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WES

LEGALISATION OF  
PERMANENT HOME FOR  
CHILD

RESTORATION OF  
CHILD TO FAMILY

INTENSIVE  
FAMILY  
SUPPORT

PLAN FOR CHILD'S  
LONG-TERM FUTURE

TEMPORARY  
OUT OF HOME  
CARE

COUNSELLING

FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE

PREVENTIVE  
WORK WITH  
FAMILY

SHORT TERM  
CARE



DEPARTMENT FOR  
COMMUNITY WELFARE  
WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA

# ANNUAL REPORT 1980-81





Western  
Australia  
1980 - 1981



# Department for Community Welfare

## Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 1981

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Front cover—Decision Tree—A pictorial representation of permanency planning, a major recommendation of the Children in Limbo Study.



Western  
Australia  
1980 - 1981

THE HON. W. R. B. HASSELL,  
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE.

Sir;

In accordance with Section 11 of the Community Welfare Act 1972-79, I hereby submit a report on the work of the Department for Community Welfare for the year ended 30th June, 1981.

K. A. MAINE  
DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 1981

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

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# 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

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# INTRODUCTION

The information contained in the report represents a broad overview of the Department's services and responsibilities and the discharge of those responsibilities by dedicated staff throughout the State. The report underlines the Department's achievements through the year, despite financial and staff restrictions and the ever increasing public need for the services it provides.

The past year has been noteworthy for the participation by the Department in projects associated with community development and homeless Aborigines. The latter is highlighted by the opening of Cullacabardee Village, a project the Department has been associated with through its Special Task Force created to plan and co-ordinate the housing of homeless Aboriginal fringe dwellers in the Swan Valley. It is also pleasing to note that throughout the State and particularly in the North West, residential reserves are progressively being closed as conventional or village style housing becomes available.

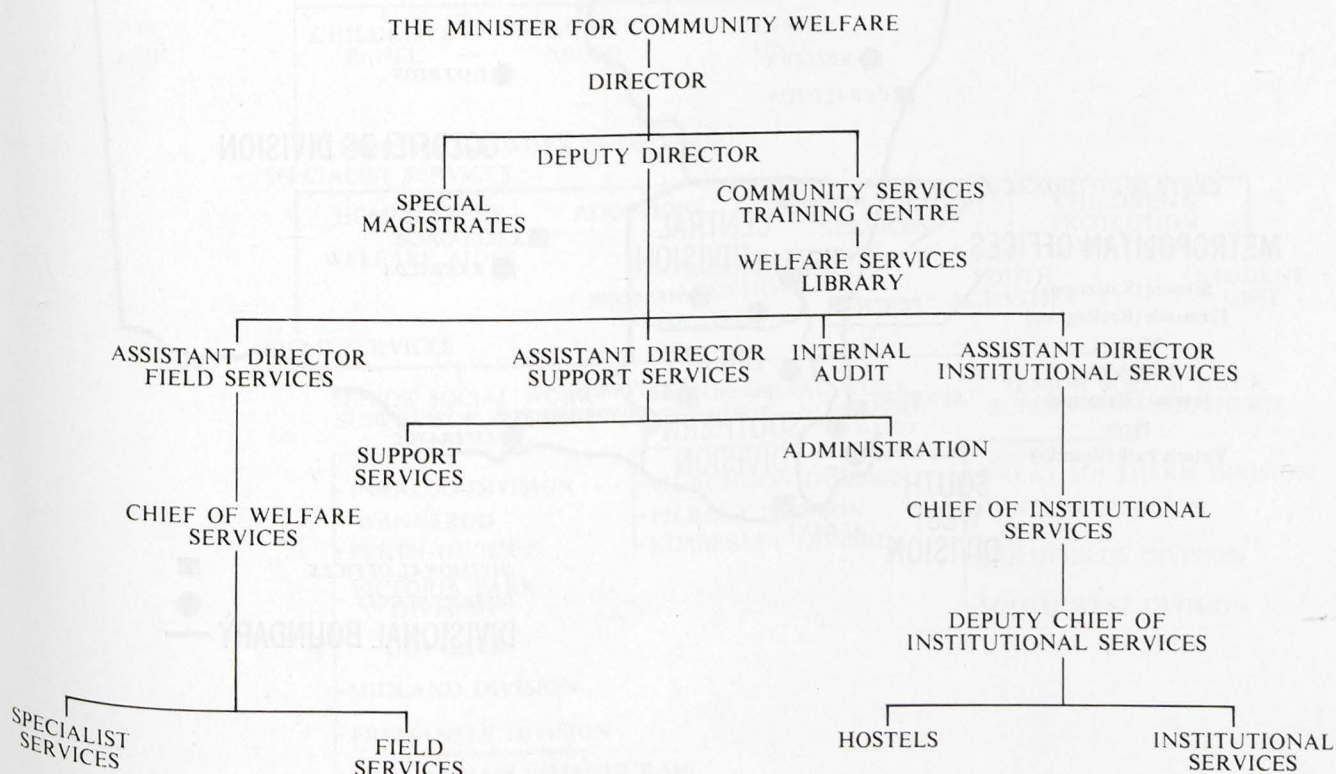
A research project which commenced in 1979, culminated in the release of the report entitled "Children in Limbo". The report is of major significance to the Department as well as creating much interest in welfare organisations throughout Australia.

Changing community attitudes towards emotional and sexual abuse of children has led to the establishment of the Children's Protection Service. The new section is an amalgamation of the Child Life Protection Unit and the newly created specialist services for child sexual abuse.

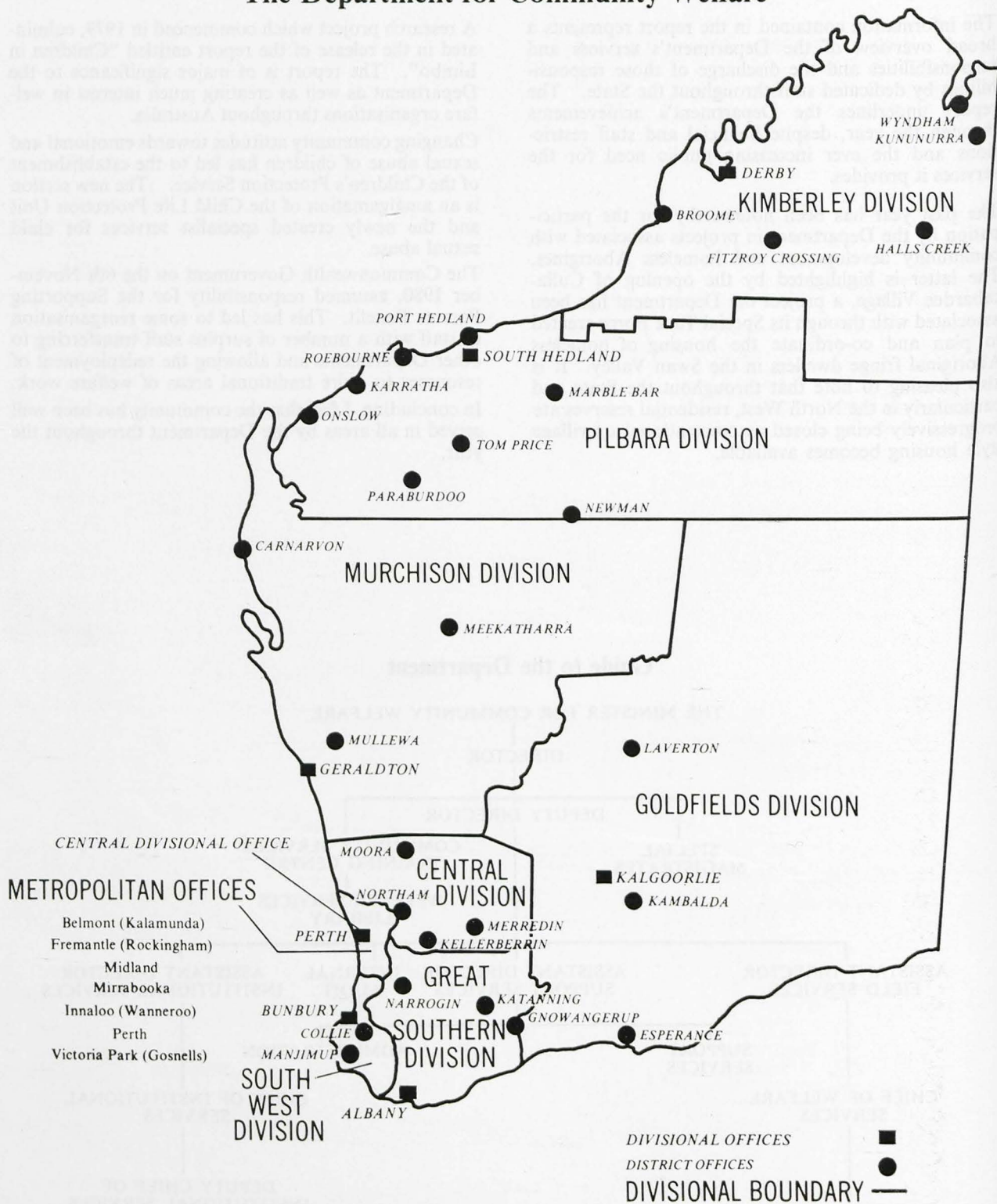
The Commonwealth Government on the 6th November 1980, assumed responsibility for the Supporting Parents Benefit. This has led to some reorganisation of staff with a number of surplus staff transferring to other Departments and allowing the redeployment of resources to more traditional areas of welfare work.

In concluding, I feel that the community has been well served in all areas by the Department throughout the year.

## Guide to the Department



# Divisional and District Offices of The Department for Community Welfare





# FIELD SERVICES

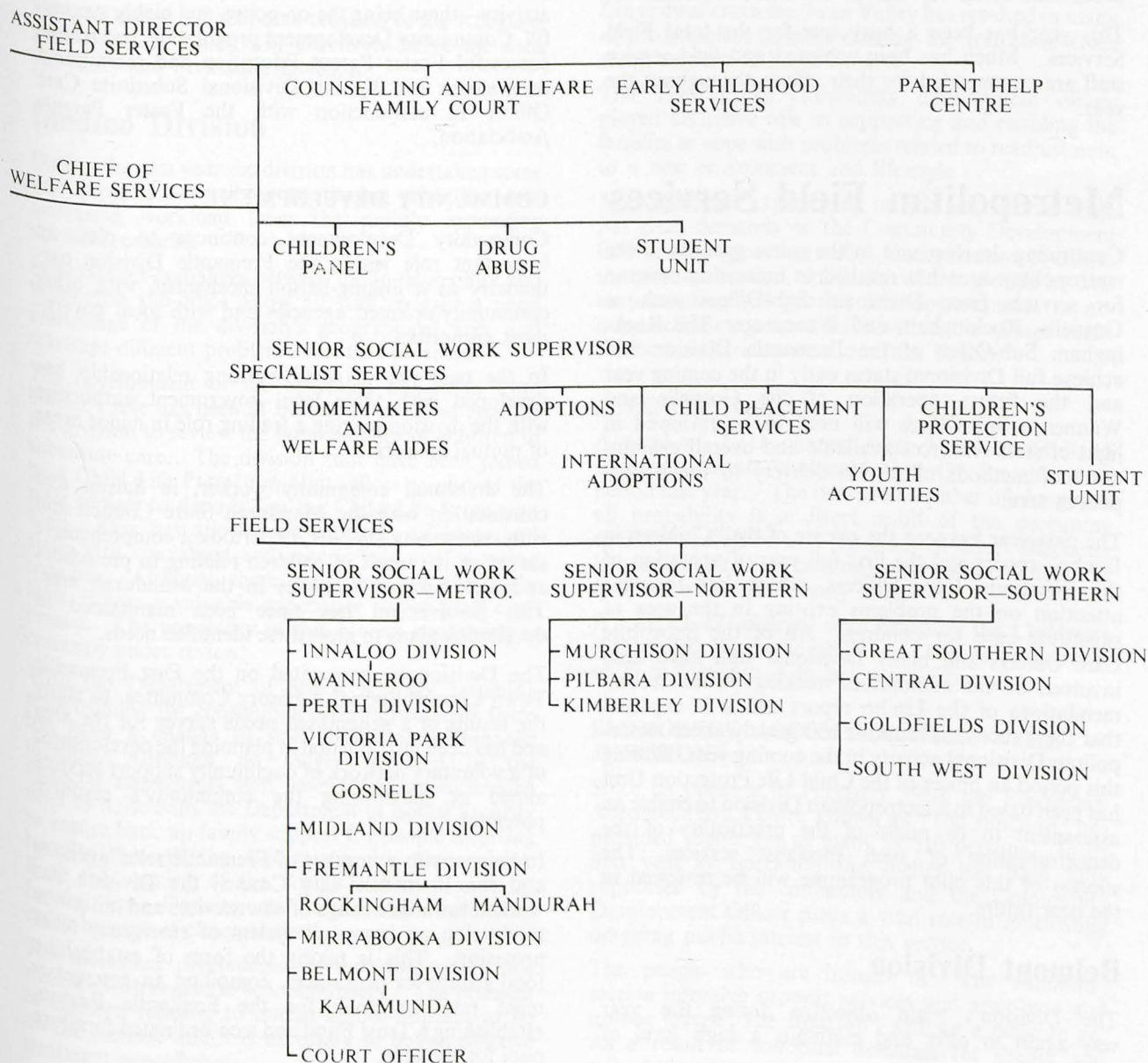
During the past year a number of positive developments have occurred within the Department's Field Services. A major initiative has been in the area of child protection with the creation of the Sexual Abuse Unit. The Child Protection Service will be responsible for the Sexual Abuse Unit and the service will be transferred from head Office to Subiaco at the beginning of the next financial year and this will enable improved accessibility by the public to this service.

During this last year planning was finalised for the creation of a new division for the districts in the Rockingham area. This will considerably improve the Department's services within such a rapidly developing area. Similarly, due to continued demands for services in the Norseman area, an office was opened in the latter part of the year.

The Parent Education and Assistance Project located at Fremantle, has been a most successful programme for single parents in that area. A contractual arrangement between the Department and the Fremantle City Council was developed, which transferred management of the Project to the Council. This initiative is the first of its kind within the Department's Field Services, and the benefits arising from such a development will be examined with interest.

Within the Field Services there has been an increasing awareness of the importance of the voluntary sector to the total framework of welfare. Staff have recognised more than ever the importance of developing close working relationships between the Department and voluntary agencies in order to optimise services to the public. Further encouragement to the voluntary

## Guide to Field Services





sector is anticipated, both to provide an important adjunct to the Departmental provisions, and to stimulate developments.

Staff should be commended for the initiatives taken this year in the preparation of proposals to the important programme resulting from the Children in Limbo study. The policy which will be formed from this study and its evaluation will benefit both the Department, its staff and especially clients whom it serves.

The recognition of increased financial restraints is a constant concern throughout Field Services, particularly to the extent where this affects staffing and programme expenditure. Added to this, the awareness of increasing charges and the substantial demand for emergency assistance by clients suggests the strong possibility of further pressure on Departmental services in the future. In order to meet such increasing needs and pressures, the field service staff are continually conscious of maintaining efficient service delivery. In order to improve efficiency, examination and an evaluation of the roles of staff, divisional operations, and organisational management are occurring within the field with an aim towards using existing resources in the most purposeful way. New initiatives are remaining in the forefront of the field's thinking in order that better services to the client are achieved.

This year has been a busy one for the total Field Services. Much has been achieved and field service staff are commended for their efforts throughout the year.

## Metropolitan Field Services

Continuing development in the outer suburbs of the metropolitan area has resulted in increasing demand for services from Divisional Sub-Offices such as Gosnells, Rockingham and Wanneroo. The Rockingham Sub-Office of the Fremantle Division will achieve full Divisional status early in the coming year and the future operation of the Gosnells and Wanneroo Sub-Offices will need to be reviewed in light of staff resources available and overall examination of methods of service delivery to the metropolitan area.

The past year has seen the release of the "Children in Limbo" report and the first full year of operation of the Substitute Care Officers, which has focussed attention on the problems existing in the area of substitute care for children. All of the Substitute Care Officers and many Divisional staff have been involved on the committees working on the recommendations of the Limbo report and it is expected that these recommendations will greatly affect metropolitan Divisional activity in the coming year. During this period an officer of the Child Life Protection Unit has been based in a metropolitan Division to enable an assessment to be made of the practicality of the decentralisation of such specialist services. The success of this pilot programme will be reviewed in the near future.

## Belmont Division

The Division's main objective during the year was again to offer and maintain a high level of service.

The most progressive area of Divisional work was in the area of substitute care and youth services. A substitute care officer was appointed to the Division in February. This has allowed the Division to start reviewing and planning for children in foster care.

A youth group, in conjunction with the Canning Shire Council, was established in the Queens Park Community Centre. The group meets two nights per week and is attended by approximately 30 children/teenagers per night. This most successful venture is supervised by two Departmental peer group leaders who provide the local children with somewhere to meet and identify with. Emphasis is placed on improving their socialisation skills by way of indoor and outdoor activities with regular night and sometimes weekend excursions.

Finally, the Department's overall commitment to the community has been enhanced by the dedicated work of the Homemakers and Welfare Assistants. In addition to working with individuals and families they are also involved in a variety of group activities that are designed to improve the quality of life.

## Fremantle Division

There have been two main focal points in Divisional activity—these being the on-going, and highly successful, Community Development programme, and a most successful Foster Parent Education and recruitment programme run by the Divisional Substitute Care Officer in conjunction with the Foster Parents Association.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development continues to play an important role within the Fremantle Division particularly as a linking-liaison mechanism with other community-oriented agencies and with local government authorities.

In the past year a close working relationship has developed with three local government authorities with the division playing a leading role in major areas of mutual concern.

The divisional community worker, in liaison and consultation with the Mandurah Shire Council and with community support, undertook a comprehensive survey of the needs of children relating to pre-school and out-of-school activities in the Mandurah area. This involvement has since been maintained in developing plans to meet these identified needs.

The Division is represented on the East Fremantle Town Council Special Advisory Committee, to study the results of a generalised needs survey for the area and has been instrumental in planning the development of a voluntary network of community support services aimed at maximising the community's resource potential.

In liaison with a number of Fremantle relief agencies and the Fremantle City Council the Division has worked towards a range of new services and initiatives to develop an improved system of emergency relief provision. This is taking the form of establishing food groups for pensioners, compiling an emergency relief resource book for the Fremantle Region, establishing a Trust Fund and a co-ordinated furniture pool for the area.



Through its involvement the Fremantle Division is strengthening community supports in its endeavour to minimize family crises and hardship.

### **FOSTER CARE PROGRAMME**

Since February this year, Fremantle Division, together with the Foster Parents Association has been endeavouring to bring foster care to the attention of the public. Talks have been given to schools, church groups and other community associations; posters have been displayed in libraries, doctors' surgeries, child health clinics and shops; pamphlets, car stickers and bookmarks have been distributed at various shopping centres. The media was asked to help and the A.B.C. quickly responded with a segment on Nationwide and a feature on its morning talk-back radio programme. Likewise, *The West Australian* and local newspapers have featured articles on fostering.

To date the response has been encouraging. We have had approximately 20 couples apply to foster and requests for more information are being received daily.

Foster care plays a vital role in providing substitute care for children unable to live at home and a continual educational and promotional programme is needed to bring this important service to the awareness of the community.

1981/82 brings the proposed creation of the Rockingham Division, which will effectively halve the area served by the Fremantle Division.

### **Innaloo Division**

During the past year the division has undertaken some new projects as well as continuing with the ever increasing workload from the rapidly expanding northern suburbs.

Internal staff exchanges between the Innaloo office and Wanneroo sub-office allow all staff to gain a good knowledge of the division's geographical area and resultant different problems that that presents.

The development of the Specialist Substitute Care Officer's role has been of benefit to staff and enabled the division to review the large number of children in substitute care. The division staff have been joined by a Child Life Protection Unit officer as part of the pilot project to decentralise the Child Life Protection Unit. This has allowed an exchange of ideas and skills with specialised and generic field staff working together. Although there were some teething problems, it was a valuable experience for all staff concerned. The possibility of this project continuing is currently under review.

With the Department of Social Security assuming responsibility for continuous benefits payments there has been a change in staff utilisation within the division. Although no longer involved in the financial assessments staff have found an increasing need to liaise with the Department of Social Security to ensure back up family support for people receiving benefits through the Commonwealth Department. With the opening of the Social Security Branch at Innaloo inter Departmental relationships have been easier because of close proximity.

The divisional psychologist is involved with some research with regard to school refusers. The problem of children refusing to attend school appears to be on the increase and it is necessary to devise effective treatment procedures.

The Homemaker Activities Centre has been used extensively over the past year for activities such as a playgroup, an aboriginal kindergarten and a women's activity group. These group activities have been set back by the need to vacate the premises which have been used over the past years and attempts are being made to obtain a new venue.

The Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel and Children's Court continue to place increasing demands on divisional staff with the need for more and more Panel sittings to cope with the increasing number of children appearing.

Overall it appears that much of the division's work of the past year has been to enable people in the community to cope with the ever increasing economic stress. The divisional goals for next year will be a continuation of this with a consideration of a relocation of the division in order to be somewhat more centrally located within the geographical boundaries.

### **Midland Division**

The highlight of the year has been the opening of Cullacabardee village. The culmination of three years of planning and consultation with Aboriginal fringe dwellers in the Swan Valley has resulted in many of the homeless families making the transition from camp dwellers to home tenants.

The Task Force community development officer played an active role in supporting and enabling the families to cope with problems related to readjustment to a new environment and life-style.

The difficulties experienced in this transitional stage put great demands on the Community Development Officer and supporting staff. Concentration of efforts towards motivation, solidarity of the groups as well as promoting self growth and opportunities to acquire self-management skills within the village itself. (Refer to separate report on Task Force).

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

A total of 2 211 charges were heard at Midland Children's Court compared to 1 439 for the same period last year. The increased number of charges in all probability is a direct result of the deepening economic recession and the kinds of direct effects on low-income families causing stress and breakdown of controls within the family unit.

A total of 227 charges were heard by the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panels. This is an increase of 57 in comparison to last year's figures.

### **EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION—"THE JUNCTION"**

Since its opening in February 1980, the Emergency Accommodation Centre known as "The Junction" has provided shelter for as many as 310 persons. In its first year of operation the shelter has been fully supported by the community and the Community Development Officer plays a vital role in motivating on-going public interest in this service.

The people who are housed at "The Junction" receive intensive support services and after-care and no-one leaves "The Junction" without a place to go. As a result of continual demands for shelter and refusal due to overcrowding, negotiations with the



Shire of Swan have resulted in obtaining a second property, situated in the vicinity of "The Junction". It is proposed to run the place as an extension to and on the same lines as "The Junction" whereby community involvement will still be encouraged.

## **Mirraboooka Division**

The new location of the Divisional staff, during the past year has enabled the continuation of extended contact and identification with the needs, successes and social problems of the suburbs served. Harmonious relationships with the staff of other agencies operating in the area have been a pleasant feature of the year's activities.

A significant aspect of the work has been the numbers of people who have sought assistance, both in personal services and material welfare.

During the year successful camps for local primary school children were held at Busselton, at which a total of 99 children attended. Family camps were also held at Lancelin.

The Homemakers continue to operate a house in which activities for local mothers are organised.

There have been several staff changes and shortages during the year, but at the end of the 1980/81 financial year the Division was only one short of full strength. The whole spectrum of work organisation is now under critical review and it is planned to introduce improved methods of service delivery which will enable a more effective way of helping people in need.

## **Perth Division**

Perth Division serves a diverse and varied population in a narrow strip extending from Dianella to Cottesloe, which of course, includes the inner Perth area.

The inner suburbs of the city have always attracted a more transient population than the outer more settled suburbs and the present difficult economic climate is both increasing the numbers and exacerbating the problems of that population. Monitoring the work of the Duty Officer during a five month period showed that 40 per cent of all referrals were to do with immediate and practical needs i.e. food, clothing, furniture, finance and housing.

The Division has again been well served by the Substitute Care Officer in her role as adviser and consultant in areas of substitute care for children, and by its part-time staff of Welfare Assistants and Homemakers. A recent addition to the latter has been a Vietnamese speaking aide to assist in work with unaccompanied Indo-Chinese minors in the metropolitan area.

## **Victoria Park Division**

Whilst endeavouring to bring greater effect to the Division's statutory casework, the major goal for the past year was to increase preventive services to the community. In the circumstances, a good deal of success was achieved. The Division's statutory obligations, which rose substantially compared to the preceding year, again demanded the major part of the Division's attention. Some 1 200 children appeared before the Children's Court and 615 before the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel. The significant feature in this area of work was the increased number of children deriving from the Eastern

areas of the Division; areas covered by the Gosnells sub-office. These accounted for approximately half of the above totals. Rearrangement of staff members within the Division resulted in an additional officer being appointed to the location.

During the year, the Homemaker Centre at Gosnells was opened and is now well advanced in providing useful programmes and outlets for women. The work pertaining to substitute care of children within the Division was enhanced by the development of a specialist role for an officer to deal with all aspects of fostering and other forms of residential care. The Division's peer group programme for teenagers and holiday schemes for children were well planned and attended.

Despite heavy demands in the statutory area, the Division managed to play a more active role in preventive work, both through its own resources and in co-operation with other agencies. Assistance has been given to the development of community information centres, local child-care facilities and welfare research projects. An increased effort has been made to improve communication between the Division, local agencies and other Government Departments to ensure co-ordinated planning.

The objectives for the coming year revolve around developing more efficient systems of delivery of service to the community. Particular attention will be given to improving the Divisional response, both in terms of time and quality, to shorter term family crisis situations. Here, it is hoped, a more even balance between statutory duties and preventive work will be achieved.

## **Northern Country Field Services**

The past year has been a difficult one in maintaining staffing at optimum levels due to difficulties in recruiting suitably experienced, mature appropriately qualified field staff. However satisfactory progress was maintained.

The Department has continued developmental work with aboriginal groups. With progress that has been achieved in the village housing programmes at Go Go and Christmas Creek Stations, and projected rehousing of people of the Halls Creek Reserve and at Wiluna, the Department will be facing an increasing demand for supportive services such as the Homemaker Service.

There has been a trend particularly noticeable in some towns of growing demand for services from the non-aboriginal community of these northern towns. The Department is pleased to note the tendency for the community to view the Department as having a wider role than with the Aboriginal welfare only.

The last year has seen a continued decline in the number of offences for which children have been prosecuted. In some areas this decline has been quite dramatic. This is an especially encouraging trend when compared with the metropolitan area where numbers are rising though at a slower rate than in recent years. Casual factors resulting in these trends may be difficult to isolate without further research, however, field officers working in these small remote communities have given a great deal of attention to



juvenile offending, and to developing community based programmes for these children. Few offenders were referred to metropolitan remedial centres.

An encouraging development is the placement opportunity offered by aboriginal run pastoral enterprises, to Aboriginal youth who are offenders. Placement with these communities offers care, supervision, training and employment in a relevant cultural setting where the vocational skills learned and the lifestyle is appropriate and attractive to youths and girls from the towns where they face a more uncertain future. The youth training programmes at Millijidee and Noonkanbah are examples, while at Yandearra Station the Department has provided some funds to improve buildings to provide better facilities for such children referred there by Departmental Field Officers.

Funds were provided through a grant-in-aid scheme to an Aboriginal group known as the Waringari Association in Kununurra, to provide a group home which will be operated under contract with the Department, to provide care for a small number of children in the care of group parents who will most likely be aboriginal. This project further widens the range of services this group is already providing for many children both Aboriginal and European of Kununurra.

The Department is to review its policy and planning for residential reserves which now exist mainly in the north and in the Goldfields. An officer is to be seconded to this task to prepare a report and recommendations which is expected to be completed by the end of 1981.

The growing aspirations of Aborigines for more autonomy together with the growing services available through Commonwealth, State and voluntary organisations, has resulted in some tensions being created, where traditional relationships and living conditions are changing. In one instance an Aboriginal group who traditionally worked and lived on a station were forced to leave. A co-ordinated response from State and Federal Government agencies has resulted in their resettlement in a camp being provided with basic facilities on Crown land made available as a temporary reserve.

## Murchison Division

The Division has continued to concentrate on two major areas being firstly the delivery of a high quality case work service to statutory clients especially in the area of dependant and offending children and secondly in developing preventive youth activities to give disadvantaged children constructive alternatives to offending behaviour.

Because of this emphasis on case work services and regular formal reviews the Children in Limbo study found the Division with dramatically less cases of "Children in Limbo" than the Departmental average.

In the area of youth activities we are now well supported by the appointment of three Aboriginal Welfare Aides (in Carnarvon, Mullewa and Meekatharra) who are very valuable in communicating with, and running programmes for Aboriginal children.

Due to the imminent opening of two large Aboriginal housing projects at Wiluna and Carnarvon, we have lately been gearing up our services to help make the transition for the groups involved as positive an event as possible.

During the year the takeover of responsibility for Supporting Parents Benefits by the Commonwealth Government has allowed some deployment of resources to more traditional areas of work with a resultant improvement of services in these areas. This is particularly the case in Geraldton and Carnarvon where Department of Social Security services are available. In Meekatharra and Mullewa the changeover has not noticeably reduced our work in this area because of our need to continue to work as agents for Department of Social Security and Commonwealth Employment Services.

In Geraldton the trend towards community welfare and statutory responsibilities is evidenced by the expansion of the Divisional policy of a case review system to now include privately fostered children. The development and improvement of service to the statutory cases and involvement in community based programmes should provide long term benefits to the district.

Community involvement continues in many local support groups such as the Wonthella House Womens Refuge, CYSS, Youth Advisory Group and the Aboriginal Boomerang Council Youth Hostel. Funding for the Cocos Island Support Group through the Family Support Services Scheme is due to terminate shortly, and the scheme in which several Cocos Islanders have been employed as Welfare/Liaison Officers has proven very successful.

The Departmental Group Home has continued to be an invaluable asset for emergency placement of children and should prove even more so with the completion of new premises later in 1981.

The Homemaker team has remained stable throughout the year and has further developed group activities in support of, and in addition to their efforts when working with individual families. A very successful training programme conducted during the year has helped maintain enthusiasm and provide new ideas and motivation.

The Carnarvon Office continues to be involved in an ongoing programme of youth activities centred around the Mayu Club. The Club's activities which involve field officers and voluntary staff, are continually monitored and revised according to demand, with a view to maintaining interest and optimum effectiveness. Since inception in 1976, the Mayu Club Youth Programme has contributed significantly to a noticeable reduction in juvenile offences; an average decrease of 13 per cent per year is evident over this period. An extensive and effective Community Service Order programme operates.

Field Staff and Homemakers are planning and preparing for their role in the housing of some 40 families in a new State Housing Commission project. Many of these families have resided in temporary tent accommodation due to the closure of the Carnarvon Reserve after severe flood damage in 1980. The magnitude of the programme presents a new challenge in planning and client involvement to ensure a satisfactory level of success.

The Meekatharra Office has maintained its regular service to Wiluna, Cue and Mt. Magnet despite a 100 per cent changeover in staff during April and May. The recent appointment of an Aboriginal Welfare Aide will assist development of this service and to support efforts to foster youth activities throughout the region.



Despite the continued improvement in social and economic regrowth throughout the area the office is still heavily involved in D.E.S. and C.E.S. work, as the isolation of the district from these services is to the disadvantage of the communities.

In particular, service to the isolated Wiluna Community has been maintained to good effect and various programmes fostered. These include school vacation programmes run by the Tjitji Club and a foster care programme for children in emergency situations, or whose mothers are in gaol. The Department has funded renovations to an old building and furniture is being obtained to enable the programme to begin. Twelve new S.H.C. town houses, including four pensioner units, are due for completion within several months, together with a number of D.A.A. funded village units. The appointment of a Homemaker to work on the housing project has been approved.

A Departmental caravan has recently been set up as a sub office to assist in the provision of a more efficient service to the community. With the appointment of an Aboriginal Welfare Aide, Wiluna has been visited with a view to developing youth activities, a pressing need due to the community suffering the adverse effects of excessive alcohol consumption and usually high proportion of alcohol related offences amongst juveniles.

In spite of staff shortages for the latter six months of the year, staff members in Mullewa, have continued to participate in the development of community resources as well as fulfilling more defined statutory obligations.

The extension of after-school care and holiday activities with funds obtained from State and Commonwealth Grants, have been implemented by the Diandi Aboriginal Club in conjunction with the Welfare Aide and Welfare Assistant. These programmes have been extremely well received by parents and children and considerable requests for continued projects of this nature have been forthcoming by both Aboriginal and European groups. The success of these projects is illustrated by the Mullewa Children's Court charges:—

July 1979 to June 1980—62 }  
July 1980 to June 1981—49 } 21% reduction.

Our homemaker continues to provide support to specific families, whilst the Homemaker Centre remains the popular venue for numerous craft activities and is providing a sense of group unity and an understanding of the Department's services.

Employment still continues to be grave a problem, being dependent entirely upon seasonal work on farms and stations which are still in a depressed economic situation. Consequently there is an approximate 80 per cent unemployment rate within the Aboriginal community with related social problems.

The housing situation is gradually improving with an additional five grant homes completed and a further two under construction. In addition there has been a substantial movement of Aboriginal families from Mullewa, the majority of whom have been re-located in Geraldton.

Although the Mullewa Reserve continues to function, there are only three houses occupied, with one vacant and two in the process of demolition. All tenants are aged pensioners, and S.H.C. has indicated that finance is available for five, one-pensioner units should suitable land be available.

In general, it is considered that there is a positive indication of people caring about their life situation, but the majority are lacking the skills to utilise their opportunities to full capacity.

## Pilbara Division

At the beginning of the year (1980/81) the main objectives of this Division centred around efforts to reduce the rate of juvenile offending. To this end, emphasis was placed on the development of youth activities in all districts.

The orientation of most staff in the Division was towards a community development approach to most problems.

In some districts emphasis was placed in individual, family and marriage counselling, and various preventive measures including assistance with development of youth clubs.

In other districts emphasis was placed on encouraging people in various communities to develop and exploit their own resources, including assistance in the development of various youth activities.

It is pleasing to note that the offence rate for the Pilbara Division as a whole, has shown a steady decline since the peak in 1978/79, the rate of decline increasing over the past 12 months.

The most notably consistent decline in juvenile offence rate has occurred in Roebourne, where the local field staff have gone all out for a community developmental approach to the very significant problems which have beset that district for some years.

The Departmentally owned community centre, is the base for a very successful Community Homemaker Programme, as well as for a variety of youth activities. The Centre is now attracting an increasing number of local people and has become a gathering place. The school lunch programme is operating successfully and economically. The secondhand clothing store has been constructed at the Centre by local Aboriginal men under the supervision of an A.A.E. Instructor and a more recent enterprise has included secondhand furniture. The most recent development has been the establishment of a laundry at the Centre. A.A.E. classes are also held there.

Karratha has shown a marked decline in the juvenile offence rate after a peak last year. Staff of this office are involved in youth clubs in different capacities.

The main thrust in this district has been in the area of counselling and preventive work. Of importance also has been the involvement in the Nickol Bay Social Impact Study. The social impact of the North West Shelf Gas Development is causing concern to the staff at Karratha and Roebourne and has resulted in the Karratha Office commencing a service to the Burrup Peninsula.

The offence rate in Onslow, although significantly below the peak in 1978/79 was a little higher than last year. However there are signs now that local Aboriginal communities are becoming aware of future problems. One major step for the year was a detailed study of the Aboriginal population with regard to present and future housing requirements conducted by staff of this Department. This has resulted in many agencies now being aware of housing needs in the area.



Although the offence rate at Tom Price and Paraburdoo has not been high, it has also shown a reduction over the past year. Staff in that district have increased their community involvement and have been busy in the development of community facilities in that area.

After peaking in 1978/79 the offence rate in Newman dropped dramatically over the past two years. The new field officer in that district is gradually getting to know the community and is identifying needs in the area of family support.

In Marble Bar/Nullagine, the offence rate has dropped from a peak in 1977/78; the new officer in that district is now offering a more consistent service to Nullagine and is assessing problem areas in that district.

Port Hedland/South Hedland, the largest town in the Division is only showing a very marginal drop in offence rate. This rate remains high and considerable rethinking has taken place over the past few months. Youth activity programmes have suffered due to lack of staff and also an 80 per cent changeover of staff this year. The burning down of the Balla Balla Bush Camp buildings was a severe setback as was the non completion of the Department's Youth centre in the Port Hedland township. These added to the lack of facilities for youth in South Hedland, all adds up to very little development in youth activity programmes in the Hedland district.

Initiatives taken last year and this year have had some promising results, bearing in mind that maintenance and development of initiatives take some time to show results. It is to be hoped that shortages of staff and upwards of 70 per cent general turnover of staff in this Division over the past year does not have a detrimental effect on the downturn in the juvenile offence rate. Full staffing is now almost achieved which should provide for maintenance and development of programmes, particularly in the area of youth activity.

Although the Balla Balla Camp was burnt out, the committee rallied and by the good grace of John Stickney, owner of the Station, began again to renovate other old buildings which are now useable and being used by various youth groups. Many people gave freely of their time and efforts for this enterprise and our heartfelt thanks go to them.

Strong efforts will be made in the coming year to further develop and maintain youth programmes in all parts of the Pilbara Division.

In Hedland plans are now being developed to finish the youth centre. In the meantime our community centre is being used in co-operation with the home-makers to advance youth activity programmes.

Strong efforts are also planned towards obtaining prospective placements for children with behavioural problems on alternative stations around the Division so that overloading does not occur on such stations as Yandeearra, Peedamulla and Strelley.

Efforts will be made towards obtaining shelters for homeless youth and particularly teenage girls.

Encouragement will be given towards development of more facilities such as Yandeearra and Peedamulla.

It is planned to adopt a more active community development approach in such districts as Marble Bar, Hedland and Onslow in the coming year.

## Kimberley Division

Historically the image of the Department in Kimberley is one of a welfare department concerned only with Aborigines. This image appears to be changing as there are trends in some areas for an increasing number of non-Aboriginal families to seek assistance with family problems and crises. These changes we believe are fostered through the development of programmes designed specifically to cater to the needs of the non-Aboriginal community. Through these programmes the European community is able to develop a better understanding of the wider role of the Department and the services it offers. These trends are to be further encouraged, without the Department necessarily moving away from its extensive involvement with Aborigines.

Where possible the Department has attempted to work at the group level in communities in a basic community development approach, co-ordinated with their use of resources of other agencies of the Commonwealth and State Governments and non-statutory bodies, in helping these communities to better meet the needs of their members and in particular their children.

Examples of this approach in the East Kimberley is the work in developing and supporting the Family Support Programme sponsored by the Wyndham-East Kimberley Shire, establishment of the Ewin Centre in Kununurra, work with the Waringari Association with whom the Department is currently in the process of establishing a group home to be operated under contract by this Aboriginal group, and re-settlement of the former Gordon Downs Station community who left the Station last year.

Generally the level of juvenile offending in the Kimberley which has come before the Children's Courts has continued the decreasing trend over the past year. For example, in 1977/78 there were 369 appearances and 614 offences, while in 1980/81 the figures were 256 and 440 respectively.

Except where serious offending has occurred the Department has worked to retain children within their local communities, through recommending to Children's Courts the use of Community Service Orders, fines, bonds, or where children come under the control of the Department, in supporting children within their own or the extended family group, or within their wider community group, to ensure better supervision and care.

Where local resources are inappropriate for the more serious or repeated offenders, the Department's assessment and remedial institutional facilities in the metropolitan area are used.

Residential reserves are still operated at Wyndham, Kununurra, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Derby and Broome. The Department has taken the opportunity of progressively closing down reserves which are not used due to the provision of better housing in conventional or village housing developments.

The Derby reserve has been reduced and plans are in hand for replacement of the Halls Creek reserve with conventional housing and single quarters. The Department is also undertaking a review of its planning and policy of reserves.

Successful children's school holiday activity programmes assisted by funds from the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation have been undertaken with community groups.



Aboriginal staff employed as typists, clerical workers and field workers as Welfare Aides have contributed considerably to the Division's programmes during the year.

The re-settlement of the Aboriginal community at Oombulgurri with advisors from the Northern Territory Aboriginal Advisory and Development Service, has been very successful in stabilising this community at the settlement, and prospects of future progress and development are very promising.

Bulungurr Hostel in Wyndham was established for short term accommodation for individuals or families. The facility has been continuously used during the last year and tends to cater to a variety of needs for accommodation.

The Wyndham Aboriginal Residential Reserve offers very basic shelter and ablution facilities, which have been maintained in a functional condition. However as there appears to be a number of fairly permanent residents, some major upgrading will need to be considered if better housing is not going to be available for these people in the near future. This reserve will be included in the Departmental review to be undertaken during 1981/82.

The Department's officers in Kununurra are involved in a number of community oriented projects in addition to their statutory responsibilities. Officers have been associated with the development of the project leading to the opening of the Ewin Centre which is operating as a multi-functional centre, offering facilities for occasional care, emergency accommodation, Family Support activities developed under the programmes sponsored by the Shire, and as a meeting place for any local group which wishes to use the Centre's facilities.

The Waringari Association, which is an Aboriginal group, operates a local drop-in centre for children in the town, particularly Aboriginal children. They have a bus, and organise swimming and camping excursions for the children during the school holidays. Subsidised homemakers from the Waringari Association run a lunch order programme at the local school, efforts are also being made to begin a driver-training course. The Department has funded the establishment of a group home which will be run by the Association under contract to the Department, for the short term, or emergency care of up to eight children. The Department in conjunction with the Ewin Centre, Family Support and the Homemakers run joint holiday programmes with activities being organised such as kite making, junk craft, films, games.

The staff have also been involved in joint projects with a local voluntary alcohol counsellor, which have included showing films at the Wyndham prison, and school and bush trips for people wanting to get away from alcohol for short periods to discuss their problems.

In addition to the statutory child welfare services, the Department at Fitzroy Crossing has provided an advisory role to the emerging and developing Aboriginal communities of the area. This work over the past seven years together with the financial and consultative support services of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and other State and Commonwealth Departments, have improved vastly the general living conditions of Aborigines in the area. Viable communities have emerged who now have a strong basis for future development.

Village housing programmes funded by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs have now reached an advanced state. New villages are under construction for the Bayulu and Wankatjunka communities at Go Go and Christmas Creek Stations respectively, with the Bayulu Village close to completion. Junjuwa village completed two years ago, now houses a significant number of people in modern units whose previous accommodation was of a very temporary and basic nature.

At Noonkanbah Station the Yungngora people are currently negotiating to establish a new village.

Near Christmas Creek, the Kroonull community has set up camp in anticipation of housing. Their present camping circumstances are noticeable for their relatively high standard despite its temporary nature pending the outcome of housing plans.

At Millijiddie near Noonkanbah, a small Aboriginal community operate a cattle station both in the traditional pastoral sense and also as a training centre for wayward youths. A great deal of success has been achieved by this community in guiding these teenagers concerned through the difficult late adolescent years. The Department is appreciative of the opportunity to be able to place these youths, often from other areas in the Kimberley, for their care, discipline, training or employment. Placements of this kind very often have the effect of stabilising the youths who otherwise continue offending with the likelihood of prison or placement in Hillston or Riverbank.

The Department reverted the Group Home to an Hostel for school children in mid 1980. It caters mainly for primary and secondary school children from the smaller cattle stations in the area.

Broome continues to grow and the demand for land and public housing continues to be a major issue in Broome. The Department is investigating ways in which some of the Aboriginal reserve land can be made available for housing, so that the Department may plan closure of its reserves in the future.

Staff are becoming involved in working with an increasing number of complex individual and family problems from the Aboriginal and European members of the community. These staff provide welfare services to the communities at One Arm Point, Beagle Bay, Lombardina and La Grange, which are visited regularly. The extension of the Aboriginal Communities Act to One Arm Point and the La Grange community, has enabled these communities to play a role in controlling misbehaviour and participating in the Children's Courts which have been established. A children's holiday activity programme was arranged during the Christmas school holidays and was very successful and enjoyed by the children.

Almost all field work at the Halls Creek Office concerns Aborigines in an area which covers a large area from Turkey Creek to Balgo Hills Mission, and the pastoral stations. The Department has been called upon to financially assist and sometimes arrange employment for itinerant Europeans and travellers who are stranded and destitute in Halls Creek due to unforeseen difficulties. The Department has two field officers and two Aboriginal Welfare Aides who provide advisory and consultative support to Aboriginal groups in liaison with the Noonjuwah Council which is developing employment and bookkeeping services for communities in Halls Creek.



The Department in conjunction with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs assisted in the resettlement of the Aboriginal community of 70 to 90 people who left Gordon Downs Station. This community was initially assisted to establish a basic camp in Halls Creek and later when the State Government made available an area of land on temporary reserve conditions on vacant Crown Land at a site known as Ringer's Soak, to help them to move. A camp with basic facilities has now been established at a new site.

The Department is still working in an advisory capacity with the Red Hill community who two years ago established their own housing which provided training and employment for an Aboriginal workforce in an area of high unemployment in a co-ordinated project with some subsidy from the State and Commonwealth Governments. This group is a strong self-determining community.

The Department has been negotiating with the State Housing Commission and consulting with the people who live on the Department's residential reserve. At present plans have been developed for the erection of conventional housing, pensioner housing, and single quarters in a move to re-develop this area and demolish the existing very basic reserve facilities. This re-housing programme is expected to be under way in the next financial year.

The Derby office serves the town and communities at Mowanjum, Pandanas Park and Looma, and visits are made to the stations where the Department has responsibility for children in placements at these locations.

The Derby Group Home has been operating from August 1979. It has proved a valuable resource for Derby. Children have been placed there for a variety of reasons, including children in need of care due to family breakdowns, children in need of emergency accommodation and school children in need of overnight accommodation whilst waiting for connecting flights to travel to their respective schools or homes.

Even though the placements were generally of a short duration, there have been instances where children have remained there for longer periods due to lack of alternative placements. In these instances there have been noticeable improvements in behaviour and learning of social skills by these children due to the stable and caring environment offered by the Group Home parents.

Recently there has been a change of Group Home parents, however it is anticipated that this facility will continue to provide a good standard of care provided there in the past.

A community homemaking programme has been operating within the Looma community for over a year. Homemakers are involved in the care of pensioners by providing cooked meals and attending to their laundry and other needs. They have also been involved in small cottage industries such as making and selling of artifacts and other crafts and in procuring and selling secondhand clothes. All of these activities generate some income which in turn is used to benefit the needy within the community.

Koolan and Cockatoo Islands have quite a large community between them. During 1980, a welfare service was established. This has been consolidated during 1981 and consists of fortnightly visits by a social

worker from Derby. Assistance given has included help with the establishment of day care centres, family counselling and child welfare matters.

Aboriginal people from the Mowanjum Community have lived at this former mission 10 km from Derby for the last 25 years. Such close proximity to a large town continues to provide mixed benefits. Community Welfare continues to work with the community on such matters as juvenile drinking and school non-attendance.

Of considerable importance is the community homemaker programme. Those women involved in the scheme contributed to the community's well-being by being engaged in various activities such as running a secondhand clothes shop, caring for the elderly pensioners, keeping the site clean and tidy and promoting the sale of artifacts.

The Family Support Service continues to function successfully. Scallywags Day Care Centre caters to the needs of many families in Derby and also to Koolan and Cockatoo Island women who often come to Derby for shopping. One area of concern is that of youth activities in the town. During 1981 many new initiatives have been implemented with considerable success.

The Derby staff frequently liaise with various other organisations. These include the local schools, the hospital, Community Health and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

It is significant that the work of the Derby office is now concerned with many more European families. The people of Derby are now seeing the Department as providing a service to the wider community.

## Southern Country Field Services

Overall the Southern Region has made considerable progress particularly in the statutory area of the Department's services. The impact of the Limbo study has already been felt in the Divisions and has been the justification for a process of re-appraisal of alternative care practices. In the Goldfields in particular, there have been important changes, especially where children had been in long term residential care. Working with the facilities and the parents has had the effect of returning many children to their parents.

In the other Divisions children in alternative care are being reviewed and plans formulated for them in permanency planning terms. The numbers are not as dramatic as the Goldfields but solid progress is being made.

The newly formed Great Southern Division is working very well despite the limitations of lacking support staff. The individual Division reports follow.

### Great Southern Division

The year ending June 30th 1981, is the first complete year in the operation of the Great Southern Division. The Division has developed a cohesiveness and identity of its own.

The emphasis being placed by the Department on the service provided to children in care has been reflected by a system of case reviews being gradually implemented throughout the Division. This has highlighted the need for continued planning in the child care field and made staff more aware of limbo situations.



Officers from the Albany Office continue to staff sub-offices at Mt. Barker and Denmark on a one-day and half-day basis respectively, and have become important resource centres for these communities. The Albany Group Home has provided short term and emergency care for 49 children. Clarification of administrative procedures and a good working relationship between field staff and Group Home parents have enhanced the smooth operation of this facility although it has not been used continually to full capacity.

The increasing numbers of children being placed on Community Service Orders by the Court in Albany has led to the appointment of a part-time Supervisor. Of 22 Children assigned to Community Service Orders in the past year, only 6 have returned to Court on further charges.

At the request of the Aboriginal community, arrangements were in progress at the end of the year to appoint an Aboriginal Homemaker working jointly with the local Progress Association and the Department with the aim of meeting some of their own needs in the welfare area in the town.

The overall aim for the year in the Katanning office has been to enable an effective undertaking of statutory responsibilities and development of preventive and community based programmes. By the end of the year, two full-time staff plus the services of a third Field Officer and Aboriginal Aide on a shared basis with Gnowangerup, were developing into a most satisfactory service to the community. Regular reviews of children placed at Marribank Baptist Mission, have been undertaken and programmes to assist in development of self esteem in teenagers instituted in conjunction with Marribank staff. The expansion and defining of the role of the Aboriginal Welfare Aide have assisted in overall improved communication and liaison between the Aboriginal people and community resources.

Co-operation between this Department, the State Housing Commission and the local Shire, resulted in the closure of the Gnowangerup Reserve in January 1981. The Re-housing Programme also provided for additional accommodation to overcome the problem of over-crowding and has resulted in a very satisfactory higher standard of living for the Aboriginal population in the town. Concern at the lack of activities for young people led to the appointment of a Homemaker working with a group of children after school in cooking, games, etc. This preventative approach to welfare of children has been successful by the enthusiasm shown by the young people.

Involvement of Officers in community programmes in conjunction with other Departments, has assisted in development of a "meals on wheels" service and recreational activities for the older age group.

At Narrogin, an alternative utilisation of Homemaker resources was undertaken by the Department sponsoring a three-month trial placement of two part-time Homemakers with the Seabrook Association at Brookton. These Homemakers provided a service of their own Aboriginal community members mainly in assisting with Social Security issues. This trial had some success, however, the Association decided not to continue the scheme at this stage. Staff have continued to make contributions to community groups participating in the provision of an Emergency Housekeeping Service in conjunction with Narrogin Town Council.

A supporting Parent Group in Narrogin has also this year successfully developed a flourishing food co-operative.

The creation of a separate Division in the Great Southern area has had overall benefits in the areas of providing staff with increased consultation in case management and planning and stimulated organisation of resources to meet specific needs. The aims for the next year including on on-going emphasis on developing the quality of service provision to children in staff resources, working with families on a preventive basis and providing inputs to local community groups to give impetus to self development.

## Central Division

The Division has been concerning itself with the standard of service delivery to clients and has conducted a number of training seminars in the areas of Family Violence, Case Management and Family Law. With a highly stable farming population and a number of small towns, demands on staff in travelling time and casework skills has been on the increase.

The operation of the Division's sub offices and homemakers and welfare staff, have provided a much needed point of contact and referral for the more isolated members of this agricultural community.

A community programme to increase awareness of the Department's functioning and services is currently in progress and a regional pamphlet will be produced.

Community organisation programmes in Kellerberrin, Cunderdin and Moora have been initiated and are benefitting part-Aboriginal people, the district's youth and single parent families.

Generally offences against property by children are well down with the exception of some individuals on multiple charges.

A persistent problem is youth unemployment for the Division and this is a contributing factor in many of the cases referred to this Department.

The Northam District Office is pleased to report that during the first six months of 1981 the frequency of juvenile offenders has dropped. This also is the case with the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel. Through the efforts of a retired businessman Community Service Orders are now a realistic preventative tool which is used effectively by the Court in Northam.

It is anticipated that the Northam Reserve will be closed in the coming year. The closure will be largely due to the efforts of the Northam Office staff, Officers of the State Housing Commission and the availability of suitable accommodation in the pensioner's complex to be run by Aboriginal Hostels Limited.

A State Emergency Service exercise conducted over a weekend, in which all officers took an active role, showed that in the area of Welfare, no major problems were reported and in the event of a disaster, the Welfare requirement of the total programme is ready to act whenever necessary.

The Northam Group Home became active during October 1980 and has since proven extremely valuable to Central Division. This home has a capacity of eight beds, including two emergency placements. The population has seldom been less than six and the children have all responded well to their programme.



Cunderdin Community Centre—This centre was acquired by the Department in December 1978. It consists of two buildings which previously functioned as the old Police lock-up and residence. It is used by two local groups on a regular basis. The smaller section is occupied by the Cunderdin Playgroup and has proven an ideal setting. A Youth Drop-in Centre operates from the larger section and fills a gap in the range of services available to youth in the area. The Group is funding a full-time youth worker for 12 months. He is actively involved in many facets of youth work. The Centre is currently being up-graded by the Public Works Department.

A Welfare Assistant is involved with "Genetics" an Aboriginal youth group being run on a voluntary basis. It has recommenced after a twelve-month break and is a much needed service for Aboriginal youth who do not want to join the more established groups commonly offered to young people.

The Moora Office has increased its involvement in the surrounding towns, especially those of Dalwallinu, Wongan Hills and Jurien Bay.

The sub-office at Dalwallinu is being developed as a resource and information centre for the local community. Community needs at Jurien Bay, Badgingarra, and Dandaragan are currently being assessed. At this stage it appears likely that a sub-office at Jurien Bay may need to be organised and manned regularly particularly when the population increases during the crayfishing season.

A series of articles on "parenting" has been run in the local newspaper, partly as an indication of the supportive or preventive role that can be taken by Department for Community Welfare staff.

The Welfare Assistant at Dalwallinu is co-operating with Community Health Personnel in providing discussion groups for women in the community. She is also involved with an aged persons housing committee. The officer concerned, will be talking to high school students in the near future on the role of D.C.W. and Human Relationships.

Within Moora, the Homemaker Centre is being re-developed as a community resource, after a period of decline. Activities organised by the Homemakers such as cooking and sewing are proving very popular.

A "bicycle workshop" has been started for local school children who do not have their own bicycle. The workshop is currently collecting parts from the local community.

A secondhand furniture store is being formed with assistance from the local Anglican Church. The furniture donated by the community, will be sold to families without sufficient funds to purchase new goods.

The office is experiencing an increase in involvement with Social Security recipients, indicating that unemployment is a factor affecting the well-being of many families in the area. Aboriginal families appear to be worse off than most.

The Shires of Kellerberrin, Trayning, Mt. Marshall, Koorda, Wyalkatchem, Tammin and Quairading, are serviced by the Kellerberrin District Office. The district has had a poor year due to the drought and this has been reflected in the increased involvement with people dependant on Social Security payments.

In Merredin the Department is providing the widest possible range of welfare services to a developed community, where the Department's workload is mainly preventative and casework oriented.

## Goldfields Division

The Goldfields Division is the largest in area with its various centres widely separated by distance, culture and socio-economic circumstances. The Divisional office is located in Kalgoorlie and district offices at Esperance, Norseman, Kambalda and Laverton. There is a part time office staffed by a Welfare Assistant open each weekday morning at Leonora. All other towns and centres through the region are visited by officers of the Department in a regular basis or in response to a need. Visiting officers also service the Trans-line to the remote Aboriginal communities of the Central Reserves and Cundeelee.

Re-evaluation and redeployment of the Division's staff has been necessitated by the continuing resurgence and consolidation of the mining industry with a consequent increase in the region's work force and population. The influx of people has been general through the Goldfields placing an increased and constantly changing demand for the Department's services. Despite such problems the Goldfields Division has achieved both new initiatives and brought to fruition those of the previous year.

As indicated in last year's Annual Report, Norseman has now been up-graded to a full-time office with a resident officer. The officer is supported in his work by a part-time staff of a Homemaker and a Welfare Assistant, so that a full range of the Department's services are now available at Norseman. This was achieved by re-locating an officer from Kambalda and two support staff from Esperance. The Department's increased presence at Norseman by enabling preventive intervention, family support, close liaison with Norseman Children's Homes and the Aboriginal Community at Pugang Village, has seen a significant reduction in the number of children coming under the Department's Care and Control.

Similarly in the past five months there are indications of a fall in the number of children offending and coming before the Norseman Children's Court. It is expected this trend will be confirmed in next year's Annual Report.

Despite the relocation of Department staff from the Kambalda and Esperance Offices and in spite of rising populations, there has been no reduction in the range of the Department's services. Nor has there been any measurable cost to those communities in terms of family support or of children offending, indeed the reverse would appear to be the case.

In the case of Kambalda, now a one officer post, support can be given from Kalgoorlie as required. The continuing high level of Departmental services maintained in Esperance and Kambalda can only be attributed to the dedication of its staff under difficult circumstances.

The Department's service to the new mining towns of Leinster and Teutonic Bore, situated north of Leonora, has been consolidated from irregular officer visits in response to needs or statutory obligations, to an officer from Kalgoorlie visiting each month. The officer calls also at the small community of Agnew. This service is of necessity limited but seen as minimally meeting the needs of the communities. With the



likelihood of further mining development in the Northern Goldfields, another new town and the re-development of mining at Leonora, consideration may need to be given to a further re-deployment of the Department's staff and resources in the coming year.

Kalgoorlie, Boulder and Coolgardie are serviced from the Divisional Office in Kalgoorlie. These towns have also experienced a resurgence of the mining industry and rapidly expanding populations. The Division this year in re-evaluating its resources has converted a cottage in Boulder, previously loaned to a voluntary organisation, into a short-term group home for young children. From this facility officers can now work with families on a preventive basis with the goal of restoring a child to the family, rather than the child coming into Departmental Care; or children may be placed while their parent or care-giver is hospitalised or otherwise unable to care for the child, for a period. Since January 1981 some 60 children have passed through the Boulder Group Home, none have become wards of the State, and all have been returned to their families or care-givers.

The Department has been most fortunate in gaining the services of bilingual Cottage Parents able to converse also in the Wongi dialects. This of course has proven an immeasurable advantage with small children from the Central Reserves who speak little or no English. The Group Home also offers an alternative to hospital admission for a child who otherwise could be treated as an out-patient.

The Goldfields Division in response to an increased population and demand for its services has endeavoured to maximise its staff resources. Each officer operating from Kalgoorlie has apart from his normal duties and case-load, a specialist role or an area of concern. Specialist roles are Adoptions, Fostering, Courts, Panel and Community Service Orders, Home-maker Co-ordinator Burials and Property, and Youth Activities. Areas of concern are Cundeelee, Menzies, Coolgardie, the Trans-line and as previously outlined, the Northern Goldfields.

The small community of Menzies, which is served by an officer from Kalgoorlie on a weekly basis, has experienced many of the problems found elsewhere on the Goldfields. In January 1979 the population stood at 260 and has now increased to some 400 persons. The under 18 population has in this time increased from 49 to approximately 80.

Over the past two years the present officer in working closely with the largely Aboriginal community, has assisted the people in generating their own funds for the benefit of community enterprises. The Department is financially assisting in the establishment of a Youth Club whose committee includes community leaders and the local police officer. Offences by juveniles in Menzies continue to decline, with only one child appearing in a children's Court and two others dealt with in the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel, during the 12-month period ending 30th June, 1981.

The Laverton District Office services the extensive area of the North Eastern Goldfields, with areas of responsibility including the Aboriginal communities, of Cosmo Newberry and Mt. Margaret. Regular monthly visits have been recommended to the Central Reserves. An officer from Laverton calls weekly at Leonora or in response to emergencies or Court duties.

Laverton has been and continues to be an area of major concern for the Department. Much of these concerns are a consequence of Laverton being the first European town having most contact with the tribally oriented Aboriginal people of the Central Reserves.

There is in the area a high level of Aboriginal adults and children coming before the Courts. Laverton is also a traditional meeting area for Aboriginal people of the Goldfields coming together for cultural pursuits. At certain times of the year several hundred Aboriginal people will camp on the fringe of Laverton before moving on in their traditional patterns. The Department this year in conjunction with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and at the instigation of the Laverton Shire is working towards the establishment of a serviced camping area near Laverton for the benefit of transient Aboriginal people.

The Fringe Dweller and other homeless Aborigines of the Kalgoorlie area have posed a problem with no simple solution. At this time the Boulder Shire, has initiated and approved the establishment of a Night Shelter and facilities at Parkston, some three kilometres from Kalgoorlie. The Department in conjunction with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs will give every possible support to this proposal. It is anticipated the Parkston facility will be operative before the onset of winter 1982.

Parkston is not seen as totally providing for the needs of disadvantaged Aboriginal people of Kalgoorlie but rather a first and practical step to that end. In the meantime, this winter the Department provided through the Aboriginal Advancement Council temporary tents as shelter, blankets and clothing.

This year the Goldfields Division in keeping with Departmental policies has continued to give high priority to working with families and communities, to ensure wherever possible children remain with their care givers and within their normal environment. At this time there is some 50 per cent less children in alternate care, in the Goldfields, than there were two years ago. Much emphasis has also been given to fostering children, when all else fails, with foster parents of the same ethnic background. Fostering now is generally short term with planned goals and based around parental contact with a view to restoring the family as a unit. With the exception of the Laverton Children's Court where there has been an 80 per cent increase in offending all other areas of the Goldfields show a decrease in the number of children offending and appearing in Courts, and this despite a marked increase in population. For example in the year ending 30th June, 1980, 711 children appeared in the Kalgoorlie Children's Court (which serves the main population centres of Kalgoorlie and Boulder). In the year ending 30th June, 1981 the number of children appearing before the same Court had fallen to 609, a fall of some 15 per cent. This trend would appear general throughout the other centres of the Goldfields to a lesser or greater degree. It is considered the Goldfields Division which has now a stable and dedicated staff has achieved much, as have the communities it serves. With the resurgence of mining has come new pride, work opportunities and a belief in the region's future which is being reflected in a falling juvenile offending rate. The challenge for the future will be to meet the complex and sometimes intractable problems of the Fringe Dweller and to assist the Aboriginal com-



munities to self determination and an opportunity to share in the opportunities the resurgence of the mining industry will offer.

## South West Division

The year ending June 1981 was the first year of operation of the new South/West Division.

This Division has maintained a quality of service which continues to liaise and co-operate closely with the voluntary sector. Emphasis on maintaining community based programmes via community centres, existing voluntary services and support to community initiative has continued, with the result that the Welfare network in the south west has managed to cope with the needs of a rapidly expanding Region. Objectives for the Divisional Headquarters at Bunbury during the year were focussed on providing closer involvement with case management issues. To a large extent, this objective was met via increased contact with staff, clientele and the voluntary sector. Greater emphasis on review of children in alternative care as a response to the Limbo study and a more refined approach to provision of alternative care has been possible because of the split in the Division.

The Department continues to be involved with the Bunbury Voluntary Group, C.Y.S.S., Women's Learning Centre, Vietnamese Migrant Resettlement programmes, Youth Activities and the like, all services which are vital to welfare needs in the area and added to the usual statutory responsibility.

The Homemaker Service in Bunbury and surrounding districts continues to provide a personal input to families. Greater emphasis is now placed on group activities—e.g. the Withers Community Centre caters for a variety of group oriented activities including child development and learning experiences with parent participation.

Canowindra Group Home for children in Gelorup continues to maintain its high standard of care. Demands indicate that in the future, a further facility of this type is needed in Bunbury.

Liaison with other State and Commonwealth Departments, has continued to ensure co-operative and complementary approaches to Regional needs and this has been a significant factor in coping with the workload. Appreciation is expressed to those other services.

Apart from fulfilling the statutory functions of the Department, the emphasis from the Collie District Office, over the 1980/81 year has been directed towards a supportive role in trying to get the local community to work towards its own welfare, whether it be through the Aboriginal Advancement Association, the Collie Welfare Council, the schools, or the local Service Clubs.

All in all, a good liaison has been developed, and maintained throughout the past year, with the various government bodies, Commonwealth, State and Local, and with the voluntary agencies within the town. It is hoped that this will flow on and expand during the coming year.

The Collie Homemakers conducted a holiday camp for some 70 children which was held over a 10-day period during January 1981. The venue for the camp was the Harvey Christian Youth Camp at Binningup Beach, some 84 kilometres from Collie.

The many and varied problems encountered in the organisation of the camp, as well as the raising of necessary funds, solving transport difficulties and obtaining sufficient help, all became most worthwhile when the widespread benefits to the children involved, not to mention their sheer enjoyment of the camp were noted.

The ages of the children ranged from pre-school through to High School. During the time spent at the camp, the children participated in varied beach activities and games, barbeques and picnics, as well as excursions to nearby attractions. Health care was provided through the voluntary services of a trained sister, and supervision of the children, along with the catering, was provided by the Homemaker Team, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and volunteers.

Benwell Place Pre-Pre School continues to provide a much needed resource in the community and is functioning well. At present there are 27 children enrolled at the Pre-Pre School, about one quarter of these being Caucasian. It is anticipated that the numbers at the school will increase, and plans are being drawn up to add an extra room, and fund raising projects are already under way to help meet the cost.

Collie Homemaker Team once again ran their Annual Christmas Party for disadvantaged children, and with great success.

Over 280 children attended the party, and each one received a gift appropriate to their age.

Again, good liaison with other community groups produced much needed help with this venture.

The Aboriginal Pensioner Village now comes under the supervision of the State Housing Commission and they have recently appointed a live-in caretaker. The housekeeper scheme previously in operation has now been terminated, as the need for this no longer exists. At present, the only Department for Community Welfare involvement necessary, is a brief daily visit by an Aboriginal Homemaker. Some of the tenants have established good vegetable gardens, which as well as providing a hobby, is an economical nutritious supplement to the daily diet.

Despite an increase in the population of Collie and environs, Children's Court appearances remain at a static level.

Aboriginal children rarely appear in Court, and, on the occasions that they do, are usually visitors from out of town.

During the year under review, there were 17 panel appearances. Of these, 10 complaints were dismissed and seven children were placed under supervision.

The Group Home, Kooloongar-Mia, has operated successfully during the year. It has been at normal capacity all the time, but with room for emergency placements when necessary.

In addition to normal statutory duties the Department continues to encourage the development of family services in the Manjimup area.

The Warren Family Centre (funded through the Family Support Services Scheme—funding has now been continued for a further 12 months). Emphasis on provision of family-oriented activities continues with success. A move to more centrally located premises within Manjimup is anticipated towards the end of the year.



In the area of youth activities, a peer group leader has recently commenced work at Boyup Brook. Her work aims at encouraging the social development of teenagers in the town via recreational activity drop-in centre developments to date have been very pleasing.

After school activities at Nyamup and Quinninup have ceased because of staff movement. This programme was progressing very successfully and the need for it continues, however the difficulty posed is the lack of a suitable placement.

The office has three homemakers at present, working with both groups and individuals. More so the latter in recent months as the need for groups in the mill towns surrounding Manjimup fluctuates according to population mobility and social needs. The keynote of the service provided by the homemakers, is their ability to adapt to the changing needs of the community.

Existing community groups and local agencies such as the Warren Family Centre, Warren Activity Centre, Warren Occasional Care Centre, hospitals and C.E.S. are offered resources and support. It is pleasing to note there has been an increased number of referrals from hospital doctors and schools within the district.

There remains a strong need for an emergency accommodation facility in Manjimup for single parent families and transient job seekers.

The South West Division at this point has sustained existing services despite economies and difficulties with staff turnover and replacement.

The continued development of the region however, suggests that unless staff resources increase, existing personnel will need to withdraw from some activities and concentrate on the statutory obligations of the Department.

This type of withdrawal could undermine the quality of overall service as the liaison consultant role currently placed, has assisted the voluntary sector to play its part in Welfare in the South-West.

Objectives for 1981/82 remain the same as for the past year, i.e. to refine the depth and quality of service, extend the Department's activities to towns now only receiving a minimal service, and to continue our role in supporting the voluntary sector develop new initiatives and programmes relevant to the South-West population.

## Adoptions

Both constancy and change have been featured at the Adoption Centre during the past year.

There has been a reduction in the number of applicants to adopt locally born babies, but at the same time fewer babies have become available for adoption. Thus the backlog of applications continues, causing a situation of anxiety and stress for many applicants. Babies are now being placed with couples who applied approximately four years ago. It is difficult to predict future trends and waiting times.

Efforts have continued to find adoptive homes for selected foster children and "special" children and this trend is likely to increase especially if recommendations of the "Children in Limbo" study are implemented.

The year has seen considerable staff changes at the Centre and the International Adoptions Unit was relocated at the Centre in December 1980.

As from the 1st August 1980 the Adoption Centre suspended processing the legal work involved in:

- (1) Applications for the adoption of adults, that is, persons over the age of 18  
and
- (2) Applications for the adoption of children of a previous marriage into a subsequent marriage.

Persons wishing to pursue either of these types of adoption may apply to a solicitor.

Adoption fees were increased from \$50 to \$140 on 1st July 1980.

There has been growing public enquiry about the establishment of a Contact Register and increased pressure from various quarters on the question of access to original birth records. More and more professional and clerical time has needed to be devoted to answering public and medical enquiries about antecedents and medical and genetic histories. It is anticipated that the volume of these enquiries, both from within Western Australia and from interstate, will increase.

## International Adoptions

The Director is the guardian of all children not previously adopted who are brought into this State for adoption. He is also guardian of all children whose adoption has been found by the Courts to be invalid according to Australian Law. These measures for the control of overseas adoptions are designed to protect both the child and the applicants, since there are many complex legal, medical and social issues involved.

Only when overseas adoption is considered to be the best alternative choice of care available will a child be offered by countries that have working arrangements with Australian States and Territories.

An Adoption of Children Amendment Bill recognising adoption orders of children adopted in other countries by people from Western Australia is expected to come into operation soon. These adoptions may be supervised for a period of up to twelve months from arrival in this State.

## Overall Position

The International Adoptions Unit, now located at the Adoption Centre, processes applications for both unrelated and related children.

For unrelated children the Department has entered into working arrangements with seven countries following Australian Delegations to those countries in 1978 and 1979.

Hong Kong	South Korea
India	Sri Lanka
Indonesia	Thailand
Philippines	

Working arrangements have also been initiated with Mauritius and Taiwan.

Western Australia is the proposed Contact State for Sri Lanka on behalf of all of the States and Territories of Australia. Each State is likewise Contact State for another country.



The International Adoptions Unit has been directly involved in developing arrangements with Mauritius over the past year.

For related children the Department works through International Social Service, Melbourne, or directly with the known authority in the country concerned. Apart from the abovementioned countries applications have been received for related children residing in several other countries.

Both countries are required to assess each application and to agree that adoption is in the best interest of each child before approval to proceed.

Inter-country adoption will be considered appropriate only when, in the opinion of the adoption authority in the country where the child is resident, adoption by persons in another country is the most appropriate choice of care for the child. The child must be free for overseas adoption which required a legal process in its country of origin.

### Placements

Twenty-seven children have been placed since the 1st July 1979 as follows:—

1st July 1979 to 30th June 1980					
Country			Status		No.
Burma	....	....	Related	....	3
Mauritius	....	....	Unrelated	....	1
South Korea	....	....	Unrelated	....	9
					13

1st July 1980 to 30th June 1981					
Country			Status		No.
Mauritius	....	....	Unrelated	....	6
Philippines	....	....	Related	....	1
South Korea	....	....	Unrelated	....	4
Thailand	....	....	Unrelated	....	2
Western Samoa	....	....	Related	....	1
					14

Adding the 14 children placed this year to those already placed from April 1975 the total has lifted to 79 as follows:—

Countries					
Bangladesh	....	....	....	....	2
Burma	....	....	....	....	3
England	....	....	....	....	1
Malaysia	....	....	....	....	1
Mauritius	....	....	....	....	7
Philippines	....	....	....	....	6
South Korea	....	....	....	....	29
Sri Lanka	....	....	....	....	8
Taiwan	....	....	....	....	1
Thailand	....	....	....	....	6
Vietnam	....	....	....	....	12
West Germany	....	....	....	....	1
Western Samoa	....	....	....	....	1
Yugoslavia	....	....	....	....	1
					79

Apart from the 14 placements this year six other children have been accepted and placement arrangements are proceeding. These include two related adoptions from Malaysia and Thailand and four unrelated adoptions from Hong Kong (1) Mauritius (2) and South Korea (1).

In all there have been 28 offers of children this year with 20 acceptances as opposed to 13 offers last year when all were accepted. At present there are 91 current applications at different stages of process. The trend continues towards an increase in overseas adoptions.

This year the Executive of The Australian Society for Inter-country Aid for Children Incorporated have met from time to time with the Executive of the Department on various issues concerning overseas adoptions. ASIAC has provided considerable support in the initial establishment of arrangements with Mauritius on behalf of the wider community.

## Child Placement Service

A research project of major significance to the Department was commenced in 1979, and has now culminated in the release of a report entitled "Children in Limbo".

The research was initiated because of a number of factors:—

1. The continued dominance of long-term care placements, many of which had evolved on an *ad hoc* basis;
2. an increased awareness of welfare drift problems, particularly in relation to Aboriginal, adolescent and long-term foster children;
3. a discrepancy between short-term supportive care policy and long-term substitute care practice;
4. increasing dissatisfaction with existing structures;
5. concern regarding the separation of adoption and other child welfare practises;
6. the lack of an appropriate child welfare information collection, storage and retrieval system.

It was decided that the circumstances and needs of children in long-term care in Western Australia should be investigated.

The Children in Limbo Project commenced in March 1979 and over 600 children, natural parents, officers and care-givers co-operated with the researchers in their efforts to find out the nature and extent of welfare drift for a sample of children in long-term care.

The study confirmed that in Western Australia a significant welfare drift problem existed and that it was the consequence of an entrenched, unplanned, indefinite long-term substitute care system that was geared towards keeping children in care, and was characterised by:—

- an absence of comprehensive, clearly defined policies and procedures regarding both restoration of the child to its family or its permanent placement elsewhere;
- an absence of the intensive goal-oriented, time-limited family support services that are necessary if family rehabilitation goals are to be resolved;
- a long-term substitute foster care system that is maintained by both officers and foster parents;
- an inadequate review system;
- an adult-centred adoptions service that is isolated from the needs of children in long-term care.



- cross-racial placements for Aboriginal children and the difficulties associated with these placements.

“Permanency planning” is the term used to describe the speedy and permanent placement planning that is needed to ensure that children don’t drift into and through the welfare system. The priority is the maintenance of the natural family and, failing that, after intensive work with the family, the permanent placement of the child elsewhere.

Given the situation in Western Australia, a comprehensive and integrated anti-drift strategy is required. As permanency planning exemplifies such a strategy, a preventive permanency planning system is recommended.

As a result of this report the Department has embarked on a comprehensive exercise to determine whether and how permanency planning could be implemented in this State. The development of such a plan requires consideration within the Department as well as consultation with private agencies and members of the public. Such a system may require legislative changes as well as specialised staff resources and training—it is hoped that implementation may take place in 1982.

Permanency planning has been implemented in some States in the U.S.A. The production of this report in Western Australia has created interest in welfare and political circles throughout Australia.

Group Homes provide a small but important part of the Department’s service to children who need care away from home. Some Group Homes are privately owned and others are contract homes within the Department. It has been of increasing concern that there have been discrepancies between the conditions under which all the homes have operated. A review of the Group Homes is taking place and it is hoped that clear guidelines and policy will be developed as a result of this review.

There are 12 educational Hostels in the Metropolitan area for students engaged in secondary, tertiary or technical education.

Most students are Aboriginals from country areas where education and employment opportunities are limited. Hostels are managed either by this Department or private agencies. A large proportion of these children have lacked opportunities, or have been deprived of social experiences which are required in order to help them cope in today’s complex western society. Thus, because socialisation is basically a learning process, contact and interaction whilst living in a Hostel situation with broader community resources, has been encouraged. Special discussions were initiated enabling them to gain a knowledge of themselves which in turn helped them to become more proficient in the utilisation of already acquired skills.

Discussions have also been held with Hostel parents relating to how to recognise and evaluate changes in the behaviour of children, and these have proved helpful to them in their day to day management.

The Annual Picnic for foster children was held at the Perth Football Oval. This was a major departure from the venue which has been used for many years—the Zoological Gardens. However this change was necessary because recent alterations within the Gardens mean that they are no longer so suitable for organised functions by large groups of people and children.

The day was enjoyed by everyone present and several new activities were introduced to entertain the children.

The puppet show was a delight—with a number of children taking the opportunity to see it more than once. Displays by the Police Band, and a children’s dancing school and the Police and Citizens Youth Gymnastic Club were enjoyed.

The Aboriginal Child Care Agency has recently completed its first year of operation and Departmental staff have valued the contacts which they have had with that organisation. Due to lack of staff resources and a vehicle the Agency is still only able to offer a limited service, however valuable contacts have been made with Aboriginal children.

A number of seminars and training sessions have been held throughout the year both for staff and for foster parents. In the main the staff sessions have centred around the Children in Limbo report and the implications for staff. Workshops for foster parents have been held on subjects of particular interest e.g. caring for the handicapped child and Aboriginal children.

The work by the Substitute Care Officers within the Divisions has been concentrated on the children who are living away from their natural families. Reviews of these children are taking place and a continuing review of foster parents and placements is also being held.

The Foster Parents’ Association now has over 100 members and the Association has been active in its contact with the Department during the year. The Association involvement with coffee mornings on a Divisional basis and also participation in the seminars has been valuable. The F.P.A. co-operated with the Fremantle Division to conduct a fostering awareness campaign.

Throughout the year the Association has prepared major reports on Group Homes, Grievance Procedure and the Aboriginal Secondary Grants as well as offering comment on a number of other issues. Many foster parents make contact with Executive Committee members to raise issues or discuss concerns. The Annual Picnic provides an excellent opportunity for foster parents to get together as well as the children. The Foster Parents’ Association meets quarterly with the Director of the Department for Community Welfare, to discuss current issues. The Children in Limbo report has many implications for foster parents both now and in the future.

## Children’s (Suspended Proceedings) Panel

The Children’s (Suspended Proceedings) Panel procedure is constituted under the provisions of Part V, Child Welfare Act, 1947–1979, for the purpose of dealing with certain first offenders over the age of seven but under 16 years at the time of their commission of offences. Legislation became operative from 1st January 1978, providing both legal structure and administrative guidelines to the expanded activities of the Children’s Panel Scheme.

Twenty three thousand six hundred and forty-nine children have been dealt with by Children’s Panels in Western Australia since the scheme commenced (with Ministerial approval) on 1st August 1964. In the 3½



years since the advent of legislation, Children's Panels dealt with 11 469 of this total number of children.

The procedure is a distinct alternative to the Children's Court, providing special opportunity for many children to be dealt with for offences without the recording of a conviction. It complements the judicial process of the Children's Court and is an effective, alternative means of providing an official disposition of many thousands of charges against certain young persons.

The Executive officer (and Chairman) provides the the State-wide administrative and overseeing role concerning the operation of the legislation, the provision of guidelines and instructions, and the monitoring of proceedings, thus ensuring operation of the scheme within established administrative and legislative restraints.

Children's Panels comprise two persons, an officer of the Department nominated and authorised by the Director, and a Police officer or retired Police officer, nominated and authorised by the Commissioner of Police, all appointed by the Governor as members of the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel.

The hearing process is the responsibility of field staff. Children's Panels are available throughout Western Australia, at least in every centre where a Children's Court venue is established. A parent must attend proceedings with the child and emphasis is upon positive involvement of parents. Further, the scheme provides a certain informality in its procedures; avoids the possible stigma and strain (for both child and parents) of an appearance in Children's Court; members recognise that children are proceeding through demanding stages of growth and learning, leading to the child's personal acceptance of responsibility and thus ensure ample opportunity for discussion between all present.

Children's Panels have no power to decide the guilt or innocence of a child. The offence must be clearly admitted before the members may proceed to determine the matter. Members must be of the opinion that no punishment or penalty should be imposed on the child committing the offence.

The powers of the Children's Panel are:—

- (a) dismissal of the complaint;
- (b) suspension of proceedings with an order as to supervision for a period up to six months;
- (c) a few cases are subject to "suspended proceedings"; for up to six months, without supervision.
- (d) referral to a Children's Court.

Approximately 83 per cent of children dealt with by Children's Panels do not offend again. Children who commit a further offence during any period of "suspended proceedings" or supervision, or fail to comply with any of the requirements of a supervision order, are liable to appear in a Children's Court and be sentenced for the original offence, as well as being dealt with for the subsequent offence.

As expected, growth has occurred in the total number of cases dealt with by Children's Panels.

It is known that many children face charges of stealing and receiving in the form of stealing from shops (shoplifting). Recent research indicates that 41.36 per cent of offences considered by Children's Panels in Western Australia are of this category.

Shoplifting appears to be a feature mainly of the metropolitan area, in that (in a recent survey period) only seven per cent of such offences were in country areas, while 93 per cent were applicable to metropolitan area.

Sixty-four per cent of the total shop stealing offences are within the value ranges \$2—\$5 and \$5—\$20. This applies to both sexes. The greater number of shoplifters is in the age bracket (for females) 12–14 years and (for males) 12–15 years. Only a limited number of younger children, particularly females, are involved in such stealing.

Because of the relative infancy of the Children's Panel legislation in Western Australia, operative from 1st January, 1978, there exists an administrative situation where consideration of methods to improve the machinery of administration, the concept and scope of the scheme, and the service to clients, is a continuing matter.

The establishment phase of the Children's Panel procedure, with its initial period of application of new legislation, has passed into the consolidation phase. Precedent and guideline material has been prepared for field staff information and this material is used extensively in field staff training programmes. Discussions have taken place with experienced field staff members and others concerned with the Children's Panel process, to review procedures, seeking improvements and possibly extending the scheme.

The future of the Children's Panel procedure could involve such changes as raising the upper age limit and consideration of whether certain, carefully determined second or more offenders should be given the opportunity of further appearances before a Children's Panel.

## CHILDREN'S (SUSPENDED PROCEEDINGS) PANEL

### Survey of Shop Stealing Offences, (Period covered 21st May 1981 to 18th June 1981)

#### DIVISIONS

##### Metropolitan/Country—(Combined Totals)

Total No. of Offences (all types)	....	....	486
Total of Offences (shop stealing)	....	....	201
Percentages of Offences (shop stealing)	....	....	41.36%
Total Value of Items Stolen	....	....	\$2 028.96

#### BREAKDOWN

##### Female

Total No. of Offences—106 = 52.74%

Age Range—					%
7 years	....	....	....	....	....
8 years	....	....	1	....	.94
9 years	....	....	2	....	1.89
10 years	....	....	1	....	.94
11 years	....	....	6	....	5.66
12 years	....	....	21	....	19.81
13 years	....	....	36	....	33.96
14 years	....	....	28	....	26.42
15 years	....	....	11	....	10.38

##### Value of Items—

Under \$1	....	....	5	....	4.72
From \$1 —\$2	....	....	17	....	16.04
\$2 —\$5	....	....	27	....	25.47
\$5 —\$20	....	....	47	....	44.34
\$20 —\$50	....	....	6	....	5.66
Over \$50	....	....	4	....	3.77

Total Value of Items Stolen—\$1 033.13 = 50.92%



Male

Total No. of Offences—95 = 47·26%

Age Range—					%
7 years	....	....	....	....	....
8 years	....	....	1	....	1·05
9 years	....	....	7	....	7·37
10 years	....	....	10	....	10·53
11 years	....	....	8	....	8·42
12 years	....	....	21	....	22·11
13 years	....	....	18	....	18·95
14 years	....	....	15	....	15·79
15 years	....	....	15	....	15·79

Value of Items—					%
Under \$1	....	....	16	....	16·84
From \$1 –\$2	....	....	17	....	17·89
\$2 –\$5	....	....	31	....	32·63
\$5 –\$20	....	....	23	....	24·21
\$20–\$50	....	....	4	....	4·21
Over \$50	....	....	4	....	4·21

Total Value of Items Stolen—\$995·83 = 49·08%

General Statistics of the activities of the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel are expressed here-under:—

1. Cases dealt with by Children's Panels—

METROPOLITAN

- (a) 1/7/80–30/6/81 (Males 1 893, females 872)—2 765
- (b) Orders of Panels—
- |                       |      |      |       |
|-----------------------|------|------|-------|
| Complaints dismissed  | .... | .... | 2 636 |
| Supervision           | .... | .... | 123   |
| Proceedings suspended | .... | .... | 6     |
|                       |      |      | 2 765 |
- (c) The age range of children concerned is—
- |         |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Age     | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| Males   | 19 | 40 | 93 | 145 | 197 | 278 | 335 | 400 | 386 |
| Females | 2  | 7  | 17 | 20  | 60  | 141 | 235 | 240 | 150 |
- (d) Offences—The 2 765 children were dealt with on a total of 3 673 offences, being:—
- |            |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Property   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 252 |
| Persons    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 48    |
| Good Order | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 148   |
| Traffic    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 220   |
| Drugs      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5     |
- (e) During the last 10 years, the upper age limit of children dealt with by Children's Panels has been 15 years. In this period, 17 906 children were dealt with in the metropolitan area, (11 075 males, 6 831 females). Of these children 2 990 have re-offended and appeared in Children's Courts. Of the re-offenders, 2 508 were males and 482 were females. Thus, of the total number of children, 17 906, 16·7 per cent have re-offended.

2. Cases dealt with by Children's Panels—

COUNTRY

- (a) 1/7/80–30/6/81 (Males 653, females 173)—826
- (b) Orders of Panels—
- |                       |      |      |     |
|-----------------------|------|------|-----|
| Complaints Dismissed  | .... | .... | 694 |
| Supervision           | .... | .... | 128 |
| Proceedings suspended | .... | .... | 4   |
|                       |      |      | 826 |
- (c) The age range of children concerned is—
- |         |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Age     | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| Males   | 14 | 38 | 45 | 47 | 63 | 78 | 119 | 124 | 125 |
| Females | 1  | 3  | 11 | 8  | 14 | 15 | 36  | 51  | 34  |
- (d) Offences—The 826 children were dealt with on a total of 1 317 offences, being:—
- |            |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Property   | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 071 |
| Persons    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8     |
| Good Order | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 59    |
| Traffic    | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 179   |
| Drugs      | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | ....  |

3. Orders of Children's Panels in Western Australia

Of the 3 591 children dealt with during 1st July 1980 to 30th June 1981, complaints were dismissed in 92·7 per cent of the cases, seven per cent were subject to an order as to supervision and proceedings were suspended (for periods of up to six months) for the remaining 0·3 per cent.

4. Children subject to an order as to Supervision (maximum period of six months)

METROPOLITAN (1980/81)—123	%
Period of 1 month	2
Period of 2 months	....
Period of 3 months	30
Period of 4 months	17
Period of 5 months	1
Period of 6 months	50

COUNTRY (1980/81)—128	%
Period of 1 month	10
Period of 2 months	1
Period of 3 months	25
Period of 4 months	2
Period of 5 months	....
Period of 6 months	62

5. Cases referred back to Police Department (1980-81)

Such referrals may be for more enquiries; for referral to a Children's Court (for sundry reasons); because no further action is recommended; because of later, Police-initiated action to withdraw charge/s; etc. Such cases represent 2·8 per cent of all those referred for action by a Children's Panel.

Reason for Referral	Metro-politan	Country
<i>Section 70(2), Child Welfare Act:</i>		
Ineligible because of age	....	2
Previous offender	21	9
Offence not admitted or admission not accepted by Children's Panel	25	9
Election of child; request of parent	1	....
Restitution an issue	2	1
<i>Section 73(4)</i>		
Interest and welfare of child	2	....
No appearance after notice	6	1
Powers of Children's Panel inadequate	4	....
Restitution required	1	3
<i>Other:</i>		
Family not at address	7	1
Police-initiated action to withdraw charge	2	5
No further action recommended by D.C.W.	1	....
Hearing invalid	....	1

Children's Protection Service

This is a new development in the Department. The Service represents an amalgamation, to be completed in 1982, of the Child Life Protection Unit and the newly established specialist services for child sexual abuse which were approved and funded in the 1980/81 budget.

Since both these services are at very different stages of development and operation they will be reported on separately.

As the decentralisation of personnel and experience skills gradually proceeds to Divisional offices, the Children's Protection Service will restructure and direct its efforts more towards areas of work such as emotional and sexual abuse of children that will need specialist attention for some time to come. Eventually a body of knowledge and practice will be built up and made transferable to staff in the wider Department and the community through in-service training and shared practice. These cases are particularly difficult to manage with the limited resources available in remote country areas.



In following this model the activities of the Children's Protection Service can be expected to change over time to any focus that is of most value to the Department and the wider community. With this in mind, plans to establish the Children's Protection Service in community-based premises at 91 Hensman Road, Subiaco, were effected by the end of the year. This will provide a working environment that allows closer liaison with other Departmental staff, hospitals and other agencies and will bring benefits to clients, workers and service delivery generally.

## **Child Life Protection Unit**

### **Objectives For The Year**

Developments in the field of child protection within Community Welfare at the beginning of the financial year meant that the nature of the work was beginning to reflect growing concerns in the areas of emotional and sexual abuse. While the main thrust of the Unit's work is with children under the age of six who are subject to physical abuse and those at severe risk of abuse, it has become evident that there is a need for clearer guidelines as to how to assess and manage cases of emotional abuse. Further to this, there was seen a growing need for stricter criteria for acceptance of child abuse cases so that more intensive case management could be undertaken.

On-going community education, with more emphasis on the understanding, detection and prevention of child abuse in the community was envisaged. In view of a number of referrals from the education sector, it was hoped to develop an effective liaison system with school personnel.

The separation between the Unit and Field Divisions had over the years prevented valuable interchanges between both sections of the Department which deal with child abuse. An experimental three month pilot project was planned to test possible decentralisation of the Unit. A Unit officer while maintaining the specialist role was to be placed in a Division. Thus the sharing of skills between officers and greater accessibility by the Child Life Protection Unit worker to the community were the main objectives.

### **Increased Selectivity in Case Management**

Statistics gathered in terms of number of referrals to the Unit have never accurately reflected the true nature of the work undertaken. It is hoped that more accurate data will be gathered in the coming year.

There was a drop to 58 in the number of cases which the Unit accepted for case management in the past year. With greater emphasis on the Unit's statutory role, this selectivity has meant that more intensive and purposeful work has been undertaken on cases thus bringing about more effective results. Each worker carries an average case load of 18 cases and at the end of the year there were 25 children supervised by the Unit in substitute care. Added to this about 60 consultations were undertaken. These varied from telephone calls to assessment interviews with families. Formal action to ensure protection of children took place in respect of 17 children of which eight involved a hearing in the Children's Court. This number reflects the general trend and drop in numbers of

cases dealt with by the Unit. The major sources of referral were from other Departmental offices and medical agencies.

It is possible that the fall in number of cases handled by the Unit can be attributed to two factors:

- (a) Community agencies have developed a clearer understanding of child abuse and therefore have taken greater responsibility for working with families where child abuse may be a problem.
- (b) A greater emphasis by the Unit on cases requiring protective rather than preventive work.

Requests for speakers and information continued to flow into the Unit. Officers spoke to hospitals, professional groups, students, Day Care Centres, and a seminar for Guidance Officers was recently held on child abuse. Unit staff, together with other agencies dealing with different aspects of child abuse, attended school principals' meetings to assist them in identifying this problem and to inform them of the agencies to which cases could be referred.

A research project was begun by an independent researcher in order to establish criteria for defining emotional abuse. Information from the Unit and from outside agencies contributed to this research which should be completed at the beginning of 1982. This should greatly assist staff in their future assessment and treatment of emotional abuse.

The pilot project for decentralisation took place between October 1980 and December 1981. While the Child Life Protection Unit officer has remained in the Division the findings of the project have yet to be assessed and the decentralisation concept review in the terms of the new structure of the Children's Protection Service. As a result of decentralisation experiment there has been improved communication between the Unit and the Division, together with the development of stronger links with community resources and greater accessibility to the Unit worker by the client.

A member of the Unit attended the 3rd International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect in Amsterdam in April 1981. A paper arising from the Unit's work was offered for presentation.

With the development of the Children's Protection Service in new premises it is envisaged that the areas of physical, emotional and sexual abuse will be given equal attention. The new premises and greatly improved working conditions should provide more opportunities for a variety of therapies such as family counselling and group work.

## **Child Sexual Abuse Unit**

The above specialist services were finally set up in April 1981 with the creation of two new positions of a Senior Social Worker and a Social Worker. This marks the beginning of the Department's intention to develop its services in this area. The personnel appointed have considerable experience in working with victims of sexual assault.

There are signs that the sexual abuse and exploitation of children may be on the increase, though firm evidence is difficult to obtain. The Department is the sole agency able to institute both protective-legal action and therapeutic services to children and their families. It is therefore particularly suited to encourage and participate in services to bring help to



children who are sexually abused within their families or immediate social networks, and to co-ordinate effectively with other agencies and services involved.

The immediate objectives of the Unit in its initial year are to provide a protective and rehabilitative service to selected cases involving sexually abused children 6-16 years. It will develop knowledge and skills through concentrated experience and the testing of different modes of management, and produce training and community education material in co-operation with the wider Department and other agencies and professions involved.

Because the provisions of the criminal code extend to these cases at present, there is the potential for secrecy and anxiety, and consequently, increased trauma for child victims on disclosure of the sexual abuse, over and above the abuse itself.

A review of 21 child sexual abuse cases coming to the attention of the Department in March, April and May 1981, showed that primary school-aged children in particular need access to more information and help. The Child Sexual Abuse Unit, within the framework of present laws, seeks to enlist the co-operation of judicial, legal and law enforcement services, and the wider community in:—

- reducing the pressure on perpetrators to deny that child sexual abuse has occurred;
- demanding recognition of the needs of the sexually abused child and ensuring by appropriate means cessation of the abuse;
- encouraging and ensuring that families deal with the family situations and relationships that led to the abuse, and make changes towards more normal family relationships and/or protection of the child.

Members of the Children's Protection Service are serving on the Advisory and Co-ordinating Committee on Child Abuse Sub-Committee, examining the legal, social and medical consequences of the law and its practice in relation to child sexual abuse. This Sub-Committee expects to make an initial report by the end of 1981.

Child sexual abuse cases are already recognised as complex and demanding. Input by a single-handed worker is seldom enough to ensure maximum effectiveness in case management. Any financial restrictions affecting the allocation of psychological services and family support worker to the new Unit could seriously hamper its effectiveness.

When the Child Sexual Abuse Unit's services have developed sufficiently to combine with the Child Life Protection Unit, they will jointly form the new Children's Protection Service.

The Supervisor of the Children's Protection Service in attending the 3rd International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect in Amsterdam in April 1981, gained a valuable overview of the planned programmes for child sexual abuse operating in the U.S.A. and those beginning in U. K. and Europe.

## **Advisory and Co-ordinating Committee on Child Abuse**

This Committee exists to promote consultation and co-ordination of those agencies involved in delivering services for child abuse. With the assistance of

members, who represent government departments, non-government organisations, and major hospitals, a number of activities have been undertaken in the year ended June 1980. These include a pilot study for child abuse statistics, initially within the Perth metropolitan area; the formation of a Sub-Committee at the request of the Hon. Minister for Community Welfare to examine the legal, medical and social consequences of the law and its practice in relation to child sexual abuse which plans to report by the end of 1981 and the provision of a forum for consultation and seminars by distinguished overseas researchers and practitioners in the field of social administration and social welfare and clinical practice.

A pamphlet for the information of the general public was initiated with assistance from a senior member of the Child Life Protection Unit following the success of an earlier publication by the Advisory and Co-ordinating Committee directed at professionals who dealt with this problem. It is felt that public awareness and sensitivity to child abuse, with referral to professional services where appropriate, can help in preventing severe harm to children in this State. Members have had professional advice on how best to achieve this end through a publication of this nature. The project will be completed in the forthcoming year if funds are available.

## **Early Childhood Services**

The functions of the Early Childhood Services Unit are to protect the welfare of children up to six years of age who are cared for away from their parents and their homes, on a daily basis, by application of the licensing and supervisory requirements of the Child Welfare Act and the Child Welfare (Care Centre) Regulations, 1968; to assist individuals, groups and communities to develop and use needed child care services and to promote the welfare of children in day care by the provision of advisory and educational services to caregivers.

This Unit has been operating since 1975 and although a full establishment of staff is difficult to maintain, there has been considerable stability among the eleven professional full-time Advisers and four part-time workers.

## **Standards**

A number of administrative practices have been developed which have led to consistency and effectiveness in the application of licensing requirements and standards for all day care services.

A considerable number of privately owned day care centres have changed hands over the last few years and Advisers pay a great deal of attention to the selection and the giving of information to new licensees. This has clearly had a beneficial effect on standards in private day care centres.

The funded centres are characterised by outstanding stability among the Directors of these centres. The Unit's partnership with these Directors is excellent and there is much sharing of ideas and expertise.

The toy, book and film loan available to all day care services has been expanded and is widely used.



## **In-service**

Now that most of the day care centres are soundly based and of a good standard, attention is focussed upon inservice training for day care centre staff and family day care mothers.

A part-time officer has been appointed to assist the Advisers in developing short courses and workshops and to liaising with other Institutions of learning. The aim is to ensure that existing courses, where possible, are available to day care staff and to seek the co-operation of these Institutions in developing other needed learning opportunities.

Day care staff work extremely hard and are often isolated in their work. Their need to get together to exchange ideas and concerns is as important to them as the stimulation of a good lecturer.

## **The Opening of the Lady Gowrie Centre: Karawara**

The opening of this centre is a milestone in the growth of day care services and family support services in Western Australia. This centre comprises a Neighbourhood Centre which includes opportunities for playgroups, mothers' groups, Child Health Services, a parents library and a toy loan. The other two buildings of the centre comprise full-time and part-time day care and out of school care services.

In addition, the centre's terms of reference include demonstration and evaluation of, and research into early childhood services. The Early Childhood Services Unit looks forward to an invaluable partnership with this centre in furthering knowledge and practise in the field of early childhood.

## **Extension of Day Care Services**

Although the Early Childhood Services Unit has continued to work closely with the Office of Child Care and community groups, the preceding year has seen very little growth in day care services. The only exception is a significant growth in family day care centres, especially in the newer suburbs.

Multi-purpose centres have opened at Kununurra and Northam and one will shortly open at Rockingham. These type of centres are proving to be a focus for family support services in their community and have enormous potential for preventive work for families under stress with young children.

The established Family Day Care Schemes are approaching maximum size. It is to be hoped that a much needed Family Day Care Scheme will be established in the Armadale-Kelmscott area during the coming year.

As mentioned in the previous annual report, it is of increasing concern that there are a number of areas where funded services cannot meet the need for subsidised care, and there are other areas where no funded day care or family day care is available.

## **Statistics**

The annual collection of pre-school and day care statistics was delayed until October 1980, to coincide with the first national collection. This national collection has proved successful and will continue on an annual basis.

Some comparison with the results in 1978 and 1979 may be effected by the later date of 1980 collection. Six thousand three hundred and forty-one children were using day care centres in October 1980. This is 1 270 more than in August 1979. Of the total of children that actually attended a child care service during the census week, 46 per cent were in care less than 10 hours. Twenty per cent of the total were in care for 40 or more hours during the week. Nineteen per cent of children in care were attending family day care centres as compared to 14 per cent in 1979. The greatest number of children in care were aged three years.

Further analysis of the 1980 collection and further collections will give more information about the families of the children and children with special needs. This in turn should assist the Early Childhood Services Unit and pre-service providers in planning the special needs of children using child care centres.

## **Family Court: Counselling and Welfare Service**

The Family Court Counselling Service has completed its fifth year of operation as a specialist section of the Department which is located within the precincts of the Family Court of Western Australia. The number of clients referred to this service has increased each year since its inception in 1976, with over 3 000 referrals being made to the service for the 1980/81 year, an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year. The Counselling Service is freely available to the community regardless of whether or not legal proceedings have been instituted, and in fact 51 per cent of referrals to the service come without an order or direction from the Court. This ensures an important preventative service in which people can seek to resolve problems within relationships or over arrangements for the children without having to resort to legal proceedings.

The Counselling Service staff comprises a Director and nine Counsellors with clerical support services being provided by Crown Law Department personnel. The main emphasis of the Counselling work is on conciliation services, providing the opportunity and assistance for people who have separated or are planning to separate to examine the nature of their dispute and to seek their own solutions. A further role of the Court Counsellors is to assist the Court in making decisions with regard to placement of children by preparing reports for the Court on such factors as the relationships involving children, the wishes of children, and the respective proposals of the competing claims of the parents. As the conciliation role is the most significantly utilised service of the Counsellors, it is appropriate that a pilot research project has been proposed in order to evaluate this service.

Whilst casework with parents is seen to be the main means by which Court Counselling Services are extended to families, recognition of the effects of marital breakdown upon children has led to the development of a number of group work programmes for children of varying ages. These programmes have been successful in terms of enhancing the self confidence of the children participating as well as improving their capacities to cope with the stress of the breakdown in the family circumstances.



The dissemination of information relating to the court processes and the services available is considered an important function and the Court Counselling Services has assumed a major role in this regard. A weekly "Information Forum" is presented by the service each Thursday between 10 a.m. and noon. This information service has been well publicised and those attending have indicated in very positive terms the value of receiving such information. In addition to this service representatives of the Court Counselling Service are regularly called upon to address various community organisations and educational institutions on matters relating to marriage and Family Law.

After five years of operation the Counselling Service has established itself as an integral part of the Family Law process. Its functions have involved a highly specialised area of work relating to family disruption and as a consequence a substantial body of knowledge has been built up by this service. Despite a high degree of satisfaction with the work of this service the Court Counsellors are mindful of the need for further improvement in the development of conciliation skills and for developing special techniques for interviewing children and assessing the perceptions and needs of children involved in the process of marital breakdown.

## Aboriginal Accommodation Service

The past year has shown an increase in the number of families utilising this service. A total of 478 used the service this year as compared to 368 of the previous year.

The following Tables provide basic data about the users of the Service from the 1st July 1980—

TABLE I LENGTH OF CONTACT

	No.	%
Single Contact	97	20.29
Less than 1 month	180	37.66
Less than 2 months	50	10.46
Less than 3 months	27	5.65
Less than 4 months	17	3.56
Less than 5 months	7	1.46
Less than 6 months	22	4.60
Less than 12 months	44	9.20
12 months or more	34	7.12
Total	478	100.00

Table 1 shows figures generally following those presented in last year's annual report, with the one marked difference of a 13 per cent decrease in single contact with families. This decrease in single contact with families, has spread itself out to longer contact with people. An indication of the increasing difficulty in dealing in the private rental market and securing housing for Aboriginal families. Nevertheless, of the 97 families that did have single contact with this Service, the majority were concerned with housing-related problems including furniture requirements, rental arrears, food orders accounts and other day to day concerns.

Intervention at this level provides a basic policy of this Service, in that if minor housing problems of this kind are alleviated then there is less likelihood of families being evicted, to add to the housing problem.

TABLE II SOURCE OF REFERRAL

	No.	%
Grapevine	338	70.72
AAC/ALS/AMS	33	6.90
DCW	11	2.30
Community Health	11	2.30
Other	85	17.78
Total	478	100.00

Remarkably, figures for Table II follow almost exactly those from last year. Again, the majority of families having known about this Service by word of mouth, is an encouraging sign of the success of the Aboriginal Accommodation Service in dealing with housing problems presented at this Office.

Other Aboriginal Organisations and Welfare Agencies referred the remaining 140 families to this Office. A further indication of the identification that other Agencies have give this Office in being able to assist Aboriginal families into the private rental market.

TABLE III FAMILY STRUCTURE

	No.	%
Single Parent	165	34.70
Married	64	13.39
De facto	152	31.80
Single	81	16.74
Others—single people joined together as a unit for accommodation e.g. students	16	3.37
Total	478	100.00

Table III indicates the type of family structure unit applying for assistance. We again observe the many single parent families, 165 (34.70 per cent) to approach this Service for housing assistance, and conjecture the point regarding the increasing breakdown of family relationships because of the Aboriginal Housing problem.

The referrals from colleges and educational institutions has increased somewhat from last year's report. This indicates that the operation of the Service is now more widespread. Other than this, the remaining Tables are almost par to that of last year's report.

TABLE IV SOURCE OF INCOME

Income	No.	%
Single Parent Benefits	30	27.20
Unemployment Benefits	182	38.08
Pensions	88	18.42
Wages	39	8.15
Other—Study Grants and Student Allowances	39	8.15
Total	478	100.00

Table IV represents the major source of income of the clients applying to the Service for assistance. The majority of Supporting Parents received the basic allowance. However, the Service has found that some of them have sought alternative grants, such as Student Allowance and so on. In comparison to the Unemployment Benefit figure of last year's Report, the sum has risen from 138 to 182. The Service feels that in conjunction with the Society's vast unemployment, the figure presented is not unusual to the general consensus. Overall, the figures do state that the majority of people seen are from the lower income bracket. Many do need the assistance of the bond scheme. In reality it does fall short of the people who



require such assistance. To date, approximately 80 families have been helped. However, when one considers a figure of 478 300 other clients are then encouraged to seek other avenues—i.e. Distressed Person Relief Trust or agency contact with various other charitable organisations to raise such finance.

TABLE V ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

Stated needs	No.	%
Houses/Flats	224	47.91
S.H.C.	36	7.53
Bond	64	13.39
S.E.C.	13	1.68
Other—furniture, food orders etc.	141	29.49
Total	478	100.00

Table V shows that the predominant need for Aboriginal families is accommodation, however the Service has found that the clients are readily approaching to discuss “housing related problems”. This general heading includes furniture, food, clothing, blankets, rental arrears and other material assistance.

Although this service is not the foremost part of the A.A.S., it is however encouraged as it does help the family to maintain tenancy and in turn succeed as tenants in either the private rental market or S.H.C. In relation to last year’s figures, this part has surprisingly not increased. Many that do approach the service regarding assistance required along these lines are in fact tenants of rental homes. With encouragement and support it is a step in the right direction to maintain stability within the family unit.

Generally the A.A.S. not only enquires on behalf of the family per private rental but also S.H.C. assistance. The Service maintains a close liaison with the Aboriginal Housing Board, and usually enquiries presented are settled within a short time after intervention.

TABLE VI TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION AT CONTACT

Accommodation	No.	%
Conventional Housing (as Tenant)	116	24.27
Conventional Housing (as non-Tenant)	199	41.63
Semi Conventional Housing	60	19.47
Improvised Dwelling	5	1.13
Other	52	10.88
Unknown	46	9.62
Total	478	100.00

This Table indicates the type of accommodation of clients when initially contacting the A.A.S. The 116 families approaching our Service as tenants of their own home, generally fall under the heading of housing related problems as explained in Table V.

The majority of clients are classified as non-tenants of conventional housing, usually residing with relatives who have attained S.H.C. Assistance or private rental. Many of these families seek alternative accommodation, either with S.H.C. or private housing, so as not to threaten the tenants by eviction with overcrowding problems. Some are in fact awaiting S.H.C. allocation of homes for themselves.

Our success rate for locating housing in the private rental market can be marked against the figure of 199 clients as non-tenants requiring assistance.

TABLE VII POST CONTACT ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation Type	No.	%
Conventional Housing (as tenant)	172	35.98
Conventional housing (as non-tenant)	67	14.02
Semi-conventional Housing	113	23.64
Improvised dwelling	1	.21
Non-private dwelling	1	.21
Other	37	7.74
Unknown	87	18.20
Total	478	100.00

Table VII outlines accommodation after contact. As the private rental market is becoming increasingly harder to obtain houses for Aboriginal families, many of the clients opt for semi-conventional lifestyles.

In comparison to housing, flats are not only cheaper to move into, but the rental is easily affordable to low income families. Although semi conventional dwelling is not often suitable for larger families, it does however, accommodate the unit until conventional housing is successfully found.

Overall, the other figures are almost parallel with last year’s annual report.

Although the above statistics provide much basic information about the Service and its operation, this segment of the report will attempt to deal with the complexities of this Service’s involvement with the Aboriginal Housing problem.

Determining change is difficult to gauge by merely observing statistics following on from year to year as to the impact the Aboriginal Accommodation Service has on alleviating the Aboriginal housing problem, or whether in fact this is a true indication of the deeper underlying problem of the frustration that is evident among the whole of the Aboriginal community and its people, when access to housing either through State Housing Commission and or the private rental market is becoming increasingly difficult.

Many factors unite to present a very dark picture indeed as to the future of the Aboriginal housing problem, and its current bind of this Service along with the State Housing Commission and the Aboriginal Housing Board attempting to deal with an ever increasing demand for Aboriginal housing.

It must be noted that year by year many young Aboriginal couples are seeking accommodation, in excess of those already seeking accommodation, and the prospect of waiting months and sometimes years for State Housing Commission assistance is daunting to say the least.

Of the 478 Aboriginal families that have approached this office this year many of them have been young Aboriginal couples, most of them unemployed, and most of them living with relatives that have secured housing.

Unfortunately many people misinterpret this action of one family providing accommodation for others as a throw-back to the tribal customs and ideals, and not understanding that it is one of necessity and survival for most. It is not too uncommon to find not one but two and three families sharing the same house, because of the unavailability of housing.

These problems are magnified again if Aboriginal families are seeking to locate housing in the private rental market.



Most Aboriginal families are aware that if they do find accommodation, it then becomes not only home for them and their immediate family, but at some stage of the tenancy, for floating relatives as well.

Unfortunately, in the private rental market Aboriginal tenants have a very tenuous hold from the beginning, and usually one or two complaints regarding overcrowding is sufficient for the tenant family to be evicted forthwith. However, although State Housing Commission do have a policy on overcrowding it is much more difficult to evict families from these homes on the basis of overcrowding because of so many Aboriginal families on the waiting list.

Attempting to deal in the private rental market on behalf of Aboriginal families, has brought to light many concerns that this Service is forced to deal with. Perhaps the most distressing and difficult to deal with is attitudes by Estate Agencies, private owners and landlords, to requests regarding Aboriginal tenancy. Often Aboriginal people cannot even get to fill out a tenancy application for consideration, and it is not too uncommon for Agents and private owners to state over the telephone that Aboriginal tenants aren't considered.

This is of course against the law and could theoretically be taken up through the Courts, however most Aboriginal people consider the effort expended on this exercise wasted and understandably detract from their immediate need of locating accommodation.

Efforts are made in every case to inform Agents and the like of becoming aware of the Aboriginal people and some of their problems, rather than ignoring and being frightened by them. Again it is the policy of this Unit to negotiate first and foremost to change these attitudes that are deep rooted and sometimes impossible to change.

It is important to note that some Estate Agencies and private owners are readily willing to negotiate and are able to help this Service locate housing for Aboriginal families.

Notwithstanding the above problems in locating accommodation for Aboriginal families, further complications do arise even after Aboriginal tenancy is secured usually through complaints back to Estate Agencies regarding overcrowding, noise etc. Much time and effort has been spent in attempting to identify these complaints to ascertain the validity and cause as to why complaints have been initiated.

In several instances, threats of eviction have been averted after negotiation and consultation with all parties concerned. Again if a better understanding is achieved by these methods between Aboriginal tenants, landlords and neighbours, the less likelihood of these tenants being evicted unfairly.

However, because we are dealing in a highly competitive market, and understanding that the majority of families approaching this office are from the lower socio-economic bracket of society, many evictions do occur mainly because of rental arrears.

It is interesting to note that an excerpt from a booklet printed and published by Roy Weston Real Estate, one of the largest Estate Agencies in Perth, commenting on the residential rental market made the following observations: "The residential rental market had been static for at least 10 years and reached an all time low in April 1980, when our vacancy factor topped nine per

cent. In the last 12 months however, this factor had dropped dramatically to 2.18 per cent at the end of May 1981. Rents generally in that time have increased \$10-\$15 per week for the average suburban three bedroom unfurnished home".

Where a vacancy factor of 2.18 per cent now exists in the private rental market, it becomes evident that the economic law of supply and demand emerges with correspondingly higher rents, and with Estate Agencies having the luxury now of being able to be more selective in securing tenants for their houses.

As well with this increased demand in rental property and on line with Estate Agencies being more selective, the required amount of money needed for bond has risen sharply over this 12-month period from an average of between \$100-\$200 to \$250-\$300 and over. This effectively reduces further, chances of Aboriginal families without jobs and receiving unemployment benefits, pensions and other welfare monetary assistance of securing accommodation in the private rental sector.

Returning to Table IV of our statistical section, and noting that of the 478 families that utilised this Service only 8.15 per cent were receiving wages, it is easy to understand the dilemma Aboriginal people face today when seeking accommodation in this now highly competitive market.

This does of course justify the operation of the bond loan scheme, which is now more than ever needed to offset the increasing cost of securing private rental accommodation.

Details concerning the operations of this scheme since the administration of funds have been handled by the Anglican Health and Welfare Services and utilised solely by this Service, are as follows:—

Cheques deposited with Anglican Health and Welfare—					\$
December 1980	....	....	....	....	5 000.00
February 1981	....	....	....	....	1 923.61
Total	....	....	....	....	6 923.61

Number of Clients Assisted					
Month	No.				Amount \$
December	....	....	23	....	2 581.50
January	....	....	14	....	1 671.50
February	....	....	18	....	2 308.25
March	....	....	14	....	1 385.25
April	....	....	3	....	276.00
May	....	....	1	....	100.00
June	....	....	2	....	234.00
Total	....	....	75	....	8 556.50

Repayments by Clients					
Month					Amount \$
December	....	....	....	....	....
January	....	....	....	....	....
February	....	....	....	....	250.79
March	....	....	....	....	412.25
April	....	....	....	....	181.00
May	....	....	....	....	45.00
June	....	....	....	....	248.64
Total	....	....	....	....	\$1 137.68



### Returned Cheques

Month	Amount \$
January (representing 1 client) ....	125.00
February (representing 3 clients) ....	316.00
March (representing 1 client) ....	100.00
Total ....	\$541.00

### Current Bond Balance

	Amount \$
Amount Returned Cheques ....	541.00
Repayment by Clients ....	1 137.68
Initial Bond Allocation ....	6 923.61
	8 602.29
Subtract amount Utilised by Clients ....	8 556.50
	45.79
Current Bond Scheme Balance ....	45.79
Less Bank Charges ....	1.68
Total ....	\$44.11

Monitoring these changes in the private rental market and understanding them, has forced the Aboriginal Accommodation Service to adjust its operations accordingly, enabling continuation of the Service in providing a stepping stone between the needs and wants of Aboriginal people and the available resources that are at our disposal to meet these needs.

The Aboriginal Accommodation Service now has in operation a successful furniture store that enables almost immediate access by Aboriginal families housed by this Service, to basic furniture requirements.

The operation of this furniture store is entirely dependant on referrals from the general public and other sources, and is at present working very successfully. One Welfare Officer is in charge of its operation including the responsibility of issuing furniture out to Aboriginal families.

The Department of Community Welfare finances the wage of a part-time worker utilised by this Welfare Officer to pick up and deliver furniture. Families are required to pay money for this furniture, which in turn is deposited in a savings Account and utilised to assist in paying our part-time worker.

This Office is also involved in the proposed establishment of an Aboriginal Women's Refuge Centre in the Belmont area. Unsuccessful attempts have been made to secure funding from the Federal Government and as an alternative attempt at securing funding, efforts have been made to involve the Belmont Community in helping to establish this Refuge Centre.

It is hoped that once established the Aboriginal Accommodation Service will be able to utilise this facility as another resource available to assist in homeless Aboriginal women and children.

Changes within the Aboriginal Accommodation Service itself include the addition of a further Welfare Officer, and an Aboriginal Family Worker; the Welfare Officer position being made available by a vacancy for this item since early last year, and being filled in March this year.

Continued efforts by this Service to provide a viable alternative for the Aboriginal people in seeking accommodation has overall proved successful, and is certainly reflected in the statistics that are presented in this report.

## Homemaker Service

The Homemaker Service in Western Australia has now been in operation for over 12 years. The focus and emphasis continues to be one of support and advocacy, with individuals, families and groups within the community throughout the State. One of the most important aspects of the Service is that people continue to have the choice as to whether they accept Homemaker support or not.

Currently there are approximately 200 Homemakers working throughout Western Australia, of which approximately 25 per cent are Aboriginal women. Furthermore, there are Community Homemakers who are employed on a contract system by numerous Aboriginal communities in the North West and funded by the Homemaker Service.

The role of the Homemaker continues to be one of family support given in a neighbourly and caring way in areas such as: child care, budgeting, alleviating problems associated with loneliness or social isolation, community participation, discovering and using community resources, helping individuals and families to achieve stability and growth and thus reduce the risk of family or person breakdown. This help may be given either on an individual basis to families or on a group basis at one of the Homemaker centres operating throughout the State.

These Homemaker centres provide an opportunity for people with a common need or interest to meet together in order to build up self-confidence, develop social skills, improve self-image and thus become more confident to be involved in their own community. Currently there are over thirty centres operating throughout the State, and are provided on a rental basis paid by the Homemaker Service. The types of centres used range from S.H.C. houses and flats, private rental houses, to halls, local community centres, etc. This year has seen a centre opening in the metropolitan area and a relocation of the centre in Broome.

The Community Homemaker Programmes continue to operate successfully throughout the Kimberleys at Kununurra, Halls Creek, La Grange, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing and Noonkanbah. The community Homemakers are selected by their own communities to work on projects chosen by the community. The Homemaker Service has a formal contract with the different Aboriginal communities which is reviewed on a regular quarterly basis.

The Community Homemaker Programme, initiated in Roebourne last year, has developed into a highly successful social programme. Activities include provisions of lunches, driving lessons, liaison with Government Agencies, etc. Not only has this programme enabled the community Homemakers to develop an increased ability to work confidently and independently within their community, it has also allowed people to build up their self-confidence and self-esteem.

The staff in the Homemaker Service continue to provide a consultative service to the Field Staff throughout the State. Furthermore, regular training programmes are provided for all Homemakers by the Homemaker Service as well as regular orientation programmes for new Homemakers.

One exciting development in the area of training has been the introduction of training programmes for the Community Homemakers. So far, these programmes



have been held in Broome, Halls Creek and Derby, and Community Homemakers from throughout the Kimberley have attended. These training programmes provide the opportunity for the sharing of ideas and experiences which provide impetus for further projects and programmes to be undertaken by the different communities.

The Homemaker Service also continues to provide a consultative service to other social welfare agencies, both within W.A. and the other States.

Through the provision of this consultancy role to both departmental field staff and other agencies, it is hoped that this will ensure that there is a continuity of the philosophy and approach of Homemaker Services throughout W.A. and Australia.

## Parent Help Centre

The Parent Help Centre represents a major preventative thrust of the Department into the community. It is funded jointly by the Department and the Commonwealth Office of Child Care. The Centre plays a vital role in helping families deal with problems at an early stage and preventing families from entering into protracted contact with the Welfare System. Approximately 78 per cent of families are in contact with the Centre for less than three months.

The Parent Help Centre is a self-referring service for parents with the general aim of helping client-parents to raise the quality of family life.

In seeking to achieve this aim, the Centre provides a number of services:

1. The Centre provides a unique crisis and support service for families in which young children could be considered at risk of physical or emotional injury in their home environments. The Centre is open seven days a week and provides a 24-hour telephone service. There are also facilities for brief family accommodation in situations of extreme crisis. These facilities were used on 10 occasions during the year. Clients can remain anonymous if they choose. In the past year approximately 25 per cent of contacts were anonymous.
2. The Centre provides on-going support for families in need of friendship, acceptance and help. Centre personnel may function as a surrogate extended family on a long term basis for clients experiencing isolation. For some clients, the Centre functions as a friendly "drop-in-centre" where they can be sure of receiving a welcome.
3. Centre staff provide a helping service indirectly by being "models" for client-parents and directly by listening and giving information and suggestions in positive ways. At the Centre, clients are able to explore alternative methods of interaction with adults and with children.
4. Professional staff at the Centre act as Consultants to Parent Helpers and provide some counselling/psychotherapy to clients.
5. The Centre provides information and guidance to clients on services and facilities available in the community. Clients are referred to other agencies when this is appropriate. Caution is exercised here, that onward referral does not give rise to feelings of rejection or devaluation in clients.

6. The Centre communicates information about its services to professional and community groups and transmits skills and experience to groups and institutions in liaison and in consultations. The Centre may also provide a field placement for students from tertiary institutions.

During the year there has been a significant increase in client contacts with the Centre. Some 716 families have sought help. In responding to these requests for help the Centre has had impact on the lives of 1 427 children. Client families tend to be predominantly two-parent families with one or two children. Where the presenting problem is related to children, it tends to be focused on one child who is more likely to be male and the only child or the eldest. Initial contact is made usually by the mother and there are some signs of greater involvement by fathers in contact with the Centre. Marital disharmony commonly underlies many of the presenting problems.

The Centre is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on week days and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends, and public holidays. After hours telephone calls are diverted to Parent Helpers' homes. The new telephone call diverting system introduced this year has proved to be most satisfactory. Some 26 per cent of initial contacts were crisis calls. Eighty per cent of initial contacts occurred during the opening hours of the Centre (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.) with 20 per cent from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Clients come from all suburbs of the City and Moore River to Mandurah with occasional telephonic contact from the country areas. Social isolation tends to be a common complaint of Centre clients. An "outreach project" initiated last year was completed successfully. The project focused on the needs of Parent Help Centre clients from Armadale/Kelmscott area and involved two experienced Parent Helpers visiting the area weekly and establishing a local Parent Help Centre contact point, together with a supportive self help group of Parent Help Centre clients. The project was drawn to a close when the needs of clients were met. The skills developed from this experience will be valuable in further outreach projects to other suburbs with similar needs.

This has been a very successful year of operation. Greater utilisation of the Centre makes the project itself more cost-effective and contributes to the overall functioning of the Department by pre-empting the involvement of individuals and families with more long-term, more costly utilisation of other Departmental services.

### Goals for the Coming Year

1. *Development of an "Outreach Programme" as an adjunct to the Service provided at the Centre.*  
This programme may form the basis for establishment of Parent Help Centre Sub-Centres at a future date.  
Two priority areas for this new service are the Northern suburbs and a socially deprived area. The former is chosen because of isolation and high transport costs and the latter to assess the appropriateness of the service to a population where telephone subscription is very low.



2. *To evaluate existing services provided.*  
Whilst evaluating what existing services provide, client needs should be considered in the light of community services for families in crisis situations.
3. Review of the System for Staffing the Centre with exploration of the possibility of employing staff for more than 30 hours/fortnight to improve the service to clients.

## Special Task Force

### Cullacabardee Village

The completion of the Cullacabardee Village, the opening of the village by the Hon. Minister Mr. W. R. B. Hassell in September 1980 and occupancy of the village in early October by three fringe-dwelling groups has brought to a close three years of intensive consultation with these groups to overcome homelessness amongst Aboriginal fringe dwellers in the Swan Valley. It has been a rewarding experience for fringe dwellers and the Special Task Force. It has seen the closure of three campsites, Abattoirs, Widgee Road and Bishop Road. All campers are now accommodated either at Cullacabardee, in State Housing Commission accommodation elsewhere or private accommodation. The group in the remaining campsite at Lockridge is engaged in discussions seeking an alternative to the Cullacabardee site.

The village is entering a new phase of development, from construction and occupancy to planned self-management and enterprise development. Much now depends on personal motivation and group solidarity in providing the direction of growth at Cullacabardee. If the groups at Cullacabardee are given the opportunity to experiment with ideas in providing "Community" operated support services, the next twelve months should be an exciting and fruitful period.

Formal occupancy of the village took place on 6th October, 1980. There have been many problems to overcome adjusting to this new environment and the new demands of living in a conventional S.H.C. home. These "Settling-in" difficulties are being worked through. However, despite these problems a start has been made to provide village support services. A small kindergarten has been established with assistance from the Education Department's Mobile Kindergarten and caters for 6-8 children. It is hoped that this will become a regular service in the future. Other services established to assist the village include a thrift shop, a sewing group and the appointment of three village women as community homemakers to assist families experiencing "settling-in problems".

The village leaders have had discussions with the Aboriginal Legal Service with a move to becoming an incorporated group. This has still to be completed. Once incorporated, Cullacabardee will approach the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Aboriginal Development Commission for funds to engage in enterprises and activities presently being discussed:—

- (a) Delicatessen.
- (b) Recreational Facilities—Basketball Courts and Football Oval.
- (c) Vegetable garden—market garden.
- (d) Footpaths.
- (e) Barbecue building at transient camping area.

The Cullacabardee Task Force is presently engaged in assisting people on day-to-day problems and assisting Cullacabardee to establish support services and enterprises with the eventual aim of withdrawing as the community becomes more self-managing.

A good working relationship exists between the Task Force, the village and the State Housing Commission. A Housing Management Committee has been formed and includes a representative from the village. The eventual aim of this committee is to assist the village towards management of the village housing needs.

The village is now entering a new phase as villagers themselves now determine the direction of growth of Cullacabardee. The next 12 months will be important as the village establishes and operates its own support services and enterprises. Self-management of the entire village will be an important issue to discuss with the village and the relevant Government agencies.

## Counter Disaster Welfare Measures

During the year there were a number of Cyclone alerts which resulted in five main cyclone warnings. In most cases the cyclones moved westwards, and dissipated into rain bearing depressions.

Although no damage was caused by wind, there was considerable disruption of services caused through heavy rainfall.

During the month of December cyclone "Felix" caused concern by moving south, to sit off the coast west of Perth, threatening the metropolitan area. Only minor damage was caused by high winds, but it served its purpose as a reminder for the requirement of proper planning and preparation of Welfare Services, should a disaster occur in the metropolitan area.

Welfare Services were on standby in readiness for the required response throughout the cyclone season from December to March.

### Carnarvon Flooding

The emergency stage of the flooding of the Carnarvon area in June, carried over through July. A long term rehabilitation programme is still proceeding. Temporary accommodation is still necessary for Aboriginal families, previously resident on the Aboriginal Reserve. It was necessary to provide Welfare assistance to many tourists who could not proceed through the flooded areas.

### State Welfare Plan

A complete review of the Counter Disaster Welfare Plan was undertaken by the Counter Disaster Welfare Committee, to meet the planning requirements of the State Emergency Service. It is now re-titled the "State Welfare Support Plan", and available for distribution to the appropriate departmental offices.



## **Task Force on Interstate Co-Ordination of Disaster Welfare**

Following the recommendations made at the Welfare Administrator's Seminar at Mt. Macedon in June 1980, a Task Force on Interstate Co-ordination of Disaster Welfare was formed, comprising representatives from Commonwealth, State and Territory Welfare Departments. Four meetings have been held with the aim "to establish a simple process for the co-ordination, on a National basis, of all Welfare aspects of disasters and community education, working within, and developing existing structures".

It is anticipated that this will cover a standardisation of all planning, training and welfare procedures so that in the event of any disaster requiring interstate assistance of either manpower or resources, co-ordination can be easily effected.

## **Local Government**

Local Government Authorities in the metropolitan area are becoming involved in the requirements of Welfare within the Voluntary Emergency Service. Teams are being trained for local response to disasters.

Arrangements are in hand to have an effective liaison service with the relevant departmental offices, to ensure a maximum response in any disaster situation within the metropolitan area.

## **Review of Welfare Response**

An annual review of all major areas most likely to be affected by disaster or emergency situations is undertaken to ensure that maximum response of departmental manpower and resources will be utilised for the relief and rehabilitation of those affected by disasters.

## **Student Unit**

The Unit has completed its first full year of operation attached to the Mirrabooka Division situated in the Mirrabooka District Centre. The Unit is strategically located to other personal service agencies which provides excellent learning opportunities for students. Groups of up to six Social Work Students from the W.A.I.T. and the University of W.A. are attached to the Unit from three to four months for field work experience through which theory is applied to practice.

The aims of the Unit are to:—

- (a) Maximise the individual learning experience of students.
- (b) Evaluate the services and performances of both the agency and the Unit personnel as exercises in accountability.
- (c) Liaise with the social work schools.

The Unit provides a field placement experience that maintains a balance of support and demands. Support is available through the group process and ready access to supervision as the students are being extended by the wide variety of client contacts encountered. The Unit has attained a satisfactory standard, with on-going development a high priority.

Performance evaluation continues to be an issue with the Unit. In service training the Unit Supervisor has given an impetus to the issues of goal-setting and measurement in the welfare setting. While a start has been made, much on-going work needs to be done in this important consideration of service delivery.

The Unit continues to provide a liaison function with the social work schools. Orientation to the agency for each new group of students placed with Social Workers throughout the Department, is undertaken by the Unit in conjunction with other sections of the Department.

## **Youth Activity Services**

The Youth Activity Services Unit aims to provide programmes that will assist those involved to expand their own social skills, develop their self esteem and gain a feeling of personal worth.

During the year the Department has relied a great deal on over 50 group leaders to help achieve this aim. Most of their time is provided on a voluntary basis. As well as furthering an ideal, positively influencing the young and being creatively involved, they help bring about programme quality and accountability. Many of the young people involved in the programme are themselves assisting at a leadership level and this is encouraged.

Staff and volunteers together actively seek out those activities to which the participant will positively respond and enable maximum involvement. The youth are encouraged to develop a sense of community co-operation and support for each other.

Although there has been no extension to the range of programmes used to achieve these aims the methods used are frequently reviewed and their development considered in an imaginative manner.

Small group activities in various neighbourhoods in a few selected areas throughout the State continued to operate and are assisting hundreds of children to better use their leisure time.

A revision of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme in Australia resulted in changes that updated the scheme and introduced greater flexibility whilst maintaining standards. This programme requires regular effort in four different fields of activity (expeditions, service, physical recreation and skills) and forms the basis of many of our activities.

Apart from several programmes for special interest groups the Department conducted 26 separate programmes involving 312 young people at our centre for adolescents—Port Kennedy Beach Camp. Each of these children were, on average, involved in at least two residential programmes (usually conducted over weekends) although 21 participated in 10 or more.

We have effective liaison with the large and competent volunteer groups and workers with youth. It is our aim to strengthen this relationship and make more effective use of these groups in our work with young people.

This unit also has responsibility for the overall operation of the Juvenile Community Service Order Scheme. Orders to perform work in the community can be imposed as a sanction against those youngsters who have been in trouble.



Well over 100 private organisations assist in the operation of this programme. The involvement of all these organisations is vital to the success of the scheme. Special reference should be made to Volunteer Task Force and the R.S.L. War Veteran's Home. In the last 12 months we have participated in 110 projects with Volunteer Task Force.

Four hundred and ninety-two children have been referred for involvement in the scheme during the year under review. It is considered this number will continue to increase and the next 12 months should

see wider use of a Community Service Order being used as a sanction particularly in the Country.

In all of these activities the progress of the children is carefully monitored. Group leaders are requested to observe the children especially in relation to the stated aims. This information is fed back to field staff, parents and others concerned with the welfare of the child.

These programmes continue to be an important aid to the Department in its work with the community and young people in particular.







# INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

The Department's Institutional Service is responsible for providing care, accommodation, assessment and treatment to children with special needs. These responsibilities are met by nine major metropolitan centres, their ancillary hostels and trained staff who work with the children both in the residential settings and in the community.

Although each of the centres has a specialised function, overall there is sufficient flexibility to meet a wide range of needs. This is essential as children are referred to the Institutional Service for many reasons including socio-economic or family circumstances, emotional disturbance, behavioural problems, offences, or, as is common, a combination of these. Secure accommodation is provided at five of the centres.

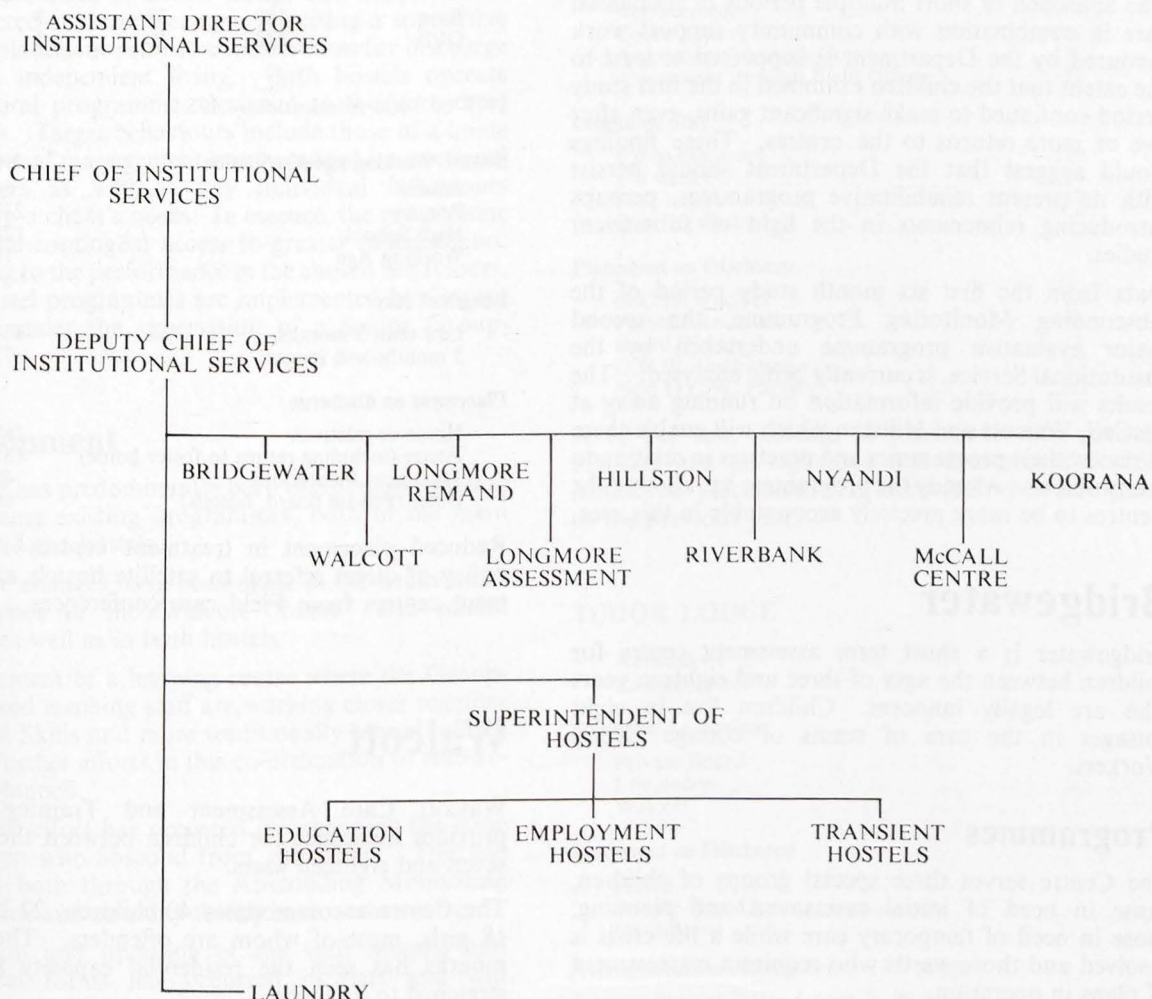
The Department also has a number of educational and employment hostels not attached to major centres. These are located in both metropolitan and country areas and cater mainly for Aboriginal children from isolated areas who must leave home to attend school or seek employment.

## Care, Assessment and Treatment Centres

Accommodation in the Department's secure centres catering for boys has been severely taxed during the year primarily due to Court restraints on young offenders and in particular increased usage by the higher Courts of Section 19 (6a) (a) of the Criminal Code. Longer than usual periods of containment for some boys at Riverbank, the Department's secure treatment centre for boys, as an alternative to imprisonment has resulted in clogging of established treatment systems. As a result it has been necessary to improvise, using alternative resources within the Institutional Service, for some male offenders not subject to Court constraints.

Notwithstanding these difficulties an "institutional systems" approach has continued to be an effective means of meeting the diverse needs of children referred to the Institutional Service. Each institutional system comprises of a major centre, one or more ancillary

### Guide to Institutional Services





hostels and a community support network. Children are usually, although not necessarily, admitted to the main centre in the first instance and may move within the system to situations of greater or lesser control in accordance with their needs and demonstrated ability to behave in socially acceptable ways. In dealing with offenders this flexibility is a necessary part of the Department's approach to corrective management in combining residential care and community support work to provide a more effective total programme to children.

Evaluation of Institutional Service Programmes has continued to receive a high priority. An interim report on the Recidivism Monitoring Programme was published in May this year. This programme, which commenced in 1979, is designed to periodically assess the performance of the three major Departmental centres providing corrective management for delinquents—Riverbank, Hillston and Nyandi. The programme is divided into study periods of six months and the interim report refers to the first study period from 1st January to 30th June, 1979. A final report for this period is expected to be available later this year.

The programme uses the term "recidivism" comparatively. That is an earlier, pre-intervention rate of offending is compared with subsequent performance. In this sense it is a measure of improvement, or deterioration, improvement being said to have occurred when the offending rate is reduced. In the Programme's first study period an overall offence reduction of 54 per cent was achieved following intervention by the centres concerned. This is unusually high by world standards.

The approach of short multiple periods of residential care in combination with community support work favoured by the Department is supported at least to the extent that the children examined in the first study period continued to make significant gains, even after five or more returns to the centres. These findings would suggest that the Department should persist with its present rehabilitative programmes, perhaps introducing refinements in the light of subsequent studies.

Data from the first six month study period of the Absconding Monitoring Programme, the second major evaluative programme undertaken by the Institutional Service, is currently being analysed. The results will provide information on running away at McCall, Walcott and Hillston which will enable them to review their programmes and practices in relation to this problem. Already the programme has allowed the Centres to be more precisely accountable in this area.

## Bridgewater

Bridgewater is a short term assessment centre for children between the ages of three and eighteen years who are legally innocent. Children live in eight cottages in the care of teams of cottage Group Workers.

## Programmes

The Centre serves three special groups of children, those in need of initial assessment and planning, those in need of temporary care while a life crisis is resolved and those wards who require a reassessment of plans in operation.

Since the primary function of the Centre is assessment, behaviour change programmes are reserved for those children in need of short term treatment for individual problems. The overall programme seeks to replicate conditions and standards of normal suburban family life.

Children are encouraged to keep contacts with parents and friends and to continue in their current school programmes if possible. Professional staff are available to parents and children for discussion and counselling.

## Development

The Centre has co-operated closely with the newly formed Children's Protection Service in order to provide suitable services for children who are victims of sexual abuse.

Members of one cottage team have begun to develop community care skills with teenage children, assisting them to find jobs and housing and to resolve differences with their parents. Placements for teenage children remain difficult to find although long stays have been reduced.

The Centre has considered the meaning of permanency planning which will add a new facet to assessment and case conference procedures.

## Population Characteristics

Admissions		Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal	Other	Total
Boys	....	189	39	3	231
Girls	....	222	50	2	274
					505

1979-80 Total Admissions = 405

School/Working age distribution				No.	%
School	....	....	....	66	13
Primary	....	....	....	237	47
High School	....	....	....	126	25
Working Age	....	....	....	76	15

Length of stay					
Less than 3 months	....	....	....	434	....
3 months and longer	....	....	....	71	....

Placement on discharge					
Home or relatives	....	....	....	268	53
Foster (including return to foster home)	....	....	....	131	26
Treatment Institutions	....	....	....	40	8
Other (Private board, hostels)	....	....	....	66	13

Reduced placement in treatment centres reflects a policy of direct referral to satellite hostels and treatment centres from Field case conferences.

## Walcott

Walcott Care Assessment and Training Centre provides assistance for children between the ages of seven and eighteen years.

The Centre accommodates 40 children, 22 boys and 18 girls, most of whom are offenders. The last 12 months has seen the residential capacity for boys stretched to its limits.



Walcott has three main functions:—

- (1) The temporary care of children whilst placement or Court involvements are finalised.
- (2) The assessment of a child's needs as to the future placement and management.
- (3) The stabilising and training of children where their behaviours at the time of referral have been inappropriate at home, school and within the general community.

## Tudor Lodge and Stuart House

These are short term training hostels for working aged boys and girls respectively, with accommodation for eight in each hostel. Referrals are accepted via a case conference from another institution or directly from the community.

## Programme

At Walcott all children are involved in a behaviour management programme. Accountability for behaviour is encouraged through regular and consistent monitoring of behaviour and a subsequent contingent access to reinforcers. A classroom programme in the centre's school operates on a similar basis with the aim of establishing and maintaining appropriate classroom behaviours. Another important aspect of the programme is the Social Skills Assessment and Training. Each child admitted is assessed in various skills areas and during their stay training is provided in those areas of need.

The programmes of Tudor Lodge and Stuart House are directed at those teenagers requiring a supportive interim placement prior to consideration for discharge to more independent living. Both hostels operate behavioural programmes designed to facilitate these processes. Target behaviours include those of a home and personal management nature, social interactional behaviours as well as any individual behaviours specific to a client's needs. In essence, the programme entails the contingent access to greater independence according to the performance in the chosen behaviours. Both hostel programmes are implemented by Group-workers under the supervision of a Senior Group-worker.

## Development

This year has predominantly been one of consolidating and refining existing programmes, both in the main centre and the hostels.

Extensive changes have been made in the behavioural programmes in the Walcott "home" and school settings as well as in both hostels.

Establishment of a learning centre where the Group-worker and teaching staff are working closer together on Social Skills and more traditionally school related areas. Further efforts in this co-ordination of endeavours is planned.

Continued effort has occurred in examining the issue of children who abscond from the centre. This has occurred both through the Absconding Monitoring Programme and on a day-to-day basis at the centre.

A revision and updating of the staff manual and procedural forms has occurred in part and will continue.

## Population Characteristics

### WALCOTT

#### Admissions

1978/79	....	....	....	....	....	386
1979/80	....	....	....	....	....	405
1980/81	....	....	....	....	....	416

#### School/Employment Distribution

	No.	%
Working age on admission	78	19
Primary age on admission	91	22
High school age on admission	247	59

This is consistent with the recent years trend of increasing admissions of high school children and decreasing admissions of working aged children.

#### Divisional Distribution

Metropolitan	....	....	....	....	....	318
Murchison	....	....	....	....	....	15
Goldfields	....	....	....	....	....	23
Central	....	....	....	....	....	8
Kimberley	....	....	....	....	....	2
Pilbara	....	....	....	....	....	14
Great Southern	....	....	....	....	....	29
South West	....	....	....	....	....	7

#### Source of Admission

	No.	%
Home	112	27
Court—Metropolitan	74	18
Court—Country	22	5
Institution D.C.W.	113	27
D.C.W. Facility	13	3
Non D.C.W. Facility	26	6
Board/Foster	34	8
Missing Person	22	6

#### Reason for Admission

Temporary no action	30	7
Replacement	66	16
Court Action	116	28
Assessment Through Court	131	31
Assessment through Field Officer	73	18

#### Length of Stay

Up to one week	129	31
1-4 weeks	154	38
5-12 weeks	117	29
Over 12 weeks	7	2

#### Placement on Discharge

D.C.W. Facility	58	14
Parents/Relatives	199	49
Board/Foster	17	4
D.C.W. Institution	87	21
Non D.C.W. Facility	46	12

A 10 per cent increase in placement with parents/relatives and an eight per cent decrease in D.C.W. institution placements has occurred when compared to the previous year.

### TUDOR LODGE

Admissions	....	....	....	....	....	31
Re-admissions	....	....	....	....	....	2

#### Source of Admissions

Private Board	....	....	....	....	....	2
Longmore	....	....	....	....	....	8
Walcott	....	....	....	....	....	21

#### Placement on Discharge

Home	....	....	....	....	....	9
Private Board	....	....	....	....	....	14
Institutions	....	....	....	....	....	4

Average Age on Admission = 15.7 years

Average Stay at Tudor Lodge = 59 days



## STUART HOUSE

Admissions	....	....	....	....	....	21
Re-admissions	....	....	....	....	....	2
<b>Source of Admission</b>						
Community	....	....	....	....	....	2
Longmore	....	....	....	....	....	3
Walcott	....	....	....	....	....	11
Bridgewater	....	....	....	....	....	5
<b>Placement on Discharge</b>						
Non Departmental Hostel	....	....	....	....	....	3
Home	....	....	....	....	....	5
Private Board	....	....	....	....	....	7
Institution	....	....	....	....	....	5
Foster	....	....	....	....	....	1

Average age on Admission = 15.6

Average stay at Stuart House = 10 weeks

## Longmore Remand Centre

Longmore Remand Centre, situated at Adie Court, Bentley and adjoining Longmore Assessment Centre, is a maximum security facility designed to cater for 22 boys and girls aged 13 years to 18 years.

The Centre's primary function is to provide secure accommodation for children who have been apprehended and charged with offences and who are awaiting Court appearances. In addition, children are held remanded in custody for appearances in the Children's Courts, District Court and Supreme Court.

## Programme

The Remand Centre's programme is designed to:

- (1) assist children to cope effectively with a stressful crisis situation. This is achieved in various ways, including the professionalism of the staff, and the structure of the programme.
- (2) inform children of the role and function of the Department, the Courts, and the Police Department.
- (3) teach children about various aspects of their society in an attempt to give them a real choice with respect to their own lives and planning for their future. Information is provided on the following topics:
  - (a) Alcohol and drug use
  - (b) Employment
  - (c) Recreational outlets
  - (d) Human development and relationships
  - (e) Art and craft activities

## Development

The past 12 months have been particularly difficult with the centre being consistently full to capacity and more. Children have had to be accommodated in the sick bay beds and in secure individual waiting rooms as well as in cabins borrowed from Assessment Centre.

Because the Assessment Centre has also been consistently near capacity, many children have had to remain in the Remand Centre for considerably long periods, sometimes in excess of two months. This has posed serious problems for a small centre whose programme was originally designed to cater for children whose stay was up to one week. In view of

these difficulties, the centre's programme has been under review since April this year and a new programme is currently being devised.

Features of the new programme are:—

More educational-type activities (because of the high numbers of school-age children spending longer periods in the centre) e.g. supervised letter-writing, structured newspaper-reading sessions, competitive quizzes. More constructive activities e.g. arts and crafts, cooking, indoor decorating. Special programmes for long-term children (i.e. those on long remands or warrant of commitment for non-payment of fines)—these include on-going projects, educational projects, and special chores such as gardening within the confines of the quadrangle.

In 1980, a revaluation of safety and security procedures was undertaken. Following this, some minor changes have been made to the building and several procedural changes have been implemented in order to improve the standard of security.

The main initiative commenced in the current year is a structured in-service training course for group workers and ancillary staff. Training sessions are conducted once weekly for 1½ hours. Topics covered in the first half of this year include: Red Cross First Aid Refresher Course, talks and discussion sessions on Departmental treatment centres, talk given by a Departmental Field Officer on the extent of Field Services and how these relate to Longmore in particular, and a 10-session course on activities and recreational leadership. This training programme is seen as an essential feature in the overall revaluation of the Remand Centre programme.

## Population Characteristics

Admissions		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
Girls	....	125	95	220
Boys	....	644	864	1 508
		769	959	1 728

Divisional Distribution		No.	%
Metropolitan	....	1 416	82.0
Kimberley	....	15	.9
Pilbara	....	34	2.0
Murchison	....	45	2.6
Central	....	57	3.3
Southern	....	56	3.2
Goldfields	....	77	4.4
Interstate	....	28	1.6

School Employment Distribution			
Primary School	....	12	.7
Secondary School	....	536	31.0
Employed	....	206	12.0
Unemployed	....	974	56.3

Length of Stay			
Less than 24 hours	....	436	25.2
Less than 1 week	....	740	42.7
1 week to 4 weeks	....	259	15.0
4 weeks to 6 weeks	....	141	8.1
6 weeks to 12 weeks	....	140	8.0
12 weeks to 24 weeks	....	17	1.0
over 24 weeks	....	....	....

Discharges		Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
Girls	....	128	98	226
Boys	....	627	880	1 507
		755	978	1 733



## Placement on Discharge

Home	1 161	67.0
Relatives	22	1.3
Foster Parents		
Private Board	29	1.7
Hostel	66	3.8
Riverbank	61	3.5
Nyandi	28	1.6
Walcott	124	7.2
Bridgewater	6	0.3
Hillston	207	12.0
Other Institution	4	0.2
Prison	19	1.1
Other placement	6	.3

# Longmore Assessment Centre

## Description

Longmore Assessment Centre is a maximum security centre for children aged between 13 and 18 years, situated at Adie Court Bentley. The facility caters for up to 60 boys and girls who are serious or recurrent offenders.

A continual assessment procedure of approximately three weeks duration evaluates each child. The assessment culminates in a case conference that determines the child's future placement and needs. Information of a social, psychological, educational, behavioural and medical nature is utilised to derive a comprehensive picture of the child. A total of 328 conferences were held in Longmore during the year which represents a 14 per cent increase over the previous year.

## Programme

The Longmore programme endeavours to provide a setting that approximates a normal environment, within the limitations of a maximum security centre. The adolescents participate in a variety of activities including schooling, social and vocational skills and work and recreational training. The aim of the programme is to provide a wide variety of activities in which to assess the children in terms of their attitudes, interpersonal skills, behaviour and performance.

## Development

During the last year there have been a number of significant changes in the Longmore population. An increase of 14 per cent in the number of children admitted plus an increase of 51 per cent in the number of children staying over six weeks has greatly increased the number of children in the Centre at any given time. During the past six months the number of children in the Centre have exceeded the total number of beds on 42 occasions. While this over-crowding has had a detrimental effect on the overall programme special efforts are being made to provide for the longer term children.

An analysis of the population characteristics reveal that the increase in the number of admissions is due to a 29 per cent increase in the number of aboriginals. Overall, 56 per cent of children admitted were

aboriginal. In part this increase in aboriginals is due to the 69 per cent increase in admissions from the Goldfields region. There has also been a marked increase, to 18 in the number of children admitted aged between 10 and 12 years.

## Population Characteristics:

Admissions			Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
Girls	....	....	44	28	72
Boys	....	....	193	161	354
			237	189	426

Divisional Distribution				No.	%
Metropolitan	....	....	....	275	64.5
Kimberley	....	....	....	13	3.0
Pilbara	....	....	....	21	5.0
Murchison	....	....	....	24	5.6
Central	....	....	....	11	2.6
Southern	....	....	....	23	5.4
Goldfields	....	....	....	54	12.7
Interstate	....	....	....	5	1.2

School/Employment Distribution					
Primary school	....	....	....	2	.5
Secondary school	....	....	....	196	46.0
Employed	....	....	....	27	6.3
Unemployed	....	....	....	201	47.2

Length of Stay					
Less than 1 week	....	....	....	29	7.1
1 week to 4 weeks	....	....	....	97	23.7
4 weeks to 6 weeks	....	....	....	128	31.2
6 weeks to 12 weeks	....	....	....	139	34.0
12 weeks to 24 weeks	....	....	....	17	4.0
over 24 weeks	....	....	....	....	....

Discharges			Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
Girls	....	....	44	25	69
Boys	....	....	175	166	341
			219	191	410

Placement on Discharge						No.	%
Home	....	....	....	....	....	174	42.4
Relatives	....	....	....	....	....	11	2.7
Foster Parents	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Private Board	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Hostel	....	....	....	....	....	33	8.1
Riverbank	....	....	....	....	....	46	11.2
Nyandi	....	....	....	....	....	22	5.4
Walcott	....	....	....	....	....	9	2.2
Bridgewater	....	....	....	....	....	1	.2
Hillston	....	....	....	....	....	95	23.2
Other Institution	....	....	....	....	....	8	2.0
Prison	....	....	....	....	....	3	.7
Catherine McAuley	....	....	....	....	....	1	.2
McCall	....	....	....	....	....	2	.5
Clontarf	....	....	....	....	....	2	.5
Remand	....	....	....	....	....	3	.7

Conferences								
Home	....	....	....	....	....	}	142	43.2
Relatives	....	....	....	....	....			
Foster Parent	....	....	....	....	....			
Private Board	....	....	....	....	....			
Live-in employment	....	....	....	....	....	}	1	.3
Hostel	....	....	....	....	....			
Hillston	....	....	....	....	....			
Riverbank	....	....	....	....	....			
Nyandi	....	....	....	....	....		29	8.8
McCall	....	....	....	....	....		83	25.3
Clontarf	....	....	....	....	....		40	12.1
Cathrine McAuley	....	....	....	....	....		22	6.7
Other	....	....	....	....	....		1	.3
							6	1.8
							1	.3
							4	1.2

Total Conference = 328

Total Court Reports = 19



# Hillston

Hillston is an "open-type" residential treatment and resource centre catering for delinquent boys from 11 to 18 years of age. The centre facilities provide for trade training, social skills training, remedial schooling and a variety of leisure activities. A community support service provides supervision for boys on trial release from Hillston.

## Programme

Most boys admitted to Hillston are educationally retarded and display behavioural problems associated with poor adjustment at home, at school, or in employment; therefore emphasis is placed on remedial education and the modification of behaviour. Individual training and treatment programmes developed for each boy and with the boy's co-operation, are backed-up by a self-disciplining centre-wide privilege system. Progress is monitored and programmes constantly reviewed. Successful boys can graduate to external schools or to work release situations, or may be returned directly to the community.

## Warramia Farm

Prior to discharge to farm employment, selected boys at Hillston can gain experience on the Department's 1 500 hectare property at Badgingarra, which is serviced by Hillston.

## Darlington Cottage

Darlington Cottage is a "half-way house" operated by Hillston and functions as a family unit for up to 10 boys, usually admitted through Hillston. The boys attend local school and are encouraged to participate in community life.

## McDonald House

McDonald House is administered by Hillston and functions as a "half-way house". Located in Mt. Lawley, it provides accommodation for up to 10 boys. Boys are encouraged to develop habits appropriate to work or school and are assisted towards improving social competence before rejoining their families or proceeding to independent living.

## Developments

Hillston has continued to participate in two monitoring studies during the year: the Recidivism Monitoring Programme commenced in January 1979 and while a full and detailed evaluation of Hillston's effectiveness cannot yet be given, it can be shown that, for the first six months of that year, a 62 per cent reduction in offending occurred when measures of the 180 days of time spent in the community prior to Hillston intervention and 180 days community time after release, are compared; the Absconding Monitoring Programme commenced in January 1980 shows, that for the year 1980 abscondings reduced significantly and was accompanied by a corresponding reduction in offending during the period of intervention.

Changes that occurred at Hillston during 1980 explain the reduction in absconding for that year. These changes followed from the deliberations of a Committee appointed to consider and report upon various matters in relation to the abscondings from Hillston, the most significant changes being: a limited screening process to select out boys who, if admitted or re-admitted to Hillston, may constitute a serious absconding risk and/or potential threat to the local community; re-arrangement of Staff Rosters to give maximum supervision at all times; withdrawing from the operation of the farm, the orchard and equestrian activities; revision of the approach to and development of programming to accommodate changes and to encourage greater involvement by individual boys; a more systematic procedure in the search for absconders.

The appointment of the Deputy Superintendent after one year of operation without one, improved the quality of programming for boys, brought about better monitoring of the programmes which together resulted in greater co-operation from boys.

## Population Characteristics

New Admissions			
Aboriginal	....	....	47
Non-Aboriginal	....	....	56
Re-admissions			
Aboriginal	....	....	70
Non-Aboriginal	....	....	127
			} 130 individual cases
Defaulters			
Aboriginal	....	....	6
Non-Aboriginal	....	....	4
Total Admissions			310
Discharges			272
Average Length of Stay			55 days (range 1 day-160 days)
Average Age			15 years (range 10·4-17·10 years and months)

## Riverbank

Riverbank in Hamersley Road, Caversham is a secure treatment centre with accommodation for 43 boys from 13 to 18 years of age. It provides correctional management for the most serious and persistent offenders in the State. A number of less serious offenders who have displayed an inability to settle and benefit from open placement are also accommodated at Riverbank.

## Programme

Riverbank is the central point of a treatment system which comprises, the secure residential centre, one metropolitan annexe and a community support (after-care) service. The total system has an average caseload of about 160 at any one time.

The security of the centre allows for an appropriate treatment programme to be implemented whilst assuring that a boy will be kept in custody until the aims of his programme have been achieved. Treatment programmes are designed by identifying the problems and examining the needs of each individual boy. This takes place at a mini conference soon



after a boy is admitted. It is attended by the boy himself, his counsellor/group worker, after-care officer and often, parents. The boy's subsequent progress is monitored by daily behaviour report dockets and further mini conferences which take place at least every four weeks. The programme is supported by a token economy system designed to assist individual development and improved competence in a wide range of areas. Work training is designed to develop both basic skills and an ability to persist at production-line type, repetitive tasks. Education at varying levels receives high priority.

Special emphasis is placed on training in basic social skills which are necessary for survival in the community. Visits by outside groups and individuals continue to be an important feature in social contact with the community outside. Isolation from the community inhibits the development of a socially competent person and consequently considerable value is placed on this type of contact.

Riverbank has continued to pursue a treatment philosophy in spite of having more than two-thirds of its beds occupied throughout the year by youths either detained on indeterminate sentences, or being the subject of recommendations for lengthy periods of detention by the Higher Courts. Eleven youths were being held on indeterminate sentences at 30th June 1981 as compared to five at 30th June 1980.

Because of such sentences Riverbank has been continuously full throughout the year and has been unable to meet the demands for accommodation required of it.

This usage of Riverbank is reflected in the average length of stay which has risen from 67 days in the year 1979-80 to 119 days in the year ending June 1981. As at 30th June 1981 20 youths were either in residence, or had been discharged during the year, who had individually spent 180 days or more in the programme. Their average length of stay was 330 days. There were five similar cases in the preceding year with an average length of stay of 253 days.

Unfortunately, because of the demands within the centre, the outward bound activity aspect of the programme has almost ceased to exist. In effect only one, two-night, activity away from the Centre has been possible throughout the year.

The after-care service continues to play an important factor in the overall programme and two fresh aspects of this service have emerged during the year because of the population characteristics. One, is assisting in the re-assimilation of youths into the community who have been isolated from society for lengthy periods. Secondly, it has been necessary in some cases, to place youths directly to "trial leave", after the after-care officers have established contact at the Assessment Centre, rather than initially admitting them to maximum security at Riverbank.

Riverbank's one metropolitan annexe at Victoria Park completed its first full year of operation and has been an invaluable adjunct to the total programme. During the year 69 admissions, involving 47 individuals to the Annexe have occurred.

## Development

An interim report for the first study period of the Recidivism Monitoring Programme (January-June 1979) has been produced. Ninety per cent of the

interventions effected by Riverbank during that period have completed their study period and the study shows a 56 per cent decline in the rate of offending for this 90 per cent of cases after coming under the notice of Riverbank.

The majority of offences were against Property and this area showed an overall improvement in offence reduction of 57 per cent compared with Good Order 50 per cent and Person Offences with a reduction of 78 per cent.

## Population Characteristics

### New Admissions

Aboriginal	....	....	24
Non-Aboriginal	....	....	26

### Re-admissions

Aboriginal	....	....	110	46 individuals
Non-Aboriginal	....	....	104	51 individuals

### Discharges/Transfers

Average Length of Stay	....	....	119	days
Range	....	....	8-739	days
Average Age	....	....	16	years 1 month
Range	....	....	13.6-17.11	

## Nyandi

Disturbed girls aged from 13 to 18 years are catered for by the Nyandi treatment and research complex. Generally girls are referred to Nyandi because they have been demonstrating unacceptable behaviour in the community. The Nyandi system of treatment is conducted through a secure unit, three residential hostels and a comprehensive after-care service.

The 20-bed secure unit situated at 3 Allen Court, Bentley, provides an intensive training programme for the treatment of the most difficult cases. It also provides a time-out facility to reinforce community and hostel treatment programmes run by the complex. The average length of stay is four to six weeks.

Nyandi operates three hostels in the metropolitan area: Gwynne-Lea Cottage, Watson Lodge and Karingal Hostel. Each offers treatment programmes for both school and working-age girls. The average length of stay is two to three months.

An after-care officer is allocated to each girl referred to Nyandi. They co-operate with and supplement treatment programmes in the residential facilities and assume responsibility for the supervision of the girl upon discharge.

## Programme

The treatment programmes operating in Nyandi's various facilities are based on common philosophies and principles. The initial thrust of the treatment programme is to assess and if required, teach each girl the basic skills she will need to cope successfully in her natural environment. A behavioural motivation system is used to promote the teaching and continued performance of appropriate skills, and behaviours. The treatment of girls is then extended into the community by after-care officers who make extensive use of behavioural contracting techniques.



## Development

### 1. Trained Family Care Project

Approval was given to pay selected and trained families a special allowance to board and work with Nyandi's most difficult cases. Special selection and training techniques were developed. However, extensive advertising on T.V., radio and newspapers, failed to attract a sufficient number of interested persons.

### 2. Recidivism Monitoring Programme

Collection of data for this programme has continued. Analysis of the data for the first study period, 1st January 1979 to 30th June 1979, became available. Results, which were presented in an interim report, were encouraging.

### 3. After-care Manual

This has proved to be an extremely useful reference guide for staff working with girls in the community. The manual was completely rewritten and printed.

### 4. Treatment Hostels

Following an all day seminar during which all interested staff participated, an identical basic treatment programme for the three hostels under Nyandi's supervision was developed. This treatment programme has been implemented and a manual is at present being written.

### 5. Programme Evaluation

In order to improve the evaluation of Nyandi's treatment programme, data collection for the baseline and follow-up periods has been extended from 180 days to 360 days. This should give a more accurate and comprehensive picture of the programme's effectiveness.

### 6. Time-Out Programme

The community back-up time-out programme has continued to make a valuable contribution to the overall effectiveness of the Nyandi programme. A comprehensive manual on the programme has now been produced detailing the development of the concept, the principles on which it is based and the practical details necessary for its effective implementation.

### 7. Community Interaction Skills Booklets

Booklets to teach community interaction skills have been in use at Nyandi for many years. However, recently all books have been rewritten, professionally printed and bound between hard covers. They are now re-usable, cover 23 subjects and have separate answer and assessment sheets.

### 8. Three-monthly After-care Report

A special report form was developed for use by After-care officers for attachment to the Head Office file. This indicates objectively a girl's performance over the past three months.

### 9. Sound/Slide Projector Programmes

These programmes have been designed to supplement the teaching of community interactions skills by programmed instruction booklets. To date, programmes on Personal Hygiene, Leisure, and Nutrition, have been completed.

### 10. Karingal Management System

Since coming under Nyandi's supervision in 1976, Karingal has operated on a resident Manager/Manageress system with support staff. During the year, however, this system was changed to a system of Group Workers working regular shifts.

### 11. Educational Games

The benefit of these as a supporting teaching technique to the skills booklets continues to be recognised. This year, word-mazes for each skills booklet have been developed to help familiarize girls with particular words commonly associated with each skill.

## McCall Centre

McCall Centre is a treatment system for children aged from four to 12 years whose behaviour and situation requires intensive intervention.

The McCall system comprises:—

### 1. McCall Centre Residential Unit

For some children temporary placement in a 24-hour therapeutic environment is necessary. Here problems that are not manageable in the home can be consistently and therapeutically dealt with by trained staff. Extreme behaviours that are intolerable in a normal school setting can be managed in the on-site school.

The Centre can accommodate 20 children with staff of clinical psychologists, social worker, teachers, speech therapists, group workers and support staff.

### 2. Community Support

When residential treatment is no longer required, the child is transferred to his immediate or extended family, foster parents, or a group home. To maintain this placement, continued intervention is necessary with the family, the school and the child. McCall supervision is continued until such intensive intervention is no longer required.

### 3. Kindergarten

The McCall kindergarten provides a service for a number of different children. Primarily, it provides for those pre-school children who are resident at McCall. However, it also provides for children who are experiencing emotional and behavioural problems that necessitate a specialised therapeutic pre-school environment, but not residential treatment. Such children have usually been excluded from normal kindergartens. Appropriate therapeutic intervention is provided for these children both in the kindergarten and in home. In addition, places are also offered to children from the local community. There are facilities for 15 children in a morning session and six in a whole day session.

## Programme

It is considered essential to view the children's problems within their social context. That is, intervention must take place with the child, the family and the school. While the child is resident at McCall Centre work is directed toward developing his self



esteem and self control through experiencing positive, accepting relationships, with limits clearly defined. Within this framework, each child is managed according to an individual treatment programme. These programmes may include the application of behaviour modification techniques, remedial education, counselling, speech therapy, and development of social and recreational skills.

During the child's stay, the parents are taught the special skills necessary to manage and relate to their child. This may involve simple parent training, individual therapy, support in managing a home or whatever else may be necessary. The parent training programme is now systematised and includes theory, observation and practice. Where the child, for various reasons cannot return home, a foster or group home may be found. Foster parents are very carefully selected and once selected, undergo an intensive eight-week training course.

## Development

A new system of evaluating the children's progress has been introduced. Many different ways of assessing the children's behaviour have been tried, with varying problems that question their validity. A new system of recording the incidents of behaviours that have been selected for monitoring has proven very useful. This means that at each child's six-weekly review we can present a more objective and accurate picture of the progress being made with the child.

Every year there are a few children where it is unclear whether they should be under the supervision of Mental Health Services, Division for Intellectually Handicapped, or Department for Community Welfare, McCall Centre. Such children present complex problems where the resources of neither Department seems specifically appropriate.

This year has seen some positive steps being made toward closer co-operation and liaison with such cases. McCall Centre and the Department for Intellectually Handicapped have shared the responsibility for six cases this year, with respective roles being specified, resources being shared, and consultative services being exchanged. The result has been a better service to the children and families.

This year was the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of McCall Centre. McCall was opened on 3rd May, 1971 and the first child was admitted on 2nd August, 1971.

Evaluating the effectiveness of McCall over those 10 years of operation is difficult. The problem is one of determining a measure of effectiveness as most measures are fraught with problems of validity and accessibility. However, one area that is amenable to evaluation is the effectiveness of McCall in preventing children going on to delinquency in their teenage years. An investigation into all the children discharged since 1971 showed that only 22.97 per cent have subsequently been admitted to Departmental Centres for juvenile delinquents. Analysis also suggests that this figure could be even lower if children were referred at a younger age, before a pattern had been established of frequent changes of placement, offending, absconding, institutionalisation. The average age of children admitted to McCall is 9.4 years, and yet 43.75 per cent of the children discharged directly to Hillston were over 11 years of age upon admission to McCall.

## Population Characteristics

### RESIDENTIAL UNIT

#### Admissions

Total No. of Boys	Total No. of Girls	Average Age	Per cent not under control of Dept.
22	3	9.9 years	36

#### Referral Source

	No.	%
Department for Community Welfare	17	68
Mental Health Services	2	8
Education Department	1	4
Child Development Centre	1	4
Re-admission	4	16

#### Referral Reasons

Pre-dominant Reasons—		
Aggression	13	
Stealing	9	
Non-compliance	16	
Poor peer relations	12	
Poor impulse control	9	
Running away	10	
Poor socialisation	9	

#### Transferred to Community Support

Discharged to	No.	%	Average length of stay
Home	8	53.33	27.6 weeks
Scatter Cottage	3	20	47 weeks
Hostel	3	20	25 weeks
Hillston	1	6.6	8 weeks

### KINDERGARTEN

#### Enrolments

	Total No.
4-year-olds	19
5-year-olds	6
6-year-olds	2
Total	27

#### Reasons for Enrolment

Normal pre-school enrolment	16
Aggression, non-compliant and inappropriate behaviour	6
Developmental problems including speech, cognition, toilet training etc.	4
School phobia	1

#### Special Needs Children—Referral Source

Irrabeena	2
Parents	4
Department for Community Welfare	2
Child Development Centre	1
Parent Education Centre	1
Day Care Centre	1

Special Needs Children—Average length of stay = 10.6 months

Special Needs Children—Number with subsequent pre-school or school problems = 0

## Koorana

Koorana is a non-residential day attendance centre for children of primary school age whose behaviour is such that they cannot profit from further attendance at a normal school. In many cases such attendance had stopped before the child was referred to Koorana. The Perth metropolitan area is the intake area. Daily transport is arranged to and from Koorana in Allen Court, Bentley. Anyone may refer a child; the family, the school system, and other agencies which have worked with the child or family are consulted before a decision to attend Koorana is made. These consultations often lead to alternative methods of teaching or behaviour management. Most referrals commence within the



Education Department. Some families (67 per cent) have had prior contact with this Department, but there is no requirement that this should be so.

Each case requires different intervention strategies. The aims always include change within the child, usually within the family and sometimes within the school. The possibility of continuing attendance at the local school, with some changes to improve the child's functioning, is explored before transfer to Koorana is arranged. Where this is possible, Koorana staff work with the local school staff, and, as need dictates, with the family.

Boys outnumber girls at a ratio of something like 10:1. The essential referring issue must be one of behaviour, but there is frequently serious educational retardation also. Criteria for acceptance cannot be very specific. Exclusion from alternative placement is often a major criterion.

Fifteen new children commenced daily attendance at Koorana during the 80/81 year. Almost all of the 37 children attending had had earlier specialist medical (59 per cent, mainly psychiatric or neurological) or social welfare (73 per cent) intervention. Koorana staff had consultative involvement in many other cases, some of which had earlier attended Koorana. Education Department sources referred 57 per cent of the children, field staff of the Department 35 per cent, and 8 per cent came from other (mainly medical) sources. Lack of parental consent prevented only three children from being considered for attendance.

## Programme

Casework with the families represented at Koorana uses a range of techniques, tying-in where necessary with the specific treatment programmes used during school hours at Koorana, where cognitive and behavioural models are the most influential. Treatment and teaching programmes are closely monitored and changed as performance data dictates. Availability of the data assists in training other professional personnel (teachers, clinical and educational psychologists, remedial physical educationists), as well as training parents.

Work with the children and their families outside Koorana aims to improve both parenting skills and community interaction. Koorana staff endeavour to involve families in social groups that are part of the general community, rather than groups specifically developed by Koorana.

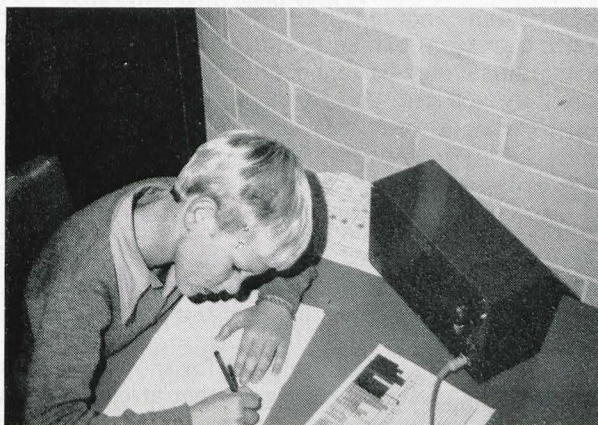
Work continues with the child in the setting of his family and of his new school where necessary and for as long as necessary, after he has left Koorana.

## Outcomes

Objective assessment of the effectiveness of Koorana's intervention poses problems. Adequate records of performance prior to admission can seldom be obtained. Lack of parental consent to follow-up and lack of co-operation from post-Koorana staff compound the difficulties. However, weekly checklists for most children obtained from subsequent schools for a year following discharge from Koorana allow for some assessment of Koorana's work. Results are used to modify treatment decision-making.

Finding suitable post-Koorana school placements for some children whose behaviour or learning demands special education facilities, is a continuing problem. The non-availability of such facilities means that some children need to remain at Koorana for very long periods.

The transition, without loss of behavioural or learning status, from Koorana to a normal school, remains a major concern. To offset the likelihood of loss, children are "overtrained" at Koorana. Whilst this demands a heavy commitment of time and staff, results suggest that it is necessary, and successful in most cases.



*When children fail to progress by normal teaching methods, alternative ways are developed*

## Research and Developments

Teaching and treatment strategies follow experimental investigation of single cases, with group methods used when dynamics allow.



*If effective, teaching methods are similar to those used in regular schools*



Research into cognitive styles in relation to learning is being conducted. The experimental data from Koorana is used widely in training staff, particularly specialist teachers, in courses conducted by Colleges of Advanced Education and Universities. The staff training role is regarded as an important obligation of Koorana.

## Population Characteristics

### New Referrals:

Boys	52
Girls	8
Age range	5.9 to 11.8 years

### Sources of Referral:

Education Department	57%
Department for Community Welfare	35%
Other	8%

### Prior Department of Community Welfare contact with family

67%

### Full time admission to Koorana

15

### Koorana staff involvement, but child not attending Koorana

10

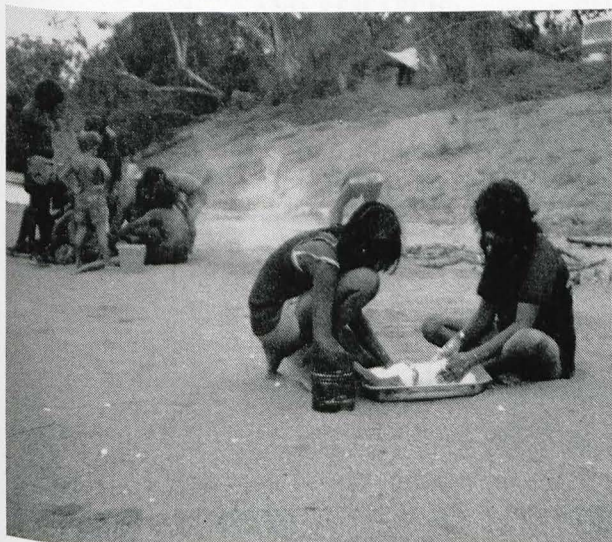
### Average daily attendance

25

## Hostel Services

The number of children in residence in individual country hostels ranges from 20 to 60. There is a continuing problem of predicting numbers and planning future programmes because of family mobility. This is a result of the search for employment, the desire to return to traditional territories or the need to renew ties with family members in other regions.

The three Kimberley Hostels are filled to capacity as parent groups are less inclined to send children South to school as they re-establish themselves on traditional sites. The renovated hostel at Fitzroy Crossing now caters for children living on station properties who have no suitable accommodation in the township.



*A holiday camp for children from Derby school hostel*

A new cottage at the Weerianna Hostel in Roebourne was erected during the year. The youngest children have been accommodated in the unit to provide a family type atmosphere. This centre has concentrated on returning as many local children as possible to their parents by trying to provide additional supports to the parents to enable them to live as a family group.

In February this year a new hostel facility was opened at Meekatharra by the Hon. Minister for Community Welfare, W. R. B. Hassell. This is a 10-bed unit which will provide for high school aged girls from the Wiluna region. It is hoped to establish similar facilities in remote regions to enable those children seeking high school education to live as close to home as possible.

Goldfields Hostels have moved forward to provide fuller programmes for students and working aged young persons who come from fragmented families in fringe dwelling communities. The emphasis is on the provision of as many options as possible for young people to become part of the wider community. Mr. John Pedler retires from the Boulder Working Boys Hostel this year. His contribution to the welfare of Aboriginal people in the Goldfields region was most appropriately rewarded this year with a Queen's Birthday Honours Award.

Problems related to the provision of education and suitable accommodation for isolated Aboriginal children led to the formation of a joint committee of Senior Administrators of the Commonwealth Department of Education, State Education and the Department for Community Welfare this year. This has led to a sharing and an increased awareness of the cultural-educational difficulties experienced by this student population.

The programme to train Aboriginal persons as hostel assistants has continued. This year's intake comes from the Kimberley and Goldfields regions. This year in the metropolitan region it was possible to appoint an Aboriginal couple to a suburban hostel.



*Recreational activities—Oolanyah Hostel, Marble Bar*

## Departmental, Student and Working Hostels

### COUNTRY

Charles Perkins, Halls Creek  
Fitzroy Crossing Hostel  
Derby School Hostel  
Moorgunya, Port Hedland  
Oolanyah, Marble Bar  
Weerianna, Roebourne  
Gilliamia, Onslow  
Nabberu, Leonora  
Kyarra, Cue  
Meekatharra Hostel  
Nindeebai, Boulder  
Kalgoorlie Working Girls Hostel  
Boulder Working Boys Hostel  
Kartanup, Katanning



## METROPOLITAN

Applecross—primary students  
Ardross—secondary and commercial student girls  
Bedford Park—secondary students  
Bentley—secondary student girls  
Kyewong, Como—secondary student boys  
Inniminka, Greenmount—secondary student boys  
Hamilton Hill—secondary student boys and girls  
Kewdale—secondary student girls  
Medina—secondary student boys  
Cooinda, Mt. Lawley—secondary and business college girls

Warralea, Yokine—tertiary students  
Myera, Subiaco—secondary and business college girls  
Katukutu, Mt. Lawley—secondary student boys

## Bennett House — Transient Hostel

This facility in East Perth has for many years served a unique function in providing accommodation for Aboriginal people from isolated regions, who come to Perth for medical reasons. It has been agreed that the service will now be handed over to Aboriginal Hostels Limited who will continue to operate with similar admission criteria.



# SUPPORT SERVICES

## Introduction

Support Services as the name suggests, provides support and assistance to the two main service delivery areas of the Department—the field services and the institutional services.

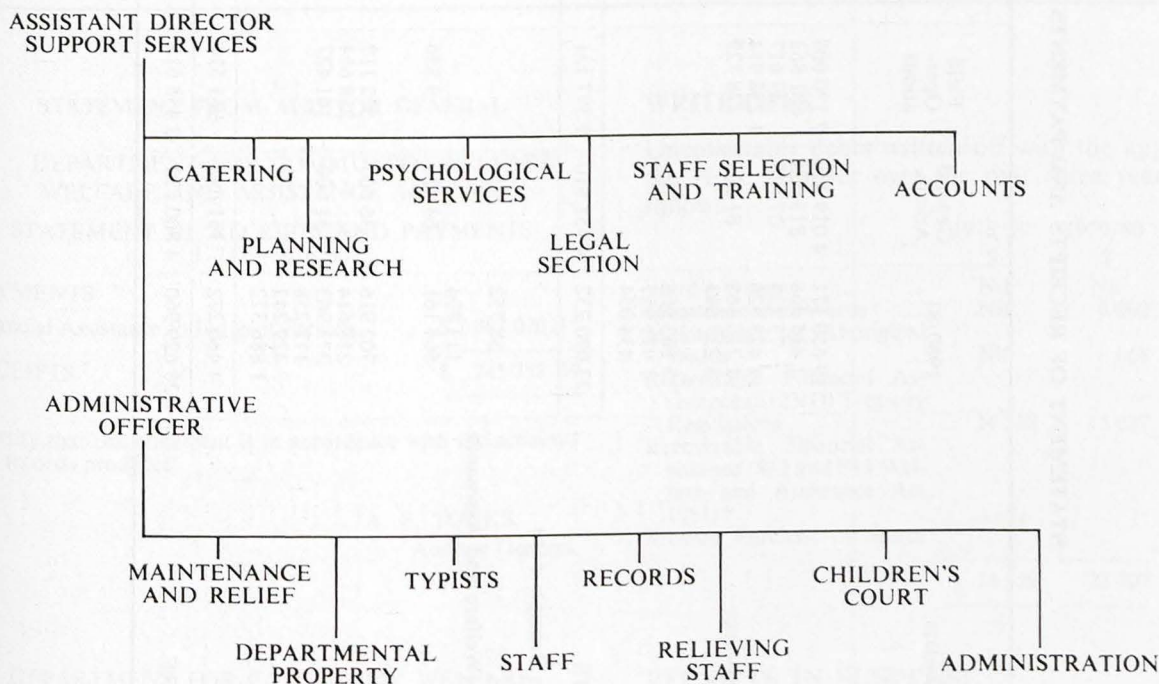
The “supports” that are provided are—Accounting, payment of staff salaries, record system, properties, catering, transport, library and general administrative and clerical support.

In addition there are a number of specialist areas that do not readily fall into either field service or

institutional services—such as Planning and Research, Legal Services and Psychological Services.

The provision of maintenance for supporting parents and the provision of emergency relief to the destitute also are a major function of “support services”. Changes in this area brought about by the Commonwealth Government taking over the payment of benefits to supporting parents from the onset has necessitated a re-structuring of the branch. The main area of need that now has to be met is the payment of cash to meet a whole range of emergencies that face people who are destitute.

## Guide to Support Services





## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1981

1979/80	Particulars	1980/81	General Admin.	Field Operations	Children's Expenditure			Reserves	Financial Assistance	Departmental Institutions		
					Private Institutions	Boarded Out	Other			Assessment	Treatment	Hostels
17 420 348	Salaries and Wages	19 650 171	4 019 379	7 170 008	...	...	...	...	...	4 275 809	2 837 748	1 347 227
1 090 885	Administration	1 415 468	813 605	601 863	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
63 184	Printing	75 234	37 617	37 617	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 470 048	Field Expenses	1 425 326	...	1 258 914	...	...	166 412	...	...	...	...	...
1 482 772	Community Welfare Assistance	1 716 363	81 209	328 729	...	...	...	...	1 301 310	...	...	5 115
2 889 686	Maintenance of Children	3 237 693	...	...	80 385	2 081 119	1 076 189	...	3 163 966	...	...	...
1 657 269	Residential Child Care	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 087 070	F.A.I.P.	3 163 966	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 655 148	Institutions	1 971 957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	627 057	574 123	770 777
375 965	Residential Reserves	434 054	...	...	...	...	...	434 054	...	...	...	...
35 192 375	TOTAL PAYMENTS	33 090 232	4 951 810	9 397 131	80 385	2 081 119	1 242 601	434 054	4 465 276	4 902 866	3 411 871	2 123 119
	Against which Receipts were											
47 835	1. STATE:	58 752	...	...	...	58 752	...	...	...	...	...	...
245 358	Maintenance of Children	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Recoverable Assistance (Welfare and Assistance Act)	113 994	...	...	...	...	...	...	113 994	...	...	...
507 388	Other Revenue	564 161	63 473	9 356	...	...	23 220	7 084	26 962	43 066	38 594	352 406
	2. COMMONWEALTH:											
618 698	Aboriginal Affairs	702 916	36 565	572 117	...	...	...	...	...	32 665	32 665	28 904
195 194	Family Law Court	218 614	...	218 614	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
333 844	Childhood Services	373 963	51 600	161 427	...	...	2 000	...	141 998	...	16 938	...
52 864	Schools Commission	112 258	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49 488	62 770	...
359 775	Family Support Services	429 242	...	...	...	...	...	...	429 242	...	...	...
3 025 929	Social Security	1 886 372	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 886 372	...	...	...
5 386 885	TOTAL RECEIPTS	4 460 272	151 638	961 514	...	58 752	25 220	7 084	2 598 568	125 219	150 967	381 310
29 805 490	NET EXPENDITURE	28 629 960	4 800 172	8 435 617	80 385	2 022 367	1 217 381	426 970	1 866 708	4 777 647	3 260 904	1 741 809



Department for Community Welfare

GRANT-IN-AID — 1980/81

		\$	\$
Balgo Mission	Furniture and equipment for new Recreation Hall	5 000	
	Playground equipment	5 000	10 000
Churches of Christ (Carnarvon) Ingada Village	Lock-up Shed		300
Churches of Christ (Esperance) Fairhaven	Floor Covering		3 231
Churches of Christ (Norseman)	Electrical and Plumbing Work; restumping and general repairs to Cottage		16 282
Kununurra Group Home	Progress payment	34 349	
	Furniture	18 265	52 614
Kurrawang Aboriginal Christian Centre Inc.	Playground equipment	1 000	
	Pool Filters (2)	1 300	
	Hotwater system	800	
	Generator repairs	6 000	9 100
La Grange Mission	Mortuary refrigerator		2 615
Lombadina Mission	Completion of Community Hall		20 000
Mugarinya Community	Three transportable units. Purchase, transportation and connection of services		18 000
Ngangganawilli Community Inc.	Modification and equipping of Group Home		16 400
Parkerville Children's Homes	Scatter Cottage		35 510
St. Joseph's Hostel, Derby	Two 5 000 gallon Water Tanks	6 000	
	New Bore and Pump	1 500	7 500
			\$191 552

STATEMENT FROM AUDITOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE  
WELFARE AND ASSISTANCE ACT, 1961

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
1/7/79-30/6/80

PAYMENTS

Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons     \$ 7 087 070.15

RECEIPTS

   \$ 245 358.09

I certify that this statement is in accordance with the accounts and records produced.

A. E. TONKS,  
Auditor General.

WRITE-OFFS

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

	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
	\$	\$	\$
Ward's Wages	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maintenance of Wards	Nil	8 002	36 503
Maintenance of Aboriginal Wards	Nil	668	15 880
Recoverable Financial As- sistance (S123(1)) Treasury Regulations	14 359	15 037	11 003
Recoverable Financial As- sistance (S12 and S13 Wel- fare and Assistance Act 1961)			2 174 958
Mission Purchase of Stores			109
	14 359	23 707	2 238 453

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE  
WELFARE AND ASSISTANCE ACT, 1961

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS  
1/7/80-30/6/81

PAYMENTS

Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons     \$ 3 163 965.74

RECEIPTS

   \$ 113 993.83

I certify that this statement is in accordance with the accounts and records produced.

A. E. TONKS,  
Auditor General.

RECEIPTS IN SUSPENSE

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

1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
\$	\$	\$
340 467	354 585	368 716

REMITTANCES RECEIVED FOR BANKING  
PURPOSES

	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts	44 691	5 619	2 567
Balance as at 30th June	88 935	37 773	35 788



## REMITTANCES RECEIVED AND HELD IN TRUST ACCOUNT AT TREASURY

	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts .....	50 975	23 288	12 257
Balance as at 30th June	24 105	19 238	19 792

## Commonwealth Financial Grants 1980-81

### DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Recurrent and Specific Purposes	\$	\$
Kimberley .....	158 832.42	
Pilbara .....	27 352.02	
Murchison .....	23 068.62	
South West .....	12 246.00	
		221 499.06
Homemaker Services .....		284 000.00
Group Worker Aides .....		65 329.82
Aboriginal Accommodation Service .....		66 618.78
Course Co-ordinator (AGENCY) .....		28 903.84
Hostel Senior Assistant Training Scheme .....		27 102.02
Course Co-ordinator .....		
ARCWTS.....		9 462.48
		702 916.00

### FAMILY COURT

Recurrent Costs—Counselling Service .....	\$218 613.54
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### CHILDHOOD SERVICES PROGRAMME

Recurrent and Specific Purpose	\$
McCall Centre—Kindergarten Salaries .....	16 938.08
Parent Education and Assistance .....	62 846.87
Balga Creative Play Activities .....	5 041.75
Fremantle Family Support Service .....	7 052.08
Early Childhood Services National Data Base Collections .....	1 600.00
Parent Help Centre .....	84 871.82
Youth Services Programme .....	17 331.00
Children's Services Grants to Womens' Refuges .....	124 667.00
Pilot Scheme to Teach Parenting Skills .....	1 614.20
Children's Week '80 .....	1 999.90
International Year of the Child .....	50 000.00
	373 962.70
Family Support Services Scheme .....	429 242.51
	803 205.21

### SCHOOLS COMMISSION

Children in Institutions .....	\$112 258.00
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### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Assistance to Deserted Wives .....	\$1 886 372.48
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## Maintenance and Relief Branch

The Branch which is located at 81 St. George's Terrace, has two major functions.

Under the provisions of the Welfare and Assistance Act, 1961, the Branch administers the grant of financial relief to families and single persons in need. The Act also regulates the recovery of moneys so advanced.

The Branch also pursues recovery of expenditure where wards and other children are maintained apart from their families at departmental cost. This function is carried out under the provisions of the Child Welfare Act, 1947-79.

### Financial Relief

As from the 6th November, 1980, the Commonwealth Department of Social Security extended eligibility for its Supporting Parents' Benefit so that the Department for Community Welfare is no longer required to provide continuing assistance to sole parents with dependent children in the months directly following separation from, or imprisonment of their spouse.

The Department is still required to make Emergency relief payments in a wide range of circumstances to persons who have a basic and pressing material need that they are unable to provide for from their own resources or through any statutory entitlement.

Although most payments are of a non-continuous nature, the Department is still required to make some payments on a continuous basis when families or persons have special needs or when they have no capacity to support themselves and no entitlement to support from any other source.

Financial Aid is also provided under certain conditions to persons where travel for specialist medical treatment or other emergency purposes is necessary. The Department foresees that the delivery of its emergency relief programme will eventually complement an integrated support system developed in each locality involving government and voluntary welfare agencies. Such a system would seek to ensure that an appropriate range of supports is available to local families at risk through financial stress. In addition to material aid, supports such as financial counselling services would form part of these systems.

### Child Maintenance Recovery

Although this function is primarily aimed at giving effect to the concept of parental responsibility, decisions to recover are entered into only after consideration of the full circumstances of each case, including the effect that recovery action may have on the family's capacity to manage.

### Application for Financial Relief

Applications from persons applying for both continuous and non-continuous assistance during the year were as follows:—

#### Continuous Assistance

Category	1979/80 (full year)	1/7/80- 5/11/80 (4 months)
Separated Wives .....	4 646	1 492
Unmarried mothers.....	687	260
Wives of prisoners .....	207	61
Separated husbands .....	89	28
Other .....	7	5
Total .....	5 636	1 846*

\* NOTE: These figures do not include the 49 applications received for continuous (Special Needs) Assistance received after the Commonwealth take-over of all sole parent support payments on 5th November, 1980.



## Non-Continuous Assistance

Category	1979/80	1980/81	Variation %
Emergency Aid ....	8 646	12 895	+49.1
Travel ....	1 061	1 187	+11.9
Total ....	9 707	14 082	+45.1

## Expenditure and Recovery

Expenditure for the year totalled \$1 277 595 after recoup of \$1 886 372 from the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Thus a total of \$3 163 967 was paid to persons receiving assistance.

Category	1979/80	1980/81
	\$	\$
Continuous Assistance ....	6 654 733	2 452 822
Emergency Aid ....	363 365	633 893
Travel Assistance ....	68 972	77 252
Total ....	7 087 070	3 163 967

## Recovery

	1979/80	1980/81
	\$	\$
Assistance paid to families....	245 358	113 296*
Maintenance of Children ....	47 835	58 752
Total ....	293 193	172 048

\* NOTE: Reduced recovery resulted when Cabinet decided on 24th November 1980, to withdraw all current action to recover assistance paid to sole parents.

## Planning and Research Unit

The Unit continued to carry out its functions in providing support to on-going planning activities and co-ordinating research within the Department. It also continues to be involved in advising the Department on various Commonwealth programmes particularly those related to the Office of Child Care and in those programmes associated with the child care component in women's refuges.

The Department continues to produce a quarterly statistical bulletin which is issued to the Director and top level managers to enable their on-going review and management. The branch has also continued to publish its newsletter throughout the year as an occasional publication. This newsletter is for general circulation throughout the Department and provides a number of articles, reviews and statistics compiled by members of the Unit.

## WELSTAT

The Department continues its commitment to the national standardisation of welfare statistics and the Unit has been heavily involved in this process. As previously indicated, the statistics are collected on the basis of statistical information detailed in this report and should enable interesting comparisons to be made in future years. The same information should be most valuable to both administrative staff and the concerned public alike.

The Department, and specifically this Unit, continues to work in close co-operation with the Australian Bureau of Statistics in developing an effective and efficient information system which will be an integral part of the Department's on-going programme for computerisation, but also will provide a clear framework for data collection in future years.

The Unit continues to work in co-operation with all sections of the Department where relevant in providing a consultancy and support service in data collection or reviewing of relevant material for submission development and on-going planning.

## RESEARCH

One role of the Planning and Research Unit is to stimulate and initiate research, both within the Department and in conjunction with outside bodies. In so doing the Unit aims to promote innovative and evaluative research into issues of concern for all areas of the Department. This not only provides valuable information on the present and future functioning of the Department but also helps to develop research skills and attitudes amongst Departmental staff.

The Research Advisory Committee which advises the Hon. Minister for Community Welfare and the Department on research matters is made up of Departmental officers and experienced members of the community and tertiary educational institutions. In the past year the Department has benefited from the generous services of Mr. T. Carson, Professor Jayasuriya, Judge I. McCall and Dr. Ralph Stratton. During the year the Department has continued to maintain close links with the Western Australian Council for Social Services and a grant of \$7 500 was made to the Council to administer and carry out research via non-Government agencies.

A total of \$37 000 was committed to research activities by the Department during the year; three reports were received and four projects were initiated (one conducted via W.A.C.O.S.S.).

## Family Support Services Scheme

The Family Support Services Scheme is a three-year Commonwealth funded scheme managed jointly with the States. One million two hundred thousand dollars has been allocated to Western Australia to fund 23 projects located throughout the State, involved in the provision of family support services.

Departmental support and resource staff associated with maintaining the funded projects are based in the Planning and Research Unit.

The main objective of Family Support Services Grants is to encourage the development of co-ordinated community based services to assist parents and their children. The Department for Community Welfare is keen to encourage the development of services that are accessible at the local level and that will assist families in need. Emphasis has been placed on projects aimed at avoiding family breakdown, the institutionalising of children, and assisting parents to improve child rearing practices so that children can maximise their potential.

The Scheme is now well into its third year of operation. The Evaluation of the scheme in Western Australia is now almost complete. The Evaluation Report, together with the reports from the Evaluators of the other Australian States and the Northern Territory will be useful documents in assisting the Government to formulate policy in the area of family support services.

Brief details of those projects funded under the Scheme in Western Australia are set out as follows:



Sponsor	Description	Totals \$	Sponsor	Description	Totals \$
The Project Management Committee	The employment of an evaluator to monitor the effectiveness of approved projects in Western Australia	20 000	Kununurra Warin-garri Aboriginal Association	Establishment of a family centre with special emphasis on the needs of older Aboriginal children	29 000
Aboriginal Advancement Council	Establishment of a counselling and support service to Aboriginal families threatened with eviction and potential homelessness	14 700	Manjimup Mobile Toy Library and Warren Districts Playgroup Association Inc.	The provision of parent education and support services to families in isolated mill towns in the lower southwest	29 700
Aboriginal Medical Service	Flying Grandmother Scheme —temporary home support and care of young aboriginal children where a parent is absent due to hospitalisation or illness	2 000	Mental Health Association	Training of a pool of volunteer parents to assist other families with a member who is mentally ill through crisis and stress period	10 900
Bunbury Voluntary Co-ordinating Group Inc.	The stimulation and development of programmes aimed at improving the quality of parent-child relationships	31 600	Parents Without Partners	Funds are for the employment of a group worker to assist in expanding the scope of the association's activities and services	20 600
Centrecare	Rental of housing for emergency accommodation of families	14 500	Shire of Dundas	The location at Norseman of a part-time family welfare officer	6 000
Christian Welfare Centre	Home Support for motherless families. Homemaker, housekeeper and social work	40 800	Shire of Esperance	Funds are for the employment of the local welfare officer and the provision of emergency accommodation for families and other family support services	15 100
City of Fremantle	Financial counselling assistance to single parents coming out of refuge or institutional accommodation and the co-ordination of other complementary family services in the Fremantle area	17 400	Shire of Wanneroo	Funds are to establish a financial counselling service and for the provision of limited emergency accommodation for families	16 900
City of Melville	Employment of welfare staff	19 200	West Arthur Welfare Group (in association with Shire of West Arhtur)	Employment of a part-time welfare officer to co-ordinate housekeeper and home help services	6 800
Civil Rehabilitation Council of W.A. Inc.	Visiting centre and support for the families of prisoners at Fremantle prison	15 700	Shire of West Kimberley	A scheme to introduce family support services and assistance to Derby	31 000
Cocos Island Support Group	Salary of an indigenous welfare worker for the Christmas and Cocos Island population of Geraldton	15 900	Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley	A project involving the provision of family extension workers and an emergency housekeeper service	17 700
Communicare (Inc.)	Communicare is a joint Church and local government approach to welfare service delivery and co-ordination in the South West metropolitan area	15 000	Town of Cockburn	Employment of a social worker in a family support role in the Coolbellup locality	15 500
Kambalda Family Centre (in association with Department's Kalgoorlie Office)	Rental of a house to provide centre based facilities to families in the mining town of Kambalda	4 900	Town of Narrogin	Emergency housekeeper service to be co-ordinated by the Shire	1 100

#### REPORTS RECEIVED

Project	Description	Research Body
Homeless Youth	An assessment of the extent, conditions and placement of the Homeless Youth population of Perth	Homeless Youth Committee
Children in Limbo	An investigation into those children cared for by the Department but for whom no long term plans are made. The report recommends the introduction of the policy of Permanency Planning	Departmental Officer, Ms. D. McCotter
Case Conference Evaluations	This detailed report considers the working of the case conference system in the Department and makes recommendations for continuous reviews of child care	Departmental Officers, Mr. B. Dufty and Mr. R. Mathews

#### PROJECTS INITIATED

Emotional Abuse	This project is concerned with the use and definitions of emotional abuse as applied to the child welfare setting	Independent Researcher, Ms. J. Carter
Child Life Protection Unit	A retrospective study of cases dealt with by the Unit in 1980-81	Independent Researcher, Mr. R. Mathews
Adoption Unit	A preliminary study of the decision making process involved in offering a child for adoption	Adoptions Branch in conjunction with Clinical Psychology Unit, University of W.A.

#### PROJECTS INITIATED VIA W.A.C.O.S.S.

Child Welfare Services	An assessment of the needs of the community in the Langford area for integrated child welfare services	Communicare
A Study of Tenants' Problems	To determine the extent and nature of private tenants' problems in selected areas of Perth	Shelter W.A.



## Legal Section

The Legal Section has a staff of two legal practitioners and a clerk.

The Legal Officers advise on administrative matters covering such topics as insurance policies, staff matters, new forms, inter-departmental correspondence and advising various committees on the legal intricacies of their proposals and upon new legislation.

The legal Branch represents wards of the Department appearing at the Children's Court in specific circumstances such as a case where a "not guilty" plea is made or where mitigating circumstances need to be stressed. The burden of representing all the children involved with the Department at all their court appearances would far outweigh the work capacity of the Branch. Thus a major service of the Branch is the legal advice it can give to welfare officers regarding the children under their guidance. As well as Children's Court matters, the Legal Branch ensures that arrangements for juveniles appearing in District and Supreme Courts are finalised. This includes seeing that a welfare report on the particular child is available to the Court and that counsel is obtained.

However, legal advice for the Department's clients is certainly not restricted to criminal matters. In the various responsible roles the Director assumes for children in the Department's care, the Legal Branch can be involved in matters ranging from Workers' Compensation claims for wards to upholding the rights of children in relation to deceased parents estates. A Legal Officer represents the Department in cases where a neglect application is disputed. The implications of adoption of overseas children is a matter scrutinised by the Branch. The Maintenance Section often requests an opinion on vexed questions of Family Law.

Numerous appearances were made during the year in the Children's Court. A Legal Officer acts for the Department in the more difficult care and protection applications and one such matter necessitated a trip to Broome. Advantage was taken of the trip to the Kimberleys to speak to staff at the Derby office on legal matters in general.

A number of cases in the Family Court during the year have involved the Legal Section. Under the Family Court Act the Director can now intervene as of right. This right is used sparingly.

The preparation of various agreements and contracts for the Department is an area of increasing involvement for the Legal Section. A fire-proof safe has been installed in the Legal Section to store all Departmental agreements and contracts.

Training new members of the field staff has occupied 11 full days during the year. The section appreciates the co-operation from the Department of Corrections who allowed the trainees to visit Fremantle Prison. Talks were also given by members of the Legal Aid Commission, the Aboriginal Legal Service and the Police Department to the trainees, on practical matters that field staff are expected to deal with. The Legal Section continues to be regularly contacted by Departmental officers from all over the State who require advice and assistance on legal matters that arise out of their work.

## Staff Selection and Training Section

The 1980/81 period has been one of significant change for this Section. With the appointment of a new Selection Officer there has been greater opportunity for expansion into the area of needs analysis and policy development.

Because of the current economic climate, there has been pressure on the Department to re-assess its priorities, and to take a close look at management and administrative techniques. It is essential that better ways are found of utilising facilities and resources and that more effective use is made of staff at all levels. To this end the Section has promoted and initiated exercises designed to assist personnel in clarifying their objectives and setting priorities. This has been attempted primarily in areas of greatest need and will continue systematically as the opportunities arise.

Apart from induction training for a variety of staff and specific in-service courses for Field staff, the Section has initiated training for Welfare Aides and other support staff. There has also been an approach to training in the area of supervision.

Further initiatives in management training and staff development are anticipated also as a result of wide ranging policy changes currently under consideration. Computerisation of some Departmental systems will lead to very specific training programmes, while intended wide ranging changes in policies relating to children in Departmental care will result in the need for a variety of special skills and refresher courses for field workers.

To promote the expansion of training at the local level the Section has been developing audio-visual and other training aids. The design also of complementary manuals in all areas is seen as essential to the task of providing support and resources to Supervisors.

During the 1980/81 period the Section continued to provide administrative support and guidance in selection processes at various levels. Two hundred and sixty-two applicants were screened for 23 field positions and a range of Temporary Relief positions. As a service to the public, careers and employment information was provided on request to a number of organisations, and approximately 250 individual enquiries were dealt with.

## Community Services Training Centre

The Training Centre located at 401-403 Oxford Street, Mt. Hawthorn provides training for staff in the Department and in voluntary agencies in specialised areas of social and community welfare.

The courses available in these specialised areas are:—

1. Residential Child Care Course—a part-time course offered over a period of one to two years, to workers in statutory and non-statutory facilities.



2. Two full-time courses available for persons of Aboriginal descent, the Community Services Certificate Course (C.S.C.C.) and the Senior Hostel Assistant Course (S.H.A.C.). The prime concern of both courses is the training of future residential child care staff.

The C.S.C.C. offers training for Aboriginals who wish to seek employment as residential child care workers in statutory and non-statutory facilities. This year the course is broadening the focus by incorporating a nine-week unit composed predominantly of practical experiences in field welfare services. In August, 1980, the first S.H.A.C. commenced, with the aim being to provide training and practical experiences for students in Hostel work. The course is composed of a four-month formal centre-based block and a six-month on the job training in country hostels. To date one course has been run and currently another course is being conducted. In 1982 the Senior Hostel Assistant Course will be made available to the voluntary sector.



*Two students from Halls Creek attending the Senior Hostel Assistant Course*

In addition to these courses a number of short course Workshops and Seminars have been mounted as follows:—

- “H” Class Licence (2)
- Family Therapy (3)
- Counselling and Interviewing I (3)
- Counselling and Interviewing II (2)
- Treatment of Juvenile Offenders
- Playfulness
- Practical Instruction on Video and Audio-Visual Equipment
- First Aid
- Techniques of Job Analysis
- Communicating Across Cultures (2)
- Financial Counselling (2)
- Small Group Communication (2)
- Communicating with Colleagues
- Sexual Attitudinal Awareness Workshop
- Assertiveness Workshop (4)
- Living with Stress (4)
- Breakdown or Breakthrough
- Women as Professional Helpers
- Counselling—A Gestalt Approach
- Teaching Others to manage Stress.
- Cross-Cultural Medicine
- Management of Aggression in Child Care Work
- Interpreting as Communication
- Teaching Others to be Assertive

In response to specific requests Workshops and Seminars have been offered to the following agencies:

- Community and Child Health Services (2)
- Westrail
- Homemakers Service
- Baptist Union of W.A.
- Child Care Certificate Course (Technical Education Department)
- Department of Social Security
- Marribank Mission
- Early Childhood Branch
- W.A.I.T. (Librarians)
- Churchlands C.A.E.
- Early Childhood Education
- Independent Day Care Centres
- Family Planning Association (2)
- Gifted and Talented Children's Association
- Richmond Fellowship (3)
- City of Stirling Library staff
- D.C.W. Student Unit
- W.A. University Summer School
- W.A. Dietetic Association
- City of Nedlands Library
- Australian Red Cross Society (2)
- Longmore Remand Centre
- University of W.A.
- Child Life Protection Unit (2)
- Church of Christ Children's Home Norseman
- A.M.O.S. (Mt. Magnet)
- City of Nedlands Day Care
- Centrecare Cottages Beverley
- Legal Aid
- Community Youth Support Scheme

The Centre also co-ordinates and hosts a number of training programmes for the department, for example:

- Children in Limbo Workshop
- Foster Parent Training
- Child Abuse Workshop
- Homeless Youth Project
- Homemakers Workshop
- Volunteers Workshop
- Permanency Planning
- Crisis Care Seminar, etc.

## Welfare Services Library

The Welfare Services Library has been in operation for one year since the amalgamation of Department for Community Welfare and Community Services Training Centre Libraries. The Library serves Departmental Staff, C.S.T.C. students, and selected personnel in the Welfare Field. Book stock contains some 20 000 items with development audio-visual and resource areas. Loans have doubled during the last year.

## Media Equipment Usage

The use of audio, visual and video equipment, in association with the courses and workshops, increased dramatically during the year, and by the end of the academic year averaged some 37 hours per week. In order to achieve this high level of utilisation a system of planned servicing was instigated, bearing in mind the age of the equipment involved and also the operational use by people who were not extremely familiar with its use.



## New Position

The new position of Training Co-ordinator for the Aboriginal Resident Community Worker Training Scheme which is funded by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs was filled in March, 1981. The aim of the A.R.C.W.T. Scheme is to provide training on request (or put in touch with appropriate resources) for all people working in Aboriginal communities in order that those people may have the skills to assist their communities to achieve self management.

Areas visited by the A.R.C.W.T. Scheme Co-ordinator have been Cundeelee in the Eastern Goldfields, Medina and several communities in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

In addition, the Training Co-ordinator (Agency and Community) has visited Menzies, Laverton and Mt. Margaret as well as other Aboriginal organisations in the Eastern Goldfields, particularly in Kalgoorlie, Norseman, Katanning, Beverley, Brookton, Northam, Carnarvon and Geraldton.

## Metropolitan Children's Court

The Metropolitan Children's Court convenes at four locations, Perth, Fremantle, Midland and Rockingham. The Perth Children's Court currently holds 11 Court sessions each week, with additional sessions held in Chambers to hear "care and protection" and "uncontrolled" applications.

The use of Legal Aid has dramatically increased the work of the Court and is reflected in the number of remands as shown in the table below.

Year	Charges	Remands	Total
1977	8 537	2 615	11 152
1978	8 719	3 360	12 079
1979	9 223	5 191	14 414
1980	9 965	6 201	16 166

The Bench of the Children's Court comprises 10 part-time Special Magistrates:—

- Mr. H. Ryan
- Mr. J. Wisbey
- Mr. P. Blaxell
- Mr. N. Tolcon
- Mr. I. Marshall
- Mr. F. Bell
- Miss B. Grant
- Mrs. G. Gordon
- Miss T. Kennedy
- Mr. H. McLernon

In addition to the Special Magistrates, eight Lady Members are appointed to the Court and provide their services on a voluntary basis by assisting the Special Magistrate at the Bench, in such matters as penalties best suited to the particular offender.

The eight members appointed are:—

- Mrs. J. Trotman
- Mrs. L. Smith
- Mrs. M. Christie
- Mrs. J. Van Noort
- Mrs. A. Neal
- Mrs. J. Oldham
- Mrs. J. Hampton
- Mrs. W. Forward

An increasing number of offenders are ordered to carry out Community Service Work. This relatively new scheme has so far proved to be a successful penalty for many children appearing in Court.

The Department regrets the passing of the late C. R. Wright-Webster, a Special Magistrate of five years standing. He brought to the Courts a sincere interest in the welfare of children and the benefits of a long association with the law in welfare.

Type of Offence—	1979/80	1980/81
Traffic Offences	1 889	1 610
Breaking and Entering	2 499	2 060
Stealing and Receiving	1 903	1 943
Unlawful use of Motor Vehicle	815	1 047
Wilful damage	329	352
Disorderly Conduct	263	269
Assault	212	245
False name and address	188	191
Drink Driving Offences	179	148
Liquor Act Offences	115	131
Drunk	99	90
Drug Offences	25	39
Other	1 071	1 672
	9 587	9 797

Applications—	1979/80	1980/81
Care and Protection	123	106
Uncontrolled	32	36
	155	142

## Psychology Branch

The provision of Psychological services by the Department commenced in November, 1954. The initial service was restricted in scope, being mainly an internal consultory service, a liaison service between the Department and other agencies with respect to psychological matters, and an advisory service to children and families having contact with the Department. A psychologist seconded from the Education Department provided the first service.

Since its establishment, the service has developed, enlarged and broadened in approach. Changes in its operational framework, brought about by legislative reviews of the Department's functions, have caused further changes in approach. The report that follows describes the current status of the Department's psychological services. It differs from previous annual reports in that it does not focus on specific services provided by the Psychology Branch.

## Operating Framework

The functions of the Department for Community Welfare are:—

- to promote individual and family welfare in the community,



- to prevent the disruption of the welfare of individuals and families in the community, and to mitigate the effects of any disruption,
- to co-ordinate, assist and encourage the provision of social welfare services to the community,
- to conduct, promote and encourage programmes of training or rehabilitation,
- to consider and initiate, or to assist in, the provision and development of new or additional welfare services,
- to encourage the development of . . . . service and administration at the local level, with emphasis on preventive measures. (Community Welfare Act, Western Australia 1972, Section 10).

## Unique Approach and Services Provided

Within the above framework Clinical Psychologists have adopted an approach which is unique to a social welfare department. A broad range of problems and client groups necessitates a generic approach incorporating a diversity of techniques and intervention strategies. It has also been necessary to develop specialised techniques for use with disadvantaged groups.

Traditionally psychologists have worked with individuals with the emphasis on assessment and psychometric testing. In keeping with more recent trends in psychology, departmental clinical psychologists have increasingly stressed that assessment should be closely linked to treatment. This may involve direct intervention, or the devising of programmes for other staff to implement (for example, teachers, group workers). Consultation is also offered to other Departmental officers.

In response to community needs, prevention has received increasing attention, leading to the provision of relaxation, assertion training and parent education groups. The publication of newspaper articles on parenting and a book on behavioural management principles has contributed to the important area of community education.

Clinical psychologists are also committed to evaluating their own services as well as contributing to the evaluation of general services offered by the Department. This involves the design of appropriate evaluation techniques and their application.

In-service training programmes (for example, specialised assessment, family therapy) are regularly conducted by the Psychology Branch to keep psychologists abreast of current developments in their profession. Clinical psychologists also participate in the training techniques for difficult children, communication skills).

Depending on the work setting within the Department, the clinical psychologist's role can vary considerably. The Department currently employs 29 psychologists, 26 of whom are clinically trained. There are also 16 clinical psychologists in administrative positions (for example, Superintendents of Institutions). The latter role provides the opportunity to apply and administer policies and practice which are based upon the psychologist's specialised knowledge of human behaviour.

## WORK LOCATIONS

Psychologists are professional team members in all locations. A short account of all work settings follows:—

### Institutional Settings

#### *Assessment Centres*

The Department has three assessment centres that cater for a range of children of all ages. The prime role of the clinical psychologist in each of these facilities is assessment and planning. Initiation of treatment and follow-up are a secondary function.

#### *Treatment Centres*

The Department has four treatment centres for delinquent children and two for children having severe behavioural and/or educational problems. Psychologists in these centres contribute to the overall approach of each institution; they devise and implement individual, group and overall institutional programmes; and they extend their programmes to a community after-care level.

### Field Settings

The Department has regionalised its community services for a number of years. There are eight metropolitan divisions and seven country districts. For each region (excluding three country districts) a clinical psychologist serves as one member of a multi-disciplinary regional team. In this setting in particular, the psychologist is called upon to provide assessments and treatment for a broad range of client groups and problems.

### Special Service Units

The Department's Psychology Branch provides specialist psychological services in a number of well defined functional areas:—

1. Child Placement Service—concerned with the substitute care of children, particularly foster care. The clinical psychologist's function within this service has been primarily focused on research (for example, interaction patterns between children and substitute parents versus children and parents in normal families; detrimental effects on children in "limbo" (that is, children in care for more than two years).
2. Child Life Protection Unit—offers a treatment service to families in which child abuse has occurred. Psychologists in this Unit have adopted both a service and research focus.
3. Homemaker Service—assists families and communities who lack home-management, child-care, and community participation and organisational expertise. Psychologists and, in particular, the current psychologist/administrator of the Unit, have focused on the application of psychological principles to community development.
4. Educational Services to Children in Care—the Department employs clinical psychologists, with teacher training and experience, to monitor and co-ordinate normal, remedial and special education services to children in the Department's care. This involves assess-



ing the need for tutorial assistance to children who are being educated in the State's normal educational system, and monitoring, advising and co-ordinating education services to children in facilities and programmes.

5. Family Court and Private Residential Care—the Department's Psychology Branch provides professional support and training assistance to counsellor/psychologists employed at the Family Court and psychologists in five private residential child-care facilities. Staff in each of these settings are primarily oriented to service delivery.

## Summary

Clinical Psychologists in the Department for Community Welfare are employed in a large variety of settings with different needs. They have responded by developing an approach aimed at providing an effective service to disadvantaged groups in the community. Assessment, treatment and prevention are closely linked in this process.

## Drug Abuse Prevention Officer

This year has seen increasing interest within the community in stress and its effects on health. There is a growing recognition that continual stress is damaging to health, and leads people into abuse of drugs such as alcohol, nicotine, tranquillisers and pain killers.

Such drugs are used in an attempt to cope with a stressful lifestyle, but end up making it even more difficult to cope.

The Drug Abuse Prevention Officer has been involved in developing stress management programmes for use in the general community, in the fostering of an interest in stress in the workplace, and in teaching professional helpers to use stress management techniques with their clients. This involvement is helping to provide a real alternative to drug use as a way of coping with stress.

He has also conducted a training programme with Departmental staff on alcohol abuse, teaching staff to recognise problems with alcohol use at an early stage, and help their clients confront and deal with these problems.

## Departmental Property

### VEHICLES

The Department operates a fleet of 213 motorised vehicles stationed at 72 Centres throughout the State. During the past year these vehicles covered 3 924 688 kilometres on official business. Exclusive of capital costs for vehicle purchase, the average cost to operate these vehicles for the year was 14.91 cents per kilometre.

An overall increase of 63.3 per cent in the operating cost of vehicles per kilometre compared with last year has resulted from a rise in maintenance costs due to budgetary restraints requiring vehicles to be held for a further 12 months before replacement.

A breakdown of Departmental vehicles throughout the State is as follows:—

Conventional vehicles	....	....	....	167
Trucks	....	....	....	4
Tractors	....	....	....	3
Trailers	....	....	....	54
Caravans	....	....	....	4
Buses	....	....	....	37
Motor Cycles	....	....	....	2

Private vehicles on official business during the same period covered 1 228 312 kilometres.

### OFFICES AND INSTITUTIONS

The Department operates from 55 offices throughout the State. In addition there are 29 departmentally controlled establishments for the placement of children for educational assessment and training purposes. There are 20 controlled homes in the Metropolitan area for the placement of country children undertaking advanced learning or work programmes.

## Catering Service

There are 97 Institutions, Hostels and associated facilities involved with Catering requirements situated throughout the State from Wyndham in the North to Albany in the South.

The Catering Section continues to offer help and an advisory service to the associated facilities, many of whom avail themselves to this assistance.

Regular visits are made to all Departmental food services by Catering staff, to ensure that high standards of food servicing are achieved and maintained. Menus are carefully compiled with a view to acceptance, balance and nutritional value and are approved by a qualified dietician before being introduced. As far as resources allow, attention is given to varying needs and where necessary changes are made to suit specific requirements pertinent to age, ethnic and cultural factors, physical disabilities and malfunctions.

Many camps are held throughout the year, particularly during weekends and school holiday periods, assistance is given to the camp leaders with supplies, menus and general catering needs.

There is continued liaison with food technologists and dieticians throughout Australia to ensure the Catering Section is kept aware of modern trends associated with diets and the food industry, also new methods of supervising and administering food programmes. There is also continued liaison with food manufacturing companies concerning the development of new and special food products and packaging.

Other areas of involvement include the training of Aborigines in food service procedures. Selected residents in metropolitan Institutions and Hostels are also trained in those methods.

Nine hundred and ninety-two thousand, two hundred and eighty-nine meals were served in Community Welfare facilities between 1st July, 1980 and 30th June, 1981.



# Records Branch

The past year has seen a downturn in the branch's work load, attributable mainly to a lessening of Departmental responsibility in respect to the provision of assistance to sole supporting parents.

This adjustment of Departmental activities has resulted in a substantial drop in the number of files created this year compared to the previous period. A total of 2 872 files were created to the 30th June, 1981. Approximately 50 000 files are presently in current use.

Early in 1981, a review of the branches activities was undertaken by a small team of Departmental officers in consultation with the Public Service Board. As

consequence of this review, a number of jobs in the branch were redesigned and consolidated, while others were abolished entirely. The review was also beneficial in terms of procedural and system improvements.

It is hoped that further system improvements will flow from recommendations still to be considered.

Section III of the Child Welfare Act 1947-79 provides that persons with unrelated children under six years of age in their care must hold a licence. A total of 46 such licences were issued by the Department to the end of December 1980.



# STATISTICS

## Introduction

The statistics collected for the year 1980/81 have been compiled manually.

A census of "children under the guardianship of the Department and children in substitute care" was conducted on June 30, 1981, and tables were compiled with the standards set out in "Standardisation of Social Welfare Statistics (WELSTAT)—Standards for Statistics of persons under guardianship of State Welfare Department and children in substitute care"—April, 1980.

It is interesting to note that out of a total population (0-17 years) of 409 723 (source—Australian Bureau of Statistics—projected population) as at June 30, 1981 a total of 3 354 children were either under guardianship or placed under control of the Department i.e. 8.2 children in every 1 000.

Children's Court statistics were compiled from "court sheets" submitted to the Department. The information was then coded and tables generated by the Treasury computer.

Source data for tables compiled for Panel, Adoptions and Early Childhood Services has been generated by the individual sections of the Department.

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TABLE 1.1  
NUMBER OF CHILDREN PLACED WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR

	Status of Person		Total
	Guardian-ship	Control	
No. of Children at beginning of year	2 907	695	3 602
During the Year—			
Placed	281	434	715
Discharged	632	319	951
Balance as at 30/6/81	2 556	810	3 364

TABLE 1.2  
CHILDREN (0-17) PLACED UNDER GUARDIANSHIP  
OF THE DEPARTMENT

Type of Placement	As at 30/6/80	As at 30/6/81
Handicapped Establishment	37	21
Family Group Homes*	337	286
Juvenile Hostels	23	17
Juvenile Corrective Institutions	57	52
Other Residential Homes	95	104
Foster Care	1 073	921
Hospital/Nursing Homes/Schools	14	11
Prisons	9	10
With Parent or Relative	612	524
Other Adult Care	392	473
Living Independently	139	38
Other (including unauthorised absence unknown)	119	92
Total	2 907	2 549

\* includes campus homes.



TABLE 1.3

## CHILDREN (0-17) PLACED UNDER CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT

Type of Placement	As at 30/6/80	As at 30/6/81
Handicapped Establishment .....	1	....
Family Group Homes* .....	16	25
Juvenile Hostels .....	12	4
Juvenile Corrective Institutions.....	79	100
Other Residential Homes .....	39	34
Foster Care .....	66	46
Hospital/Nursing Homes/Schools .....	3	1
Prisons .....	4	4
With Parent or Relative .....	336	478
Other Adult Care .....	85	64
Living Independently .....	52	15
Other (including unauthorised absence unknown) .....	2	34
Total .....	695	805

\* includes campus homes.

TABLE 1.4

## CHILDREN LIVING IN SUBSTITUTE CARE BY STATUS TYPE OF PLACEMENT EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE X STATUS OF CHILD—30/6/81

Type of Placement	Under Guardianship	Under Control	Subsidised (Non-Ward) (Non-PUC)
Foster Care .....	36.2	5.7	98.2
Residential Child Care, Health, Education, Adult Penal or Adult Care Establishment .....	19.6	21.2	0.7
Living with Parents or Other Relative .....	20.5	59.1	0.8
Other Adult Care .....	18.6	7.9	Nil
Living Independently .....	1.5	1.8	0.3
Other .....	3.6	4.3	Nil
	100	100	100

TABLE 1.5

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE X STATUS OF CHILD X SEX

Status of Child	As at 30/6/80			As at 30/6/81		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Placed under Guardianship .....	580	493	1 073	483	438	921
Placed under Control .....	37	29	66	30	16	46
Other—Subsidised .....	374	285	659	399	344	743
Total .....	991	807	1 798	912	798	1 710

## COURT STATISTICS

TABLE 2.1

## NUMBER OF OFFENCES X SEX X RACE X TYPE X YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1981

Sex/Race	Property	Person	Good Order	Traffic	Drugs	Total
Aboriginal—						
Male .....	4 298	222	1 004	3 299	62	8 885
Female .....	600	14	129	173	10	926
Non-Aboriginal						
Male .....	2 076	102	444	1 305	1	3 928
Female .....	498	18	193	84	....	793
Total .....	7 472	356	1 770	4 861	73	14 532

## ADDENDUM

Statistics relating to "property" and "good order" categories were incorrectly labelled in the typed copies of the report tabled in Parliament on 24 November, 1981.

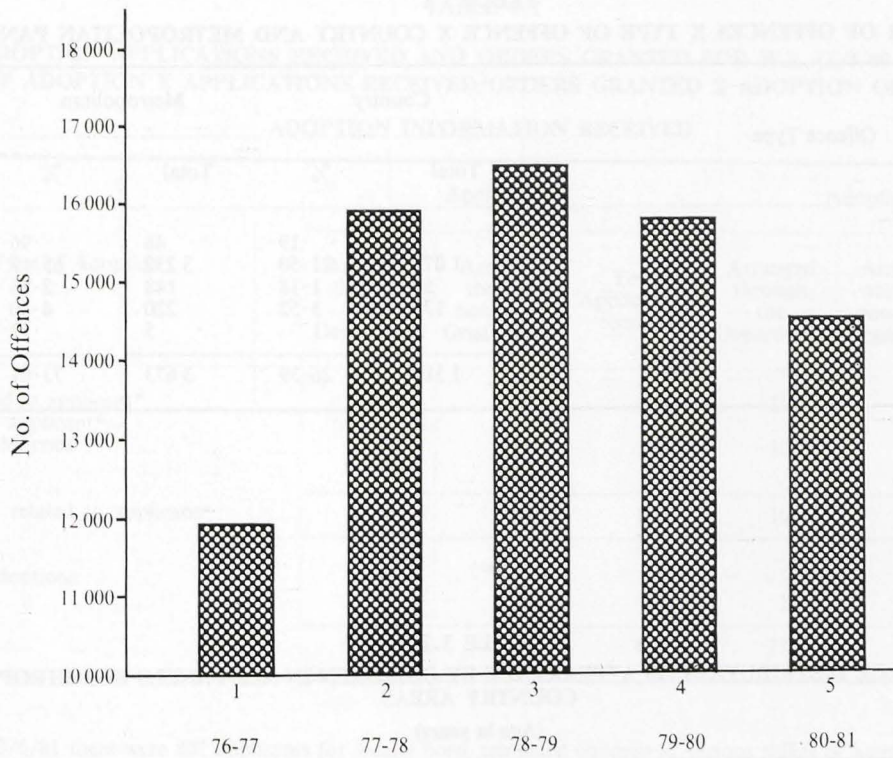
TABLE 2.2

## TYPE OF COURT DECISIONS X NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO APPEARED IN COURTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

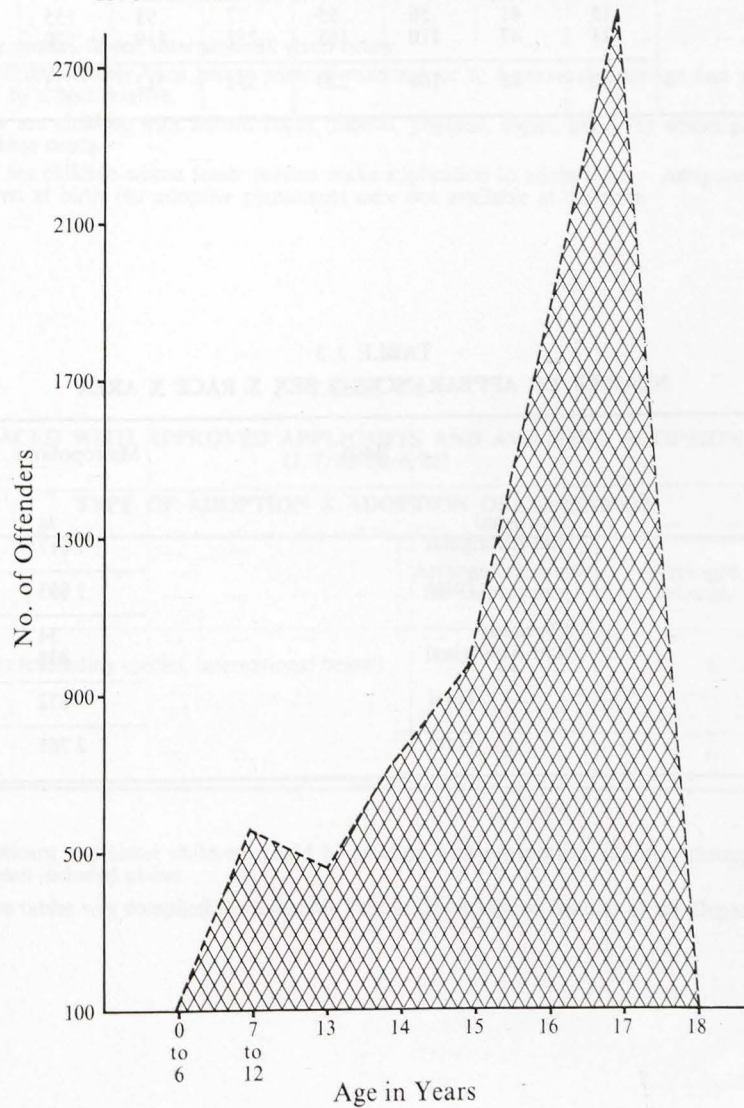
Type of Court Decisions	No. of Children who Appeared
Dismissed Sec. 26 .....	1 949
Dismissed with Suspension .....	135
Probation .....	469
Guardianship .....	266
Control .....	1 393
Other .....	30
Fine .....	3 035
Bond .....	396
Gaol .....	96
Total .....	7 769



**GRAPH SHOWING THE NUMBER OF OFFENCES IN THE LAST 5 YEARS**



**GRAPH SHOWING AGE DISTRIBUTION OF APPEARANCES BY CHILDREN IN ALL COURTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**





# PANEL STATISTICS

TABLE 3.1  
NUMBER OF OFFENCES X TYPE OF OFFENCE X COUNTRY AND METROPOLITAN PANEL

Offence Type	Country		Metropolitan		Total
	Total	%	Total	%	
Person .....	8	.19	48	.96	56
Property .....	1 071	21.50	3 252	65.17	4 323
Good Order .....	59	1.18	148	2.96	207
Traffic .....	176	3.52	220	4.40	396
Drugs .....	....	....	5	.12	5
Total .....	1 314	26.39	3 673	73.61	4 987

TABLE 3.2  
TABLE SHOWING AGE DISTRIBUTION OF APPEARANCE BY CHILDREN IN ALL PANELS IN METROPOLITAN AND COUNTRY AREAS  
(Age in years)

Age	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
Country .....	15	41	56	55	77	93	155	175	159	826
Metropolitan .....	21	47	110	165	257	419	570	640	536	2 765
Total .....	36	88	166	220	334	512	725	815	695	3 591

TABLE 3.3  
NUMBER OF APPEARANCES X SEX X RACE X AREA

Sex		Race		Metropolitan	Country	Total
Male .....	Aboriginal .....	....	....	76	165	241
	Non-Aboriginal .....	....	....	1 817	488	2 305
	Total .....	....	....	1 893	653	2 546
Female .....	Aboriginal .....	....	....	34	63	97
	Non-Aboriginal .....	....	....	838	110	948
	Total .....	....	....	872	173	1 045
Total .....		....	....	2 765	826	3 591



# ADOPTION STATISTICS

TABLE 4.1

ADOPTION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND ORDERS GRANTED FOR W.A. (1/7/80-30/6/81)  
TYPE OF ADOPTION X APPLICATIONS RECEIVED/ORDERS GRANTED X ADOPTION ORGANISATION  
ADOPTION INFORMATION RECEIVED

Type of Adoption	Applications			Adoption Orders		
	Arranged through the Department	Arranged through non-Govt. Organisation	Total Applications received	Arranged through the Department	Arranged through non-Govt. Organisation	Total Orders Granted
Child not related to applicant* ....	224	6	230	102	12	114
Child related to applicant*—						
Previously Married ....	9	59	68	106	61	167
Ex Nuptial ....	57	10	67	....	....	....
Total child related to applicant* ....	66	69	135	106	61	167
Special Children ....	26	....	26	4	....	4
International Adoptions ....	51	....	51	9	....	9
Foster Children ....	10	1	11	11	....	11
Total ....	377	76	453	232	73	305

## NOTE—

1. As at 30/6/81 there were 801 applicants for locally born, unrelated children at various stages of assessment. Of these 571 applied prior to 1/7/80.
2. Orders granted were in most cases for applications made prior to 1/7/80 and include some children placed for adoption prior to 1/7/80.

## CATEGORIES—Excluding special, foster, international, given below.

*Children related to applicant*—Either born before parents' marriage or to a previous marriage and adopted into a subsequent marriage or adopted by a near relative.

*Special children*—These are children with known needs (mental, physical, social, legal) for whom parents are sought who are capable of meeting these needs.

*Foster children*—These are children whose foster parents make application to adopt them. Adoption Consents were signed for some of these children at birth but adoptive placements were not available at the time.

TABLE 4.2

CHILDREN PLACED WITH APPROVED APPLICANTS AND AWAITING ADOPTION ORDER W.A.  
(1/7/80-30/6/81)

TYPE OF ADOPTION X ADOPTION ORGANISATION

	Arranged through the Department	Arranged Privately	Total
Child not related to applicant (excluding special, international below)	84	6	90
Special Children ....	3	....	3
International Adoptions ....	9	....	9
Total ....	96	6	102

## NOTE—

Children related to applicant and foster children would be residing with prospective adopters throughout and therefore those categories have not been included above.

The information in these tables was compiled from records kept in the Adoption Section of the Department.



CHILDREN IN DEPARTMENTAL (SECURE) INSTITUTIONS AND ADULT PRISONS

TABLE 5.1

CHILDREN IN DEPARTMENTAL (SECURE) INSTITUTIONS, SEX, AGE AND DETENTION STATUS

Sex and Detention Status	Age (Years) at counting date									
	Children									
	0-9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total Children
MALES—										
Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty—										
For offence	....	....	....	....	1	3	1	4	7	16
For other matter	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Not Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty—										
Offenders	....	....	3	3	9	19	31	36	26	127
Non-offenders	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	....	2
Total Males	....	....	3	3	10	22	34	40	33	145
FEMALES—										
Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty—										
For offence	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
For other matter	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Not Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty—										
Offenders	....	....	....	....	1	3	1	2	5	12
Non-offenders	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	1
Total Females	....	....	....	....	1	4	1	2	6	14
PERSONS—										
Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty—										
For offence	....	....	....	....	1	3	1	4	8	17
For other matter	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Not Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty—										
Offenders	....	....	3	3	10	22	32	38	31	139
Non-offenders	....	....	....	....	....	1	2	....	....	3
Total Persons	....	....	3	3	11	26	35	42	39	159



TABLE 5.2  
CHILDREN IN ADULT PRISONS X SEX X AGE X DETENTION STATUS

Sex and Detention Status	Age (Years) at counting date									
	Children									Total Chlidren
	0-9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
MALES—										
Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty—										
For offence ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
For other matter ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Not Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or										
Penalty—										
Offenders ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	14	20
Non-Offenders ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total Males ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	14	20
FEMALES—										
Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty—										
For offence ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
For other matter ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Not Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or										
Penalty—										
Offenders ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Non-offenders....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total Females ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
PERSONS—										
Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty—										
For offence ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
For other matter ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Not Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or										
Penalty—										
Offenders ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	14	20
Non-offenders....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total Persons ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6	14	20



# EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

TABLE 6.1

## DAY CARE OCCASIONAL CARE AND FAMILY DAY CARE CENTRES SUMMARY STATISTICS—WESTERN AUSTRALIA

	Day Care		Occasional Care	Family Day Care		Total
	Private	Funded	(All types)	Private	Scheme	
Number of centres	55	29	20	95	191	390
Number without children during census	1	....	2	21	25	49
Number in the analysis	54	29	18	74	166	341
Daily capacity of centres (full-time children)	1 383	1 135	485	383	773	4159
Average centre capacity	25	39	24	4	4	....
Number of centres catering for children under 2 years	12	24	10	59	118	223
Number of children attending on 30/10/80—						
Regular	1 002	1 072	169	212	496	2 951
Casual	133	112	256	22	50	573
Total	1 135	1 184	425	234	546	3 524
Number of children during week ending 1/11/80—						
Regular	1 311	1 640	413	311	679	4 354
Casual	340	330	905	46	120	1 741
Total	1 651	1 970	1 318	357	799	6 095
Absent	52	113	47	8	26	246
Number of staff attending during week ending 1/11/80	253	273	105	78	170	879
Number of children attending during the week—						
Pre-school	87	95	165	51	106	504
School	30	7	40	3	36	116
Number of Aboriginal children attending during the week	5	26	6	1	1	39
Child of Proprietor or staff member	20	13	7	44	120	204
Children from lone parent families	188	558	238	31	186	1 201
Children with special developmental needs	39	231	58	20	39	387
Total number enrolled or casually attending—						
Boys	2 015		675	610		3 300
Girls	1 771		690	580		3 041
Total	3 786		1 365	1 190		6 341

TABLE 6.2

## GROWTH OF DAY CARE, OCCASIONAL CARE AND FAMILY DAY CARE FROM LICENSING 1968

Year	Private Day Care		Funded Day Care		Occasional Care*		Family Day Care		Average Fees all centres \$
	No. of centres	Capacity children	No. of centres	Capacity children	No. of centres	Capacity children	No. of centres	Capacity children	
1968	8	105	3	151	1	20	....	....	....
1969	15	306	3	151	2	230	9	44	....
1970	24	533	4	178	1	75	9	36	10
1971	35	825	6	273	1	75	19	63	....
1972	37	907	10	428	4	150	52	190	12
1973	36	832	10	428	6	200	59	216	....
1974	47	1 132	10	428	8	245	121	472	....
1975	51	1 114	10	428	11	292	110	451	....
1976	74	1 885	14	598	13	322	152	636	....
1977	69	1 684	21	967	17	465	156	653	....
1978	66	1 709	23	1 130	23	590	171	802	30
1979	61	1 509	29	1 116	20	532	200	814	31
1980	55	1 383	29	1 135	20	485	286	1 156	33

\* Occasional Care includes funded and privately owned centres.



TABLE 6.3  
CHILD CARE FACILITY STATISTICS FOR DAY, OCCASIONAL AND FAMILY CENTRES  
TOTAL ALL FACILITIES  
NUMBER AND SEX OF CHILDREN ATTENDING X AGE X HOURS OF ATTENDANCE X OPERATOR

Age		Hours attended for week ending 2nd November 1980												Population		% Population
		0 hours		<10 hours		10 < 20		20 < 30		30 < 40		40 < 50		50 +		Total
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Under one year	...	...	...	41	39	9	12	9	3	9	8	16	10	2	2	74
1 year and under 2 years	...	1	2	148	149	44	23	37	23	28	23	67	63	3	4	287
2 years and under 3 years	...	...	3	300	277	84	67	47	47	72	45	125	97	8	10	546
3 years and under 4 years	...	1	1	376	420	136	132	64	61	79	73	163	139	23	11	837
4 years and under 5 years	...	1	1	353	347	110	115	96	53	100	82	137	141	15	15	754
5 years and under 6 years	...	1	1	146	123	50	37	52	50	70	72	86	68	5	7	358
6 years and over	...	...	4	20	32	28	24	5	4	4	1	...	2	1	...	67
TOTAL	...	4	12	1 384	1 387	461	410	310	241	362	304	594	520	57	49	2 923
																64 672
																60 916
																4.9
																4.8

Estimated population as at 30th June 1980. A.B.S. Cat. No. 3201.0



TABLE 6.4  
STAFF BY HOURS OF ATTENDANCE—ALL FACILITIES  
Hours of Attendance for week ended 2nd November 1980

Category of Staff	Absent	< 10	10 < 20	20 < 30	30 < 40	40 < 50	50 +	Total
<b>PAID STAFF—</b>								
<b>Qualified—</b>								
Teachers .....	1	....	2	....	5	1	....	9
Nurses .....	2	....	....	3	....	5	....	10
Caregivers* .....	9	12	11	18	33	105	11	199
Proprietors .....	....	....	....	1	1	3	3	8
Administrators .....	....	....	....	1	3	20	....	24
<b>Unqualified—</b>								
Caregivers .....	17	32	42	59	66	242	68	526
Cook/Domestics .....	....	7	27	15	5	4	....	58
Other .....	....	....	1	1	3	5	....	10
<b>Total Paid Staff .....</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>844</b>
<b>Total Unpaid Staff .....</b>	<b>....</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Total all Staff .....</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>908</b>

\* The “qualified caregiver” category includes people with any teaching, nursing or child care qualifications who marked themselves as employed as a caregiver.

### STAFF COMPLEMENT

TABLE 7.1  
Staff Complement as at 30th June 1981

	Staff Status			
	Public Servant	Ministerial Appointment	Wages	Total
<b>HEAD OFFICE</b>				
Director .....	1	....	....	1
Deputy Director .....	1	....	....	1
Assistant Director—				
1. Institution .....	1	....	....	1
2. Field .....	1	....	....	1
3. Support Services .....	1	....	....	1
Administration and Clerical .....	198	2	2	202
<b>FIELD DIVISION</b>				
Senior Social Work Supervisor .....	3	....	....	3
Chief Clinical Psychologist .....	1	....	....	1
Administrative and Welfare .....	235	....	....	235
Office Staff .....	85	....	1	86
Cadets in Training .....	10	....	....	10
Reserve Caretaker .....	....	....	6	6
<b>INSTITUTIONS AND HOSTELS</b>				
Superintendents .....	....	9	....	9
Welfare and Institutional .....	13	435	60	508
Office Staff .....	6	11	....	17
Hostel Staff .....	....	11	103	114
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINING COLLEGE</b>				
Director .....	....	1	....	1
Staff .....	....	8	....	8
Person Contracted by Minister under Section 8 (4) .....	....	3	....	3
<b>Total as at 30/6/81 .....</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>1 208</b>
<b>Total as at 30/6/80 .....</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1 187</b>
<b>Total as at 30/6/79 .....</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>1 213</b>
<b>Total as at 30/6/78 .....</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>1 175</b>
<b>Total as at 30/6/77 .....</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>1 149</b>