



**DEPARTMENT FOR
COMMUNITY
WELFARE**

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT 1977



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**Western
Australia
1976-77**

**Department
For
Community Welfare**

Annual Report

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 1977**

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

THE HON. K. A. RIDGE, M.L.A.
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE

Sir,

In accordance with Section 11 of the Community Welfare Act, 1972, I hereby submit a report on the work of the Department for Community Welfare for the year ended 30th June, 1977.

K. A. MAINE
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY WELFARE

Appreciation

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

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Introduction

The information presented in the following report gives an indication of the broadening sphere of activities in which the Department is becoming involved. Due to the geographic magnitude of our State, the Department has, by necessity, become highly decentralised. This degree of decentralisation has allowed variable social work policies to exist in different parts of the State. Although each division of the Department must work within the confines of the Acts which they administer, a degree of flexibility allows for suitable solutions to social problems to be devised according to the requirements of the region.

Steps have been taken by the Department to develop a plan that will lead progressively towards regionalisation. It is anticipated that, during the next year, an overall scheme will be finalised and initial steps towards implementation will be taken. Generally, the staff attitude to regionalisation is a very positive one, which I anticipate will be an asset when the Department does eventually embark on this development.

Throughout this report mention is made of encouraging or establishing community voluntary groups and organisations. Officers of the Department have long realised that some of the problems for which people may have reason to seek aid from the Department, have an earlier solution at the community level. In isolated communities, as in densely populated metropolitan suburbs, it has been found that by injection of small amounts of finance, or merely by offering a supportive hand in administration, voluntary groups can, by themselves, provide many worthwhile community services.

A general policy of adopting a preventive approach to social problems has proven to have considerable merit. This policy has been applied, particularly in cases where young children come into the care of the Department. Also, considerable resources have been directed towards the development of youth centres and youth activities which is a further attempt to reduce the likelihood of juveniles offending against the law.

Throughout the year, officers of the Department have been involved in the final planning to allow for the introduction of amendments to the Child Welfare Act. The proposed amendments represent a complete overhaul of the Act. Numerous small issues have received attention, but perhaps one of the major changes is the provision to have parents retain more responsibility for children who come under notice of the Department. It is hoped that

these changes to the Act will foster a situation where the Department and parents can combine resources in dealing with children with behavioural problems.

Rehousing of Aboriginal Reserve residents into conventional style homes in country towns in the south western part of the State, has been a milestone in the long term process of upgrading the general living standards of those who would otherwise continually be disadvantaged by sub-standard living conditions. While a programme to close reserves has been continuing with success, the Department has also committed itself to assist Aboriginal fringe dwellers in the metropolitan area whose predicament has become a rather contentious public issue. In other parts of the State and particularly the North West, the seriously substandard living conditions of many Aboriginal families will continue to produce social problems for the individual families and the local communities until such time as a large-scale programme is implemented to alleviate the essential need for suitable basic accommodation that is necessary for healthy family life.

Senior officers of the Department have been responsible for contributing the information contained in the various sections of this report. Their points of view are sometimes dominant in the text. Alterations and editing have been minimised as I am of the opinion that the strong feelings expressed by staff on certain points are important and must be voiced as part of a programme of public education about the nature of a modern welfare department.

The first sections of the report covering field services have been prepared in a manner that reflects the particular regional welfare characteristics of the area concerned.

It is intended that from this report the readers will gain some insight as to the wide and varied nature of the services delivered by the Department. With the majority of activities in which the Department engages, it is not always possible to express in tangible terms, the extent of success or failure of a particular service offered. Over a period of time, however, continued and increased demand for certain services does indicate its own measure of public acceptance and good regard. Bearing in mind the general restrictions placed upon staff numbers, I feel the Department has adequately catered for the needs expressed by the community.

K. A. MAINE,
Director.

Welfare Services

Metropolitan Field Services

INTRODUCTION

Seven Divisions provide general welfare services in the metropolitan area. Restrictions on staff numbers have so far prevented any further extensions and the Wanneroo area is almost certainly under-served at present.

The Divisional Offices are involved with child neglect cases, behaviour problem and delinquent children who can be treated in the community and with multi-problem families where child rearing and control standards are inadequate. Some service is also provided to low income families who need consistent help to cope with their problems.

The use of community development methods, particularly with small groups of clients, is steadily increasing and enables more attention to be given to families at an early stage before problems assume very serious proportions.

The major concern this year has been with constantly growing demands for service while resources remain static. Although a slight increase in staff was approved in the 1976/77 budget, no appointments could be made because of limits placed on Departmental staff numbers. At June 30, 1977 the full-time field staff were actually below the level permitted in 1972.

On the credit side the Department was pleased to see some progress made towards the concept of standardised sub-regional areas for Perth. It is to be hoped that this will eventually lead to a more co-ordinated use of welfare services provided by the State.

BALGA DIVISION

The staff at Balga Division have maintained their high level of commitment to promoting the well being of families in the area. However, the demands that people in crisis place upon manpower resources, at times result in a lowering of service to statutory cases.

Within the Division the Department is now operating playgroups at three blocks of flats, providing a service to single parent families, and an opportunity for them to participate in their community.

Balga staff have extended the Department's resources by operating school holiday camps at Busselton for primary school children who demonstrate behavioural problems that exclude them from camps operated by other agencies. Staff gain valuable feedback from camp leaders, which assists with their future care of the children on their caseloads.

One staff member formed a photography group for children with whom he was working. Leadership of the group later passed to two local residents, when the group's interests broadened.

Three peer groups are now operating out of Balga Office. Experience shows that many young people are helped over a difficult time by their involvement

with a group. However, their effectiveness is limited by the lack of a viable youth group in the community, into which these young people could be channelled and further assisted.

An interesting community development achievement has been our support to a tenants' group which was allocated a flat for their use as a centre. The Division's ongoing interest in providing practical experience for Social Work Students, has enabled their involvement in this project.

The thrust in preventive welfare work is reflected in the move to establish group homes in the area for disadvantaged children who do not need institutionalising, but cannot remain at home.

The lack of adequate office accommodation and inaccessibility to many clients, continues to hinder the service provided. It is to be hoped that the move to the proposed Mirrabooka shopping complex will alleviate these limitations.

BELMONT DIVISION

This year emphasis was placed on consolidation of services within the Division in order to keep pace with the increasing number of client contacts which has risen dramatically over the years.

A most striking aspect of the Divisions' caseload has been the steep decrease in the number of dependant wards and although numbers have now stabilised to some degree, it is a reflection of the Department's policy and practice to place emphasis on preventive measures rather than take committal action.

Fostering continues to play a very necessary and important role in the Division, with greater emphasis being made to maintain regular child/parent contact. The number of private foster cases has increased in the past year and it is pleasing to note that the number of families caring for handicapped children, either physically, mentally or emotionally, has increased.

The participation by Divisional Homemakers and Welfare Assistants in the overall services to clients has indirectly offset the severe staff shortages experienced by the Division. Activities groups have been established in the more socially deprived areas of the Division and playgroup programmes cater for more than 100 children.

In the coming year a research programme is to be undertaken to assess how services can be better extended to the Kalamunda Shire districts. Given the rate of population expansion and development of the large State Housing Commission area in the Forrestfield area, a sub-office may soon need to be established.

FREMANTLE DIVISION

This Division encompasses the Local Government areas of Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park, Fremantle, East Fremantle, Melville, Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham, Mandurah and the Murray District Shire Council including the towns of Pinjarra and Dwellingup.

The Divisional Office is located in Crane House, 185 High Street, Fremantle, with sub-offices in Rockingham and at Mandurah, where the offices are

open to the public on Monday and Tuesday of each week. The Mandurah office was relocated and is now situated in the Community Health Centre.

Staff

Staff comprise a Social Work Supervisor and fifteen Field Officers who are either Social Workers, Graduate Welfare Officers or Family Welfare Officers and clerical support staff for reception and typing duties. Part-time staff comprise five Welfare Assistants, thirteen Homemakers and three Peer Group Youth Leaders who are engaged for fifteen hours each week. Two Psychologists, one with clinical training are attached to the Divisional Office, however both these officers are shared with a Country Division and the Institutions Branch.

The Division provides a casework service to the children for whom the Department is legally responsible, by virtue of a Children's Court order and to those children and families in need. A service is provided to the five Children's Courts before which children living in Fremantle Division's area appear; family support services are offered through Homemakers and youth leadership through the Peer Group Leaders. One officer is fully engaged in Community Development activities and the psychological services are provided to individual children and families.

These brief details outline the geographical structure of the Division, the dispersed location of offices, for easier public access and staff who provide a range of services to the community. Plans are in hand to decentralise the rendering of financial assistance by locating an officer handling these matters at Fremantle.

Case Loads	1/7/76	30/6/77
1. Wards—		
Dependent Wards....	384	387
Offenders	96	82
2. Children being supervised—		
Probationers	114	136
Supervision and 'Panel' cases	208	156
3. Preventive Welfare Cases	120	133
4. Homemaker Cases	60	37
5. Families in receipt of financial assistance	195	219

Community Development

Increasingly it is being recognised that many of the problems which cause people to seek the aid of the Department have their solution at the community level. Thus, in addition to providing an individualised casework service, a community approach must also be adopted as another means of solving problems, stresses created through difficult living conditions, social isolation, unemployment, lack of recreational opportunities, etc. are correlated with family breakdown, ill treatment and neglect of children, alcoholism, delinquency and other symptoms of social breakdown. The Department has for some time recognised the value of appointing community development officers in the metropolitan area, and the officer attached to Fremantle Division

has worked continuously in the Rockingham and Kwinana Shire areas. The work undertaken is as follows:—

1. A general survey of needs in the Rockingham Shire area, from which the following have resulted:
 - Foundation of the Rockingham Community Forum
 - An information kiosk staffed by volunteers
 - The Hillman pre-school committee and the subsequent provision of a pre-school centre
 - Exploration of the feasibility of establishing a family counselling service and emergency accommodation
2. A Child Care survey undertaken in Orelia and Parmelia among State Housing Commission flat tenants resulted in:
 - Foundation of tenant groups
 - Establishment of children's playgrounds in several of the flat complexes
 - Foundation of playgrounds
 - Establishment of a wide range of educational and social activities for more than seventy supporting mothers and disadvantaged families
 - Provision of supervised child minding and children's activity programmes two days a week.
3. Formation of the Kwinana Community Aid Council which meets frequently to co-ordinate existing services and provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and planning new welfare initiatives.
4. A consultative service has been provided to local groups and research assistance was given to conduct a needs survey arranged by Southern Division, in the isolated timber milling towns in the south west of the State.
5. Financial assistance totalling \$1 540.00 was granted to local groups for the following purposes:—
 - to enable the printing and distribution of a Newsheet (\$340).
 - to provide financial support to low income families needing a brief holiday (\$300).
 - to purchase equipment and material for children's activity groups (\$600).
 - to assist a community forum to initiate new community projects (\$300).

MIDLAND DIVISION

Midland Division has focused on maintaining and improving a personalised service to people in need throughout a year heightened by internal and external changes towards decentralisation of services as a preliminary to regionalisation.

Changes in Departmental processes have led to more children coming into care being assessed in their homes and treatment plans being made at divisional level. This in turn has led to increased parental and local resources involvement with a minimum of interruption to all concerned.

Preventive welfare referrals from hospitals, schools and Police continue to increase and are undertaken by Field staff with Homemaker and community supports. A new resource in the Swan Psychiatric Clinic is calling on our resources to support families of patients being treated locally. Likewise are the Medical Groups in the Midland district. The trend towards the practice of social medicine in treating patients in their homes in lieu of hospitals is in line with our own approach and contact with these resources is intensifying.

Following the findings of the Committee of Inquiry into Residential Child Care, the Government has implemented changes of funding to private child caring facilities and centres. These changes have affected Parkerville Children's Homes in particular in our district where liaison towards admissions and case reviews has increased to meet the required variations and changes. Apart from funding professional appointments of Parkerville staff our Department supports cottage parents attendance at the Community Services Training College towards improved standards of service for all children placed at Parkerville.

The Special Projects team attached to Perth Division has conducted a study of the Homeless Aborigines in the Midland area towards an overall study of the metropolitan area. This has led to a project to assist Aboriginal families in the Guildford area to a location in Lockridge. This is a preliminary to a solution to housing needs in the long term.

A Social Worker has been appointed to Midland Division in a Community Development role with emphasis towards an extended client casework service. Groundwork is in hand towards a multi-purpose centre which will involve all the Midland staff including the Homemaker service in supplement to existing services. This officer has already undertaken an assessment of district resources and has assisted in the personalisation of Midland office.

Voluntary services supported by the Department for Community Welfare include the Midland and Districts Counselling Centre which continues to assist families and individuals outside the scope of the Department. The Mundaring Toy Library (Inc) is another voluntary corporation supported by the Department. Centres have been opened in Darlington, Mundaring and Koongamia and plans for Swanview and a Mobile Unit are encouraging.

Many families who would otherwise remain isolated within the community benefit from the stimulation with others using the Toy Libraries' facilities.

Although many youths are nominated and benefit from attending Departmental camps, funds have been requested for Peer Group Leaders to conduct "Social Options for Teenagers Like You" programmes within the Division. The growing number of teenagers experiencing difficulties in family relationships leading to their wanting to leave home is of real concern and the need for improved recreational activity outlets is most apparent. Apart from the voluntary Youth Clubs and Out of School Care Activities in the district the incorporation of youth programmes in the Multi-purpose Centre already mentioned is of high priority.

Charges against children in the Midland Children's Court show a reduction of approximately 6 per cent for the year. This is a continuing trend. The number of children who appeared before the Children's Court resident in Midland Division but under the control of Institutional Services was considerably less than in previous years.

MT. HAWTHORN DIVISION

The heavy demand associated with the Division's statutory obligations has continued to grow. This trend, on the positive side, has resulted in the refining of techniques and in some instances the expansion of services, related to this area of work. In the face of this demand and the upward trend in preventive or non-statutory casework there has not been a comparable increase in resources for assisting and stimulating voluntary and local initiatives in interpreting and acting upon social problems.

Specific examples of the increase in statutory loading have been the rise of children appearing before the Children's Court by 21 per cent upon the previous year, and a rise of 24 per cent in respect to the Suspended Action Panel appearances.

Despite the pressing obligations in this field, a number of initiatives have been applied to further the quality of work. These include the extension of the peer group programme to include female groups, development of group techniques in foster assessment, establishment of mutual-support client groups within the Homemaker programme and the exploration of methods to assist in the supervision of children involved in drug abuse.

With limited staff resources, the Division has endeavoured to provide a more comprehensive service to assist cases in the 'non-statutory' category. Casework in this area relates primarily to the prevention of family breakdown with particular emphasis upon child rearing and management techniques for parents, attendance to deteriorating marital and child-parent relationships and support to single parent families.

In terms of wider community involvement, the Division, due to the growth of traditional priorities, has not been able to maintain the impetus of previous years. Our earlier role as innovators in this field has been subdued to a point of minimal participation. Divisional efforts during the year have centred around the established welfare contact groups in the Shire of Wanneroo and the City of Stirling, together with the provision of funds to three local welfare projects.

In the year to come it is anticipated that the Divisional Office will be relocated and re-equipped to provide better facilities for both staff and clients. Consideration will continue to be given to a permanent presence at Wanneroo to allow residents more convenient access to Departmental resources.

Severe staff shortages towards the latter part of the year tended to highlight further the need for future rationalisation of services and staff deployment.

PERTH DIVISION

The thrust during the year continued to be directed to co-operation with other agencies to improve the delivering of welfare services and to investigate the problem of homelessness. Concern is felt about the social isolation of many of the single parent families in the central metropolitan area, and some exploratory methods have been tried to meet their needs.

A continuing decrease has been noted in the numbers of children committed to the care of the Department which reflects the emphasis now placed on aiding families to remain intact.

Perth Division's concern with Aboriginal problems led to the creation of a three year programme to assist homeless Aboriginal families and individuals. The project, supported by a grant from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, became fully operational in May 1976.

Since then a special housing service run in conjunction with the Aboriginal Advancement Council has handled 107 requests for assistance from Aboriginal families. Services have included loans to meet bonds and letting fees, help in obtaining emergency shelter and private accommodation and advocacy on behalf of clients with private landlords and public authorities.

Community development services have been extended to fringe camps in the metropolitan area, and particularly to self-help housing schemes in the Swan Valley.

The project has also conducted several basic and evaluative research programmes. Two reports were issued during the year dealing with problems of Aboriginal homelessness in the Swan Valley and the availability of emergency accommodation to Aborigines in the city.

The project's involvement with issues in other metropolitan Divisions and with the problems created by rural migration has led to its relocation in the Planning and Research Unit for the remainder of its programme.

VICTORIA PARK DIVISION

There was a large increase in the number of requests to foster children in the care of the Department by parents living in the Division. A Foster Assessment Programme has been devised and runs quarterly. Last year the Division received 52 applications to foster and of those 22 were approved. So far the foster parents who have completed the programme and the officers within the Division are very happy with the methods and the results. It is hoped that the process will be evaluated by the Department.

Camps have continued to play a major part in the non-statutory activities of the Division. There have been two residential camps run by the Divisional staff, as well as a bus tour of the South West and the now annual trip of Victoria Park Division children to Katanning.

Other initiatives to be taken within the Division include the Psychologist and a field officer undertaking joint family therapy and the Community Development Officer developing a model for working with common interest groups selected from within our statutory client groups.

Northern Country Field Services

INTRODUCTION

The past year has been a busy one for staff working in the Murchison, Pilbara and Kimberley regions in the northern part of the State.

Programmes and services developed in these areas reflect local needs which differ.

In the more remote and deprived communities the thrust has been in relieving the physical and social deprivation that exists. There has been continued development of services to young children, and in developing youth activities, and where welfare resources have emerged in communities, through support, co-ordination, and sometimes encouraging the combination of resources to provide an even more expanded service to the community.

A community approach has been used successfully as a method of preventive intervention, achieving participation by communities, over a wide range of social situations. In the more deprived communities, encouraging self help and self reliance, and by helping those communities to identify their own goals and priorities and the means by which they may be achieved, communities are responding with interest and a growing responsibility for their own welfare. Youth recreational activities, out of school hours programmes and other services to young children and employment opportunities have been developed in this way.

In more established communities in the Pilbara a growing range of services are available in the larger centres, efforts have been directed toward a better co-ordination of these services to extend what is available to other smaller centres where these services do not yet reach.

Regionalisation within the Department is a theme that has been discussed enthusiastically by staff. Plans are being developed to give a greater autonomy to these regions in the future.

Despite very encouraging signs and some very good results achieved so far, there are very real limits to the level to which the welfare of disadvantaged communities can be promoted. These serious barriers are imposed by the lack of adequate housing and employment opportunities.

KIMBERLEY DIVISION

Divisional staff are faced with an ever increasing array of problems associated with physical and social deprivation, isolation, unemployment, alcohol abuse and general breakdown of indigenous cultures. Consequently staff are forced to adopt more innovative and experimental approaches to their work which involves them in many more tasks than a strictly statutory approach.

Such work-forms can be classed under the general title of Community Development.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

This is a relatively new method and the essentials of such an approach involve staff working with groups or communities of people (especially indigenous Aboriginal groups) encouraging them to establish their own goals and priorities and with positive encouragement and aid to establish their methods of achieving these same goals.

The fundamental objective of this work is to encourage a feeling of self dependence, self reliance and to discourage passivity and disillusionment which unfortunately are often so prevalent among indigenous cultures when they come in contact with more developed technological cultures. Staff are attempting to implement such principles in the following areas.

One Arm Point

In October 1976 one of the Broome district staff attended a training course at the Institute of Aboriginal Development at Alice Springs. Consequent to this course he is becoming more deeply involved with the Bardi Community at the new village project at One Arm Point. He spends at least one week per month living in the community attempting to introduce community development principles.

Fitzroy Crossing

There are now two officers operating in a full time capacity as Community Development Officers in this area. They have responsibilities for dealing with seven quite separate and distinct Aboriginal communities in the Fitzroy Crossing area.

Two of these communities are living on and operating a recently acquired pastoral property with the aid of one Community Development Officer and several pastoral advisers. This particular station was the first station in the whole West Kimberley area to have the initial consignment of cattle trucked into Derby Meatworks for the 1977 season.

The other Community Development Officer is engaged in working with groups living on Departmental Reserves and other properties and helping to generally facilitate these communities in their social and economic development.

Halls Creek

There have been several developments in this area during the past year. The Djaru Group with the aid of Departmental staff formed a camp in an area known as Red Hill which is part of the Halls Creek Shire Common. They intend developing a market garden, poultry farm and piggery. The initial work has already been done.

They are currently attempting to develop a new leadership structure as an attempt to develop a more socially coherent unit.

Gidja Group

This group is currently examining alternative sites and has temporarily established their camp adjacent to the Departmental Reserve.

Kununurra—Mirrima Community

A Social Worker acting in the capacity of Community Development Worker has been working with this Group on the Departmental Reserve in an attempt to implement Community Development principles. This has involved two main thrusts:—

- (a) Encouraging a group to contract to the Department as Reserve caretakers assuming responsibility for the general clean-up and basic maintenance services of the Reserve.
- (b) Laying the ground work for the establishment of a co-operative store on the Reserve, to be run by the residents for the residents.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Due to lack of recreational activities some Department staff have become involved in helping to organise various youth activities.

Broome

A successful programme, co-ordinated by the Social Worker from Broome District Office was organised during the Christmas holidays. It is hoped to organise similar activities during the August holidays with more camping trips and outdoor trekking included. Funds have also been made available by The Office of Child Care to purchase recreational equipment which shall be placed on Departmental Reserves in Broome.

Derby

Derby District staff, with the energetic assistance of one Homemaker and volunteers, were involved in organising a youth scheme during the May holidays.

In one particular camping expedition, over sixty children were involved. Due to the success of this and subsequent expeditions and the obvious need for similar activities in the future the Department has purchased \$400 worth of camping equipment which is to be placed in Shire accommodation and will be under the direct control of the West Kimberley Community Recreation Officer. It will be made available to any Youth and Community activity groups.

Halls Creek

Funding from The Office of Child Care has been used to purchase recreational equipment and various youth activities have been led by one of the Department's Welfare Aides located at Halls Creek Office.

Kununurra

Due to the high delinquency problem prevalent in this town, Departmental officers have been engaged in organising youth activities for some time.

A small youth club has recently been organised by District staff and with funds from The Office of Child Care it is intended to establish a small playground on a vacant residential block in the town.

CHILD CARE

Broome—Catherine House

This facility has now been operating successfully for eighteen months. It is operated by an autonomous management Committee with assistance and guidance from this Department.

Fitzroy Crossing—Group Home

These facilities have now been in operation just over one year. The homes are staffed by Aboriginal group parents who meet weekly with District staff to discuss food ordering, management and intake procedures.

Kununurra

A child Psychologist will again be taking up residence in this town in early August. It is intended that he will travel through the Kimberley providing an assessment and diagnostic service. It is also hoped that he will become involved in establishing preventive and behaviour modification programmes.

RESERVES

An extensive programme of upgrading has been implemented on all the Kimberley Reserves with the exception of Wyndham. This has involved—

- (a) The upgrading to three phase 240 voltage electrical power on all Reserves.
- (b) The construction of a new ablution block on Broome Hill Reserve.
- (c) The construction of an ablution block and attendant facilities on Fitzroy Middle Reserve.
- (d) The provision of transportable accommodation on Broome One Mile Reserve.

HOMEMAKERS

The need for such ancillary staff and their overall usefulness in providing support to full time staff cannot be over-stated.

In Fitzroy Crossing one Homemaker has been responsible for the co-ordination of community Homemakers in the establishment of—

- (a) An indigenous health-care programme in the communities.
- (b) A school lunch programme organised and operated by the indigenous Homemakers.
- (c) The upgrading of camp cooking areas and the creation of kitchens with gas stoves and sinks, purchased with the Homemakers own funds.
- (d) The purchase of a small truck with co-operative funds.

MURCHISON DIVISION

This Division has continued to retain its staff stability and thus maintain its high standard of service to the community during 1976-77.

Pressure of work has markedly increased on a number of fronts. The community is expecting the Division to provide a growing number of services in the broader welfare field such as marriage counselling, welfare of the aged and youth recreation. At the same time our own Departmental responsibilities

are increasing with our involvement in such things as the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel and the State Emergency Service. The depressed economic situation in the region has also placed pressures on our services. The result, especially among the Aboriginal communities, has been extensive unemployment with all the associated economic, social and psychological hardships.

On the positive side the staff have been successful in establishing youth activities programmes in a number of centres which has resulted in a noticeable decline in juvenile offence rates.

Geraldton

In Geraldton a contract group foster home has been established, providing a valuable asset for the field staff in the area of child care. It has enabled us to make short and medium term placements of dependant children in a wide variety of circumstances. The foster home has been established in a large building and this has enabled us to keep one wing available for community use. A wide spectrum of groups including the Potters Club, Brownies and Guides, Adult Education, Homemakers and the Geraldton Community Forum has taken advantage of this facility. The centre also makes an excellent venue for Children's Panel hearings.

Apart from their statutory responsibilities, the Geraldton District Office staff have been involved in a variety of community activities. These include the starting of a local branch of Samaritans and the establishment of a "Halfway House" for alcohol and drug dependent people. They have also been involved in a variety of youth activities including holiday camps for isolated children, athletic and sports training and the Mandigarra Aboriginal Brownies and Guides Group.

Mullewa

As a consequence of eighteen months drought and depressed economic conditions there has been a complete lack of rural employment in the Mullewa district. This has resulted in a movement of farm and station employees into the town. Thus the thirty Aboriginal occupied houses there are now extremely overcrowded. This has resulted in a breakdown of morale and a lack of enthusiasm for maintaining adequate standards. This situation has made the work of the field staff and Homemakers very difficult.

The growing Aboriginal population of the town (now 70 per cent of the total) has also put pressures on the "Coffee Shop". This was established by the field staff to provide a venue for various activities for the local youth. The Aboriginal and European children have now decided to run their sessions at different times. Both groups continue to operate on various evenings under the supervision of staff and volunteers.

Staff have also initiated a variety of after-school activities for local children. These include guitar classes and a skate board club.

The upgrading of Mullewa Reserve housing has meant a great deal to the Reserve tenants. Individual sinks, cupboards and 240 volt electricity plus the provision of playground equipment and the establishment of a lawn has noticeably improved the living conditions there.

In Morawa, the Departmentally initiated youth group has now become a member of the Rural Youth Organisation. Our Homemaker still attends the Committee Meetings at the group's request. A children's playgroup initiated with funding arranged by the Mullewa staff is also very active in Morawa and looks like expanding into two groups.

Carnarvon

This town is the centre of a very busy district. It has one of the largest Aboriginal populations of any country town in the State. Lack of rural employment and Aboriginal housing are placing an increasing burden on the field staff and Homemakers. There is also a growing demand for our services in Exmouth where we have an office and part time Welfare Assistant supported by regular visits by field staff.

In Carnarvon the last twelve months have seen a tremendous breakthrough in overcoming the problems of juvenile offenders. Using an old building made available by the Shire Council, the staff have established an extremely successful youth club for Aboriginal children. Attendances of over eighty are not uncommon and the children undertake a variety of activities with the minimum of supervision. The club operates two evenings a week for twelve year-olds and over and two afternoons a week for pre-school to eleven year-olds. Indoor sports, games and musical activities, weekend camps and fishing trips are all very popular. Also the local Police Sergeant and Aboriginal Police Aide are starting boxing training in the near future.

Since the centre commenced operation the number of charges in the Carnarvon Children's Court has been greatly reduced.

Another innovation in this area has been the involvement of selected young probationers in supervising community work programmes on Saturday mornings. The programme is run with the co-operation and support of the local Magistrate and appears to be effective with selected lads.

Although there is a tremendous problem in the town as a result of an extreme shortage of Aboriginal housing, conditions on the Reserve have greatly improved with the upgrading of the housing. During the year solar hot water systems have been installed on the ablution blocks, 240 volt power and water have been connected to the houses and a full time caretaker has been employed.

Meekatharra

During the last year the Mt. Magnet Office was closed and this district included in the Meekatharra District. This has meant a great increase in the work load of the two Meekatharra field staff who now have to handle an area from Wiluna to Mt. Magnet. Thus the existing staff have had no opportunity to develop any new programmes.

With the planning of a housing project for the Aboriginal community in Wiluna our Staff's involvement in that centre has increased and they have been involved with other agencies and the community in developing a co-ordinated approach to planning the community's future. Hopefully further Commonwealth funding will enable these plans to become reality.

PILBARA DIVISION

During 1976/77 two new Departmental offices were opened in the Pilbara Division. In August 1976 an office was opened in Karratha to service the rapidly expanding town of Karratha and the company town of Dampier. In April 1977 a new Divisional Headquarters and District Office was established in the new State Government Buildings in South Hedland.

The Department is now represented in Port Hedland and South Hedland, ensuring easy access for clients without private transport. The staff of the Pilbara are strongly committed to regionalisation and planning towards this goal was begun during 1976/77. There is no doubt among Pilbara staff that a regionalised department would provide improved services to a diversified and isolated region such as the Pilbara. It is hoped that the implementation of regionalisation will begin during the coming year.

The Division had a staff turnover of almost fifty per cent during the past year and although this created some problems full staffing has once again been achieved and it is hoped that the staff situation will remain stable during the coming year.

Partnership and prevention have been the focus of the Pilbara Division during the past year. This approach has effected all areas of the Department's work in the region. Departmental officers in partnership with community groups have developed preventive programmes in the fields of child abuse, marital problems, juvenile delinquency, child development and early childhood services.

In Port Hedland the Women's Action Group with the Department's support has run a series of school holiday programmes for children which have significantly lowered the incidence of minor vandalism over the school holiday periods.

An inter-departmental committee to manage cases of child abuse in the town has been operational during the past year, and has been instrumental in the development of a highly professional approach by involved Departments.

In South Hedland a Community Youth Steering Committee with Departmental assistance is developing an interim Youth Centre to provide for the recreational needs of children in that area. Planning has been commenced to introduce both marriage guidance and Samaritan services to Port Hedland.

In Roebourne the Pilbara Isolated Children's Project, a Commonwealth funded Departmental community development project in partnership with the local Shire and the Ierumugudu Aboriginal group, have organised school holiday activity programmes that have certainly contributed to the marked reduction in juvenile offences in Roebourne during the past year.

The social situation of the Aboriginal population of Roebourne is still far from satisfactory, but the use of available resources to aid this group was greatly improved by the re-activation of the Roebourne Co-ordinating Committee under the leadership of the Pilbara Regional Administrator.

With the co-operation of the Public Works Department the Department has been able to acquire the old Harbour and Lights Mess at Port Samson which will in the near future be put into use as a small holiday camp for children from the Pilbara region.

From Karratha has come the groundwork for a total Pilbara Early Childhood Services Programme which should be fully operational during the latter part of 1977.

This programme will provide professional support to community groups in the Pilbara region to aid in the provision of services and care facilities for mothers and their children. Staff for this programme will consist of two full time Early Childhood Services specialists, with four part time workers in major Pilbara towns.

The Pilbara Isolated Children's Project based in Karratha is proving that isolated communities can with some expert guidance provide assistance to members of the community encountering special difficulties with their children, or other aspects of their social situation.

The Department has provided assistance to youth programmes in both Paraburdoo and Newman in an effort to provide children in these towns with constructive leisure activities. It is hoped that these programmes will reduce the incidence of minor vandalism in the towns.

In conjunction with the Mugarinya Aboriginal Group the two Aboriginal Liaison Officers employed by the Department in Pilbara held a bush craft camp on Yandeyarra Station during the May school holidays. Sixty-five children both Aboriginal and European from all over the Pilbara attended the camps which did much to promote better understanding and relationships between children from a wide range of social backgrounds. There is a strong community demand for a continuation of this type of camp.

In both Onslow and Marble Bar close co-operation between Departmental officers and schools has enabled the provision of activities to the children of these towns which one group alone could not provide.

In the coming year, it is hoped that the community based approach to problems will be expanded even further, and firmly establish the principle of community responsibility for the problems of its members in the Pilbara region.

In conclusion the staff of the Pilbara Division would like to make public their appreciation for the assistance provided to them by the Pilbara Regional Administrator and the Co-ordinator of the Pilbara Isolated Children's Project during the past year.

Southern Country Field Services

INTRODUCTION

The following summaries are presented in relation to the Southern, Goldfields and Central Divisions. All reports indicate the continuing stabilisation of services, with an emphasis being directed at the co-ordination and stimulation of community resources.

The Departmental offices within the Divisions which have experienced stabilised staff have had an opportunity to develop more specialised services, and thereby provide a delivery to client groups beyond the statutory requirements.

In all three Divisions there has been a conscious effort to increase resources in country centres. This has resulted in the establishment and staffing of three new group homes and two scatter cottages. These facilities will provide a greater opportunity for country field staff to take the total responsibility for ongoing casework management, and alleviate the need to refer many cases to the metropolitan area. The provision of such facilities also allows for greater participation and support from the local community and in one instance, the group home is being managed by the local Community Welfare Council.

There has been a noticeable increase in youth activities in the southern country region. Camps and numerous other programmes have been organised which not only offer recreational activities, but enable District staff to develop a greater understanding of the children with whom they are working.

A major achievement of the past year has been the introduction of a Special Housing Programme to rehouse thirty Aboriginal families residing on seven Aboriginal Camping Reserves in the southern region. The programme is near completion and will result in the closure of Reserves in the towns of Albany, Beverley, Borden, Pingelly, Quairading, Tambellup and Williams. The project has been designed to maximise participation of those families involved, in order that they exercise choice and are involved in the decisions which are going to affect their lives. These choices include the families, involvement in the selection of site, design and furnishing of their future homes. It is a concept well established in the majority of the community, however frequently denied to lower socio-economic groups. This "self determining" approach offers the families dignity and self respect.

The Special Housing Programme has been undertaken without any additional staff resources. Particular mention must be made of the dedication and enthusiasm of all officers involved in the programme and the Homemakers who have provided positive support to the families. The success of the project and the response from the families has exceeded everyone's expectations.

In summary the southern region has continued to maintain an improved delivery of service to the client, and has embarked on special programmes which provide an opportunity for the consumer to develop dignity and an improved social standing within their respective communities.

CENTRAL DIVISION

This year our officers continued to meet the statutory obligations of the Department. These obligations related to the supervision of wards, Children's Court and Juvenile (Suspended Action) Panel representations, adoptions, fostering and applications for various forms of assistance to people in disadvantaged circumstances. In the Narrogin district representation was made before the Children's Court for sixty-seven children, for Merredin district there were thirty, Kellerberrin fifty-five, Northam forty-six plus six representations on behalf of children in Courts other than the Children's Court and at Moora district there were about seventy appearances. These figures are by no means a true statistical analysis of this aspect of our involvement in Court appearances as often the same children were involved in a number

of charges. In general the numbers were slightly, though not significantly, lower than last year. There were thirty-three Juvenile Suspended Action appearances at Northam and by the end of the year considerable progress had been made to introduce this highly effective way of dealing with first offenders to other centres throughout the Division.

Efforts to encourage community involvement in the solution of local social problems and in the area of preventive work were seriously hampered in the early part of the year because of an acute shortage of staff. This shortage resulted in the disruption of work in several districts since officers had to maintain their own work loads and carry out relief duties elsewhere. Fortunately, in the latter part of the year we enjoyed a full staff complement and our efforts in the area of prevention proved to be quite fruitful. It has been encouraging to note that people have been prepared to approach us for assistance in some of the most sensitive areas of work, such as possible child abuse and other forms of family stress, instead of allowing matters to deteriorate to a point where legal action might have resulted. While this is partially attributed to the efforts of the Department's specialist units in respect of people resident in country areas, it is also indicative of the confidence and relationship being engendered between staff and the community.

Involvement with community groups has been widened and by making small grants from the Department's Community Welfare Assistance fund we have been able to stimulate the interest of people in local projects. An example of this was the involvement of our officers in a "Teen Scene" centre which was organised by the Lions Club at Mukinbudin. This small isolated town in the eastern wheatbelt has a comparatively large teenage population but little by way of recreational outlets other than the usual organised sports. Television reception is poor and apart from a local cafe which closes early in the evening there was no meeting place for young people. The Shire Council made available a disused clubhouse in the townsite, along with a sum of money for repairs and renovations, and the work was carried out by members of the Lions Club and other volunteers. The local youth raised sufficient funds to provide a refrigerator and other refreshment facilities but the group then found that all funds were exhausted and there was not enough to purchase a pool table and to upgrade existing table tennis equipment. The Community Recreation Council of W.A., which might otherwise have assisted, had exhausted its funds and further finance could not be expected from this source for some time. By making a small grant for equipment, the Department for Community Welfare was able to add the finishing touch to this local project which has proved highly successful and is well patronised. Other grants of this nature were made to the Merredin "One Nite" shelter and furniture store (for use by families in emergent circumstances), a ladies "Share and Care" group at Northam (a service organisation for the families of mothers in medical care), and to youth groups at Toodyay and Beverley.

At Moora, staff assisted a local community group in the establishment of a day care centre involving some forty-eight children on a three day a week basis and in conjunction with other community activities, Homemakers have continued with projects, related

mainly with Aboriginal women's groups. Homemakers at Moora have been quite successful with a school lunch scheme for up to seventy primary school children. Another school lunch scheme, established with Homemaker assistance at Kellerberrin, had disappointing results, but sewing classes and other community activities have continued to receive support at that centre. At Tammin, Quairading and Narrogin, Homemaker projects have been moving into other areas. In liaison with Adult Education the Tammin group have been doing woodwork, pottery and copper beating, and have combined with members of a church congregation to set up a clothing store. In Quairading the cooking classes have continued with moves toward organised involvement, at a contributory level, with other welfare orientated bodies in the town and at Narrogin a ladies keep fit group has been formed. In Wyalkatchem an activities programme, controlled by our Homemaker, for over a hundred children, mostly non-Aboriginal, was conducted to provide arts, crafts, music and acrobats. Pre-school children's playgroup centres have been successful at Narrogin and Moora.

A Homemaker service was also active at Northam, Mukinbudin, Pingelly and Goomalling. The Departmental Homemaker Centre at Moora was completed with the addition of a fence, garage and playground equipment. Centres at Narrogin, Northam and Goomalling continued to function and during the year premises for a centre were leased at Williams.

A matter which has frustrated Homemakers in their work has been the acute shortage of housing for Aborigines in most wheatbelt centres. Towards the end of the year a Departmental Special Reserve Housing Project was well under way to house those people resident on the Williams and Pingelly Reserves and with the active co-operation of the State Housing Commission the Reserves will be closed in the near future. The Quairading Reserve still remained with three cottages, but again with State Housing Commission intervention there was a possibility that this Reserve might be closed in the present programme.

As it appears that the Reserves at Northam and Moora are likely to remain in use, at least for the time being, the Department for Community Welfare upgraded the dwellings and facilities at each of these centres. The cottages were lined and insulated, fitted with 250 volt electricity and connected with an internal water supply. Modern hot water systems were installed in the community laundry and ablutions. Playground facilities were provided by the Office of Child Care at Moora, the cottages at Northam were fenced and the areas of both Reserves were cleaned up.

The Department opened a new District Office at 113 Great Eastern Highway, Merredin, during the year and the necessary work on alterations and modifications has been completed. This was an important step in line with the Government's policy of decentralising services. The work load at Merredin is quite considerable and ultimately this is to become a two-man station. At Narrogin our staff moved to new premises in Egerton Street and the accommodation has proved to be adequate for our needs.

The major problem throughout the Division has been unemployment for youths, particularly Aboriginals, with a possible exception being at Merredin. Unemployment amongst adult Aboriginals is an increasing problem and staff have been inundated with enquiries in respect to claims made to the Commonwealth Department of Social Security. The lack of employment has compounded social problems in connection with what otherwise had been an improvement in the overall housing situation. From observations made in the past it would appear that subsidised local work schemes offer a part solution. Other problems have arisen because of a lack of local child placement resources. Officers have made maximum use of local foster placements but in many instances it was found that fostering was not appropriate as children were not suitable for foster placement or merely required residential care whilst attending work or school. A youth hostel appears to be needed at Merredin, an Aboriginal group home appears necessary at Kellerberrin and a group home and hostel accommodation appears warranted at Narrogin.

Although the Division suffered setbacks as a result of staff shortages early in the year, the latter half saw real progress towards the establishment of a stable service. Not only were officers able to meet statutory responsibilities but we were also successfully involved in many community projects. Progress was made in the areas of Reserve rehousing programmes, upgrading works on Reserves, Homemaker and youth activities. In this respect we are grateful for the back-up we received from officers of our specialist units. The Social Worker attached to the Divisional Headquarters proved invaluable in providing support services for the field staff and, with the Divisional Assistant, provided an essential relieving service in a country office which at one stage was completely without staff.

GOLDFIELDS DIVISION

The past year has seen a consolidation of the Division's staff resources into three major centres, namely Kalgoorlie, Laverton and Esperance. The offices at Leonora and Warburton have been officially closed as permanent posts but continue to be staffed on a regular part time basis by officers stationed at Laverton. By the end of the year three Field Officers had been appointed to Laverton. For part of the year three officers have also been working from the Esperance Office enabling increased Departmental participation in new areas of work with the local community and the opportunity of developing the Department's role in assisting the increasing numbers of families and individuals who are travelling to Western Australia by road following the opening of the new Eyre Highway. In the Kalgoorlie/Boulder area, a high staff turnover, together with staff shortages, has made it difficult to develop new projects. In general, officers have focused on preventive and statutory work with families and young people, with participation wherever possible in community development and planning with the co-operation of a variety of interested local bodies.

Laverton

For the latter six months of the year, Laverton has had only one officer to cover the Laverton/Leonora area in conjunction with a Welfare Assistant and three

Homemakers. Work has been undertaken mainly with wards and in the placement of children. For the first six months of the year a successful youth group was organised by the Department. The services of the Department have continued to be provided to the Aboriginal communities at Mt. Margaret and Cosmo Newberry. Departmental representation has been invited by the Shire on a local committee aimed at assisting in the provision of adequate community facilities to meet the needs of elderly and itinerant Aboriginal groups in the area.

The Homemaker service continues to be an important part of the Department's role and group activities have commenced at Mt. Margaret and are planned for Laverton where the Department's community hall provides an ideal location for recreational and craft/educational activities. The recent welcomed appointment of a Department of Aboriginal Affairs Community Adviser, and the increase of the Department's own staff complement to three Field Officers, hopefully may allow expansion of our role in the area. In particular more preventive work with families and development of community facilities e.g. child care services in Laverton and a regular service to the newly developing township of Leinster (Agnew) are being considered.

Leonora

A service has been provided to Leonora from the Laverton Office on two days a week for the past year and it is anticipated that this will continue unless the demand changes. The Reserve continues to be used primarily by visiting Aboriginals from the outlying stations and the Department has been fortunate in being able to employ the Leonora Aboriginal Movement Body in maintaining this facility.

New Hostel Managers and Assistants were appointed to Nabberu Hostel at the beginning of 1977 and the hostel, providing accommodation for up to twenty primary school Aboriginal children has had almost a full complement for most of the 1977 school year.

Esperance

The three Field Officers currently at Esperance, together with a Welfare Assistant at Norseman, provide a service to approximately 15 000 people in an area from Hopetoun to Eucla (including Norseman). At the end of June 1977, 109 State wards and 235 other cases including preventive welfare, monetary assistance, fostering, adoption and family counselling were active. Departmental officers have also been active in liaising with the local community in developing marriage guidance and citizens advice facilities as well as assisting in the development of local groups catering for specific needs e.g. Aboriginal children's playgroup, single parents group. Officers have been more directly involved in developing facilities such as foster parents and family and day care services for pre-school children. Action by Departmental staff has brought together various State bodies in an attempt to overcome housing problems of the Aboriginals camping at Bandy Creek.

The completion of the bitumenised road across the Nullabor has led to increasing referrals from the Eucla to Norseman area. A high level of co-operation with the police has resulted and has led to increased demands of staff. A service is provided to Norseman from Esperance for two days each week.

Kambalda

The demands placed upon the Department by this mining community have increased to the point where a full time officer, assisted by two Homemakers, now operates in the town. It is envisaged that an additional officer will be appointed in the next year and negotiations are already in hand to provide improved accommodation and office facilities. A large percentage of the work involves individual and family counselling, with additional responsibilities in the areas of fostering and adoption. There is also a high degree of involvement in community projects. In conjunction with the Community Development Officer and representatives of the local groups, emphasis has been given to developing child care facilities. Family care centres have developed and are to be co-ordinated by a local committee in conjunction with the Shire. A highly successful play-group at the caravan park has been assisted financially by the Department and is supported by having Departmental representation on the committee.

The Homemakers provide not only an important service to families but have also contributed to community development in organising a personal grooming class for teenage girls and contributing towards the development of the centres mentioned above.

Kalgoorlie/Boulder

In spite of limitations imposed by staff shortages and changes, officers in Kalgoorlie have continued to participate in the development of community resources as well as fulfilling more defined statutory obligations.

The Eastern Goldfields Liaison Group has been active during the year. It is currently focusing on a Youth Support Scheme to assist the large numbers of teenage unemployed, and in providing assistance to expand and relocate shelter and accommodation for the fringe dwelling, itinerant Aborigines.

Visits have continued to transline communities and effective teamwork has been developed between Department for Community Welfare and other personal service agencies visiting the line. A series of foster homes has been established along the line to provide emergency care.

Kurrawang Mission, with the assistance of Departmental funding, have moved into two cottage homes within the town area. Hopefully this trend will continue thus enabling the children in their care to experience more interaction with the local community. Kurrawang are also considering the need to provide short term fostering of Aboriginal children for medical reasons.

The office in Kalgoorlie continues to receive a steady stream of foster parent and adoption applicants. However, it is still difficult to find placements for older children. The one group home within Kalgoorlie is an immensely valuable asset, as it offers care to mentally handicapped babies as well as children of all age groups.

The three Departmental hostels in Kalgoorlie continue to maintain close links with field staff and provide a flexible resource that is greatly appreciated. Nindeebai, the high school hostel, currently has thirty-two residents, many from the Central Reserves. Homesickness and re-adjustment has been a problem and encouragement has been given to families to

visit whenever possible. The working boys and working girls hostels have approximately eight and four residents respectively. In addition both hostels provide temporary accommodation for an increasing number of young people passing through Kalgoorlie en route to Perth or the Eastern States. Employment, particularly for non-Aboriginal teenagers and Aboriginal girls, is becoming a grave problem in a town where the primary industry of gold mining is currently depressed.

The Homemaker Service presently has four staff and continues to provide assistance to families and, in conjunction with interested clients, run a centre for group activities in Adeline. This centre is located in the middle of a State Housing development and is seen as a facility to be used by other community groups e.g. progress association, children's activity groups.

The Department continues to provide a service to Cunderlee Mission and has again financially supported the provision of water in a time of prolonged drought.

This year financial assistance from the Community Welfare Assistance Vote has been given to the Marriage Guidance and Citizens Advice Bureau in Esperance, the Kambalda Caravan Park Association and the Isolated Children's Group.

The Goldfields Division seconded a member of staff to Perth in May to undergo further training prior to returning to the Division as a Psychologist. The valuable services of the Senior Social Worker were also lost during the year. Hopefully with this latter position filled and the return of the Psychologist, the Goldfields Division can look forward to a full staff complement for 1977/78.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

During the past year Southern Division has maintained its emphasis on community support services and co-ordination and co-operation with voluntary welfare services.

Although staff limitations have restricted extension of services much beyond statutory responsibilities, a number of community development projects have been implemented by field staff within their local districts. Extension of playgroups, after-school care, and holiday activities have proceeded with funds obtained from State and Commonwealth grants.

The employment of a Community Development Officer within the Division has provided greater emphasis on social research, as well as establishing continuity and support for private local groups to cater for their perceived needs.

Southern Division encompasses a geographic area involving over thirty Local Government boundaries. Within these boundaries wide variations of emphasis and contact with individual and community problems exist which re-inforce the need for regional services in tune with these variations.

Bunbury

The Divisional Office at Bunbury is now able to provide office facilities which more appropriately ensure clients a satisfactory environment in which to express their needs.

Services to outlying areas within this district have increased, notably to Busselton and Margaret River. An officer now spends 2-3 days per week serving these towns.

Continued support and encouragement has been given to co-operation with voluntary community groups. The employment of a Community Development Officer has assisted such groups to develop programmes and attract funding for various projects, such as youth support schemes, job training and cottage industries.

Child care has also been emphasised. Canowindra group home functions have been extended to temporary care and conferencing of children, including increased parental involvement in this process. Currently a foster group programme is being developed which will be based on Canowindra with the intention that this facility can be assisted by a voluntary association, as well as provide the focus for foster parent training in this district.

The employment of a Peer Group Leader has assisted in providing holiday activities for children who may otherwise have been at a loose end. This programme was well received by parents and children and considerable requests for continued projects of this nature have been forthcoming.

Homemaker activities have now been extended by opening an additional centre for social, cultural and domestic training activities at Brunswick Junction. Two such centres now operate within the district, supported by part time Homemaker staff. The importance of these centres cannot be over-emphasised as the group process which is used provides the users with new appreciation of the available services of the Department, as well as a sense of group unity and individual assistance from people with similar experiences.

Collie

This office continues to provide a model for integrated Aboriginal/European projects.

The Homemaker Services have again provided children's Christmas parties, holiday camps, community dances and fashion parades which have been attended by both cultural groups. This has further enhanced understanding, co-operation and support between people of Aboriginal and European descent.

A Departmental group home supported by the Collie Welfare Council has now been purchased which will cater for child placement needs of Aboriginal children previously managed in an *ad hoc* manner. It is the first such facility to have Aboriginal group foster parents and the active involvement of a local community group which recognises the need to disperse responsibility for Community Welfare matters more evenly between Government agencies and citizens.

The Pensioner Rehousing Scheme to accommodate people who previously overcrowded relatives' homes, or camped in tents and shanties on the outskirts of Collie is now under way. Transportable homes of designs selected with tenant involvement are beginning to arrive on site and domestic support services for the frail and invalid individuals who will take up tenancy are currently being established. This project has now taken two years to reach this stage and it is hoped that it can be a prototype for accommodating those people who are unable to avail themselves of other housing.

Manjimup

Despite the limitations imposed by limited representations and the demands made by normal statutory services the Department has placed considerable emphasis on mutual and voluntary support services in this district.

A youth group has been established at Nannup, which caters for forty children three nights a week. This project is run by a Peer Group Leader who also conducts other activities with the youth in that town. School holiday activity programmes were also conducted but continued development in this area is contingent on the availability of staff and funding.

The Mobile Resource Centre continues to function and has extended services to playgroups, after-school care and holiday activities. Equipment has now been provided which allows rotational lending of items which can develop social and educational opportunities for participants in the programme. This project in particular is of major interest because of the co-ordinated role between the Pre-School Board, Department for Community Welfare and voluntary agencies, as well as providing a facility to isolated communities which would otherwise be centralised in Manjimup. The playgroups which were stimulated by this project are now advancing to greater independence. Community participation has reached the point of applying for incorporation which in the future will result in programmes of this nature being properly community initiated and based.

The uncertainty regarding mill town communities and their problems was tested with a social survey resulting in the development of an after-school activity centre at Nyamup.

Unemployment for teenage girls remains a very real problem throughout the Manjimup district. To overcome this and to provide job training and incentive a Youth Support Scheme has been implemented similar to the Bunbury scheme. Already teenagers have been placed in permanent employment following inclusion in this scheme.

Katanning

This office now has begun to consolidate country welfare services. The facilities at Katanning which include a group home, working boys hostel, scatter cottage and Homemaker Centre, provide the greatest range of services available to an inland country town.

Efforts by field staff have been focused on ensuring that Departmental welfare services can be implemented and carried out with the maximum local content. The group home which was developed during this year is in line with this perspective and now ensures that child care and assessment utilises local Divisional resources rather than the remote facilities of the metropolitan area.

The Christmas and Cocos Island population of Katanning have been serviced by employment of a Christmas Islander as a Welfare Assistant. This appointment has enabled Islanders to communicate with Western Australian institutions. Interpreter and liaison activities between parents and school teachers has helped overcome some communication problems between pupils and teachers. The Island community utilise this service extensively.

The employment of an Aboriginal Welfare Aide who serves both Katanning and Gnowangerup districts has improved Department for Community Welfare communication and relationships with Aboriginal clientele. The Welfare Aide in particular has focused on re-establishing contact of Mission children with parents and kin to the extent that almost every child currently in Marribank Mission has some outside contact with interested adults. This is a major achievement and will assist in future planning for those children who previously had their family experiences limited to the Mission environment.

Gnowangerup

This district last year included three of the four remaining Aboriginal Reserves and has been the most effected by the Special Reserve Rehousing project. At present the Borden Reserve is closed and previous tenants now rehoused in new transportable accommodation within the Borden townsite. Transportable houses are also on site in Tambellup which will effectively close the Tambellup Reserve in July 1977.

Gnowangerup Reserve now remains the only existing fringe residential setting within Southern Division and efforts will be made during the next year to examine means to progressively close this Reserve.

Considerable problems have been experienced with school avoidance by Aboriginal children. A Liaison Committee between Department for Community Welfare and the Gnowangerup school has assisted to some extent, but provision of an Educational Welfare Officer to the district would further reduce the incidence of truancy.

Homemaker programmes continue to provide social, educational and cultural learning opportunities for Department for Community Welfare clientele. Aboriginal parents have been encouraged to form committees which represent their views and needs concerning services provided by various institutions.

Holiday camps and activities have been provided in conjunction with the Girl Guides as well as continued successful operation of kindergarten, pre-school and playgroups to cater for the needs of children within the district.

Albany

The Albany Office was relocated in new premises during this year. This has resulted in improved conditions for staff and clientele as well as more effectively planned facilities that are utilised by a wide range of community groups.

A sub-office has also been opened at Denmark, which now provides an effective contact point for the Denmark population to utilise the services of the Department.

The Homemaker Service has expanded its functions and continued emphasis is placed on representation and involvement with community groups.

Special projects which have been developed include rehousing of Aboriginal Reserve residents, as well as full involvement of field staff on the State Counter Disaster Committees.

Community development work in the Albany district is being assisted by the Divisional Community Development Officer, who is currently co-ordinating efforts in that district.

PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICE— SOUTHERN DIVISION

Direct requests to the Psychologist in the Bunbury district reflect the extent to which other agencies and, increasingly, individuals are aware of this service.

As in previous years, many referrals were made by Community and Child Health Sisters, schools and Guidance Officers, and medical practitioners, but becoming more common is the parent who learns of the service through a neighbour or relative who has previously had help with a child. One of the services most in demand is the equipment available for enuretic children.

Wider public and professional contact was made through talks given to groups, Samaritans trainees, Child Care Certificate students, primary school teachers and a parents group organised by the Collie Child Health Sister. There was also considerable time spent in helping the Health Education Officer plan and run a programme at the Busselton High School and in participating in a locally inspired project for the co-ordination of services for the intellectually handicapped.

Outside of the Bunbury district, Psychologist contact is limited to the traditional Department referral and assessment. This is less satisfying professionally, and of limited benefit to the general population in these towns.

The practice of making assessments locally, using the facilities of group homes in Bunbury and Katanning, is proving sensible and satisfying in terms of making relevant plans for children.

There has been a welcome exchange of ideas resulting from the visit to Bunbury of Psychologists from other sections of the Department, to assist with particular problems.

GENERAL

Overall the services of the Department for Community Welfare to this region have catered for the varying needs expressed by the communities within the region.

Staff limitations and financial restrictions have hindered the desirable quick direct response which is necessary to facilitate welfare provisions in this Division.

Considerable emphasis in the future should be placed on the devolution of functions and resources to the regional level, as well as continued consolidation and refinement of the skills of field staff in responding to the needs highlighted by the communities in this Division.

Specialist Services

The specialist services of the field division are in the main concerned with providing specialist knowledge, specialist skills and specialist resources to the general field services.

Certain services such as Adoptions can more easily be provided from a central base with certain aspects being provided by local divisional staff.

By developing specialist services such as Child Life Protection, Child Placement, Homemakers and Youth Services, the Department has been able to develop a high degree of skill in these particular areas. These skills are then passed on to the general field staff by a variety of methods such as assistance from the specialists in individual cases, by rotating divisional staff through the specialist units for extended periods and by providing resources and facilities to the general divisional field staff.

The Department's Homemaker Services and Child Life Protection Unit are recognised throughout Australia as being leaders in their own particular field and constantly being studied and used as a model by other State welfare departments and voluntary agencies.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION UNIT

During the year there was heightened public interest throughout Australia on the question of child protection services and services supportive generally to the parents of young children. Contributing to this interest was a world-wide increase in knowledge about the impact of early environmental and emotional experiences on children's subsequent development, including that of the birth experience itself; also general debate about the changing role of women in society, and alternatives in child care. On an Australia-wide level the Department of Children's Services in Queensland instituted a specialist Child Protection Service. South Australia is seeking to co-ordinate existing services on a regionalised basis, as did Tasmania in 1975, and Northern Territory Administration is exploring the question of specialised protective services for women and small children. In New South Wales legislation is being prepared to make reporting of suspected accidental injury to children compulsory and specialist investigatory and treatment services are being currently set up in support of this. Western Australia, where protective services were set up in 1970, has been pleased to respond to requests for information from all these sources, with the aim of contributing to an Australia-wide network of services to support the family and child at risk.

Two officers from the Unit attended the first International Congress of Child Abuse and Neglect held in Geneva in September, 1976, and contributed a paper on developments in Western Australia in the co-ordination of health and welfare services in the management of child abuse.

Work in the Unit has this year changed a little in emphasis. With the opening of the Parents' Help Centre in North Perth in January, 1976, fewer parents have referred themselves directly to the Unit for help, but it has been encouraging to see the increased number of families referred to the Unit by general

practitioners. It is clear also that a number of health and welfare agencies in the community have gradually increased their supportive and preventive services to parents and children at risk and as a result the Unit is tending to be handling the more severe cases. Since the Unit's therapeutic and protective services are particularly geared for this kind of case, this is an appropriate development. However, a need is emerging for some co-ordination and exchanges of information between all these services, and the Department is considering ways in which this might occur.

Statistics

The Unit received 140 reports of suspected abuse to children under 6 years this year, of which ten were re-referrals. Only one report came from an anonymous source. In only 23 cases was it necessary to institute legal protective action.

Committals in the Children's Court until 16 years of age	1
Committals in the Children's Court until 6 years of age	4
Committals in the Children's Court until 8 years of age	1
Committals in the Children's Court for 2 years	10
Applications by parents to the Minister to assume guardianship of their child for a period	7
Total	23

In the remainder of these cases any risk to the children was reduced or removed by preventive and supportive assistance to the family.

In 5 more cases wardship granted earlier by the Children's Court was extended for a further period.

During the year the officers of the Child Life Protection Unit participated in 70 case conferences to plan the management of wards in the Unit's care. Increasingly this year parents have participated in these case conferences with the professional and lay workers concerned, and the results have been rewarding. In addition there were 27 organised case discussions. Fifty-four consultations with the Unit were made by other agencies concerning cases of possible injury to children under six years.

Future Developments

With the approach of regionalisation in this State it has been necessary to examine the question of the eventual provision of specialist child protective services to outlying areas of the State. Emphasis this year has been placed on support to country officers and to providing in-service training in the Unit for those interested in acquiring further skills in this area. Due to staff shortages and pressure of work in the country, this has not been easy to implement, but where it has been achieved it has produced valuable results.

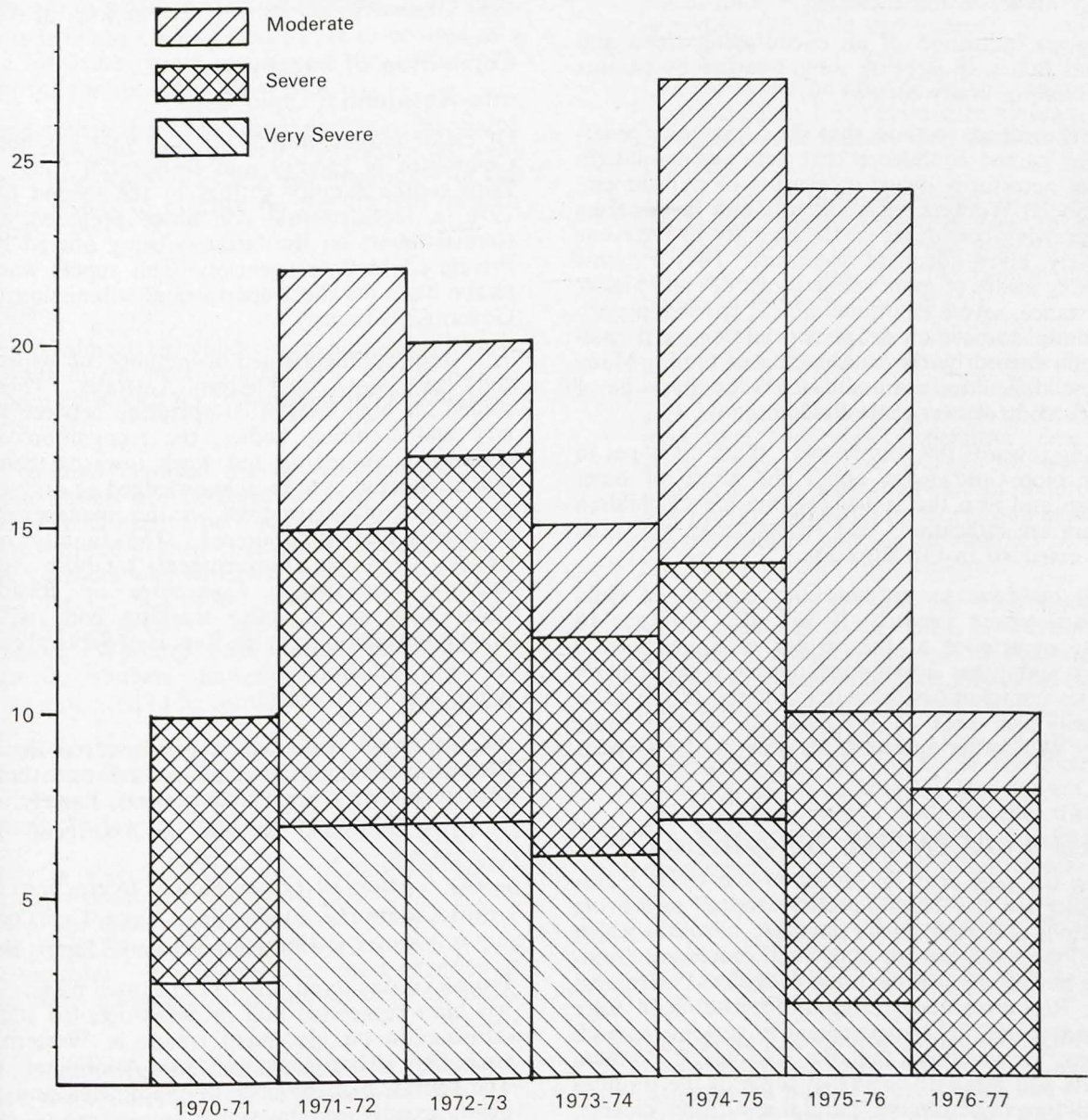
In November 1976, a seminar on child abuse was held jointly by the Unit and the local Divisions in Port Hedland and Karratha. The seminars were attended by a wide range of health, welfare and community representatives and considerable interest was shown. Due to the harsh living conditions, isolation and lack of extended family support, and also their

high mobility, young families living in outback industrial areas were quite often seen to be under stress and at risk. As a direct result of the seminar in Port Hedland a scheme of co-operation and consultation was set up between the local health and welfare services which will ensure the effective co-ordination of help and support for at risk pre-school children in this area. This was a most encouraging step forward which it is hoped will provide a model for similarly isolated areas and centres.

Some Results and Knowledge Gained from Specialisation in Child Protection

Western Australia has a high reputation throughout Australia for its forward-looking approach to child protection and to child health services in general. As the Unit's work has progressed over the past 7 years together with the close co-operation of Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, it is felt that considerable progress has been made in the prevention of non-accidental physical injury to small children and babies.

Severity of Injury in Cases in which Legal Protective Action was Taken (children under six years 1970-77)



KEY

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| (Very Severe) | (Severe) | (Moderate) |
| Skull Fractures | Limb Fractures | Moderate Bdy Bruising |
| Multiple Fractures | Severe Body Bruising | Burns and Scalds |
| Severe Facial and Body Bruising | Dislocations (severe) | Rough Handling |
| Failure to Thrive (severe) | Mild Facial Bruising | Dislocations |
| | Failure to Thrive | |
| | Severe Facial Bruising Only | |
| | Emotional Rejection | |

The Unit wishes to acknowledge the co-operation and support received from many agencies and persons without which its therapeutic and supportive work with families would be much reduced. Special mention must be made here of the co-operation given by kindergartens and pre-school centres, and the valuable support of the lay family helpers working with the Unit.

In the graph on the following page injuries to children have been classified as moderate, severe and very severe. Over a seven year period from 1970-1977 it can be seen that up to June 1973 the severity of injury increased, but from then until the present time the proportion of very severe injuries has decreased whereas the proportion of injuries classified as only moderate has increased.

This gives indication of an encouraging trend and suggests that help is being sought earlier by parents before serious injury occurs.

There is evidence to show that the community generally has gained confidence that help can be sought without necessarily incurring censure or punishment. Unit Social Workers, Psychologists and lay workers have growing confidence in their ability to intervene positively, given adequate resources. They are now becoming aware of more subtle forms of child abuse; for instance, severe emotional abuse, the inappropriate administration of drugs to children, and malnutrition caused by the withholding of food. Many of these difficulties are associated with the issue of parent's control over their children.

Looking towards the coming year, the Unit hopes to gather more knowledge about the abuse of older children and also the sexual exploitation of children as there are indications that services may well need to be extended in this direction.

It will continue to promote the concept of child advocacy where needed. It will also continue to put its experience at the service of Departmental officers and other community agencies, particularly in those communities in outlying areas of the State and will also seek to integrate its services more closely with other specialist services in the Department.

CHILD PLACEMENT SERVICE

During the past year the thrust of the Child Placement Service has been directed towards improving conditions of placement for children. Projects which Child Placement Service and Child Placement Committee have been working on include Child's Progress Book, Resources Index, Report for the Child Care Committee and field involvement in various research projects. It is hoped that the completion of these projects will bring an easing of some of the traumas for children in placement, natural and foster parents, and a more efficient utilisation of officers' time.

Child Progress Book

This concept is being developed to overcome the paucity of personal information which children under the care of the Department often have about themselves. It is envisaged that personal information would be gathered at the time of committal and entered in the book and added to by the child and future caring agents. The book would remain with the child, and hopefully enhance his self concept.

While this project is still in the preparatory stages it has received support from Divisional staff and persons concerned with child care.

Resources Index

With increasing emphasis being placed on specialisation in placement and an increasing variety of child care agencies becoming available it was considered necessary to supply officers and others working in the field with an index of available resources. The index will contain sufficient information to make an initial decision on the appropriateness of the referral.

Our thanks go to the members of the Standing Committee on Child Care of the Council of Social Services (W.A. Branch) who are assisting in this matter.

Committee of Inquiry into Residential Child Care

Of major interest during the past year has been the Committee of Inquiry into Residential Child Care. Prior to the Inquiry sittings in the second half of 1976, a Departmental committee prepared a substantial report on the facilities being offered by the Private Child Care agencies. This report was used as the basis for the Departmental submission to the Government Inquiry.

This Inquiry highlighted a number of aspects of child care work in Western Australia. These included the high level of co-operation between voluntary and statutory bodies, the recognition of the need to set standards and work towards them and that residential care be acknowledged as only one of a number of alternatives in the management of children's care programmes. The Inquiry recommended that the Government establish without delay a Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care as an active working body with the functions as outlined in the Report of September 1976.

Research

Another major area which has involved the Child Placement Service is that of research and there has been involvement with four projects, namely:—

- (i) A Statistical Review of Aboriginal Foster Care.
- (ii) A Study of Foster Family Interactions
- (iii) Caseworker Prediction of Foster Care Outcome
- (iv) Foster Care Recruitment and Support Service.

Project (i) was to be carried out in two parts. Part I has been completed and provides detailed statistical information on placement trends in Western Australia for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal wards. The overall high number of placements and movements experienced by wards, regardless of race, is significant and suggests crisis and hurried placement management. Reduction of the high number of foster placements per child and the migration of Aboriginal wards to the Perth area is recommended.

Project (ii) was designed to compare the interaction patterns within successful foster family placements with those of unsuccessful foster placements and "normal" control families. Automatic video equipment was used to record families interactions at mealtimes and a range of behaviours were rated. Unsuccessful and successful placements as classified

by officers are not significantly different in terms of behavioural interactions and it seems that this project may have contributed more to clarifying methodological problems than to clarifying interaction hypotheses.

Project (iii) aims to find out what, if any, specific variables caseworkers use in making their decisions and predictions in relation to placement. By comparing predictions with outcome, by examining the extent of agreement between caseworkers and by comparing predictions made with cues specified and unspecified it is hoped that the components of the decision-making process will be clarified.

Project (iv) is being organised and run by the Uniting Church in conjunction with the Department. Congregations of the Uniting Church are to be used as a source for foster parent recruitment and for support groups for the recruited foster parents.

It is clear that there are many problems associated with child placement and only by means of well-designed research studies and the integration of the obtained results to practice on the job will they be resolved.

Hostels

A total of almost 150 children are accommodated in 14 hostels in the metropolitan area. These hostels have been developed for educational and employment opportunities.

Most children involved are of Aboriginal descent and the hostels are designed to meet their needs. Hostel parents extend personal contact at all times and are assisted in their endeavours by field staff as well as teachers who supervise students' homework. Visiting Health Sisters are mainly concerned with the health aspects and the health education of hostels' population. Working boys' hostel experienced a decline in numbers, however more facilities for working girls need to be considered in the near future.

Throughout the past year the Child Placement Service has continued to support the production of the Foster Parent Newsletter. This is now a regular and useful forum for information.

Progress is still made towards refining techniques for group assessment of foster parents. Several divisions are experimenting with a variety of procedures which combine information giving, training and assessment. It is hoped that these experiences will result in a more appropriate selection of foster parents.

Child Placement Service still has not effectively reached the country offices. Plans are in hand for some country visits to provide information and support to those District Officers who face the whole gambit of child placement responsibility with few resources at hand.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

The Early Childhood Services Unit comprises a multi-disciplinary team of nine Advisers, to supervise, advise and develop day care services which conform to the licensing requirements of the Child Welfare (Care Centre) Regulations 1968.

The past year has entailed consolidation after rapid growth characterised by an increasing co-operation with a variety of individuals and groups. This co-operation is essential if a choice of Early Childhood Services is to develop to serve pre-school children and their families.

Some of the groups with which the Unit works are as follows:—

1. Local Authorities, Church Groups, Committees and staff of centres which receive Commonwealth funding through the Office of Child Care and provide day care services for children in need. There are now 15 of these centres in the metropolitan area providing 687 child care places and in the country there are 4 centres providing 135 child care places.
2. The licensees and staff of private Day Care Centres which number 63 in the metropolitan area providing 1 639 child care places. There are also two centres in Geraldton and two in Bunbury.
3. The Family Care Mothers who are licensed by the Early Childhood Services Unit to provide homely care for four or five children in their own homes. There are 142 family day care homes in the metropolitan area.
4. There is an increasing number of community groups providing or working towards day care services. The Unit has been working with such groups in the mining centres of the Pilbara, Kambalda, Moora and Esperance. One of the needs which all these groups are seeking to meet is for the occasional care of children that will provide opportunities for group experience for the children and for the mothers to have a few hours without their children.
5. The personnel of the Office of Child Care work very closely with the Unit in advising and assisting community groups in defining their goals and establishing their eligibility for possible Commonwealth funding.
6. The Pre-School Health Team of the Child Health Services is responsible for the health screening of all children in Day Care Centres and the Unit works very closely with this team in assisting centres with the health and developmental care of individual children.
7. The Early Childhood Services Unit co-operates with the Advisory Team of the Pre-School Board and there is reciprocal assistance between the Unit's team and the staff of the Child Care Certificate Course.
8. The Technical Education Division employs a part time Tutor to co-ordinate the Child Care Attendant Course. This introductory course designed for untrained staff working in Day Care Centres and for Family Care Mothers is now in its second year of operation. The Tutor works closely with members of the Unit who contribute to the theoretical and practical components of the course.

In the year under review, the most significant trends are:—

1. The development of Early Childhood Services in the Pilbara, where there is a high pre-school population. A full time Early Childhood Services Adviser has been appointed in Port

Hedland to develop family day care and thus supplement the service provided by the existing Day Care Centre.

The Shire of Roebourne is building Day Care Centres at Karratha and Wickham assisted by funds from the community and from the Office of Child Care of the Department of Social Security.

Part time Co-ordinators are being appointed in Karratha, Tom Price and Newman to assist the communities in identifying the extent of their needs for day care, family care, occasional care and after school care.

A Regional Adviser for the Pilbara is being appointed to act as a liaison between the resources of the Early Childhood Services Unit and staff and community groups in the Pilbara.

2. One of the Senior Advisers of the Unit is responsible for the development of further family day care in Western Australia. The Unit's supports to existing family day care centres have increased with the development of two toy loaning schemes, newsletters and meetings. The local authorities of Wanneroo and Coolgardie have been assisted towards establishing family day care schemes funded by the Office of Child Care.

3. The second Senior Adviser is responsible for the consolidation and building up of the educational resources of the Unit with the aim of increasing continuing education opportunities for trained and experienced staff in Day Care Centres during the coming years.

Statistics

As at June 30, 1977.

	Metropolitan Area		Country Areas		Total	
	Centres	Children	Centres	Children	Centres	Children
Government Subsidised Centres—						
Day Care Centres	15	687	4	135	19	822
Occasional Care Centres	4	125	1	25	5	150
	19	812	5	160	24	972
Private Day Care Centres—						
Day Care Centres	63	1 639	4	115	67	1 754
Occasional Care Centres	4	85	....	....	4	85
	67	1 724	4	115	71	1 839
Non-Profit Centres—						
Day Care Centres ....	....	....	4	75	4	75
Occasional Care Centres	7	215	1	15	8	230
	7	215	5	90	12	305
Family Care Centres	142	597	14	56	156	653
Total	235	3 348	28	421	263	3 769

HOMEMAKER SERVICE

Throughout the State, Homemakers work in a support and teaching capacity, visiting individual families and encouraging group activities where appropriate. They continue to work towards breaking down the feelings of isolation commonly experienced by many young families, particularly single-parent families in State Housing Commission flats. Homemakers are doing this by encouraging increased participation and involvement in supportive self-help group activities, such as educative, creative and recreational programmes for both parents and children at the community level.

Other group activities develop because Homemakers see these as being beneficial to women who may not only be isolated and have feelings of inadequacy, but who are experiencing difficulties with finances,

finding adequate housing and communicating with their family. Group activities have the potential to be an arena where skills are developed and shared, thus leading to a sense of effectiveness, by bringing people together and focussing on their strengths.

The Community Homemaker programme for rural and urban Aboriginal groups has been a very exciting and successful tool in community development programmes. Some Aboriginal communities have temporarily suspended their Homemaker programme and have done so because the necessary enabler was not available. It is a principle of Community Homemaking that the programme be only commenced when a suitable enabler is available to the community, either from within its own membership or from outside. A group representing homeless Aborigines in the Perth metropolitan area was given assistance to start its own Community Homemaker programme.

Community Homemakers this year have worked towards the provision of school lunch programmes, laundry and kitchen facilities, care of children and frail aged.

During the year the Department's Reserve Rehousing Scheme received an allocation of housing funds through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to rehouse families from six Camping Reserves in the south west of the State into transportable housing in their related towns. The scheme grew out of ideas exchanged at Homemaker training programmes and aims to break into the cycle of poverty experienced by people with inadequate and/or inappropriate housing. Homemakers put forward the needs and ideas of the families and these were incorporated in the total rehousing scheme. The programme emphasises the involvement of families in determining the style of housing and the families have been able to select the block on which they will live, their preferred type of house, the furnishings and the type of heating. Homemakers and supervising field staff and in part the Homemaker Service unit have invested a great deal of time and effort into this scheme and have successfully helped in the rehousing of some thirty families. The scheme has an inbuilt evaluation study and Homemakers have also been involved in the design of this study administered by the Clinical Psychologist attached to the Homemaker Service.

The service continues to be seen as one of the models in Australia in the field of preventive and supportive family welfare and associated activities. Over the past twelve months visits have been received from representatives of both State Government and private agencies who have been seeking information and assistance in the implementation of a similar service. A Specialist Officers' Conference of people supervising or setting up Homemaker Services was held in Perth in June 1977. Government and private agencies' representatives from this and other States attended the three-and-a-half day programme and shared the information gathered and expertise developed by colleagues and Homemakers in various agencies throughout Australia.

Contact visits are also made by the Homemaker Service to welfare agencies and educational institutions in Western Australia and also in other States. In August 1976 a member of the Homemaker Service unit spent a week with the Brotherhood of St. Laurence at the Action Resource Centre (previously known as the Family Centre) in Fitzroy, Victoria. The Centre was initiated by the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and from observations of the work done there and from the research carried out by the Brotherhood, some useful ideas and concepts were brought back for local development. Such exchange visits are seen as very necessary to the continuing learning and sharing process in the development of the Homemaker Service.

It is also believed by members of the unit that, as well as the normal contact visits to the Divisions in the role of consultants, it is necessary to get back to field work at regular intervals. During 1976 a member of the unit spent four weeks in a country Division carrying out Homemaker training and supervision as well as being involved in routine field staff duties and community development work. The unit hopes to extend these activities so that each member has the opportunity to keep in touch with the reality of clients' needs and goals as well as the pressures experienced by field staff. Regionalisation of the

Department will no doubt make such prolonged visits even more desirable and probably more effective in maintaining contact with field staff and Homemakers.

In May 1977, the first, and until then only, Supervisor of the Department's Homemaker Service resigned. The growth of the service and its effectiveness, its insistence on client-oriented goals and standards as well as the moulding of an effective force of part time workers has been in a large part due to the efforts of the former Social Work Supervisor, Mrs. Jenny Hewett.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH UNIT

The Planning and Research Unit was formally constituted in May 1977. It is essentially a consolidation of various planning, research and statistical resources within the Department. At strength, the Unit consists of a Social Planning Consultant, a Research Clinical Psychologist, a Social Planner, Clerk (Statistics) and Typist.

Effectiveness in planning and research activities seems assured by this important development. A well functioning Unit should assist in the effective use and evaluation of manpower and fiscal resources.

The Unit pursues three principal roles—

1. It monitors events and trends in the social welfare field, provides analysis of those events and develops alternatives for future programmes.
2. It effects a range of research aimed at developing information about the way in which services meet needs. In this way the Unit provides complementary information to that provided by the Accountant.
3. The Unit's personnel act as a methodological resource in project evaluation, field based research and other project initiatives.

In the short time since the unit was formed it has performed a number of major tasks which are indicative of the roles outlined above. Some of these operations were under way prior to establishment and were taken over following the Unit's inception. They include—

- The analysis and dissemination of information on the Report of the Task Force on co-ordination in Health and Welfare. This document (also known as the Bailey Report) makes recommendations regarding proposed administrative arrangements for the funding of welfare programmes at the Commonwealth, State and local level.
- The presentation of a submission to the State Planning and Co-ordinating Authority on the need for a social impact study into the possible effects of industrial and resource development on the Kimberley Aboriginal population.
- The development of a system for the collection of welfare statistics and the use of that data for effective forward planning. The Unit has been liaising with the National Working Party on Welfare Statistics in its undertaking to examine the standardisation and adequacy of social welfare statistics.

- Guidelines have been developed, and a model contract drafted to cover the circumstances surrounding the contracting of research consultants.
- A handbook on submission writing has been prepared by Planning and Research Unit staff. This practical resource is being distributed widely within the Department with a view to eventually improving processes associated with the generation of programme ideas.
- Finally, the Unit has overseen the publication of an internal newsletter which presents analysis and information to decision-makers in the Department. Material covered has included census data extraction, progress reports on work in progress and various discussion papers. As a service to senior staff this publication would seem to have been of considerable assistance.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Psychologists in the Department provide services to institutions and also as members of a team in field and community settings. During this year the Psychology Branch has increased its service to country regions. Besides the Psychologist already located at Bunbury, two others are now located in the Kimberley (Kununurra) and Goldfields (Kalgoorlie). In the regions where there are no permanently based staff, metropolitan based Psychologists provide regular consultative service. It is planned to locate Psychologists permanently in the remaining country divisions as soon as staff become available.

Psychologists have improved and upgraded their personal service to the community by extending their range of skills. This has been achieved through a comprehensive training scheme concentrating on specialised assessment, treatment and community development/facilitation skills.

In conjunction with Social Workers and Welfare Officers, Psychologists are involved in many Departmental programmes. Some examples follow

Psychological Services to the Peer Group Programme (S.O.F.T.L.Y.)

The peer group programme for juvenile offenders has been expanded this year, and at present there are groups operating in the metropolitan area from Balga, Fremantle and Mt. Hawthorn Divisions, and in several country areas.

The aim of the programme is to help young offenders function within their community and learn to use community resources in a constructive way. Each small group meets about two nights per week for ten weeks with an adult "facilitator", whose job is not to direct, but to guide the children in making responsible decisions about the use of their leisure time. In this way they are encouraged to develop their social skills, and general ability to function in society. Thus, new options are presented and the children's rights to self-determination are respected whilst at the same time encouraging consideration of the rights of others.

A research evaluation of the success of the peer groups has now been started. This involves detailed testing of the children's social skills before the peer

group and thereafter at six monthly intervals. Preliminary results indicate that the rate of offending decreases for a period following the peer group. However, further work is needed to evaluate the long term effects of the programme.

Psychological Services to Riverbank

The transition from the more traditional institutional programme that emphasised obedience training to a structured systematic learning programme has developed over a number of years. The environment is a therapeutic one producing observable changes in the boys' behaviour and simplifying staff management and control. Length of stay within the institution has been significantly reduced and the main thrust of treatment is moving progressively beyond the physical limits of the institution and into the community.

The present treatment programme is currently under review. The intention of this review is to—

1. build in evaluation
2. facilitate transfer of learned skills to new situations and environments
3. cater for boys confined to Riverbank for lengthy periods by Court recommendations.

The programme is flexible enough to individualise treatment, thereby allowing a boy to function and develop at his own pace. Most problems can be handled within the "points system" but treatment is undertaken for specific difficulties like alcoholism. A Departmental Psychologist also visited Riverbank to conduct "assertive training" with a group of the boys. It is hoped this experimental project will stimulate discussion and research into application of these procedures in settings such as Riverbank.

The Riverbank Psychologist works closely with the Teachers in the institution as a consultant for the development of Community Survival skills training and to demonstrate behaviour modification in the classroom.

Research

This has aimed at development of a typology of offenders and matching of these to specific types of after care. Other areas to be pursued are the evaluation of after care effectiveness and data collection of demographic and epidemiological features of crime in the juvenile offender population.

Psychological Services to the Child Life Protection Unit

During the past year the Unit has had the services of a part time Clinical Psychologist and a full time Psychologist. Six Master of Clinical Psychology students have also worked under supervision in the Unit.

The role of the Psychologist is an evolving one. The major role has been the assessment of the needs of individual children in relation to the child's current environment (family, institution, foster family, kindergarten, hospital, etc.) and participation in a team intervention approach in association with Social Workers and lay-professionals. Varied intervention techniques have been used—the range included play therapy for the child; modelling appropriate behaviour for parents; behavioural contracts between

child and parent (or foster parent, family member, institutional worker, teacher); lecturing and participation in a wide range of groups including Homemakers, child care workers, Nurses and tenants' groups.

Unit Psychologists have increasingly participated with other Unit workers in special areas related to child protective work. Examples are psychological and emotional abuse; early parent-child interaction difficulties and bonding; problems of separation and sensitive handling of arrangements to provide children with suitable alternative care with adequate provision for development or substitute attachments. The community may define and look upon as abuse some child-caring difficulties experienced by certain groups such as single parent State Housing tenants, welfare recipients and ex-wards. However, this view is seldom accurate.

These groups experience the powerlessness, social isolation and general relationship and sex-role difficulties related to wider societal and socio-economic factors. They require services emphasising community development and supports by community agencies rather than services from a specialist agency dealing specifically with child abuse. Where some parents from these groups do have difficulties and need the help provided by the Unit, the use of the following techniques has been valuable: assertiveness counselling, therapeutic use of day care facilities, participation in community groups, the inclusion of parents in case conference planning, and the use of a wide range of health care and support services.

A research project was undertaken with the support of eight abusing families currently using the services of the Unit. Eight families agreed to a video being placed in their home and each family operated the equipment and made five tapes of their own family during meal times. Four trained raters used a complex rating scale of 25 behaviour categories which are currently being computer analysed and compared to videotapes made by eight non-abusing families.

Some preliminary findings indicate the serious position of the abused child within the family, that overall interaction in abusing families is less than in non-abusing families and that abusing parents do not clearly differentiate for their children between what is acceptable behaviour and what is non-acceptable behaviour. Thus their children are not helped to learn how to behave correctly. Further work on this study is proceeding.

General Comment

In all areas of their work, including those described above, Psychologists have emphasised an early treatment-training approach in order to prevent problems occurring, or to prevent mild problems from becoming severe and protracted. Where rehabilitation has been necessary they have continually updated their methods and techniques, developing new methods where appropriate. It is envisaged that current and future services to the community will continue in this direction.

YOUTH ACTIVITY SERVICES

During this year the Youth Activity Services Unit provided advice and administrative support to field staff regarding their work with young people; monitored and co-ordinated the work the Department is

doing with small groups in the community; supervised a personal development programme for juvenile probationers; organised weekend programmes for teenagers at the Department's Port Kennedy Beach Camp, and liaised with other statutory and voluntary agencies working with youth and other community groups.

The Commonwealth Government Office of Child Care funded activity based Departmental programmes to the extent of \$11 145. This enabled staff to complement existing plans involving children under the notice of the Department in group activities.

There has been much research and discussion regarding factors that may have some effect in causing delinquency in general. Although each case needs to be considered individually and it cannot be said that there is any one general cause of delinquency, it is generally agreed that peer group influences and neighbourhood facilities (or lack of them) are important factors which affect or encourage delinquency. For this reason the Department has encouraged the continued development of work with small groups in the community. At the end of the period under review there were nine Peer Group Leaders operating in the Perth metropolitan region and five in country areas. The Peer Group Leaders operate programmes which adhere to the self determination philosophy of the S.O.F.T.L.Y. (Social Options for Teenagers Like You) Programme.

The S.O.F.T.L.Y. Programme Leader works with small local groups during their free time for about 2-4 hours once or twice per week. The Leader (enabler) encourages the children to consider alternatives which would normally be available. They decide on particular activities, plan how the activity is to be organised, share the tasks involved in setting it up and then carry out their plan. The programme aims to help the children develop an awareness of the existing options in their neighbourhood; learn the skills needed to gain access to their options, or to create further relevant options; make appropriate choices and, in doing so, experience the effects of their choice on themselves and on others and, having made their choice, plan and put into effect responsible behaviour. The programme is currently being evaluated and empirical information regarding its effectiveness should be available soon.

The youth classes organised for the benefit of boys on probation continued to be well used by the staff responsible for supervising the child's Probation Agreement. The classes take place each Monday and Thursday evening. In addition to the Department's own facilities we were grateful that the Y.M.C.A. of Perth enabled us to use one of their city buildings. Attendance at the youth class programme is one of the few fundamental requirements of most Probation Agreements and plays an important role in assisting juveniles to accept their responsibilities during the probation period. The Department is most grateful for the excellent work being done by Mr. J. M. Forde who, since 1957, has been effectively organising the programme as one of his avenues of community service.

As recorded in the previous Annual Report the Department's Port Kennedy Beach Camp, located on the Port Kennedy Reserve south of Warnbro, commenced operation in January 1976. During the past twelve months 27 separate programmes ranging from 2 to 5 days duration were conducted at Port

Kennedy. More than 20 volunteer workers, in addition to involvement by the Department's staff (mostly in their own time) made it possible for over 500 attendances to be recorded at these programmes. The volunteer Group Leaders (who are paid an honorarium relatively small considering the time they give) attend training sessions and are constantly evaluating their contribution to the Kennedy Programme. The programme is activity based but its actual function is to use the activities and informal atmosphere as a means of providing experiences which will help the children relate effectively to their peers and to adults; enable them to make decisions and accept responsibility for their decisions and where appropriate involve them in a social training programme. During the year the children voluntarily participated in work to improve the Centre as well as participating in community work outside of Port Kennedy Beach Camp.

At the end of the year the Department relinquished the control it had over a small portion of the old State Immigration Centre at Point Walter. The Department's history of involvement in this site has been a long one and more recently it has been successfully used as a means of providing valuable experiences for disadvantaged children. The site's close proximity to the central business districts of Perth and Fremantle and leisure time opportunities, make it an ideal centre especially for country children and children in need of specialist care. The control of the complete site has been reverted to the Melville City Council who has leased it to the Community Recreation Council. It is the Department's intention to continue to use the Centre under a co-operative arrangement with the Community Recreation Council.

An important task of the Youth Activity Services Unit is liaison with Government and voluntary agencies providing services to young people. The Department has effective liaison with the Community Recreation Council with representation at Council level as well as active participation on the Council's Committee structures. In addition, close contact was maintained with the Office of Child Care and the Out-of-School Child Care Association, and numerous voluntary agencies.

ADOPTIONS BRANCH

In February an officer was appointed to the newly created International Adoption Section of the Department. This unit was set up as an advisory and consultative body to assist the Department in the complexities of overseas adoptions. The Adoptions Branch field staff numbers were consequently reduced by one.

Decision making processes during the year were changed to allow greater participation in important decisions within the Branch. A notable development has been the establishment of the Adoptions Application Committee consisting of the Assistant Director (Welfare), Chief of Welfare Services, Chief Clinical Psychologist and the Senior Supervisor Adoptions. This Committee meets when necessary to discuss cases of an unusual or special nature. This Committee commenced in August 1976 and had considered 24 cases during the year.

The Medical Advisory Panel has continued to be invaluable as a consultative body on cases where medical factors require specialist advice. Not only has this panel assisted the Department on an individual case basis but also on socio-medical matters relevant to adoption. We thank the members of the Panel for their important contribution during the year.

It is considered that involvement by a wider group of Departmental staff as well as personnel outside the Branch has helped in two important areas. In bringing together a wider range of information and viewpoints, which has assisted in the decision making process, and in diffusing some of the delegated responsibilities from individual to group decision making bodies.

One of the areas which requires comment relates to the consistent demands placed on the Branch as a result of an under-supply of babies and an excessive number of applicants. The figures supplied for applicants awaiting children grossly understates the number of applicants who would take children if they were available. Complaints in relation to eligibility criteria have been made, and it is likely that these will continue as waiting lists increase in length and the diminishing number of babies means that many more applicants must go unsatisfied.

The criteria established by the Department are necessary in order to govern the level of demand. Over the last twelve months the Branch has ensured a strict observance of these conditions. Adoptions staff maintains a fair and rational system for placing children according to the chronological date of application and during this last year the waiting period between application and placement of a child in the family has been about 3½ years.

No adjustment to the criteria was made recently, however this aspect will need to be closely watched in order to maintain a "hopeful" state of affairs for those who are suitable applicants.

As mentioned above, there was a further noticeable reduction in the number of babies made available for adoption, and a similar proportionate reduction in the number of applicants compared with the previous year. We believe there were fewer applicants applying due to the continued effects of limiting selection criteria as well as the extensive waiting period being unacceptable to many.

Although there was a reduction in the number of adoption orders made for unrelated children, the handling of ex-nuptial cases and previous marriage arrangements have almost doubled. It is considered that this is possibly due to an increase in the divorce rate and subsequent marriages as well as greater knowledge by the community of the service available at the centre.

During the year consideration of Adoption Applications and granting of Orders was transferred from the Supreme Court to the Family Court. It is pleasing to note that there have been few problems with this change and applications have been considered by the Court with minimal delay.

ADOPTION STATISTICS JULY 1976-JUNE 1977

								Male	Female	Total
Departmental Adoptions										
NUPTIAL—										
Relationship to adoptive Parent—										
Natural Parent								37	36	73
Related								1	1	2
Unrelated								5	1	6
								43	38	81
EX-NUPTIAL—										
Relationship to adoptive Parent—										
Natural Parent								39	34	73
Related								114	108	222
Unrelated								153	142	295
AGE OF CHILDREN AT ADOPTION—										
Under 1 year								3	3	6
1								78	75	153
2-5								73	53	126
6-12								37	42	79
13-15								6	4	10
16-20								1	1	2
								198	178	376
Non-departmental Adoptions										
NUPTIAL—										
Relationship to adoptive Parent—										
Natural Parent								27	35	62
Related								5	1	5
Unrelated								32	36	68
EX-NUPTIAL—										
Relationship to adoptive Parent—										
Natural Parent								19	7	26
Related								10	16	26
Unrelated								29	24	53
AGE OF CHILDREN AT ADOPTION—										
Under 1 year								9	11	20
1-2								4	4	8
3-5								18	11	29
6-12								26	24	49
13-15								5	5	10
16 plus								3	2	5
								64	57	121

The figures depicted above signify the age of the child when the Order was made by the Family Court. They do not indicate the age of the child at placement with prospective adoptive parents.

On the 14 June changes to adoption legislation were proclaimed. The Amendments removed all references to illegitimacy from the previous legislation. The phrase “an illegitimate person” was deleted and replaced by “a person whose parents were not married to each other at the time of his birth or subsequently”. This was particularly appropriate because it excluded children who have been legitimated by the subsequent marriage of their parents and it emphasises the condition of the parents rather than placing a stigma on the child.

Concern was expressed that parents of children who marry or re-marry and wish their children to be adopted into their new family, have to adopt the children jointly with their new spouse. Amendments provided that in circumstances of this kind the new spouse alone would be able to make the application for adoption. This should reduce complaints by people who in the past had to adopt their own child.

Under the provisions of the Adoption of Children Act it was possible for a person to consent to adoption in favour of a relative and when such a consent had been given it was only valid if the child was placed with that relative for adoption. Amendments provided that the unmarried mother of a child who wishes to nominate the father as the person by whom the child must be adopted, should be able to do so. Previously the term “relative” included the child’s grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts or uncles, but did not include the father unless the parents were married.

A further amendment was designed to prevent the christian names of children over the age of twelve, who are adopted, from being changed without their consent.

An amendment was also included for it to be an offence to use undue influence to induce a person to revoke an adoption consent as well as it being an offence to receive the possession, custody and control of a child for the purpose of adoption without the consent of the Director.

The issue of the rights of the adopted child to contact natural parents and related issues has been the subject of debate overseas and in the Eastern States. Increasingly this issue is being commented on in this State and there have been a number of enquiries to the Branch from adopted persons wishing to obtain information on their background. The Branch prepared a substantial paper on this issue during the year for the development of future policy in this area.

The Branch is mindful that it must maintain a high standard of service in country areas, and the development of a training programme for country field staff will have the desired effect of acquainting staff with up to date information on adoption procedures and practice. The preparation for a new information collecting system has advanced to its final stages. As well as the system accommodating the normal statistical information which is gathered for feedback on the general state of adoption affairs, it should also assist in follow-up type research in order to validate some of the Branch’s practices.

THE TOTAL NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES OF DEPARTMENTAL AND NON-DEPARTMENTAL APPLICANTS AND PLACEMENTS FROM JULY '72 TO JUNE '77

	Departmental	%	Non-Departmental	%	Total	%
Applicants:—						
1972-73	524	71	219	29	743	100
1973-74	441	65	241	35	682	100
1974-75	420	63	252	37	672	100
1975-76	302	80	76	20	378	100
1976-77	249	82	53	18	302	100
Placements:—						
1972-73	342	79	91	21	433	100
1973-74	242	80	60	20	302	100
1974-75	209	80	53	20	262	100
1975-76	177	86	29	14	206	100
1976-77	146	88	19	12	165	100

**Supply and Demand Situation
(Departmental and Non-departmental)**

The following table represents the total number of placements compared with the total number of applicants in each year from 1972 to 1977.

			%
1972-73	433 placements	=	58.27
	743 applicants		
1973-74	302 placements	=	44.28
	682 applicants		
1974-75	262 placements	=	38.98
	672 applicants		
1975-76	206 placements	=	54.50
	378 applicants		
1976-77	165 placements	=	55.00
	302 applicants		

**Total Number of Applicants
Awaiting Placement**

- (a) The total number of approved applicants as at June 30, 1977 and still awaiting placement is—
Departmental—129, Non-Departmental—90
=Total 219.
 - (b) The total number of applicants awaiting assessment (includes those at present undergoing assessment) as at June 30, 1977 is—
Departmental—602, Non-Departmental—104,
=total 706.
- Does not include—
Applicants for “difficult to place children” = 39
Applicants for overseas children = 37
Total applicants waiting = 849

Placements—Total Number of Children Placed

The total number of children placed during 1976–77 was 165. (This is a combined total of Departmental and Non-Departmental placements).

Enquiries and Applications

Total number of enquiries	381
Total number of applications accepted	302
(This represents 249 Departmental and 53 Non-Departmental applications).	

Approvals

In the 12 months up to June 30, 1977, 141 applicants were approved after assessment by the Field staff. They represent 121 Departmental adoptions and 20 Non-Departmental adoptions.

Applications Filed and Orders Made

Departmental—	
Adoption Orders filed	317
Adoption Orders made	376
Orders made consisted of—	
(1) Children of a previous marriage and ex-nuptial children adopted into a marriage	148
(2) Children placed by the Adoption Centre (Generally these children were placed prior to 1976–77)	228
	376
Non-Departmental—	
Adoption Orders made	121
Orders made consisted of—	
(1) Children of a previous marriage and ex-nuptial children adopted into a marriage	94
(2) Children placed by Solicitors	27
	121

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

Establishment

In January, 1977 a new International Adoptions Unit was established. It is located in the Head Office of the Department.

The unit is concerned with formulating recommendations to the Department's Executive Committee on all matters of policy, practice and procedures relating to Foreign Adoptions.

Since its establishment the unit has, on behalf of the Director, participated in discussions with other State Welfare Agencies and Commonwealth Departments for the purpose of formulating uniform procedures with foreign countries concerning approval of applicants, the selection of children, their legal status on entry into Australia, the recognition of the validity of foreign adoption orders and the introduction of uniform amendments into State Adoption legislation. The unit has also liaised with voluntary groups such

as the Australian Society for Intercountry Aid (Children), (A.S.I.A.(C)). It also provides a consultant service to all field divisions of the Department on overseas adoption matters, and participates in training programmes for field staff.

The unit has one supervisor and no field staff of its own as its role is a consultative one. All assessments for overseas adoption are carried out by Adoptions Officers in the metropolitan area or by District Officers in liaison with Adoptions Officers in country areas. Adoptions Supervisors located at Adoptions are responsible for supervision.

Applicants throughout the State are therefore receiving the same field service as previously.

Priority

The Department appreciates that there are children in some foreign countries who are awaiting placement and has therefore decided to give reasonable priority of assessment to these applications. It is hoped that all assessments will commence six months after date of application. In other countries the waiting period is extending, although it is not as long as for local children.

Standing Committee on Foreign Adoption

A significant advance in the co-ordination of the complex administration of foreign adoptions has been made this year by the formal recognition by Social Welfare Ministers at their 8th Annual Conference held in June, of the State and Commonwealth Standing Committee on Inter-Country Adoption. This committee consists of adoption officers and administrative officers from all State Welfare Departments and of representatives of the Prime Minister's Department, Commonwealth Immigration Department, Foreign Affairs Department, Department for Social Security and Commonwealth Attorney General's Department.

The committee is under the secretaryship of the Department of Social Security. It meets alternately in each State and the chairmanship rotates to the host State. Representatives of the Attorney General of the host State may also be invited to attend.

Its terms of reference are to make recommendations and disseminate information to the Commonwealth Government and State Social Welfare Administrators regarding inter-country adoption. It also serves to co-ordinate arrangements for inter-country adoption and to assist in the preparation of draft agreements between Australian States and overseas countries.

The last meeting of the Standing Committee was held in Melbourne in April and was attended by the Assistant Director (Welfare) and the Unit Supervisor on behalf of this Department.

Intercountry Adoption—

Some of the Underlying Issues

Where children in foreign countries require adoption placement the Department is interested in pursuing agreements with those countries through Government or Government-approved adoption agencies. Where local applicants make a request to adopt a child from a specific foreign country with which the Department does not already have established procedures, or does not know that foreign adoptions

are not permitted in that country, then the Department is willing to make enquiries concerning the situation either directly or through International Social Services (Australia).

Applicants are often dismayed to learn of the long delays and restrictions which exist in foreign countries and it requires explanation of the underlying issues involved.

Although there may appear to be many deprived children in under-developed countries the numbers which are available for adoption are limited by several factors. The most important of these is that country's attitude to foreign adoption. Public pressure within some countries has resulted in Government policy that no children will be placed outside that country at all. In some cases it is stipulated that foreign adoption will only be allowed to a country where the people are of the same racial origin or have the same political system. Sometimes exceptions are made when the foreign applicants are permanent residents in the country concerned.

In those countries which do permit foreign adoption, public pressure has resulted in the restriction that no child will be made available for foreign placement until all alternate forms of local care have been pursued and found unsuitable. This principle has been fully endorsed by all Welfare Departments in Australia.

Foreign countries also impose their own criteria in relation to the age of applicants and the number of children they may have before being eligible.

In some cases these criteria are based on existing law and in other cases they relate to the philosophy of the agency concerned. Most Government agencies emphasise that the primary concern is the welfare of the child rather than the applicants. Many agencies take the view that applicants will be more accepting of the child if it is their first. Experience in parenting is considered a secondary issue, except where the child is older or handicapped. Children are less frequently slotted in to an existing family and more consideration appears to be given to making the adopted child the youngest in the family.

Where a country has a residential requirement there are less applicants and the waiting period is shorter.

Applicants also express a preference for countries where children are lighter in appearance as they consider that they will be more easily accepted into Australian society.

**Adoption of Children
who are Related to Applicants**

The Department receives a large number of applications for the adoption of related children living in foreign countries. Assessment of the applicant's suitability will take place where it appears that such an adoption will serve the welfare and interest of the child and where legal consents are available. In order to determine this foreign adoptions may be approached directly by the Department or through International Social Service for their reports before action is taken.

**Adoption of Unrelated Children
by Applicants who were, or still are,
Nationals of the Foreign Country concerned**

There are a limited number of countries which will agree to placement of unrelated children with applicants who previously were, or who still are, nationals of that country.

Such countries include Greece, Malta, and Hong Kong. In practice it has been found that only older or difficult-to-place children are available from Greece. Applicants are usually expected to travel to that country to adopt the child.

**Adoption of Related Children
by Applicants who were, or still are,
Nationals of the Foreign Country concerned**

Most foreign countries with which we have contact appear willing to allow these adoptions. They vary as to their requirements for applicants to travel to the country concerned. In Greece or Sri Lanka this would be mandatory. In Malaysia and Singapore it is not.

Statistics

The following figures relate to action current in the financial year 1976/77. Some applicants were registered prior to that date. All Vietnamese children were placed prior to that date.

	Vietnam	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Malaysia	Portugal	Malta	Greece	Yugoslavia	Egypt	Taiwan	West Germany	Grand Total
Awaiting Assessment	....	7	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Under Assessment	....	30	3	2	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	37
Approved and Application sent to country concerned	....	6	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	8
Approved and Child(ren) placed	10	....	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	15
Deferred	....	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Withdrawn	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Refused	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	3
Application before Court in W.A.	3	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Total Applicants	10	51	7	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	79
Total Children Placed	12	1	3	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	1	19

FAMILY COURT—COUNSELLING AND WELFARE SERVICES

The Family Court of Western Australia opened on June 1, 1976 as the only State Family Court to be established in Australia under the provisions of the Commonwealth Family Law Act. The Act provided for the establishment of Commonwealth or State Family Courts and Western Australia was the only State to exercise the latter option.

Whilst the Crown Law Department is responsible for the Judicial and Administrative functions of the Court, the Department for Community Welfare administers the Court's Counselling and Welfare Service.

The contribution that this service has made to achieving the "helping" philosophy of the Family Court, has been most significant. The Department appointed a Director of Counselling and Welfare and five Counselling and Welfare Officers and in the 13 month period to June 30, 1977 these officers provided services to 1 983 client families.

Forty per cent of these clients came to the service following an order or direction from the Court, whilst sixty per cent of the clientele were self-referred, or referred by solicitors, welfare organisations or a number of other agencies or referral sources.

Family Court Judges have appreciated the availability of the Counselling and Welfare Service and demonstrated clearly their desire to utilise the service in assisting parties to disputes, to resolve their differences.

Clientele

Court referred work for the counsellors included assisting parties to legal proceedings to consider the possibility of reconciliation and to improve the quality of relationships.

In cases of defended custody or access applications the Court ordered on 497 occasions, that the parents attend a conference with the Court Counsellor to discuss the welfare of the children involved, with a view to assisting the parents to resolve their differences in the best interests of the children. On 200 occasions the Court ordered a welfare report from the Counsellor to assist the Court in making the most appropriate decision. Supervision of custody or access arrangement by a Court counsellor was also ordered on 66 occasions.

Of the "self-referred" clients, 368 sought short-term marriage counselling, 360 concerned custody or access disputes in which they sought counselling assistance as an alternative to proceeding with legal action, 295 sought emotional support for a range of problems, 110 discussed property or maintenance issues and 53 sought counselling as required under the Act by divorce applicants married for less than two years.

A significant number of clients was referred to the service by legal practitioners who increasingly regard the involvement of counsellors with certain clients as a preferable alternative to instituting legal proceedings.

Country Service

The counsellors are located in Perth but frequently visit country areas.

Counsellors accompany Judges on circuits to the major centres every three months but additionally arrange country visits in accordance with requests for the service.

Conclusion

The advantages that the Family Court of Western Australia have over the Commonwealth Family Courts in other States are evident.

The jurisdiction in this State is wider and not limited to Commonwealth legislation, thus enabling the Court and its counselling and welfare facilities to be available to all families and all children regardless of the marital status of the parents.

As a State Service the Family Court Counselling Service in Western Australia has been more able to direct its attention to local needs. For instance, the delivery of the service to country areas and the degree of availability to self-referred clientele are factors about this Court which are envied in other States.

The Family Court of Western Australia has an experienced, well trained and highly devoted team of counselling and welfare officers, 80 per cent of whom were recruited from the State welfare services.

The Department can take some pride in the part that it has played in the establishment of the Family Court of Western Australia in the first year of its operation.

Concern must be expressed, however, as to whether the type of service given by the Counselling and Welfare Officers to date can be maintained. Their services are required at a rate which continues to increase and unless the demand for the service can be met by an appropriate increase in staff strength a decision will have to be made either to enable a backlog to occur or to eliminate some of the functions being performed. Such a decision would severely reduce the effectiveness of the Service and would lead to criticisms that already apply in other States.

JUVENILE

(SUSPENDED ACTION) PANELS

This procedure for dealing with certain first offenders under the age of sixteen years has now operated with increasing success for thirteen years. This report marks the end of an era. The authority in the past, as regards the functioning of the Juvenile Panel, was given by agreement between the Minister for Police and the then Minister for Child Welfare.

In 1976 Parliament approved of substantial amendments to the Child Welfare Act and a new Part V to the Act is given to Children's Panels (the new title), expressing by detailed legislation the requirements of this Panel procedure. It is anticipated that such amendments will be proclaimed in late 1977. Staff have been engaged on detailed forward planning to ensure the smooth introduction of the new legislation.

Metropolitan Area

Panels held in Perth, Fremantle and Midland, dealt with 1 560 children, a decrease of 91 from the previous period. The following table shows the numbers of children seen at these venues.

	Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Total
Boys	637	225	96	958
Girls	422	124	56	602
	1 059	349	152	1 560

The age range of the children appearing is—

Age	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Boys	2	11	23	65	99	174	216	226	142
Girls	3	6	19	41	132	166	154	81	

Since the upper age limit was increased in 1971 to deal with the 15-year-old first offenders, a total of 8 237 children have been dealt with by the Panel in the metropolitan area. Of these children, 1 031 have re-offended and appeared before the Children's Court. Boys numbered 803 and girls 228 and these children represent 12·5 per cent of the total children.

Country Area

Again, progress has been made in the gradual extension of the Panel procedure, particularly into the northern part of the State. It is intended to make the Panel procedure available throughout Western Australia in every centre where a venue for a Children's Court is established.

The total number of cases dealt with in the country is 211, as indicated by the following table.

	Boys	Girls	Total
SOUTHERN DIVISION			
Bunbury	34	15	49
Collie	5	1	6
Katanning	4	3	7
Manjimup	21	3	24
Albany	7	1	8
CENTRAL DIVISION			
Northam	13	9	22
Merredin	1	1	2
Kellerberrin	2	5	7
GOLDFIELDS DIVISION			
Kalgoorlie	33	20	53
Esperance	6	...	6
Laverton	2	...	2
Leonora	1	...	1
MURCHISON DIVISION			
Geraldton	8	4	12
Carnarvon	2	...	2
PILBARA DIVISION			
Hedland .....	...	1	1
Karratha	2	1	3
Paraburdoo	4	1	5
KIMBERLEY DIVISION			
Derby	1	...	1

LEGAL BRANCH

In April 1977, the Legal Branch acquired a second Legal Officer to enable the section to more comprehensively fulfil the service it provides to clients of the Department and to other departmental officers.

With the increase in staff the Legal Officers are more readily available to offer assistance in administrative matters covering such topics as insurance policies, staff matters, new forms, inter-departmental correspondence and advising various committees on the legal intricacies of their proposals and upon new legislation.

The Legal Branch represents wards of the Department appearing at the Children's Court in specific circumstances such as a case where a "not guilty" plea is made or where mitigating circumstances need to be stressed. The burden of representing all the children involved with the Department at all their court appearances would far outweigh the work capacity of the Branch. Thus a major service of the Branch is the legal advice it can give to welfare officers regarding the children under their guidance.

As well as Children's Court matters the Legal Branch ensures that arrangements for juveniles appearing in District and Supreme Courts are finalised. This includes seeing that a welfare report on the particular child is available to the Court and that counsel is obtained.

Prosecutions of people dishonestly dealing with the Department such as receiving financial assistance under false pretences are handled by the Branch.

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

The Branch attempts to remain available to give thoughtful assistance to all officers on the manifold legal questions that arise throughout the spectrum of the Department's activity.

LIBRARY

The Departmental Library is a specialist reference Library, established to meet the information and research needs of the Department.

Users of the Library

Services of the Library were primarily directed to the professional and para-professional staff of the Department. Other regular users included professionals attached to non-departmental welfare agencies, and Libraries affiliated with the Library Board of Western Australia. An increasing number of tertiary students visited the Library and made use of its facilities.

Collection

The main collection of books and periodicals is housed in the Central Library at Head Office. This collection more than doubled its size during this financial year through purchases and acquisition of gratis materials. Approximately 1 866 new books and 99 new Journal Titles were added to the collection.

Smaller collections are also housed in various other locations forming “branch” collections of the Central Library. As demands from Welfare and Institutional staff increase, these branch collections will see corresponding growth.

The main subject areas covered by the collection include child and family welfare services; adolescent psychology; juvenile delinquency and deviant behaviour; behaviour therapy and psychotherapy; Australian Aborigines; Social Work theory and practice.

Services

During this year the Library concentrated its efforts in providing three major services; the dissemination of information regarding all new materials received into the main collection; the loan of pertinent materials both from the Central Library and through inter-library loans; a quick reference service, and detailed literature searches.

The monthly accessions lists and journal contents pages circulated to all staff were well used. In a sense this brought the collection to the staff, thus facilitating “browsing”. On an average, 370 journals were circulated per month.

The number of loans increased substantially as a direct result of the above programmes. Loans from the Central Library totalled 3 256 items of books and journals and approximately 863 items were obtained on inter-library loan.

The Library handled 1 976 enquiries for quick reference information and undertook about 20 literature searches on behalf of departmental staff.

Computer based information services from the National Library of Australia are now readily available to all staff requiring current awareness (SDI) and retrospective services.

This is co-ordinated by the Librarian. Already three retrospective searches have been submitted, and certain of the SDI bulletins subscribed to.

STAFF SELECTION AND TRAINING

Due to the increasing recruitment needs of the Department and the demands for further staff training and development generally, a Graduate Welfare Officer has recently been appointed to this section. However, because of the prolonged absence of a Training Supervisor it has been necessary to curtail

the section’s activities, restricting them largely to selection and induction of new staff. The recruitment programme in turn has been affected by the current restrictions being placed on Departmental staff numbers.

RECRUITMENT

Twelve Social Workers, six Graduate Welfare Officers and six District Officers have been appointed to field staff from outside the Department.

TRAINING

This area of activity can be divided into two sections:

- (i) induction-orientation for newly appointed field staff, and
- (ii) in-service training of a specialist nature for the Department’s more experienced staff.

AUDIO VISUAL AIDS IN TRAINING

The Department has availed itself of its Audio Visual equipment to a greater extent this year and is becoming increasingly aware of its potential as a complementary training device. Since receiving an editing machine, the section is able to produce its own films and offer an editing service to other sections. Recently this section produced a training film for field officers and members of the Police Force on the subject of the new Children’s (Suspended Proceedings) Panel. Institutions Branch has also used the editing equipment to produce a number of training films for clients.

In general, the Training Section has continued to make use of the video equipment in In-Service courses and in the development of interviewing techniques. Wherever possible, the equipment has been made available outside Head Office to the field and has been used in all Divisional Offices.

STUDENT UNIT

For the first 9 months of the year the Student Unit was based in our Midland Division office in extremely cramped accommodation. The rooms set aside for the Unit were in amongst the Division’s offices and did not provide a separate Student Unit area. This physical arrangement hampered the development of the Unit and strained the otherwise good relationships between the Unit staff and the Divisional staff.

Induction-Orientation Training Programmes—Number of Staff Participating

Duration	Training Venue	Origin of Staff		Total
		Metro.	Country	
30/6/76–2/7/76	Community House	....	2	2
14/7/76	Community House	7	....	7
13/9/76–8/10/76	Community House	3	6	9
22/11/76–3/12/76	Community House	....	2	2
22/3/77–23/3/77	Community House	5	1	6
18/4/77–22/4/77	Community House	....	1	1
9/5/77–13/5/77	Community House	....	2	2
Total	....	15	14	29

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Subjects Covered and Number and Location of Staff Included

Duration	Topic	Training Venue	Origin of Staff		Total
			Metro.	Country	
15/7/76	State Emergency Service	Community House	40	....	40
17/8/76	Video Editing by Taimac Ltd.	Community House	9	....	9
9/9/76 to 10/9/76	Video Portapak use	Community House	....	1	1
20/9/76 to 23/9/76	Marital Counselling	Geraldton	....	21	21
9/11/76	Foster Parent Programme	Community House	3	....	3
	Video Filming				
17/11/76	Submission and report writing course	Community House	20	....	20
24/11/76	Workshop "Issues facing professionals, etc."	Community House	15	....	15
3/12/76	Submission and report writing course	Community House	17	5	22
6/12/76 to 10/12/76	Administration Procedures	Community House	....	12	12
24/3/77 to 25/3/77	Advanced Video Production—Frevideo	Fremantle	3	....	3
26/4/77 to 28/4/77	Video Portapak use	Community House	....	1	1
Total			107	40	147

In March 1977 it was decided to relocate the Student Unit at the Fremantle Division, where suitable office accommodation was available. The transfer occurred at the beginning of April.

We were extremely fortunate to be able to move to Fremantle Division because the area and the location of the Student Unit offer some very valuable learning opportunities for the Social Work students. Like Midland, Fremantle is a well established community which has developed many of its own resources for helping people and there are extremely good working relationships between the personnel of all the key welfare agencies.

Our accommodation on the 2nd floor of Crane House is ideal in that we are directly above Fremantle Division but on a separate floor. This enables us to be administratively autonomous yet have easy access to the Division. We share an amenities room and library and provide accommodation for their Psychologists. Also in the same building are the Department of Social Security, Probation and Parole, the Police and the Fremantle Children's Court.

The location of the W.A.I.T. Community Work Student Unit at Fremantle Division as well has already provided the Unit's students with some experience of the role of community work Social Workers and has made informal discussion between the two groups of students very easy.

During the 1976/77 year the Student Unit took a total of 14 students, 7 from the University of Western Australia and 7 from W.A.I.T. These students experienced a wide range of different casework situations according to their interests and previous experience. They were also introduced to other facets of the Department, such as Administration and the Institutional Services, as appropriate. In a Student Unit much use is made of the experience of learning in a group and sharing ideas and problems. Most students enjoy this rather novel way of learning and appreciate the group support offered in this situation. Naturally the amount of supervision available to the students in the Unit is far greater

than in other sections of the Department because the Supervisor is a full time teacher and does not have a caseload to handle as well.

The role of the Social Work Supervisor involves liaison with W.A.I.T. and the University, and the co-ordination of other student placements with individual Supervisors in the Department. This year 25 Social Work students were placed throughout the Department (16 from W.A.I.T. and 9 from the University) not including the 5 students placed in the W.A.I.T. Community Work Student Unit in Fremantle Division. So altogether the Department for Community Welfare took 44 students.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

A number of special projects are being conducted with financial grants from the Commonwealth Government. The projects relate to specific areas of welfare need and probably would not have been developed had Commonwealth funding not been forthcoming. The projects were originated as a result of initiatives taken by officers of this Department. In their day to day operation the special projects are independent of the Department's general administrative structure but they rely on Departmental services and guidance.

PARENTS' HELP CENTRE

The Centre is jointly funded by the Office of Child Care and the Department and aims at preventing physical abuse to pre-school children by providing a supportive, non-professional service in an informal homely setting. It is a two year pilot scheme which began operation on 9/1/76.

As well as the 24 hour telephone service, the Centre is now open 7 days per week and each evening (except Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday). Accommodation is available at weekends for parents and their children during crises.

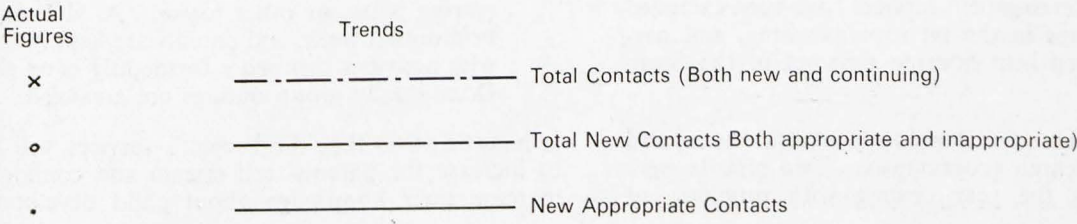
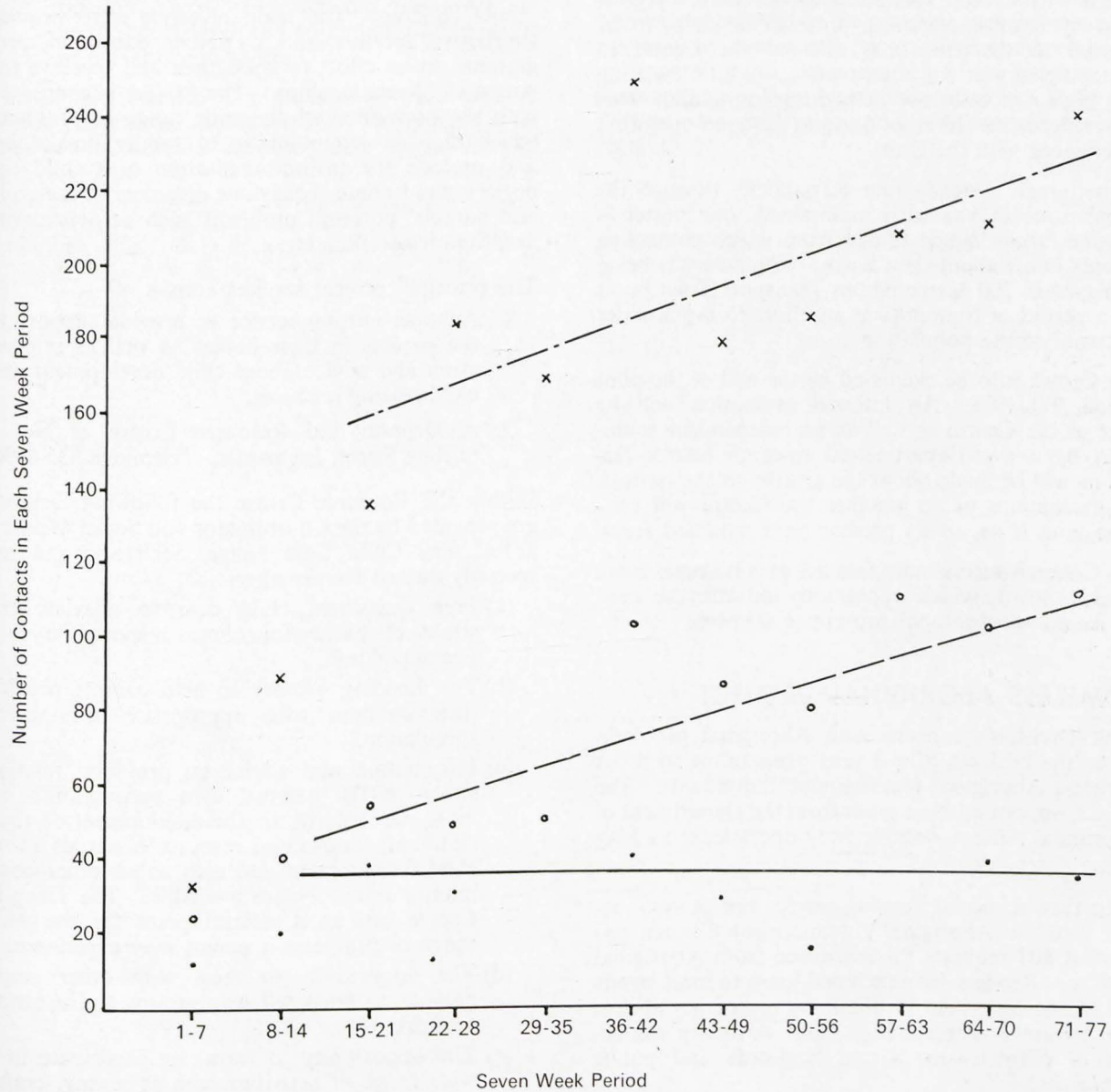
An average of 4.3 new (appropriate) contacts with the Centre have been made by parents in each week since the Centre opened and the overall cumulative figures for contacts with the Centre in this 18 month period are as follows:

	Appropri- ate Contacts*	Inappropri- ate Contacts	Total
New Contacts	334	486	820
Continuing Contacts	950	137	1 087
Total	1 284	623	1 907

* An appropriate contact is one involving a pre-school child at risk of physical injury.

The rate of contacts with the Centre is steadily increasing, due to an increase in the number of new inappropriate contacts. As the graph (this page) shows, from the 15th to 77th week of operation the number of new appropriate calls to the Centre ran at about 5 a week (or about 35 in each 7 week period) while new inappropriate calls became steadily more prevalent. These calls are referred on to the most appropriate agency. Dealing with these inappropriate calls is an important part of the Centre's function, and emphasises the Centre's integration in an overall network of welfare services.

CONTACTS MADE AT PARENTS' HELP CENTRE



In general it appears that the Centre is reaching a significant number of the target population of parents who are concerned at the possibility of injuring their pre-school children.

In the first 12 months of operation it was found that 90 per cent of contacts were made by mothers. Less than 10 per cent of contacts were made by fathers, or fathers plus mothers. With families who have been seen on a regular basis only about one third of husbands have been involved with the Centre even though their participation is actively encouraged. Most contacts with us comprise a family unit of both parents, usually married, living with their children.

A total of 19 cases have been referred to the Child Life Protection Unit, as it was agreed by the family, the Centre and the Unit, that professional intervention was required because protection of the child was of major importance. A further 4 "complaints" have been redirected to the Unit. Agreement by families requiring professional help, to be referred to the Unit, has allowed the Centre to retain its respect for clients privacy whilst ensuring that high risk cases are helped appropriately. This also reflects the level of support and co-operation experienced with the Unit.

Even though a steady rate of publicity through the popular media has been maintained, our poster is still the largest single source from which contacting parents know about the Centre. The poster is being displayed in 200 Metropolitan Transport Trust buses for a period of 6 months in an effort to tap a wider spectrum of the population.

The Centre is to be evaluated by the end of the pilot period 9/1/1978. An internal evaluation will be done at the Centre as well as an independent evaluation by a non-Departmental research team. Decisions will be made about the Centre on the basis of the evaluations as to whether the Centre will continue, and if so, in its present or a modified form.

The Centre is seeing more families as it becomes more widely known, which appears to indicate the need for its non-professional preventive services.

HOMELESS ABORIGINAL PROJECT

Perth Division's concern with Aboriginal problems led to the creation of a 3 year programme to assist homeless Aboriginal families and individuals. The project, supported by a grant from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, became fully operational in May 1976.

Since then a special housing service run in conjunction with the Aboriginal Advancement Council has handled 107 requests for assistance from Aboriginal families. Services have included loans to meet bonds and letting fees, help in obtaining emergency shelter and private accommodation, and advocacy on behalf of clients with private landlords and public authorities.

Community development services have been extended to fringe camps in the metropolitan area, and particularly to self-help housing schemes in the Swan Valley.

The project has also conducted several basic and evaluative research programmes. Two reports were issued during the year dealing with problems of

Aboriginal homelessness in the Swan Valley, and the availability of emergency accommodation to Aborigines in the city.

The project's involvement with issues in other metropolitan divisions and with the problems created by rural migration has led to its relocation in the Planning and Research Unit for the remainder of its programme.

PARENT EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Parent Education and Assistance Project has been funded by the Office of Child Care, Department of Social Security and sponsored by the Department for Community Welfare for a three year pilot period. It aims to develop and evaluate services for a group of up to 100 single parent families and their pre-school children. The main objective is to provide supportive services and a parent education programme, in an effort to strengthen and preserve the parent-child relationships. The Project is concerned with the prevention of the wide range of problems which may be symptomatic of family breakdown and precede the institutionalisation of a child e.g. neglect, child abuse, behaviour disorders in the child and parents' personal problems such as depression, isolation, frustration, etc.

The principal project services consist of:—

1. A home visiting service to provide support to the parents in their homes as well as information and advice about child development and child rearing practices.
2. A Drop-in and Resource Centre at No. 8 Stirling Street, Fremantle. Telephone 335 6970.

Within the Resource Centre the following facilities are provided by the Co-ordinator and Social Worker, a full time Child Care Nurse, Secretary, and ten specially trained Homemakers:—

- (a) Free occasional child care to alleviate the strain of twenty-four hour responsibility for young children.
- (b) Toy Lending Library to help parents provide their children with appropriate and varied stimulation.
- (c) Information and advice on problems relating either to the parents' own personal life or, most particularly, to the development of their children. Books and resource materials about child development and also about other community resources are available. The Drop-in Centre acts as a referral point for the wide range of problems a parent may experience.
- (d) The opportunity to meet with other single parents, to create self help groups and a caring network.
- (e) The opportunity to learn, or participate in a wide range of activities such as sewing, crafts, tennis and group discussions about child rearing issues or other topics. A film day is held once a week, and parents are kept in touch with activities through a fortnightly news-sheet. Occasionally group outings are arranged.

It is anticipated that the Project's services will help to increase the parents' self esteem and confidence; increase their knowledge about child development

and different methods of child rearing; reduce their feelings of isolation and frustration; and create more positive attitudes towards their children.

A large evaluation component has been built into the Project in order to assess its effectiveness in achieving these goals. The research comes under the supervision of a Lecturer in Education at the University of Western Australia. One full time and two part time research assistants complete the evaluation team.

PILBARA

ISOLATED COMMUNITIES PROJECT

The project is an example of the Department's responsibility under Section 10 of the Community Welfare Act—

“To encourage the development of the greatest possible degree of service and administration at the local level and to emphasise the value of preventive measures.”

The Pilbara Isolated Communities Project began a 3 year programme in May 1976. The project is an attempt to develop an adaptable social service

delivery mode for isolated communities. The programme focus is on the re-development of existing resources, in the isolated communities of the Shire of Roebourne, in order to provide families of socially, physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped children the skills and support to care for their children in the home. One hundred and twenty-five families were involved in the first year. The staff have been recruited and trained locally to a para-professional level in an extensive early intervention programme with Day Care Centres, Pre-Schools, Primary Schools and Health Services. This has meant that many children are being diagnosed and provided immediate services. In addition a further preventive service is provided via Parent Education Programmes. An important component with the project in its first year of operation, has been the involvement with the local community at all levels. Existing organisations (Local Government, Day Care, Health Services, etc.) have made extensive use of the project programme in the planning, development and operation of community programmes and are playing an important and increasing role in the programme's development. This developmental aspect is an important and positive factor in the model's development.

Institutional Services

INTRODUCTION

The Department's Institutional Service has two principal inter-related functions:

- the accommodation and care of children.
- the assessment and rehabilitation of children with particular problems usually associated with difficult behaviour or unsatisfactory living conditions.

The facilities available are broadly of two kinds:

- major centres and their ancillary hostel units in the metropolitan area. These specialise in care, assessment and treatment.
- hostels in both the country and metropolitan areas. These are chiefly concerned with the accommodation, welfare and social training of Aboriginal children from isolated areas attending schools or gaining work training.

CARE, ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT CENTRES

More emphasis than ever before is being placed on the provision of a total service to children and families. The concept of isolated institutions operating within well-defined physical boundaries, if not high walls, is inappropriate and inadequate. For some children, such as serious offenders, there is no question regarding institutional placement, but with others timely access to the special resources which the Institutional Service offers may obviate such placement.

This total-service model offers valuable advantages. Support, care and correctional management can be provided in the community by institutional staff before, during, and after residential placement. As the Institutional Service offers more alternatives than residential placement only, it should be viewed less as a last resort and more as a useful source of specialist attention. The approach is focused on the client's needs.

Consistent with the above approach has been the establishment of community-based hostels for use by the major facilities. There are currently seven such annexes which serve as half-way units both prior to and after full time residential care in the larger facilities. Another such annexe is currently being completed and should commence operation in 1977/78.

EDUCATIONAL HOSTELS

The Institutional Service operates a number of metropolitan and country hostels not directly linked with its major facilities. With few exceptions these are operated for Aboriginal student children at primary secondary and tertiary levels.

This is a complex and challenging area of work that now has the full time attention of a Superintendent. It has become increasingly apparent that there is much more to this form of care than the provision of physical accommodation. Usually there are important welfare matters and even delinquent behavioural patterns that require attention and a remedy. Staff selection for these facilities is of critical importance particularly in the more isolated country areas.

Some of the more urgent issues currently receiving attention are:—

- Matters concerning cultural identity and family ties.
- Appropriate non-academic training inputs (i.e. training likely to have most future relevance to the children) and the delivery of such training.
- Standards of care, including building design, for Aboriginal children; the evaluation of new and different models of care.
- The welfare role of the hostels particularly with regard to neglected and delinquent children.
- Staff training, staff complements and the inclusion of Aboriginal staff.

BRIDGEWATER

Description

Duncraig Road, Applecross.

Bridgewater comprises nine cottages and an administration building, on a five hectare site, with accommodation for up to 107 boys and girls.

Function

Primarily the short-term care and assessment of legally innocent children between the ages of three and eighteen years. Treatment and casework are provided on a limited scale.

Population Characteristics

Admissions:

	Caucasian	Aboriginal	Total
Boys	244	57	301
Girls	266	65	331
	510	122	632

Length of stay:

	Total
Less than 3 months	564
More than 3 months	68

School/Employment distribution:

	Per cent
Pre-School	17
Primary School	48
High School	19
Working age	16

Placement from Bridgewater:

	Per cent
Home or relatives	63
Foster placement (including group homes)	17
Treatment institutions	9
Other (private board, hostels, unplaced etc.)	11

Admissions were higher than for 1975/76. Ages of children were similar to previous years although there was an increase in the group aged four years or younger.

Programme

A shortage of Psychologists limited Bridgewater's treatment role. On the casework side an attached Social Worker was able to assist with over 50 children and their families and was also useful in helping to place children with foster parents.

The use of Oceanview, a hostel controlled by Bridgewater, for teenage school children proved beneficial. The year's population remained close to seven girls and five boys.

Schooling

Plans for a multi-purpose educational centre at Bridgewater are proceeding.

Where possible children at Bridgewater continue with their normal school and during the year children attended at 16 primary schools and 23 secondary schools.

Research

A three and a half year study into absconding was concluded. The results indicated that outings without permission were generally for short periods and about 70 per cent of children stayed within a half-mile of Bridgewater. Only 79 children over the entire period ran away persistently. Contrary to expectations very few children returned home. Adolescent children with a history of school difficulties formed the main class of absconders.

Development

Greater emphasis should be placed on Bridgewater's staff having more follow-on involvement with children after placement. Considering the high proportion (62 per cent) of children who eventually return home the encouragement of greater family contact is desirable. More attention also needs to be paid to preparing children for foster placement.

MT. LAWLEY RECEPTION HOME

Description

3 Walcott Street, Mt. Lawley.

Mt. Lawley Reception Home is an "open" facility accommodating up to 44 boys and girls in a modified older-style suburban house. Grounds, adjoined by a public park, provide ample space for sport and other recreation.

Function

Short-term care, assessment and training is provided for children, mostly offenders, from seven to eighteen years of age. The Centre aims to provide a resource facility in tune with field staff requirements.

Population Characteristics

Admissions during year:

	Caucasian	Aboriginal	Total
Boys	164	111	275
Girls	96	47	143
	260	158	418

School/Employment distribution:	Per cent
Primary School	20
High School	53
Employment	27

Length of stay:	Per cent
Up to one week	27
One week to one month	47
One month to three months	23
More than three months	3

Reason for admission:	Per cent
Temporary care only	17
Awaiting other placement	28
Court action	23
Assessment	32

Placement on discharge:	Per cent
Parents or relatives	37
Private board or foster parents	48
Institution, hostel or mission	14
Other	1

There was a 16 per cent reduction in total admissions compared with 1975/76. The number of Aboriginal girls admitted dropped by 48 per cent. The average age of the children admitted was slightly lower than for the previous year.

Programme

Emphasis has been placed upon more detailed assessment procedures and, where appropriate, on commencing training programmes prior to discharge. Programmes to assess and teach basic social skills, such as inter-personal interaction, sex education, use of leisure time and the like, are examples of this training work.

An increase in the percentage of working-age children meant more effort in the area of work preparation and job finding. In spite of high levels of unemployment, considerable success was achieved.

Development

The school at Mt. Lawley Reception Home which had operated as a Class IV school under the Education Department, became the responsibility of this Department. The school provides assessment and remedial education for children unable to cope with the normal school situation. A main aim is to assist children back into normal schooling.

Increased support for selected children following discharge is planned, for example assisting a child to settle into a new placement situation, continuing training programmes commenced prior to discharge and the establishment of behaviour-management programmes or contracts. Some limited support has already been provided in this manner in conjunction with appropriate field staff.

Through its Aboriginal staff, the Centre has begun investigating organisations particularly suitable for helping Aboriginal adolescents. These staff should also be able to assist more with the rehabilitation of Aboriginal children.

LONGMORE REMAND AND ASSESSMENT CENTRE

Description

Adie Road, Bentley.

This facility provides secure accommodation for children, nearly all offenders, from 13-18 years. There are two sections, one primarily for assessment (60 beds) and the other for the detention of children awaiting court (22 beds). The smaller remand section is new and commenced operations during the year. Prior to this the original facility served both remand and assessment functions.

Work has also commenced on the conversion of some staff flats for use as a non-secure children's annexe.

Function

Remand Section

The secure detention of children arrested by the police and awaiting court appearances as well as children remanded in custody by the courts.

Assessment Section

The assessment of children for the purpose of obtaining information for the courts and to enable plans to be made for children in the Department's care. The training and preparation of children for their return to the community and follow-up support and monitoring in the community in selected cases are further roles for this facility that are currently being developed.

Population Characteristics

Admissions:

	Caucasian	Aboriginal	Total
Boys	918	390	1 308
Girls	168	73	241
	1 086	463	1 549

Divisional Distribution:

	Per cent
Metropolitan	81
Kimberley	1
Pilbara	2
Murchison	4
Central	2
Southern	6
Goldfields	3
Interstate	1

School/Employment distribution:

	Per cent
Primary school	1
Secondary school	26
Employed....	23
Unemployed	50

Length of stay:

	No.
Less than one week	1 005
One week to one month	344
One month to three months	199
Over three months	1

Reason for admission:	Per cent
Court action	73
Remand	4
Assessment (directed by Court)	14
Serve default in lieu of fine payment	4
Breakdown of previous plan	1
Other	4
Assessment and Case Conference: Total	294

Placement on discharge:	Per cent
Home	58
Relatives	5
Foster parents ....	....
Private Board	3
Hostels	4
Hillston	14
Riverbank	4
Nyandi	2
M.L.R.H.....	5
Bridgewater	1
Other institutions	2
Prison	1
Others	1

Total discharges: 1 523

Total open placement: 93 per cent

The number of girls admitted to Longmore fell from 328 the previous year to 241. Two apparent reasons for this reduction were a tightening of Longmore's admission criteria and more preventive work by the field staff.

Programme

Remand Section

The daily programme covers:—

- provision of information regarding the Department, the courts and the police.
- information on everyday matters such as alcohol, driving, employment, hygiene, etc.
- activities, recreation.

Strong efforts are being made to minimise the effects of institutional placement and reduce stress. Children may use the phone and there are open visiting hours. The children may also wear their own clothes and keep some personal possessions.

Assessment Section

With the Remand Section open, fresh attention is now being given to improved assessment techniques and to more interesting and relevant activities for the children. Outside contact is also receiving more attention and selected children are being taken into the community and visits by outside groups arranged. Weekend leave and trial leave are both being utilised. Staff training is also receiving renewed attention.

Development

It is hoped that the appointment of an Occupational Therapist in 1977/78 will shorten the time needed to establish planned programme improvements within the centre.

With its annexe completed, Longmore will have a third section and thus be able to offer an even wider range of programmes and conditions for children placed in its care.

HILLSTON

Description

Stoneville Road, Stoneville.

Hillston is a medium-security treatment facility situated on 149 hectares of semi-rural land 41 kilometres from Perth. It has provision for general and remedial schooling, training in mixed farming, trade skills, leisure interests and activities. Single cabins accommodate sixty boys. Boys in privileged or special circumstances can be placed in detached sleeping units or one of two cottages.

While the Centre's total capacity is for eighty children more than a further three hundred and fifty boys receive care and supervision under Hillston's community-based support system. There are also two 10-bed annexes or half-way units located in the suburbs.

Function

Treatment and training for boys 11-18 years who have offended and been placed in the care of the Department. A small number of boys come to Hillston to serve time in lieu of non-payment of fines.

Population Characteristics

Admissions for the year—346.

Reasons for admission:—

Following case conference (Caucasian 64; Aboriginal 60)	124
Preventative re-admission (Caucasian 58; Aboriginal 23)	81
Breakdown re-admissions (Caucasian 52; Aboriginal 65)	117
Fine defaulters (Caucasian 6; Aboriginal 18)	24
Total admissions	346

Average age: 15 years

Average duration of stay: 64 days.

Total admission figures are not significantly different from those of recent years. The trend towards increased numbers of Aboriginal boys being admitted continued. A significant decrease in the number of defaulters admitted compared with the previous year, is partly explained by the use of the new Remand Centre at Longmore for short-term periods of default.

Programme

Boys admitted to the centre are assessed to determine specific strengths and learning deficits. Programmes are then designed to remedy individual deficiencies. A simple reward system operates based on behaviour modification principles. When a boy has gained sufficiently from his particular programme he may be permitted to attend a normal school or go out to an open work-release situation, such as the nearby abattoirs.

Boys are also encouraged into community activities and Hillston participates in local association cricket, football and basketball.

A community-support (after-care) service follows each boy's progress when he returns to community living. Evidence of a boy's success over a reasonable period of time can earn him a return to supervision by field staff or termination of wardship before the due expiry date.

Development

A reduction of major project work within the Centre is taking place in order to release more staff for more relevant training activities. A science building to include general and domestic science is nearing completion. Its use will broaden Hillston's teaching programme. Research into schooling, social training, vocational training and leisure programmes is planned and more emphasis will be given to individual treatment and psychological services generally.

Darlington Cottage

Darlington Cottage, Hubert Street, Darlington, is one of two annexes under Hillston's supervision and accommodates up to ten school boys. Boys in residence have the opportunity to become normally involved in the community and to develop social competence. Usually they are admitted from Hillston and can expect to remain for at least one complete school term.

McDonald House

McDonald House, Mt. Lawley, Perth, the second of the two satellite facilities under Hillston's control accommodates boys who are required to attend special clinics, schools, training centres or work and who would be unable to succeed in normal-living or boarding situations. Residents are prepared for the time when they can return home or to alternative board. Emphasis is given to social development.

Warramia

Hillston staff and boys continued to participate in the operation of the Department's property at Badgingarra. This is a 1 500 hectare mixed-farming venture currently being developed and is run in conjunction with the farming activities at Hillston. A group-home is also located on site.

RIVERBANK

Description

Riverbank Boys' Treatment Centre is situated in Hamersley Road, Caversham and provides accommodation for forty-three adolescent male offenders within a secure environment.

Approximately another one hundred and twenty boys living in the community are supervised and assisted by Riverbank's staff. A hostel annexe provides community-based management for a further eight boys.

Function

Treatment and training of adolescent male offenders aged between 13 and 18 years, who have been committed to the care of the Department and who, as a

result of a case conference are placed under Riverbank's management. The security of the centre allows for an appropriate treatment programme, dependent on individual needs, to be implemented whilst assuring the protection of the community. Although Riverbank accommodates the more persistent and serious offender, a number of boys are less-serious offenders who have displayed an inability to settle and benefit by open placement.

Population Characteristics

Total admissions....	229
New admissions (Caucasian 25; Aboriginal 26)	51
Re-admissions (Caucasian 65; Aboriginal 113) (54 individual cases)	178
Length of stay (average)—47.4 days.	

These figures are very similar to those for 1975-76. Of concern is the relatively high re-admission rate for Aboriginal boys, approximately 63 per cent of all re-admissions but involving only 32 individuals. The average length of stay shows a marked decline but within a wide range of 8-232 days.

Programme

Training programmes monitored by periodical reassessment and supported by a token economy system are designed to assist individual development and improved competence in a wide range of areas. Work training is designed to develop both basic skills and an ability to persist in production-line type, repetitive tasks.

Education at varying levels and including social competence and leisure use receives high priority. The continued assistance given by Telecom Australia is appreciated.

Visits by outside groups, essential for social contact in a closed community, has received new impetus and will be further extended.

A youth driver education programme continues and five staff members have qualified as instructors through the National Safety Council of W.A. Boys have been involved in the training scheme throughout the year obtaining learners' permits, acquiring safe driving skills and motor drivers' licences as applicable. The donated dual-control car by Attwood Motors which makes this programme possible is appreciated, also the assistance of the National Safety Council.

Outward-bound type camps continue to be a regular feature of the programme and to date some seventeen camps, involving over one hundred boys and some twenty-five staff members, have been conducted. The camps have featured a wide range of activities and indications are that they have contributed greatly to the rehabilitative process. Experience in organisation, management, the development of inter-personal relationships, inter-dependence and independence are some of the benefits obtained. Such activities as these necessitate staff involvement for periods in excess of normal working hours and the officers' willingness in this regard is noted with appreciation.

Whilst Riverbank provides a secure base from which to commence treatment it is accepted that a complete programme cannot be carried out in isolation from

the community regardless of how closely one attempts to normalise the internal environment. It is important therefore, that programmes be allowed to flow from the centre into the community so that new adjustments may be tested and opportunities provided to develop a sufficiently competent person. Recent recommendations by the courts for lengthy periods of detention in secure custody have tended to constrain progressive rehabilitative programmes. At June 30, 1977, 50 per cent of the Riverbank population were the subject of Court recommendations ranging from three months to two and a half years.

Considerable emphasis is placed on an effective community support system and in an effort to provide the most intensive support possible to boys on trial leave Group Workers where practicable are detached for such outside duties. This, together with the assistance of an Aboriginal Aide, has helped the Centre's programme to function with greater effect in the community.

Riverbank has one metropolitan hostel at Francis Street, Perth and its primary function, currently, is to provide community-based training programmes for selected boys as an alternative to strict custody.

Such a programme which allows for controlled exposure to community pressure, is showing indications of its value but the programme is hampered by the necessity at times to use the facility for multi-purpose accommodation.

Development

Results of research aimed at developing a typology of offenders shows the Jesness Inventory to be a useful instrument for classifying Riverbank's population and predictions regarding community-care supervision are currently being investigated. More evaluative research and the development of a data-collection system for obtaining further information regarding the characteristics of Aboriginal offenders are planned.

NYANDI

Description

3 Allen Court, Bentley.

Nyandi is a treatment and research complex for adolescent girls and offers five distinct treatment settings for some two hundred cases.

- 1. A twenty-bed security unit is used for training and the most difficult cases. This unit also provides back-up facilities and support for the other four settings. Its other functions include providing a base for research, evaluation and in-service training for staff in all settings.
- 2. An open residential cottage adjacent to the maximum security unit caters for up to ten girls in a domestic-type living unit.

This unit has developed special techniques for the generalisation of newly-learned skills. Each girl is found a weekend placement and behaviour-rating scales are used to provide feedback on behaviour during these periods.

3. Watson Lodge, an eight-bed hostel in Aberdeen Street, Perth, specialises in the teaching of pre-vocational skills. Girls attaining an acceptable level with such skills are then supported in finding and maintaining themselves in employment. A behaviour-rating questionnaire is used to gain feed-back from employers.
4. Karingal, a six-bed hostel in Canning Highway, Melville, caters for a younger age group and specialises in maintaining girls in normal schools. This is achieved by close liaison with school teachers and guidance officers regarding school attendance and school behaviour.
5. A community-support system, including home-makers, provides additional treatment and support. Its work centres on finding and maintaining girls in suitable accommodation and employment and introducing them to appropriate community groups. Over one hundred and sixty girls are currently being assisted under this programme.

Programme

The monitoring and evaluation of individual and overall treatment programmes receives high priority using data from a Behaviour Monitoring Book (see below). In this, details pertaining to treatment variables such as work attendance and performance, placement attendance and behaviour, skills learnt and offence rates are recorded. It is hoped that future developments in this area will include cost-benefit analysis studies.

Development

Progress has been made in a number of areas.

1. Nyandi's commitment to treatment in the community has been consolidated with the opening of Karingal, December 1976. An increasing number of girls are being given an opportunity to participate in Nyandi's treatment programmes without resort to security placement.
2. An evaluation of the Watson Lodge programme has been completed and results indicate success both in reducing recidivism and use of maximum security. A detailed report of this evaluation which also examines variables relating to community accommodation, employment and supervision is available.
3. A Behaviour Monitoring Book, referred to above, is kept for each girl and monitored on a daily basis. During the year this book was revised and a comprehensive booklet written regarding the principles and procedures to be observed for its use. Copies are available.
4. Under the supervision of staff from Nyandi, students from the W.A.I.T. Film and Television course produced a video recording of Nyandi's social-interaction teaching model. The film is used for in-service training and information purposes.
5. The basic theoretical knowledge for many of the social skills taught at Nyandi is provided by means of programmed booklets. However, over the past year alternative teaching methods have been developed. Wherever practicable

girls are taken out into the community by Group Workers to practice their skills. A number of educational games have been developed and audio tapes employed.

6. A merit system has been introduced in the maximum security programme designed to provide an intermediate step between the highly-structured token economy system and the outside community. It is an attempt to improve the generalisation of behaviour from one setting to the other by requiring the girl to maintain a high level of acceptable behaviour in the institution while being supported only by social contingencies.
7. An evaluation has been made of the effectiveness of the overall treatment programme. The results obtained particularly in relation to recidivism rates, are encouraging.
8. In-service training programmes for staff have continued to be given a high priority. During the year a series of instruction tapes were made for new and existing staff. A series of in-service training workshops have also been developed in areas of communication and social reinforcement.

McCALL CENTRE

Description

2 Curtin Avenue, Mosman Park.

McCall Centre is a treatment facility for children aged 4-12 years whose behaviour and situation requires intensive intervention. There is accommodation for up to twenty resident children. Treatment is also extended to children living in the community and currently there are over thirty such cases.

Function

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

Parents are involved in the programme as much as possible, and in particular they are given the opportunity to learn the special skills necessary to manage their children. If necessary parents can come to the Centre for intensive work and be accommodated in a specially designed Parent Unit. Every endeavour is made to return the child as quickly as possible to the community.

Population Characteristics

Admissions:

Boys	....	....	....	....	....	22
Girls	....	....	....	....	....	3
Total	....	....	....	....	....	25

Average age of children admitted: 10.3 years.

Age range: 5.2 to 12.10 years.

The children are generally admitted for aggressive behaviour, truancy, stealing, inability to relate, poor self-esteem.

Development

1. Community Involvement

Emphasis is placed on modifying both the child and his environment and all McCall staff are now involved in community work—observing the child in his home setting, teaching parents new management techniques and new ways to relate to the child, visiting schools, involving the child in outside interests and activities.

It is hoped that one consequence of this will be a reduction in the length of stay at McCall.

2. Non Wards

In the interests of prevention to involve parents more in the McCall programme and to help reduce periods in residence children who are not wards of the State may be admitted. This year 32 per cent of the new admissions (i.e. excluding re-admissions) were non-wards.

3. Foster Parent Programme

For a number of reasons some children cannot be returned to their parents and require instead a foster home. Secure and competent foster families, however, are a scarce commodity particularly given that they are expected to contend with still quite difficult behavioural problems. To assist here a training scheme has been developed at McCall for intending foster parents.

The course effectively prepares the foster parents for their role and means that children concerned can move to private homes sooner. Close follow-up support is maintained following placement.

A number of developments have improved the recruitment and training programme—

- new advertising approaches.
- new experimental assessment techniques for selecting foster parents.
- the extension of the foster parent course to include both parents.

4. Research

Research has either commenced or is planned in the following areas—

- foster parent selection criteria—to delineate those dimensions associated with successful fostering.
- foster parent training evaluation—to examine the effectiveness of the training course.
- evaluation of the effectiveness of the McCall programme as a whole.
- peer group relationships—to examine the problems McCall children have in such relationships.

5. Kindergarten

A new kindergarten has been completed which will accept up to fifteen children from the local community and private agencies as well as the McCall Centre.

KOORANA

Description

5 Allen Court, Bentley.

Koorana offers a service to school children who are not profiting from normal school attendance. It is non-residential and most children live with their families. The facility can accept up to twenty-eight full-time pupils.

Function

Intervention is aimed at change within the child, the family and the school. With some cases this involves the child's daily attendance at Koorana, with some sessional attendance, but with most the work is undertaken entirely in the home and at the school. Before a referred child attends Koorana the staff investigate the possibility of maintaining the child's attendance at his own school.

The major referring issue concerns the child's behaviour at school and serious educational retardation is usual. Sometimes a child attends Koorana because he has been suspended (actual or defacto) from his own school or because he refuses to attend.

Population Characteristics

Referrals—					
Boys	....	....	....	....	51
Girls	....	....	....	....	7
Total					58
Accepted for treatment—					
Full time attendance	....	....	....	....	14
Sessional attendance	....	....	....	....	11
Treatment carried out in local school and at home					20
Total					45

During 1976/77 there was an average daily attendance of 20 children. Most (92 per cent) of the children had had previous contact with another specialist agency—psychiatric, neurological, or social welfare. Most (52 per cent) came from Guidance Officers of the Education Department, the balance from Departmental field staff (29 per cent) and other sources.

Programme

Treatment and teaching programmes are closely monitored and changed as performance data dictate. The contribution of the various professional personnel varies with each case and the stage of development of that case. Various theoretical approaches have been investigated, the most frequently used being behavioural. Precision teaching techniques are used for all skill subjects.

Development

A relatively high proportion of children (59 per cent) have maintained an improved level of functioning in their own schools after referral to Koorana. All of these children were originally referred as being "impossible" to work with at school.

Techniques developed at Koorana are being passed onto teachers, trainee teachers and parents by means of lectures and demonstrations.

HOSTEL FACILITIES

(Not including hostels related to the major centres)

Country and metropolitan hostels provide accommodation for nearly 600 primary and secondary students and a small number of working-age young people throughout the State.

Operated by this Department or by private agencies, most cater for Aboriginal children from isolated areas who, apart from accommodation, need support in adjusting to the life of the larger town or city. Centres which accept working-age children also focus on teaching these residents how to function independently in the community.

Staff are selected on the basis of child-care training and experience and the personal qualities needed for such residential care.

Country and Metropolitan School Hostels

The need for such accommodation has been maintained and there has been an increase in demand by senior secondary school Aboriginal students.

The Department sees its role as extending beyond physical welfare. Staff respond to situations which arise out of wide differences in age and cultural background. Providing for the children's total needs means not only involvement with parents and relatives but with outside agencies concerned with health, education and employment. Every opportunity is provided for participation in community activities to enable the children to develop their social skills and gain in self-confidence.

Training Hostels

These facilities are for adolescents, usually of working age who need closer supervision or assistance with employment and overall adjustment in society. Two of them, Tudor Lodge and Stuart House, are in the metropolitan area with another two at Kalgoorlie. A fifth, Kartanup Hostel at Katanning, was opened in early 1976 and takes both urban and country referrals. When a sufficient level of competence and independence has been achieved the residents either return home or move to private board.

Transient Hostel

"Bennett House" is a special-purpose hostel in Perth which caters for country-based Aboriginal adults and children coming to the city for medical and similar reasons. It is thus for short-stay transients, one requirement being that residents are well enough for hostel-type care.

Metropolitan Hostels

Applecross	....	Primary school students
Ardross	....	Secondary school students
Bedford Park	....	Secondary school students and business college students
Bentley	....	Secondary school students
Como "Kyewong"		Secondary school students
East Perth "Bennett House"		Transient medical patients
Greenmount "Innamincka"		Secondary school students
Hamilton Hill	....	Secondary school students
Kewdale	....	Secondary school students
Medina	....	Secondary school students
Mt. Lawley "Cooinda"		Secondary school students and business college students
Mt. Lawley "Katurkut"		Working boys
Mt. Lawley "Stuart House"		Working girls
Mt. Lawley "Tudor Lodge"		Working boys
Mt. Yokine "Warralea"		Secondary school students
Mt. Yokine "Bamburra"		Secondary school students
Subiaco "Myera"		Secondary school students and business college students

Country Hostels

Boulder "Nindeebai"		Secondary school students
Boulder	....	Working boys
Cue "Kyarra"	....	Primary school students
Derby	....	Primary and secondary school students
Geraldton	....	Working boys
Halls Creek "Charles Perkins"		Primary school students
Kalgoorlie	....	Working girls
Katanning "Kartanup"		Working youths
Leonora "Nabberu"		Primary school students
Marble Bar "Oolanyah"		Primary school students
Onslow "Gilliamia"		Primary school students
Port Hedland "Moorgunya"		Secondary school students
Roebourne "Weeriana"		Primary and secondary school students
Yalgoo "Warrambo"		Primary school students

CATERING SERVICE

Departmental institutions, hostels and associated facilities with catering requirements are located throughout the State. Regular visits are made to all by the Catering Superintendent, or one of his staff, to ensure that high standards are achieved and maintained. The Catering Service also offers assistance in an advisory capacity to church missions, privately run group homes and hostels.

Menus are carefully compiled with a view to acceptance, balance and nutritional value and are approved by a qualified dietician before being introduced. As far as resources allow attention is given to varying needs and where necessary changes are made to suit specific requirements pertinent to age, ethnic and cultural factors, physical disabilities and malfunctions.

It is hoped that in the future additional staff will enable the introduction of even more specialised menus and allow for market trends to be followed more closely. This would result in a more beneficial, economical and efficient service.

Other areas of involvement include the training of Aborigines in food service procedures. Selected residents in metropolitan institutions and hostels are also trained in those methods.

Liaison with dieticians and food technologists in various parts of Australia helps to ensure that the Catering Section is kept aware of modern trends associated with diets and the food industry, also new methods of supervising and administering food programmes. Much continues to be done with manufacturing companies towards the development of special food products.

LAUNDRY

A laundry, located at Mount Lawley, is operated by the Department and provides an efficient service to thirty of its institutions, hostels and group homes. More than 3.5 dry tons of clothing and linen, as well as blankets and other miscellaneous items are laundered each week at a cost which represents a considerable saving on normal commercial rates.

In addition to maintaining a laundry service, the facility also provides an opportunity for some wards to obtain work training. Young people who have

found it difficult to cope with employment are paid award rates whilst they learn work skills in a tolerant environment. Those involved in this programme have generally encountered a good degree of success when subsequently employed in the community.

TEACHING STAFF

The Institutional Service is responsible for supplying a number of teaching staff to independent facilities where special circumstances exist. In all cases the existing school at these centres caters for children with severe behavioural problems and the additional teachers help to improve staff-child ratios, thereby making class sizes more manageable.

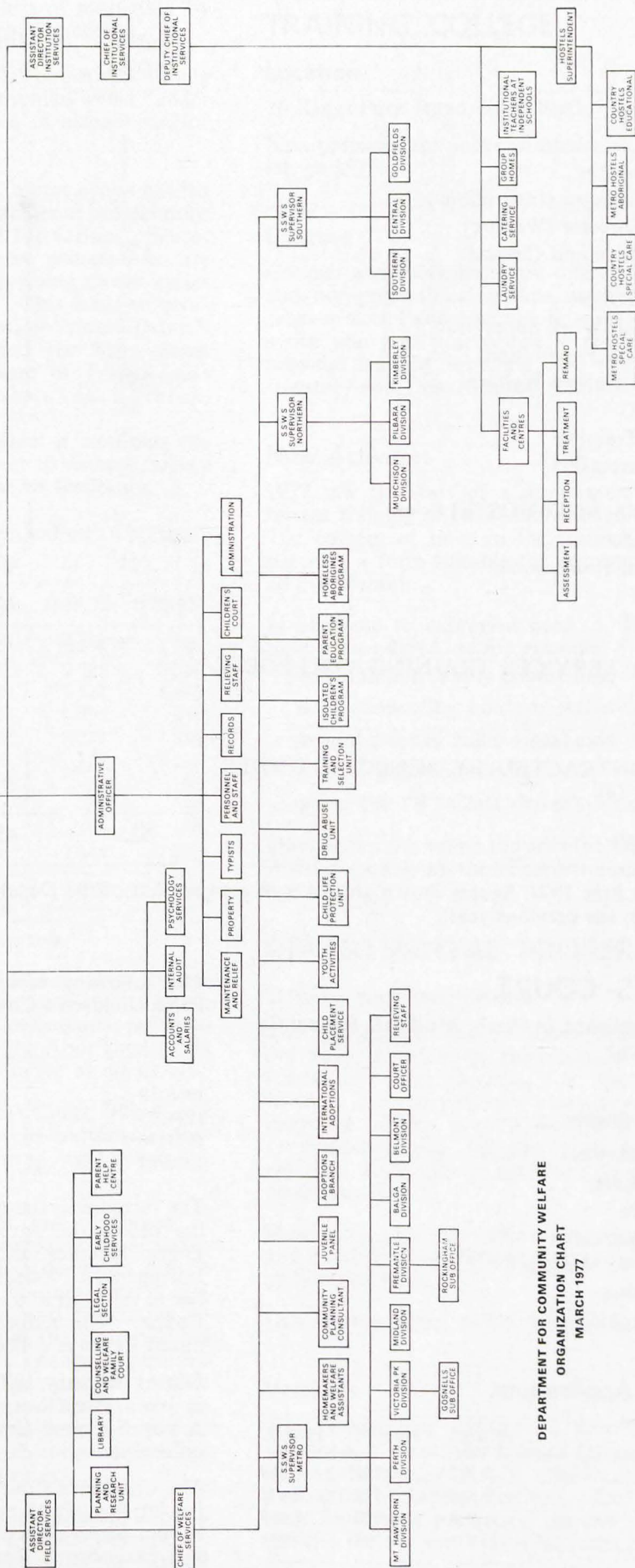
Overall the Department employs some twenty qualified teachers in institutions within the metropolitan area and together these form a significant and specialised staff body which meets regularly to discuss common interests and problems. Nearly all the teachers are seconded from the Education Department and may return to normal schools should they wish.

The Education Department provides valuable assistance in this area and close liaison with its staff at all levels is imperative, especially for the smooth transfer of children between the different school situations.

Teaching methods and programmes within these schools are tailored for the needs of the children most of whom are educationally retarded as a consequence of past disruptions and other difficulties. Apart from up-to-date scholastic assessments, emphasis is placed on teaching basic skills, on the everyday application of such knowledge and on social and community matters.

Administration

MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE



DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE
ORGANIZATION CHART
MARCH 1977

STAFF * COMPLEMENT AS AT 30th JUNE, 1977

	Public Service	Minis- terial	Wages	Total
HEAD OFFICE—				
Director	1	....	....
Deputy Director....	1	....	....
Assistant Director (Institutions)	1	....	....
Assistant Director (Welfare)	1	....	....
Administrative and Clerical	179	2	2	187
FIELD DIVISIONS—				
Senior Social Work Supervisor	2	....	....
Chief Clinical Psychologist	1	....	....
Administrative and Welfare	230	....	....
Office Staff	89	....	1	
Cadets in Training	5	....	....
Reserve Caretakers ....	....	....	6	334
INSTITUTIONS AND HOSTELS—				
Superintendents ....	....	9	....
Welfare and Institutional	11	400	54	
Office Staff	4	11	....
Hostel Staff ....	....	12	110	611
COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINING COLLEGE—				
Director ....	....	1	....
Staff ....	....	7	....	8
PERSONS CONTRACTED BY MINISTER UNDER SECTION 8 (4)				
	....	9	....	9
Totals	525	451	173	1 149

* As from 30th June 1977, figures shown are the staff complement of the Department and not the establishment as shown in the previous years.

CHILDREN'S COURT

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

Special Magistrates

Mr. W. Fellowes
Mr. D. Fogarty
Mr. R. Viol
Mrs. D. Dettman
Mr. C. R. W. Webster
Mr. J. Wisbey
Mr. I. Marshall

Charges and Applications

	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
Perth	9 382	9 099	7 884
Fremantle	2 550	2 812	2 174
Midland	1 790	1 700	1 555
Rockingham	973	794	859
	14 695	14 405	12 472

The following table shows financial collections at Perth Children's Court for comparison.

	Revenue	Trust	Total
	\$	\$	\$
1968/69	37 080	11 163	48 243
1974/75	83 895	26 306	110 201
1975/76	85 867	25 101	110 968
1976/77	76 898	23 175	100 073

The increase in the number of first offenders appearing before the Juvenile (Suspended Action) Panel, Police Lectures and the increased use of Traffic Infringement Notices had led to a drop in the number of minor traffic matters coming before Children's Courts. The reduction in Traffic charges has reduced Revenue collection.

During January 1977 the Children's Court building in Irwin Street was vacated to allow for demolition. A new Supreme Court complex is to be established on the site.

The Children's Court has taken up temporary premises at East Perth in an extensively renovated Witt-enoom Street School on the corner of Royal Street and Claisebrook Road. It is hoped that the movement back to a Perth Central location will not be delayed longer than is absolutely necessary.

The continued abuse of alcohol and drugs by children is of concern to the Court if pleas of mitigation by counsel and parents are to be given credence.

There is evidence of loss of control sometimes ending in serious crimes committed by juveniles whilst "under the influence" to varying degrees of alcohol and/or drugs.

The increased use of "off street" motor cycles has led to a subsequent increase in the number of prosecutions being brought before the Court for various offences associated with this sport. These prosecutions are generally brought when children riding motor cycles venture onto roads and verges. This leads to prosecutions for unregistered vehicles, no Motor Driver's Licences, no safety helmets and the like. Some children and parents are unaware of Traffic Laws and Regulations whilst others take a calculated risk.

It is distressing to the Court when it considers the risks these children take in respect to damage, injury and even death without recourse to Insurance.

Scale showing the types of offences in Perth Children's Court for comparison.

	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
Traffic	3 227	2 556	1 724
Breaking and Entering	2 037	2 055	2 044
Stealing and Receiving	1 220	1 527	1 472
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	926	996	742
Disorderly Conduct/Assaults	212	229	350
False Name	119	124	131
Liquor Act Offences	110	68	65
Drug Offences	*	62	56
Drinking Driving Offences	*	137	109
Other	1 531	1 345	1 191
	9 382	9 099	7 884

* No separate statistics kept.

Unlike Adult Courts of Petty Sessions, there are no representatives of Legal Aid bodies available to speak with and advise parents and defendants prior to Court. The exception to this is the Aboriginal Legal Service who provides a representative at all Courts.

In the Perth Children's Court the Court Officer and Clerk of Courts attend to numerous enquiries in this respect and refer persons requiring legal advice to the appropriate agency.

The number of defended cases has continued to increase (Pleas of Not Guilty, opposing applications for neglect, uncontrolled) which is no doubt due to extension of schemes for free or subsidised Legal Aid. It is regrettable however, and frustrating to Magistrates and staff that many of the matters listed for a defended hearing result in a change of plea too close to the date set for hearings to allow another matter to be listed for that time. This extends the period defendants must wait to have complaints against them heard and is an unfortunate side effect of extended Legal Assistance Schemes.

Recommendations contained in Field Officers Reports and submitted to the Court by the Court Officer continue to be of invaluable assistance to the Special Magistrates in assessing a fair penalty for the offence once the charge is proven or application granted.

COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINING COLLEGE

Location

16 Kings Park Road, West Perth.

New premises are under construction, for occupation late in 1977.

Courses

Courses and workshops are offered for professional and non-professional groups working in specialised areas of social and community welfare. In addition, a one year part time course in residential child care provides training for child care work in both non-statutory and Departmental facilities.

New Activities

1977 saw the start of a programme of "packages" for the training of residential staff in country hostels. The content of units in the training course will be put into a form suitable for correspondence courses and workshops.

In response to expressed need, a variety of course have been offered, as for example:—

- training in family counselling,
- in conducting outdoor activities with children,
- in the use of audio visual aids,
- in management skills,
- for the "B" Class driver's licence.

Steps have been taken towards the establishment of a Board to advise on the administration of the College.

DEPARTMENTAL PROPERTY

Offices and Institutions

This Department has 53 offices situated 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.

During the year new offices were opened at Karratha and South Hedland, and an office is soon to be opened at Wongan Hills.

Offices were closed at Mt. Magnet and Leonora.

Vehicles

The Department operates a fleet of 145 vehicles stationed at 53 centres located throughout the State. During the past year, these vehicles covered 2 814 035 kilometres on official business. Exclusive of capital costs for vehicle purchases, the cost to operate these vehicles for the year was 6.91 cents per kilometre.

Private vehicles used on official business during the same period covered 1 042 711 kilometres.

In addition to conventional vehicles, the Department has the following units placed throughout the State.

- 6 Trucks
- 42 Trailers
- 35 Buses
- 3 Tractors
- 5 Caravans

RECORDS BRANCH

The section has approximately 36 400 files stored for referral and in current use. During the year, 4 550 new files have been created, and approximately 14 800 files microfilmed and destroyed.

The section has experienced an increase in work load in two particular areas. A general increase in mail correspondence has had a compounding effect upon work loads within the section. Court appearances by juveniles have generally increased, leading to a constant revision of Court records and processing within the section.

Throughout the year, staff turnover has been relatively low, enabling greater efficiency and increased rotation of staff within the section. The Department has taken full advantage of the section. Officers are continually referring to the section for information and it is hoped, thereby, increasing the efficiency of the Department as a whole.

Licensing

Institutions or foster mothers who take care of non-related persons under the age of six years must be approved and licensed by the Department. This function is exercised so that all cases where such children are in residential care will be drawn to the attention of the Department and assistance or advice may be offered if necessary. This is seen as a method of protecting children from "exploitation".

Licensing of children performing in public or street trading is also carried out. When recent amendments to the Child Welfare Act are proclaimed this licensing function will no longer be required although the Department will still have the right to intervene should cases of exploitation come to notice.

Permits to Enter Camping Reserves

During the year to the 30th June, 1977, the Department issued three permits for persons to enter Aboriginal camping reserves adjacent to major towns. Departmental regulations provide that a permit should be issued in cases where persons are entering Aboriginal Reserves. Before the Department will issue these permits it must ensure that the Aboriginal Council residing on the Reserve, agrees and that the business to be conducted will not jeopardise the welfare and well-being of residents on the Reserve.

FINANCIAL AID

Under the provisions of the Welfare and Assistance Act 1961, assistance to families and single persons in need is granted. The Act also regulates the recovery of monies so advanced.

Continuing assistance is rendered in most instances to single parents with dependent children, such as separated wives or husbands, unmarried mothers or

wives of prisoners. Generally such families are fully dependent on Departmental support in the months before they qualify for an appropriate Commonwealth Government pension or benefit.

In addition to the above, non-continuous payments are made over a wide range of circumstances to persons and families who are temporarily destitute or stranded and require emergency assistance. Financial aid is also provided to persons with limited means living in country areas when travel for specialist medical treatment is necessary.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year totalled \$2 789 439 after recoup of \$1 670 371.24 from the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Thus a total of \$4 459 811.24 was paid to families receiving assistance.

	1975/76	1976/77
EXPENDITURE—	\$	\$
Continuous Assistance	2 028 494	2 493 921
Emergency Aid	154 860	240 496
Travel Assistance	45 484	55 022
	2 228 858	2 789 439
RECOVERY—		
Assistance Paid to Families	257 040	273 173
Maintenance of Wards	52 425	42 164
	309 465	315 337

Variation in Rates

The rates of payment to families receiving continuing assistance have been reviewed and subsequently increased twice during the current financial year.

An increase of \$3.25 per week in the rates was made on November 17, 1976 and a further increase of \$3.60 per week was made on May 11, 1977.

	19/5/76	17/11/76	11/5/77
	\$	\$	\$
Parent	41.25	43.50	47.10
Parent and one child	52.75	55.00	58.60
Parent and two children	60.25	62.50	66.10
Parent and three children	67.75	70.00	73.60
Parent and four children	75.25	77.50	81.10
Parent and five children	82.75	85.00	88.60
Parent and six children	90.25	92.50	96.10
Parent and seven children	97.75	100.00	103.60
Parent and eight children	105.25	107.50	111.10

Write Offs

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

	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
	\$	\$	\$
Wards Wages	235		
Maintenance of Wards			
Maintenance of Aboriginal Wards	3 043		
Recoverable Financial Assistance	25 576	84 169	23 535
	25 576	87 447	23 535

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mission Grants in Aid 1976/77

Mission		Details	Amount Paid
			\$
Marribank	.....	Scatter cottages Architect's Fees	3 500
Carnarvon	.....	Scatter cottage	38 000
		Renovations/Alterations to Existing Facility	17 000
		Furnishings	6 000
St. Joseph's Derby	.....	Personal space for store	5 000
Kurrawang	.....	Scatter cottage	36 000
Balgo	.....	Final contribution Ablution/Laundry	20 000
Collie Welfare Council	.....	Group Home	43 000
Moongong Darwung	.....	Establishment Costs	5 000
La Grange	.....	Water Supply....	10 000
			183 500

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Continuous Assistance

Category	1975/76			1976/77		
	Applications Received	Receiving Assistance as at 30 June		Applications Received	Receiving Assistance as at 30 June	
		Families	Children		Families	Children
Separated Wives....	3 372	1 074	2 307	3 856	1 327	2 178
Unmarried Mothers	644	239	251	623	210	234
Wives of Prisoners	264	50	126	234	60	131
Separated Husbands	53*	43	85	64	28	65
Other	28*	....	....	121	20	45
Total	4 381	1 406	2 772	4 898	1 645	2 653

*Adjusted from previous Annual Report to exclude 502 "non-continuous" assistance applications.

Non-Continuous Assistance

Category	1975/76	1976/77
	\$	\$
Emergency Aid	9 867	8 225
Travel Assistance....	972	755
Total	10 839	8 980

Receipts in Suspense

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

	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
	\$	\$	\$
	286 283	258 030	293 381

Remittances Received for Banking Purposes

	1974/75	1975/76	1976/77
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts	1 885	6 825	14 378
Balance as at 30 June	30 333	87 809	65 110

Remittances Received and Held in Trust Account at Treasury

	1975/76	1976/77
	\$	\$
Receipts	42 092	55 031
Balance as at 30 June	20 107	22 105

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

FINANCIAL GRANTS 1976/77

DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

1. Capital:	\$
Moorgunya	19 694.37
Derby School Hostel	830.00
Gilliamia	19 996.94
Wyndham Transient	7 147.00
Unallocated Amount	2 331.69

2. Recurrent and Specific Purposes:	
Social Work Unit Perth Area	68 808.24
Emergency Accommodation	28 971.28
Homemaker Service	275 000.00
Kimberley Region—	
Psychological Services	10 755.96
Welfare Aides	84 563.32
Support Staff	775.57
Field Management	10 778.98
Welfare Aides—	
Pilbara	19 728.70
Katanning	6 039.34
Fitzroy Crossing—Male Homemakers	500.29
Group Worker Aides	33 460.78
Reserve Rehousing	378 910.65
	\$918 293.11

Statement of Receipts and Payments for year ended 30th June, 1977

1975/76	Particulars	Ward Expenditure							Departmental Institutions			
		1976/77	General Admin.	Field Operations	Private Institutions	Boarded Out	Non Ward Inc. Migrants	Reserves	Financial Assistance	Assessment	Treatment	Hostels
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
10 392 793	Salaries and Wages	12 103 225	1 875 314	4 502 269	...	...	...	...	...	2 175 087	2 309 884	1 240 671
261 110	Administration	821 744	575 069	246 675	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50 249	Printing	46 021	23 010	23 011	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 014 697	Field Expenses	994 355	...	868 104	...	...	126 251	...	...	...	...	...
680 417	Community Welfare Assistance	896 251	41 670	176 247	90 052	...	...	...	588 282	...	...	...
2 710 424	Maintenance of Children	2 843 266	...	...	431 494	1 728 011	683 761	...	...	...	...	...
53 991	Adoption of Children	20 083	...	...	...	...	20 083	...	...	...	...	...
2 097 858	Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	2 623 303	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 623 303	...	...	...
131 000	Unemployment Relief	166 138	...	...	...	...	...	...	166 138	...	...	...
1 298 082	Institutions	1 307 383	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	328 370	331 593	647 420
321 651	Residential Reserves	1 079 095	...	...	...	...	...	1 079 095	...	...	...	...
19 012 272	Total Payments	22 900 864	2 515 063	5 816 306	521 546	1 728 011	830 095	1 079 095	3 377 723	2 503 457	2 641 477	1 888 091
Against which Receipts were:—												
52 425	1. State:	42 164	...	...	...	42 164	...	...	...	...	...	...
240 805	Maintenance of Children	273 173	...	...	...	...	...	...	273 173	...	...	...
400 471	Recoverable Assistance (Welfare and Assistance Act)	446 715	97 443	1 225	...	...	14 100	11 251	21 094	27 626	26 258	247 718
32 000	Other Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
134 925	2. Commonwealth:	111 078	...	111 078	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
779 601	Social Welfare Commission	266 910	82 260	147 746	...	...	9 888	2 998	18 400	...	5 618	...
	Family Court	918 293	68 808	408 142	...	...	...	407 882	...	...	33 461	...
	Office of Child Care	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Department of Aboriginal Affairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 640 227	Total Receipts	2 058 333	248 511	668 191	...	42 164	23 988	422 131	312 667	27 626	65 337	247 718
17 372 045	Net Expenditure	20 842 531	2 266 552	5 148 115	521 546	1 685 847	806 107	656 964	3 065 056	2 475 831	2 576 140	1 640 373

CHILDHOOD SERVICES PROGRAMME

1. Capital:	\$
McCall Centre	10 158.71
Port Kennedy	19 650.33
2. Recurrent and Specific Purposes:	
Children's Playtime Co-ordinator	7 594.75
Parents' Help Centre	65 921.48
Child Care Advisory Staff	55 767.52
Parent Education Assistance	33 097.79
Pilbara Isolated Communities	49 162.48
In-Service Training Sub-Professional Staff	1 592.36
Balga Creative Play	2 654.62
Training Allowance Child Care Course	18 400.00
Fitzroy Crossing Child Refuge.....	2 053.00
Community Development Officer	8 787.11
McCall Centre Kindergarten—Salaries	5 617.99
Children's Holiday Programmes	9 887.68
Reserve Playgrounds	2 998.14
Karratha—Day Care Subsidy	3 374.00
	\$266 908.92

FAMILY COURT

Recurrent Costs Counselling Services	\$111 078.00
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DEPARTMENT FOR
COMMUNITY WELFARE

Welfare and Assistance Act, 1961

Statement of Receipts and Payments
1-7-76 to 30-6-77

PAYMENTS—			
Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons			\$2 623 302.48
Unemployment Relief			\$166 137.66
Receipts			\$273 173.22

I certify this is a true statement of cash transactions under the Welfare and Assistance Act for the year ended June 30, 1977.

AUDITOR GENERAL.

TABLE 1
Juvenile Offences

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

				1974/75			1975/76			1976/77		
				Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Offences against property	(A)	(B)		7 874	1 090	8 964	8 738	1 076	9 814	7 228	804	8 032
				2 200	583	2 783	2 325	431	2 756	2 223	370	2 593
Offences against person	(A)	(B)		306	33	339	375	73	448	315	41	356
				177	17	194	177	20	197	152	18	170
Offences against good order	(A)	(B)		1 813	409	2 222	2 120	314	2 434	2 071	382	2 453
				468	152	620	509	139	648	535	159	694
Total	(A)	(B)		9 993	1 532	11 525	11 233	1 463	12 696	9 614	1 227	10 841
				2 845	752	3 597	3 011	590	3 601	2 910	547	3 457

(A) Number of offences for which children were charged.
(B) Number of individual children concerned.
Offences against property—includes stealing and receiving (largest category); breaking, entering and stealing; unlawful use of motor vehicles; wilful damage; false pretences.
Offences against the person—includes assault; sex offences; robbery with violence.
Offences against good order—includes disorderly conduct; false name and address; resisting arrest; liquor; betting and traffic offences.

TABLE 2
Juvenile Offenders

Departmental placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Department for Community Welfare for the year ended 30th June 1977.

					Male	Feniale	Total
Released to Parents	....	....	....	(A) (B)	123 111	14 17	137 128
Released to Relatives	....	....	....	(A) (B)	15 15	4 6	19 21
Released to persons other than relatives				(A) (B)	1 6	1 1	2 7
Released to employment	....	....	....	(A) (B)	7 8	.... 1	7 9
Placed in Riverbank or Longmore				(A) (B)	19 138	1 7	20 145
Placed in Hillston	....	....	....	(A) (B)	29 200	.... ....	29 200
Placed in independent institutions	....			(A) (B)	78 197	20 31	98 228
Placed in Neuville	....	....	....	(A) (B)	.... ....	.... 1	.... 1
Placed with foster parents	....	....		(A) (B)	8 18	2 3	10 21
Placed in Nyandi	....	....	....	(A) (B)	.... ....	10 63	10 63
Totals	....	....	....	(A) (B)	280 693	52 130	332 823

(A) Committed to care of Department. (B) Re-committed to care of Department.

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

TABLE 3
Juvenile Misbehaviour

Cases of juvenile misbehaviour appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June 1977.

	7 years			8 years			9 years			10 years			11 years			12 years		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Uncontrolled
Neglect (generally uncontrolled)	1	1
Neglect (involving sexual misconduct)	1	1
Truancy	1	1	....	....	....	2	....	2	1	....	1	4	2	6
Breaking terms of probation
Total	1	1	....	....	....	2	....	2	1	....	1	4	4	8

	13 years			14 years			15 years			16 years			17 years			Total		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Uncontrolled	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	2	2
Neglect (generally uncontrolled)	1	1	2	3	13	16	1	14	15	....	12	12	1	2	3	6	43	49
Neglect (involving sexual misconduct)	....	3	3	....	6	6	....	6	6	....	6	6	....	1	1	....	23	23
Truancy	6	6	12	2	8	10	1	....	1	....	1	1	....	....	....	16	18	34
Breaking terms of probation	....	....	....	1	1	2	....	2	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	3	4
Total	7	10	17	6	29	35	2	22	24	....	20	20	1	3	4	23	89	112

B—Boys appearing:

G—Girls appearing:

T—Total appearing:

TABLE 4
Child Neglect

Cases of Parental Neglect and Destitution appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June 1977.

Reason for Appearance						Age									
						Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Parental Neglect	....	....	....	Boys	....	4	4	5	5	3	5	3	1	3	3
				Girls	....	14	2	3	4	3	6	5	3	....	....
Destitution	....	....	....	Boys	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
				Girls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Total	....	....	....	Boys	....	4	4	5	5	3	5	4	1	3	3
				Girls	....	14	2	3	4	3	6	5	3	....	....
Grand Total	....	....	....	....	....	18	6	8	9	6	11	9	4	3	3

Reason for Appearance						Age								Total
						10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Parental Neglect	....	....	....	Boys	....	2	2	1	1	3	1	....	....	46
				Girls	....	4	5	4	2	2	4	1	....	62
Destitution	....	....	....	Boys	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
				Girls	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1
Total	....	....	....	Boys	....	2	2	1	1	3	1	....	....	47
				Girls	....	4	5	4	2	2	4	2	....	63
Grand Total	....	....	....	....	....	6	7	5	3	5	5	2	....	110

TABLE 5
Juvenile Misbehaviour and Child Neglect

Court decisions in regard to cases of juvenile misbehaviour, neglect and destitution in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June 1977.

Court Decision	Male	Female	Total
Dismissed	1	1	2
Dismissed with Supervision	....	1	1
Placed on Probation	1	15	16
Committed to care of Department	65	125	190
Re-committed to care of Department	5	11	16
Total	72	153	225

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

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

TABLE 6

Juvenile Misbehaviour and Child Neglect

Departmental placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Department for Community Welfare for juvenile misbehaviour, parental neglect or destitution in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June 1977.

Departmental Disposal	Male	Female	Total
Released to parents	25	43	68
Released to relatives	2	19	21
Released to other than relatives	2	6	8
Placed with foster parents	20	26	46
Released to employment .....	.....	.....	.....
Placed in independent institutions	17	44	61
Placed in Neuville .....	.....	.....	.....
Placed in Hillston	1	.....	1
Placed in Nyandi .....	.....	6	6
Placed in Riverbank .....	.....	2	2
Total	67	146	213

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

TABLE 7

Ministerial Committals

Children placed under the care of the Department for Community Welfare by means of Ministerial Committal for the year ended 30th June 1977.

						Age									
						Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Section 47A .....	.....	.....	.....	Boys .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Girls .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 47B .....	.....	.....	.....	Boys .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	Girls .....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Section 47C .....	.....	.....	.....	Boys .....	.....	5	2	5	.....	2	2	1	1	1	5
.....	.....	.....	.....	Girls .....	.....	6	2	1	2	.....	2	1	1	1	2
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	4	6	2	2	4	2	3	3	7

						Age								Total
						10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Section 47A .....	.....	.....	.....	Boys .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
.....	.....	.....	.....	Girls .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Section 47B .....	.....	.....	.....	Boys .....	.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	7
.....	.....	.....	.....	Girls .....	.....	1	2	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	8
Section 47C .....	.....	.....	.....	Boys .....	.....	2	3	2	2	1	.....	.....	.....	34
.....	.....	.....	.....	Girls .....	.....	1	2	3	3	2	.....	1	.....	30
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	8	8	6	5	2	1	.....	80

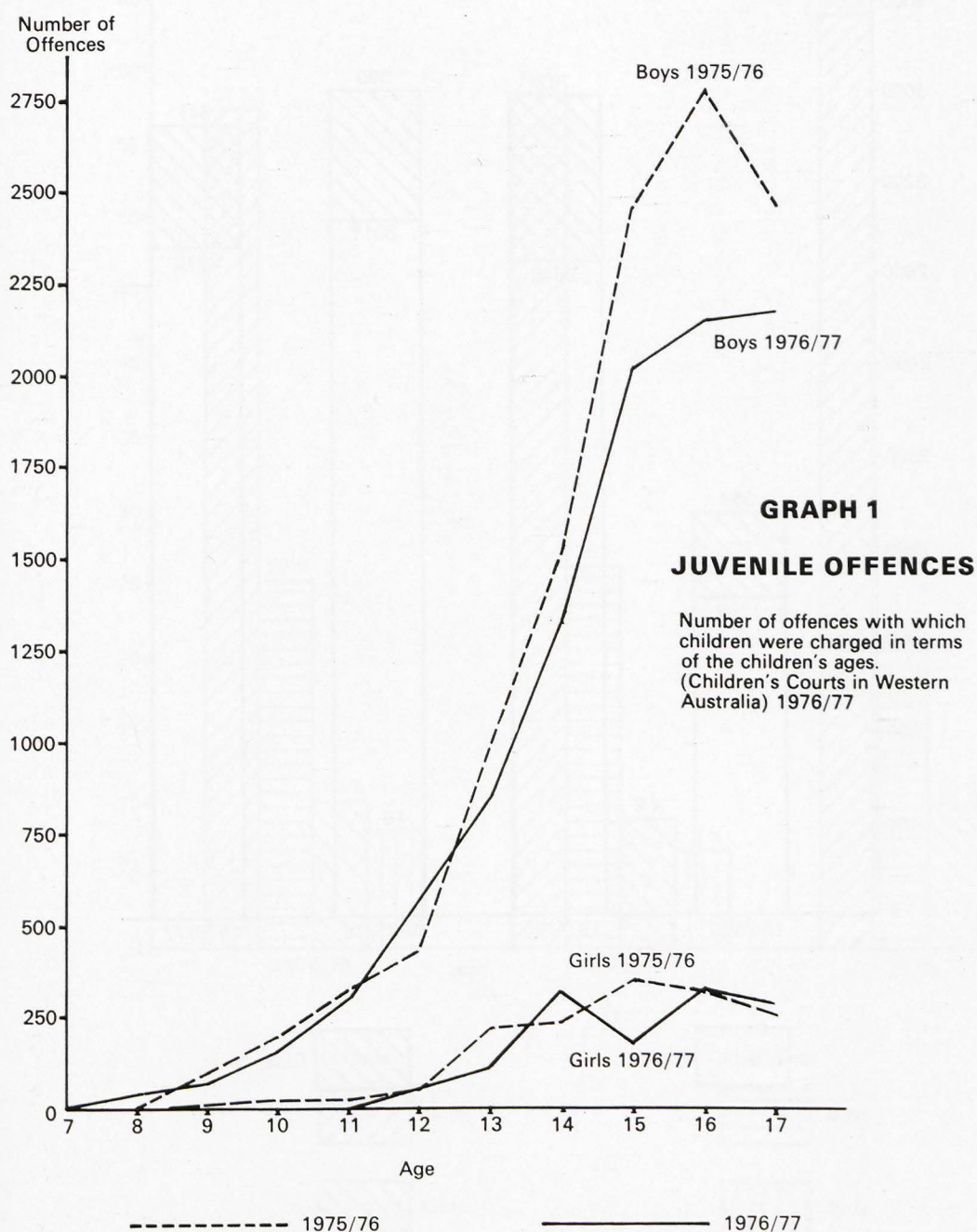
NOTE: These committals are authorised by the Hon. Minister by virtue of power given to him in accordance with Sections 47A, 47B and 47C of the Child Welfare Act, which provides for power to commit those cases which may not otherwise be committed.

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

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

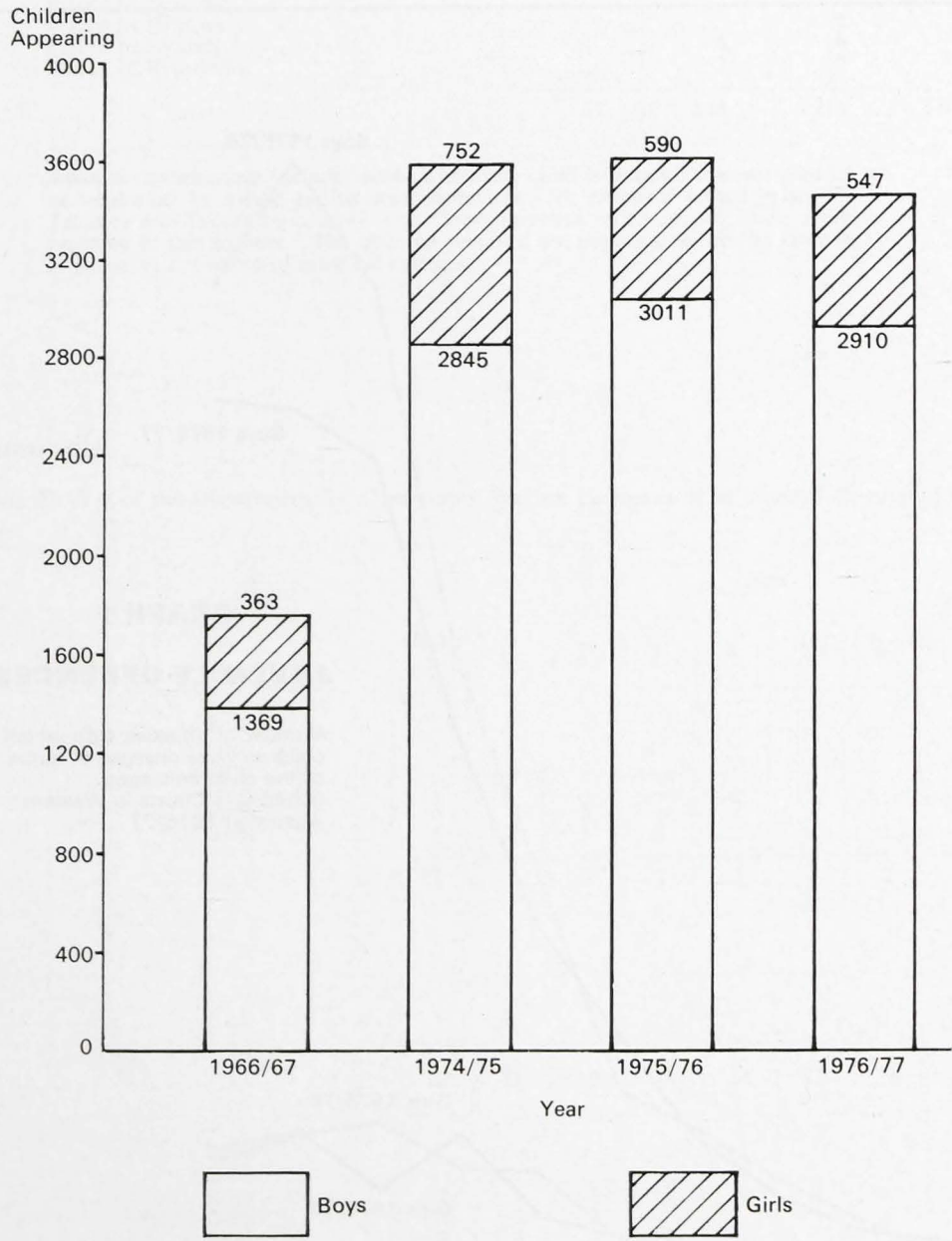
47C deals with children whose parents consider it is in the best interests of the children to be committed.

	Age Yrs	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
1975/76	Boys	10	16	98	161	306	427	1011	1503	2451	2770	2480	11233
	Girls	-	3	14	24	23	55	219	239	328	308	250	1463
	Total	10	19	112	185	329	482	1230	1742	2779	3078	2730	12696
1976/77	Boys	6	32	75	164	301	557	843	1320	2015	2136	2166	9614
	Girls	1	-	1	2	11	52	112	307	173	311	257	1227
	Total	7	32	76	166	312	609	955	1627	2188	2446	2423	10841



GRAPH 2
JUVENILE OFFENCES

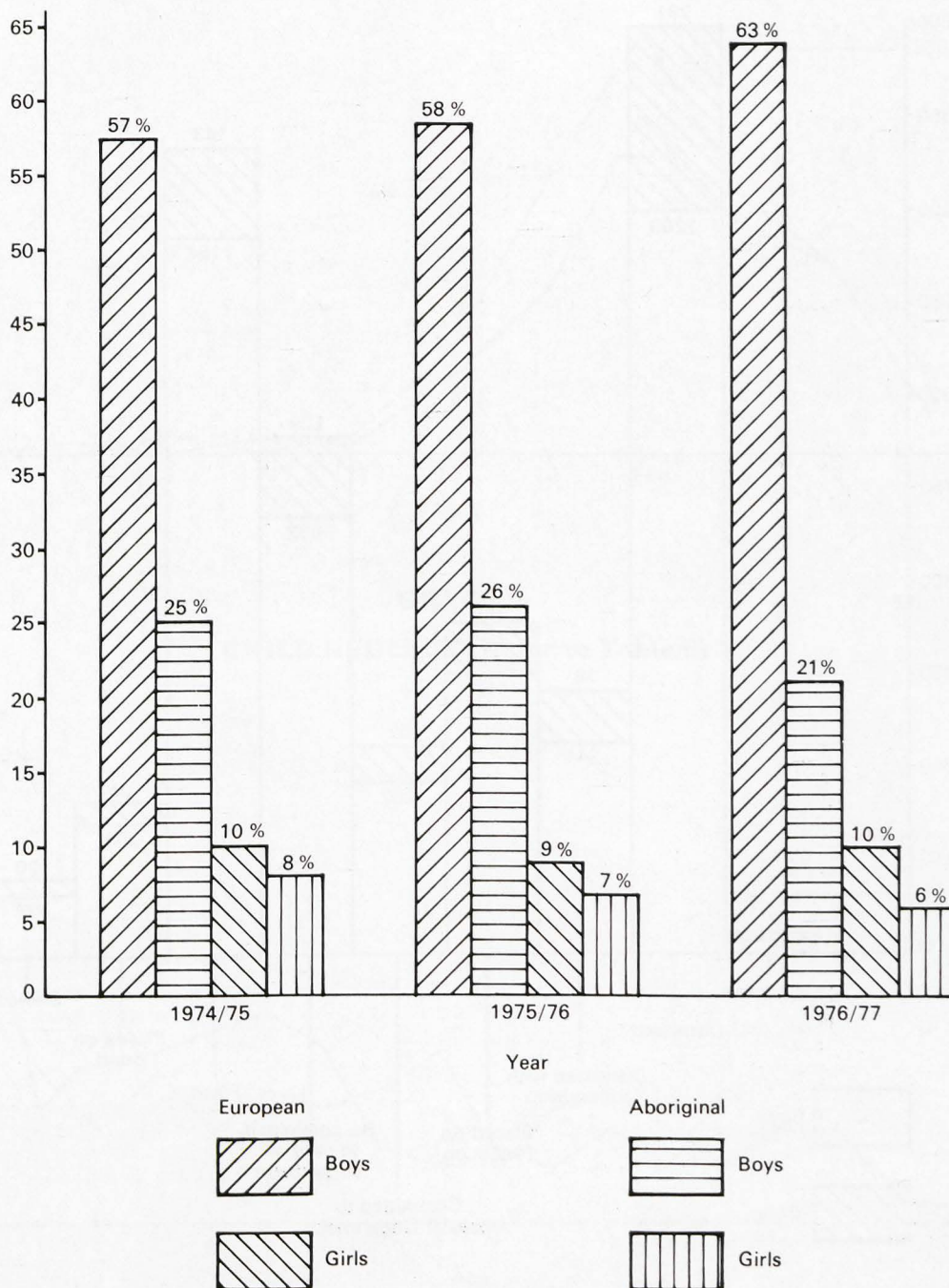
Number of children appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia
1966/67, 1974/75, 1975/76 and 1976/77.



GRAPH 3 JUVENILE OFFENCES

Aboriginal and European children appearing in Children's Courts
in Western Australia during 1974/75, 1975/76 and 1976/77.

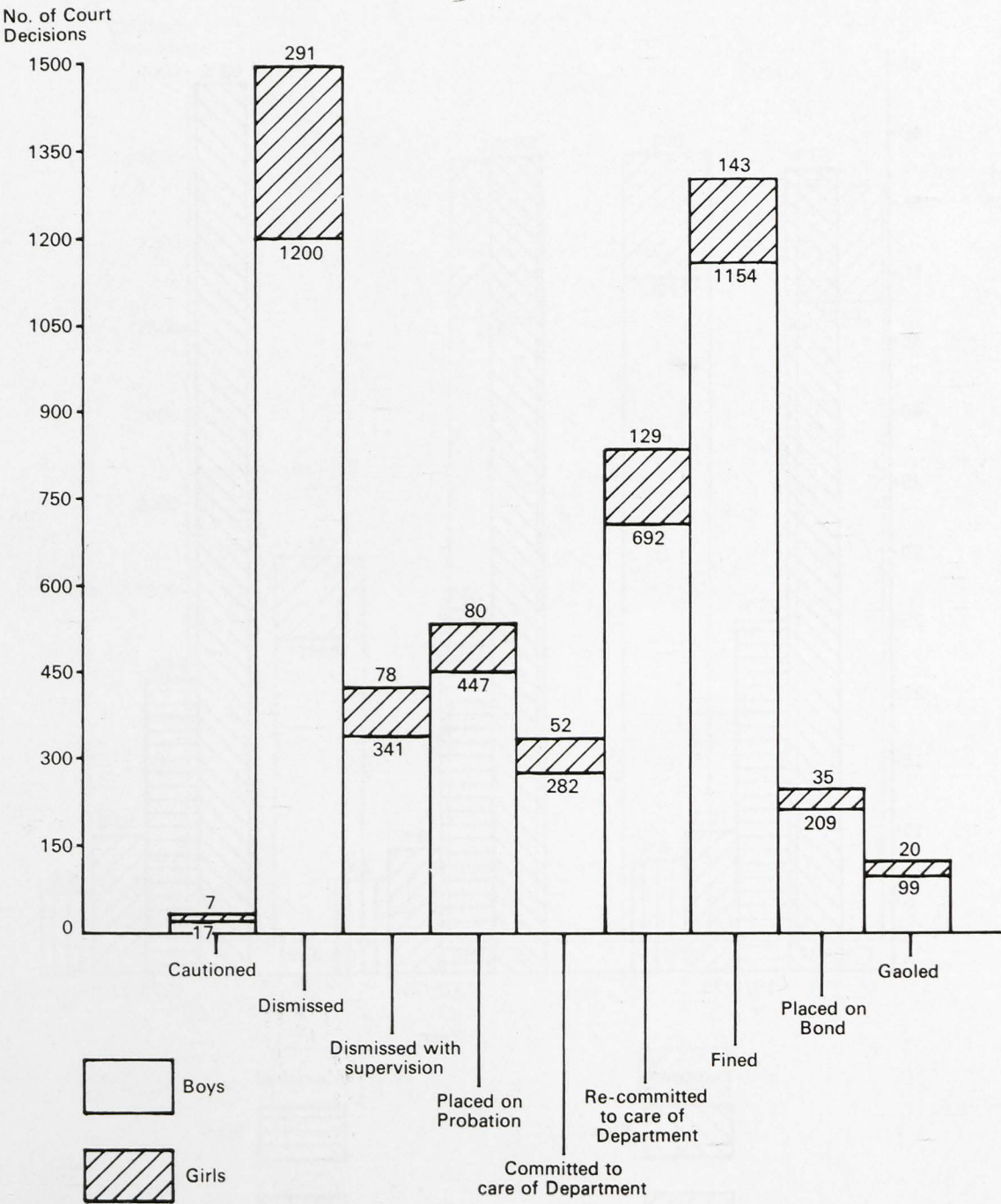
Percentage of
Children appearing



GRAPH 4

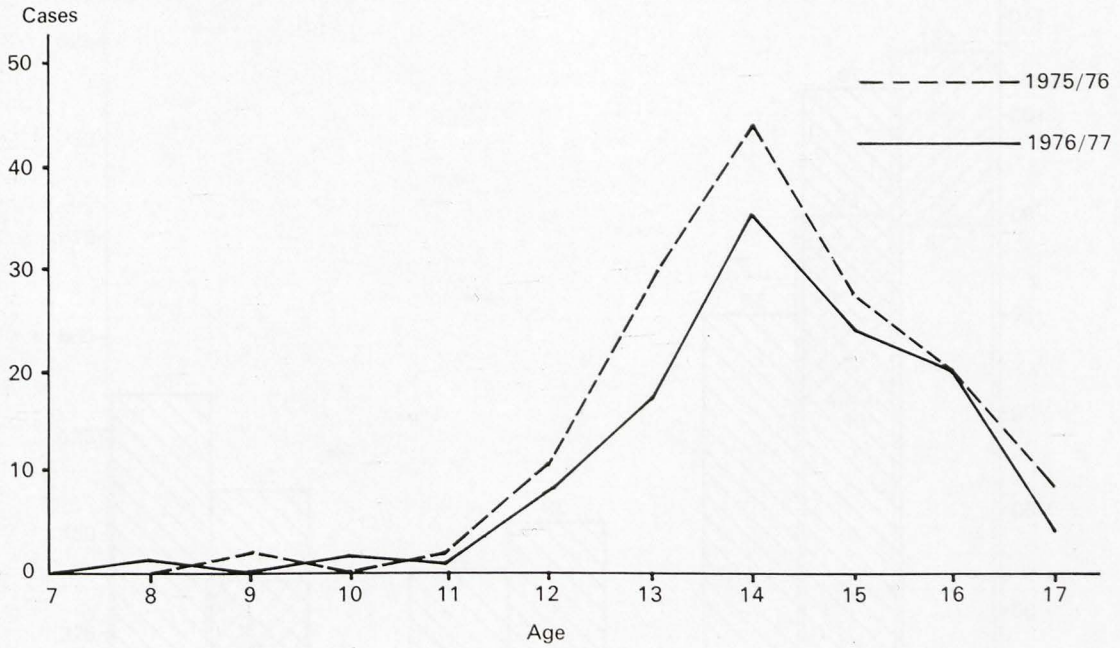
JUVENILE OFFENCES

Court decisions on cases appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia
(at which Departmental Officers were present) during 1976/77.

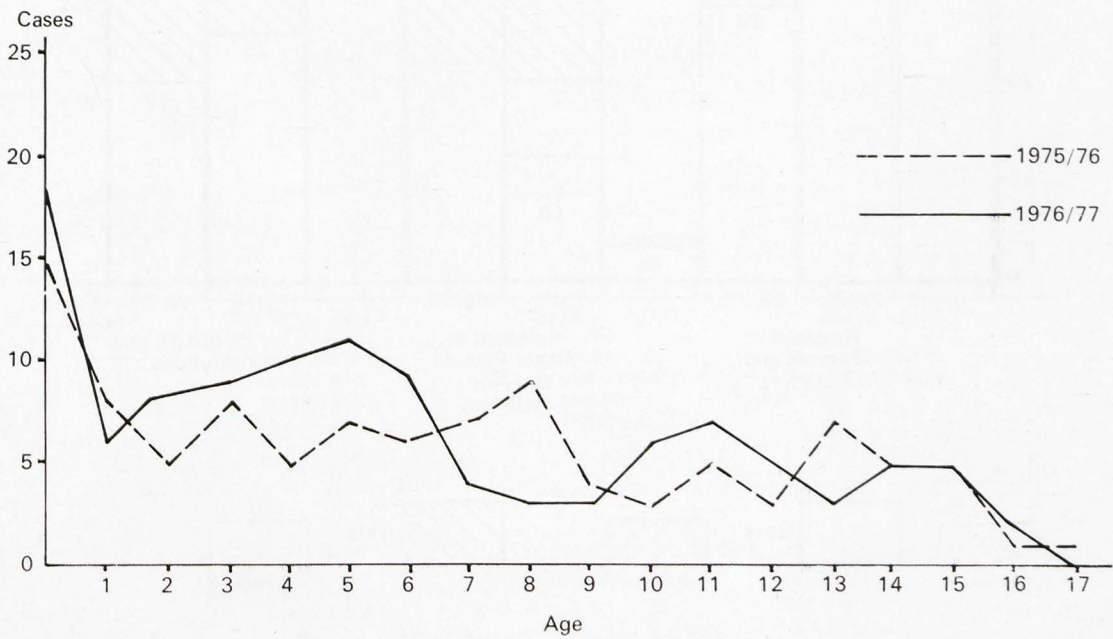


GRAPH 5
JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR (Refer to Table 4)

Cases appearing by age 1975/76 and 1976/77

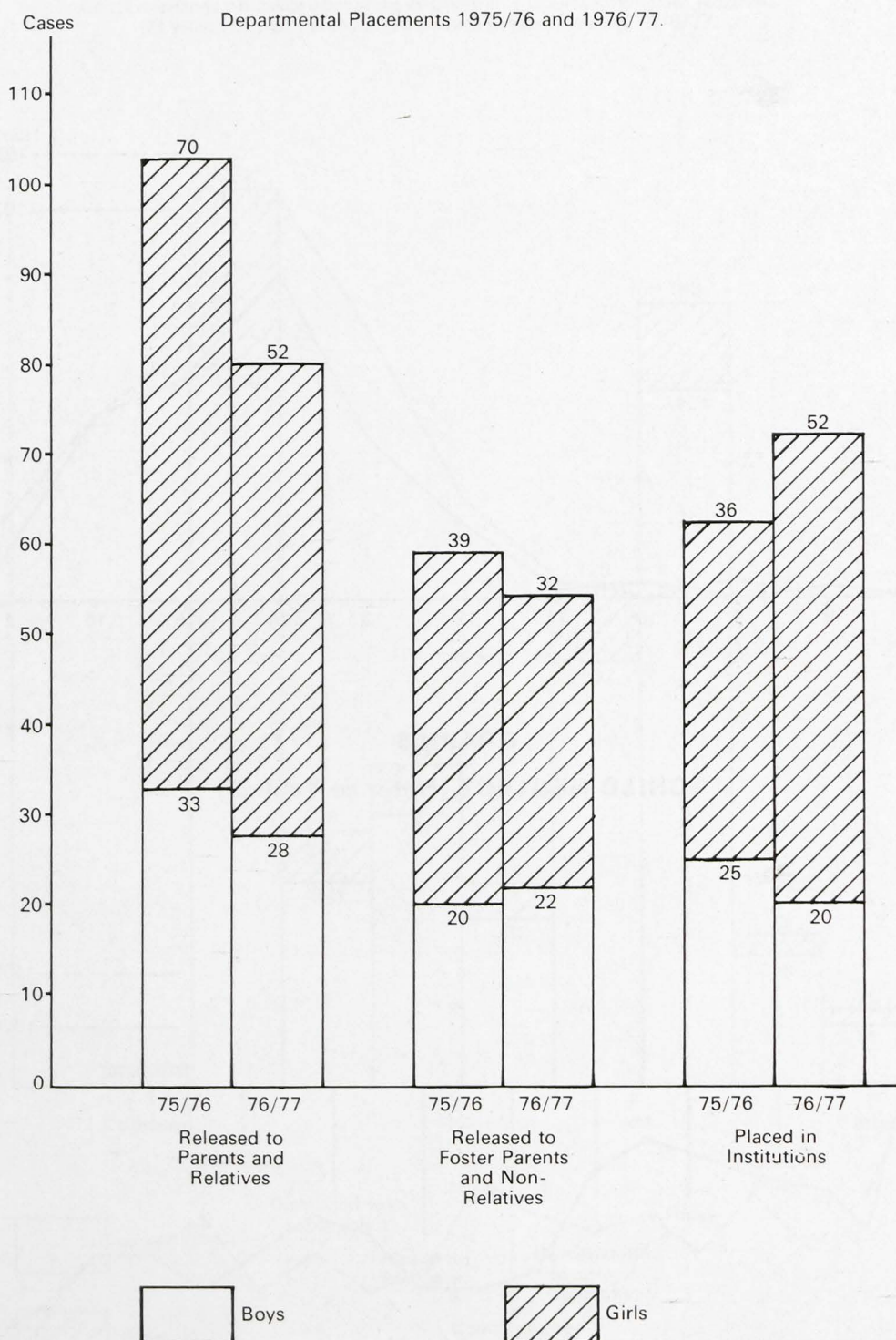


GRAPH 6
CHILD NEGLECT (Refer to Table 5)



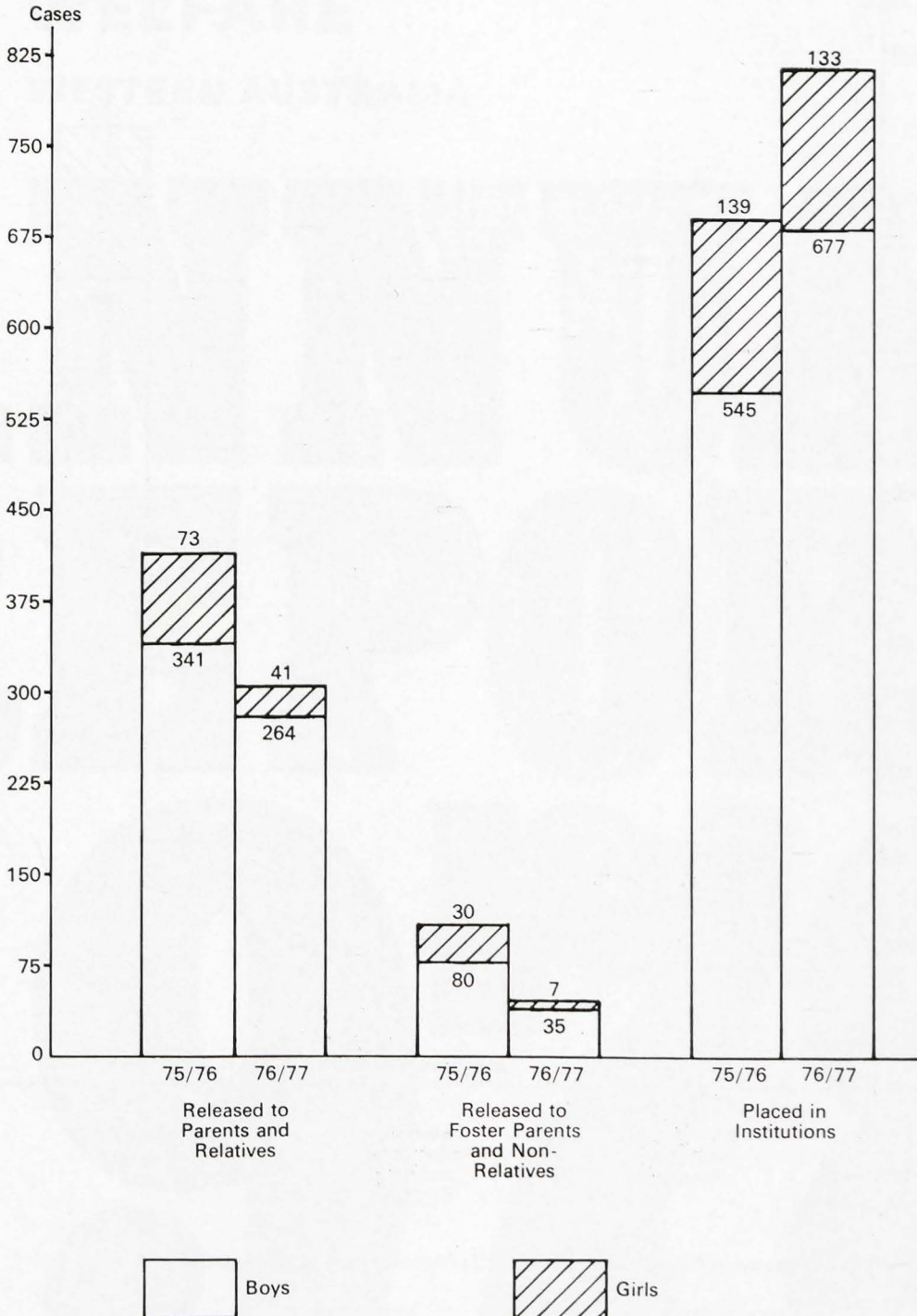
GRAPH 7 **CHILD NEGLECT DESTITUTION AND JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR**

Departmental Placements 1975/76 and 1976/77.



GRAPH 8 **JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

Departmental Placements for years 1975/76 and 1976/77.



GRAPH 9 **JUVENILE OFFENDERS**

Committal and Re-committal
Departmental Placements – 1976/77

