esperance is a well organised, community minded town with well established facilities and services for the people in the area. No major changes have occurred in the past 12 months and the District Officers have become more involved in supporting locally organised projects and groups.

Norseman Mission accommodating approximately 50 wards of this Department is continuing its building programme and has established a scatter home in the town of Norseman where 9 of the children have been placed.

#### **Kalgoorlie**

The high proportion of social problems and family breakdown in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area have necessitated an increase in emphasis on our homemaker service. Increased in number from 3 to 5 homemakers, the service is now operating more effectively and we are hopeful that further developments will occur over the next year.

Homemakers have moved into the area of group activity to supplement their home visits and family work. Negotiations are taking place in an effort to acquire a house so that a homemaker training centre can be established.

In an endeavour to enhance liaison with other welfare oriented agencies and organisations in Kalgoorlie, and to co-ordinate efforts at providing adequate welfare services to the community, this Department was instrumental in establishing the Eastern Goldfields Association for Community Liaison. This group has wide representation from a large number of organisations in Kalgoorlie and Boulder and meets fortnightly to discuss such matters as our own roles in the community and the various needs that may be met through certain action being adopted. Relationships with other agencies and knowledge of the availability of resources in the community have already been enhanced through this recently established group and it is expected that this will lead to improved services to the people in the area.

The three Kalgoorlie hostels for high school children, working girls and working boys continue to provide a very valuable service in making opportunities available to young people from isolated areas and in enabling them to take advantage of schooling and employment which is available in Kalgoorlie. The "working" hostels have also demonstrated versatility in providing short term accommodation and care for children who have run away from home or who are en route to their home or another destination. Without the hostels to cater for these children we would experience great difficulties as this need arises on regular occasions and often involves children from the Eastern States.

The Department is once again grateful to Kurrawang Mission who care for a number of our wards and provide a warm and happy environment for their care. The long term plan at Kurrawang is to establish 5 scatter homes in Kalgoorlie and one such home has already been established and is operating very effectively. The Department supports this programme and has provided financial help.

We have recognised the need for more opportunities for youth activity in Kalgoorlie and the unstructured and informal meetings of young people at our "Meet Joint" appears to have had some success in reducing misbehaviour. Our officers have recently included a structured programme on one evening a week at the "Meet Joint" involving films and discussions. Further development in this area is expected particularly with the establishment of small groups of offenders in an effort to modify anti-social norms.



We have made approaches to local authorities and Aboriginal organisations regarding our desire to close the Kalgoorlie Native Reserve. The reserve has had no permanent residents for several months and appears to be used on temporary occasions by visiting Aboriginal people from South Australia. It is hoped that the Reserve accommodation will soon be removed but we intend leaving ablution facilities and having temporary tent accommodation available when required. This move is seen as desirable in that permanent reserve accommodation is a degrading way of life and should be discouraged, whilst a need on occasions for temporary shelter at the Reserve area is sometimes demanded.

Finally, the Department has assisted local groups and organisations with financial help from its Community Welfare Assistance vote and this action has been seen as having direct benefit to the provision and improvement of welfare services in this community.

## CENTRAL DIVISION

As a result of a growing awareness of some of the services we can offer in country centres it has been evident that more people are coming forward with requests for assistance in respect of child development and child behavioural problems. This trend has been very heartening to staff and has been the result of our involvement in community education, improved communications with other organisations and the valuable assistance extended by our visiting clinical psychologists and other specialists.

There has been a marked reduction in the number of Children's Court appearances in all districts of the Division, i.e. in Moora, Northam, Kellerberrin and Narrogin districts and correspondingly fewer children were committed to the care of the Department during the year under review. This decrease has in part been due to factors other than Departmental intervention, however it is considered that our activities in preventative areas of work, the efforts of our Specialist Sections and of our Homemaker Service have contributed to the overall result in no small way.

Our field services were extended by the relocation of homemaker items at Mukinbudin and Cunderdin. A welfare assistant was also appointed at Southern Cross to serve that town as well as Koolyanobbing and Bullfinch where mining industries have gained a new impetus and where there has been a small population increase. In effect this has been a stretching of resources since new items were not created but existing items were either filled or relocated; however our homemakers and welfare assistants have continued to work as an effective part of a team combined with district officers and visiting specialists—the Department now has services in almost every major town in the Division.

Homemaker programmes have included school lunch schemes at Narrogin, Goomalling, Merredin and Moora, cooking and sewing instruction at Quairading, Northam, Tammin, Merredin, Moora, Goomalling, Kellerberrin and Narrogin; pre-school activities and childrens' homework tuition in a number of centres; and social development clubs, notably at Northam. Space does not permit a detailed description of all developments during the year but it must be added here that much of our homemakers' and welfare assistants' work is carried out in liaison with other government agencies and private bodies. The State Housing Commission, particularly, has been most helpful through the technical guidance of its officers and through the provision of houses to serve as instructional and activity centres at Goomalling and Narrogin. At the end of the financial year the Department for Community Welfare had, itself, acquired a transportable home to serve as a multi purpose training centre at Moora.

Through the combined efforts of the State Housing Commission and the Community Welfare Department, and in conjunction with our homemaker programmes, it has been possible to further reduce the Aboriginal Reserves at Moora (8 houses left occupied), Pingelly (from 12 to 9 houses), Quairading (4 remaining) and Northam (3 remaining). The Reserves at Beverley and Williams have remained the same. The clearing of the now closed residential Reserve at Narrogin was completed during the year with the removal of the hall which was re-sited at the Baptist Mens' Fellowship Holiday Camp at Carberdine Pool where it can be used by youth organisations including Aboriginal groups.

Normal maintenance, including extensive plumbing and water supply work at Northam, was carried out on all of the reserves which are still occupied and at Pingelly a self-help re-painting project was successfully completed by the residents under the supervision of our officers and a volunteer local tradesman painter.

The Department continued to encourage voluntary bodies within communities by way of a grant from the homemaker fund to start a hot meal scheme for Aboriginal children for five days a week at St. Josephs' Convent, Moora; grants from the Community Welfare fund for a school lunch project at Merredin, for arts material for a senior citizens club and for the purchase of a trailer for a '1 nite shelter' and furniture store at Merredin. A number of other activities were sponsored primarily by the homemaker service and the Department assisted the C.W.A. to send six girls to a residential course in Perth—it also assisted the C.W.A. in arranging for a woman to attend a nutrition course in Perth. Our officers liaised with the Education Department in the appointment of an Aboriginal teacher's aide at Kellerberrin High School and assisted a Slow Learners' group in the establishment of a "task force" whereby slow learner children provide community services such as cleaning up yards and collecting firewood for aged or infirm people or deserted wives.



Our officers continued to promote the interests of the Department and its clients by giving talks to local groups such as the C.W.A., Red Cross, Lions, Rotary and Apex Clubs. Through their efforts, combined with those of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and local Aboriginal leaders, an Aboriginal centre is now functioning at Kellerberrin. Our work has been directed towards making Aboriginal organisations self supporting.

Summarily, while we have continued to meet those statutory obligations of the Department, we have not confined all of our resources to this area of work but have continued our endeavours towards a broader community involvement and we have been encouraged by the response we have met in this respect by the public, many members of which now see us as an active and positive resource within their community.

## **SOUTHERN DIVISION**

During the past year Southern Division has continued to focus on the area of Community Development and in particular the co-ordination of welfare services within the Region.

Staffing of this Division should now stabilise and the blend of professionally qualified Social Workers and experienced District Officers provides a balance of ability which caters well for the traditional statutory function of this Department and the wide innovative opportunities provided within the Community Welfare Act.

Each district within the Division presents a variation of needs to be handled by this Department, and planning and priorities differ. Overall however, the Department continues to focus on closing Aboriginal Residential Reserves in order to break the poverty cycle created by these living situations. At present there are four Residential Reserves remaining in this Division. Each of these are dependent on State Housing Commission programmes to rehouse tenants and only Borden and Gnowangerup have large resident populations. Work has been planned to upgrade the conditions of those houses which remain in order to ready tenants for conventional housing when this is available.

Support services to enable D.C.W. clients to manage their affairs have continued to expand and homemaker services and facilities in the form of centres have been provided in Bunbury, Albany and Tambellup. These centres along with previously established centres in other districts provide opportunities for clients in educational, social and cultural activities.

Informal and formal educational opportunities have been supported in the form of pre-kindergartens and playgroups throughout the Division. The success of these activities can be attributed to the work of the homemakers and welfare assistants. Manjimup in particular has promoted these groups in the small Timber Mill communities and as a result of this approach more attention is being paid to the needs of people living and working in these small isolated groups, including as submission to the Social Welfare Commission to provide a "contact" service.

Albany and Bunbury continue to promote community participation in welfare matters through Voluntary Groups located at Albany, Bunbury and Denmark. Considerable mutual support in problem solving has occurred via these groups. Bunbury staff are currently investigating delinquency in order to develop a community oriented approach to deal with this social problem, and Katanning are working on a holiday foster care programme for metropolitan children.

Although each district has individual social issues of particular importance to it, the overall approach has been to enlist the aid of the communities in dealing with these issues. The response from voluntary agencies, statutory agencies and the general public has been favourable in most areas and as a result each community assists in providing those services which it most needs.

Future planning for this Region revolves around consolidating the things learnt in the three years in the life of this Department. Continued emphasis will be placed on terminating the existence of the remaining Residential Reserves as well as community participation in providing local welfare programmes.

If this can be achieved and other Government agencies decentralise their services, more focus will be placed on refining the skills of our staff in assisting individuals and communities at arriving at their own solutions to expressed difficulties they encounter.

## **SOCIAL POLICY PLANNING UNIT**

The S.P.P.U. was established and fully staffed by late October 1974. The staff appointed were a Consultant, an Economic Planning Assistant and a Clerk-Secretary. Due to delays in the Commonwealth Government funding becoming available for the Unit, several projects had to be postponed but it is expected that these will be completed late in 1975.

The major function of the Policy Unit is to assist senior administration in the analysis of social and administrative issues and in the formulation of strategies and policies to deal with some of these issues. Examples of work completed to date are reports on the costs of raising children, workloads in country offices and suggested criteria for funding of voluntary agencies. Projects currently in progress include a follow-up study of wards, a review of an institutional programme and a report on some aspects of the aboriginal housing programme.



The Unit has established good liaison with other consultative organisations and academic institutions, as well as opening regular communication with its counterparts in other States. It is hoped that in the coming year the Unit will prove a useful support service to the top managerial personnel in this Department.

## **COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSULTANT**

Community Planning within the Department has followed two major directions during the past year. One section was consultation to the field and the other was service to the Department as a whole. In terms of a popular community development model, the concentration has been on Locality Development and Planning.

### **Locality Development**

The Planning Consultant has been requested to consult on projects by many of the field offices of the Department. For the most part these have been country offices. The range of projects have been quite diverse, such as, how to set up a community council, discovering community needs, social surveys and programme evaluations.

### **Community Planning**

The Planning Consultant has also been called upon in several areas to perform community planning tasks. One of the most encouraging areas of planning consultation has been between Departments. Among the other departments or agencies who have used the services of the Consultant have been the State Housing Commission, the Office of the Director General of Transportation, the Department of Social Security, Community Developers of the Australian Assistance Plan and various Shires.

### **Education Resources**

In order to provide better service to requests from the field, the Community Planning Consultant, in conjunction with the Social Policy Planning Unit, has developed a store of community statistical data, amongst these are the AMIS and CENSUS runouts for the State.

## **CHILD PLACEMENT SERVICE**

In its second year of operation, Child Placement Service has concentrated its efforts in two main areas of endeavour.

One of these areas is the implementation and consolidation of important policy planning originating from the first year of Child Placement Service functioning. For example, the Scatter Cottage and Group Home Reports. Whilst the Group Home Report has resulted in a smoother path for operation, the Scatter Report Cottage has met with a mixed reception from the private agencies. The increased consultation between Child Placement Service and the private agencies which eventuated over this report, also highlighted the need for similar co-ordinated communication to increase the effective use of child placement resources. In an attempt to remedy this situation Child Placement Service has initiated regular meetings of private agency representatives and the Child Placement Committee for the purpose of increasing exchange of ideas and information, and a more rational use of resources. In October, 1974 a Hostel's Liaison Officer was appointed to act in a liaison capacity between hostel management, field staff and the Department. This concerns aboriginal education hostels situated in the metropolitan area.

The appointment has greatly facilitated communication between these establishments and outside agencies and has provided more personalised service to the hostels.

The second main area of focus has been in the implementation of action programmes aimed at exploring and developing the potential of foster parent resources.

Child Placement Service in consultation with its planning body, the Child Placement Committee, consider that many of the recurring problems facing a fostering programme, such as foster parent recruitment, communication between foster parents and the Department, and foster parent committal to Departmental policy, could be lessened by a concerted effort to increase constructive communication with current foster parents. The concept of a quarterly newsletter was put to all foster parents and received an enthusiastic response. The first issue of the newsletter was collated by an Editorial committee consisting of five foster parents and the Acting Supervisor of Child Placement Service, and is awaiting publication.

On a formal level the problem of recruitment of foster parents was tackled by the Child Placement Committee by the development of an informative pamphlet on fostering intended for wide community distribution. The pamphlet, "Foster Parenthood—What does it mean?" is now awaiting printing. It will be released initially under a research design to establish whether in fact, this is a more effective form of recruitment than the informal one currently in operation.



Over the past year Child Placement Service in association with the field, has explored different forms of training of foster parents. These efforts have involved the unit in two foster parent seminars, a successful group assessment experiment at Fremantle and the encouragement and development of foster parent groups at Victoria Park, Perth and Belmont. This is in addition to participation in the McCall Centre Training Programme and the establishment of the Morley Foster Parent Group.

It was anticipated that if the field and the Child Placement Service were to involve themselves in group work they would necessarily need to develop at least a basic expertise. To this end Child Placement Service in association with a number of field officers and under the guidance of an experienced group work consultant have developed a Group Resource Package which includes a number of suggested models for conducting a group and accompanying evaluation material.

At the level of internal administration Child Placement Service is currently concerned with the re-classification of its placement resource index. It is intended that this will enable identification not only of available resources within each division but also areas of under or over supply of resources relative to the demand for these resources. This classification will greatly enhance our ability to extract information and statistical data in a reasonable time and also provide valid guidelines for future resource administration and development.

Over the past few months Child Placement Service has increased the sophistication of its research and reference library by its incorporation into a computing index.

Child Placement Service has also been involved in a number of discrete tasks such as the development of a submission to the Children's Commission concerning single parents and their children, the collection of information relevant to the Child Intake Study conducted by the Australian Council of Social Service, the preparation of a paper on Minimum Standards of Care in Child Welfare Institutions.

### **Summary**

During the past year Child Placement Service has made definite inroads into two main areas of foster care service. Much emphasis has been placed on increasing the co-ordination and expertise of those groups and individuals involved in current forms of the service. Attention has also been directed to the important task of investigating and implementing new and more effective modes of service in child placement work. In both these areas of work, Child Placement Service has requested increasing involvement and commitment to fostering work from the field staff. The results achieved so far indicate that field response has been considerable, and demonstrate the effectiveness of central service and co-ordination.

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES (formerly Day Care and Child Minding)**

The new title of this section is an indication of its growth not only as to the increase in the numbers of children that it serves, but also in the quality and extent of the advisory services that are offered. This has been brought about by the appointment of a senior Child Psychologist as head of the section, an Early Childhood Educator Consultant, a Social Worker Consultant and an Occupational Therapist specialising in equipment and its uses for Day Care Centres.

To assist this team a clerk and a typist have been seconded to the section for full-time duties. More advisory staff are still being sought to fill the staff establishment, especially in the field of early childhood education.

A grant from the Commonwealth Government has financed the purchase of play equipment, a library and teaching aids for the use of Advisers in assisting staff of Day Care Centres to provide quality care, education and guidance for the children in the centres.

Commonwealth Government grants continue to assist ten non-profit making centres. Two new centres each for fifty children will shortly be opened, one at Bayswater and one at Kalgoorlie. These centres were built and equipped with a capital grant under the Commonwealth scheme.

Similar capital grants have been approved for Albany (60 children), Balga (40 children), Kwinana (50 children), Nedlands (25 children), Lockridge (50 children), Bassendean (40 children), Belmont (50 children) and Hilton (30 children).

The Department, through its Early Childhood Services section, now has the responsibility of examining all applications for Commonwealth Government grants for Day Care Centres and for making recommendations in respect of such applications to the State Consultative Committee for the Children's Commission.

The section has recently been involved in the setting up of Day Care Centres in northern mining towns, namely Dampier, Paraburdoo and Tom Price. Other towns requesting centres are Exmouth, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Karratha and Kambalda.

This Department continues to advocate Family Care especially for younger children, where the small group of not more than five and the intimate atmosphere of a home and Family care "mum" is considered to be the best substitute for the child's own home and mother.

The growth of the responsibilities of this section are obvious from the foregoing and this is likely to expand still further if Commonwealth Government funds continue to be available.



The one year Technical College Part-time Course in Child Care for untrained staff working in Child Care Centres, including Family Care mothers has proved to be very successful. It is now in its third year and its extension is being contemplated to accommodate the number of applicants.

Scholarships granted by the Department for the Child Care Certificate Course are being continued.

The following table shows the growth of licensed centres since the Child Welfare (Care Centres) 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)
30/6/75	63 Centres (1 542 children)	110 Centres (451 children)	11 Centres (292 children)

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Department has continued to provide opportunities for many of the young people in its care to explore different possibilities in the use of their leisure time. During each of the school holiday periods and over many weekends the Department organized a variety of camping activities. Intensive leisure planning and programme involvement sessions were conducted with various groups throughout the metropolitan area making use of local resources. Day activities were conducted for children in areas where there was known to be a high incidence of working parents. Activity sessions were conducted for boys on probation and the Department has developed effective liaison with existing agencies concerned with the development of community recreational services. Field officers within the Department have been encouraged and supported to assist the families with whom they work (particularly the younger members of the families) to participate in the design and implementation of leisure time interests.

A number of resources have been developed to assist the Department in this aspect of its work. During the year continued use was made of boats, mini bikes, archery and mobile camping equipment. We added to the resources by introducing photography and film making and in the latter part of the year took delivery of a 16 mm movie camera and projector. To date this has only been used to promote a variety of different activities but later will be used by groups in their own film making programme. It is planned to purchase a portable video unit to provide more opportunities in this field of endeavour.

Approximately 500 children were involved in 19 different camping activities conducted at the Department's facility at Point Walter. The programme included guided discussion relating to pertinent subjects such as dress sense, etiquette, child birth and leisure interests. Water recreational activities such as sailing, canoeing and swimming were popular at the Point Walter camps and on several occasions groups enjoyed river cruises in Navy work boats or ocean going yachts. Social events included "Mad Hatter" party games, Fancy Dress nights and Visitors Days. These together with popular overnight hikes created a sense of fellowship and excitement. Roller skating, archery, cooking, fishing, games of pool and table tennis were regular camp activities. Arts and crafts are often initially associated with boredom by the campers but the camp leaders have been able to develop enthusiasm by allowing the campers to create and do their "own thing" which included wall painting, printing on tee shirts, body painting and many other previously untried activities. Campers often left Point Walter with something they had either made or redecorated.

A similar number of children were involved in activities conducted by the Department at established camps at Dryandra Forest, Binningup Beach and Bickley. Outdoor camping has been conducted at Pippadinning, Julimar Forest, Serpentine, Toodyay, Moore River, Kalgoorlie and Collie during the past 12 months.

In addition some 1 200 children participated in non-residential day activities designed to alleviate the problem of supervision of some children out of normal school hours and days. Officers at our Port Hedland office instigated a programme of this nature during the May school holiday period and many were conducted in the Metropolitan area during all school holiday periods. The children found the programme both enjoyable and satisfying and it met a need identified both by them and their parents.



All of these programmes had the following common features:

1. The activities were designed to generate total involvement by the children and always included an element of choice in an informal setting.
2. The activities and intensity of leadership were designed to cater for difficult children included in the programme.
3. Many parents and children have made a point of expressing gratitude for the provision of the activities. It has provided the Department's field staff another means of working with their clients and has alleviated a problem of the children's supervision whilst the parents are at work.
4. The Department was able to appoint parents of the children to leadership positions as well as involve those with more specific and formal training. Senior high school students were recruited as assistants and again the Department was often able to successfully appoint teenage clients to these positions.
5. The programme made full use of existing community facilities and the children's range of life experiences was increased.



The development of camping programmes within the Department has placed further pressure on other sections of the Department including accounts, properties and catering (both administrative and kitchen staff). The assistance and co-operation of these sections as well as other Departments (especially the Forestry Department and Community Recreation Council) has been received and is appreciated.

Because we envisaged this development the Department has been negotiating since 1973 for the acquisition of an area of 16 hectares on the Port Kennedy (Warnbro Sound) Reserve to develop a Beach Camp. A major step was taken during the year when the Honourable Minister for Community Welfare commissioned Mr. P. Hunt, architect for the project. On the 3 April 1975 a proposal for the development of the camp was presented to the Rockingham Shire and they expressed their support. At that time, too, a grant of \$103 000 for the first stage of development was received from the Commonwealth Government through the Interim Committee of the Children's Commission. Work on site commenced in June and by the end of that month excavations for the buildings had been completed and a water bore sunk. Since then the work has progressed rapidly and it is expected that the first stage will be completed and the camp in use by the beginning of 1976. This stage will include the provision of services (water, electricity, access and septic systems), a limited building programme (ablution block, dining/recreation hall and caretaker's residence) and ground development (a security boundary fence, firebreaks, landscaping, grassing and afforestation).

Throughout the year provision was made for juvenile probationers to participate in recreational activities designed to assist them in the use of their leisure time. The programme was made more flexible with a greater element of choice and decision making being given to the participants. The dependability and dedication of the part time instructors warrants special mention, particularly the efforts of Mr. J. M. Forde who has been involved in this activity since its conception in 1961. During



the latter part of the year work commenced on the design of a programme to enable greater local involvement by the juvenile probationers. It is intended to enable select groups to meet in their own locality and become completely involved in the planning and implementation of their programme. Work with peer groups at "street" level within the Fremantle Division continued and this programme was extended to Mount Hawthorn during the year. Many of the children with whom we have contact and from whom or for whom some form of intervention is requested have limited experiences or motivation in the use of their leisure time. Their behaviour which might otherwise be considered "abnormal" or "anti social" may be quite "normal" within the limit of their experience. The Department has continued and developed programmes to extend the experiences in both planning and participation of leisure time. When viewed as part of the total services involving counselling and planning with families it has provided a positive and stimulating uplift for disadvantaged sections of the community.

## **HOMEMAKER SERVICE**

The major projects undertaken by the homemaker service in the past twelve months have been an evaluation study of the service in the metropolitan area, continuation and extension of training programmes for homemakers and field staff, a research study into new techniques of assisting families with budgeting difficulties.

The metropolitan evaluation study was completed in April 1975, and examined the progress of families who have received homemaker assistance over the past two years. The results indicated that 77 per cent. of families made some improvement in achieving their goals, of which 25 per cent. made sufficient improvement for complete withdrawal of the service, and 23 per cent. made no improvement. Research currently underway includes a study of families who have been clients of the service on a long-term basis, an evaluation of the group programmes in operation, and the development of a consumer rating programme.

Training programmes have been established on a more regular basis in metropolitan and country divisions and the team involved in training has developed its expertise and knowledge. Results of these programmes are becoming evident in changes in attitude and approach, as homemakers are exposed to new avenues for exploration.

The homemaker service was successful in obtaining a grant from the Social Welfare Commission to carry out a proposed study into assisting families develop skills to alter spending patterns. The programme involves providing bonus incentives for families to shop on specified days, so that they can allocate financial resources over the pay period. This research is now in its sixth month of operation and results will be available in three months' time.

The last twelve months have seen a continuation in the development of group activities, where families are encouraged to meet together on a regular basis to share their skills and abilities and participate in the planning of activities. Involvement in such groups allows families to arrive sooner at a point of independence, and provides the opportunity for meaningful community participation.

## **CHILD LIFE PROTECTION UNIT**

During this year the Child Life Protection Unit, one of a number of specialist departmental services located at Willmar House, 600 Murray Street, Perth, followed up approximately 100 notifications of suspected child abuse of children under six years of age. These notifications came from a wide range of agencies and individuals throughout the community. Most encouraging of all was the fact that this year 17.5 per cent. of these notifications to the Unit came from the parents themselves or members of their families. We think that this trend reflects the increasing knowledge of the community that a wide range of help and treatment is available through the Unit to those parents who wish to seek help before a situation becomes serious or out of their control.

Legal protective action for children at risk was undertaken in 19 cases. Of these 3 children from one family were originally placed on probation by the Children's Court. Subsequent non-co-operation by the parents resulted in action being taken by the Unit to have the children committed to the Department's care for a period of time before they could safely be returned home. Four other children were made wards for a period at the parent's request.

It has been demonstrated over time that the use of probation where parents are well-motivated to make changes in their handling of their children can be very successful. However, where parents of children placed on probation are basically not convinced that their treatment of their children is both physically and emotionally harmful, and also contrary to acceptable standards in society, then probation is unlikely to effect any changes and is not helpful to the children concerned in these circumstances.

Another aspect that leads us to believe that less fear and greater community understanding of the problem exists is that children are presenting with less severe injuries than those of 2 or 3 years ago. However, we are becoming more aware of the more subtle kinds of emotional abuse and rejection by parents that can be ultimately more damaging than physical abuse. A case successfully presented to



the Children's Court this year has shown that in the rare cases where a child's intellectual, emotional and physical well-being is jeopardised by his or her parents' attitudes the Court's decision can reflect the fact that such deprivation can never be reversed in later life, and that psychiatric and psychological evidence to this effect must be regarded seriously if parents are unable or unwilling to alter their management and care of their child. Some severely mentally disturbed or emotionally deprived parents would fall into this category.

### **Parents Help Centre**

Because of the knowledge gained by the Unit through several years of preventative work helping socially isolated parents handle their feelings of frustration and violence when encountering difficulties with their children, a submission was made to the Children's Commission in December 1974 to establish a service that would be available to such parents at times when normal helping services would be inoperative. The submission was approved and a pilot project centre will open in North Perth in December 1975. The Centre will initially be opened from Friday to Monday and will provide a 24-hour telephone counselling and contact for parents under stress. Crisis nursery care will be available for short periods, and residential family therapy at weekends if this is asked for. A Parents Advisory Group is assisting with the planning and setting up of the services that the Centre will offer. These parents have themselves successfully come through very difficult periods of stress in handling their own children, and feel they have something positive to offer parents in similar situations. They and other paid part-time staff will form a large part of the informal and relaxed atmosphere that is envisaged and expected to encourage parents to approach the Centre themselves. It is hoped that it will help to meet the needs of young parents without the support of their own families, those who may be ignorant or have unrealistic expectations of their children, those who may be undergoing difficulties in their marriages, and those who simply need a break or an hour or two of adult company. Although a social worker and a psychologist will provide the professional support and guidance, the Centre will operate as an autonomous community based service and will therefore only administratively be part of the Department. The participation and interest of parents themselves will determine just how the Centre develops and meets their needs.

### **First National Conference on Child Abuse**

The First National Conference on "The Battered Child" is to be held in Perth from 25-28 August 1975. Generously assisted by the Children's Commission, this Conference was first conceived by the Department, and was supported by the Directors of Social & Child Welfare in the various States. The Conference is planned to provide an opportunity for health and welfare professionals, legal and law enforcement representatives and involved members of the general community to come together to examine and evaluate the various developments and endeavours that have taken place in recent years across Australia in the field of child abuse. In particular the Conference is designed to offer opportunities to cross professional boundaries, and to focus for the first time at a national level, on the community's possible role in the education of parents and in the prevention of child abuse. Three eminent and experienced speakers from the U.S.A. and Britain are to attend. The extremes of violence against children that are recorded in some other developed countries are not generally seen in Australia; this Department together with other concerned agencies in the community seeks to make diagnosis, help and support available to all parents before such extremes enter our community life. Other important issues to be discussed at the Conference are:-

- (a) Whether the mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse would have any value.
- (b) The problems attached to the exchanging of confidential information that is relevant to enquiries into cases of suspected child abuse.
- (c) Whether the setting up of a central register of at-risk children in each State is advisable.

The Director of the Department is Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Conference. Although the technical aspects of the Conference have necessarily been handled through a firm of conference organisers, the Department has expended considerable resources of both professional and administrative staff's time in planning the programme and corresponding with overseas and interstate interests in the field of child protection. As a result the knowledge and experience gained is likely to be of considerable value to the State, as well as helping to arouse constructive interest throughout Australia.

### **Public Education**

With the planning of the Conference the role of the Unit in this area has met greatly increased demands from the community this year. Through the temporary services of a graduate assistant the Unit has compiled a comprehensive collection of literature on Child abuse. This has been used extensively by students from the University, W.A.I.T., and the Teachers' Training Colleges. "The Battered Child" was set this year as an optional choice in the 5th year Human Biology course in high schools. Throughout the year staff of the Unit have undertaken a number of speaking engagements to community organisations and to other government departments.



### Future Plans

Further efforts will be made to encourage community understanding and approval of parents who voluntarily decide to relinquish, perhaps through adoption, a child who for reasons not wholly understood by themselves or by others they cannot fully accept or love.

Because of the high level of skill and understanding required from those foster parents that undertake the short term fostering of abused children, it is hoped in 1975/1976 to form and train a mutually supporting group of foster families whose special skills and interests lie in the area of working with and becoming close to the parents of the child they are fostering. The Unit would also plan, if funds are available, to participate in the making of a film about child abuse that would have value for community education and training for workers in the field.

### DRUG ABUSE UNIT

This Unit, now in its third year of operation, is staffed by one social worker. The Unit's responsibilities include the assessment, supervision and counselling of juvenile drug users, the collation of statistics, and the dissemination of information concerning drug abuse to other Departmental officers. Close liaison has continued between the Unit and other relevant agencies. These include the Drug Squad, the Health Education Council and the recently established Alcohol and Drug Authority. 60 referrals (43 males and 17 females) were made to the Unit during 1974/75 as compared with 45 referrals in 1973/74 and 41 in 1972/73. The increase, although steady, has perhaps been less dramatic than might have been anticipated. Intra-departmental referrals and informal referrals from the community have increased while referrals from the Children's Court, although continuing to constitute the bulk of referrals, have not shown a significant increase.

In the Metropolitan Children's Court, most drug offenders are remanded in order that a full social work report can be prepared. The court decision can then be determined in the light of knowledge of the offender's family background and psycho-social needs. Court decisions with regard to drug offenders were:

Committal	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Probation	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
Good Behaviour Bond	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Fine	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Dismissal Under Section 26 of the Child Welfare Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
							—
							41
							—

No particular trends in sentencing policy could be discerned.

The great majority of referrals to the Unit resulted from the use of cannabis. Other substances used included LSD, barbiturates, Mandrax, anti-travel sickness tablets, hallucinogenic plants, opium, heroin, morphine, cocaine and various synthetic opiates. Petrol sniffing by Aboriginal youngsters in remote country areas continued to be a problem. Narcotics abuse among juveniles, although now encountered more frequently, does not, as yet appear to constitute a major problem. Experts have suggested, however, that Perth cannot continue indefinitely to avoid the narcotics problems that afflict other major Australian cities.

The smoking of cannabis is widespread and socially acceptable among many young people in Western Australia. Many cannabis offenders are seemingly well adjusted youngsters who view the attitudes of society to cannabis as unjustified and hypocritical and argue that medical research has failed to produce convincing evidence that cannabis produces any harmful effects. While the controversy remains unresolved, attempts are made during counselling to present medical evidence in an objective manner. Emphasis is, however, placed more on the legal consequences than on the behavioural or medical consequences of cannabis use. A moralistic approach would reduce the credibility of the worker and so diminish the impact of counselling concerning the proven harmful effects of other drugs. A small minority of drug offenders were seriously disturbed youngsters who compensated for problems of identity, acceptance or personality by a reckless and indiscriminate use of drugs. Departmental resources, oriented towards the needs of delinquent youth, were rarely appropriate for this type of offender but numbers, as yet, do not appear to justify the creation of specialised treatment facilities.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Psychologists in the W.A. Department for Community Welfare provide services to institutions and also work as members of a team in field and community settings. Psychologists are also giving increased attention to educational problems. During this year, an educational consultant provided valuable assistance to psychologists in this area. Teachers and psychologists work closely together in designing educational programmes, in both assessment and treatment centres. This year the Department has also had the assistance of Dr. A. F. Bownes of the Psychology Department in the University of W.A. He has worked closely with Departmental staff in developing family counselling programmes.



Following are some examples of the variety of services provided by psychologists in the past year.

### **1. Bridgewater Assessment Centre**

During the 1974/75 financial year four psychologists have been employed at Bridgewater. Their main duties have centred in the assessment and treatment of children at Bridgewater and consultation with other staff in respect to child care and management. The Goldfields area which has traditionally been reviewed by Bridgewater psychologists was visited at regular intervals by two psychologists this year because of the increase in work which includes follow-up of children from Bridgewater returning home.

The number of students gaining practical experience and supervised by Bridgewater psychologists has increased. This year trainee psychologists from the University and W.A.I.T. have spent terms at Bridgewater as well as becoming involved in specific treatment cases. Students from Mt. Lawley Teacher's College have spent time in the schoolroom and assessing school problems.

A school has been commenced where children who could not function in a normal school are placed.

A psychologist was involved with the visiting educational consultant and the remedial teacher in setting up the school programme and in its ongoing evaluation. Two films have been completed, the first focusing on treatment programmes within Bridgewater, the second financed by the Children's Commission on communication and contact disorders in children in which several Bridgewater children were featured.

A family counselling unit has been set up, initially with the four psychologists and four group workers under the supervision of Dr. Bownes of the University of W.A. A number of families have been seen, some involving children at Bridgewater and a number of outside preventative cases. The unit can offer assistance to families before the necessity of removing a child becomes so great that the family splits up. It is planned that the unit will become a research and study group in which other members of the helping professions can participate for training.

### **2. Country Services**

Psychologists make regular visits to country areas throughout the whole State. They visit district offices, hostels and missions, and act as consultants to community groups. It is planned to locate psychologists permanently in country divisions as soon as staff become available. One psychologist is already located in Bunbury, and a full time psychologist's position for the Kimberleys, based in Kununurra, has recently been advertised.

A survey of juvenile offenders in the north of Western Australia was carried out by a psychologist in co-operation with country field staff. Following on from this survey the psychologist presented a programme for the treatment of delinquents in the area. The results are available in two Departmental publications.

1. *A Survey of Juvenile Offenders in the North of Western Australia*. January 1975.
2. *A Community-based Correctional Programme for Country Towns*. February 1975.

### **3. Community Services Training College**

A psychologist has been appointed as Director of this College and a number of psychologists are on the staff. The College offers training courses for group workers in both Departmental and voluntary institutions. Courses for teachers in institutions were also offered during this year. Psychologists and other staff follow up these courses by providing ongoing in service training within institutions.

### **4. Koorana**

The psychologist at Koorana, which is an educational training centre for primary school children, has an expanding role which includes considerable work with children away from the centre. When a child is referred because of a behaviour problem, the psychologist after obtaining information about past attempts to assist the child, spends time observing him in his own school. While some children are then accepted at Koorana, increasingly the emphasis has moved towards working with teachers on the management of children with behaviour problems in their own classroom. The psychologist along with the social worker and others, also works with parents, assisting them to manage the difficult behaviour of their children more effectively and helping them promote their positive development.

#### **Research**

The objective of an interesting research programme at Nyandi is to identify the social and vocational skills which are needed by young people, and which are often lacking in young people exhibiting delinquent behaviour.

Educational "packages" are being developed to assist the girls in Nyandi. These packages will also be applicable to school settings, and to families. It is hoped that by learning basic skills necessary to cope successfully in the community, many young people will not succumb to delinquent behaviour. Another research programme which is under the direction of a psychologist is examining the extent and nature of juvenile delinquency in Western Australia and relating it to community characteristics in suburban areas (for example recreation resources). A detailed Directory of Community Resources



and Recreation has already resulted from this research. It is hoped that the results will assist policy makers to make informed decisions about needed resources in particular localities, and about the re-allocation of existing resources and facilities. Eventually this study will extend into country areas.

## **ADOPTIONS**

### **Adoption Orders, Client Contact and Staff Workloads**

#### *Departmental Adoptions*

In the year ended June 1974 a record number of 581 adoption orders were granted because an all-out effort was made by Field and Affidavits staff to clear the backlog of Court reports and Applications to Court for orders. This was done by Field staff at the expense of assessment of new applicants who were placed on a waiting list without any personal contact for up to 1½ years. The weight of this backlog is now being borne by Field Officers in an attempt to overcome the anxiety and very legitimate dissatisfaction of applicants with our public relations and earlier initial contact, though not earlier assessment, is now being made. However it is very important for Departmental applicants to be reassured that the date of placement of a child is determined from the date of acceptance of the application and not from the date of assessment and approval. Dates of assessment vary depending upon the case-load of the officer and the geographical location of the applicant.

### **The Resumption of Certain Type of Applications Performed by Solicitors Since 1970**

In 1970, owing to pressure of work resulting from accumulated Hon. Judge reports by Field Officers and Applicants for Orders by Affidavits Officers, it was decided to suspend processing applications for children of a previous marriage to be adopted into a new marriage, and for children of a pre-nuptial or ex-nuptial association to be adopted into a marriage. All such applicants were therefore referred to private solicitors. The public frequently requested the resumption of this service by us and we considered it was a justifiable expectation, but that if, and when, we were able to do so the option should remain for applicants to use private solicitors.

Early in 1975 the public were advised of the resumption of applications for all children of a previous marriage and a limited number of applications concerning children of ex-nuptial associations. It is anticipated that all applications of children of ex-nuptial associations will be resumed in October 1975.

The resumption of these cases will now ensure that all applicants requiring a social work service will be brought to the attention of the Supervisor by the Affidavits Clerk, who will interview applicants in the first instance if they live in the metropolitan area. Those who live in country areas may exercise their option to come to Adoptions or to receive service from their District Officers. Wherever an Affidavits Clerk considers that a client requires social work assistance he will be referred to the Supervisor. In addition, all applicants are being given a written memo by the Affidavits Clerk advising them of the availability of a social worker should they wish to discuss private matters or problems.

#### *Non-Departmental Adoptions*

The Adoptions Centre is now fully responsible for the assessment of all non-Departmental applicants in the metropolitan area. This has relieved metropolitan Field Divisions of a function which they, quite properly did not see as theirs, and one which we were quite willing to accept as ours in principle. Unfortunately the terms of our acceptance in the form of an additional staff member did not materialise, owing to the 2 per cent. limitation on new staff.

It is therefore apparent that despite the decline in the number of babies available locally both Affidavits and Field Staff of this centre continue to be fully occupied either through the resumption of services previously suspended to the public or the resumption of work areas previously shared with metropolitan field staff.

### **Medical Panel**

An event of considerable significance for the Adoptions Centre has been the establishment of a panel of four honorary medical consultants. This has improved assessment of the medical and related social problems of both applicants and children and improved placement procedures. We thank the four consultants concerned and greatly hope that they will be able to continue to assist us in the coming year.

### **Vietnamese Adoptions**

In April of this year events in Vietnam precipitated Welfare Departments and Adoption Agencies throughout Australia into a situation of quite unprecedented social work, legal and political complexity at a national and international level.

Proir to April there were some 37 applicants awaiting assessment for placement of a Vietnamese child and 2 families already approved. In the fortnight following the 2nd April over 1 000 applications were received to adopt a Vietnamese orphan, or foster one with the view to adoption. As the result of the pressure of work 10 Field Staff from Metropolitan Divisions were diverted to Adoptions for 2 weeks to assist with assessments and some 200 families were assessed. Two extra clerical staff were also assigned to assist Adoptions' clerical staff. However only 7 children were eventually made available for placement.



The professional and sociological lessons learnt from this experience were valuable although they were emotionally costly to the public and difficult and time-consuming to the Department. The staff of the Adoptions Centre and the Field Staff allocated to assist them were unanimous in their conclusions that adoption of children should never again be undertaken during emergency situations. We believe that there should be a clear distinction made between

- (1) a refugee situation resulting from war or natural disaster requiring emergency relief of foreign children in short or long term placements and
- (2) an adoption situation concerning children available from a foreign country for a variety of reasons during non-emergency situations.

We are also concerned to prevent a recurrence of a situation where there is such a waste of staff manpower by attempting to liaise with other States and with the Federal Government for better communication to cope with non-adoption emergency situations.

#### *Other Foreign Adoptions*

Partly as the result of the sharp decline in the number of babies available locally over the past three years, and partly as the result of the recent events in Vietnam and increased awareness of the availability of children in some South-east Asian countries, there is now considerable demand from the public for the adoption of foreign children. Australian citizens approved in various States have been travelling to countries such as Thailand and Sri Lanka to adopt children. This practice has been fairly common for some time in countries such as the United States and Sweden where social trends often evidence themselves earlier than in Australia, and where there is an even more acute shortage of children than in this country.

In Western Australia there is no provision for the licensing of private adoption agencies and therefore there are none. The Adoptions Centre of the Department is solely responsible for the assessment of adoptive applicants. The local Branch of the Australian Society for Intercountry Aid (Children) neither approves applicants nor has the authority to obtain them and bring them into this State from foreign countries.

By virtue of delegation of authority to him by the Minister for Social Security in terms of the Immigration (Guardianship of Children Act) 1946-1973, the Director of this Department is guardian of all foreign children brought into this State. Therefore, both in his position as Director of the only adoption agency in this State and guardian of foreign children the Director and his delegated officers seek to establish professional standards in all procedures associated with foreign adoptions. We consider it to be of prime importance to ensure that all children adopted abroad by Australian citizens are definitely legally available, and that any child who is only temporarily placed in an orphanage by a parent in distressed circumstances should not be removed for adoption to this country. Having ascertained that a child is legally available we are also concerned to know what standards and procedures are used in the selection of particular children for particular parents, and what background information on the child is made available to them to ensure the best medical and social assessment of the child. We seek also to understand in detail the legal format and procedures involved in the granting of an adoption order in particular countries and their differences from our own, so that any legal problems can be minimised or avoided when the child is brought into this State, or an Australian order of adoption is sought. It should be clearly emphasised that we are not, and are unlikely ever to be in favour of proxy adoptions, as strictly defined, whereby a legal adoption order is made in a foreign country binding a child to parents it has never seen, through a third party. Questions of definition of guardianship and the recognition of various types of foreign adoptions are of considerable topical and legal interest in this country at present.

The policy of the Department for Labor and Immigration towards the adoption of overseas children is that there is no objection in principle to the entry of children adopted overseas by Australian residents or to the admission of children for adoption in Australia, provided that the child meets the usual immigration requirements relating to health. This is consistent with the fact that there is no Federal Adoption Law. Each State has separate, though reasonably similar laws and procedures relating to adoption and the approval of applicants. Therefore within the context of the mutual satisfaction of the interests of the public in this State who wish to adopt foreign children, and the professional obligations of the Director as guardian to protect the welfare children as may be selected, the Department is willing to undertake direct discussions with Welfare authorities in certain overseas countries.

Research into the needs of these children and the attitudes towards them by the local communities where they are placed will help in their placement.

#### **Statistics**

*Departmental and non-Departmental Trends with regard to the number of applicants who have applied in each financial year and the number of babies placed in each of those years.*

Over the years most annual reports on adoptions have attempted to list the number of Departmental and non-Departmental orders granted, but information on the relative number of applicants and/or babies placed in both fields has been inconsistent or lacking altogether.

We have now undertaken an assessment of the relationship and the trends over the past three financial years with regard to the number of applicants and the number of babies placed in both Departmental and non-Departmental fields.



THE TOTAL NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF DEPARTMENTAL AND NON-DEPARTMENTAL APPLICANTS AND PLACEMENTS FROM JUNE 72 TO JUNE 75.

Applicants

	Departmental	%	Non-Departmental	%	Total	%
1972-73 ....	524	71	219	29	743	100
1973-74 ....	441	65	241	35	682	100
1974-75 ....	420	63	252	37	672	100

Placements

	Departmental	%	Non-Departmental	%	Total	%
1972-73 ....	342	79	91	21	433	100
1973-74 ....	242	80	60	20	302	100
1974-75 ....	209	80	53	20	262	100

TOTAL ASSESSMENT OF DEMAND AND SUPPLY DEPARTMENTAL AND NON-DEPARTMENTAL

The following table represents the total number of placements in both Fields to the total number of applicants in both Fields in each year.

1972-73 ....	433 placements	=	58.27%
	744 applicants		
1973-74 ....	302 placements	=	44.28%
	682 applicants		
1974-75 ....	262 placements	=	38.98%
	672 applicants		

From this table it is apparent that there is a decline in the proportion of placements to applicants and that present supply is 39 per cent. of demand if one looks at the figures from the point of view of the number of applicants who have applied each year, and the number of babies placed in each year.

But a more accurate picture of the situation is to total at the beginning of the year all the applicants who have been approved and carried over from the previous years, and all the applicants who have applied and have not yet been assessed, and then compare this total with the number of babies placed in that year.

Unfortunately figures have not yet been kept in that way until this year.

We can therefore see that *the total number of applicants approved as at 30th June 1975 and still awaiting placement was:*

Departmental	non-Departmental	Total
133	108	241

The total number of applicants awaiting assessment as at 30th June 1975 was:

Departmental	non-Departmental	Total
600	138	738
Grand Total		979

The total number of babies placed was 262.

Even if this did not decline over the next year the relative percentage of supply to demand would be 26%. However it is likely to decline. We may wish to allow for a certain percentage of applicants who will not be approved, or who will withdraw. The exact figure is not known as accurate statistics have not been kept.

It would be conservative to settle for a percentage figure of "real" supply to demand of 22% to 25% for the year 1975/76.

There is a drastic need for the application of further limiting criteria in the coming year 1975/76 on all applicants.



The Department views the prospective adoptive community as a whole, currently experiencing common problems whose disadvantages must be jointly shared and solved in as fair a manner as possible.

## CHILDREN'S COURTS

### Metropolitan

Courts are established at Perth, Midland, Fremantle and Rockingham.

Special Magistrates:—

G. R. HITCHIN  
W. FELLOWES

Members:—

Mesdames—

D. DETTMAN, J.P.  
K. RIGG, J.P.  
L. SMITH, J.P.  
D. TROTMAN  
G. GORDON  
D. LEVINSON  
M. HANSEN  
G. YARRAN  
M. E. CHRISTIE appointed 1975

### Rockingham

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

### Charges

	1973/74	1974/75	Increase
Perth....	9 252	9 382	130
Fremantle ....	2 302	2 550	248
Midland ....	1 162	1 790	628
Rockingham ....	673	973	300
	<hr/> 13 389	<hr/> 14 695	<hr/> 1 306

The following table shows financial collections for 3 year period from 1968-69.

	Revenue	Trust	Total
	\$	\$	\$
1968/69 ....	37 080	11 163	48 243
1971/72 ....	58 989	13 391	72 380
1974/75 ....	83 895	26 306	110 201

As repeated last year, use of alcohol is a factor in most serious matters before court.

The possession or use of drugs still is a problem among juveniles. Thefts of large sums of money is of concern. Mostly this is frittered away in pool rooms and pin ball parlours.

Traffic is of concern and the taking and using of motor vehicles is still a problem.

The case with which children take items from stores and emporiums still represents a large proportion of offences.

There is a need for a duty legal counsel to be in attendance to advise parents as to rights and pleas. Considerable man power could be saved if a larger proportion of offences by children were proceeded by notice or summons instead of arrests.

The court is reliant on pertinent information concerning the children appearing.

Thanks are due to the Child Guidance Clinics, Psychiatric Services (private), Psychologists and many other sources for help given it.

Also the police, National Safety Council, Education Department and its schools.

The Clerk of Courts and staff of Midland, Perth, Fremantle and Rockingham courts for their help and co-operation.

## JUVENILE PANEL

### Metropolitan Area

This scheme to deal with certain first offenders under the age of 16 years still continues to function successfully. The Panel personnel are a representative of the Department for Community Welfare and a retired Police Superintendent representing the Commissioner of Police.



The figures of the number of children seen shows only a slight increase over the previous year when a total of 1 493 children—811 boys and 682 girls were seen. For this year the figures are 1 524 children—814 boys and 710 girls.

The Panel sits at Perth, Fremantle and Midland and the following table shows the number of children seen at these venues:

NUMBER AND SEX OF CHILDREN APPEARING							
				Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Totals
Boys	....	....	....	506	223	85	814
Girls	....	....	....	515	140	55	710
Totals	....	....	....	1 021	363	140	1 524

As has been the trend in previous years some boys offended at a younger age than girls but in the upper age groups for 13 years to 15 years there were 514 girls to 455 boys.

AGE RANGE OF CHILDREN APPEARING											
Age	....	....	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Boys	....	....	3	16	42	57	86	155	171	190	94
Girls	....	....	2	4	4	24	55	107	199	175	140

Of the number of children seen during the year a total of 51 re-offended and appeared before a Children's Court. There were 38 boys and 13 girls. Since 1971 when the upper age limit was raised to deal with 15 year old children a total of 5 026 have been seen by the Panel. During this period 580 of them have re-offended and appeared before Children's Courts which means that 11·5 per cent. only have re-offended. Of these 465 were boys and 115 girls. This means that 16·8 per cent. of the boys re-offended and only 5 per cent. of the girls.

#### Country

Juvenile Panels are established in the major country towns in the Southern part of the State. There have been no Panels in the Northern part, as yet.

This year 95 children—53 boys and 42 girls were seen. This compares with the previous year when the figures were 97—62 boys and 35 girls.

#### NUMBER AND SEX OF CHILDREN APPEARING IN COUNTRY TOWNS

						Boys	Girls	Totals
Albany	....	....	....	....	....	15	....	15
Bunbury	....	....	....	....	....	12	11	23
Collie	....	....	....	....	....	....	7	7
Geraldton	....	....	....	....	....	....	4	4
Kalgoorlie	....	....	....	....	....	5	8	13
Katanning	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Narrogin	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Northam	....	....	....	....	....	21	12	33
Totals	....	....	....	....	....	53	42	95

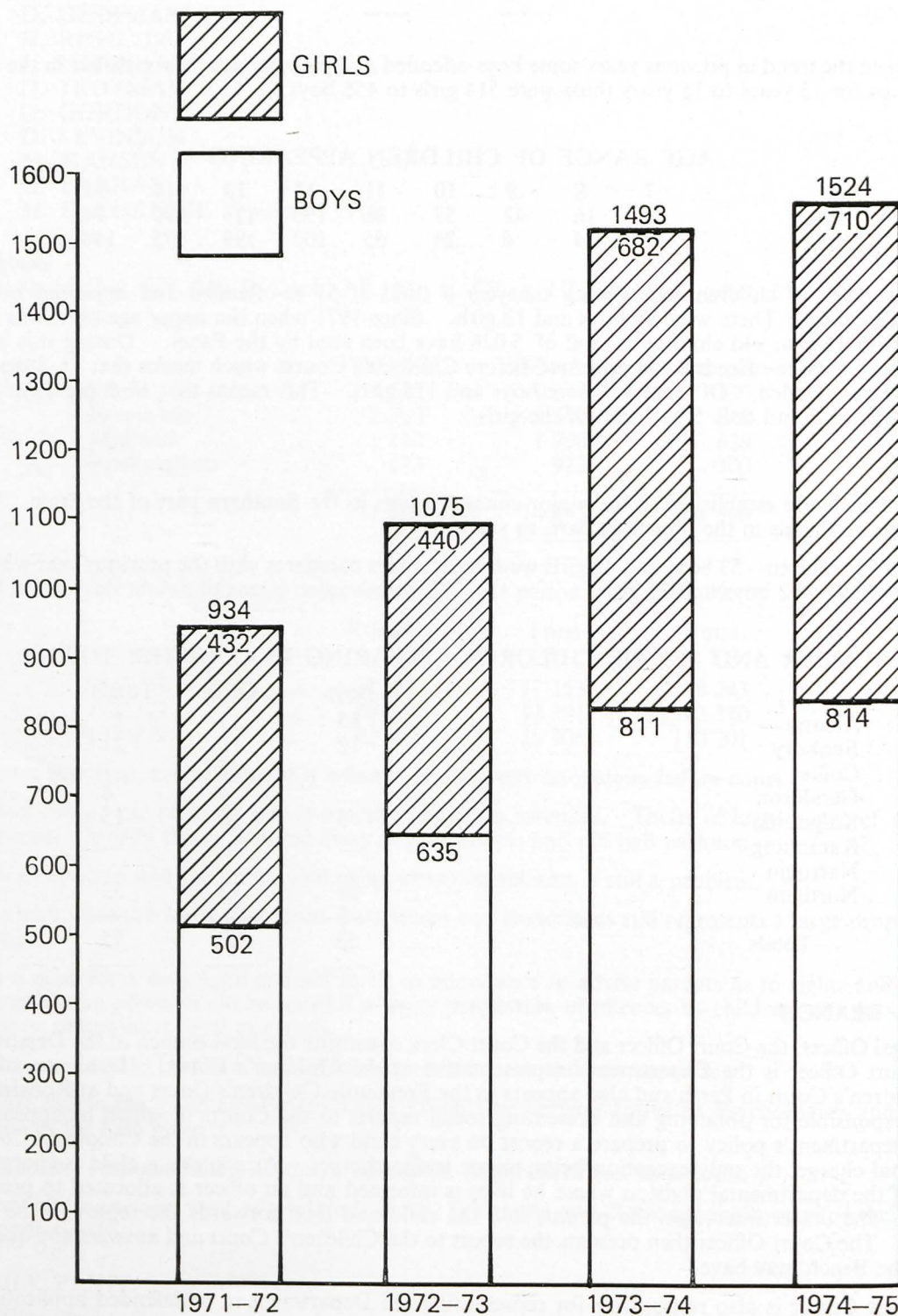
#### LEGAL BRANCH

The Legal Officer, the Court Officer and the Court Clerk constitute the legal branch of the Department. The Court Officer is the Department's representative at the Children's Court. He has an office in the Children's Court in Perth and also appears in the Fremantle Children's Court and at Rockingham. He is responsible for obtaining and presenting social reports to the Courts in which he appears. It is the Department's policy to prepare a report on every child who appears in the Children's Court on a criminal charge, the only exception being minor traffic charges. As soon as a child is charged the office of the departmental division where he lives is informed and an officer is allocated to prepare a report. The officer interviews the parents and the child and then forwards the report to the Court Officer. The Court Officer then presents the report to the Children's Court and answers any questions which the Bench may have.

The Court Officer is also responsible for representing the Department in undefended applications at the Children's Court to have children declared destitute, neglected or uncontrolled. These involve liaison with the officer preparing the application, ensuring that the evidence is in order and is admissible, and that the appropriate persons have been summoned as witnesses and then appearing on behalf of the Department during the case.



NUMBERS AND SEX OF CHILDREN APPEARING  
BEFORE THE JUVENILE PANELS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA  
FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS





The Court Clerk is responsible for assembling the reports noting the decisions of the Court and informing the various divisional offices of the decisions. As in past years there have been difficulties in having the reports prepared in time for the Court hearing. These difficulties are particularly apparent when the officers responsible for preparing the reports are not informed of the case until shortly before the hearing. The system began last year of having officers who specialise in court work in each Division and who come to Court each day to make reports on cases where they have had little or no notice. The system appears to be working well but of course is not as satisfactory as it would be if officers were given more notice of cases coming up.

One of the difficulties in the Children's Court is that large numbers of the children are arrested and have to appear in Court the next morning. If the police would charge more children on notice or on summons, officers would have more time to prepare their reports and the Court itself would be given a better opportunity to organise itself to avoid waste of time by officers and by parents.

At present all undefended cases are set down at 10 o'clock in the morning and all defendants and persons representing them have to be present in Court at this time. Sometimes the list is not finished until 2.30 in the afternoon, and this means that large numbers of people including solicitors, parents, and of course officers of the Department, and children themselves have to waste valuable time waiting for cases to come on. If more children could be charged by notice or summons the Court could perhaps arrange a system of appointments the way the Panel does so that persons would have an approximate idea of the time the case came on. This might also encourage more parents to be present at Court as the present system means they lose a whole morning at work when appearing with their children. Parents with a number of children appearing in the Court at frequent intervals find it very difficult to appear with their children regularly.

A further problem is that some children cannot obtain a surety and therefore cannot be released on bail. If a child defends the case he may spend several weeks in custody and then may be acquitted. Although this appears to be inevitable in serious charges, more use of the power to summons would avoid some injustice.

Aboriginal children have continued to be represented by the Aboriginal Legal Service which provides assistance to all Aboriginal children who appear in the Court. The Service has also enabled more Aboriginal children to defend their cases than were previously able to do so.

The Legal Officer is responsible for defending wards of the Department who deny committing an offence and who have not access to finance to engage Counsel. He is also responsible for representing Department when an application to have a child declared neglected is made and the case is defended by parents.

The Department has continued to arrange representation for juveniles who appear in the Supreme and District Courts. The number of juveniles appearing in these Courts continues to increase and the Law Society has been very helpful in providing counsel in these cases when requested under the Legal Aid Scheme. The Legal Officer also arranges for a report to be provided to the Superior Court in all these cases and liaises with the officer responsible for preparing the report.

The Legal Officer is also required to give legal advice to assist all departmental staff with their work and to prepare legal documents. With the expansion of the Department and the various schemes funded by the Commonwealth, there is an increasing need for legal advice in all spheres of the work of the Department.

During the year the Legal Officer appeared in the following cases or instructed Counsel when he was unavailable.

#### Wards of the Department Charged in the Children's Court:

Pleaded "not guilty" and convicted	21
Advised to plead guilty	6
Acquitted on 1 or more charges	9
Applications to have children declared neglected which were all granted	8
Prosecutions. Defendants pleaded guilty.	2
Adoption applications in Supreme Court Chambers which were granted	2

#### Summary Relief Court:

Defended applications for maintenance	2
Application for dispensation of consent to marriage	1
Children committed to the Supreme Court who were represented in the Children's Court	6

Counsel who were briefed on behalf of wards included Mr. D. W. McLeod, Mr. M. C. Lee, Mr. R. E. L. Greaves and Mr. R. D. Warren.







# **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES**







## INSTITUTIONS

The Institutional Services are important for the development of some children and families. There is however an awareness of the damaging effect of any institutional facility unless it is used sparingly with precision and always as part of a community setting. From the following reports it becomes evident that the institutions are not encapsulated additives for a child's treatment but are increasingly a part of a community based service.

The emphasis in child care is upon family cohesion and when institutional placement must occur, stress is placed on family treatment and involvement. The aim is to return the child to home as soon as possible. To achieve this goal, institutional services continue to be flexible and experimental.

### 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 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.

## BRIDGEWATER CHILD CARE AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE

### Location and Description

Duncraig Road, Applecross.

"Bridgewater" is an open cottage centre set on an eleven acre site which is designed to harmonise with the suburb of Applecross. The nine cottages can accommodate up to 107 boys and girls.

### Function

Short term emergency care and assessment of boys and girls from 3 to 18 years in a setting planned to replicate suburban home living.

### Population Characteristics

#### (1) Admissions during year:

	Caucasian	Aboriginal	Total
Boys	198	59	257
Girls	207	39	246
	<hr/> 405	<hr/> 98	<hr/> 503

#### (2) School-Employment distribution:

	Per Cent.
Pre-school	20
Primary School	38
High School	28
Working Age	14

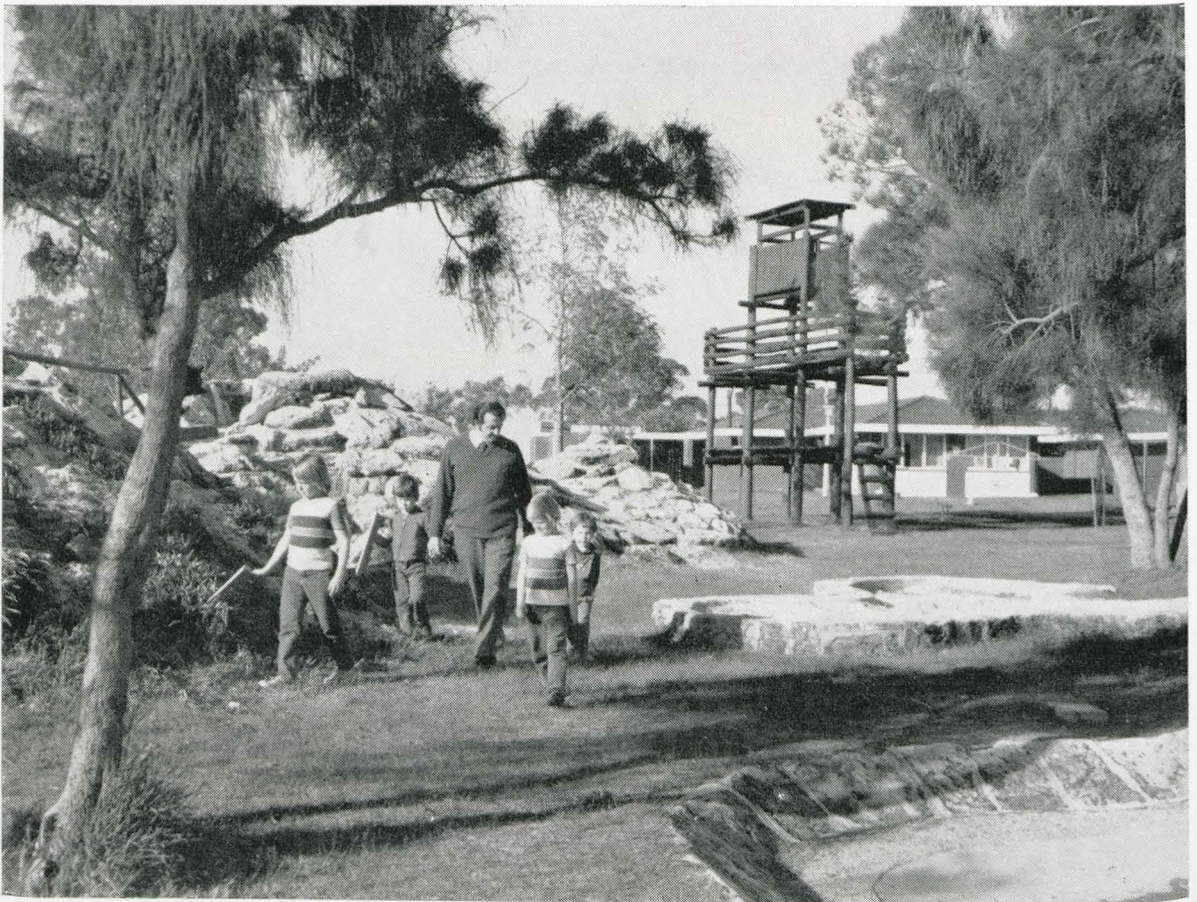
#### (3) Length of Stay:

Less than 3 months	403
More than 3 months	100

#### (4) Reason for admission:

Temporary care	
Wards	148
Non-Wards	132
	<hr/> 280
Assessment	223
	<hr/> 503





*Bridgewater is planned to replicate suburban home living.*



(5) Placement on Discharge following Assessment—235 Case Conferences:

	Per Cent.
Parents or relatives ....	39
Private foster placement ....	18
Group foster home ....	20
Treatment Institutions ....	12
Other Institutions ....	11

There is no significant change in population characteristics. A breakdown of admissions since January 1975, however, indicates that fewer girls are being admitted and for the first time the ratio of boys to girls is approaching one to one.

The number of children staying for long periods has increased. 62 of the 100 long staying children returned to their families after protracted case work.

Private foster placement has continued to be a problem where more than one child is involved. Two families have been in residence for more than 7 months without placement. Placement of children in group homes run by charitable organisations accounts for 20 per cent. of foster placement.

*Assessment and Treatment Programmes*

While "Bridgewater's" primary purpose is assessment for future planning, treatment programmes which have the goal of return to family life have continued. A short film demonstrating treatment techniques has been made.

Family counselling has been set up in order to deal with particularly difficult family rehabilitation.

*Developments—Current and Proposed*

The problem of recreation and schooling for older children remains and both recreation and on site schooling facilities are urgently required. The system of transport of children to outside schools reduces staff available to supervise recreation at those times of the day when staff participation is most needed.

"Bridgewater" has participated in a film on Contact and Communication Disorders which has been arranged by the Children's Commission in co-operation with the Perth Institute of Film Technology.

An analysis of characteristics of children admitted has begun and data will be available for comment in 1976.

A remedial teacher is now attached to the institution. An evaluation of techniques used in the classroom has been finished and programmes based on this evaluation will be put into effect from September of 1975.

MT. LAWLEY RECEPTION HOME

*Location and Description*

Walcott Street, Mt. Lawley.

The Reception Home is an "open" institution comprising a large suburban house with additions and modifications to accommodate 44 children. The buildings are set on two and a half acres of land with lawns, trees and gardens, and a large public park adjoining one boundary which is used for recreational and sporting activities.

*Function*

Short term care and assessment is provided for up to 22 boys and 22 girls from seven to eighteen years of age for whom a security institution is considered unnecessary or detrimental.

*Population Characteristics*

(1) Admissions during the year:

	Aboriginal	Caucasian	Total
Boys ....	119	176	295
Girls ....	93	154	247
	212	330	542

(2) School-Employment Distribution:

	Per Cent.
Primary School ....	23
Secondary School ....	55
Employment ....	22





*Mount Lawley Reception Home.*

(3) Length of stay:

Less than one week	....	....	....	186
One week to one month	....	....	....	241
One month to three months	....	....	....	103
More than three months	....	....	....	12

(4) Reasons for admission:

Temporary care only	....	....	....	68
Awaiting another placement	....	....	....	181
Court action (charge or remand)	....	....	....	90
Assessment	....	....	....	190
Other	....	....	....	13

(5) Placement on Discharge:

Parents or Relatives	....	....	....	40
Private board or foster parents	....	....	....	13
Institution or hostel	....	....	....	43
Other	....	....	....	4

The average age of children admitted was slightly over 14 years representing a decrease of about 2 years in the age to the June 1973/74 level. The trend towards an increasing proportion of boys was reversed this year with a seven per cent. increase in the number of girls admitted.

The number of children admitted for assessment increased by 14 per cent. over the previous year with a corresponding decrease in the number who were admitted to await further placement. When it is considered that included in that number are those children transferred from security situations to be found employment and accommodation, the number admitted because of placement "breakdown" has decreased yet again over the past twelve months.

*Programme*

The number of children receiving full assessment increased over the previous year, whilst the number requiring assessment in only specific areas remained fairly constant. The whole programme is orientated to assessment, with considerable importance being placed on both direct and indirect





*Activities involve guidance and re-assurance.*

interaction with the community which involves schooling, employment, social activities, picnics, outings and visits. Because of the deprived backgrounds of most of the children these activities are often the first of this type that they have experienced, and therefore require guidance and re-assurance in addition to assessment.

#### *Current and Proposed Developments*

In conjunction with the Special School attached to this Centre, social skills activities have been operating since the beginning of this school year.

A high level of liaison with employers and potential employers has been maintained, with one staff member fully involved maintaining contact with field staff for the purpose of arranging employment and accommodation. Employment was found for 41 boys and 38 girls.

### LONGMORE REMAND AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE

#### *Location and Description*

Adie Road, Bentley.

Longmore is a large building complex designed for maximum security. Major extensions have been constructed to relieve the continual overcrowding by providing accommodation for 22 remand cases. The original section will remain the department's main assessment centre, and will care for 36 boys and 24 girls. Both sections comprise offices for administration and assessment, single room accommodation and areas for day and evening manual activities, physical training, entertainment, medical care. Schooling facilities are provided in the assessment centre.

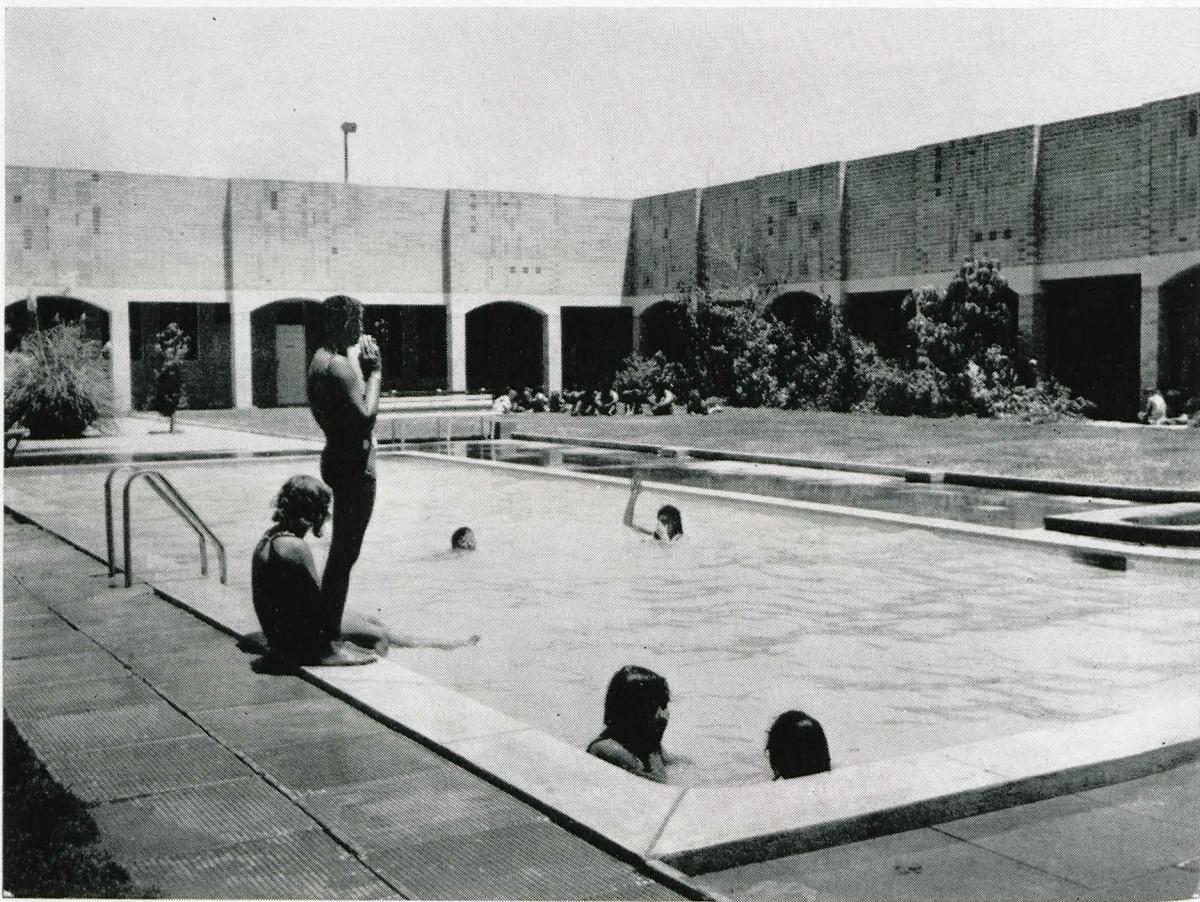
#### *Function*

Apart from being the department's main assessment centre for teenage offenders, between 13 and 18 years of age who require at least temporarily a maximum security setting, Longmore holds children who are due to appear in Court, remanded for pre-sentence reports or serving default for non payment of fines.





*View of Longmore Remand and Assessment Complex. The new addition, the Remand section, distinguished by square courtyard is in the foreground (Rt) with service extensions extending back to the Assessment unit courtyard in the background (Lt).*



*Internal Courtyard—Assessment Section.*

*Population Characteristics*

(1) Admissions during year:

						Aboriginal	Caucasian	Total
Boys	....	....	....	....	....	339	897	1 236
Girls	....	....	....	....	....	94	309	403
Total	....	....	....	....	....	433	1 206	1 639



# Additional

## Population Residence Location

						Per Cent.
Metropolitan	....	....	....	....	1 277	77.9
Kimberley	....	....	....	....	9	0.5
Pilbara	....	....	....	....	39	2.4
Murchison	....	....	....	....	37	2.3
Central	....	....	....	....	67	4.1
Southern	....	....	....	....	75	4.6
Goldfields	....	....	....	....	51	3.1
Interstate	....	....	....	....	84	5.1

## (2) School/Employment Distribution:

						Per Cent.
Primary School	....	....	....	....	....	....
School	....	....	....	....	24.5	
Employed	....	....	....	....	14.9	
Unemployed	....	....	....	....	60.6	

## (3) Length of Stay:

Less than one week	....	....	....	....	1 013
One week to one month	....	....	....	....	446
One month to three months	....	....	....	....	179
More than three months	....	....	....	....	1
Total....	....	....	....	....	1 639

## (4) Reason for Admission:

						Per Cent.
Court Action	....	....	....	....	66.6	
Serve Default	....	....	....	....	4.0	
Remand	....	....	....	....	7.5	
Assessment (directed by Court)	....	....	....	....	11.7	
Breakdown of previous plan	....	....	....	....	1.9	
Missing person for other Institutions	....	....	....	....	2.2	
Institutions requesting temporary hold	....	....	....	....	1.5	
Divisions requesting temporary hold	....	....	....	....	3.5	
Medical reasons	....	....	....	....	0.4	
Others	....	....	....	....	0.7	

Court action is still the major reason for Admissions. Offences grouped as follows "other reasons" include applications to the Court for committal.

### Assessment—Conference:

352 at Longmore.  
45 External submissions from Hillston, M.L.R.H. and Divisional Conferences.

Total....	....	....	....	....	397
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## (5) Placement on Discharge:

						Per Cent.
Home	....	....	....	....	50.5	
Relatives	....	....	....	....	4.0	
Foster parents	....	....	....	....	1.2	
Private board	....	....	....	....	7.0	
Hostels	....	....	....	....	4.0	
Riverbank	....	....	....	....	3.8	
Nyandi	....	....	....	....	2.8	
M.L.R.H.	....	....	....	....	6.1	
Bridgewater	....	....	....	....	0.5	
Hillston	....	....	....	....	12.6	
Other institutions	....	....	....	....	3.5	
Gaol	....	....	....	....	0.9	
Others	....	....	....	....	3.1	

### Inferences from Data

In spite of the general increase of the West Australian population, the total number of admissions to Longmore is below that of the previous year. However the difference is not significant statistically.



If the total number of admissions is divided into Aboriginal and Caucasian children, the admissions of Aboriginal children and Caucasian girls do not differ significantly from those of the previous year. There is however a significant decrease in the number of Caucasian boys.

The majority of the admissions occurred during July 1974 to March 1975. The decrease from April to June 1975 could be due to a noticeable decrease in cases from the Kimberley, Pilbara, Murchison and Goldfield areas. The majority of children came from the Metropolitan area, but of the remainder a higher percentage came from interstate than from country divisions taken individually. The South and Central districts have provided the next highest percentage. The mean age for admissions was 15.5 years. There is a high percentage loading for the ages of 16 and 17 which may be partly due to the influx of adolescent boys and girls from the Eastern States (5.2 per cent.). The high proportion of children who were unemployed at the time of admission is of interest.

Considering that the length of stay of 61.8 per cent. of the children was less than 1 week, also that 66.6 per cent. were admitted to make Court action possible and only 11.7 per cent. of these were required for assessment as directed by the Court, it appears that Longmore still continues to function more as a "holding" than as an "assessment" centre. There was an increase in cases remanded for Court reports, and Supreme Court cases usually involve longer remands.

#### *Research Programmes*

A normative study on the Jesness Inventory has been completed and preliminary examination of the data revealed interesting differences between the ethnic groups and social categories studied. More subtle differences are also apparent. Further analysis of the available data are being undertaken. As a direct outcome of the above study Western Australian norms have been prepared and will be circulated within the Department for Community Welfare for use by psychologists. As soon as the final stages of data inspection are completed, the results will be made available.

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, is in the process of being formulated. Until further psychological staff is available, it is impossible to complete the investigation of the background and characteristics of a sample of adolescents passing through Longmore and a follow-up of how they fared on leaving.

#### **Treatment Institutions**

Where the assessment carried out indicates that institutional resources are needed, responsibility for the management of the child is transferred to the recommended institution's staff. The child experiences are then planned to bear similarity and relevance to the experiences that he or she can expect to encounter in life 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 in a responsible and independent manner, 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 progress 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 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 form the majority of the admissions to treatment centres for adolescents.

### **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 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 have provisions for security, 12 in separate accommodation which provides for a greater degree of individual responsibility and 7 in a cottage on the property in an open "group home" atmosphere.





*Courtyard at Hillston.*

### *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 is serving default for the non-payment of fines.

### *Population Characteristics*

During the year 1 July 1974—30 June 1975 a total of 352 boys were admitted representing a 40 per cent. increase over the 1973/74 figures. This increase is totally attributable to the higher admission rates of Aboriginal boys. The breakdown of admissions is as follows:—

Total Admissions	....	....	....	....	....	352	
New Admissions	....	....	....	....	....	159	{ Caucasian 82 Aboriginal 77
Re-admissions	....	....	....	....	....	193	{ Caucasian 113 Aboriginal 80
Admission figure includes:							
Defaulters	....	....	....	....	....	29	{ Caucasian 20 Aboriginal 9
Average Age	....	....	....	....	....	15 years 3 months	
Average Length of Stay	....	....	....	....	....	72 days	

### *Treatment Programmes*

The continuing trend is that 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.

Particularly noticeable is the incidence of educational retardation and in an effort to cope adequately with this problem a three teacher school system is now in operation.

Every effort is made to extend Hillston's programmes into the community. For example, schooling where possible takes place at the local schools, the local library is used by the boys. Work habits acquired in Hillston are transferred to the community in a supervised work release programme. Sport is not an encapsulated item but shared with local sports and youth organisations.

A simple reward system understandable to the diverse inmate population continues to operate and in effect it means that the greater effort a boy makes in his programme the greater the number of privileges he earns.





*Training is designed to develop potential skills which will help in returning to employment in the community with an attitude of responsibility and self-confidence.*

Increasing emphasis continues to be placed on trial leave and after-care, using Hillston as a "back-up" whilst programmes and personal re-adjustment are attempted in the community.

#### *Warramia*

Continued involvement in the development of the Department's property at Badgingarra has continued during the year and it is usual to have two boys detached to work in this setting throughout the year. Produce from the Hillston Farm and from this property to the market value of \$28 968 was used in Hillston and other metropolitan institutions during the year.

#### *Developments*

The work-release programme commenced in a modest way during the year ending 30 June 1974 has continued, and expanded, into an integral part of the total programme. Although current employment trends have placed limitations on areas of work training in the community, 136 boys have now had experience on work-release, 94 during the current financial year. This has provided not only the opportunity to develop regular work habits in a realistic setting but has also provided for benefits in regard to social interaction in a working situation and responsibility in the handling of money. Although it is too soon to make predictions there would appear to be a trend which indicates good positive adjustment by boys who spend a reasonable period in this type of programme.

Continued co-operation by the Tip Top Abattoirs, Wooroloo and the Commercial Bank, Mundaring, in making this programme possible is appreciated.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in the past in placing boys from the institution who, because of their inadequacies, are unacceptable and unable to function in normal living or boarding situations. Consequently there has been a necessity for them to remain at the institution for extended periods which has tended to make them overdependent on institution living. Similarly, because of Hillston's relative isolation in regard to location of metropolitan agencies problems have been encountered in regard to boys regular attendance at community clinics or training centres which could possibly be beneficial to them. However McDonald House located in Mount Lawley is currently being established to cater for these needs and will provide a further most valuable adjunct to Hillston in providing for special training and social development in a community setting.



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 less than that.

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.



"Koorana"

Function

The population is limited to children of primary school age and grade placement, with sessional treatment for some younger children.

The major referring problems 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 child seen in the light of alternatives available, with some slight weighting given to wardship.

Population Characteristics

Referrals July 1974—June 1975:									
Boys	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	47
Girls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Accepted for treatment									
Full-time attendance at Koorana	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Part-time attendance at Koorana	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Some treatment responsibility accepted but carried out in local school and at home	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
Referrals in process	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9

All children enrolled at Koorana were referred primarily for problem behaviour withing the school setting. In all cases the children were also significantly retarded educationally and their behaviour outside the school setting caused concern. Fifteen of the children referred have been wards, three of whom have been enrolled. 85 per cent. of the children referred to Koorana had been earlier referred to another specialist treatment agency—mainly psychiatric or neurological.



In almost every case, considerable family work is necessary. Though the children are referred because of behaviour in a school setting, in every case there were serious behavioural problems present before the child started school. No characteristic patterns of family operation are discernable yet, but some hypotheses are being formulated for testing.



*Remedial teaching is done individually or in small groups. Children record their own performances.*

#### *Assessment and Treatment Programmes*

Being a new institution and different in its function 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 or kindergarten 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. The most frequently used treatment approach is a behavioural one. 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.

#### *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 met in maintaining the child's improved level of functioning at that new level when he returns to his own school. So few children have been returned from Koorana to their own schools that there has been little opportunity to work in this area. The relatively high proportion of children who have been maintained in their own schools at an improved level of functioning after initial referral to Koorana is the most pleasing aspect of the years' work. All of these children were referred as being "impossible" to work with in a normal school.



The strengths shown by some parents in working in co-operation with Koorana staff towards changing their children's behaviour has encouraged efforts to develop further techniques in this field. This is seen as being a particularly productive way of working and techniques are being developed which could be used by other staff of the Department, obviating the need for the child to attend a special centre.



*Children work to improve physical performance.*

**McCALL CENTRE**

*Location and Description*

2 Curtin Avenue, Mosman Park.

McCall Centre is an "open" facility comprising accommodation for 20 children, treatment and activity rooms, classrooms, offices and playing areas.

*Function*

McCall Centre is a long term residential treatment unit for children with behavioural and emotional problems between the ages of five and twelve years. As part of the Department's preventative work effort, the Centre's essential aim is to assist children in overcoming their problems while they are still young.

*Population Characteristics*

New admissions:

Boys	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Girls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Average age on admission	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9 years

The most commonly found characteristics of the children on admission are impulsive and uncontrolled behaviour, difficulties in forming in-depth relationships with other children and adults, educational difficulties despite average intelligence, and slowness in the development of physical skills and abilities, though physically healthy.

*Treatment 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 are involved in the programmes as much as possible, and in particular they are given the opportunity to learn the special skills necessary to manage their children. If necessary, parents 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.



### *Foster Parent Training*

Some children cannot be returned to their parents even though their behaviour has improved sufficiently to permit return to the community. What is required at this stage is placement in an environment as close as possible to a healthy family situation.

Secure and competent foster families meet this requirement but are a scarce commodity, particularly given that they are expected to contend with the additional burden of still quite difficult behaviour problems when they accept a child from the McCall Centre. To assist with this situation, a training scheme has been developed to help interested foster parents. Applicants for the training course are carefully screened and must agree to five-day a week attendance for the mother over a six week period. The father is also expected to attend on a given number of evenings for instruction and other training. During the programme the parents are taught both the theory and practice of dealing with difficult children. Often they have the opportunity to observe the development of techniques used in treating the actual child they will later foster. The process of moving the child from the centre to the new home is a gradual one made in several stages.

The training course at McCall Centre has been in operation for nearly a year and feedback from parents who have had children placed with them to date is very encouraging.

Foster parents who take children from the Centre receive a training allowance as well as an additional fostering allowance in recognition of their completion of the course. Close follow-up with foster families is conducted and they return to the Centre twice monthly to review progress. Every effort is made to impart to foster parents the notion that they are partners in the work at the McCall Centre, taking over from the institution when it has played its initial part.

The foster training course effectively assists in preparing the foster parents for their role and ensures that the child's treatment is extended and consolidated after he leaves McCall Centre. It also means that children can move to better-prepared homes sooner.

It is considered that treatment is successful if the child's behaviour is modified while at the Centre, and during the two-year follow up, problem behaviour does not re-occur and the child makes a satisfactory adjustment. With such criteria it is still early to talk about results because so far only nine children have been away for more than two years. Six have met the criteria of success, but three have not, and have been admitted to other treatment centres. Seven other children were discharged late 1973 and five of them so far meet the criteria of success while two have been admitted subsequently to other treatment centres.

It appears that older children who have been involved in stealing and who have been absconding for more than two years prior to admission have benefitted least from programmes so far developed at McCall Centre. However, it is still too early to be definite about this aspect.

### *Developments—Proposed Kindergarten*

It has become evident that some children younger than five years and their families need the treatment facilities offered by McCall Centre. With this in mind and the Department's continued emphasis on prevention, plans are proceeding for the construction of a pre-school kindergarten designed to meet the needs of children as young as three years of age. The children could either be residents at the Centre or attend on a daily basis depending on the family situation.

## **NYANDI**

### *Location and Description*

3 Allen Court, Bentley.

Nyandi functions as a treatment and research centre for adolescent girls aged between thirteen and eighteen years. It comprises a twenty bed maximum security section with an adjoining ten bed minimum security cottage. There are also at present 170 girls receiving treatment in the community, either through the after care service or country district offices.

### *Function*

The majority of girls referred to Nyandi have committed a number of offences. However, an increasing number of dependent but not delinquent girls are being admitted to Nyandi for brief social training.

### *Population Characteristics*

New Admissions	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	68
Age Range	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13-18 years
Length of Stay	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	26 days



### *Therapeutic Programmes*

It appears that generally girls are referred to Nyandi for one of the two following broad reasons:

- (a) They lack the necessary social and vocational skills required to cope successfully in society;
- (b) They lack the motivation to exhibit the skills they do possess and apparently choose a delinquent life style.

The therapeutic programme for the first group is therefore a teaching one. The girls are assessed and then taught the various social and vocational skills in which they demonstrate a deficiency.

There are nineteen social skills defined and taught at present. Examples include compliance, accepting correction, social greetings and accepting compliments. Each of the skills is broken down into a number of component parts to facilitate quicker and easier teaching.

There is a total of thirty vocational skills. These include such skills as postal services, nutrition, money change, budgeting, and public transport. On admission each girl is assessed on her ability in each of these skills and this assessment together with her previous performance in the community and likely needs on discharge are used to set treatment goals.

Once the goals or targets have been established the girls are taught the relevant skills largely by means of programmed teaching kits. These facilitate ease of administration and allow a variety of staff such as vocational officers, after-care officers, and homemakers to teach skills in a number of settings. The girl's progress in learning the required skills is then reassessed objectively.

If the girls already have the skills the therapeutic problem becomes one of motivating them to illustrate the desired behaviour. This is done by the application of social approval and disapproval by the groupworkers and backed up by a token reinforcement system to make the intervention more effective.

On discharge the same principles are applied by "contracting" with the girls in the community. That is, social and material rewards are used contingently upon the girl's behaviour. For example, if a girl attends a certain number of job interviews during a week she may receive pocket money, items from her clothing order, or outings. Once the desirable behaviour has been established the use of the therapist-controlled social and material rewards is phased out and the girl eventually maintained by the ordinary social system which operates for all persons in the community.

Nyandi has a strong orientation towards evaluating programme effectiveness and conducting relevant research. These areas are regarded as vital components in the delivery of an effective treatment programme. Arising from this a number of papers were written by Nyandi staff during the past year. Details are available from the Superintendent, Nyandi.



*On going Evaluation and Research.*





*Selecting a programmed teaching kit.*



*Learning typing skills.*



### *Developments—Current and Proposed*

The area of after-care work is gaining increasing impetus as new and effective techniques for working with adolescents in community settings are being developed and implemented.

The concept of community-based rehabilitation programmes has been well supported by the research literature to date. The Nyandi after-care service is being extended to provide a more effective non-institutional therapeutic service to an increasing number of adolescents. Preliminary investigations conducted at Nyandi during the past year suggest that by working directly with children in the community the after-care can obtain results comparable with those obtained when similar girls are given intensive training within the institution.

Skills packages and principles of the motivational system used in Nyandi are also applied to community settings, largely through the use of "contracting". A number of consumer rating scales have been developed in an attempt to obtain accurate feedback on the service Nyandi provides from people such as employers and parents. Behaviour checklists have been developed to obtain from employers, parents, weekend placements, etc., an accurate and objective record of the girl's performance in a particular setting. This assists not only with objective feedback on the girl's behaviour in the community, but also helps to involve those in the community who have potential as treatment agents.

## RIVERBANK

### *Location and Description*

Hammersley Road, Caversham.

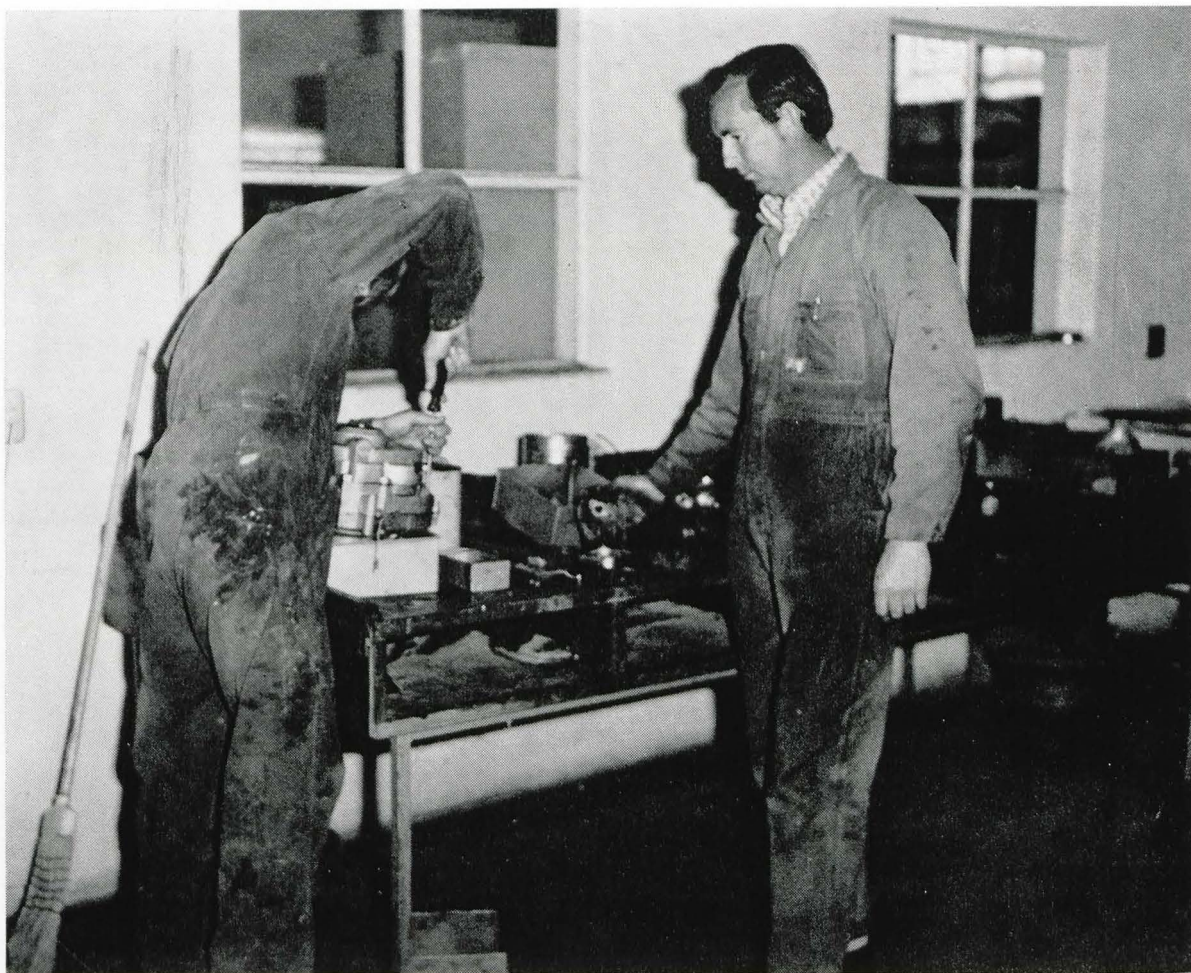
Riverbank Boys' Treatment Centre accommodates 43 boys within a maximum security setting. Additional accommodation is provided for up to 12 boys at "Fourteen" Francis Street, Perth—a hostel providing specialised supervision for boys lacking family support or needing gradual re-introduction into the community.

### *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.







*Riverbank attempts to replicate the outside community with such facilities as factory workshops and "Token" economy system.*

#### *Population Characteristics—General*

Although Riverbank treats some serious offenders many of the boys are less serious law breakers. Because of their youth they impulsively run from stressful situations such as school or home. They have been unable to develop better coping skills in a more open correctional environment.

Almost all the boys come from lower socio-economic backgrounds, have left school prematurely and have not established suitable work habits. A significant number continues to come from incomplete families in which, through no fault of either parent or child, normal socialisation has not occurred. Riverbank's treatment practices attempt to remedy such incomplete or faulty learning.

Total Admission Events	....	....	....	....	236	
New Admissions....	....	....	....	....	61	{ Caucasian 52 Aboriginal 9
Re-admission Events	....	....	....	....	175	(for 70 boys)
Length of stay	....	....	....	....	55.3	days (average)

These figures reveal an overall rate 25.8 per cent. lower than 1973/74. However, the proportion of new and re-admissions between 1973/74 and the present report remains unchanged. The only significant change is in the number of Aboriginal new admissions—a drop of 47.6 per cent. since last report. The average length of stay has increased slightly but not significantly to 55.3 days.

#### *Training Programme—Developments*

In the previous two annual reports it was pointed out that rapid change from obedience training had occurred and that resistance to such change, particularly by the boys themselves, required much counteracting in order to consolidate the new, more flexible approaches. The programme with its emphasis on skill acquisition and individual growth towards maturity has now been fully accepted within Riverbank. Consolidation has given way to the need to discuss refinements to the content of the treatment programme and especially the need to measure more accurately the outcome of treatment alternatives. Ongoing treatment consists of institutional inputs together with After Care supervision in the community.



For this reason research has been commenced at Riverbank to develop a typology of offenders and to match these to specific types of After-care supervision. A recent review of progress, February 1975, indicated the beginnings of a trend for Riverbank to manage more boys successfully in the community, with less need for recall and at considerably less cost to the community in terms of re-offending. Conditions favourable to the development of this trend are also currently under investigation.

Local community involvement has continued with regular dances, visits by pupils from local high schools, barbeques, socials and visiting sports teams. This involvement is crucial if Riverbank is to succeed in its attempt to mimic the values and attitudes of the wider community. It also helps to overcome a constant trend for Riverbank, because of its maximum security status, to become an encapsulated environment.

Other internal factors continue to expand the setting, the Safety Driving Instructors' Course with its donated dual control motor vehicle, the workshops mass producing items for use by outside charitable organisations and the many choices of daily recreational pursuits—all interlinked with the positive incentive token economy system.

#### *Development*

Regular camping trips have been initiated for groups of up to six boys approaching discharge to Trial Leave. The impact of these simple few days, outdoors and under canvas, is felt throughout the ongoing treatment programme. The camping trips have been established as a part of the programme, not just an additive and they symbolize the spontaneous goodwill that gives life to any treatment approach.

### **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 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.



## 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 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 girl's 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.

## 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.

### *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. Additional hostels are planned for areas where industrial and residential development has resulted in school and employment 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.



### Metropolitan

Applecross	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Primary School (boys and girls)
Ardross	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Secondary School (girls)
Bedford Park	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Secondary School, business college (girls)
Bentley	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Secondary School (girls)
Como	.....	.....	"Kyewong"	.....	.....	Employment (girls)
East Perth	.....	.....	"Bennett House"	.....	.....	Transit Hostel
Greenmount	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Secondary School (boys)
Hamilton Hill	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Secondary School (girls)
Kewdale	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Secondary School (girls)
Medina	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Secondary School (boys)
Melville	.....	.....	"Karingal"	.....	.....	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"	.....	.....	Business College, employment (girls)
Mosman Park	.....	.....	"Oceanview"	.....	.....	Primary School (boys and girls)
Mt. Lawley	.....	.....	"McDonald House"	.....	.....	Employment (boys)

### Country

Boulder	.....	.....	"Nindeebai"	.....	.....	Secondary School
Boulder	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Employment (boys only)
Cue	.....	.....	"Kyarra"	.....	.....	Primary School
Geraldton	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Employment (boys only)
Halls Creek	.....	.....	"Charles Perkins"	.....	.....	Primary School
Kalgoorlie	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Employment (girls only)
Katanning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Employment
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 commenced during the 1974/75 financial year.

### GROUP HOMES

The Department 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 Gelorup has been renovated and extended to provide accommodation for 10 children.

### DARLINGTON COTTAGE

#### Location

Hubert Street, Darlington.

Darlington Cottage was established in August 1974 and accommodates up to 10 school boys. The cottage provides mainly for boys who can cope with a normal school curriculum but this is not a necessary criterion providing the individual has a degree of motivation to attend school and the school is able to provide a course of studies suitable to the boy's needs.

The establishment of this cottage has allowed for boys resident there to become totally involved with the community and to develop social competence. The initial nine months operation has been an unqualified success.

### 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 establishment of a Catering Service in 1972 marked the beginning of a vital and economically sound section, which is being more fully utilised as the Department's needs become greater and more diversified.

With current pressure on Government expenditure it is satisfying to realise that this section has saved an estimated \$200 000 since its inception and without affecting the efficiency and quality of the food service.

Departmental institutions, hostels and associated facilities involved with catering needs are located throughout the State from Halls Creek in the north to Katanning in the south and inland to Warburton.

Another service offered by this section is its general help and advisory service to church and private run homes and missions, many of whom avail themselves of this assistance.

All menus are carefully compiled for balance and nutritional value, which involves a full component breakdown of all food elements, and are then forwarded to the Public Health Dietician for approval, before being implemented in any of our establishments.

Although menus are generally standardised, the needs of each individual are taken into account and amendments made to suit specific needs, including age, ethnic and cultural heritage, physical disabilities and malfunctions and so on.

Other areas of involvement include a trainee cook scheme for aboriginal boys and girls currently in operation throughout Western Australia. In addition, many camps are held throughout the year, particularly in school holiday periods, and in this area assistance is given to the camp leaders with supplies, menus and general catering needs.

Basic commercial food products are not always suitable for Departmental needs and much research and progress has been achieved with manufacturing companies in creating special and fortified food products. The Catering Section is at present involved with research into fortified milk and fruit drink products as well as a new packaging process which we hope will help to curtail the enormous transport costs involved in distributing food over such a large area.

### *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 9 cents per dry pound. This represents a considerable saving when compared with commercial rates.

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.





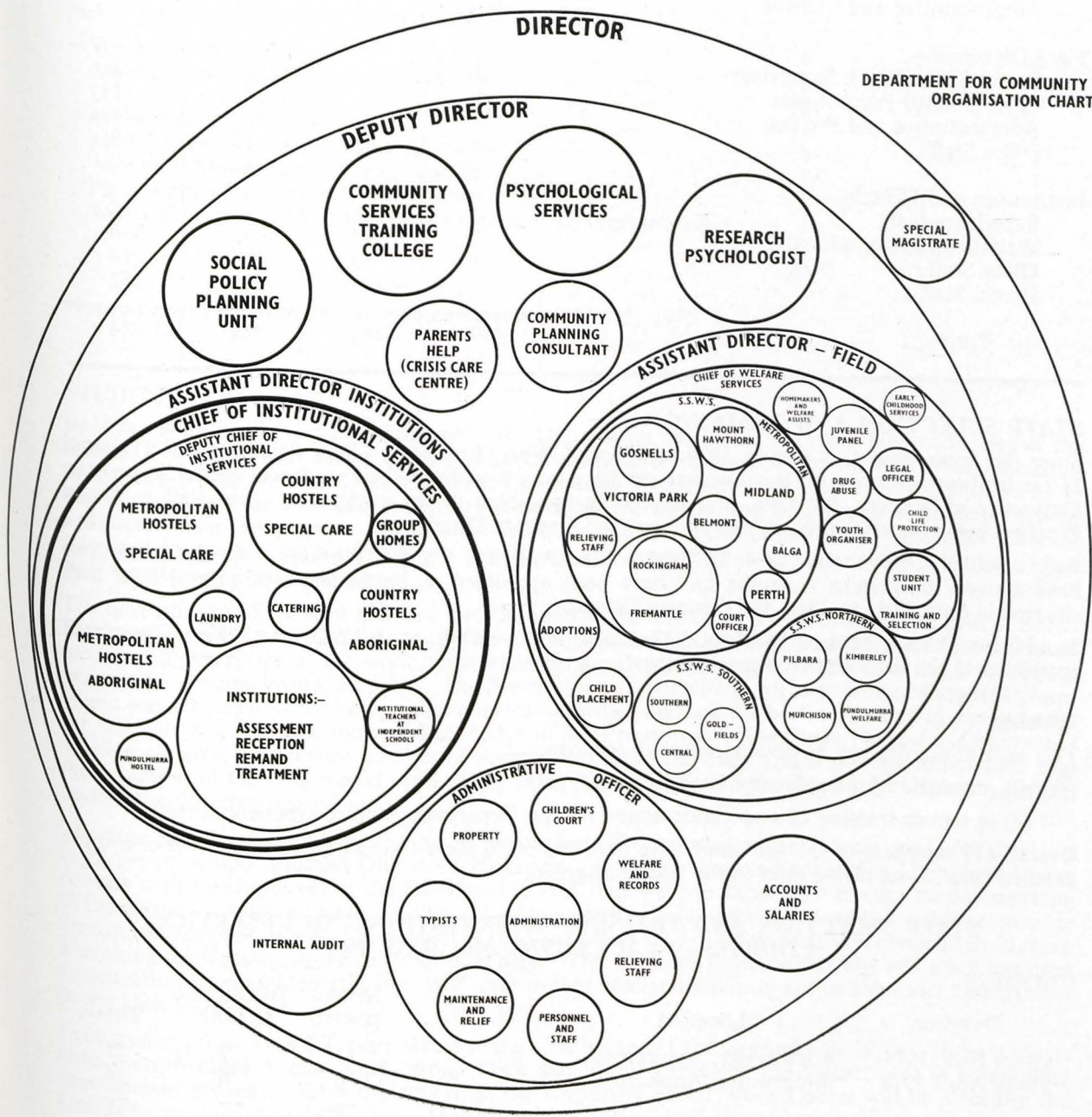
# **ADMINISTRATION**







DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE  
ORGANISATION CHART





# STAFF ESTABLISHMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 1975

	Public Service	Ministerial	Wages	Total
Head Office—				
Director ....	1	....	....	1
Deputy Director ....	1	....	....	1
Assistant Director—Institutional ....	1	....	....	1
Assistant Director—Field ....	1	....	....	1
Special Magistrate ....	1	....	....	1
Administrative and Clerical ....	201	7	1	209
Field Divisions—				
Senior Social Work Supervisor ....	3	....	....	3
Chief Clinical Psychologist ....	1	....	....	1
Administrative and Welfare ....	227	....	....	227
Office Staff ....	56	....	13	69
Institutions and Hostels—				
Superintendents ....	....	8	....	8
Welfare and Institutional....	5	312	39	356
Office Staff ....	1	13	....	14
Hostel Staff ....	....	3	129	132
Totals ....	499	343	182	1 024

## STAFF SELECTION AND TRAINING

Since the appointment in August 1974 of a Social Work Supervisor—Staff Selection and Training, 11 Social Work cadets with this Department have now completed their studies at W.A.I.T. and the University of Western Australia, and have been appointed to the professional field staff as Social Workers being situated in both Metropolitan and Country Divisions.

As a result of a recruitment drive in England and America, 5 Social Workers from these countries have arrived in Western Australia and have been appointed as Permanent (temporary) field staff situated in both Metropolitan and Country Divisions.

In addition at least 2 Social Workers, 7 Graduate Welfare Officers and 7 District Officers have been appointed to the field staff from outside the Department.

## Training

This area of activity can be divided into two sections:

- orientation for newly appointed field staff, and
- in-service training of a specialist nature for the Department's more experienced staff.

Overall 117 members of the field staff have participated in these training programmes. For a more detailed breakdown please refer to the figures attached.

## STAFF SELECTION AND TRAINING—ORIENTATION AND IN-SERVICE COURSES—1st JULY 1974—30th JUNE 1975

### Orientation

Duration	Location	Metro-politan	Attendance Country	Total
18–29 Nov. 1974	Bridgewater, Applecross ....	11	7	18
21–24 April 1974	Bridgewater, Applecross ....	8	6	14
		19	13	32

### In-Service—Conducted by Staff Selection and Training Section

Duration	Topic	Location	Metro-politan	Attendance Country	Total
10–14 March 1975	Working with youth in the Community	Bridgewater, Applecross ....	3	8	11
5–9 May 1975	Court Procedures	Bridgewater, Applecross ....	6	2	8
			9	10	19



*Family Therapy—Dr. J. Bownes*

Duration	Topic	Location	Metro- politan	Attendance Country	Total
30 April and 7 May 1975	Film and Discussion	Community Services Training College ....	25	....	25
6 Sessions over 6 weeks	Family Therapy		10	....	10
			35	....	35
			—	—	—

*Public Service Board—Over 12 month period E.D.C.*

Work Control and Review (1 week course)	....	....	....	6	....	6
Management by Objectives (1 week course)	....	....	....	1	....	1
D.E.M. (1 week course)	....	....	....	10	2	12
Management 4 (1 week course)	....	....	....	1	....	1
Management Appraisal (1 day course)	....	....	....	8	1	9
"Arnold" Management (1 week course)	....	....	....	1	....	1
Planning for Retirement (1 day course)	....	....	....	1	....	1
W.A.I.T. Australian Institute of Management (2 week course)	....	....	....	1	....	1
				29	3	32
				—	—	—

Note—Court Procedures Course Roebourne 1–14 July 1975

.... 10 10

## STUDENT UNIT

In 1974 the Public Service Board agreed to the Department setting up a Student Unit consisting of the Student Unit Supervisor and a Typist. The Unit was to be responsible for the field work education of students placed with the Department for Community Welfare by both the University and W.A.I.T. The Unit Supervisor was seen as directly responsible for supervision of a group of students and as a liaison person between the educational establishments and the Department. This has been interpreted to include the Supervisor in organising any other field work placements with individual staff members of the Department.

The development of the Unit has been a recognition of the role of the Department in the field of Social Work education. It was hoped that by developing a specialised section, students would have a more meaningful experience of the work undertaken by the Department and in the Unit itself, be able to participate in some group learning. The Supervisor's responsibility for organising of student placements was seen as a streamlining of administration which allowed for better planning of programmes for students and concentration of knowledge of staff resources. The Department for Community Welfare employs the greatest number of Social Workers in the State and it was not anticipated that the inception of the Unit would prevent any other interested Social Worker in the Department from undertaking student supervision.

The Unit Supervisor took up her post in November 1974 and arrangements were made for the Unit to be set up within Midland Division. It was felt important that students in the Unit should have contact with Field Officers at the Divisional level if they were to experience the day to day working of the Agency. Midland Division offered both a variety of field experience together with a reasonable amount of accommodation. Placement of the Unit within a Division of necessity, involved developing a working relationship with other staff members. This has been done successfully and there has been co-operation from all Departmental staff, both within Midland Division and in the wider Department in the Unit programme.

Four students from W.A.I.T. were placed in the Unit between February and July 1975. These students have been involved in case work, group work and have represented the Department in community development projects. Four students from the University Social Work Course will be placed in the Unit between August and October. During the first half of 1975 there have also been two University students and two W.A.I.T. students placed with individual Supervisors at Divisional level and there will be a further five or six students similarly placed in the second half of the year.

Some time has been spent in discussing techniques of student supervision with other Student Supervisors and prospective Supervisors in the Department.

Meetings also take place regularly with other Student Unit Supervisors in the City. The interaction between the Department and the educational establishments already taking place has hopefully, been improved by the Unit Supervisor being able to spend more time discussing overall and specific goals in field work placement with these establishments. It has allowed for the field, as represented by this Department, to have more participation in planning Social Work education. The Unit Supervisor has been asked to represent the Field on the W.A.I.T. Subject Committee, responsible for the working out of a Field Work Programme.



In the future it is hoped the Unit might extend to take six to eight students. This might lead to re-location in terms of space and available work load. It would still be seen as important to maintain the close connection with field staff at Divisional level. Placement of students in country areas is an on-going consideration and it is hoped to achieve some formal arrangement to allow this to take place in the not too distant future. The Unit has worked in close contact with the Training Section of the Department and will continue to make use of the resources in terms of equipment and training courses that this Section can offer.

## **DEPARTMENTAL PROPERTY**

### **Offices and Institutions**

There are 51 Departmental offices situated throughout the State; in addition, there are 29 Departmentally-controlled establishments for the placement of children for educational assessment and training purposes. In the Metropolitan area there are 15 controlled Homes for the placement of country children undertaking advanced learning or work programmes. During the year, new office centres were opened at Kambalda and our Community Service Training Authority in Perth.

### **Vehicles**

This Department operates a fleet of 125 vehicles stationed at 48 centres throughout the State. During the past year these vehicles covered 2 691 944 km on official business. The kilometre cost of operation (excluding capital outlay on vehicle purchase) has decreased from 5.23 cents a kilometre in 1973/74 to 5.14 cents per kilometre in 1974/75.

Private vehicles used on official business during the same period covered 1 069 878 kilometres.

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

- 6 Trucks
- 21 Trailers
- 11 Buses
- 4 Tractors
- 4 Caravans

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINING COLLEGE**

### *Location and Description*

16 King's Park Road, West Perth.

Community Services Training College commenced activities in February 1975. The College occupies a small two-storey building previously used for office accommodation. The existing buildings and facilities are inadequate and additional premises are being sought.

### **Courses**

Courses are currently offered for residential child-care workers from statutory and non-statutory bodies, and graduate teachers working in welfare areas.

### **Enrolment**

137 students enrolled at the College at the commencement of 1975. The majority of these students were applicants for the residential child-care workers course.

### **Entry Requirements**

The satisfactory completion of secondary schooling is desirable. If applicants show the necessary aptitude in other important aspects relevant to the vocation for which training is sought, but have not completed secondary school, provision is made at the College to bring their educational level up to the standard required.

Recognition is given to the fact that many of the processes common to traditional formal education, for example, examination-dominated curricula and lecturer-dominated input, are inappropriate to the needs and capabilities of adult students. A rapidly growing resource and reading library, up-to-date audio-visual equipment, valuable and stimulating contributions from resource persons from the community and workshops on community issues, encourage the development of self-directed learning, and complement the best aspects of the more traditional methods.

Supervised practical work is provided for each student.

Assessment is an ongoing feature of all course work. It is conceptualised, not only as a means of evaluating the students competence on completion of a course, but as an essential part of the learning process, providing feedback which facilitates the integration and assimilation of knowledge and skills.

Requests have been made for several additional courses to be provided by the College. Most requests are in respect to training in areas for which no training currently exists, some however, reflect the demand for retraining and refresher courses.



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, whilst at the same time preserving 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 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 the Department are given financial support in accordance with the requirements of their placements. Wards who are not returned to their parents are generally placed in private institutions or fostering situations such as Group Homes, Scatter Cottages, or placed with relatives.

Below is a table which indicates the number of wards in such situations as at 30/6/75 and the cost to the Department for their care during the year under review:

	No. of Wards	Total Cost \$
Wards in Private Institutions .....	672	448 374
Wards in Foster Homes .....	1 476	1 449 673

The 1974/75 financial year saw substantial increases in basic subsidy rates, on the 1 October 1974 the rate was increased to \$13.50 per week for wards in Private Institutions (less \$1.00 per week donation by the Lotteries Commission when claimed).

Wards in foster homes are now subsidized at \$16.00 per week plus pocket money which is scaled according to the level of schooling achieved by the ward. See table below:

	\$
1st Year High School .....	0.50
2nd Year High School .....	1.00
3rd Year High School .....	1.50
4th and 5th Year High School .....	2.00

Special rates are paid for Group Homes and Scatter Cottages at \$15.00 per week for pre-School and Primary School children, and \$17.00 per week for High School children.

Pocket money is paid the same as for wards in foster homes.

In addition, the Department meets 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

Payments which are made to children fostered privately other than wards. These rates were increased from \$8.50 a week to \$10.00 per week as from 2 October 1974.

Since Welfare Branch was given the responsibility of payments to private foster children in October 1973 there has been a rapid expansion of expenditure in this field.

The following table sets out the number of children and families involved as at the 30/6/75 and the total cost for their care for the year.

	1973/74	1974/75
Number of children .....	334	446
Number of foster parents .....	208	308
Total cost during the year .....	\$150 420	\$244 417

The number of applications received during the year was 191. Many applications are for short periods only.



(b) *Mission Subsidies*

Subsidy is paid to 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 \$13.50 per week (less \$1.00 per week donation by the Lotteries Commission). For the year to 30/6/75 a total amount of \$44 191 was paid to missions for the care of children. Mission subsidy has increased considerably over the past 12 months as more parents are now eligible for alternative benefits granted by the Commonwealth Government, e.g., unemployment benefits, invalid pension, widow pension, double orphans pension, etc., the number of children being a factor in determining the amount payable.

	1973/74	1974/75
Mission Subsidy Expenditure	\$64 028	\$44 191

(c) *Preventative Payments*

Instances of family breakdown can quite often be avoided by 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 releases money from the "Preventative Fund". Expenditure in this way was \$20 879.

**Licensing**

The Licensing provisions exercised by the Department were introduced as a safeguard to "child exploitation" and as a protection for infant life.

The care of very young children by non-related persons is subject to the Director's control by special provisions of the Child Welfare Act. Foster mothers and Institutions undertaking the care of children under the age of six years, must be approved and licensed by the Department for this purpose.

Children who engage in any public performance for entertaining purposes for gain or reward in commercial advertising, or in street trading, must receive the prior approval of the Department.

**Foster Mothers and Institutions Caring for the Young**

There were a total of eleven licensed foster mothers caring privately for twelve unrelated children under six years for the year ending 30/6/75. For the same year there were eleven institutions licensed to care for a total of 264 infants.

**Children Involved in Public Performances and in Commercial Advertising**

During the year 84 licences were issued in respect of 2 267 children, mainly concerning children who were appearing in concerts organized by dancing schools and children's television programmes.

**Street Trading by Children**

During the past year 186 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 30/6/75 the Department issued 16 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 of those agrees and that the business to be conducted will not jeopardize the welfare and well-being resident on the reserve.

**Community Resources**

During this financial year the "Handicapped Child" allowance was initiated by the Commonwealth Government. The allowance recognises the constant care and attention that must be given to this type of child, and allows for an additional payment of \$10.00 to be made above the normal departmental subsidy rates paid to foster parents.

This scheme is one of the many that the Department continues to utilize for the benefit of its clientele. Other schemes are:

Double Orphan's Pension, Secondary and Tertiary Allowance, Subsidized Health Benefits, Invalid Pensions, N.E.A.T. Programme, Aboriginal Secondary Grants and Transport Assistance, also Dental Health Services, Hospital Benefits, M.V.I.T., Workers Compensation, etc.

Pursuance of these eligibilities and benefits necessitates close liaison with the various agencies and their staff.



RECORDS BRANCH

The records section has a staff of 29 officers. The majority of new clerical staff commence in this branch in order to receive a basic knowledge of all sections and branches of the Department. Once this has been achieved these officers are then transferred onto other sections and so make way for further incoming officers to learn the records function. Although a large percentage of the work is repetitive, there is a wide range of interesting activities such as Communications and micro filming. During the year productivity has been increased due to the enthusiasm of the staff together with the increasing use of mechanical aids such as micro film, telex, mail franking and a larger photocopy machine.

The continuing decentralization of the Department has created a need for a more complex recording system, together with improved communications between Head Office, field officers, institutions and other Departmental facilities. During the year 7 150 new files were created and there are at present 39 700 in storage at Head Office. These are readily available for use by all other sections and branches. In addition to these files held in Head Office a further 7 000 inactive files are held at the Government Records Repository at Dianella.

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 monies advanced.

In most instances continuing assistance was rendered to single parents with dependent children, such as deserted wives or husbands, unmarried mothers or wives of prisoners. Assistance was also extended to two parent families and single persons in emergency situations where no other avenue of support was available.

Variations in Rates

The rates of assistance have been reviewed and subsequently increased three times during the current financial year. An increase of \$5.00 per week (to \$31.00) in the rate paid for the parent was made on 14/8/74. An increase of 50 cents per week (to \$5.50) in the rate paid for each child and an increase of \$1.00 per week (to \$5.00) in the rent allowance were made from 6/11/74. Further increases in the rates paid to the parent (by \$5.00 per week to \$36.00) and each child (\$1.50 per week to \$7.00) were made on 7/5/75. Thus during the year the rate of assistance payable to this type of family increased on an average by approximately 30 per cent.

Units	27/3/74	14/8/74	6/11/74	7/5/75
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Parent .....	26.00	31.00	31.00	36.00
Parent and 1 child .....	35.00	40.00	40.50	47.00
Parent and 2 children .....	40.00	45.00	46.00	54.00
Parent and 3 children .....	45.00	50.00	51.50	61.00
Parent and 4 children .....	50.00	55.00	57.00	68.00
Parent and 5 children .....	55.00	60.00	62.50	75.00
Parent and 6 children .....	60.00	65.00	68.00	82.00
Parent and 7 children .....	65.00	70.00	73.50	89.00
Parent and 8 children .....	70.00	75.00	79.00	96.00

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year totalled \$1 746 378.00 after recoup of \$1 152 184.29 from the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Thus a total of \$2 898 562.29 was paid to families receiving assistance.

Expenditure	1973/74	1974/75
	\$	\$
Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons .....	1 400 148	1 589 972
Unemployment Relief .....	66 328	156 406
	1 466 476	1 746 378
Recovery of Assistance Paid to Families .....	245 443	263 520
Recovery of Maintenance of Wards .....	56 132	54 262



## Applications Granted

Category	1973/74			1974/75		
	New applications received	Receiving assistance as at 30 June		New applications received	Receiving assistance as at 30 June	
		Families	Children		Families	Children
Deserted Wives ....	2 821	780	1 737	3 278	1 066	2 309
Unmarried Mothers ....	664	205	224	617	246	286
Wives of Prisoners ....	332	62	139	320	59	136
Other ....	405	35	45	640	48	108
Total ....	4 222	1 082	2 145	4 855	1 419	2 839

## Mission Grants in Aid 1974/75

Mission	Details	Amount Paid \$
Amy Bethel ....	Furnishings for Cottage, Replace and renovate dormitory, Kitchen and Dining Room facilities ....	5 000.00
Balgo ....	Group Home, Laundry, Sewing, Ablutions ....	10 000.00
Catherine House....	Acquisition of Land, Construction ....	20 000.00
Cundeelee ....	Repair Lined Dam ....	2 500.00
Kalumburu ....	Sewerage Facilities, Pump ....	1 000.00
La Grange ....	Additional Costs 1973/74 Recreational Centre ....	4 000.00
Lombadina ....	Kitchen—Dining Hall Complex, Upgrade Kitchen Furniture Additional Costs 1973/74 Grant ....	5 000.00
Parkerville ....	Construction of Two New Cottages ....	40 000.00
Yaandina ....	Alterations and Additions to Buildings ....	62 787.99
		<u>\$150 287.99</u>

## Write Offs

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

	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
	\$	\$	\$
Maintenance of Wards ....	5 508	3 674	....
Maintenance of Aboriginal Wards ....	1 834	....	....
Recoverable Financial Assistance ....	18 777	31 662	25 576
	<u>26 119</u>	<u>35 336</u>	<u>25 576</u>

## Receipts in Suspense

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

1973/74	1974/75
\$	\$
319 809	286 283

## Savings Bank Funds—Wards

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

	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts ....	78	14	23
Balance as at 30 June ....	367	381	403

## Other Remittances Received for Banking Purposes

	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts ....	5 101	12 983	1 885
Balance as at 30 June ....	20 864	31 986	30 333



## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1975

1973/74		Particulars		Ward Expenditure					Departmental Institutions					
	\$			1974/75	General Admin.	Field Operations	Private Institutions	Boarded Out	Non Ward Inc. Migrant	Reserves	Financial Assistance	Assessment	Treatment	Hostels
				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
5 810 836	Salaries and Wages	...	...	7 855 918	1 409 346	2 461 651	...	...	...	...	...	1 583 387	1 669 079	732 455
135 644	Administration	...	...	215 067	215 067	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 851	Printing	...	...	38 456	19 228	19 228	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
60 372	Departmental Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
553 225	Field Expenses	...	...	835 523	...	785 231	...	...	50 292	...	...	...	...	...
794 880	Community Welfare Assistance	...	...	1 071 621	56 500	610 058	...	...	...	...	405 063	...	...	...
2 153 123	Maintenance of Children	...	...	2 406 790	...	...	448 374	1 449 673	508 743	...	...	...	...	...
142 139	Adoption of Children	...	...	145 175	...	...	...	...	145 175	...	...	...	...	...
1 400 148	Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	...	...	1 589 972	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 589 972	...	...	...
66 328	Unemployment Relief	...	...	156 406	...	...	...	...	...	...	156 406	...	...	...
763 630	Institutions	...	...	1 016 210	...	14 383	...	...	...	...	...	225 621	281 310	494 896
260 866	Residential Reserves	...	...	394 434	...	...	...	...	...	394 434	...	...	...	...
12 162 042	Total Payments	...	...	15 725 572	1 700 141	3 890 551	448 374	1 449 673	704 210	394 434	2 151 441	1 809 008	1 950 389	1 227 351
Against which Receipts were:—														
1. State:														
56 132	Maintenance of Children	...	...	54 262	...	...	...	54 262	...	...	...	...	...	...
228 005	Recoverable Assistance (Welfare and Asst. Act)	...	...	243 103	...	...	...	...	10 989	9 763	243 103	1 888	8 016	267 861
303 934	Other Revenue	...	...	406 501	87 567	...	...	...	15 000	118 845	4 500	3 899	3 899	6 397
...	Commonwealth:	...	...	37 719	...	18 219	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	Children's Commission	...	...	249 594	1 949	114 605	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	Dept. of Abor. Affairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
588 071	Total Receipts	...	...	991 179	89 516	132 824	...	54 262	25 989	128 608	268 020	5 787	11 915	274 258
11 573 971	NET EXPENDITURE	...	...	14 734 393	1 610 625	3 757 727	448 374	1 395 411	678 221	265 826	1 883 421	1 803 221	1 938 474	953 093



# Commonwealth Government Financial Grants 1974/75

## Department of Aboriginal Affairs

\$

### 1. Capital

Boulder Working Boy's Hostel	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27 000.00
Hostel Building Programme—Upgrading	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	379 376.27
Kalgoorlie Working Girl's Hostel	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6 500.00
Hamilton Hill Hostel	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4 000.00
Psychologist House—Kimberley	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	35 000.00
Derby Hostel	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	26 000.00
Fitzroy Crossing—Accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	42 000.00

### 2. Recurrent and Specific Purpose

Buses for Hostels	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	121 500.00
Furniture Programme	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15 000.00
Emergency Housing, North West	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	60 000.00
Homemaker Service	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	99 370.00
Kimberley Region	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	116 500.00

### 3. Employment

Group Worker Aides	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	48 500.00
Kimberley	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	52 500.00
Trainee Welfare Assistants	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2 800.00

\$1 036 046.27

## Children's Commission

### 1. Capital

Single Unit Kindergarten	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	58 000.00
Port Kennedy Children's Camp	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	103 000.00

### 2. Recurrent and Specific Purpose

Children's Playtime Co-ordinator	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2 779.00
Holiday Camps....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15 000.00
Crisis Care Centre—Professional Staff Costs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25 000.00
Child Abuse Seminar	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7 000.00
Toy Library	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3 000.00
Child Care Advisory Staff	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	62 541.00
In-Service Training—Child Care Centre Staff	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10 000.00
Training Allowance for Sub Professional Staff for Child Care Centres	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15 000.00

\$301 320.00

Grand Total .... \$1 337 366.27



# STATISTICS







TABLE 1  
STATUS, NUMBERS AND PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER NOTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT  
AS AT 30 JUNE 1975

<b>1. Wards</b>										
1.1	In Departmental Institutions—									
	Mt. Lawley Reception Home	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	31
	Longmore	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	53
	Bridgewater	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	61
	Riverbank	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	36
	Hillston	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	81
	Nyandi	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
	McCall Centre	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
										<hr/>
										296
1.2	In Departmental Hostels—									
	Tudor Lodge	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
	Fourteen	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
	Stuart House	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
	Watson Lodge	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
	Bennett House	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
										<hr/>
										20
1.2.1	In Educational Accommodation—									
	Metropolitan Hostels	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
	Country Hostels	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	53
										<hr/>
										54
1.3	In Denominational Children's Institutions—									
	Roman Catholic	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	222
	Anglican	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	17
	Presbyterian	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
	Salvation Army	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23
	Methodist	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	43
	Church of Christ	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	96
	Baptist	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
	Seventh Day Adventist	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	53
										<hr/>
										554
1.4	In Non-Denominational Children's Institutions									
										118
1.5	In Subsidized Foster Homes (including relatives)									
										1 668
1.6	Self-Supporting (in Foster Homes and other)									
										618
1.7	In Care of Parents									
										1 626
1.8	Miscellaneous (in gaol, hospital, absconded or missing and other)									
										188
										<hr/>
										4 218
<b>2. Migrant Children</b>										
2.1	Institutions									
										9
2.2	In Board and Employment									
										54
										<hr/>
										63
<b>3. Other Children</b>										
3.1	Denominational Missions									
										17
3.2	Departmental Hostels									
										403
										<hr/>
										420
<b>4. Children Under 6 Years of Age</b>										
4.1	Placed Privately with Foster Parents or in Institutions									
										579
4.2	Daycare Centres, Family Care Centres and Occasional Care Centres									
										2 285
										<hr/>
										2 864
5.	Children Under Guardianship Pending Adoption									
										453
6.	Children in Families Receiving Monetary Assistance including 446 Private Foster Cases									
										3 285
										<hr/>
										12 227
										<hr/>



TABLE 2  
JUVENILE OFFENCES

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

		1972/73			1973/74			1974/75		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Offences against property	(A)	7 588	807	8 395	7 701	907	8 608	7 874	1 090	8 964
	(B)	3 112	447	3 559	3 399	595	3 994	3 360	647	4 007
	(C)	2 074	351	2 425	2 270	462	2 732	2 200	583	2 783
Offences against person	(A)	271	26	297	319	29	348	306	33	339
	(B)	217	17	234	247	22	269	245	25	270
	(C)	152	9	161	186	13	199	177	17	194
Offences against good order	(A)	1 578	312	1 890	1 669	414	2 083	1 813	409	2 222
	(B)	649	232	881	615	278	893	747	303	1 050
	(C)	403	156	559	460	172	632	468	152	620
Total	(A)	9 437	1 145	10 582	9 689	1 350	11 039	9 993	1 532	11 525
	(B)	3 978	696	4 674	4 261	895	5 156	4 352	975	5 327
	(C)	2 629	516	3 145	2 916	647	3 563	2 845	752	3 597

(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 30 June 1975

		Male	Female	Total
Released to Parents	(A)	151	31	182
	(B)	135	43	178
Released to Relatives	(A)	15	4	19
	(B)	19	11	30
Released to persons other than relatives	(A)	4	2	6
	(B)	3	1	4
Released to employment	(A)	8	...	8
	(B)	22	1	23
Placed in Riverbank or Longmore	(A)	17	...	17
	(B)	206	...	206
Placed in Hillston	(A)	30	...	30
	(B)	198	...	198
Placed in independent institutions	(A)	39	13	52
	(B)	72	18	90
Placed in Neuville	(A)	...	...	...
	(B)	...	4	4
Placed with foster parents	(A)	27	13	40
	(B)	65	33	98
Placed in Nyandi	(A)	...	10	10
	(B)	...	65	65
TOTALS	(A)	291	73	364
	(B)	720	176	896

(A) Committed to care of Department.

(B) Re-committed to care of Department.

Note that most of the 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, 1975.

	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	1	....	1	1	1	2	2	....	2	2	2	4	1	3	4
Neglect (involving sexual misconduct)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Truancy	2	2	4	1	1	2	2	....	2	2	1	3	3	1	4	5	1	6
Breaking terms of probation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
TOTAL	3	2	5	2	1	3	3	1	4	4	1	5	5	3	8	6	4	10

	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	....	....	....	....	2	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	2
Neglect (generally uncontrolled)	4	8	12	3	20	23	1	20	21	3	12	15	....	4	4	19	70	89
Neglect (involving sexual misconduct)	....	4	4	....	12	12	....	11	11	....	8	8	....	4	4	....	39	39
Truancy	8	1	9	2	5	7	....	4	4	....	....	....	....	....	....	25	16	41
Breaking terms of probation	....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1
TOTAL	12	13	25	6	39	45	1	35	36	3	20	23	....	8	8	45	127	172

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, 1975.

Reason for Appearance				AGE									
				Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Parental Neglect	....	....	Boys	14	7	9	5	6	5	7	6	5	5
			Girls	14	9	7	4	2	5	5	5	6	6
Destitution	....	....	Boys	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1	....
			Girls	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
TOTAL	....	....	Boys	14	7	9	5	6	6	7	6	6	5
			Girls	15	9	7	4	2	5	5	5	6	6
GRAND TOTAL	....	....	....	29	16	16	9	8	11	12	11	12	11

Reason for Appearance				AGE								TOTAL
				10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Parental Neglect	....	....	Boys	4	7	2	3	1	1	....	1	88
			Girls	3	6	5	3	8	7	3	....	98
Destitution	....	....	Boys	....	1	....	1	1	1	....	....	6
			Girls	....	....	....	....	....	2	2	....	5
TOTAL	....	....	Boys	4	8	2	4	2	2	....	1	94
			Girls	3	6	5	3	8	9	5	....	103
GRAND TOTAL	....	....	....	7	14	7	7	10	11	5	1	197



**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 30 June 1975

Court Decision	Male	Female	Total
Dismissed .....	1	3	4
Dismissed with Supervision .....	.....	1	1
Placed on probation .....	4	15	19
Committed to care of Department .....	122	208	330
Recommitted to care of Department .....	13	6	19
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>373</b>

"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 30 June 1975

Departmental Disposal	Male	Female	Total
Released to parents .....	43	75	118
Released to relatives .....	10	15	25
Released to other than relatives .....	3	1	4
Placed with foster parents .....	58	89	147
Released to employment .....	.....	1	1
Placed in independent institutions .....	15	23	38
Placed in Neuville .....	.....	2	2
Placed in Hillston .....	5	.....	5
Placed in Nyandi .....	.....	8	8
Placed in Riverbank .....	1	.....	1
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>349</b>

"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.



TABLE 8  
MINISTERIAL COMMITTALS

Children placed under the care of the Department for Community Welfare by means of Ministerial Committal for the year ended 30 June 1975

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

					AGE								
					10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Section 47A	....	....	Boys	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	4	
			Girls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	
Section 47B	....	....	Boys	....	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	5	
			Girls	....	....	....	1	3	1	1	....	7	
Section 47C	....	....	Boys	....	2	1	2	3	....	1	1	41	
			Girls	....	3	....	....	....	6	1	3	27	
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	5	2	2	4	9	4	6	85	

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—1974/75

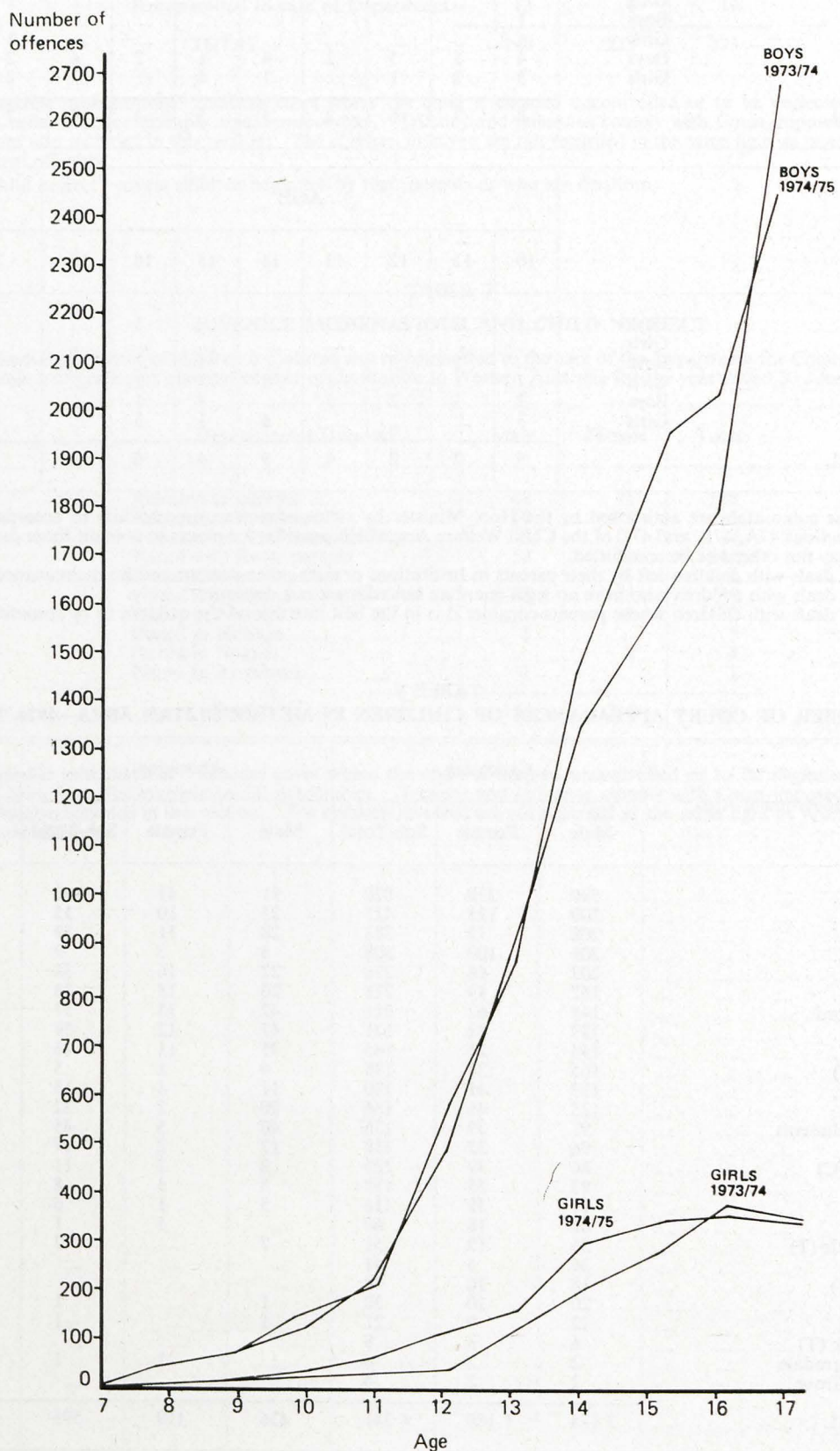
Local Government Area	Caucasian			Aboriginal			Total
	Male	Female	Sub-Total	Male	Female	Sub-Total	
Stirling	590	230	820	91	41	132	952
Perth (C)	300	125	425	25	10	35	460
Belmont	208	75	283	28	11	39	322
Melville (T)	208	100	308	6	3	9	317
Canning	208	68	276	22	16	38	314
Bayswater	182	89	271	20	18	38	309
Swan-Guildford	144	67	211	42	15	57	268
Cockburn	139	32	171	47	12	59	230
Kwinana	144	21	165	35	11	46	211
Fremantle (C)	165	33	198	4	1	5	203
Gosnells	139	41	180	11	4	15	195
Wanneroo	125	41	166	20	2	22	188
Armadale-Kelmscott	97	39	136	40	5	45	181
Mundaring	96	22	118	17	2	19	137
South Perth (C)	86	39	125	9	2	11	136
Bassendean	93	25	118	5	3	8	126
Kalamunda	77	39	116	5	1	6	122
Rockingham	42	18	60	....	1	1	61
East Fremantle (T)	36	15	51	7	....	7	58
Subiaco	36	5	41	....	....	....	41
Claremont (T)	18	16	34	....	....	....	34
Cottesloe (T)	20	10	30	1	....	1	31
Nedlands (C)	12	9	21	1	....	1	22
Mosman Park (T)	6	3	9	....	....	....	9
Serpentine-Jarradale	2	2	4	....	1	1	5
Peppermint Grove	2	2	4	....	....	....	4
TOTAL	3 175	1 166	4 341	436	159	595	4 936



**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).  
1974/75

AGE (Years)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	TOTAL
BOYS	1	29	88	181	248	567	968	1454	1921	2045	2491	9993
GIRLS	1	2	5	13	47	91	133	273	338	328	301	1532
TOTALS.	2	31	93	194	295	658	1101	1727	2259	2373	2792	11525





GRAPH 2

JUVENILE OFFENCES

Children  
Appearing

Number of Children appearing in Children's Courts  
in Western Australia 1964/65, 1972/73, 1973/74  
and 1974/75

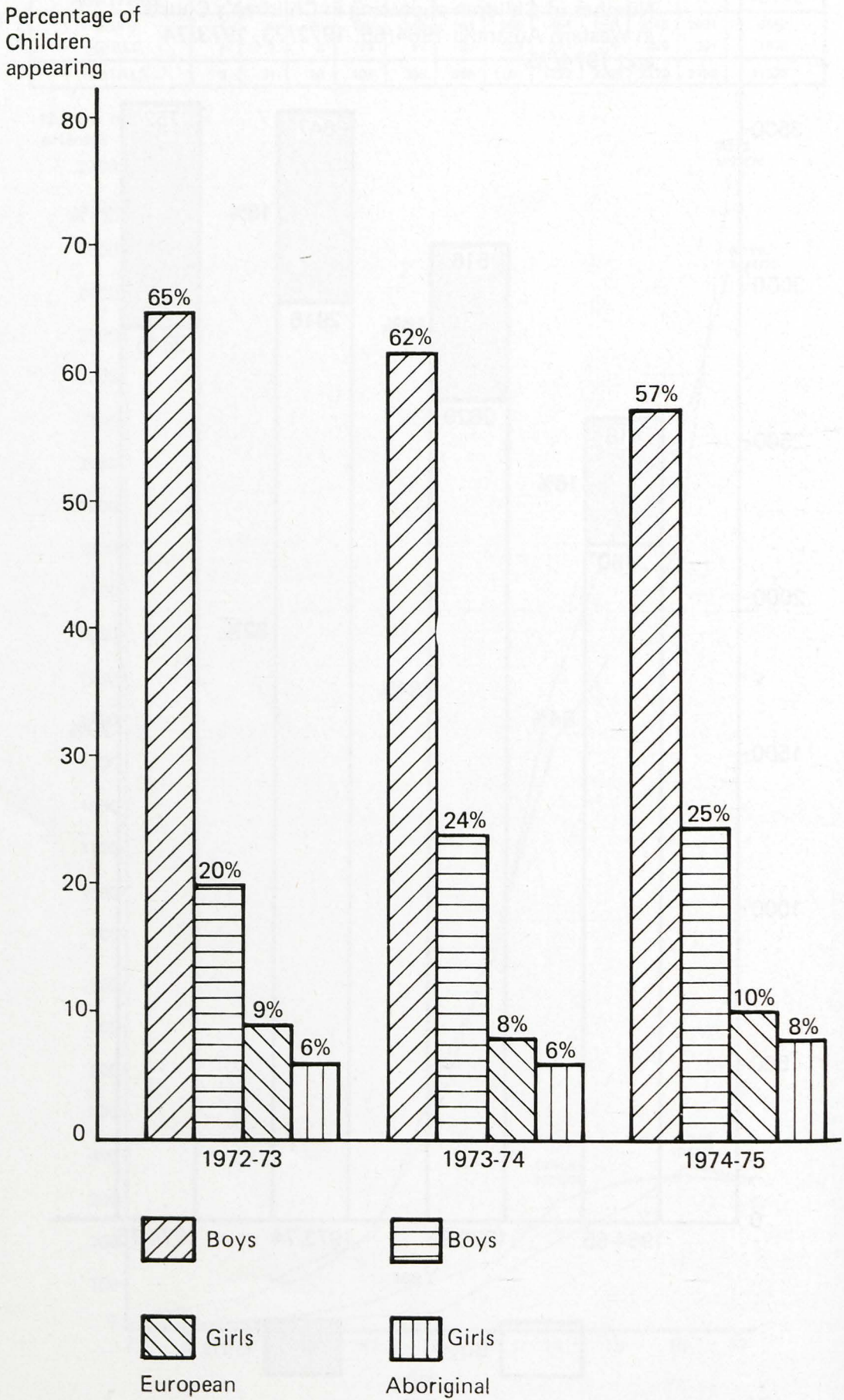




GRAPH 3

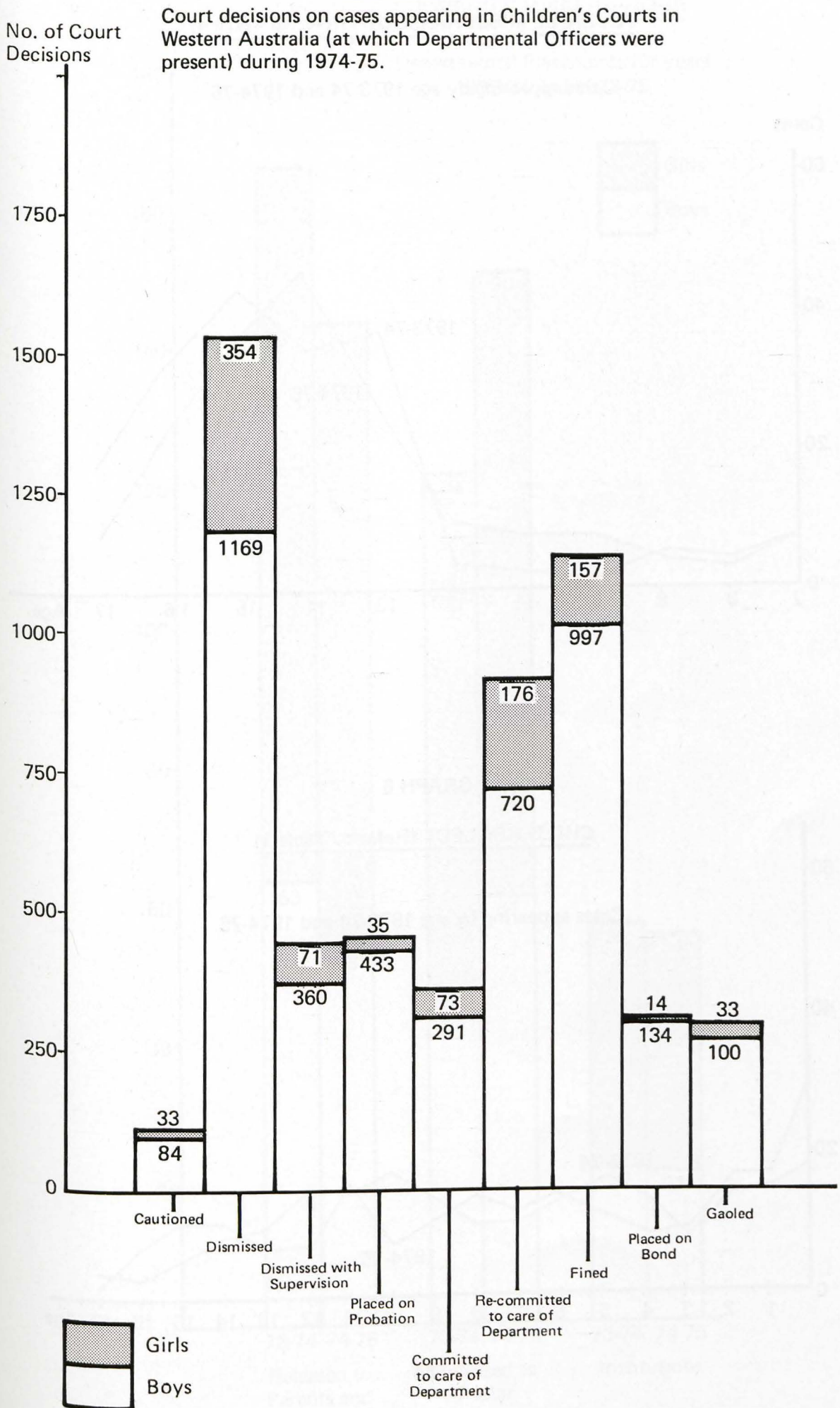
JUVENILE OFFENCES

Aboriginal and European children appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia during 1974/75





**GRAPH 4**  
**JUVENILE OFFENCES**

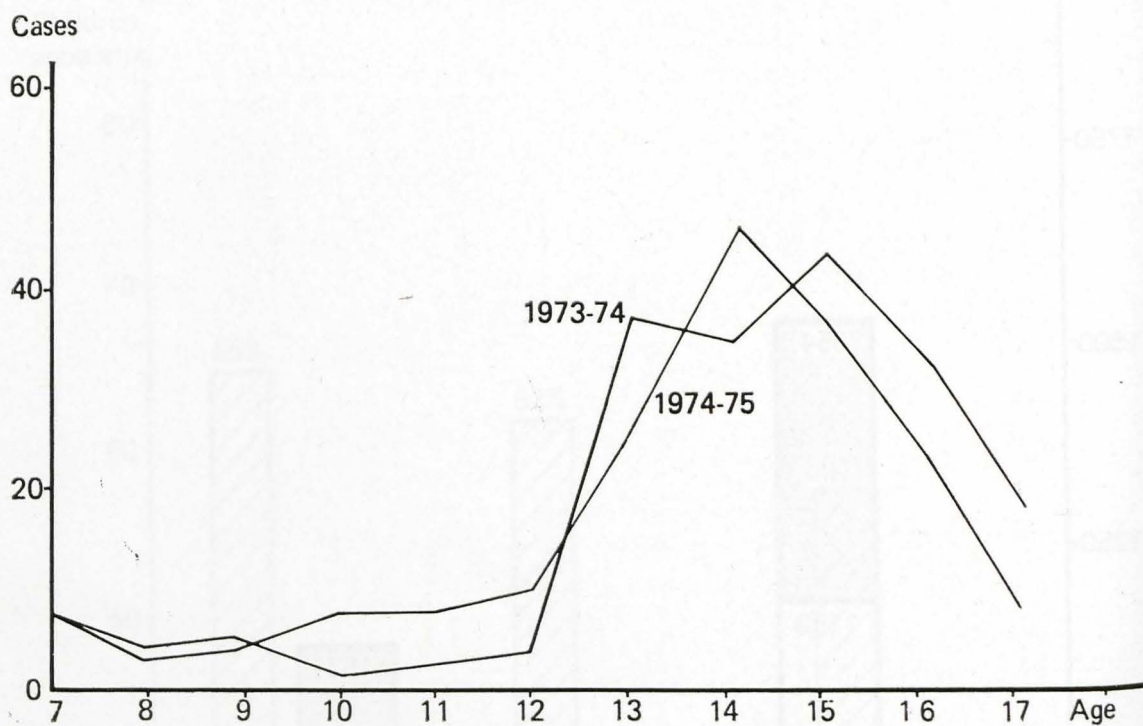




GRAPH 5

JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR (Refer to Table 4)

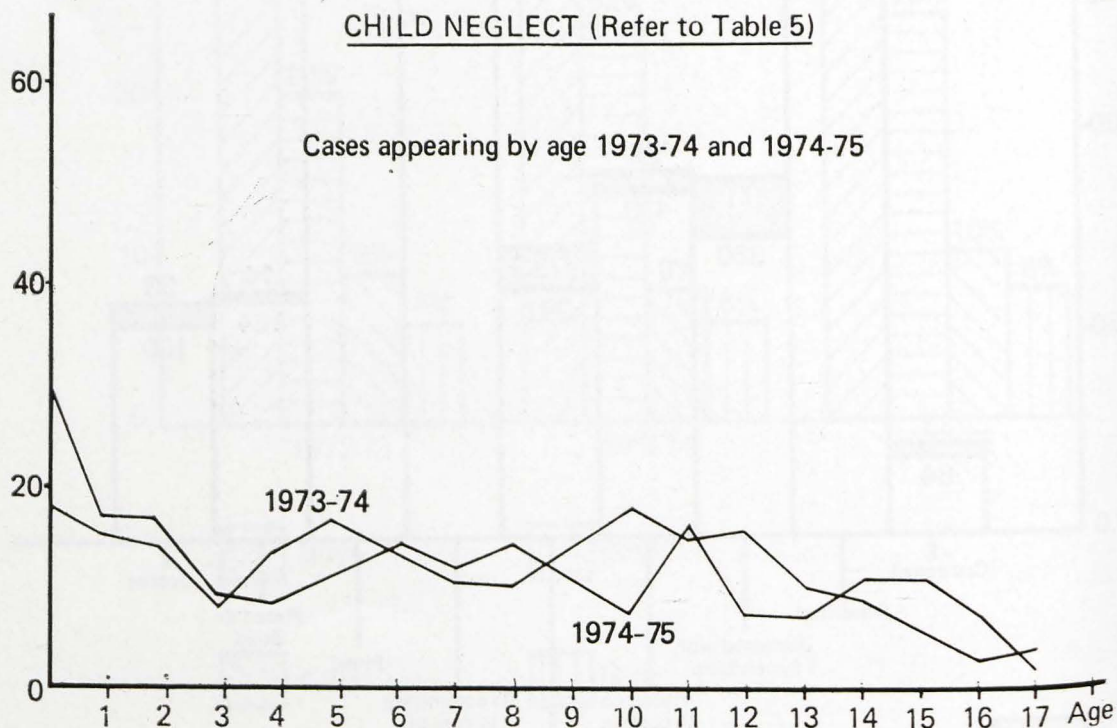
Cases appearing by age 1973-74 and 1974-75



GRAPH 6

CHILD NEGLECT (Refer to Table 5)

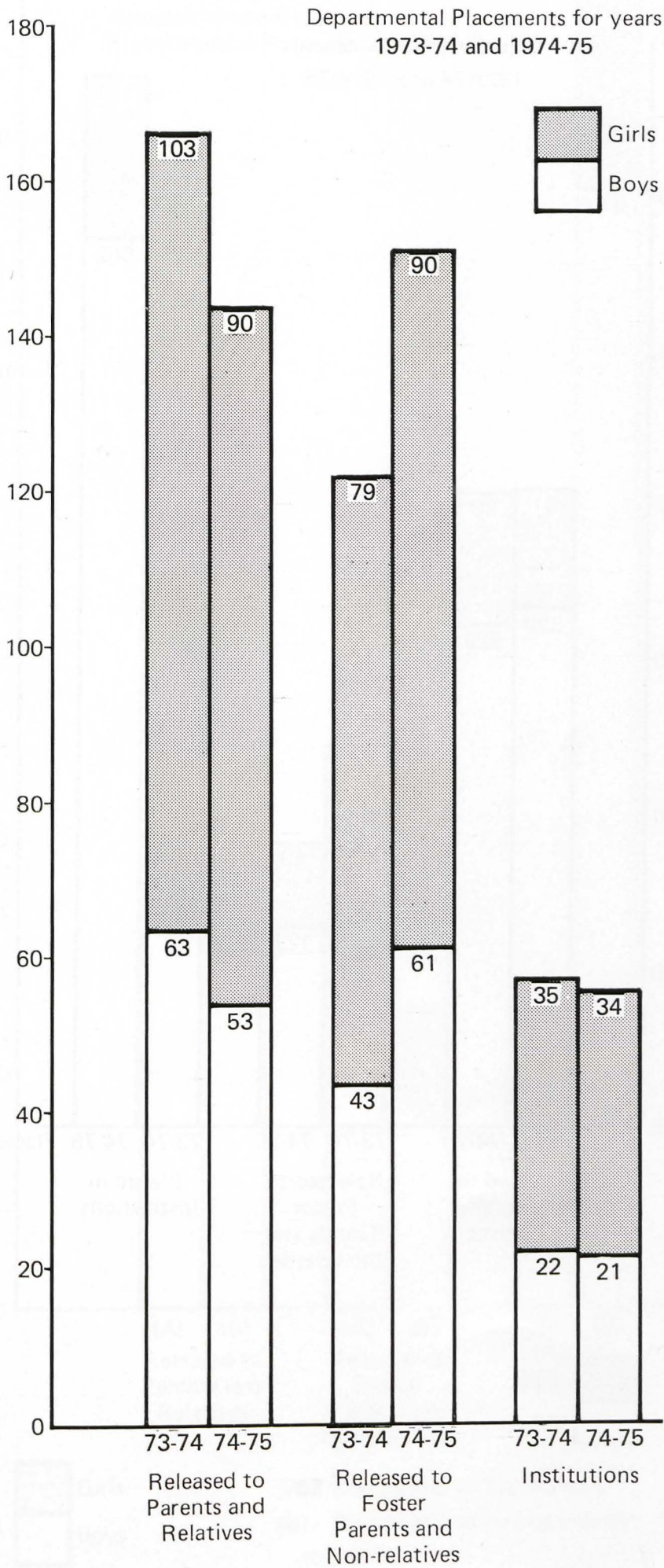
Cases appearing by age 1973-74 and 1974-75





GRAPH 7

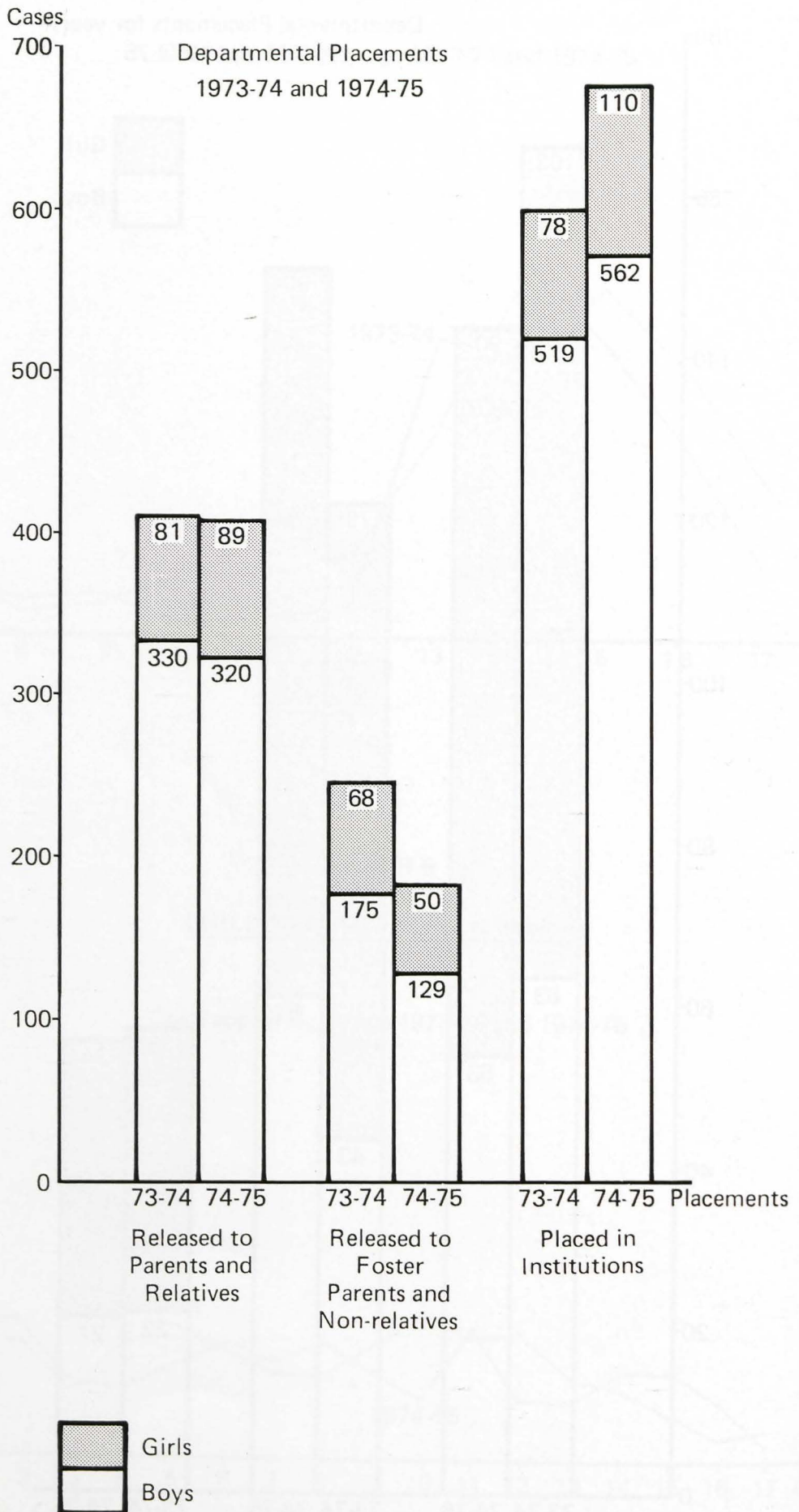
CHILD NEGLECT  
DESTITUTION AND  
JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR





GRAPH 8

JUVENILE OFFENDERS





GRAPH 9

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Committal and Re-committal  
Departmental Placements — 1974-75

