



DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT 1981-82

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Western
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1981 - 1982



Department for Community Welfare

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 1982

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



THE HON. R.S. SHALDERS,
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE.

Sir;

In accordance with Section 11 of the Community Welfare Act 1972-78, I hereby submit a report on the work of the Department for Community Welfare for the year ended 30th June, 1982.

K.A. MAINE
DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE.

APPRECIATION

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

CONTENTS

	Page
APPRECIATION	3
INTRODUCTION	7
FIELD SERVICES	9
Metropolitan Field Services	10
Northern Country Field Services	13
Southern Country Field Services	16
Adoptions	21
Adoptions — International	21
Child Placement Service	23
Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel	25
Children's Protection Service	25
Early Childhood Service	26
Family Court Counselling and Welfare Service	28
Aboriginal Accommodation Service	29
Homemaker Service	29
Parent Help Centre	30
Student Unit	31
Emergency Services	31
Staff Selection and Training	32
Youth Activity Services	32
Hostels	33
INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES	34
Bridgewater	35
Walcott	35
Longmore Remand Centre	36
Longmore Assessment Centre	38
Hillston	39
Riverbank	39
Nyandi	40
McCall Centre	41
Koorana	42

INTRODUCTION

	Page
SUPPORT SERVICES	44
Financial Statement	45
Financial Statement from Auditor General	47
Maintenance and Relief Branch	47
Planning and Research Unit	48
Legal Section	49
Community Services Training Centre	51
Welfare Services Library	52
Metropolitan Children's Court	52
Psychology Branch	53
Departmental Property	54
Catering	55
Records	55
Personnel and Staff	55
 STATISTICS SUPPLEMENT	
Index	56

INTRODUCTION

During the past year, the Department has been able to maintain its delivery of services to the community at a high standard. This has been due to a large extent by the dedication and application of staff throughout the State. Several staff with many years of experience retired during the year. Their experience and commitment to the welfare of children and their families will be missed and cannot be easily replaced.

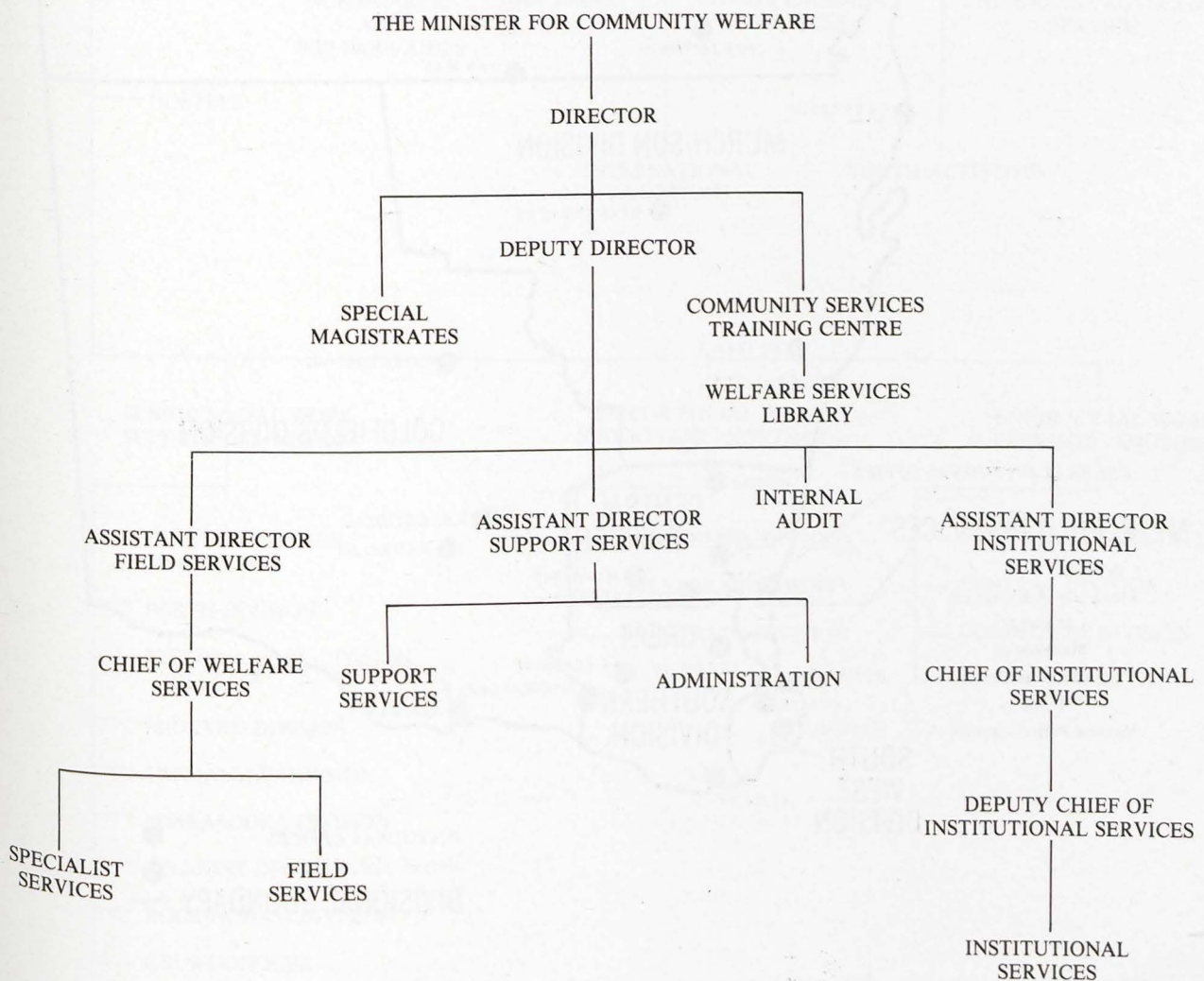
Throughout the year an examination of the Department's structure has been carried out in association with the Public Service Board, to ensure the optimum use of personnel resources in providing services to the community.

As indicated in the Report, a great deal of ground work has been carried out in relation to Permanency Planning.

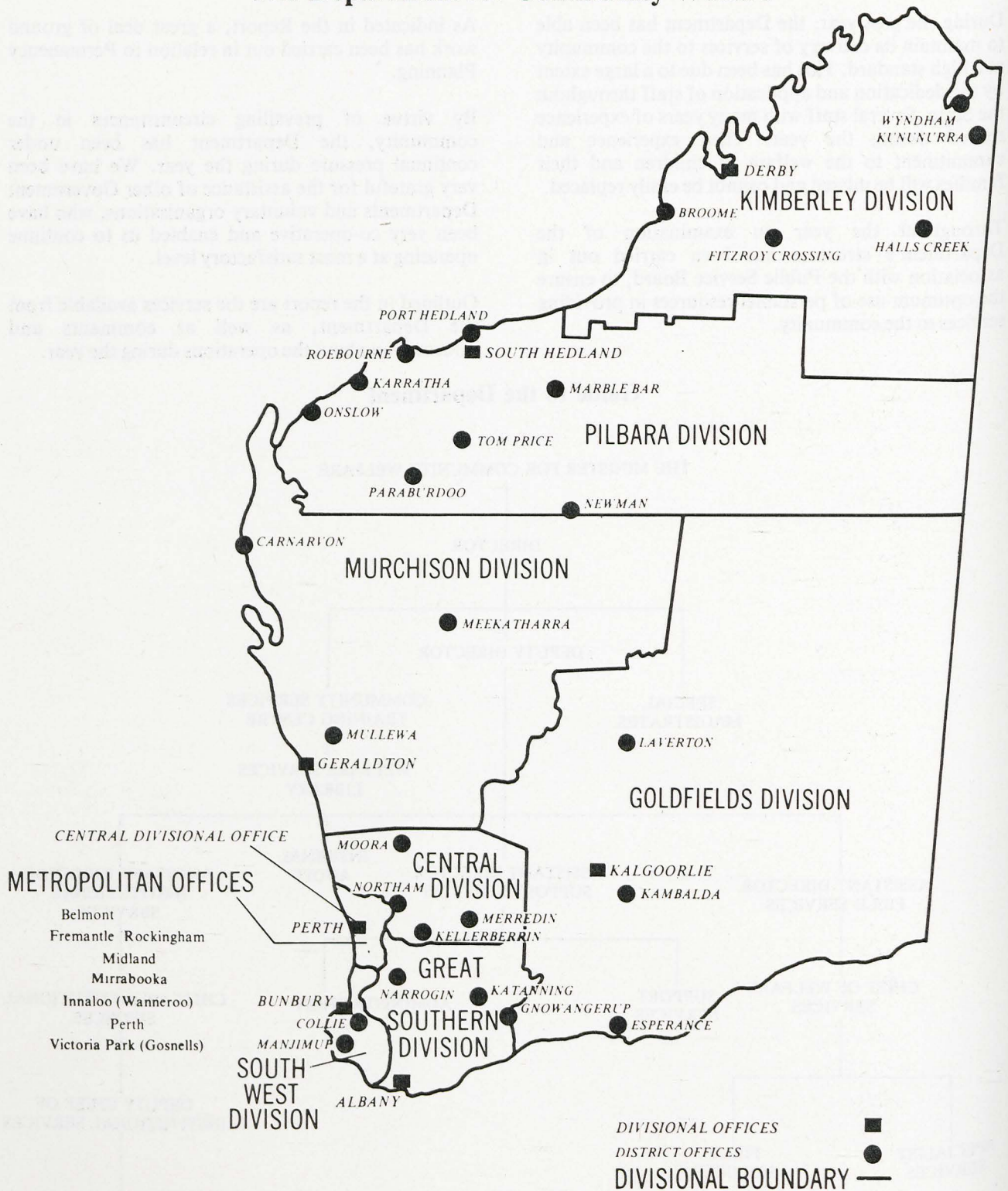
By virtue of prevailing circumstances in the community, the Department has been under continual pressure during the year. We have been very grateful for the assistance of other Government Departments and voluntary organisations, who have been very co-operative and enabled us to continue operating at a most satisfactory level.

Outlined in the report are the services available from the Department, as well as comments and information about the operations during the year.

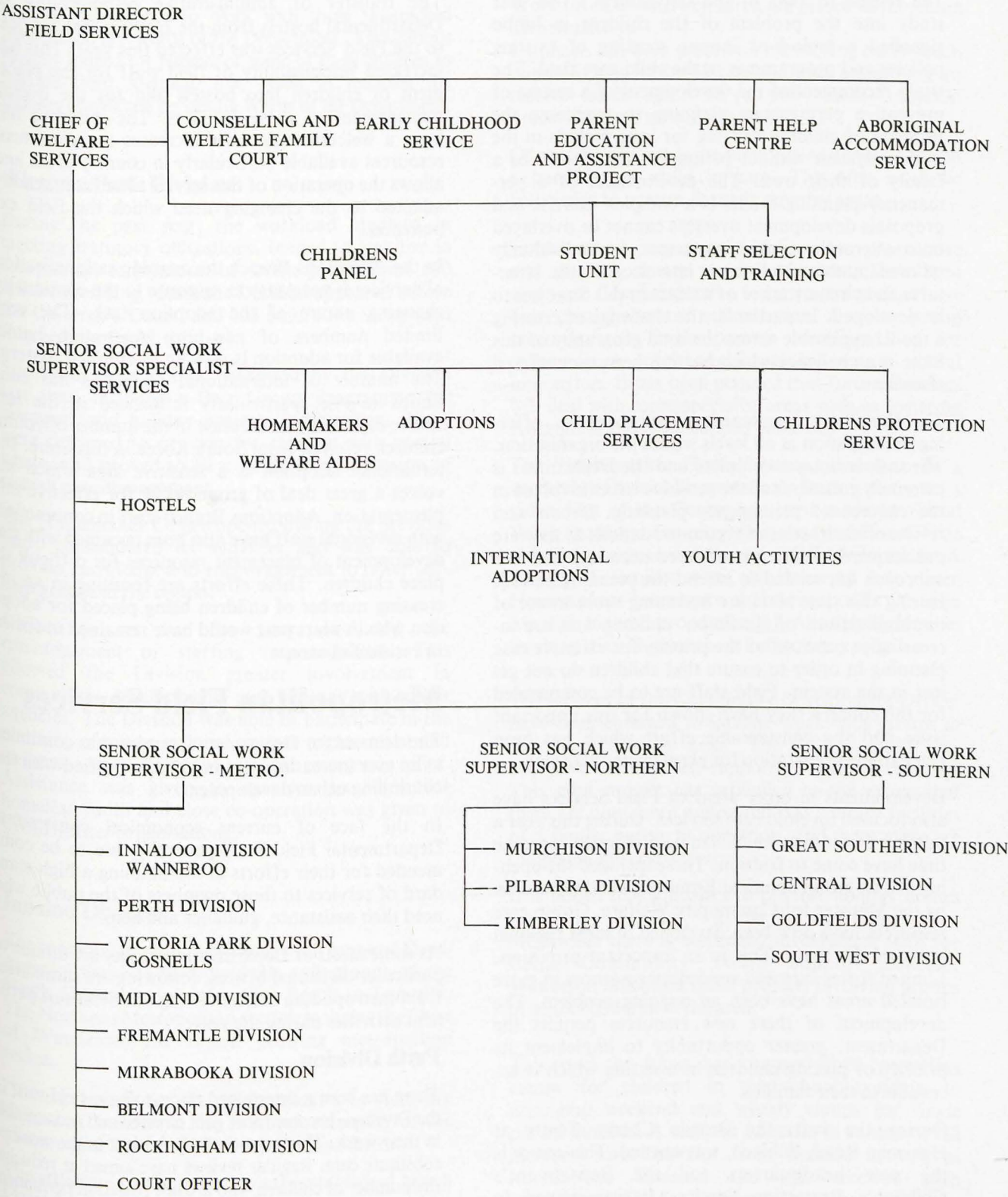
Guide to the Department



Divisional and District Offices of The Department for Community Welfare



Guide to Field Services



FIELD SERVICES

The release in 1981 of the Department's two year study into the problem of the children in limbo signalled a period of intense scrutiny of existing policies and programmes in the child care field. The study recommended the development of a system of preventive permanency planning to overcome the problem of children drifting for long periods in the welfare system without permanent attachment to a family of their own. The development of a permanency planning model is a complex exercise and proposals development overseas cannot be overlaid onto alternative welfare systems. An individually tailored model which takes into account the structures and circumstances of welfare in this State has to be developed. In particular the challenge of creating a model applicable across the total geography of this State is a challenge which has not been encountered elsewhere.

The planning programme has been extensive, offering participation at all levels within the organisation. The task is not yet complete and the Department is extremely conscious of the sensitive issues involved in the concept of permanency planning. Debate and review of each series of recommendations as they are put forward has been considered necessary and this approach has tended to extend the planning period. During this time staff are becoming more aware of the implications of 'in limbo' children and are increasingly conscious of the priority for effective case planning in order to ensure that children do not get lost in the system. Field staff are to be commended for the concern they have shown for this important issue and the considerable effort which has been given to the preparation for permanency planning.

Developments in other areas of Field Services have also focused on child care services. During this year a number of projects which had been planned for some time have come to fruition. These included the opening of two group homes at Kununurra and Geraldton by the Minister for Community Welfare. Group care resources have now been developed in most regional areas of the State. This is an important provision. Limited foster care and residential resources in more isolated areas have been an ongoing problem. The development of these new resources permits the Department, greater opportunity to implement its priority of placing children in a setting which is accessible to their families.

During the year, the Brenda Cherry Centre at Hensman Road, Subiaco, was opened. This centre is the new headquarters for the Department's Children's Protection Service. It was named in honour of the late Brenda Cherry, a distinguished officer who contributed much to social work in this field during her years of service within the Department. The Children's Protection Service was formerly located in head office. The new premises allow a more congenial and private setting for contact between welfare staff and families in this particularly delicate area of work.

The transfer of administrative responsibility of Departmental hostels from the Institutional Services to the Field Services was effected this year. This has increased responsibility of field staff for the placement of children into hostels and for the overall management of these facilities. The initiative has been a welcome one as it increases the placement resources available particularly in country areas and allows the operation of this service to be more readily adapted to the changing need which the field experiences.

In the Adoptions Branch the ongoing rationalisation of services is necessary in response to the continually changing nature of the adoption task. The very limited numbers of new-born Australian babies available for adoption is now an established pattern. The number of international adoptions has continued to rise, particularly influenced in the last twelve months by an increase in the number of young children referred from South Korea in this State. International adoption is a sensitive area which involves a great deal of groundwork for effective implementation. Adoptions Branch staff in conjunction with divisional staff have also been occupied with the development of placement resources for difficult to place children. These efforts are resulting in an increasing number of children being placed for adoption who in years past would have remained in foster or residential care.

Metropolitan Field Services

The demand for Departmental services has continued at an ever increasing rate and has intensified with the continuing urban development.

In the face of current economical constraints, Departmental Field Staff generally, are to be commended for their efforts at maintaining a high standard of services to those members of the public who need their assistance, guidance and help.

As some facets of Departmental activity are unique to particular divisional offices, following are summaries from metropolitan offices setting out details of pertinent activities during the year.

Perth Division

There has been a determined effort to have field staff in the Division, become more goal directed and accountable in their work. This is particularly evident in the work of substitute care. Regular reviews have aimed at reducing the number of children who are not placed in permanent family environments. The same trend is also emerging with the preventative work of the Division. A change in the Intake System has resulted in staff following through with clients in a more concerted effort to provide an improved service.

The Division has continued to be the main point of contact between the Department and the Vietnamese community in Perth. A Vietnamese Welfare Assistant

aids the liaison process significantly. With the Department for Social Security again accepting responsibility for the financial support of unattached minors entering the country, this Division's emphasis has changed from income maintenance to work with those unattached minors who are Wards of the Department. Applications recently lodged for parents of some of these children to migrate from Vietnam, may result in reducing the number of children remaining Wards of the Department.

Victoria Park Division

During the past year, the workload involved in meeting statutory obligations, tended to stabilise in comparison to increases of recent years. Some 990 children residing within the Division appeared before the Children's Court, and 708 before the Suspended Proceedings Panel.

Successful programmes organized by the Division last year, included a Peer Group Programme for teenagers and holiday projects for children. These were designed to provide for children with special needs, and proved to be a valuable contribution to overall case management.

The Homemaker Centre opened during the previous year, consolidated its activities and was able to provide knowledge and encouragement to other self-help groups in the region.

Objectives set for the year, included the rearrangement of staffing responsibilities. This allowed the Division greater involvement in community development and liaison with other agencies. The Division was able to participate in the planning of a new regional welfare organisation and an intra-agency review of regional emergency relief. Assistance was given to agencies providing for homeless youth and close co-operation was given to Civil Disaster organisations.

Innaloo Division

The Innaloo Division provides the full range of Departmental Services to individuals and groups of the North Coastal strip, from City Beach to Lancelin. The Northern Metropolitan section includes the Shire of Wanneroo, the fastest growing metropolitan region.

Delivery points for the Department's services are located at Innaloo at the southern extremity of the division and Wanneroo Townsite in the North.

The structure of the more recently established North Coastal suburbs appears to favour the young nuclear family and much of the Department's involvement is at the level of Parent/Child relationships.

Co-operation of allied agencies has continued to be effective and meaningful. Establishment within the Division of new offices of the Department for Social Security, has improved communication between our agencies and prevented overlap of services, thus providing more effective services.

Mirrabooka Division

Significant areas of progress during the year include the following:-

Work on cases where children are placed in substitute care situations.

Emphasis has been placed on identifying cases which required long term placements and attempting to resolve each case. In a few cases adoption proceedings are now in progress.

Of specific interest is the planning of a video tape on a handicapped child in care. This film is to be forwarded to parents living in country areas.

Foster parent programmes which allow prospective and ongoing foster parents to meet, have been arranged. The prospective foster parent groups have been geared towards self-selection. Ongoing group meetings with foster parents have provided for information exchange, training, and social interaction. It has been planned that future meetings will deal with more specialist areas such as fostering Aboriginal and handicapped children.

The "Homemaker House" has continued to be a successful Divisional operation. During the year a video film of the Centre has been made by Social Work Students. The programme at the "House" has given emphasis to a series on child development. A survey of families who are receiving help from Homemakers has shown that Mirrabooka Division has the highest proportion of Aboriginal families working with Homemakers in the metro area.

The services of the Community Development Officer have been enlarged to include work with groups in the North Beach area. The "food outlet co-operative" is now self-supporting and self-running. This pilot project has expanded to the extent that there are now seven metro and two country facilities of a similar nature in operation, and three more are to open in the near future.

It is hoped that a project to provide holiday homes for needy families will be in operation soon. Meanwhile there is continued involvement with the Balga Community Youth Support Scheme, Wanneroo Shire and small projects involving groups of school children in the area.

This year the focus has changed from providing camps for children in the school holidays to arranging weekend and weekly camps for single parent families. A camp at Lancelin in January 1982 included some families from Innaloo as well as Mirrabooka Division and was received with enthusiasm. Similar camps are planned for the forthcoming year.

The Divisional Office handles large numbers of enquiries and an average of 15 cases are dealt with on a daily basis. A large percentage of people come to the Department for financial assistance and the amount of expenditure in this area by this Division reflects the social and economic climate of the geographical area.

The end of the year saw the Division fully staffed with the opportunity ahead to reduce individual caseloads and concentrate on how best to organise service delivery.

Belmont Division

The Divisional area covers the City of Belmont, Shire of Kalamunda and parts of Canning.

Within the Division there is a high incidence of children in substitute care and a continuing need for homes for 12-16 year old children. A Substitute Care Officer has completed one total review of all children in care and is about to re-examine progress on these cases.

The needs of adolescent children have been identified as the most pressing area of work in the Division. These are generally non-offender early adolescent children in conflict with their parents and who come to notice through schools and other agencies, but most often when the family itself approaches for help. A programme to recruit suitable foster homes for older children is planned for the latter half of 1982.

Two part-time youth workers who act as peer group leaders under the guidance of an experienced Divisional Officer have continued to run a successful Youth Group at Queens Park. The group attracts children who have been unable to use the standard facilities of the area or to link with the more traditional Youth Groups.

The Homemaker Service within the Division plans to develop several new areas of help to families, particularly relating to child development and behaviour. This year there has been considerable increase in demand for financial counselling and emergency help services. The Division is responding to this by maintaining an active role in the South East Region emergency aid committee. This is a representative group of persons from agencies which provide relief within the region.

Fremantle Division

Community development activities during the past year, have continued with the major focus on the encouragement and support of self-help groups within the Fremantle area. Within the community there has been a need to co-ordinate the provision of emergency relief. The Division has become actively involved in this area.

Another major area of endeavour which has been pursued, is the recruitment of foster parents. Over the last two years this programme has proved extremely beneficial, and the Division now has a pool of foster families available to meet the needs of the majority of the children who come into our care.

Rockingham Division

Rockingham district has previously been serviced by a sub-office only.

As from the 6th July 1981, the office changed its status to that of Divisional Office. It now has a Supervisor placed in charge and the appropriate support staff.

Departmental activities in the Mandurah, Pinjarra areas are now supervised by Rockingham Division.

It is with much regret that the deaths of two members of the Mandurah sub-office are recorded. Former Welfare Assistant, Kath Barron and former Family Welfare Officer, Hugh Pybus, contributed invaluable work, and they will both be sadly missed.

Efforts by the Rockingham Division during the year were successful in the area of establishment of a community house as a multipurpose centre in Pinjarra.

Community liaison in the Rockingham area is increasing. The Department is now involved in projects aimed at the establishment of accommodation for homeless youth and a campaign in conjunction with the Rockingham Task Force to seek increased employment opportunities.

Much has been attained during the first 12 months the Divisional Office has been in operation and in spite of restrictions the Division looks forward to consolidating and improving the service next year.

Midland Division

Efforts in this Division by a willing and interested staff have produced satisfying results throughout the year, not only in the area of case work, but also in Community based programmes.

Midland Children's Court during the year dealt with 2240 charges which is a slight increase on previous years. The Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel dealt with 300 cases during the year.

Continued support was given by Department for Community Welfare staff towards the general running of the Cullacabardee Village. Considerable progress has been made at the Village. Details of this programme are given in a separate section of this report relating specifically to the Cullacabardee Village.

Emergency Accommodation

The shelter referred to as "The Junction" has been able to provide temporary accommodation for 233 adults and 105 children. During the first 18 months of operation, shelter was provided to full families and single persons. At the end of that period statistics showed that 60% of the adult population fell under the category of "Youths". With the availability of funds from the Homeless Youths Scheme, the Junction has now been made available to Youths only. This resulted in an unsatisfied demand for families in need of emergency accommodation. It is anticipated in the near future, to develop added facilities and again extend this service to families.

Approximately 90% of clients at "The Junction" have been referred there by officers of the Department.

Cullacabardee Village

The Village which has now been occupied for eighteen months, was established to house three Aboriginal fringe-dwelling groups.

Many villagers have undergone the difficult phase of "settling-in" their new houses and the new environment. For many villagers, coping with a house for the first time was a major hurdle to overcome. The Special Task Force has been engaged in assisting each tenant with personal problems and difficulties and in assisting the villagers towards their aspirations to develop as a "community".

Support Services to Cullacabardee Village

Special Task Force

The Special Task Force comprises: A Community Development Officer who works full-time to co-ordinate most aspects of village needs, and three Departmental Homemakers who work with individual families and with groups attempting to provide "Community" services.

Community Homemaker Service

Three Aboriginal women from within the village are engaged in providing assistance for tenants on an individual basis and in running group activities such as sewing classes, leather-work, lunch programmes and get-togethers.

Health Services

Community Health Services, Lockridge, provide the village with a comprehensive health service. The Aboriginal Medical Service are also involved mainly in providing transport to and from medical appointments. The Silver Chain Nursing Service provide support and fares for diabetics.

Schooling

Most school age children attend either the East Beechboro Primary School or the Lockridge Senior High School. Reports suggest that children attending the Primary School have been accepted reasonably well and are enjoying attendance.

Kindergarten

A Kindergarten has been established at Cullacabardee running each Tuesday and Thursday morning.

State Housing Commission - Mirrabooka

The Department has continued to seek the support of the State Housing Commission office in dealing with Cullacabardee. The Special Task Force recognises the difficult role State Housing Commission must play and appreciate the good working relationship that exists between both offices.

Bus Service

The Metropolitan Transport Trust runs a bus service for Cullacabardee on a special hire charge. Fares have recently been introduced to offset some of the cost to this Department.

Village Developments

Homes

Most people have taken great pride in developing home grounds. Many have erected front

fences and have or are establishing gardens and trees. Interior decorating is a continuous ongoing exercise. Some villagers make curtains and buy new furniture to supplement that which has been supplied by the Department for Community Welfare.

Thrift Shop

A secondhand clothing store and thrift shop is run by community homemakers. Articles are collected from a number of sources, repaired, washed and ironed ready for re-sale. The money collected through this is channelled back into other community homemaker programmes such as a lunch programme.

Street-Stalls

The Community Homemakers have operated two street stalls in Midland with the permission of the Swan Shire. They have been a good public relations exercise as well as engaging a number of villagers in preparation.

Nursery

Ms. Ivy Quartermaine has established a nursery as part of her work at the village. Plants are sold to villagers with the eventual aim of selling plants outside the village. The Kings Park Botanic Garden has supplied Ms. Quartermaine with wild flower seeds for sowing with the eventual aim of reselling wild-flower seed on a commercial basis.

Small Works Projects

The Department has recently released \$5,000.00 for a programme of small works specifically to undertake the building of barbecues in the transient camping area.

Northern Country Field Services

The Department has continued to provide support in a developmental way to Aboriginal groups in the North. Specifically those involved in new housing programmes, such as the Gogo, Christmas Creek and Carnarvon developments and in the current Halls Creek programme.

It has been necessary to appoint a second officer to Onslow office on a temporary basis, to work exclusively with the reserve residents on their present and future accommodation needs. It is planned that on completion of his task in this area, this officer will be used in a similar function in other centres.

The Hon. Minister recently opened two new Group Homes at Geraldton and Kununurra. These facilities will provide a much needed supplement to field services.

The Order of St. John of God, who had been providing nursing sisters to operate the Yaandina Centre at Roebourne, have had to withdraw their services after seven years involvement with this project. The Department is most appreciative for the dedication and commitment demonstrated both by the Sisters

and Management Board during the course of their involvement with the Centre. Staff are currently examining proposals for the future operation of this facility.

Murchison Division

The past year has seen a continuation and consolidation of two major areas of work within the Division, the provision of high quality case work service to statutory clients and the development of effective youth activity programmes. Development of regular case reviews with the aim to reduce the number of children in long term substitute care, has been a significant objective. In organising youth activity programmes, the emphasis has been on constructive alternatives to offending behaviour.

Particularly evident in the youth programmes have been the influence of the two Aboriginal Welfare Aides, employed at Carnarvon and Mullewa. Both have provided valuable service in communicating with Aboriginal children and running programmes.

In Carnarvon, the Boor St. Village has been opened. An additional officer experienced in working with a number of Kimberley Aboriginal Communities, has been employed and exceptional progress has been made in effecting a successful rehousing programme.

Youth activities in Carnarvon are still centred on the Mayu Club which, with the assistance of local field staff and voluntary workers, has provided a most effective preventive programme.

In Geraldton, the Department has placed emphasis on community based programmes closely aligned with the Homemaker Service. The Homemakers have provided a valuable contribution to the overall work of the Department in this area.

The new group home, "Westview" was officially opened in March 1982. It is already proving to be a valuable asset in providing for emergency and short term placement of children.

Mullewa Office has participated in developing community resources besides providing a wide range of professional services to the community. The Department has still found it necessary to continue its agency role for other Government bodies, such as Social Security and Commonwealth Employment Service, in this town.

The Mullewa Reserve has all but ceased to function and it is likely that it will close in the latter part of 1982. This can be attributed to several factors with the two main elements being a population drift towards the larger urban centre of Geraldton and a more effective rehousing programme. Certainly the unemployment situation has not improved in this town and this too has contributed to movement of people away from the area.

In Meekatharra, a regular service to outlying communities and towns has been maintained. Officers regularly visit Cue, Wiluna and Mt. Magnet. Again, a major task of the Department is the provision of agency services for other Government bodies.

Ngangganawili Group Home

Ngangganawili Group Home was recently opened at Wiluna. This facility should prove a valuable asset in the emergency and short term placement of children, a problem particularly aggravated by the temporary imprisonment of parents for drunkenness.

Overall, the Division has been particularly affected by the problems of unemployment. A large number of young people have become discontented because they are unable to assume a role in society as wage earners.

Pilbara Division

The Pilbara region provides very diverse work situations for the Department. The social problems encountered by officers vary considerably between the traditional north west towns of Onslow, Roebourne and Marble Bar, the company towns of Tom Price and Newman, and the north west urban centres of Port Hedland and Karratha.

This year has seen initiatives taken in previous years in regards to youth work coming to fruition. The camping facility for youth at Point Samson, known as the Lumpers Mess, is now in constant use by youth groups and schools from the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. In the Port Hedland/South Hedland area significant progress has been made in the area of preventative youth programmes and the Department's youth centre in Port Hedland has now been renovated and should be in full use in the near future. The Bala Bala bush camp located west of Whim Creek, which was partially destroyed by fire in October 1980, is again fully operational and providing a popular venue for youth camps during school holiday periods.

Better co-ordination of all the agencies working in Roebourne has resulted in a much more efficient and effective use of resources and the development of a number of successful programmes. A shelter for homeless teenage girls has been established and is being managed by the Ieramugadu Community Incorporated, which represents the majority of Aboriginal people in Roebourne. The St. John of God Sisters, who have managed the Yaandina Babies and Children's Centre since its opening, withdrew in May 1982. Their withdrawal resulted from a greatly reduced demand for the service they were providing and a recognition by all those involved with the Centre that it was time that its role within the community changed. The Ieramugadu group are preparing a proposal for the future use of the Yaandina facility. The Community Centre in Roebourne has been in constant use and is the centre of a community homemaker programme and is also used for adult Aboriginal educational classes and a secondhand clothing store.

In Karratha the Department's work mainly involved casework with statutory clients, although the officers spend considerable time assisting members of the community to develop self-help community programmes.

An officer skilled in community development work has been located in Onslow on a temporary basis. It

is proposed that he examine the needs of the Aboriginal population of Onslow and prepare a report which can be used as the basis for future Departmental programmes in that town. A major focus of his work will be on housing needs in Onslow and close liaison is being developed with the State Housing Commission. His involvement with the local Aboriginal community has already had considerable effect, especially in terms of improved living conditions on the Onslow reserve.

In Tom Price many complex family problems have been dealt with by the Department and there has been considerable involvement in community organisations.

The Department's new office in Newman is nearing completion and with its opening will end ten years occupation of substandard office premises. The Newman office is now responsible for the provision of Departmental services to the Jigalong Aboriginal community as well as normal Departmental services to the town of Newman.

The Marble Bar office is now providing a regular service to the remote mining centre of Telfer, which in the past has lacked any real support from welfare agencies. It is hoped that in the coming year those pensioners living on the Marble Bar reserve will acquire new accommodation and that the reserve as it now exists will be closed. It is however likely that some transient camping facilities will have to be kept as Marble Bar is a popular stopover point for Aboriginal people moving through the Pilbara.

Port Hedland and South Hedland officers have provided a regular service to the towns of Goldsworthy and Shay Gap and to the Aboriginal community at Yaandeyarra. The assistance of the Aboriginal communities at Strelley and Yaandeyarra has been sought on a number of occasions when placements for Aboriginal children have been needed. The Port Hedland group home has continued to operate most successfully and provides excellent emergency and short term care for children in this area. It is hoped that in the coming year the Division will consolidate the programmes begun in the past year and continue to evolve new programmes where needed.

Kimberley Division

Predominantly, the work in this region is centred on emerging Aboriginal communities. The Department has attempted to work at a group level in these communities using a basic community development approach, co-ordinated with the resources of other agencies of State and Federal Governments and non-statutory bodies.

In Derby, the Department provided a comprehensive service to the large urban community and a service to outlying communities such as Mowanjum, Pandanus Park, Looma, Koolan and Cockatoo Island.

Recently one of the reserves was closed. Old buildings and facilities were demolished and removed. The remaining reserve has undergone a number

of major improvements. Kitchen units have been provided and there has been a general upgrading to the sewage system. There are further plans to provide individual ablution blocks to each house.

The Department has continued to operate a highly successful hostel which provides valuable accommodation for children attending the local high school. Also a Department Group Home provides emergency and short term care for children.

In Broome there has been a general consolidation of Departmental activities. The need for further housing has been recognised by all Government Departments and a proposal has been made for the redevelopment of the Anne Street Reserve by the State Housing Commission. Negotiations are currently under way to carry out this project.

A regular service is provided to the outlying communities at Lombadina, One Arm Point, La Grange and Beagle Bay.

At Fitzroy there has been a marked stabilisation and consolidation in the Aboriginal communities associated with that town. This has meant a change in emphasis for local staff who have now established a consultative role rather than active participatory role as was the case in previous years. A re-evaluation of the Department's work in the area now shows that future work may be directed towards more statutory responsibilities.

The Departmental Hostel provided a valuable service to outlying communities by accommodating school children who would otherwise have been unable to attend the local school. The hostel was formerly run as a Group Home but ceased operation in 1980.

There has been a proposal to redevelop and subdivide the Department's reserve. The proposal includes the division of the land between the Department, Marra Warra Warra and the Kurnangki Group. It is planned that this arrangement will eventually lead to further housing developments to assist in accommodating the groups not provided for in previous housing projects. The Department expended \$22,500 to upgrade those houses on the reserve which are to be occupied by the group until the rehousing project is completed.

In Halls Creek the number one reserve has been re-vested in the name of the Hon. Minister for Housing. Redevelopment is planned by the Housing Commission. This change follows the opening of the recently completed pensioner units. It is expected that nine houses will be completed by the end of the year with a further thirteen due for completion by 1983. Single men's quarters are also planned and it is expected that the Aboriginal Hostels Inc., will manage this facility.

The future development of the number two reserve is, as yet, undetermined.

Halls Creek staff carry out regular visits to the outlying communities at Ringers Soak, Chinaman's Garden, Lamboo, Balgo, Lake Gregory and Billiluna.

The Department has maintained an advisory role with the Red Hill Community but is becoming less involved as the community has become increasingly independent.

The Charles Perkins Hostel, provided accommodation for up to 55 school children. The Hostel is a valuable resource for the Department in that children from outlying areas are able to attend the Halls Creek Junior High School without the need to travel to the larger urban centres.

At Kununurra, youth activities have been increased dramatically in the past few months. The launch previously used by the Wyndham Office, was recently acquired for use in youth activities in Kununurra.

The new "Warringarri" Group Home was officially opened on 1st June 1982. Interviews were jointly conducted by the Chairman of "Warringarri" and Departmental staff, to select a suitable couple to act as Group Home parents.

In Wyndham similar emphasis has been placed on improving youth activity programmes and family support programmes. Staff have continued to provide a regular service to Oombulgurri and Kalumburu.

Plans are under way for a general upgrading of the Bulungurr Hostel which is used by people from the above communities when they are attending outpatient clinics.

General improvements have been made to both the Wyndham and Fork Creek reserves, so that better facilities are now available to the residents.

Overall, Family Support Services continued to function successfully in Derby, Wyndham and Kununurra. Major thrusts for future work will be in the areas of youth work and family counselling.

Southern Country Field Services

A high standard of service has continued to be offered to the community in the region over the last twelve months. Prolonged staff shortages in all divisions has often made this task difficult.

During the year there has been an ongoing and comprehensive review of children in the care of the Department. This review is expected to complete much of the initial work required in the Department's proposed programme of Permanency Planning.

In relation to other organisations who care for children, a sensitive and conscientious attempt has been made by Supervisors and staff to improve liaison in order to involve them and keep them informed of developments in this area.

The two new Group Homes at Northam and Boulder have already proved their worth and have added considerably to the effectiveness and flexibility of the

Department in relation to the care of children. With the administration of hostels now falling within the control of the Field Services, it is hoped that divisional office staff will be able to offer children, parents and communities a more direct service.

Great Southern Division

The Great Southern Division offers service to an area from Walpole to Bremer Bay in the South, to Brookton and Hyden in the North. The Divisional office is based in Albany with District offices located at Gnowangerup, Katanning and Narrogin. The area served, has an agriculture base and contains numerous smaller towns and communities.

Since the commencement of operation of the Great Southern Division in January 1980, considerable achievements have been made by integrating the District offices into a cohesive Division. Development of the necessary administration supports and co-ordination of resources, has taken place. The Great Southern Region is well served by voluntary organisations and with their support, a high level of client services is provided.

Albany

Officers from Albany call on a weekly basis at Denmark and Mt. Barker. These visits fully meet the demand for Departmental services at this time. In Mt. Barker, consideration is to be given to the appointment of a Homemaker, to further meet the growing demand by families within that town.

In Albany, the Department has established a Group Home which provides short term accommodation for children from within the region. Children placed at the Group Home are not only children for whom the Department has a statutory obligation but also those from families where there is a special need for short term accommodation, such as the temporary absence of a caregiver. During the coming year, the operation of the Albany Group Home will be closely monitored with a view to further defining this resource and its maximum utilisation.

Gnowangerup

The activities of the Department during the past year have been most successful in Gnowangerup and the surrounding area. A vigorous rehousing programme by the State Housing Commission supported by the Department's Homemakers based at Gnowangerup, Ongerup, Lake Grace and Katanning has made it possible to close the Aboriginal Reserve in Gnowangerup. This was the last remaining Reserve in the South West. As a consequence of the falling number of disadvantaged families and child offending generally, the Department is now in a position to consider re-deployment of some staff resources in Gnowangerup without effecting the level of service provided.

Katanning

The Department's Katanning Office has experienced a growing demand for its services during the past

twelve months and continues to be the busiest office in the division. In response to this demand for services, the Department has appointed an Aboriginal District Officer who has a full range of duties and responsibilities. This appointment will enable the Department to broaden the basis of case work and preventative work with families and the community. This Officer is already proving to be a valuable resource to his Officer colleagues particularly in liaison with Marribank Mission and the Departmental Hostel in Katanning.

Narrogin

The Narrogin District Office has maintained a high level of Departmental service to the town and surrounding areas during the last 12 months.

Homemakers are located at Brookton, Pingelly, Williams and Narrogin. The area is well served by voluntary agencies with whom the Department can liaise.

In summary, the Great Southern Division is a steadily growing area where the Department is well and comprehensively represented. Community Service Orders are being increasingly used as an alternative by Courts and have proved to be most successful. The use of Community Service Orders has increased by 50% in the past twelve months. Similarly the Juvenile Suspended Action Panel would appear most successful with some 150 offenders being dealt with by the Panel this year.

Central Division

The operations and objectives of the Central Division over the last year, have been concentrated in the area of child and family welfare. Also an administrative review of office systems and statutory cases has been completed.

Throughout the division there has been an overhaul of systems in the areas of case recording and indexing, maintenance of financial expenditure and financial accountability. A programme to standardize each office system with that of the division was planned and put into effect.

The division's records of foster families and children were up-dated. Current records of children in substitute care were cross-checked for accuracy. This action served to review all children in substitute care and also to make case officers aware of the impending computerization of departmental records.

The impact of the Department's proposed programme for permanency planning has had a big effect in the division's administration of statutory and private foster cases. The long term effects of substitute care as against family restoration, extended family placement of adoption has meant more detailed case planning and management. Planned intervention in care and protection applications and/or the removal of a child into care, has made the nature of family casework more child oriented and goal directed.

The use of the Northam Group Home as part of the division's resources in child care and emergency

placement has been invaluable. The group Home has been occupied to its full capacity most of the time. With this facility now available it is possible to place children within the region with which they are familiar, resulting in a decline of referrals to Bridgewater and other institutions. Children with a substantial history of offending and acting-out delinquent behaviour have however continued to be referred to more appropriate departmental facilities.

Where children are placed in the Group Home, it is possible for divisional staff to become more involved in assessment, planning and case conferences. This situation would appear to allow a more thorough assessment to be made.

In the area of staff development, a divisional conference was conducted on the topic of investigation and assessment of child abuse. The division received assistance from the Child Life Protection Unit, in running this conference. The conference proved extremely beneficial for field officers who operate largely by themselves in dealing with these specific areas. A number of officers also attended seminars on Alcohol and Drug Abuse at Holyoake, to learn about this disease which features frequently in family problems in the country.

Last year saw the closure of the Northam reserve and the last inhabitants finding accommodation in the town. It was necessary for some of the older residents to be relocated to the Avon Valley Home, run by Aboriginal Hostels Ltd. The exercise was the product of extensive negotiations and local liaison with the State Housing Commission and the Northam Town Council and the work of a local housing committee which has Aboriginal and departmental representation. The opening of Avon Valley House and the closure of the reserve, has not completely solved the problems of overcrowding and homelessness amongst Aboriginal people. It has served, however, to remove Aboriginal people from permanent unsatisfactory accommodation and a life style where alcoholism, poverty and violence was part of the environment.

The Kellerberrin office employed an Aboriginal trainee under the National Employment Strategy for Aboriginals Scheme. During the nine months training period, it is hoped to develop his potential as a Community Worker. This community development project aims to train a local community leader to assume the responsibilities of an independent self-help project officer for the local Progress Association. If the project is successful, funding on a full-time basis for this position would be favourably considered by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. An office has been acquired in Kellerberrin, for the trainee. This was funded by the Aboriginal Development Commission. Training is being co-ordinated and supervised by the Division.

The bulk of the Division's work has been in the area of general family welfare and juvenile matters. The use of departmental homemakers and welfare assistants has been particularly useful in working with families in towns where there is no resident Field

Officer. Sub-offices employing welfare assistants, now operate at Dalwallinu, Wongan Hills and Southern Cross.

Youth activities is an area where there has been consistent activity by the Department. Local youth groups have been planned and commenced at Tammin and Kellerberrin. Both these groups were assisted by peer group leaders and a local co-ordinating committee.

The Department's centre at Cunderdin, has continued to be the focus of youth activity in that town. A Shire sponsored youth worker has now been appointed. The Cunderdin Community Centre is also used by a local play group. Both the play group and the youth programme have been the subject of a video film produced by a Northam Officer to document developments in this community project.

Concluding developments in self-help groups, the homemakers, along with Field staff, have conducted programmes on personal growth and child-rearing for client groups. The usual operation of furniture and clothing stores has also continued.

The division is currently planning a seminar on Children's Court matters and the role of the department in the area of child protection and juvenile crime.

The developments mentioned, have been made possible only by the interest of the Field staff and the stability of the division in the area of staffing.

Goldfields Division

The Goldfields Division serves an area of approximately one third of the State, with its Divisional office located in Kalgoorlie and District offices located in Laverton, Kambalda, Norseman and Esperance. A part time office provides a service in Leonora. Other centres serviced regularly include Coolgardie, Menzies, Cundeelee, the Central Reserves, and the Trans Line. In addition to these areas, most other areas are served either on a regular or needs basis. In the Northern parts of the Division, officers visit Cosmo Newberry, Mount Margaret, Leinster and Teutonic Bore. In the Southern end of the Division, the Esperance District office serves communities from Ravensthorpe and Hopetown in the west, to Salmon Gums north of Esperance. The Norseman office services as far afield as Eucla on the South Australian border.

During the past twelve months, some of the Department's services within the Division have needed to be restricted due to staff shortages at one time or another. However the available staff have worked very diligently in providing an effective service to the respective communities within the Division.

The Department through its Kalgoorlie office, provides a full range of Departmental Services to the Kalgoorlie and Boulder communities. A regular weekly service to Menzies, Coolgardie, and Cundeelee is also provided.

Following a decline in the mining boom, employment has been static, and future development is somewhat

uncertain. However Kalgoorlie remains a vital regional centre for the Goldfields. Most Government departments and services are represented in Kalgoorlie, which enables this Department to work in close co-operation with other State and Commonwealth bodies.

The Department, both in Kalgoorlie and other centres in the Division, has continued to deliver an effective service in the Children's Courts. It maintains a statutory and preventative casework involvement with individuals and families, with the primary focus remaining on the maintenance of and support for the family. In achieving this aim, support has continued to be received from child care facilities in the Division, both Departmental and private, including local church bodies and a variety of community organisations and individual resource persons. The Department also engages in a variety of community development work.

The Division has achieved a very substantial reduction in the number of children in alternate care during the past 3 years. The Goldfields Division has given high priority to working with families and communities, to ensure wherever possible that children remain with their families and within their normal environment.

Coolgardie is visited regularly on a weekly basis from Kalgoorlie. The respective officer has provided a casework service there, attended Children's Court proceedings and has been involved in a limited way in community development. It is hoped that staff resources will soon permit more work to be carried out in the preventive and community development areas.

The small community of Menzies, served by an officer from Kalgoorlie, on a weekly basis, has experienced many of the problems found elsewhere in the Goldfields. The officer has provided a general casework service as well as offering support for the local youth and community. Offences by juveniles in Menzies are very minimal. Shortage of housing remains a significant problem.

Cundeelee is also visited weekly by an officer from Kalgoorlie. This year the Aboriginal Development Commission hopes to purchase Coonana Station near the Cundeelee site. It is intended that this pastoral property be leased to the Cundeelee community, thereby providing expanded employment opportunities.

In the north the Laverton office serves a wide area including Cosmo Newberry, Mt. Margaret and Leonora. A considerable amount of statutory work is carried out, as well as support to a number of Aboriginal communities and families. Community development work has been limited recently because of staff shortages. However the officers have supported the Laverton Youth Club and other preventative and community based projects.

Central Reserves area has been served by regular monthly patrols by a Departmental officer, from Laverton until recently and currently from

Kalgoorlie. The patrol includes communities in Warburton, Wingillina, Warrakurna, Blackstone and Giles.

Close liaison with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, has been of benefit to children in the area. The officer is also developing a closer liaison with community councils in the Reserves areas. Regular patrols rather than ad hoc service have enabled the Department to realistically appreciate the situation in the Central Reserves. The Laverton officers provide a service to the Leonora Children's Court, Leonora Reserve and Nabberu Children's Hostel. They undertake family and individual casework and a significant amount of work relating to the operations of the Department of Social Security.

Although Kambalda is currently a one officer post, a high level of Departmental service is maintained there. Additional support is provided from Kalgoorlie when appropriate.

Norseman is currently served by a full time officer. Previously it was served on a part time basis only from Kalgoorlie or Kambalda due to staff shortages. The officer now provides a very effective service to families and individuals. He attends Children's Court proceedings fulfilling the various Departmental statutory obligations and maintains close liaison with Norseman Mission, Pugang Village and the various community resources and organisations. It is hoped the officer will soon have a full time receptionist typist which will facilitate an improved office service delivery. The officer also serves the Eyre Highway, including the persistent problem of the stranded motorists and road accident victims.

The recent appointment of a post primary school teacher to Cundeelee would appear to be a very significant step forward. It will allow Cundeelee children to remain in their normal environment instead of being placed in a different environment many miles away. This has created some problems in the past.

Esperance, which has a shire population of approximately 10,000 people, has a District Office serving a large area including Ravensthorpe and Hopetown in the west. The office provides both a statutory service and a wide range of other services including preventive and intensive case work, community development and liaison. The Department's homemaker centre is used both as a community resource and a pre-school for Aboriginal children.

The Goldfields Division utilizes its various resources for the provision of alternate child care where necessary. They include the Department's Group Home, the Working Boy's Hostel, Working Girls Hostel and Nindeebai Hostel, a facility for students required to live away from home to gain further education. The Group Home has been an invaluable resource in the provision of emergency care for children. During its period of operation a little over 18 months, it has provided care for over one hundred children. Nearly all children were returned to either their natural or extended families, mostly within 3 months of their admission to the Group Home. No

child was committed to the care of the Department following admission to the Group Home.

The Working Boys Hostel ended an impressive era when the former management ceased during the year. New and similarly effective management commenced in November. The hostel accommodates youths attending High School and Technical Colleges, those completing after care programmes and those in need of support in times of family crises. Importance is placed on motivation of the boys towards full time work and despite limited employment opportunities an impressive employment record prevails.

The Working Girls Hostel also in Kalgoorlie is a similarly valuable resource for teenage girls, mostly from within the divisional area. Some of the girls attend school, while the majority gain employment. Both hostels make it possible for many Goldfields children to remain in the district rather than going to the Perth metropolitan area.

Family Day Care Centres within the Division are actively encouraged as part of the Community support programme to help meet existing child care needs. Like other Divisions the Goldfields has a number of dedicated foster parents providing invaluable support. Unfortunately there still exists a great need for Aboriginal foster parents and foster parents for teenagers.

Extremely valuable and greatly appreciated support continues to be received from private child care organisations such as Kurrawang Aboriginal Christian Centre, Norseman Children's Home, Fairhaven (Esperance) and the Isolated Children's Hostel.

Family support workers employed by the Department's Homemaker Service; are located in Kalgoorlie, Kambalda, Norseman and Esperance. They provide casework support to field officers in each town and operate community centres which meet a wide range of needs.

Complex problems of the Fringe Dweller are of real concern to the Division. Housing is also a major problem for Aboriginal communities in the Goldfields. The proposed construction of a camp style facility for homeless and fringe dwelling Aborigines at Parkeston (Kalgoorlie) should ease the situation to some extent. Other areas, including Leonora, are showing signs of renewed interest in housing. The local community based organisation, known as Yamatagee Nguro, is currently researching and planning towards establishing an alcohol rehabilitation programme in Kalgoorlie. Kalgoorlie's geographic location on the East route, combined with an active mining industry, attracts many families and single units to the region. Often new arrivals are in need of a great deal of practical assistance. There is an increased community awareness of the needs of transient people in the Goldfields.

The very extensive and demanding Goldfields Division, with its various centres widely separated by distance, culture and social economic circumstances, presents a great challenge to the Department. Divisional staff with their keen commitment and enthusiasm have worked well towards meeting this challenge.

South/West Division

The Division over the past year has focused on two major objectives.

Concentration has been on case management especially in relation to children in alternate care and on maintaining a co-ordinating role between this Department and the voluntary agencies.

During the year, the cases of each child in alternate care have been reviewed with a view to establishing a plan for stability in placement. The initial intense effort has been made and future planning should now be a more streamlined process.

Co-ordination and liaison in the area of Community Development has always been given a high priority in this Division. Efforts have been maintained despite a turnover of staff and additional demands of statutory obligations.

The Bunbury Divisional Office provides back up services to the other Districts in the Region.

A close working relationship has been established with voluntary agencies in Bunbury. Officers have been involved in ensuring that existing projects and programs such as Holiday activities for children, emergency shelter and accommodation and extension of services to people with alcohol related problems have been maintained.

New projects which have been encouraged and developed include:-

- (1) Development of a Women's Learning Centre which is now independent and provides educational, resource, and stress management courses for women in the Bunbury Community.
- (2) An extension of skills training in conjunction with the Community Services Training College through provision of specialist workshops in Gestalt and Family Therapy
- (3) The provision of a Welfare Pantry has assisted in providing emergency foodstuffs, especially on an after hours basis when shops are not open and food vouchers cannot be used. This project is the embryo to develop a food co-operative which it is hoped will assist people in difficult financial circumstances.

Departmental projects such as the three Homemaker Centres have provided necessary services to clientele. The Withers Centre especially has been extended this year by provision of an additional flat which has relieved overcrowding and allowed greater flexibility for adult and children's activities.

Canowindra Group Home provided an excellent service and allowed localised care and planning to effectively cater for children's needs within Bunbury, without disrupting their school and social affiliations.

There was a general reduction in work load when Monetary Assistance cases were transferred from the State to the Commonwealth Government. As a result the services previously offered to the Busselton, Margaret River, Capel and Augusta districts have been extended. A field officer is now located almost permanently at Busselton, working from the Community Health Centre. This service, as predicted, indicates that full time presence in this area is warranted. Already the officer has an operating caseload consistent with others in Department for Community Welfare. With an officer located in the town, it is now possible to offer after hours service when necessary. This had been limited in the past. It is planned to establish this office as a full time office sometime during the next year.

The Division's Collie Office is staffed by two field officers. Aboriginal participation in the wider community as well as Aboriginal management of the special projects have been objectives of Departmental staff in Collie. Over the past five years it is apparent that considerable progress has been made towards developing a self determining attitude amongst Aboriginal clientele. An example of this is the establishment of the Collie Aboriginal Advancement and Progress Centre. This Centre provides complimentary services to the Department's Homemaker Centre. It is staffed and managed exclusively by Aboriginal people and provides information, training and support services for the Collie Aboriginal Community. Lunch programmes for children and adults are just one of their activities being organised.

Whilst Aboriginal intergration services have been an objective at Collie it would be misleading to consider that the Department's services are limited to Aboriginal clients. Collie office also maintains a large European caseload. It is significant to report that the community have relinquished some of the previously held views in regard to which groups are entitled to service from the Department.

The Homemaker service in Collie has conducted various programs such as Holiday camps for children, Annual Christmas Party for children, group work at the Homemaker Centre, training activities in Domestic Social and Community processes as well as fulfilling the traditional homemaker case aid role. Increase in contact and work with European individuals and groups is indicative of the change in community attitude to the Department.

Kooloongar-Mia Group Home has operated successfully during the year. Its capacity to offer child care has been maintained at a level similar to last year. Collie Welfare Council which sponsors the Group Home activities has been instrumental in raising funds to provide a swimming pool. This will provide a valuable recreation activity for the children in care.

Excellent liaison with various community groups has aided the provision of service. Practical assistance to the Department's clients has also been offered. The very strong tradition in Collie of Community spirit and willingness to assist, continues to be upheld and deserves acknowledgement.

The Department's office at Manjimup is staffed by two field officers. Emphasis during the year has been towards community development. There has been continued involvement and support offered to local community groups and organisations. Over the past year involvement with the Manjimup Shire has resulted in providing a Community Centre in the town. An advisory Consultative Service has been provided for the Warren Family Centre and the Child Care Centre, the principal users of the Community Centre.

The Homemaker service in the District has attempted this year to vary its activities from individual casework to group and community work. Efforts are being directed towards training Homemakers as well as to establish a centre for Homemakers activities which should more adequately, serve the needs of families in mill towns.

Last year there was a continued increase in the number of referrals to Department for Community Welfare from schools, doctors and the hospital. It is becoming apparent from these referrals that the need exists for counselling services to assist with marriage problems and alcohol related problems. Co-ordination of existing services to offer a public seminar on these issues is being planned. This process is the first step in developing increased Counselling Resources.

Provision of emergency accommodation for single parent families and families stranded but seeking employment is a problem which has not been resolved. The Department is helping to solve this problem in the coming year.

Adoptions

The past year has seen a slight increase in the number of applicants to adopt locally born unrelated babies and in the number of babies placed for adoption. However, the backlog of applications remains, and the waiting time has lengthened. Babies are now being placed with couples who applied approximately four years and three months ago. It is impossible to predict future trends and waiting times.

Adoption fees were increased from \$140 to \$200 on 1st August, 1981. The fee however, is no longer applicable in cases of wards adopted by foster parents to whom foster rates have been paid. The waiving of fees in such adoptions was a policy direction by the Hon. Minister for Community Welfare and became effective from 1st July 1981.

The year has seen an anticipated increase in the volume of enquiries from adopted adults seeking information about their biological parents and biological parents seeking information about children they relinquished for adoption. In some cases only medical information is requested, but the majority express a desire for contact in the event of a Contact Register being established. More and more clerical and professional time is being devoted to searching records, providing written, non-identifying information and counselling.

During 1981 a number of projects were undertaken by the Department to commemorate the "International Year of Disabled Persons". Among these projects was one in which the Adoption Branch became closely involved. Funded by the International Year of Disabled Persons State Committee it was designed to:

- (1) identify handicapped wards or children under the guardianship of the Director, who were living in institutions and then
- (2) find adoptive, foster or host families for them.

The project commenced in November 1981 and concluded in May 1982. During this period, 43 children who met the "criteria" were identified. Their ages ranged from 8 to 15 years and their degree of handicap from mild to severe or profound. Several sibling groups were included.

An article in the 'West Australian' publicising the project elicited 37 enquiries. A Project Officer was appointed and excellent working arrangements were established with the Division for the Intellectually Handicapped of the Mental Health Services, professional caregivers in non-Departmental Institutions and families who had already adopted or fostered handicapped children.

A series of evening group meetings for prospective caregivers was held. The meetings were attended by experienced adoptive and foster parents of handicapped children, professional staff from the Division for the Intellectually Handicapped and Departmental Field and Adoptions Officers. All gave their time and shared their experience and expertise with the prospective caregivers.

At the conclusion of the meetings 18 families were committed to continuing with the project and four other families later came forward and made a commitment. These families were then interviewed in their homes and decisions were made regarding future involvement and the children who would be introduced to the family.

At the conclusion of the six month project period 14 children had been introduced to prospective long-term foster parents, one handicapped baby had been placed for adoption, a family was being assessed to adopt a specific handicapped baby and another family was being interviewed by a Field Officer with a view to taking a brother and sister.

The project was undertaken with the firm belief that there is a home and family for every child. What transpired over this very short period has confirmed this belief. Children who had been labelled "unplaceable" are now well on the way to being part of loving, caring, informed families.

International Adoptions

The interest in Intercountry adoptions throughout Australia has been stimulated by the increasing lack of Australian born children being available to satisfy the number of adoptive applicants and the growing concern about the plight of children in the third world countries.

Western Australia with the Department for Community Welfare as the Statutory Body and the only Licensed Authority in this State has, along with the other Australian States and Territories, pioneered working arrangements with several overseas countries and established sound criteria and procedures for successful Intercountry 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 the Australian law. These measures for the control of overseas adoptions are designed to protect both the child and applicants since there are many complex legal, medical and social issues involved.

Difficulty has been experienced with certain overseas countries concerning documentary evidence which is causing legal and technical delays in lodging applications to the Family Court for the granting of Adoption Orders.

Due to difficulties encountered with the States Contact System, working arrangements and lack of uniform procedures, Social Welfare Administrators at the Spring Conference 1981, agreed that a new set of principles should be considered for Australia's Inter-country Adoption Programme. Amendments and new procedures have been proposed.

An Adoption of Children Amendment Bill recognising adoption orders of children adopted in other countries by people from Western Australia was proclaimed on 1st July 1981. These adoptions may be supervised for a period of up to twelve months from arrival in this State. This provision should prove of benefit to adoptive parents and the child or children during the settling in period.

Overall Position:

The International Adoptions Unit processes applications for both unrelated and related children.

For unrelated children, the Department since 1978 has entered into working arrangements with seven different countries:

Sri Lanka
India
Thailand
Indonesia
Philippines
South Korea
Hong Kong

Working arrangements have been initiated with Mauritius.

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

In the Mauritius programme it has been indicated, that, due to limitations it is the intention of the Mauritian Authorities to proceed only with the State of Western Australia.

For related children the Department works through International Social Service in Melbourne, or directly with the known authority in the country concerned. Both countries are required to assess each application and to agree that adoption is in the best interests of each child before approval is given to proceed.

Intercountry 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 for the care of the child. The child must be free for overseas adoption which requires a legal process in its country of origin.

Complementary to the Department for Community Welfare in intercountry adoption is The Australian Society for Intercountry Aid (Children) W.A. Inc., ASIAC, which is a fully incorporated body of volunteers, non-sectarian and non-political. The efforts of this organisation are directed, primarily towards supporting those families wishing to adopt children from overseas countries where there are children abandoned or orphaned and in need.

ASIAC have provided considerable support to the Department in the Mauritius programme, communications with other overseas countries including travel and hosting arrangements for representatives of overseas adoption authorities to Western Australia. This group have also assisted the Adoption Centre wherever possible to find placements for special needs children born locally.

Placements:

Children Placed (Unrelated) 1st July 1981 to 30th June 1982

Hong Kong	1
South Korea	10
Mauritius	10
Total	<u>21</u>

Children Awaiting Placement (Unrelated)

South Korea	1
Hong Kong	1
Total	<u>2</u>

Children Placed (Related) 1st July 1981 to 30th June 1982

China	1
Malaysia	1
Thailand	1
Total	<u>3</u>

Children Awaiting Placement (Related)

Hong Kong	1
Philippines	3
Total	<u>4</u>

RELATED AND UNRELATED

Children Placed From	1.7.1975 to 30.6.81	1.7.1981 to 30.6.81	Total Place-ments to 30.6.81
Bangladesh	2	-	2
Burma	3	-	3
China	0	1	1
England	1	-	1
Hong Kong	0	1	1
Malaysia	2	1	3
Mauritius	7	10	17
Philippines	8	-	8
South Korea	27	10	37
Sri Lanka	10	-	10
Taiwan	1	-	1
Thailand	7	1	8
Vietnam	12	-	12
West Germany	1	-	1
Western Samoa	1	-	1
Yugoslavia	2	-	2
Total	84	24	108

At present there are 24 approved applicants and a further 84 current applications at different stages of process. The trend continues towards an increase in overseas adoptions.

Child Placement Service

Permanency Planning

The final stage has been reached in the development of comprehensive proposals affecting families and children in care in Western Australia. Two sets of committees were set up to develop proposals after Cabinet approved the release of the Children in Limbo Report in May 1981. The committee process has been lengthy and has extended several months beyond the initial completion date.

The Children in Limbo Report showed that a significant welfare drift problem existed for children in substitute care, for whom the Department is legally and/or financially responsible. Almost half of the children had been in care for several years and were expected to remain in care till adulthood. Many of the children were neither returning to natural parents, nor being assured of a permanent, legally secure home elsewhere. The study recommended permanency planning - an approach that has evolved in America in recent years, to ensure effective planning that prevents or minimises the time spent by children in substitute care.

Permanency planning is speedy and effective placement planning to ensure that children do not drift in to and through the welfare system. It can involve either restoration to the natural family or permanent placement elsewhere. The priority is always prevention - to provide intensive family support, through

- skilled family support workers, carrying small case loads;
- other supports (housing, financial) to families under extreme stress. After reasonable efforts by the department, where a child cannot be returned home, the priority becomes the child's right to a

permanent home. Permanent placement elsewhere may be needed. Permanency can be - return home, or adoption, guardianship or custody.

It is anticipated that the Child Placement Service will play a key role in the permanency planning initiative, particularly in the areas of resource knowledge and education and training. Accordingly the role of the service is being extensively reviewed. The role of the substitute care officers is also being examined. The roles of a number of other services will also relate to the permanency planning initiative.

The Committees

For the sake of clarity, the review of cases within the existing system (the backlog) was separated from planning for the future (prospective) system. However, it was recognised that eventual integration of overall planning for the backlog and prospective programmes is vital, in terms of timing, shared resources and selection of priorities. It was decided to first consolidate Departmental thinking in areas of Departmental responsibility, then move into consultation with private sector representatives. It is considered that private welfare agencies have a vital role to play in the provision and consideration of services that will assist stressed families, and children.

Prospective Planning

The development of improved strategies and services for the future has entailed detailed consideration of the key areas of family support services, out-of-home care (foster care) adoption, legislation review, training and education. Specialist departmental committees have completed reports in these areas, thereby providing a basis for an Integrated Child Care Services Committee to develop proposals for future departmental services, accounting for structural, financial and manpower requirements. The Integrated Services Committee in completing its report was required to take into account existing financial and budgetary constraints. The report is completed and will provide a basic document for the final committee, which is soon to commence. This is the Permanency Planning Working Party, which comprises non-Departmental and Departmental membership. The Working Party will consider the wider welfare context and develop proposals for private sector involvement in preventative permanency planning. It will also consider submissions from interested organisations, legislation, and other matters, in completing the final proposals for future services. Considerable interest has been shown by private agencies and a number of submissions have been received.

A key area is provision of appropriate training for field staff. As an initial step, a general manual intended as a guide to permanency planning procedures has been completed by an Education and Training Committee. Development of the Departmental proposals generally has involved unprecedented participation of departmental staff. A cross-section of staff took part in the initial Specialist Committees. A Field Input Group (Feedback Committee) was set up in December to visit all field divisions and "feed

back" the general recommendations of the Integrated Services Committee for field comment and constructive criticism. The Committee is compiling a report of the field's views on implementation of permanency planning.

Retrospective Planning (Backlog)

The first task in tackling cases in the existing system was to develop criteria to determine the extent and nature of backlog cases. The definition of a backlog child was established by a Departmental Backlog Criteria Committee. The definition covers "any child between 3 and 16 years, who has lived away from its natural family for a continuous period of three years or more, and for whom the Department for Community Welfare has a legal and/or financial responsibility". The children concerned number approximately 1,200, of whom over 900 are State wards. Approximately 500 are in foster care, 450 live with relatives and 150 are in private residential care, 850 of the children are of Aboriginal descent. Many have been in care for more than 5 years, with little parental contact.

A Backlog Procedures Committee including non-Departmental and Departmental members was then established by the Hon. Minister in February. The task of the Committee is to provide guidelines and procedures for reviewing and, where possible, securing permanency for children in the long term care of the Department. The major task of the Committee has been to develop the structure for handling the backlog population, in three areas - screening of cases, full review procedures, and setting up of an appeal system. Guidelines for review and decision-making for existing children in care are being developed. Thorough preparation is necessary to ensure that the best interests of all the children are promoted in all instances. In some cases, no change at all may be needed - but all will require careful review. Areas of concern for the Committee are the needs of children and natural families, residential care, foster care, and Aboriginal issues. In focussing on the backlog, the Committee has favoured methods that are consistent with permanency planning principles. Sensitive and efficient handling of the backlog cases will lay the foundation for the successful implementation of preventive permanency planning in the future.

The involvement of non-statutory organisations is seen as vital for the successful resolution of backlog cases.

Backlog Register

A backlog register has been developed within the Department which identifies the children who meet the Backlog Criteria and require permanent placement. The Register has been established on the basis of information gathered from Departmental offices throughout the State. It is planned that as the Department's computer system comes into use later this year, data collected for the register will be distributed in print-out form to divisions. This will provide an up-to-date record of the status of backlog children.

Child Placement Service: On-going Activities

Over the year the Foster Parents Association has continued its activity on behalf of foster parents and their children. They maintain a good liaison with the Department, ably discerning issues of concern to foster parents and presenting them regularly for consideration.

The Association held its annual picnic with an emphasis on Aboriginal children in foster care on Sunday, 29th November 1981, at the picturesque Cultural Complex at Lake Gnangara. Some 100 or so children and parents enjoyed a very happy day.

The Annual Departmental Children's Christmas Party 1981 was held at the Perry Lakes Warm-up Oval. An excellent day was enjoyed by more than a 1,000 children and parents who attended.

Christmas Parties and/or Picnics were also successful and enjoyable occasions in such country centres as Bunbury, Albany, Collie, Gnowangerup, Narrogin and Roebourne.

Substitute Care Officers continue their good service and under their auspices the quality of children's reviews has noticeably improved. These officers are providing an excellent link between policy making and children in need of substitute care.

After many years of providing a valuable service to the Department and foster children in the State, some privately owned Group Homes have relinquished their Group Home status though most are still fostering a lesser number of children. The Department wishes to express its thanks and indebtedness to these families.

On the plus side is the opening of a new Departmental Group Home in Geraldton.

Also Grants in Aid has been given by the Department to:-

- (1) assist the Waringarri Community to operate a Departmentally built Group Home in Kununurra;
- (2) renovate and provide furniture for the Group Home run by the Nganganwili Community in Wiluna.

During this year the Resources Index has been updated and will be available for distribution in July 1982. The final checking and write-up of the Foster Parents (Caregivers) Handbook is in progress and should be available for distribution towards the end of 1982.

All fostering records are in the process of being placed on computer. By the end of 1982 all such information will be obtained by consulting Visual Display Units situated in Head Office and/or Metro Divisional offices. Records Branch will have staff trained to make the necessary adjustments to the computer records.

Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel

During the year there has been a number of changes in the general administration of the Children's Panel.

By arrangement with the Commissioner of Police, Retired Police Officers who are appointed to the Children's Panel, must now resign at the age of 65 years.

Of the twelve Panel Members who are the representatives of the Commissioner of Police, six completed the term of their appointment in November 1981, necessitating the appointment of six new members.

The Chairman of the Children's Panel retired in September, after a period of four years as Executive Officer of the unit.

The number of children appearing before the Children's panel each year has increased from 3 291 in 1978/79 to 3 591 in 1980/81.

Notwithstanding this increase, statistics reveal that 83% of children appearing before Children's Panels on matters listed as Criminal Offences, do not offend again.

A further survey of stealing offences from shops was taken over a period of one month in January 1982, being a school holiday period. The results showed 169 female and 111 male children appearing before the Children's Panel.

Of the total 46% of the girls and 24% of the boys were between the ages of 13 to 15 years, 53% of girls stole property to the value in excess of \$5.00 compared to 43% of boys.

CHILDREN'S PANEL STATISTICS

1.7.81 to 30.6.82
Number of Offences Type of Offence
Country and Metropolitan Panel

Offence Type	Country		Metropolitan		TOTAL
	Total	%	Total	%	
Person	12	0.22	55	1.00	
Property	1093	19.95	3745	68.35	
Good Order	50	0.91	171	3.12	
Traffic	148	2.70	192	3.50	
Drugs	2	0.04	11	0.20	
Total	1305	23.82	4174	76.18	5479

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	11	27	50	60	70	114	171	182	153	838
Metropolitan	18	41	114	175	310	447	673	740	615	3133
Total ...	29	68	164	235	380	561	844	922	768	3971

NUMBER OF APPEARANCES SEX RACE AREA

Sex	Race	Metro	Country	Total
Male	Aboriginal	74	176	250
	Non-Aboriginal	1976	465	2441
	Total	2050	641	2691
Female	Aboriginal	54	70	124
	Non-Aboriginal	1029	127	1156
	Total	1083	197	1280
Total		3133	838	3971

Children's Protection Service

The above Service comprises the Child Life Protection Unit working with pre-school children who have been abused and their families, and the newly established Child Sexual Abuse Unit for children 6-18 years. It operates from the Brenda Cherry Centre at 91 Hensman Road, Subiaco. These premises have during the year undergone considerable renovations and re-decoration, and now provide a very suitable environment.

The past year has been one where re-evaluation and re-development has taken place. Changing population and cultural patterns, economic and housing stresses, increased family mobility and marriage breakdown and the changing roles of women are all likely to affect the nature and delivery of child protective services. The Children's Protection Service is developing a role of supporting, maintaining and co-ordinating services, and testing out therapeutic innovations.

The Child Life Protection Unit already has well established close links with the children's hospitals and all major pre-school services. The development of the Child Sexual Abuse Unit from 1981 has begun to draw attention to the older child and has brought the Service into closer liaison with the criminal justice system, the legal profession, the school system as well as the health services.

It is planned that the service will concentrate on developing a stronger educational role as well as continuing to provide direct service to clients. Closer integration of specialist and generic services, greater involvement of metropolitan and country Divisional staff in assessment, direct protection work and in-service training, will be supported by both Units.

A larger clerical section which was set up when the Child Sexual Abuse Unit was established, will assist with these developments.

Child Life Protection Unit

The Unit has concentrated its energies on situations involving young children believed to be at significant risk in their homes. Ninety-nine reports were investigated and assessed during the year. These reports involved 116 children initially, who were considered significantly at risk. Legal protection was obtained in the Children's Courts for 16 children, being 13.8% of the total.

Reports to the Unit were made from a wide variety of sources ranging from the Department's divisional offices (19%) through to relatives and friends of the children themselves. Many government agencies and instrumentalities referred to the Unit during the year. Other significant groups of reports came from Princess Margaret Hospital and other hospitals (18%), neighbours (11%) and medical practitioners (8%).

The Unit supervised an average of 74 families in an ongoing way throughout the year. This affected 98 children, of whom 43 were under the care or control of the Department at the end of the year and 38 children were in substitute care. Throughout the year clinical psychologists were working with 38 children and homemakers were working with 29 families.

During the year the Unit provided input into many kinds of educational activities both inside and outside the Department. Workshops with country divisions were especially successful. The Unit will continue to place high priority on such ventures providing they are within the scope of its resources.

Child Sexual Abuse Unit

This Unit staffed by two social workers working under the direction of a supervisor, has just completed its first year's work. With these limited resources it tackled what seemed to be the major area of need, gathering information and experience to assist in further development of practice and policy.

Direct Service

During the year the Unit received 134 first contacts or enquiries, 116 of these were consultations or short contacts, the major sources being the Department's divisional offices (23%), hospitals and medical services (18%) and parents (15%).

The Unit undertook extended casework with 47 cases involving 59 children. In some cases the Unit assumed full case responsibility. It also provided therapeutic counselling for children, individuals and families in cases managed by other services, such as Probation and Parole services, medical services, Departmental divisional offices, and Child Life Protection Unit. This has provided valuable experience in the team management of cases.

The ages of the children involved were:

	Female	Male
0 - 6 years	7	-
7 - 12 years	23	2
13 - 15 years	22	-
16+ years	4	1
Total	56	3

The Unit itself has initiated care and protection applications in only four cases where there was no other way of protecting the child concerned. In general the adult members of the family have been encouraged to take responsibility for what has occurred and have been helped to make necessary changes.

The Unit has contributed to a number of pre-sentence reports which have led to sentencing and treatment options that were supportive of family rehabilitation.

An experimental self-help group for parents ran for four months and provided valuable insights for future developments. Weekly self-help support groups for pre-adolescent and adolescent victims of familial sexual abuse have proved a strong feature of the Unit's work, and are growing steadily.

Interagency Awareness and Co-ordination

Two workshops were initiated by the Unit in co-operation with a group of core agencies. Forty participants from various agencies and Departmental divisional offices attended the first, and sixty the second workshop. Included were police officers, medical staff, social workers, education officers, school nurses, probation and correction officers, and members of the legal profession.

The first workshop examined the needs of workers and major barriers to change. The second examined agency roles and responsibilities and family dynamics. Valuable information was generated from the workshops. A third workshop to be held in September 1982, will focus on skills in communicating with families involved in sexual abuse and understanding and meeting the needs of the children concerned. The Unit participated in two child protection seminars arranged by Departmental staff in the Pilbara and Kimberley Divisions.

Early Childhood Services Unit

The functions of the Early Childhood Services Unit are to protect the welfare of children aged 0 to 6 years, who are cared for, on a daily basis, away from their parents and their homes. This is achieved by application of the licensing and supervisory requirements of the Child Welfare Act and the Child Welfare (Care Centre) Regulations 1968. Assistance is given to individuals, groups and communities to develop and use child care services. Efforts are also made to promote the welfare of children in day care by the provision of advisory and educational services to caregivers.

It is evident that day care services are being called upon, more and more, to assume a role of family support. If this role is to be carried out effectively, the question of minimum standards of care becomes crucial. The key determinants of quality care, such as the size of groups of children, the staff-child ratio and the training of staff should be reflected in changes to the existing day care legislation.

Inservice opportunities for Day Care Staff & Family Care Mothers

Emphasis has been placed upon increasing inservice opportunities for day care staff and family care mothers.

At the beginning of 1982, all licensed centres and family day care mothers were circulated with information about part-time and short-term courses concerning early childhood, being offered by Churchlands College, W.A.I.T., Technical and Further Education and Ngai-a.

The Early Childhood Services Unit has arranged during the past twelve months, four country based seminars at Kununurra, Karratha/Wickham, Tom Price/Paraburdoo and Derby, on early childhood care and development. These seminars were attended by care centre and pre-school staff, members of day care centre committees, family care mothers and parents. The seminars proved to be very successful. The participants have obviously enjoyed the stimulation of visiting speakers and the opportunity to share knowledge and experience.

A number of day care centres have been used for regional inservice meetings in the metropolitan area. Topics such as "Children with Special Needs", "Nutrition and Meals" and "First Aid", have been covered.

Two workshops were held for Directors of day care centres on "Job Analysis". A series of six workshops has been held on the topic of "Working with Parents". In addition Advisers have held numerous film and discussion group meetings with family day care mothers.

During a visit to Australia by Mrs. Barbara Breakell, the head of the National Nursery examination Board in England, it was arranged for her to give lectures to child care staff and others interested in child care. The emphasis of the lectures was on the need for qualified staff to look after "other people's children".

Trends in Day Care Services

The number of day care centres has changed little during the past year. After a steady drop in the number of private centres from 1976, the number of private centres has stabilised at around 50. Centres funded through the Office of Child Care and community based centres, number 37. With no funds being available from the Office of Child Care for new projects in 1981/82, the opening of the Rockingham Centre marked the last of the funded centres to be established. A few community based centres in country areas are struggling to establish themselves without financial assistance.

There has been no extension of the availability of subsidised day care or family day care. This is becoming a matter of concern as there is still a growing need for care and financial aid with cost of care, especially in the north-east and south-east metropolitan areas.

There has been a considerable turnover of ownership of day care centres over the last few years. There have been 55 changes of ownership of existing centres over the last ten years. Twenty-four of these changes took place in 1980 and 1981.

With the large turnover of owners, the Supervisor and Senior Adviser are involved in a great deal of work, investigating applications for day care licences. They also need to provide applicants with information about licensing standards and the operation of centres, before they take up a licence.

The number of children in care for less than 10 hours a week has decreased a little from 46 percent in 1980 to 45 percent in 1981. However, the number of children in care for between 10 and 30 hours a week has increased. Thus a large number of children are in care on a regular part-time basis, attending centres two or three times a week.

There are many centres which have stability of staff. The stability of the environment for children in day care centres, where the staff or owners change and where many children attend part-time is however, sometimes questioned. This matter will receive further investigation, as stability is such an important factor affecting the development of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

The five Family Day Care Schemes in the metropolitan area and the scheme at Geraldton are now well established. There is a very close working relationship between the Co-ordinators of these schemes and the Early Childhood Services Unit. The only concern now, is that further schemes should be established in areas of need.

Statistics

The National Data Base Workshop Meetings to establish a national collection of pre-school and day care statistics have been attended by the Supervisor of the Early Childhood Services Unit since 1977. This Unit has collected data since 1978 but the census of 1980 and 1981 has seen the establishment of this national collection.

Day care has become an important issue and is attracting increasing public interest and attention. Statistical information is therefore vital if informed decisions are to be made about the provision of such services. Some statistical tables are included at the back of this report and a more detailed analysis is now annually available from the Early Childhood Services Unit.

Future Trends

It is becoming clear that day care is an important family support service, helping families to cope with economic pressures necessitating two incomes, children at risk and family stresses, such as illness, handicap or breakup. It is an obligation of a service such as the Early Childhood Services Unit to examine whether existing day care services have the resources in skills and materials, to cope with the ever increasing demands being made upon them to care for children with special needs. If day care services are to achieve the measure of family support that is being increasingly expected of them then they will need additional help and support.

Family Court: Counselling and Welfare Service

The Family Court Counselling Service this year completed its sixth year of operation as a specialist section of the Department. The Counselling Service is located within the precincts of the Family Court of Western Australia. Referrals to this service in 1981/82 numbered a little over 3,000. This is a similar referral rate to 1980/81. It is the first year since 1976 in which the number of referrals has not increased substantially. The Counselling Service is freely available to the community regardless of whether or not legal proceedings have been instituted, and in fact 51 percent 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. Reports are prepared 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.

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 group work programmes for children of varying ages. These programmes have been very 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 opportunity for group participation has recently been extended to parents whose children are involved in the children's group programme. Early indications are that these adult groups will also prove very beneficial to those who participate.

Spreading of information relating to the court processes and the services available is considered an important function and the Court Counselling Service 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. The attendance at each information forum now averages 20. In addition to this service representatives of the Court Counselling Service are regularly called upon to address various community organisations and educa-

tional institutions on matters relating to marriage and Family Law.

Counselling Statistics - Month of May, 1982

Self Referred - 136	
Marriage Counselling	14
Custody/Access	60
Separation Management	16
Emotional Support	15
General Enquiries	30
Married under 2 years S.14(6)	1
	<u>136</u>

Court Ordered - 124	
Counselling S.14(2)	1
S.14(4)	11
S.14(5)	4
S.14(6)	-
	<u>16</u>
Conferences S.62(1)	85
S.39(1) FCA	4
	<u>89</u>
Reports S.62(4)	16
Supervision	3
	<u>124</u>

**TOTAL
CASES - 260**

SOURCE OF COURT ORDERED CASES

Family Court of W.A.	104
Court of Petty Sessions	16
Eastern State	3
Summary Jurisdiction	1
	<u>124</u>

PERSONS ATTENDING INFORMATION FORUMS 96

Cumulative Totals Period 1st July, 1982 to 31st May, 1982

Self Referred-1460	
Marriage Counselling	175
Custody/Access	582
Separation Management	182
Emotional Support	165
General Enquiries	283
Married under 2 years S.14(6)	73
	<u>1460</u>

Court Ordered-1431	
Counselling S.14(2)	15
S.14(4)	109
S.14(5)	72
S.14(6)	9
	<u>205</u>
Conferences S.62(1)	887
S.39(1) FCA	67
	<u>954</u>
Reports S.62(4)	191
S.63(2)	1
S.86 FCA	7
	<u>199</u>
Supervision S.64(5)	70
S.40 FCA	3
	<u>73</u>
	<u>1431</u>

**TOTAL
CASES - 2891**

SOURCE OF COURT ORDERED CASES

Family Court of W.A.	856
Court of Petty Sessions	544
Summary Jurisdiction - Country	13
Eastern States	17
Overseas	1
	<u>1431</u>

After six 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 Aboriginal Accommodation Service has during the past 12 months experienced considerable change. New programmes have been implemented to meet the continued and changing needs of Aboriginal people seeking assistance from this office.

There has been a continuing trend towards saturation of the private rental market. Excess demand has resulted in extremely high rentals and other restrictive measures being used by landlords. The effects have made private rental accommodation almost inaccessible to Aboriginal people.

Having accepted the fact that the possibility of entry into the private rental market for Aboriginal people is virtually nil, there has been a transition from securing houses, to providing support services and other programmes, designed to produce greater security in existing tenancies. This is not to say that complete abandonment has taken place in attempting to find accommodation. Flats are still relatively easy to secure, but not the houses. In both instances the amount of money needed to secure tenancy, is astronomically high. When renting houses, amounts of between \$400 and \$600 being required is not unusual.

Greater pressures are being experienced by many refuge centres, hostels and other forms of temporary accommodation. Many Aboriginal families are in a position where, if the State Housing Commission do not come to their assistance, their only alternative is to continue living with relatives.

Recognising this situation has re-inforced the aim of the Aboriginal Accommodation Service of providing more support services for those tenant families in either State Housing Commission homes or private rental accommodation.

The Aboriginal Furniture Store has been established in response to continued requests for furniture. This resource now ensures the availability of basic furniture needs for Aboriginal people. Furniture stocks are acquired by donations, buying from second-hand furniture shops, auctions and other cheap outlets.

Homemaker Service

The Homemaker Service in Western Australia has now been in operation for 14 years. The focus and emphasis is one of support and advocacy with individuals, families and groups within the community throughout the State. This support is given in a neighbourly and caring way. Areas in which the Homemaker Service offers support include child care, budgeting, alleviating problems associated with loneliness or social isolation, community participation and discovering and using community resources, and helping individuals and families to achieve stability and growth. The ultimate aim of the service is to reduce the risk of family or personal breakdown. One of the most important aspects of the Service is its voluntary nature; people have the choice as to whether they accept Homemaker support or not. Homemakers work either on an individual caring basis with families or on a group basis at one of the Homemaker Centres operating throughout the State.

Homemaker Centres are in fact Community Centres and 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 35 Centres operating throughout the State, some of which are provided on a rental basis paid by the Homemaker Service. The types of centres used range from Homemaker Centre houses and flats, private rental houses, to halls and local community centres. This year a second centre opened in Bunbury and other new centres opened in Wundowie and Meekatharra.

Currently there are approximately 200 Homemakers working throughout Western Australia, of which approximately 20% are Aboriginal men and women. Also up to 40 Aboriginal workers are employed by their own communities under the Community Homemaker scheme which started in Fitzroy Crossing in 1976. The number of communities now operating this scheme is 9 in the Kimberley, 2 in the Pilbara, 1 in the Murchison and 1 in the Metropolitan area. The community homemakers, or working men and women, are selected by their own communities to work on projects also chosen by the community. The Homemaker Service has formal contracts or informal agreements with the communities and the programmes are reviewed regularly each quarter. Funds provided by the Homemaker Service are in the form of a subsidy to assist the communities to undertake the provision of their own support programmes.

The most recent Community Homemaker Programme was initiated in Carnarvon this year by the Mungullah Community at Boor Street and is serving a vital function in the development of systems and provisions of support networks for people who have moved into the new housing complex at Boor Street.

The staff in the Homemaker Service provide a consultative service to the Department's Field staff throughout the State. Regular training is provided

for all Homemakers and Co-ordinators as well as regular orientation programmes for new Homemakers and new Field staff. Training has also been offered to the working men and women from the communities of the Kimberley and Pilbara in Derby and Halls Creek. These programmes provide the opportunity to share ideas and experiences which provide impetus for further projects and programmes to be undertaken by the different communities.

A consultative service to other social welfare agencies in Western Australia and other States is part of the Homemakers Service function and a valuable reciprocal relationship has been built up, particularly with the Northern Territory.

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 for Community Welfare 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. This year, approximately 90% of families were in contact with the Centre for less than three months.

The Parent Help Centre is a self-referring service for parents of young children 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 24 hour telephone service. There are also facilities to provide temporary family accommodation in situations of extreme crisis.

Clients may remain anonymous if they choose. During the year 45% 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 Parents Helpers and provide counselling/psychotherapy to some clients.

5. The Centre provides information and guidance to clients on services and facilities available in the community. Where the help of another agency is considered more appropriate clients are encouraged to initiate contact with the agency themselves. Such action is consistent with the personal responsibility, self-referring, philosophy of the Centre.

6. The Centre communicates information about its services to professional and community groups. It transmits skills and experience to groups and institutions through liaison and in consultations. This community education function is a growing area of the Centre's service and represents a valued contribution to improving child-rearing practice and family functioning in the community.

The increase in utilisation of the Centre reported last year, has continued. This year there has been a 10% increase in the number of families contacting the Centre. Some 782 families have sought help. In responding to these requests the Centre has had impact on the lives of 1,577 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 focussed on one child who is more likely to be male and to be the only child or the eldest. Initial contact is usually made by the mother alone - 86% of contacts.

Marital disharmony continued to account for a major proportion of parent-focussed presenting problems. Isolation from extended family supports is commonly reported by clients. This isolation is likely to place greater pressure on the marital relationship as the sole source of support and encouragement in the parental role. In relation to this there are encouraging signs of a greater involvement of fathers in making contact with the Centre.

Of special note is the significant increase in the number of contacts concerning problems with older children, mainly teenagers. This appears to indicate a community need for a service for parents of older children similar to that provided by the Centre for parents of young children.

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. Nearly 40% of initial contacts were made after-hours and at weekends, emphasising the value to the community of the Centre's 24 hour service, seven days a week.

Clients come from all suburbs of the City, from Moore River to Mandurah, with occasional telephonic contact from the country areas. As social isolation tends to be a common complaint of Centre clients, an outreach project similar to that of two years ago, was undertaken. This represents an attempt to bring a short-term presence of the Centre to localities of high utilisation of the Centre's centralised service. This year the area chosen was in the northern suburbs.

Two experienced Parent Helpers set up a local contact point one morning a week for six weeks and

visited local community resource centres. There was a poor response from individuals which might be attributed to deficient publicity. The response from resource persons and Centres in the area was extremely good, and many worthwhile contacts were made. The Centre has gained a greater insight into the factors operating in the area and has been invited to be a visiting resource for a local self-help body, which caters for a group similar to the target population of the Centre. At the conclusion of the outreach, there was a greater familiarity by local community workers with the service provided by the Centre.

This has been another 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.

Student Unit

The Student Unit this year completed its second full year of operation attached to the Mirrabooka Divisional Office. The Unit is strategically located near to other personal service agencies, which provides excellent learning opportunities for students. Groups of up to six Social Work Students from the Western Australian Institute of Technology and the University of W.A., are attached to the Unit for periods of from two to four months for field work experience.

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 while the students are encountering a wide variety of client contacts. The Unit has attained a satisfactory standard, with on-going development being given a high priority.

Performance evaluation continues to be an important issue for the Unit. During the year a Goal Setting Sheet was developed, which enabled students to work more constructively with their clients.

Students have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with experienced divisional staff on a number of projects. These have included camps, development of playgrounds, information stalls and foster parent information. The chance to work with other staff gives greater breadth to the students experiences within the Department.

During the past 12 months, 24 students have had a social work placement within the Department. Of these, 16 have been located in the student Unit.

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.

Community Welfare - Emergency Services

A number of 'Cyclone Watches' were ordered by the Bureau of Meteorology during the Cyclone Season. There were no reports however of cyclones crossing the coast, causing damage by wind.

Heavy rainfall in the Kimberley Region resulted in considerable difficulties to isolated areas because of extreme damage to the roads.

All roads were closed between Alice Springs/Balgo, and Halls Creek/Balgo. The Airstrip at Lake Gregory community became unserviceable. Urgent requests for food supplies were made to Community Welfare as it was impossible to service the areas by road.

The Department for Community Welfare combined with the State Emergency Service and the Transport Commission to airlift necessary provisions to the respective isolated areas.

During the peak period of flooding, Lake Gregory was serviced by flying provisions from Halls Creek to Biluluna Station by fixed wing aircraft, and then by helicopter from Biluluna to Lake Gregory. Fortunately the airstrip remained open, allowing for direct flights from Halls Creek to Balgo, and on several occasions, from Yuandumu (near the South Australia border) to Balgo.

The excessive flooding necessitated assistance from March until late June. A review of the requirements was carried out weekly to ensure the communities were properly serviced.

The matter of food storage will be investigated by a Committee, responsible to the State Counter Disaster Committee. It would seem necessary to arrange for stockpiling of food by the communities, sufficient for a reasonable time in case of road closures.

The co-operation of the three Service Departments involved resulted in all the Communities receiving proper provisions. Special mention should be made of the officers who worked endlessly to provide a service to the Communities.

Task Force on Interstate Co-ordination of Disaster Welfare

The final report of the Committee was presented to the Conference of Welfare Administrators in September 1981, and later referred to the Conference of Welfare Ministers for their approval. Individual Welfare Departments are to confer with their States' Emergency Service organisations to inform them of the recommendations made. There is a need to establish a simple process to provide for the co-ordination on a national basis of all welfare aspects

of disasters and community education. It has been recommended that this be achieved by working within and developing existing structures.

State Emergency Service - Annual Field Day

The introduction of a welfare segment to the Local Volunteer Emergency Service Field Day, was an added feature this year.

A competition was run in which local welfare organisations were requested to make provision for a welfare centre in their area, to receive a number of disaster affected people, and provide them with the necessary assistance to help them in a rehabilitation programme.

The Rockingham group were successful in their undertaking, and were presented with a shield for their submission.

The high standard of entries by all the competitors made the judges task most difficult.

Staff Selection and Training

The 1981/82 period has been significant for this section with the recruitment and training of Aboriginal Field Officers.

Using the 'Training Pool' scheme, six Trainee Field Officers were recruited from a total of 104 applicants. Having completed formal training, the six trainees have been located in the Field Service. Aboriginal recruitment is considered an important priority by the Department. A high level of interest was generated by the initial 'Training Pool' and the department advertised a second time for Trainee Field Staff of Aboriginal descent.

In relation to this new initiative, the Section has closely examined selection criteria and techniques, and initial and ongoing training needs.

Apart from general induction, training for a variety of staff and specific in-service courses for Field Staff, the Section continued to promote Management training. The Clive Miller Management and Welfare Course, which was conducted, focused on the effective use of facilities, resources and staff at all levels. This type of course is of assistance to Departmental staff, in clarifying their objectives and setting priorities.

Computerisation of some Departmental systems will lead to very specific training programmes. Intended wide ranging changes in policies, will result in the need for a variety of special skills and refresher courses for Field Workers. Training at local level is considered important and the design of manuals and other training aids in all areas would provide support and resources to Supervisors.

During the 1981/82 period the Section continued to provide administrative support and guidance in selection processes at various levels. Two hundred

and sixty seven applicants were screened for 33 field positions, and 20 Temporary Relief positions. As a service to the public, careers and employment information was provided on request to a number of organisations. Approximately 350 individual enquiries were dealt with.

Youth Activity Services

During the year under review it is estimated that approximately 1600 youths have been involved in the Department's community based youth activity programmes. Of these, 977 have been participating in the Juvenile Community Service Order Scheme: 348 youths have been participating in programmes at our Centre, Port Kennedy Beach Camp; and 275 in small group and special interest activities the Department organises throughout the State.

Community Service is increasingly considered by Children's Courts to be a viable alternative in dealing with young offenders. During the first year of operation (1978/79) Children's Courts in the Perth Metropolitan region stood down 231 children so that officers could explain to them the contribution they would be required to make and ascertain if there was a suitable project for them to work at. After four years of operation this number has increased to 603 children being stood down by Children's Courts in the Perth Metropolitan Region (547 were subsequently involved in the scheme). This is a nett increase of approximately 160%. The net increase in the number of children involved in country regions has been in the order of 103%. The scheme is still experiencing some difficulties in country areas due essentially to a lack of community based organisations in some centres.

An important aspect of the success of the scheme comes from the involvement by voluntary organisations in the supervision of juveniles placed with them to complete their Orders. Without the support and involvement of such organisations the scheme would not be able to function. In particular we value the regular contact with Volunteer Task Force, this year we have been involved in over 130 of their projects.

The Department has a centre for youth, Port Kennedy Beach Camp, approximately 15 kms. south of Rockingham. The Department uses the centre every weekend, every school holiday period and sometimes during school term time in mid week periods. Most of the children referred are involved at the centre in their spare time for about twenty days and nights. This is usually spread over several weekends. Group leaders are employed to identify those activities to which the children will positively respond and attempt to make the total experience one in which the child can gain personal satisfaction, develop appropriate peer relationships and an interest and ability in various leisure time pursuits that will, hopefully, enable them to make better use of their leisure time in their local neighbourhood.

During the last twelve months, 348 children have been involved in this programme. Approximately 45% of these children are medium and long-term

preventive cases. The programmes organised at the centre enable staff to make an appropriate response to requests that they receive from parents, school and hospital welfare workers and other private agencies for help with teenage children. Involvement in the programme becomes one of a number of methods used by staff in working with wards and helping them and foster parents to develop the potential of the child. 30% of the children are young offenders who are involved in an effort to help them become better contributing members of the community and to use their leisure time and seek their gratification through socially acceptable means.

The Department employed 15 Peer Group Leaders during the year to work with small groups and encourage the youngsters to make full use of community resources. In addition to a variety of programmes that resulted from this nucleus other centres organised camping trips and excursions. Each of these programmes have a common aim of helping youth to develop effective peer relations, function competently in the main stream of neighbourhood activities and build their own feelings of personal worth.

In this regard there is a vast, largely untapped, pool of resources available from the extensive network of private and cooperative youth services. During the past few years this network has become better co-ordinated through the efforts of the Youth Affairs Council of W.A. The Department does have liaison with this council and these ties should be strengthened so that more use can be made of these groups in the Juvenile Justice system.

Hostel Services

Kimberley Division

Charles Perkins Hostel, Halls Creek.
Fitzroy Crossing Hostel, Fitzroy Crossing.
Derby School Hostel, Derby.

Pilbara Division

Moorgunya, Port Hedland.
Oolanyah, Marble Bar.
Weerianna, Roebourne.
Gilliamia, Onslow.

Murchison Division

Kyarra, Cue.
Meekatharra Hostel, Darlot Street.

Goldfields Division

Nabberu, Leonora.
Nindeebai, Boulder.
Boulder Working Youths Hostel.
Kalgoorlie Working Girls Hostel.

Southern Division

Kartanup, Katanning.

Metropolitan Division

Hamilton Hill Hostel
Medina Hostel
Myera, Subiaco
Kyewong, Como
Bedford Park Hostel
Kewdale Hostel
Bentley Hostel
Warralea, Yokine
Ardross Hostel
Applecross Hostel
Innaminka, Greenmount
Bamburra, Yokine
Katukutu, Mt Lawley
Cooinda, Mt Lawley

In March, country student and young persons working hostels came under the administration of Field Services. Formerly they were attached to Institutional Services. This change is to enable more efficient regional planning for the children and youth in residential care, and a comprehensive outreach to their families living in the community. An important goal will be to look for alternative family care where children have long term welfare needs.

The cottage building programme has continued with the erection of a ten bed hostel in Meekatharra. This is the second cottage built for hostel purposes in this township. It has been placed on a separate site which allows students in residence to live in a community setting. High school aged children from the Wiluna area will have the opportunity to utilize both hostels rather than travel to Perth for their education. Two more cottages are planned for the Kimberley Division in response to aboriginal parents increasingly seeking a high school education for their children closer to home.

Renovation programmes in country hostels have continued with the upgrading of the Derby and Leonora facilities. This included improvements to the staff quarters, dormitories and kitchen-dining areas.

The training of aboriginal persons in aspects of residential care continues. At present there are thirteen holding child care positions and a further six in training. The course is held at the Community Services Training Centre with an academic term followed by six months on-the-job training in country hostels. Successful trainees are offered permanent positions as vacancies arise.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

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

Each of the centres has a specialised function, however there is sufficient overall 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.

Administrative responsibility for the Department's educational and employment hostels not attached to major centres was transferred from Institutional to Field Services earlier this year.

The past twelve months has seen a decrease in the number of direct orders from Children's Courts or Superior Courts for set periods of detention. In spite of this, pressure on accommodation for boys in the Department's secure centres has not substantially reduced.

The Department is currently examining its internal processes to establish why children come into the Institutional system. This examination has concentrated on the intake in centres - Bridgewater, Walcott, Longmore Remand and Longmore Assessment Centre. It has included an examination of Departmental admission procedures together with some consideration of the impact of other agencies e.g. Children's

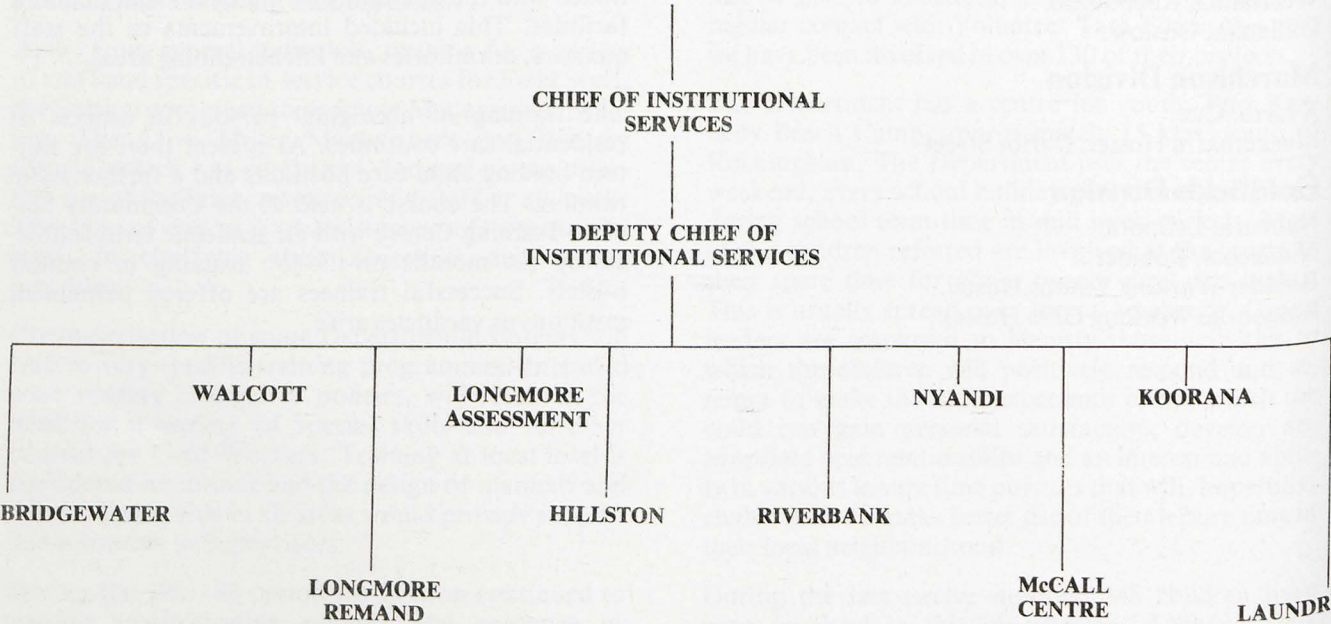
Court and Police. It is hoped that an examination of these issues will assist the Department to ease the pressure on the secure centres and prepare the foundation for implementation of recommendations of the study into The Treatment of Juvenile Offenders which is presently being conducted by Professor Edwards.

The full report of the first study period of the Recidivism Monitoring Programme was published in January 1982. This programme is a standardized evaluation of the effectiveness of Riverbank, Hillston and Nyandi, the Department's three major training centres for juvenile delinquents. The findings of this first study, which covers the period from January 1979 to June 1979, have proven quite encouraging.

Subsequent six monthly study periods have continued and the centres involved are now collecting data for the seventh such period. It will be necessary for the results from subsequent periods to be analysed before clear trends emerge and predictions can be made. A comparative report for the second study period, from July to December 1979, is currently being written and further reports should then become available at approximately half yearly intervals.

The Absentee Monitoring Programme, another major evaluative study being undertaken by the Department, is continuing with refinements being made to the Programme as new data emerges. The first report of this Programme, which provides information on absenteeism at Walcott, Hillston and McCall Centre, should become available later this year. Like the Recidivism Monitoring Programme, this Programme is ongoing and regular reports will be prepared.

Guide to Institutional Services



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.

Programme

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 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.

One cottage remains available for assisting teenage children in seeking employment and housing, and to resolve differences with their parents.

Development

In view of the Department's continued emphasis on permanency planning, the Centre has become more involved in accomodating families who are being reintroduced to a natural child, or a prospective adoptive child. At present this service can only be offered during school holiday periods when the population of the centre is low, however consideration is being given to this new role and ways it may be expanded.

Population Characteristics

Admissions	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal	Other	Total
Boys	198	35	3	236
Girls	172	60	6	238
1981/82 Total Admissions				474

School/Working age distribution	No.	%
Pre-School	61	13
Primary	207	44
High School	158	33
Working Age	48	10

Length of stay	
Less than 3 months	406
3 months and longer	68

Placement on Discharge	
Home or relatives	286
Foster (including return to foster home)	66
Treatment Institutions	12
Other (private board, hostels)	110

Admission numbers have dropped since January 1982. Fifty percent of the long-stay children are teenage children and thirty-five percent are teenage children awaiting placement in foster homes or cottage homes. Twenty of the sixty-eight long-stay children were being fostered for the first time. Boys in particular took longer to move to foster placement than girls. Twenty-one of the children returned home following protracted case-work with families.

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.

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 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 Groupworkers under the supervision of a Senior Groupworker.

Development

This year, programmes both at Walcott and the hostels, have been consolidated and refined.

The extensive changes in the behavioural programmes last year have been monitored and after 12 months in operation, now appear to be effective.

The examination and co-ordination of social skills and academic priorities for each child has continued to be refined. The Teachers, Groupworkers and Superintendent at weekly meetings, map out programmes for each child with respect to their particular needs. The effectiveness of this procedure will continue to be monitored.

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

At present, a review of both the function and physical setting of Walcott Centre is being carried out. Whilst this is still in a preliminary phase, thinking is directed towards a decentralisation concept.

The establishment of a number of satellite facilities with Walcott as the co-ordinating centre, would more effectively take into consideration the wide ranging characteristics of children admitted and the predominant stabilising, training function.

WALCOTT

Population Characteristics

Admissions:

1978/79.....	386
1979/80.....	405
1980/81.....	416
1981/82.....	358

School/Employment Distribution:

Working age on admission.....	79	22%
Primary age on admission.....	74	21%
High school age on admission.....	205	57%

Working aged increased in proportion of total admissions %.
Up 3%.

Division Distribution:

Metropolitan.....	286	80.0%
Murchison.....	10	2.8%
Goldfields.....	18	5.0%
Central.....	9	2.5%
Kimberley.....	5	1.3%
Pilbara.....	13	3.6%
Great Southern.....	10	2.8%
South West.....	7	2.0%

Source of Admission:

Home.....	106	30%
Court - Metro.....	48	13%
Court - Country.....	23	6%
Institution.....	87	24%
Dept'l Facility.....	13	4%
Non Dept'l Facility.....	31	9%
Board/Foster.....	35	10%
Missing Person.....	15	4%

Reason for Admission:

Temporary No Action.....	38	11%
Re-placement.....	49	14%
Court Action.....	93	26%
Assess through Court.....	105	29%
Assess through Field Officer.....	73	20%

Length of Stay:

Up to one week.....	110	29%
1 - 4 weeks.....	141	37%
5 - 12 weeks.....	116	31%
Over 12 weeks.....	12	3%

Discharges:

Boys.....	271	71%
Girls.....	108	29%
Total.....	379	

Placement on Discharge:

Departmental Facility.....	53	14%
Parents/Relations.....	161	42%
Board/Foster.....	32	9%
DCW Institution.....	71	19%
Non DCW Facility.....	62	16%
Total.....	379	

STUART HOUSE

Number of Children Involved: 20

Source of Referral:

Country.....	4
Walcott.....	9
Longmore.....	4
Bridgewater.....	3

Average Stay: 82 days

Placement on Discharge:

Private Board.....	6
Home/Relations.....	5
Hostel.....	2
Longmore.....	3
Nyandi.....	1

TUDOR LODGE

Number of Children Involved: 26

Source of Referral:

Country.....	2
Walcott.....	14
Longmore.....	10
Bridgewater.....	-

Average Stay: 69 days

Placement on Discharge:

Private Board.....	6
Home/Relations.....	12
Hostel.....	-
Longmore.....	1
Hillston.....	2

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 between 13 and 18 years of age.

The primary function of the Centre is to provide secure accommodation for children who have been apprehended and charged with an offence and are waiting to appear in Court. In addition, the Centre

holds a number of children remanded in custody, for further appearances in the Children's Court, or for appearances in the District or Supreme Court.

Programme

The Remand Centre's programme is designed to:

- (1) assist children to cope with the immediate crisis of being apprehended.
- (2) inform children of the role and function of the Department, the Courts and the Police.
- (3) teach children about various aspects of society in an attempt to offer them a real choice in their own lives and their plans for the future. Information is provided on the following topics:
 - a) Alcohol and drug abuse
 - b) Employment
 - c) Recreational outlets
 - d) Human development and relationships
 - e) Art and Craft activities
 - f) Driving and safety on the roads (for those 17 years of age).

Development

The last 12 months have been difficult with the Centre consistently occupied to capacity and in excess of the recommended capacity. From the 1st of July 1981 to 31st of May 1982, the Centre held at least it's maximum number of children (22). Up to 36 children have occupied the Centre 60% of the time, (i.e. 203 days out of 335). Children have had to be accommodated in sick bay beds and in secure individual waiting rooms, as well as in cabins borrowed from the Assessment Centre.

Consistent capacity occupation of the Assessment Centre has meant that 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.

A new programme, revised last year, consisting of the following topics, has been implemented this year:

- 1) Educational-type activities introduced because of the high numbers of school-age children spending lengthy periods in the Centre. Some examples of the activities introduced are current affairs discussion groups, supervised letter writing, structured newspaper reading sessions, and where possible, supervision of on-going school curricula.
- 2) Constructive activities e.g. arts and crafts, cooking, indoor decorating.
- 3) Programmes especially designed for long-term residents e.g. ongoing educational or craft projects and practical projects (such as gardening within the confines of the quadrangle).

The main initiative commenced during this year is the development of a social skills package tailored to the demands of short-term residency. Particular emphasis is placed on those skills necessary to find accommodation for homeless youths, find employment and fill in forms and questionnaires.

commodation for homeless youths, find employment and fill in forms and questionnaires.

An In-Service Training Course for Group Workers and Ancillary staff, developed last year, has continued throughout this year. Emphasis has been placed on this Centre's role in the whole law enforcement area. Sessions have been organised on such topics as procedures utilized with regard to juveniles at the East Perth Lockup, Canning Vale Remand Centre and the Children's Court.

Population Characteristics:

Admissions		Non	
	Aboriginal	Aboriginal	Total
Girls	121	137	258
Boys	603	863	1466
Total	724	1000	1724

Divisional Distribution:	No.	%
Metropolitan	1427	82.7
Kimberley	22	1.3
Pilbara	30	1.7
Murchison	40	2.3
Central	46	2.7
Southern	61	3.5
Goldfields	76	4.5
Interstate	22	1.3

School/Employment Distribution:		
Primary School	17	.1
Secondary School	413	24
Employed	229	14
Unemployed	1065	61.9

Reason for Admission:		
Court Action	1229	71.3
Serve Default	102	5.9
Remand	113	6.6
Assessment	200	11.4
Breakdown of previous plan	26	1.5
Missing Person	7	.5
Institutional request	32	1.9
Divisional request	10	.6
Medical reasons	1	.1
Other	4	.2

Length of Stay:		
less than 24 hours	468	27.1
Less than 1 week	719	41.8
1 week to 4 weeks	224	13
4 weeks to 6 weeks	117	6.8
6 weeks to 12 weeks	147	8.5
12 weeks to 24 weeks	43	2.5
over 24 weeks	4	.3

Placement on Discharge:		
Home	1027	59.6
Relatives	74	4.3
Foster parents	4	.2
Private Board	146	8.5
Hostel	75	4.3
Riverbank	54	3.1
Nyandi	23	1.4
Walcott	102	6.
Bridgewater	5	.3
Hillston	183	10.6
Other Institutions	11	.6
Prison	12	.7
McCall	1	.1
Other Place	5	.3

Longmore Assessment Centre

Description

Longmore is a maximum security assessment centre situated at 3 Adie Court in Bentley. It caters for up to 60 children of either sex in the age range 13-18 years. Children are not usually admitted to Longmore unless they have court records of serious or recurrent offences.

The assessment period for each child usually lasts for about three weeks, culminating in a case conference. At this conference, information from many sources is pooled and a recommendation regarding the child's needs and future placement is made. When this recommendation has been ratified by senior departmental staff, the child is usually discharged or transferred.

Programme

The main focus of the Centre is on assessment. In order to facilitate this process, Group Workers observe and interact with the children under as wide a range of situations as can be achieved within the constraints of a maximum security situation. The programme includes: work chores, recreational handicraft, sporting activities, and informal discussion. To broaden the Centre's assessment function and make constructive use of the resident's stay, a range of skills related to everyday living in the community, are assessed and taught by Group Workers with special interests in these areas. This skills programme is being supported and developed by the Centre's teaching staff, Occupational Therapist and other interested staff. The Centre's Behavioural Management Programme is a points system that aids Group Workers in their day to day management of residents. It has been static for some time but is beginning to be reviewed and re-developed to improve its contribution to the Centre's assessment function.

Development

The skills programme has recently undergone important developments. Significant inputs to the content of the programme have been made by teaching staff and Group Workers, with the Centre's Occupational Therapist taking an overall co-ordinating role. A new staff roster has been developed so that the staff teaching in the core skills areas can be on shift in a consistent Monday to Friday sequence.

The other major development this year has been the upgrading of the Safety and Security Procedures Manual, and the instigation of an ongoing programme of Senior Group Worker training. This is resulting in a higher degree of co-ordination and consistency in many areas of the Centre's operation.

Discussions between architects, institutional staff and departmental staff, have taken place concerning future developments in the structure and physical layout of the Centre.

Population Characteristics:

Admissions

Girls	46
Boys	343
TOTAL	389

Divisional Distribution

	No.	%
Metropolitan	218	56
Kimberley	16	4.1
Pilbara	26	6.7
Murchison	25	6.4
Central	26	6.7
Southern	26	6.7
Goldfields	50	12.9
Interstate	2	.5

School/Employment Distribution

Primary school	5	1.3
Secondary school	134	34.4
Employed	28	7.2
Unemployed	222	57.1

Discharges

Girls	43
Boys	340
TOTAL	383

Length of stay

Less than 1 week	16	4.2
1 week to 4 weeks	75	19.6
4 weeks to 6 weeks	98	25.6
6 weeks to 12 weeks	147	38.4
12 weeks to 24 weeks	43	11.2
over 24 weeks	4	1

Placement on Discharge

Home	137	35.8
Relatives	24	6.3
Foster Parents	4	1
Private Board	4	1
Hostel	44	11.5
Riverbank	45	11.8
Nyandi	12	3.1
Walcott	5	1.3
Hillston	98	25.6
Other Instit	4	1
Prison	6	1.6

Conferences

Home }	85	30.2
Relatives }		
Foster Parent }	10	3.6
Private Board }		
Hostel	42	14.9
Hillston	74	26.2
Riverbank	37	13.1
Nyandi	9	3.2
Walcott	1	.3
Clontarf	1	.3
Other	2	.7
Longmore	21	7.5
Total Conference:	282	

Total Court Reports:30

The overall number of admissions and the proportions of girls to boys and Aboriginal to non-Aboriginal children, has been fairly steady, over the last three years. Despite this, day to day numbers have tended to increase over the past three years because year by year, there have been more children staying for more than six weeks (20% in 1979/80, 38% in 1980/81 and 50% this year). Additional pressures have been placed on our resources because of increasing demands in the role of treatment. Twenty-one children were placed at Longmore for treatment purposes this year.

Hillston

Hillston is an "open-type" residential treatment and resource centre situated at Stoneville, which caters 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 disadvantaged and display behavioural problems associated with poor adjustment at home, 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.

Darlington Cottage

Darlington Cottage is a hostel annexe situated in Darlington and operated by Hillston. It functions as a family resource environment for up to 10 younger Hillston boys for whom community or alternative placement is difficult to arrange or who may require some specific treatment. The boys attend the local school or the Hillston school and are encouraged to participate in community life. The progress of each boy is closely monitored and reviewed on a weekly basis.

McDonald House

McDonald House is a second hostel annexe operated by Hillston and is situated in Mt. Lawley. Up to 10 Hillston boys of working age, can be accommodated in this facility. These boys are encouraged to seek and maintain regular employment while receiving assistance to improve their social competence before rejoining their families or proceeding to independent living. The progress of each boy is closely monitored and reviewed on a weekly basis.

Development

Hillston participates in two monitoring studies, the Recidivism and the Absconding Monitoring Programmes. Both studies are proving beneficial in the management and programming of boys through data feed-back.

The prevention of absconding remains a consideration equally as important as treatment and training.

During the last twelve months, efforts have been made to refine and further develop overall programming. With the system now operating, when a boy is admitted, his programme is outlined and discussed, with his co-operation, within 24 hours of admission. The programme aims to give information to the boy and to staff on issues such as identified problems and specific needs. Progress is closely monitored and reviewed weekly until the boy is discharged. A Case Review is held approximately six weeks after admission, which is attended by the boy, his Resource Officer/Group Worker, After Care Officer, Deputy Superintendent, Psychologist and if possible his parents.

Further reviews are held if warranted by circumstances eventuating within the facility or the community.

New work places have been established within the centre for art outlets, automotives and craft work. A new orchard has been planted in a central location. The family visiting area has been relocated in parkland near the Chapel and is serviced with timbered 'chalet-type' shelters, barbecues and toilets.

Population Characteristics

New Admissions	87
Re-admissions	183 (130 individual cases)
Defaulters	2
Total Admissions	<u>272</u>
Discharges	272
Average length of stay	5.4 days (range 2 - 269)
Average Age	15 years (range 9.9 - 17.9)

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 140 at any one time. This case load figure has gradually diminished over the past two

years due to extended periods of detention being ordered for some residents and the consequent inability to maintain admission rates.

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 his 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 improve 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 is an important feature in providing social contact with the community outside of the facility. Isolation from the community inhibits the development of a socially competent person and considerable value is placed on this type of contact.

The centre has operated at full capacity throughout the year. As at 30th June 1982, there were 31 youths who were either still in residence, or who had been discharged during the year who had individually spent 180 days or more in the programme. Their average length of stay was 364 days. These figures compare with 20 youths and 330 days in the year ending 1981 and 5 youths and 253 days in 1980.

Riverbank has attempted to pursue a treatment philosophy in spite of a continuing high percentage of cases detained on indeterminate sentences, or being the subject of recommendations for lengthy periods of detention by the Superior Courts. Eleven cases were being held on such Orders at 30th June 1982, as compared to thirteen at 30th June 1981, but four cases are common to both figures.

Unfortunately, because of the demands within the centre, the outward bound activity aspect of the programme has ceased. No activity away from the Centre has been possible throughout the year.

After-Care Service plays an important role in the overall programme. Assisting to re-assimilate youths into the community who have been isolated from society for lengthy periods is a prominent aspect of this service.

Riverbank's Victoria Park Annexe has been an active part of the centre's total function. Some direct admissions have been made to this facility from Longmore during the year.

During the year, 55 admissions involving 36 individuals have occurred and 38 work placements ob-

tained. The average length of stay has been 34 days within the range 14-144 days.

Development

The second study period of the Recidivism Monitoring Programme July - December 1979, has been completed with 90% of interventions effected by Riverbank completing their study period. This represents the same number of completed cases as in the first study January - June 1979 and the offence reduction rate figure is 61.0% as compared with 56% in the first study.

The majority of offences continued to be against property and there was a reduction of 67% in this area compared with a reduction of 57% in the previous study.

Population Characteristics

New Admissions	44
Re-admissions	156 (81 individuals)
Discharges/Transfers	208
Average Length of stay	120 days
Range of stay	8 days - 1104 days
Average age of admissions	16 years 6 months
Age range	13.3 years - 17.11 years

Nyandi

The Nyandi Treatment and Research Complex caters for disturbed girls between the ages of 13 and 18 years. Generally girls are referred to Nyandi because they have been demonstrating unacceptable behaviour in the community. This has often involved committing offences against the law. 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. The average length of stay is 4-6 weeks. This Unit also provides a time-out facility as a back-up to the hostels and community programmes run by Nyandi.

Nyandi operates three hostels in the metropolitan area: Gwynne Lea, Watson Lodge and Karingal. Each hostel offers the same basic treatment programme for both school and working-age girls. The average length of stay is 2 - 3 months.

An After-Care Officer is allocated to each girl on referral 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 each girl and if required,

teach her 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

The initiative of admitting new referrals to the Nyandi System direct to a hostel, was continued. This year 84% of new referrals were initially treated in the open situation rather than in the secure Unit. Last year a common treatment programme was introduced into the three hostels. Development of this programme has continued throughout the year. In particular, attention has been given to the problem of uncontrolled and runaway behaviour. Structured outings with peer group leaders have been introduced. In addition, all hostel groupworkers participated in developing a series of booklets to support and guide the girls in practising their newly learned skills in the community. The common treatment programme has also improved staff management and efficiency in the hostels.

The hostels carry out the initial intervention with most new referrals. It is only the most difficult cases that are eventually transferred to the security of Nyandi.

This year recommendations from the Courts to have girls placed in maximum security, have increased in number. The length of stay in security, recommended by Magistrates, has on an average been much longer. These two factors have presented some difficult treatment problems in relation to Nyandi security.

To overcome this, more attention is being given to developing longer term treatment goals and motivating girls to achieve these goals.

Population Characteristics

New Admissions49

Re-admissions

1) Main Centre100

2) Hostels398

3) Time-Out403

Total 901

Average length of stay44 days

Range of stay 1 day - 119 days

Average age on admission14 years 8 months

Number of new admissions:-

Direct to Maximum

Security8

Direct to Hostel or

After-Care41

New admissions admitted to:

Nyandi 8

Watson Lodge14

Karingal12

Gwynne Lea 9

Aftercare 6

Referral source of new admissions:

Longmore23

Walcott11

Bridgewater 7

Field Division 7

Hostel 1

Normal place of abode of girls admitted:-

Metropolitan38

Kimberley's 4

Pilbara 2

Murchison 0

Goldfields 2

Central 1

Southern 2

Re-entry to Nyandi system:-2

Offender/Non-offender:-

Offender29

Non-offender20

Average weekly population:-

Nyandi10.4 girls per week

Watson Lodge 4.7 girls per week

Karingal 3.0 girls per week

Gwynne Lea 4.6 girls per week

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 difficult 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 the 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 towards 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.

New Developments

1. This year has seen a change in the pattern of children coming to McCall Centre. The change is seen as being a temporary fluctuation rather than signalling a new trend.

Only 50% of the admissions for the year were new admissions. This represents a decline from 84% in 1980/81 and 65% in 1979/80. The reason for this is the increased number of children who are profoundly disturbed and come from pathogenic families. Such children require longer periods at McCall - the average length of stay is 13.8 months as compared to 8.4 months for the whole population. They are also more likely to be under the control of the Department - 82% as compared to 27% of the new admissions for 1981/82. Placement for such children is tenuous and readmission is often necessary.
2. Some of these children who experience placement breakdowns could benefit more from a temporary home situation than return to McCall. Such a home may only be needed for up to 2 months until the family situation is resolved or an alternative placement is found. This year we have commenced a recruitment drive to find willing and suitable families who could provide this crisis care, working in close liaison with McCall.

To date there has been a very gratifying response.

Population Characteristics

RESIDENTIAL UNIT

Admissions:

	Total No. Boys	Total No. Girls	Average Age on Admission
New Admissions	11	0	9 years
Re-admissions	11	0	11 years
	22	0	10 years

Referral Source of New Admissions

	No.	%
Department for Community Welfare ..	7	64
Princess Margaret Hospital	2	18
Mental Health Services	2	18

Referral Reason

	% of Children Admitted
Poor peer relations	64
Non-compliance	64
Aggression	36
Parent Training available	27
Poor impulse control	27
Withdrawal	18

Transferred to Community Support

Discharged to	No.	%	Average Length of Stay
Home	12	60	9.2 months
Foster Care	4	20	6.2 months
Private Agency			
Residential Care	2	10	9.5 months
Hostel	2	10	7.5 months
Total	20	100	8.4 months

KINDERGARTEN

Enrolments

3 year olds	4
4 year olds	15
5 year olds	8
Total	27

Reasons for Enrolment

Normal preschool enrolment	13
Social development	4
Behavioural problems	6
Developmental problems such as speech, cognition, toilet training etc.	4

Special Needs Children-Referral Source

Irabeena	4
Parents	2
Child Development Centre	5
Fremantle Hospital	3

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 regular school. In many cases, school attendance has stopped before the child is referred to Koorana. Daily transport is arranged from within the Perth metropolitan area to and from Koorana in Allen Court, Bentley. Anyone may refer a child, the fami-

ly, the school or other agencies which have worked with the child or family. These people are consulted before a decision to attend Koorana is made. Consultations often lead to the use of alternative methods of teaching or behaviour management.

Criteria for acceptance at Koorana is fluid, and dependent on alternatives available. Chronic problem behaviour is an essential factor, but the family's total functioning is high amongst other considerations. Most referrals commence within the Education Department, but most families of children attending Koorana have had prior contact with this Department.

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 attending the centre outnumber girls at a ratio of something like 10 - 1. Though the essential referring issue must be one of behaviour, there is frequently serious educational retardation also.

Fifteen new children commenced daily attendance at Koorana during the 81/82 year. Almost all of the thirty one children attending have had earlier specialist medical (67%, mainly psychiatric or neurological) or social welfare (80%) intervention. Koorana staff consulted in other cases where children were referred to Koorana but not accepted for attendance. Education Department sources referred 59% of the children, field staff of the Department 28% and 13% came from other (mainly medical) sources. Lack of parental consent prevented only two children from being considered for attendance.

Programme

A large range of techniques are used in the case work with the families represented at Koorana. Where it is possible and necessary, the case work ties in with the specific treatment programmes used during school hours at Koorana. 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 such as 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, or by the Department for Community Welfare.

After children leave Koorana, work continues in the setting of the family and of the new school where necessary.

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 check lists for most children (68%) 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 is a continuing problem. The lack of such facilities means that some children need to remain at Koorana for very long periods. The decision to transfer a child to a 'regular' school is made after consideration of family and residential factors as well as the child's own behavioural and scholastic performance.

The transition, without loss of behavioural or learning status, from Koorana to a regular school, is a major concern. To offset the likelihood of deterioration in the child's behaviour during the transition, children are 'overtained' at Koorana. Whilst this demands a heavy commitment of time and staff, results suggest that it is necessary and successful in most cases.

Research and Development

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

Experimental data from Koorana is used widely in training staff, particularly specialist teachers, in courses conducted by the College of Advanced Education and the Universities. The staff training role is regarded as an important obligation of Koorana.

Population Characteristics

New Referrals:

Boys	39
Girls	4
Age range	6 - 12 years

Sources of Referral:

Education Department	59%
Department for Community Welfare	28%
Other	13%

Prior DCW contact with family	73%
Full time admission to Koorana	15
Koorana staff involvement, but child not attending Koorana	6
Average daily attendance	24

SUPPORT SERVICES

Introduction

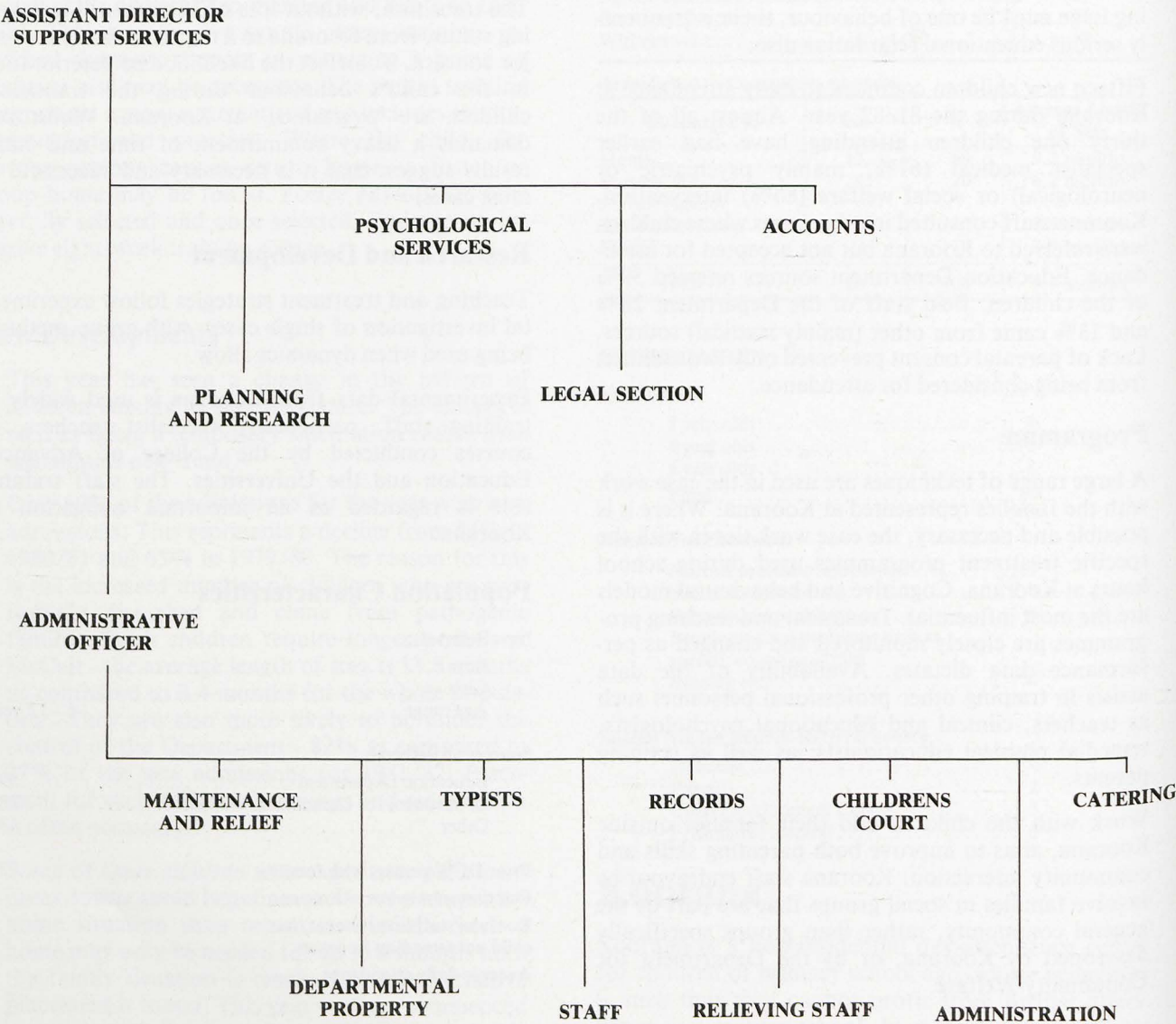
Support Services as the name suggests, provides support and assistance to the two main service delivery areas of the Department, the field services and the institutional services.

The supports that are provided are - Accounting, payment of staff salaries, records 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 emergency relief to the destitute is the major function of support services. The main area of need that 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 1982

1980/81	Particulars	1981/82	General Admin.	Field Operations	Children's Expenditure			Reserves	Financial Assistance	Departmental Institutions		
					Private Institutions	Boarded Out	Other			Assessment	Treatment	Hostels
19 650 171	Salaries and Wages	22 266 500	4 567 992	8 070 772	...	...	...	...	...	4 192 489	3 927 861	1 507 386
1 415 468	Administration	1 596 437	978 257	618 180	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 234	Printing	75 264	37 632	37 632	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 425 326	Field Expenses	1 518 311	...	1 345 555	...	...	172 756	...	...	...	...	...
1 716 363	Community Welfare Assistance	1 809 684	103 111	354 848	...	...	...	...	1 320 176	...	...	31 549
3 237 693	Maintenance of Children	3 292 269	...	...	63 311	2 022 891	1 206 067	...	858 871	...	...	...
3 163 966	F.A.I.P.	858 871	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	686 097	648 984	816 754
1 971 957	Institutions	2 151 835	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
434 054	Residential Reserves	497 091	...	...	...	...	...	497 091	...	...	...	...
33 090 232	TOTAL PAYMENTS	34 066 262	5 686 992	10 426 987	63 311	2 022 891	1 378 823	497 091	2 179 047	4 878 586	4 576 845	2 355 689
Against which Receipts were												
58 752	1. STATE:	80 456	...	...	...	80 456	...	...	...	...	...	...
113 994	Maintenance of Children	7 172	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 172	...	...	...
564 161	Recoverable Assistance (Welfare and Assistance Act)	594 512	78 805	12 302	...	...	27 020	4 827	27 345	25 812	23 466	394 706
	Other Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
702 916	2. COMMONWEALTH:	765 480	79 615	602 548	...	...	...	...	...	27 509	27 508	28 300
218 614	Aboriginal Affairs	259 260	...	259 260	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
373 963	Family Law Court	490 246	40 696	188 170	...	...	2 000	...	244 630	...	14 750	...
112 258	Childhood Services	30 031	...	...	...	...	...	...	429 434	19 927	10 104	...
429 242	Schools Commission	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 886 372	Family Support Services	429 434	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Social Security	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 460 272	TOTAL RECEIPTS	2 656 591	199 116	1 062 280	...	80 685	29 020	4 827	708 581	125 219	75 828	423 006
28 629 960	NET EXPENDITURE	31 409 671	5 487 876	9 364 707	63 311	1 942 206	1 349 803	492 264	1 470 466	4 805 338	4 501 017	1 932 683

Department for Community Welfare

GRANT-IN-AID 1981/82

Balla Balla Bush Camp Committee	Generator, Refrigerator, Freezer, Trailer.....		4 000
Catherine House Inc	Shed, Equipment and Furnishings		5 000
Collie Welfare Council	Group Home - Fencing and Tiling.....		3 000
Communicare Inc.	Patio enclosure and shed		3 850
Ieramugadu Group Inc.....	Furniture/Fittings, Bathroom Renovations, Hotwater System for Teenage Girls Shelter		10 000
Jigalong Community Incorporated	Furniture and Freight		10 000
Kununurra Group Home.....	Air Conditioning and Furniture Freight		3 777
Kurrawang Aboriginal Christian Centre Inc.	Centre - Renovations; Group Home - Concrete and Flywire Patio	9 750	
	and Equipment	3 000	12 750
Mungallah Committee.....	Furniture		6 000
Neuville Training and Assessment Centre Inc.	Solar Hotwater System.....		2 000
Parkerville Children's Homes.....	Scatter Cottage - Car Port		1 000
St. Josephs Hostel Derby	Window Screens		
	Bathroom Renovations.....	6 000	
	Reticulation Recreation Area.....	2 400	8 400
Swan Emergency Accommodation (Inc)	Renovations, Fencing, etc.....		5 000
Total			\$74,777

WRITE-OFFS

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

	1979/80	1980/81	1981/82
	\$	\$	\$
Ward's Wages	Nil	Nil	Nil
Maintenance of Wards	8 002	36 503	26 957
Maintenance of Aboriginal Wards	668	15 880	8 365
Recoverable Financial Assistance (S123(1)) Treasury Regulations	15 037	11 003	810 270
Recoverable Financial Assistance (S12 & S13 Welfare & Assistance Act 1961)	—	2 174 958	—
Mission Purchase of Stores ...	—	109	—
Revenue, Sundries, Other Ledger.....	—	—	165
Total	23 707	2 238 453	845 757

RECEIPTS IN SUSPENSE

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

1979/80	1980/81	1981/82
\$	\$	\$
354 585	368 716	404 461

REMITTANCE RECEIVED FOR BANKING PURPOSES

	1979/80	1980/81	1981/82
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts	5 619	2 567	3 507
Balance as at 30th June.....	37 773	35 788	32 346

REMITTANCES RECEIVED AND HELD IN TRUST ACCOUNT AT TREASURY

	1979/80	1980/81	1981/82
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts	23 288	12 257	7 586
Balance as at 30th June.....	19 238	19 792	16 787

Welfare and Assistance Act, 1961

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

1.7.81 - 30.6.82

PAYMENTS:

Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons \$858 871.42

RECEIPTS:\$7171.68

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

AUDITOR GENERAL

Commonwealth Financial Grants 1981-82

1. DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Recurrent and Specific Purposes	\$	\$
Kimberley	170 340.57	
Pilbara	28 521.02	
Murchison	37 897.69	
South West	13 788.72	250 548.00
Homemaker Services		284 000.00
Group Worker Aides		55 017.00
Aboriginal Accommodation Service		68 000.00
Course Co-ordinator (AGENCY)		28 300.00
Hostel Senior Assistant		
Training Scheme		49 615.00
Course Co-ordinator ARCWTS		30 000.00
Total		765 480.00

2. FAMILY COURT

Recurrent costs - Counselling Service	259 260.42
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3. CHILDHOOD SERVICES PROGRAMME

Recurrent and Specific Purposes	
McCall Centre - Kindergarten Salaries	14 749.96
Parent Education and Assistance	82 960.66
Balga Creative Play Activities	4 688.00
Early Childhood Services National Data Base Collection	1 455.96
Kwinana Family Activity Group	6 260.97
Parent Help Centre	94 259.82
Youth Services Programme	119 490.00
Children's Services Grants to Women's Refuges	125 140.43
Children's Week 1981	2 000.00
International Year of the Child	39 240.00
	490 245.80
Family Support Services Scheme	429 434.05
Total	919 679.85

4. SCHOOLS COMMISSION:

Children in Institutions	30 031.44
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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, it administers the grant of financial relief to families and individuals in need.

The Branch 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 1947-1981.

Financial Relief

The Department is able to make Emergency relief payments in a wide range of circumstances to persons who have a basic and pressing material need which they are unable to provide for from their own resources or through a more appropriate welfare agency.

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

Financial aid is provided under certain conditions to persons where travel for specialist medical treatment or other emergency purposes is necessary. This role has expanded considerably since 1st September 1981, when the Department commenced advancing travel assistance to patients from remote areas subject to later recovery through the Commonwealth Department of Health's Isolated Patient's Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (I.P.T.A.A.S.).

In addition to direct payments to indigent persons, certain voluntary organisations providing overnight accommodation to homeless persons, receive departmental subsidisation based on the number of persons accommodated.

Financial aid is provided for the burial of persons who die in indigent circumstances where the body is unclaimed or where kin have no financial capacity to accept responsibility for burial costs.

Relief Co-ordination

During the year, the Department commenced a programme aimed at integrating its delivery of emergency relief more closely with voluntary agencies in a support system developed on a locality basis.

It is anticipated that during the forthcoming year, in close co-operation with the Western Australian Council of Social Service, this programme will allow significant progress to be made to achieve improved delivery of a more comprehensive range of supports to families at risk through financial stress.

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.

**FINANCIAL RELIEF
Applications**

Category	1980/81 \$	1981/82 \$
Continuous Assistance	*1,895	51
Emergency Aid	12,895	17,510
Travel Assistance.....	1,187	1,875
Total	15,977	19,436

Expenditure

Category	1980/81 \$	1981/82
Continuous Assistance	*2,452,822	34,841
Emergency Aid	585,191	690,664
Travel Assistance.....	77,252	100,283
Accommodation Subsidies.....	26,170	27,484
Burials	94,432	104,530
Incidental Costs.....	22,532	5,599
Total	3,258,399	963,401

* These figures include income maintenance payments made before the Commonwealth Government takeover of sole parent support on 5 November 1980.

Recovery

Category	1980/81 \$	1981/82 \$
Relief Payments.....	*113,296	7,171
Burial Expenditure	26,962	27,345
Maintenance of Children	58,752	80,456
Total	199,010	114,972

* This figure includes recovery of income maintenance payments made before the Commonwealth Government takeover of sole parent support on 5 November 1980.

Planning and Research Unit

The Planning and Research Branch provides a range of services in the functional areas of research, statistical collection, planning and liaison with non government welfare agencies.

The principal tasks of the Branch are:

1. To develop policy and procedures essential to the achievement of departmental goals.
2. To promote and oversight a planned approach to management, resource allocation and related policy development.
3. To review practices and procedures within the organisation so as to ensure the effective delivery of welfare services.
4. To monitor trends in social policy and to provide advice on possible implications for departmental services.
5. To liaise at Commonwealth, State and community level with organizations concerned with social welfare service delivery to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the provision of welfare services.

ACTIVITIES 1981-82

Planning

Children in Limbo

In May 1982, Cabinet approved the release of the Children in Limbo study. This important piece of research examined the circumstances of children in long term substitute care and recommended the introduction of a system of permanency planning to combat the problem of welfare drift.

Since that time, staff within the Branch have been concerned with the preparation of a comprehensive departmental response to the document. This has involved consultation with the private sector, co-ordination of departmental forward planning and the construction of a register of children for whom a permanency planning review is considered appropriate.

Grants Commission

In 1980/81 the Unit co-ordinated the Department's major submission to the Grants Commission's review of relativities. Work in support of initial documents has continued throughout the past year and will form an important element in the Branch's work output as the cycle of State Reviews continues in the future.

Research

The Unit carries out and promotes research into issues closely related to the delivery of the Department's services.

During the year a major project to evaluate the effectiveness of a Pre-school Intervention programme began; the programme aims to develop pre-school skills in children for whom the Department is responsible.

The area of Emergency Relief has received considerable attention and a number of limited projects are underway with the aim of providing much needed information on the form, extent and categories of beneficiaries of Emergency Relief. Part of this work is being conducted within the Department and the remainder is to be carried out in conjunction with the West Australian Council of Social Service with a view to examining services in the non-government sector.

In addition to direct research associated with the non-government sector, funds to support research endeavours are paid to W.A.C.O.S.S. in the form of a grant which is administered to voluntary agencies via their Human Services Research Board.

Throughout the year, projects were conducted to evaluate the work of the Child Life Protection Unit and to investigate into the personal decisions made by mothers offering their children for adoption. This latter study is being carried out in conjunction with the Clinical Psychology Unit, University of W.A.

The Department has also received a report from Ms. J. Carter, visiting Research Fellow at the University of W.A. on the definition and use of the term 'Emotional Abuse'.

All of the above projects have been in part, or totally, supported from the Department's research budget.

In addition to providing financial support the research unit offers advice and encouragement to Departmental staff undertaking research and carries out independent research work. During the year, staff have been involved in projects relating to the adoption of handicapped children, the collection of data on sexual abuse, Community Service Orders and the monitoring programmes conducted by Institutional Services (Recidivism Monitoring Programme and the Absconding Monitoring Programme).

Once the installation of the computerized record keeping system in the Department is completed, it is envisaged far more data will be available for statistical analysis and it is hoped to extend research endeavours in this area.

Appreciation is expressed to those members of the community who have served the Research Advisory Committee during the year in its function of advising the Hon. Minister for Community Welfare on research issues; they are Mr. W.A. Carson, Professor D.L. Jayasuriya, Judge I. McCall and Dr. R. Straton.

Statistical Development

Activity in the area of development of welfare statistics was considerable during 1981-82. Statistical collections in the areas of Adoption and Children in Care, continued and are published on an annual basis by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These are national collections all to specific comparable statistical standards for all States and Territories.

The Department assisted in the development of the drafting of standards for Child Abuse and Emergency Relief.

As in past years, the Department participated in the National Working Party on Welfare Statistics and the Supervisor was the Chairman of the National Policy Steering Committee on Welfare Statistics.

The number of ad hoc requests for statistics continued at a high level during the year. The installation of a computer terminal in the Planning and Research Unit has greatly facilitated the Department's response to these requests. It has also allowed the

Unit to undertake analyses of some of its existing statistics.

The Department wishes to thank the Australian Bureau of Statistics which has been most co-operative and has allowed one of its senior officers to work on a full-time basis with the Department in the area of welfare statistics.

Services to Non-Government Welfare Organisations

The Branch is responsible for the administration of 44 Special Projects funded in the non-government welfare sector throughout the State. The projects are funded under a variety of schemes of financial assistance including:

- Family Support Services
- Children in Women's Refuges
- Special Purpose Grants for Women's Refuges
- Youth Support Services
- Residual grants from International Year of the Child
- W.A. Emergency Accommodation for Families Scheme
- Office of Child Care - Children's Services Programme.

Support to funded projects is an important element of the Branch's current operation and involves liaison with local management committees and community organizations, assistance with project management, evaluation, administrative supports and service delivery consultancy.

During the year Branch personnel assisted a number of community organizations in the preparation of funding submissions. An extensive guide to welfare funding from Government sources was up-dated and published and is now being distributed to some 200 agencies around the State.

Other Activities

Staff from the Branch have an active role in departmental training programmes and have provided occasional support to teaching programmes at the University of Western Australia, W.A.I.T., and the Community Services Training Centre.

The Unit was able to host a visit to the Department by Professor Robert Pinker, Professor of Social Work Studies at the London School of Economics and Dr Adam Greycar, Director of Social Welfare Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

During 1981/82 Branch staff have participated in national conferences concerned with WELSTAT, Social Indicators, Research Methods in Criminology (Criminology Research Council) and Social Policy in the 1980's.

Legal Section

The Legal Section has a permanent staff of two legal practitioners and a clerk. An experienced field officer was allocated to the Legal Section during the year, on special duties to examine various submissions that have been received as to possible amendments to the Child Welfare Act.

The legal officers are responsible for all the legal work of the Department and advise on administrative matters such as new legislation, insurance policies, staff matters, new forms and inter-departmental correspondence. They also advise various committees on the legal intricacies of their proposals.

A legal officer represents wards of the Department appearing in the Children's Court in specific circumstances such as defended criminal matters and in serious cases where a plea in mitigation is required. The burden of representing all the children involved

with the Department at all their court appearances would far outweigh the work capacity of the section. Thus a major service of the section is the legal advice it can give to field officers regarding the children under their guidance. As well as Children's Court matters, the Legal Section ensures that arrangements for juveniles appearing in the District and Supreme Courts are finalised. This includes ensuring that a welfare report on every child is made available to the Court and that counsel is obtained. The numbers of juveniles that appeared before the higher courts in 1981/82 are as follows:

MALES - SUPREME COURT

Age	Charge	Male	SENTENCE		
			Prison	Governor's Pleasure	Other
Yrs					
14	Wilful Murder	1	Life Imprisonment	Detain Indefinitely	
15	Breaking & E with Violence	1			
16	Rape	2	5 yrs Min 3 yrs		
	Robbery		3 yrs Min 9 Mths		
17	Rape	11			Under Control
	Carnal Knowledge				2 Yrs
18	Arson				
	Bodily Harm	3			Under Control
	Arson				
	Stealing				

MALES - DISTRICT COURT

Age	Charge	Male	SENTENCE		
			Prison	Governor's Pleasure	
Yrs					
14	Stealing	1			Under Control
					D.C.W. till 18 yrs
15	Att. Rape	2			Under Control
	Stealing				D.C.W. till 18 yrs
	M/Vehicle				
16	Att. Robbery	6		Governor's Pleasure	
	Stealing				
17	Att. Rape	6	3 Yrs Min 6 Mths		
	Dep. Liberty & Rape		3 Yrs Min 12 Mths		
18	Bodily Harm	9	3 Mths		Adult Probation
	B/Entering				Under Control
					D.C.W.
	Receiving				Work Order

FEMALES - SUPREME COURT

Age	Charge	Female	SENTENCE		
			Prison	Governor's Pleasure	Other
Yrs					
14					
15	Wilful Murder	1			Probation 12 Mths
16					
17					
18					

FEMALES - DISTRICT COURT

Age	Charge	SENTENCE		
		Female Prison	Governor's Pleasure	Other
Yrs 14 15 16	B/Entering Stealing with Violence	3		Under Control Min 6 Mths Under Control Min 12 Mths
17 18	Armed Robbery Stealing with Violence	3 2-18 Mths. Gaol - Min 9 Mths.		1 Strict custody Nyandi

Legal advice and assistance for the Department's clients is not restricted to criminal matters. In the various responsible roles the Director assumes for children in the Department's care, the Legal Section can be involved in matters such as Workers' Compensation claims for wards, upholding the rights of children in relation to deceased parents estates and making claims for criminal injuries compensation.

The implications of adoption of overseas children is a matter scrutinised by the Section.

During the year numerous appearances in the Children's Court were made by the Legal Officers on behalf of the Director in the more difficult care and protection applications. A Legal Officer will travel to the country to appear in a care and protection application if it is thought necessary.

A number of cases in the Family Court during the year have involved the Legal Section. Under the Family Law Act, the Director can now intervene as of right. This right is used sparingly and usually only where it is appropriate to offer the Court an alternative to granting custody to either of the parents or applicants.

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 legal section staff on a number of days during the year. The Section appreciates the co-operation of the Legal Aid Commission and the Aboriginal Legal Service, who talk to trainees on practical matters which 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 which arise out of their work.

Community Services Training Centre

The Training Centre located at 401 - 403 Oxford Street, Mount Hawthorn, provides training for staff of the Department and staff working 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.

The course is a generic one which caters for staff who work in a wide variety of situations. There are proposals to develop option units for specific areas of Child Care and for the first time in 1982 an option unit for "Cottage Mother and Shelter Care Staff" was provided.

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

The course in 1982 will include the nine week unit of practical experiences in the welfare services which was introduced so successfully in the 1981 course. This year's course will see the introduction of an option allowing the students to learn the basics of the Aboriginal language, Wangkatja.

The third SHAC commenced in May 1982. This course provides training and practical experiences for students in hostel work. To achieve this aim, the course is composed of a four month academic centre-based block and a six month on-the-job training in a country hostel.

In addition to these main courses, a number of short Workshops and Seminars have been mounted as follows:-

H Class Licence
Counselling and Interviewing I(2)
Counselling and Interviewing II
Communicating Across Cultures
Financial Counselling
Assertiveness Workshop
Women as Professional Helpers
Counselling - A Gestalt Approach
Teaching Others to Manage Stress
Cross-Cultural Medicine
Interpreting as Communication

Teaching Others to be Assertive (2)
Getting to Know your Community
Aboriginal Community Development
Housing Advocacy
Re-Bonding
DCW Staff Development Programme

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

Community and Child Health Services
Family Court Counselling Services
Marribank Mission
Ngal-a Child Health Students
WAIT (Librarians)
Centrecare
Education Department Guidance Branch
Family Planning Association
Richmond Fellowship
Royal Australian Navy
WA University Social Work Department (2)
City of Nedlands Library (2)
Australian Red Cross Society (2)
Church of Christ Children's Home Norseman (2)
AMOS (Mt. Magnet)
Centrecare Cottages Beverley
Aboriginal Legal Service
Community Youth Support Scheme
Christian Welfare Services
DCW Receptionist Course
DCW Bunbury (2)
DCW Albany

During 1981 the Centre continued to mount a workshop programme and to respond to requests for training from a number of government and voluntary agencies. However, during 1982, economic stringencies necessitated a reduction in many programmes, although a small number of programmes for voluntary agencies have been conducted with the consent of the Minister.

The course in Residential Child Care, and courses for Aborigines conducted by staff funded by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, have continued without restriction.

Community Services Training Centre Advisory Board

During this period an Advisory Board for the Centre was established, and the inaugural meeting was held in May 1982. The function of the Board will be to advise the Minister on the performance and continuing development of the Centre. Members of the Board are representative of a wide cross-section of welfare organisations.

Welfare Services Library

The Welfare Services Library, this year, has concentrated on establishing loan and management policies, reducing cataloging backlogs, and re-organizing periodical subscriptions.

A Library Committee representative of the Department and Centre interests, has been established for reader representation and advisory assistance.

The book stock has been increased by 2000 items. The audio visual section has recently been re-catalogued. It includes 36 films, 200 video tapes and 320 audio cassettes.

Training Co-ordinators (Agencies & Communities)

With the closure of the Aboriginal Resident Community Worker Training Scheme, these two positions have become complementary aspects of the same programme funded by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and administered through this Centre.

The Training Co-ordinators' role is to encourage self management and self determination of Aboriginal groups, individuals and communities by providing training in needed skills, or by co-ordinating funding and training agencies to provide the training.

Programmes have been initiated throughout the State — in the Kimberley, Pilbara, South West and Goldfields regions — and can include a wide variety of skills ranging from management, assertion and bookkeeping to mechanics and plant maintenance, and urban survival skills.

Metropolitan Children's Courts

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

The Bench of the Children's Court comprises of ten 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. R. Viol

and eight Lady Members:-

Mesdames:

J. Trotman
L. Smith
M. Christie
J. Van Noort
A. Neal
J. Oldham
J. Hampton
V. Forward

A minimum of 15 Courts are held each week, namely 11 at Perth, 2 at Fremantle, 1 at Midland and 1 at Rockingham. The work of the Courts is reflected in the table of charges:-

	1979	1980	1981
Perth	9,223	9,965	10,134
Fremantle	1,674	1,953	2,184
Midland	1,505	1,797	1,647
Rockingham	723	790	718
Total	13,125	14,505	14,683

Although the number of charges show an increase year by year, they do not in themselves give a true picture of the increased work of the Courts.

The availability of Legal Aid and the Aboriginal Legal Service has dramatically increased the number of appearances before the Court and this is reflected in the number of remands at the Perth Children's Court in relation to the number of charges, as shown in the table below.

Year	Charges	Remands	Total
1978	8,719	3,360	12,079
1979	9,223	5,191	14,414
1980	9,965	6,201	16,166
1981	10,134	6,566	16,700

Accommodation

Perth Children's Court

The Court now situated in temporary premises at the old East Perth Primary School, has become inadequate for the increasing number of cases appearing there.

It has been planned for some considerable time, that a new Children's Court Building would be constructed in Perth. Financial constraints have to the present time, limited any major progress on this project.

The following table shows the most common type of cases dealt with at the Perth Children's Court:-

Type of Offence:-	1980/81	1981/82
Traffic Offences	1,610	1,710
Breaking and Entering	2,060	2,400
Stealing and Receiving	1,943	2,110
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	1,047	1,249
Wilful Damage	352	404
Disorderly Conduct	269	268
Assault	245	253
False Name and Address	191	178
Drink Driving Offences	148	161
Liquor Act Offences	131	146
Drunk	90	79
Drug Offences	39	79
Other	1,672	1,556
Total	9,797	10,593

Applications:

Care and Protection	106	94
Uncontrolled	36	28
Total	142	122

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 consultancy 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. The report that follows describes the current status of the Department's psychological services.

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 preventative 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 of techniques for handling difficult children and 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 practices 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 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. Children's Protection Service - 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. Research and Planning Unit - the Clinical Psychologist's role in this unit is to advise and consult with other professionals undertaking research within the Department. He also trains staff in research methods and is expected to initiate research projects and apply appropriate methods of evaluation.
- 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 assessing 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. Private Residential Care - the Department's Psychology Branch provides professional support and training assistance to Psychologists employed in four private residential child-care facilities. Staff in each of these settings are primarily oriented to service delivery.

Departmental Property

Vehicles

The Department operates a fleet of 211 motorised vehicles stationed at 74 Centres throughout the State. During the past year these vehicles covered 3 964 450 kilometres on official business. Exclusive of capital costs for vehicle purchase, the average cost to operate these vehicles for the year was 14.55 cents per kilometre.

An overall decrease of 2.4 percent has resulted in the operating cost of vehicles per kilometre compared with last year.

A breakdown of Departmental vehicles throughout the State, is as follows:-

Conventional vehicles	166
Trucks	3
Tractors	3
Trailers	55
Caravans	4
Buses	37
Motor Cycles	2

Private vehicles on official business during the same period covered 1 010 405 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 Services

Departmental institutions, hostels and associated facilities with catering requirements are spread throughout the State. The Catering Manager, or one of his staff make regular visits to these facilities, to ensure that high standards of food servicing are achieved and maintained. The Catering Service offers assistance in an advisory capacity to Church Missions, privately run hostels and group homes, when necessary.

The Catering Service is involved in the training of institution and hostel residents in food service procedures.

Many Divisional and Youth Activity Camps are held during school holiday breaks and weekends. Assistance is given to camp leaders with supplies, menus and general catering needs.

Menus for all D.C.W. food services are compiled with the view to acceptance, balance and nutritional value and are approved by a qualified dietitian 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.

Liaison with food technologists and dietitians throughout Australia, helps to ensure that the Catering Service is kept aware of modern trends associated with diets and the food industry, also new methods of supervising and administering food programmes. There is continued liaison with food manufacturing companies concerning the development of new and special food products.

965,425 meals were served in D.C.W. facilities during the 1981/82 financial year.

Records Branch

The Records Branch is responsible for maintaining the Department's Information System.

Other operations undertaken by the Branch are:

Distribution and despatch of correspondence, reception, telex and telephonic services, issuing licenses to persons with unrelated children under six years of age in their care, preparation of anaesthetic consents for wards and issuing permits to enter Departmental Aboriginal Reserves.

Currently the manual Information System is being computerized and it is anticipated that this modernisation programme will increase the productivity of the Section, and allow several of the staff to be deployed in other areas of the Public Service.

Personnel and Staff Section

This section is responsible for all personnel and industrial matters for persons employed by the Department. The staff complement is covered by some sixteen different awards.

In addition, the Personnel and Staff Section is responsible for induction and counselling of staff, collection and processing of statistical data for use within the Department, by the Public Service Board, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and advising the Department's Salary Section of all adjustments and variations in salaries and wages.

STATISTICS

Index

1. PERSONS UNDER GUARDIANSHIP AND SUBSTITUTE CARE

Table 1.1 *Number of Persons Placed During the Year and Discharged x Status*

Table 1.2 *Type of Placement x Number of Persons Placed Under Guardianship*

Table 1.3 *Type of Placement x Number of Persons Placed Under Control*

Table 1.4 *Type of Placement x Number of Children Placed Other Than Under Guardianship or Control Subsidized by the Government.*

Table 1.5 *Number of Children in Foster Care x Status of Child x Sex.*

Table 1.6 *Age Distribution of Persons Under Guardianship and Control of the Department 30/6/82.*

Graph 1 *The number of persons under guardianship in the last 4 years.*

Graph 2 *The number of persons under control in the last 4 years.*

2. COURT STATISTICS

Table 2.1 *Number of Offences x Sex x Race x Type*

Table 2.2 *Type of Court Decision x Number of Children who Appeared in Court in Western Australia.*

Graph 3 *The number of court defences in the last 5 years.*

3. PANEL STATISTICS

Table 3.1 *Number of Offences x Type of Offence x Country and Metropolitan Panel*

4. ADOPTION STATISTICS

Table 4.1 *Adoption Applications Received and Orders Granted for W.A. (1.7.81 -30.6.82)*

Table 4.2 *Type of Adoption x Adoption Organisation*

5. CHILDREN IN JUVENILE CORRECTIVE INSTITUTION AND PRISONS

Table 5.1 *Number of Persons in Juvenile Corrective Institutions x Sex x Age x Detention Status*

6. STAFF COMPLEMENT

TABLE 1.1

NUMBER OF PERSONS PLACED WITH THE DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR AND THE NUMBER DISCHARGED DURING THE YEAR X STATUS

	Status of Person	
	Guardianship	Control
No. of Persons at beginning of the year	2556	810
During the Year —		
Placed	328	403
Discharged	546	386
Balance as at 30/6/82	2338	827

TABLE 1.2

TYPE OF PLACEMENT x NUMBER OF PERSONS PLACED UNDER GUARDIANSHIP

Type of Placement	As at 30/6/81	As at 30/6/82
Handicapped Estab.	21	24
Family Group Homes/Campus Homes	286	230
Juvenile Hostels	17	25
Juvenile Corrective Institutions	52	44
Other Residential Homes	104	76
Foster Care	921	824
Hospital/Nursing Homes/Schools	11	9
Prisons	10	2
With Parent or Relative	524	783
Other Adult Care	473	162
Living Independently	38	78
Other (Including unauthorised absence unknown)	92	81
Total	2549	2338

TABLE 1.3

TYPE OF PLACEMENT x NUMBER OF PERSONS PLACED UNDER CONTROL

Type of Placement	As at 30/6/81	As at 30/6/82
Family Group Homes/Campus Homes	25	31
Juvenile Hostels	4	19
Juvenile Corrective Institutions	100	94
Other Residential Homes	34	43
Foster Care	46	53
Hospital/Nursing Homes/Schools	1	Nil
Prisons	4	11
With Parent or Relative	478	481
Other Adult Care	64	28
Living Independently	15	44
Other (Including unauthorised absence unknown)	34	23
Total	805	827

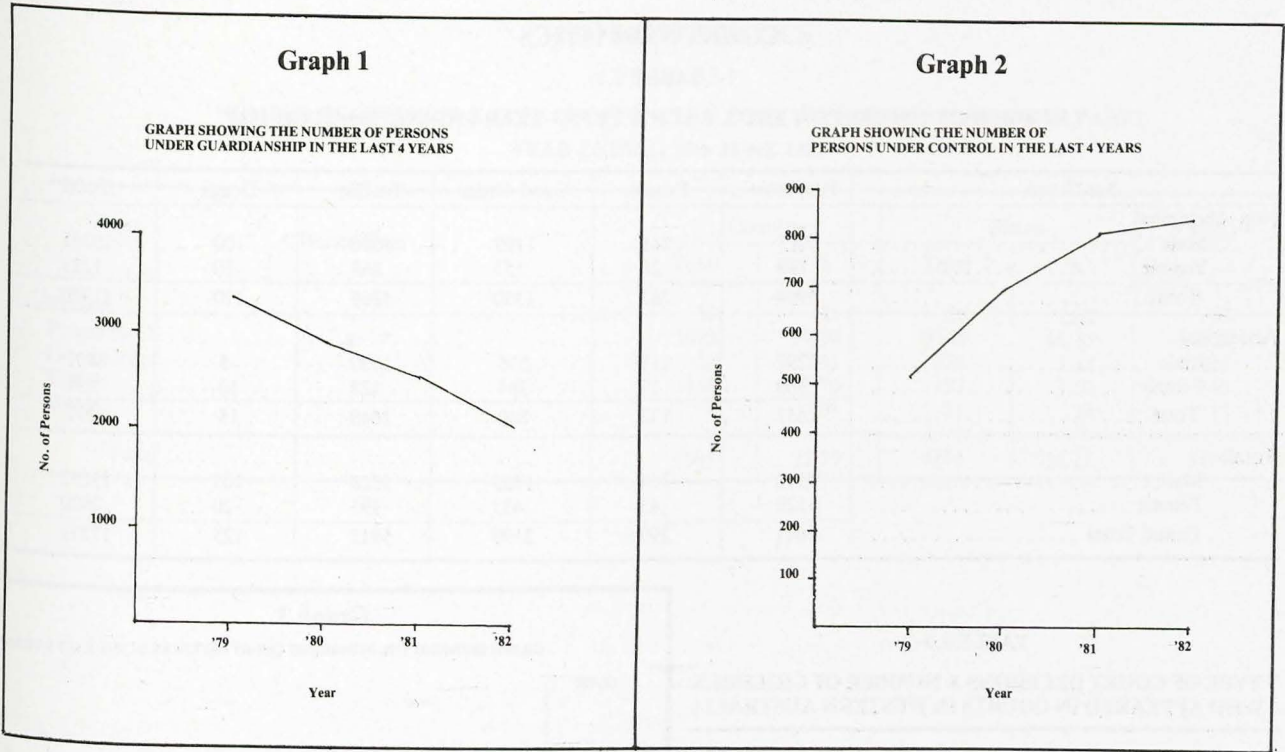


TABLE 1.4
 TYPE OF PLACEMENT x NUMBER OF CHILDREN
 PLACED OTHER THAN UNDER GUARDIANSHIP OR
 CONTROL SUBSIDIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT

Type of Placement	As at 30/6/81	As at 30/6/82
Handicapped Estab.	1	2
Family Group Homes/Campus Homes	3	Nil
Foster Care*	743	506
With Parent or Relative*	4	224
Other Adult Care	Nil	2
Total:	751	734

*Note: Due to a policy change the number of children living with "near relatives" is made easily identifiable. In 1982 these children were coded to Foster Care.

TABLE 1.5
 NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE x STATUS OF CHILD

Status of Child	As at 30/6/81			As at 30/6/82		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Placed under Guardianship	483	438	921	434	390	824
Placed under Control	30	16	46	30	23	53
Non PUG Non PUC Subsidised	399	344	743	303	202	505
Total	912	798	1710	767	615	1382

Table 1.6
 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS UNDER GUARDIANSHIP AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT 30/6/82

STATUS	Sex	AGE																					TOTAL	
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		21
Guardianship	M	2	14	17	21	32	30	38	42	47	55	90	95	87	109	135	157	144	147	4	-	1	-	1267
	F	6	6	16	19	22	27	36	27	45	61	68	75	74	97	122	117	124	127	1	1	-	-	1071
	Total	8	20	33	40	54	57	74	69	92	116	158	170	161	206	257	274	268	274	5	1	1	-	2338
Control	M	-	4	1	2	4	2	2	2	1	4	16	14	30	54	98	126	128	149	3	-	-	-	640
	F	2	-	4	5	3	-	5	3	3	-	3	3	4	12	32	40	39	29	-	-	-	-	187
	Total	2	4	5	7	7	2	7	5	4	4	19	17	34	66	130	166	167	178	3	-	-	-	827

COURT STATISTICS

TABLE 2.1

NUMBER OF OFFENCES X SEX X RACE X TYPE - YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1982

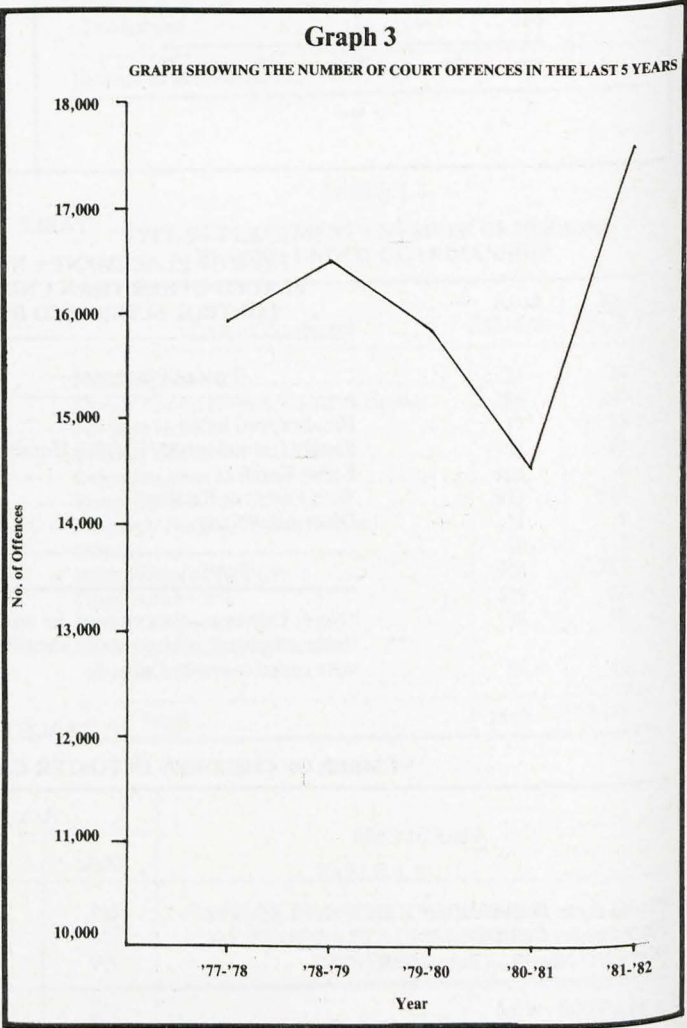
Sex/Race	Property	Person	Good Order	Traffic	Drugs	Total
Non-Aboriginal						
Male	5215	241	1199	4006	100	10761
Female	769	26	151	263	10	1219
Total	5984	267	1350	4269	110	11980
Aboriginal						
Male	2297	113	556	1520	5	4491
Female	360	19	284	128	10	801
Total	2657	132	840	1648	15	5292
Total						
Male	7512	354	1755	5526	105	15252
Female	1129	45	435	391	20	2020
Grand Total	8641	399	2190	5917	125	17272

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
*CSO	134
Dismissed Sec. 26	2574
Dismissed with Suspension	159
Probation	564
Guardianship	328
Control	1311
Other	31
Fine	3620
Bond	480
Gaol	114
Total	9315

* CSO — Not Complete Year



PANEL STATISTICS

TABLE 3.1

NUMBER OF OFFENCES X TYPE OF OFFENCES X COUNTRY AND METROPOLITAN PANEL
YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1982

Offence Type	Country		Metro		Total
	Total	%	Total	%	
Person	12	.21	55	1.00	67
Property	1093	19.94	3745	68.35	4838
Good Order	50	.91	171	3.12	221
Traffic	148	2.70	192	3.50	340
Drugs	2	.03	11	.24	13
Total	1305	23.79	4174	76.21	5479

ADOPTIONS

The information in these tables was compiled from records kept in the Adoptions Section of the Department.

TABLE 4.1

ADOPTION APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND ORDERS GRANTED FOR W.A. (1.7.81 - 30.6.82)

Type of Adoption X Applications received / orders granted X adoption organisation

Adoption Applications 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. Organisations	Total Orders Granted
Child not related to applicant*	255	12	267	93	6	99
Child related to applicant*	53 Prev. Marr 3) Ex-nup. 50)	72 Other rel 5) Prev. Marr 48) Ex-nup 19)	125	63	74	137
Special Children	30	1	31	8	Nil	8
International Adoptions ...	55	1	56	11	1	12
Foster Children	18	3	21	5	Nil	5
Total	411	89	500	180	81	261

NOTE: 1. As at 30.6.82 there were 767 applicants for locally born, unrelated children at various stages of assessment. Of these 506 applied prior to 1.7.81. In addition, there were 83 waiting for International Adoption.

2. Orders granted were in most cases for applications made prior to 1.7.81 and include some children placed for adoption prior to 1.7.81.

CATEGORIES: 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.

* excluding special foster, international, given below.

TYPE OF ADOPTION X ADOPTION ORGANISATION

TABLE 4.2

CHILDREN PLACED WITH APPROVED APPLICANTS AND AWAITING ADOPTION ORDER W.A. (1/7/81 - 30/6/82)

	Arranged through the Department	Arranged Privately	Total
Child not related to application (excluding special, international below)	88	6	94
Special Children	6	Nil	6
International Adoptions	21	Nil	21
Total	115	6	121

NOTE: Children related to applicant and foster children would be residing with prospective adopters throughout and therefore those categories have not been included above.

In 1981/82 99 locally born, unrelated children were placed with adoptive parents. 21 were placed for International Adoption.

CHILDREN IN JUVENILE CORRECTIVE INSTITUTIONS

TABLE 5.1

PERSONS IN JUVENILE CORRECTIVE INSTITUTIONS BY SEX, AGE AND DETENTION STATUS

STATE/TERRITORY:

COUNTING DATE: 30/6/82

Sex and Detention Status	Age (years) at counting date										
	Children							Adults		TOTAL	
	Age							Total Children	Age 18		Total Adults
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17				
MALES—											
Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty:											
For offence.....	-	-	4	1	2	3	7	17	-	Nil	17
For other matter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	-	Nil	Nil
Not Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty:											
Offenders	1	1	6	21	24	38	25	116	3	3	119
Non-Offenders								Nil			Nil
Total Males	1	1	10	22	26	41	32	133	3	3	136
FEMALES—											
Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty:-											
For offence.....	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	4	-	Nil	4
For other matter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty:-											
Offenders	-	-	1	-	-	4	4	9	-	Nil	9
Non-offenders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Females			2	-	1	6	4	13		Nil	13
PERSONS—											
Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty:-											
For offence.....	-	-	5	1	3	5	7	21	-	Nil	21
For other matter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	-	Nil	Nil
Not Awaiting Court Hearing, Outcome or Penalty:-											
Offenders	1	1	7	21	24	42	29	125	3	3	128
Non-offenders	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil	-	Nil	Nil
Total Persons	1	1	12	22	27	47	36	146	3	3	149

STAFF COMPLEMENT

TABLE 6.1

STAFF COMPLEMENT AS AT 30th JUNE, 1982

(FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES)

	Staff Status			
	Public Servant	Ministerial Appointment	Wages	Total
HEAD OFFICE				
Director	1	-	-	1
Deputy Director	1	-	-	1
Assistant Director -				
1. Institutions	1	-	-	1
2. Field	1	-	-	1
3. Support Services	1	-	-	1
Administration and Clerical	182	-	-	182
FIELD DIVISION				
Senior Social Work Supervisor	3	-	-	3
Chief Clinical Psychologist	-	-	-	-
Administrative and Welfare	261	-	-	261
Office Staff	83	-	1	84
Hostel Staff	-	5	104	109
Trainees	9	5	-	14
Reserve Caretaker	-	-	6	6
INSTITUTIONS AND HOSTELS				
Superintendents	-	9	-	9
Welfare and Institutional	13	437	54	504
Office Staff	6	11	-	17
COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINING COLLEGE				
Director	1	-	-	1
Staff	1	10	-	11
Person Contracted by Minister under Section 8(4)	-	-	-	-
Total as at 30/6/82	564	477	165	1,206
Total as at 30/6/81	556	480	172	1,208
Total as at 30/6/80	583	456	148	1,187
Total as at 30/6/79	574	476	163	1,213
Total as at 30/6/78	539	471	165	1,175

STAFF COMPLEMENT AS AT 30th JUNE, 1982

(PART-TIME EMPLOYEES)

	Ministerial Wages
PART-TIME STAFF (15 hours per week)	
Homemakers	176
Welfare Assistants	66
Parent Helpers	21
Others - Child Care Co-ordinators	2
Total as at 30/6/82	265

