



**DEPARTMENT  
FOR  
COMMUNITY  
WELFARE**

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 1978**

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Western  
Australia  
1977-78

**Department  
for  
Community Welfare**

**Annual  
Report**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 1978

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT





THE HON. R. L. YOUNG  
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, 1978.

K. A. MAINE  
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY WELFARE

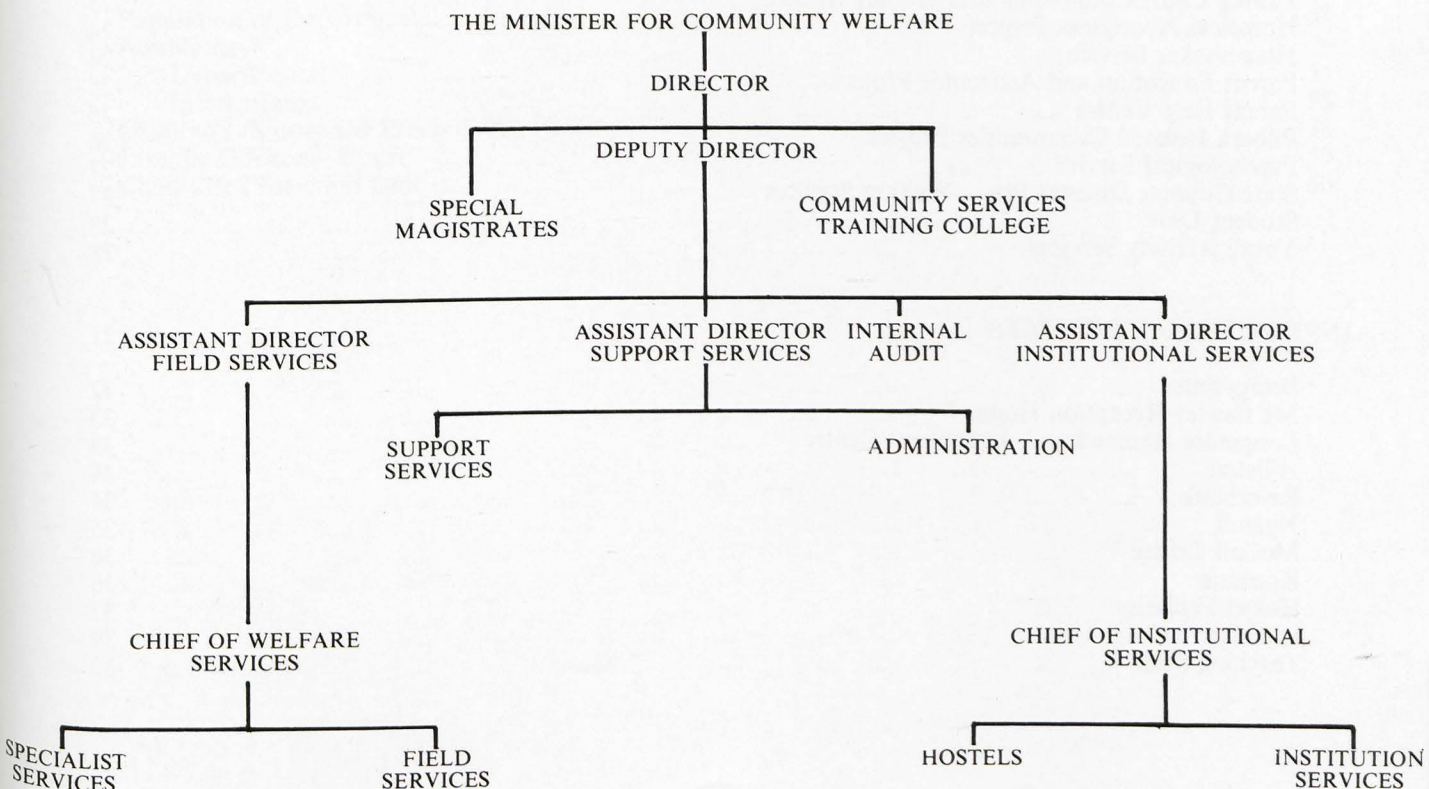




# APPRECIATION

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.

## Guide to the Department



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# INTRODUCTION

Officers of this Department between them fulfil a wide and varied range of functions. Many of the day to day matters which concern them have been omitted from consideration in this report and, in introducing it, I can only draw your attention to the highlights of the past year's activities.

During the year I was able to complete a programme of visits started three years ago, to all offices in the State. It brought home to me the vast size of our State and the importance of regionalisation in the provision of welfare services.

It is at a local level that the reality of problems of social disintegration, poverty and isolation are most readily appreciated. Along with senior staff I am mindful of the diverse tasks our officers carry out and the efficient and conscientious response they have shown to the demands placed on them.

It is especially pleasing to observe that staff have continued to view their work situations objectively and to put forward ideas for improvement of the Department's services. The fact that these ideas come from staff who are often hard pressed by heavy workloads and frustrated by the perennial shortage of welfare funds, makes their contributions all the more valuable. I believe this positive approach is due in large part to the leadership and enthusiasm shown at the middle level of management.

Emphasis on preventative action rather than on treatment has been a constant theme over the years since this Department was formed. Programmes like the one carried out with young people at Carnarvon, described in detail in the Northern Country Field Services' Report, have shown us that positive results, in this case a reduction of the rate of juvenile offences, can be gained from directing attention to the alternatives to anti-social behaviour. The cost to the community is far less than the cost of juvenile delinquency and, once established, such programmes function in a positive way to strengthen community interaction.

The Department's officers have both an advisory and an enabling role. To succeed, a programme must embody the wishes of the people it serves. With the assistance of Homemakers, officers work towards increasing the ability of individuals to express their needs and share in the provision of services at an individual and community level. Officers also join with professionals from other agencies to provide ex-

pert advice when it is required in areas of welfare that are complemented by other Departments and organisations.

An example of a programme involving a high level of co-operation has been the rehousing of 30 Aboriginal families from reserves in the South West of the State. An interdepartmental committee, with representatives from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, the Department of Community and Child Health Services and the State Housing Commission as well as our own officers and Aboriginal delegates, provided co-ordinated planning. This programme has shown that an efficient use of manpower can effect remarkable results. Before it was implemented, the cost to the community of maintaining existing reserves was high, both in financial and social terms. The benefits of the scheme, which is described later in this Report, were apparent from its inception, and we are looking forward to the results of an evaluation to be carried out in 1978/79.

Unfortunately, we are limited by economic factors in implementing our policy of preventative action. There are many problems identified in this Report to which no immediate solution can be provided from existing services and we cannot provide the proverbial "ounce of prevention" let alone "the ton of treatment".

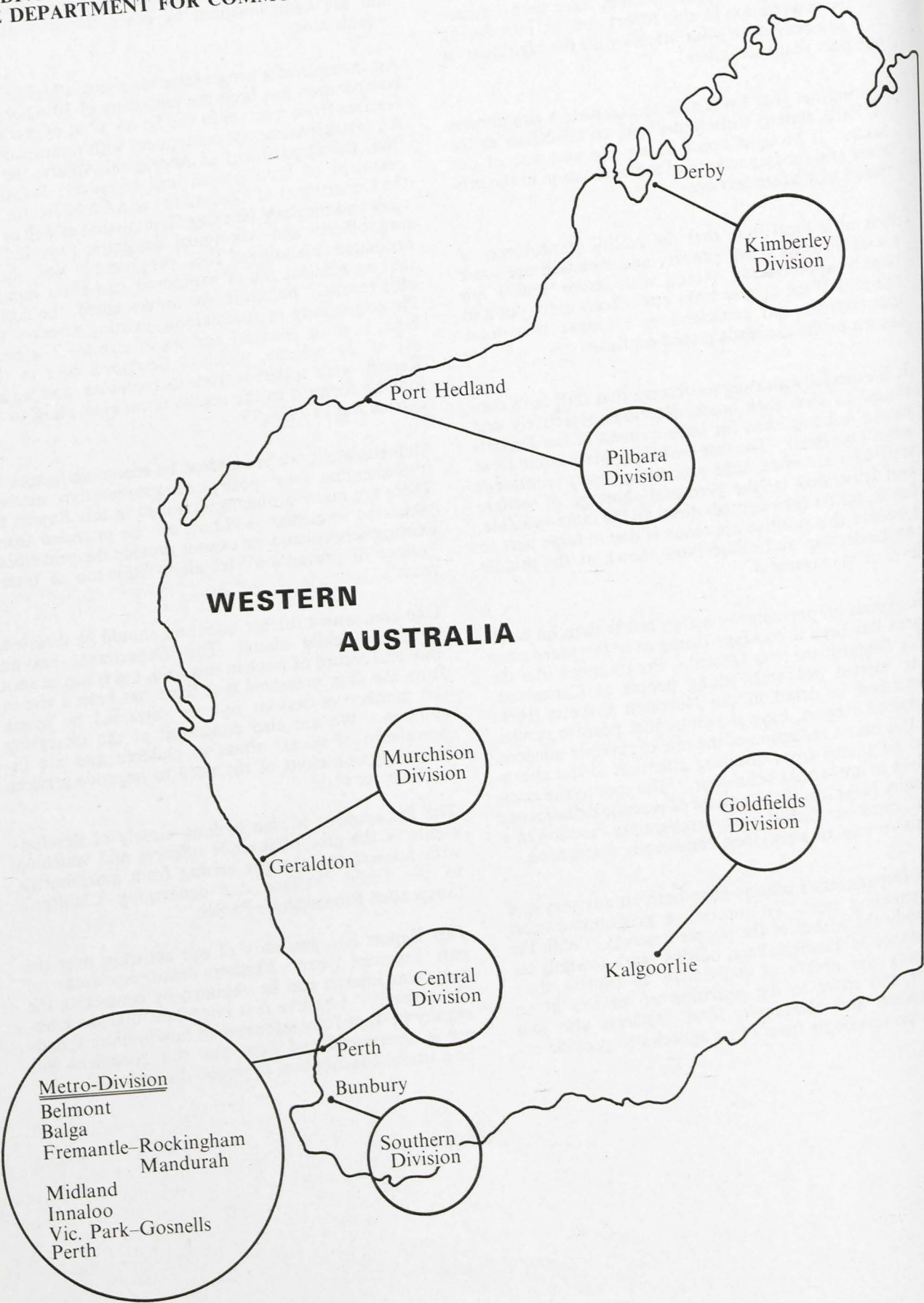
One area where further attention should be directed, is that of child abuse. This Department has an excellent record of work in this field, but it can be seen from the data presented that there has been a rise in the number of serious injuries sustained by young children. We are also concerned at the increasing prevalence of sexual abuse to children and are increasingly conscious of the need to improve services to the older child.

The Department is also looking closely at developments in the area of juvenile offences and watching with interest the changes arising from amendments to the Child Welfare Act concerning Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panels.

This Report is a summary of our activities over the past financial year. Further detail on areas of particular interest can be obtained by contacting the Department. I believe it is important that the community be kept fully informed of how welfare spending is determined and hope that this document will be a useful contribution to public discussion.



**DIVISION AND DIVISIONAL OFFICES OF  
THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE**





# FIELD SERVICES

The programmes delivered by the Field Service of the Department cover a broad spectrum of services including child and family welfare, Aboriginal welfare and work with juvenile offenders

Field officers also attempt to deal directly with the social issues which generate many of the problems encountered by our client groups. This is done through the Homemaker programmes, community development programmes, peer group and youth activity programmes, and Aboriginal accommodation projects.

Highlights of the year have been:

The special scheme for the rehousing of Aboriginal families from selected reserves. A programme initiated, organised and managed by field officers of the department. This programme alone has led to the closure of Aboriginal reserves located on the outskirts of country towns. The positive social, psychological and physical consequences of these closures are already beginning to manifest themselves in better school attendance by the children, and an all round improvement in health. Not least is the improved self image of the people.

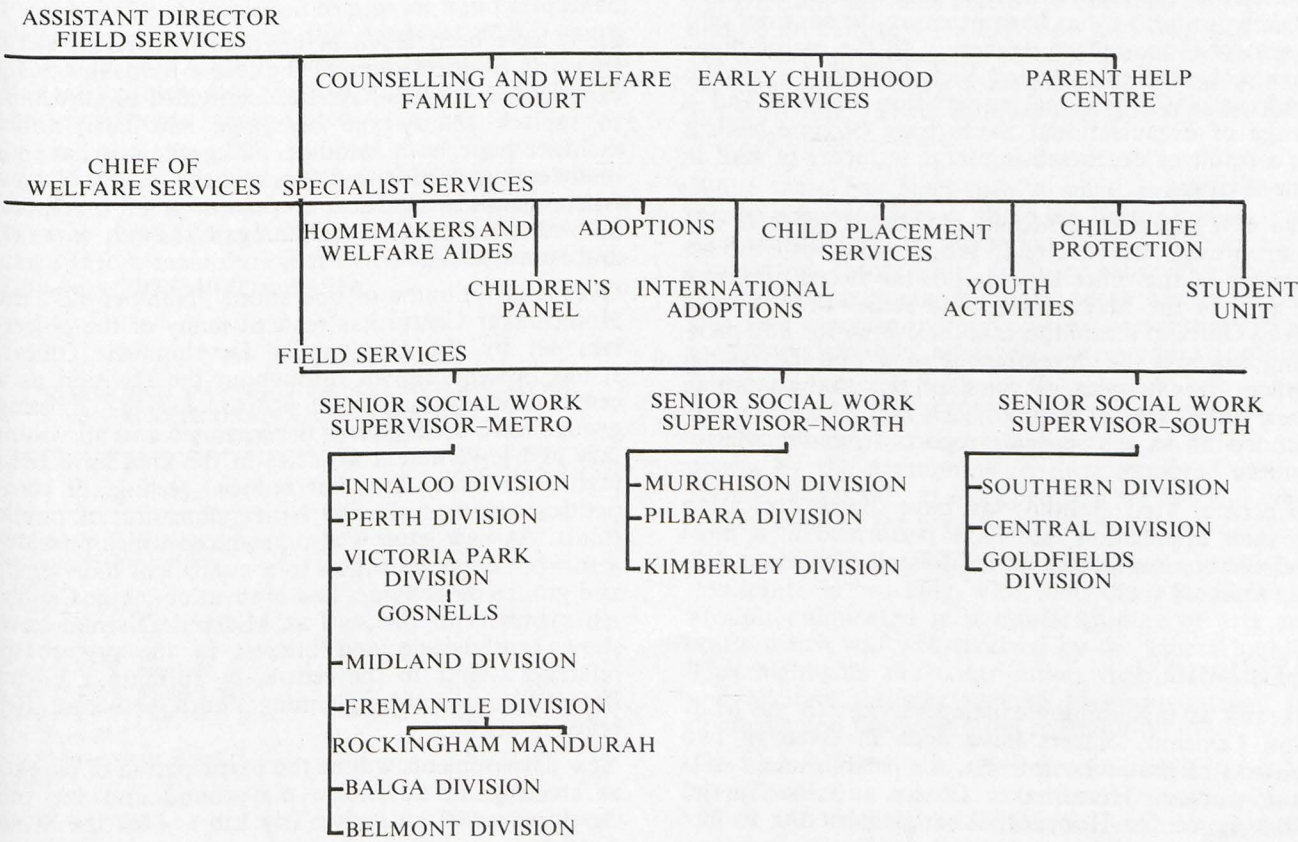
The successful introduction of youth leisure activities in locations that have a high juvenile delinquency rate. A dramatic and significant fall in the instances of delinquency has been apparent in those areas where our field officers have, with the support of the community, been able to launch these activities.

January 1st 1978 saw the proclamation of the amendments to the Child Welfare Act which amongst other measures formally and legally set up the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel. This legislation introduced the concept of diverting first offenders from the formal, stigmatising process of Court into a less formal but nevertheless responsible process of suspended action panels. The increased responsibility and duties placed upon field officers as members of the panels was as usual willingly accepted.

Many other significant events and programmes were carried out during the year by field officers throughout the State. Some of these are mentioned in the separate reports. However, it is appropriate to emphasize the value to the community of the day to day regular work of field officers, whether they be Family Welfare Officers, Social Workers, District Officers or Graduate Welfare Officers. It is not only the poor or disadvantaged who seek their help.

Our field officers have been approached for advice and assistance by people from all sections of society. The protection of children is of course one of the Department's main functions and it is the field officer, brought into the situation at the beginning, who has to make the important decisions as to what action, if any, has to be taken. This awesome responsibility is accepted by field officers and is tolerable providing the community at large is prepared to understand and provide its support where necessary.

## Guide to Field Services





# Metropolitan Field Services

## Introduction

The balancing of resources between the two areas of social reform and statutory case work is a constant difficulty for the Department and places particular demands on the Supervisors of the Metropolitan Divisions. Case work areas are generally prescribed by Statute but crisis intervention is a standard aspect of practice in this agency. This involves a very heavy drain on resources particularly in assisting those client groups who are experiencing chronic social problems. These clients are generally unmotivated to change and may not welcome the Department's involvement. Within the Metropolitan area during the past twelve months effort has continued to develop the special knowledge and skills required to assist such people. Despite this the importance of social reform programmes cannot be overlooked by this Department which is the largest social welfare agency in the State. As a result staff and back-up resources are continually stretched.

During the Department's growth an increasing number of specialised units have been developed. The nature of their work requires the provision of relief staff from Metropolitan Services over extended periods. This has meant a constant drain on Metropolitan Divisions.

The calibre of field services provided is high when there is a full staff complement. In those divisions which have had repeated shortage and turnover of staff, undue pressure has been placed on the Supervisors and remaining staff to maintain the work flow. Given the need for the Metropolitan Services to continue to provide substantial resources for other sections of the Department as well as staff to act in higher positions it has been necessary to consider new approaches to welfare delivery. In the major divisions such as Fremantle and Victoria Park we need to look at closer personal supervision of staff and a range of organisational issues have become evident as a result of decentralising large numbers of staff in one division.

The new location of Mount Hawthorn office at 371 Scarborough Beach Road, Woodlands, with the re-naming of the office as Innaloo, the decentralisation of part of the Maintenance and Relief Branch from Head Office to Fremantle and the evaluation and planning towards the development of a new Divisional Office are examples of some of the changes which have taken place during 1977-78. These are expanded on in the separate reports from the Metropolitan Divisions.

In general Metropolitan staff have shown dedication in their application and have performed at a most satisfactory level, often under difficult conditions during the past year.

## Midland

As well as maintaining existing services to the Midland Division, officers have been involved in two projects of particular interest, the establishment of a multi-purpose Homemaker Centre and the Special Task Force for Homeless Aborigines in the Swan/Bassendean areas.

In July 1977, Cabinet gave approval for the setting up within the Department for Community Welfare of a Special Task Force to deal specifically with alleviating the problems of homelessness amongst Aborigines in the Swan/Bassendean areas. As a consequence the Special Task Force was formulated and put into operation on 26th July 1977.

The accommodation needs of 89 adults and 47 children have been considered. Only two forms of accommodation alternatives have been requested, State Housing Commission conventional housing and permanent camp sites.

Fifteen applications for S.H.C. assistance were lodged in November 1977, from the various camps. Six did not qualify due to rental arrears for previous S.H.C. housing or the unavailability of accommodation for married couples. Of the nine successful applicants five families have received assistance and have been placed throughout the metropolitan area. Their tenancy is proving quite satisfactory and a back-up system has been provided by the Special Task Force with a Homemaker and other supports. The other four applications are receiving attention.

A comprehensive investigation into the acquisition of land for alternative camp sites has been carried out in the Swan Valley, Midland, Guilford and Bassendean areas.

The Task Force has also investigated and analysed the idea of night shelters and hostels as other alternative forms of accommodation. Liaison with Aboriginal Hostels Ltd., has already taken place, however further negotiations are required to develop these concepts.

Steps have been taken to upgrade the present camp sites and to offset some of the severe hardships being experienced. Tents have been provided to all camps to replace shanty-type dwellings and basic toilet facilities have been installed. Negotiations have already commenced with Shires and the owners of land where camps are located, to provide small transportable ablution blocks containing a shower, a toilet, and laundry facilities.

Over its 10 months of operation, "Number 12", the Homemaker Centre has realised many of the objectives set by the Community Development Officer. It has become known throughout the Division as a centre which belongs to the people it serves. Existing groups have made use of the premises and all voluntary and government agencies in the area have been invited to visit. This has reduced feelings of competition and has allowed better allocation of public funds. A newsletter is also produced which provides a form of communication to a number of individuals and groups on activities and innovations at the Centre. All members of the staff at Midland Division have shown enthusiasm and interest in the project by referring clients to the centre, by forming a Foster Parent Group and by planning Youth Activities after office hours.

New developments will be the participation of parents in erecting an adventure playground and the full development of an active Toy Library for the Swan districts.



## Fremantle

Fremantle Division continues to be the largest and busiest Division in the Metropolitan area, serving a population of well over 200,000 people. The divisional headquarters are located at Fremantle with sub offices at Rockingham and Mandurah. Work load on the Supervisor for the total division has been considerable. This should be alleviated in the future since approval has been given to create a new division based at Rockingham. It is planned to have the division functioning before the end of 1978.

In October 1977, a Relief Branch was introduced which has increased the service available to clients. At 30th June 1978, the Branch was handling 30% of all monetary assistance cases in the metropolitan area. The Community Development Officer has been involved, through liaison with community groups, in a number of projects including a proposed women's refuge and family centre at Rockingham.

Youth leadership programmes continue to function with camps being held during the school holidays at Pemberton and peer group activities taking place outside of school hours.

An excellent working relationship has been maintained with the student unit, located in the Division. The contact with students who have fresh ideas has been a stimulus to staff. Tasks referred to the unit have been competently handled with thorough supervision.

## Perth

The Division has continued to develop a new role in intergrating its welfare activities with those of other agencies operating in the central Metropolitan area. The incidence of homelessness continues to give great concern, particularly in relationship to young people. Plans have been developed to provide a more sensitive welfare service to meet the needs of these young people by working in close co-operation with the staff of the New Life Centres which are operated by the Jesus People Incorporated.

The division has examined the changing pattern of statutory work carried out and this is illustrated by the following statistical information which compares the way the Children's Court dealt with cases which came before them during the periods 1st January to 30th June 1976, 1977 and 1978.

CHANGING PATTERN OF STATUTORY WORK  
FROM CHILDREN'S COURT AND PANEL  
IN PERTH DIVISION

	1976	1977	1978
Section 26 C.W.A. ....	83	90	64
Section 26 Supervision ....	23	22	8
Fines ....	56	42	82
Adult Probation ....	1	.....	9
Probation ....	19	30	28
Imprisonment ....	1	1	1
Care D.C.W. Neglect ....	11	7	2
Care D.C.W. Ministerial ....	5	5	1
Care D.C.W. Offender ....	41	31	33
Uncontrolled ....	3	3	2
Good Behaviour Bond ....	6	8	13
Panel ....	111	97	168
Total ....	360	336	411

It is interesting to note the increase in the number of fines imposed, the decrease in the number of cases supervised and dismissed under Section 26, the rise in cases where adult probation was ordered, and the steep rise in cases going before the Panel. The emphasis that the division has placed on remedial welfare work is reflected in the decrease in the number of cases where the child was committed for neglect or by Ministerial action.

## Victoria Park

In addition to the normal divisional duties, this Division continues with its successful foster parent programme. New initiatives this year have included the strengthening of the Peer Group programme by the equipping of a specialised facility at the Gosnells office, and the availability of a personal counselling service to group members on Tuesday evenings.

This Division is establishing a counselling service for the residents of Langford in the Langford Community house. For a trial period of three months we will have a Social Worker available on the basis of one morning a week. After three months the service will be reviewed and if found to be worthwhile, it could be extended to other communities inconveniently located within the Division.

Other agencies to participate in this service to the Langford Community include Social Security, Community Health and Community Recreation Council.

## Belmont

The Belmont Division now serves a population of over 80,000. With its full staff complement restored the Division has been able to re-establish peer groups and youth camps. The Division also helped a number of one parent families to benefit by a holiday in a self-contained holiday home managed by the Albany Rotary Club. These families had not experienced a holiday in many years.

While there has been only a small increase in the overall number of cases, there has been a considerable increase of 43% in probation cases, 39% in court supervision cases, while advisory interviews reached the 1,000 mark. In addition, there has been considerable increase in the complex preventative cases in the Kalamunda area and surrounding foothills.

A thorough research project was carried out to assess the validity of this and the need to establish a part-time sub-office in Kalamunda, thus enabling easy access by the community in these areas to departmental resources. It is hoped this service will commence early in the forthcoming financial year.

The quiet efficiency of our Homemakers and Welfare Assistants in working with individual families and groups, culminated in a public display of arts and crafts which was well received by the general public. This highlights the contribution that Homemakers and Welfare Assistants make to disadvantaged individuals and families in the community.

The lack of adequate office accommodation, which often proved a source of embarrassment to both officer and client alike, will soon be overcome with the expansion into adjoining premises.



## Innaloo

On 18th March 1978, the Divisional Office moved to the new location of 371 Scarborough Beach Road, Woodlands. The modern premises are close to the new Innaloo Bus Station and a wide range of commercial and shopping facilities. The move brings the office closer to existing homemaker community groups and this contact may lead to expansion of departmental services of this nature. Local Government approval is now available for a homemaker activity house to be established nearby. Access is difficult for Wanneroo Shire residents, however plans are under way towards establishing a sub-division in Wanneroo. The past twelve months have seen a large increase in demand on the division from the northern suburbs and the isolated coastal communities of Yanchep, Two Rocks and Lancelin.

Good use has been made of a divisionally run and staffed camp for children aged 10-13 years. Peer group activities continue to be offered.

Community Contact and Resource Groups have received divisional support, despite the lack of a Community Development Officer. Programmes such as a community based voluntary transport scheme have been initiated with departmental funding.

Currently full staffing is required to enable the division to continue to offer quality service within the department's broad role. Particular challenges to be met in the near future include need for more foster parents, especially for teenage children; greater emphasis on community self help; and practical inputs in a time of increased social stress, particularly as expressed in teenagers, nuclear and single parent families. Focus will also be made on obtaining a suitable facility for a divisional group home.

## Balga

The nature of Balga Division's workload appears to reflect general patterns in the community. Case-loads continue to increase. A high proportion of work is carried out at crisis level. There has been a substantial increase in family breakdown, 47 recorded instances in 1976/77; 79 instances in 1977/78, many of which have necessitated the placement of children outside the home. Difficulties in arranging such placements have caused the Division considerable concern. Staff intend to pioneer the establishment of a group home/hostel within the Division to meet this need.

The commitment to working with youth in the area is reflected in our Peer Group Programme implemented within the Division in 1976. A review of offending rates before and after the participation, indicates that of the 34 offenders included in the groups, only two offended during the period they attended the activities, and only nineteen re-offended during the next two years. There is an urgent need for an appropriate follow-on activity within the areas for those completing the 12 week programme.

The Division's acceptance of camps as a valuable "treatment" tool has resulted in Balga making greatest use of camp facilities. Due to demands, four Divisional camps have been organised for children and for family groups, throughout the twelve month period.

An emphasis on preventive welfare work has again been demonstrated. Closer links with local high schools have been arranged through monthly meet-

ings so that response to truancy or behavioural problems can be co-ordinated. Out of this came a request for an officer to be involved in a pilot project with two student groups at Mirrabooka High School for a leadership course. This project has recently commenced and will be monitored with interest.

A further pilot project has been implemented in conjunction with Community Health. A Parent Education Training Course commenced in May 1978 with two Homemakers from the Division working in with Community Health staff. The programme aimed at improving parents' child management skills and is to be repeated whenever there is the demand from the community.

## Northern Country Field Services

Economic difficulties over recent years in the farming and pastoral industries have continued, resulting in reduced employment and a drift of Aboriginal population to the towns. This is placing considerable stress on community resources. Conditions of social disorganisation have in some instances caused excessive drinking, disruptive behaviour, child neglect and offences. The Department, while seeking to maintain its traditional role, is becoming more involved in community development in an attempt to prevent further breakdown.

Increased unemployment, coupled with the changes in the conditions of application and payment of benefits introduced by the Department of Social Security during the year, has increased the workload of our officers. A joint visit by the heads of the Departments of Social Security, Employment and Industrial Relations, Aboriginal Affairs and Community Welfare to the Kimberley in April 1978, was arranged to look into the situation. As a result of this visit, a branch of the Department of Social Security was established in Kununurra and a decision to establish a Commonwealth Employment Service Office in Broome was announced.

The view was expressed by many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people that ways should be found for benefits to be earned, rather than given, reinforcing idleness. Interest was also expressed in the payment of benefits under the group warranty system.

The Department has proved the value of developing youth activities as a counter to juvenile offending, notably at Carnarvon, Roebourne and Port Hedland. Out of school activities and school holiday programmes offer opportunities for the wider socialisation of children involved. The Department's Aboriginal Welfare Aides have played a vital role in organising and running a number of these programmes.

Several new facilities were established this year. Bulungarr Hostel was opened in Wyndham in February 1978. In Port Hedland a group home for up to eight children has been established and will be open early in the 1978/79 financial year.

Work on Aboriginal reserves for the maintenance of service and for the improvement of living conditions was continued. Electricity has been supplied to all reserves to allow the installation of domestic equipment. The Department is to introduce commercial washing machines in laundries. Following the accidental deaths of two people on the Three Mile



Reserve at Port Hedland, the Department has taken further steps to ensure as far as possible the safety of all residents making use of electricity in circumstances where abuse or vandalism of electrical devices may occur.

The increasing number of administrative tasks associated with the maintenance of Departmental property and the projects undertaken to develop services, is causing some concern to field officers and supervisors, and an increase in staff resources is now necessary.

## Pilbara Division

Although Departmental activities in the Pilbara have been limited by acute staff shortages, officers have still managed to introduce and maintain a number of preventative programmes, especially in the field of activities for children.

School holiday camps have been organised for Aboriginal and European children in Port Hedland, Roebourne, Onslow and Marble Bar. The majority of these camps have been on a "Bush Camp" basis with the children being taught the basis of survival in the bush and an understanding of the environment.

The appointment of one full-time and one part-time Early Childhood Services Advisor to the Pilbara, has had a dramatic effect on the development of Day Care, Family Care and Child Activity Centres in the region. A high level of co-operation with Local Government has been achieved and Early Childhood Services has become a very progressive aspect of the Department's work in the Pilbara Region.

A Departmental Group Home for Children in need of emergency residential care has been constructed in South Hedland and will open early in the coming year. This facility will accommodate up to eight children on a short term basis and has been designed to duplicate, as nearly as possible, a normal family situation. The Group Home should reduce the need to send children in need of Care and Protection to Perth because of lack of suitable local facilities. Until this home is established the only other residential care facility for young children in the Pilbara is Yaandina Babies and Children's Centre in Roebourne. Placement of other than local children at Yaandina makes it difficult for parents to maintain regular contact with their children because of the distance they have to travel to see them.

The Pilbara Isolated Children's Project was established in the Karratha area during 1976 with funds provided by the Office of Child Care.

As a result of this, a number of needed services for families and children have been developed in the region. The project is now moving towards an evaluation stage. The model that has been developed appears appropriate to introduce to other areas with similar isolation based problems.

A major achievement in Roebourne during the past year, was the combined effort of the Roebourne Shire, the Roebourne Co-ordinating Committee and the Department, to shift the Department's Community Hall from its position near to the hotel to a new site, central to the main housing area in Roebourne. The Department is very grateful for the assistance given by the Shire of Roebourne to this Project and to the school holiday activity programmes.

In keeping with the Department's policy to improve living conditions on reserves until they are phased out and replaced by conventional or special housing, the three reserves at Onslow, Marble Bar and Port Hedland were further upgraded this year. Gas or electric stoves have been provided and laundry facilities have been equipped with washing machines. The houses on the main reserves have been lined internally and painted and a "Cool House" structure has been provided so that the old people will have a more comfortable place to spend the hot summer days. The use of existing community facilities to cope with juvenile offenders has had some success in towns like Onslow and Roebourne. The use of community work and where applicable "Station Placements" has contributed to a reduction in the number of offences being committed by juveniles. In Marble Bar, tribal elders from surrounding communities have been encouraged to take an interest in aboriginal offenders and to advise the Department on possible alternatives. This liaison has been most successful and has almost entirely avoided the need to send children from that area to treatment institutions in the metropolitan area.

The Paraburdoo office was relocated in Tom Price in May, 1978. The new location placed the staff in a more central position to the region to be served. A second officer has been appointed to this office at Karratha, which should greatly improve and extend the services offered to residents of these areas.

The Department still does not have permanent office accommodation in Tom Price or Newman and in both centres the office is located in the officer's residence. However, land has been acquired and funds to erect offices will be sought during the next financial year. A temporary transportable office has been acquired and will soon be in use in Newman. This building will be located adjacent to the Newman Hospital.

During the last few days of the 1977/78 year, the Department's office at Roebourne was destroyed by fire. Although the building was almost completely destroyed, most of the records were saved. With very prompt assistance of the Public Service Board and the Public Works Department it is likely the new building being planned as a replacement will be available by the middle of the 1978/79 financial year. In the meantime, a temporary office has been established in premises made available by the Department of Corrections in Roebourne.

## Murchison

The operation of the Department in this Division has been affected by staff changes in three offices and difficulty in getting replacement staff. As a result, basic immediate statutory work has had to take priority over preventive initiatives in some areas.

Much of the region has continued to be affected by severe unemployment with the recession in the rural economy due to drought.

With the closure of the Mullewa, Meekatharra railway line and resettlement of workers in other centres, there has been a decline in the non-aboriginal population of the area.

The Meekatharra staff have found an increasing need to visit the Main Roads Department's camps, north of Meekatharra. These visits usually relate to



alleged neglected children and runaway children and other related matters. These camps range between 240 to 340 kilometres distance from Meekatharra.

Alongside of these developments however, there is emerging a growing interest and capability on the part of aboriginal groups in assisting themselves and others. For example, a local aboriginal club has been encouraged to become incorporated in Mullewa. A successful school holiday care activity programme was organised for the first time during the May 1978 school holidays. This activity, combined with the recent appointment by the Department of an Aboriginal Peer Group Leader will undoubtedly assist in establishing further activities for aboriginal children and their parents in the community.

Funding by the Department and encouragement by its local officers has helped significantly to develop an active children's play group at Morawa. The walk-in coffee shop established earlier has been inoperative recently due to a lack of voluntary supervisors, but will re-open shortly in the Department's Community Hall under the guidance of our Peer Group Leader.

The community centre at Meekatharra has been improved this year through painting internally and externally. Further work was done by aboriginal workers, paid under the N.E.A.T. Scheme, to make bricks and to lay a large paved Bar-B-Que area to enhance the facilities of the centre. This building now is a centre of a number of aboriginal community activities and is the base for the school lunch programme, organised by this aboriginal group.

Until two years ago, Carnarvon was characterised by a relatively high level of juvenile offending. Like many other towns, Carnarvon suffers a housing shortage. Opportunities for employment and recreation for youth are also restricted. The Department was convinced that many offences by children resulted from boredom, as a result the Department embarked upon the programme to develop youth activities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds who would be unlikely to participate in the normal community recreation programmes that were available. From very small beginnings the major group developed and soon outgrew its premises.

The use of a larger building was obtained through the Carnarvon Shire Council and now has in excess of 200 children participating in a wide range of activities. Aboriginal parents are being attracted to the programme and 15 to 20 now voluntarily assist with the activities. An amount of \$4,000 from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has enabled a basketball court at the rear of the building and a drop-in coffee shop for teenage children to be established. The impact on offending of this programme, together with Peer Group Leadership activities has been significant. The results show that misbehaviour and property offences have declined markedly. The programme is to be expanded, incorporating new activities designed to counter the most common offences which are related to the use of motor vehicles.

Homemakers have continued to contribute to the work of the Division. For example they help run activities for about 100 local aboriginal children in Geraldton, assisting their personal development and their integration into the wider community. The introduction of the scheme on the Meekatharra reserve has helped raise the standard of accommodation.

Psychological services available to clients of the Department will be improved with the recent appointment of a psychologist to the Divisional Office in Geraldton. This will make easier psychological referral, assessment and treatment of cases which were previously undertaken by visiting psychologists from the metropolitan area or by referring cases to metropolitan services.

## Kimberley

Divisional Field Officers are placing an increasing emphasis on a developmental rather than a crisis oriented approach. This is perhaps still most strongly exemplified by the work carried out by staff in the Fitzroy Crossing Office.

There are now two staff employed full-time as Community Development Officers operating from the Fitzroy Crossing Office, one is employed in working alongside and advising a number of local Aboriginal communities and the other is engaged full-time as an advisor with Nookanbah and Millijidee Station groups.

A third officer is working full-time at Fitzroy Crossing performing the more clearly identified statutory welfare tasks of the Department but also tied in to the overall developmental programme of the area.

With the proposed development of new housing sites at Christmas Creek and Go-Go Station there are still a number of important tasks to be tackled by staff.

Smaller community projects facilitated by staff are beginning to develop in the Halls Creek and Kununurra areas, such as the development of a women's action group at Kununurra and the consolidation of the "Red Hill" group at Halls Creek.

Such developmental work is by nature slow with small immediate results, however these attempts have important implications for the future if Aboriginal people are to be permitted to develop their skills and to participate in a dignified manner in society in the future.

There is a differing emphasis on the type of programmes developed by homemakers in the Kimberley. In the Fitzroy Crossing the camp homemakers are developing health care, and nutritional programmes in the camp situation.

There are also camp homemakers employed at Halls Creek who are providing daily lunch for the children attending the local school. A "Homemaker Centre" has been established (with the assistance of S.H.C.) to generate interest in programmes of home-care.

There is also an understanding by Kimberley staff that there is a place for the more traditional role of homemakers, especially in those centres where there has been an increase in the number of State Housing Commission houses made available for rental.

A number of extra homemakers will be employed to assist people moving into the new houses recently constructed by Mowanjum Community Inc., and at other village locations in the Fitzroy Crossing area.

A number of programmes were carried out with the aid of District staff at various centres. These involved camping and day activities during the Christmas and May Holidays.

Two young people were employed under the C.E.S. Special Youth Employment Scheme for a six-month



period to work specifically in the Field of Youth Activities. Both have proved most energetic and efficient.

A new transient facility—Bulungurr Hostel—was opened in Wyndham in February 1978. This facility is a part of the old Native Hospital which was renovated with funds provided by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

It is hoped to have this facility eventually operated by an Aboriginal Community group in Wyndham and it is proposed that this group operate under the auspices of Aboriginal Hostels Ltd. This proposal is still subject to discussion and refinement.

Tenders have been called by the Public Works Department for the necessary repairs and improvements to be carried out on the proposed Group Home at Derby. It is hoped that work will begin on this project in the very near future.

### **Staff**

An increasing number of tertiary qualified staff are now being employed in the Kimberley. There are sixteen Field Officers (excluding Welfare Aides) now employed in the Kimberley and nine of these have a tertiary qualification. There are two Social Workers and the other staff have degrees in related disciplines such as anthropology and psychology.

This has led to some exciting new developments as these staff are generally more prepared to adopt a more innovative role in their work.

There are 11 Aboriginal Welfare Aides employed in the Kimberley. This scheme is now proving successful in making this Department's services more accessible and comprehensible to Aboriginal people. There have been some staff changes but five of the Aides have been employed since the inception of the scheme in 1975. A training workshop was held in Derby in April 1978 and proved to be a most useful learning experience for all staff involved.

It is intended to hold such workshops on a fairly regular basis so that a system of ongoing training can be developed.

## **Southern Country Field Service**

### **Introduction**

The Southern Country Field Service this year has implemented a number of new initiatives.

The Reserve Rehousing Programme, described more fully below, has resulted in the closure of seven out of a total of nine Reserves in the region. Gnowangerup and Northam are the only current operational Reserves. The project has been implemented without any staff increases and the Field Officers and Homemakers are to be commended for their energy and dedication in meeting this additional responsibility. It has proved most successful and involved the Aboriginal families at all stages of planning.

An achievement of the past year has been the development of three new Group Home facilities in country centres. These combined with other local resources have enabled staff to take more responsibility for ongoing case management and alleviated unnecessary

referrals of cases to the metropolitan area. This has also facilitated a greater involvement of the community in dealing with local Departmental operations.

Community development initiatives have produced a number of centres where the Department is able to provide services to groups who are not part of the normal statutory case load. These centres have provided community information services and educational programmes.

Youth projects have continued on a regional basis with field staff organising recreational activities in order to develop a greater understanding of the children with whom they are working.

In the past year there has been disruption to programmes in some centres as a result of staff turnover. Field Officers have performed well in adapting to the changing circumstances, and have altered their priorities accordingly.

## **Reserve Rehousing Programme**

The Department for Community Welfare, concerned that conditions on Aboriginal reserves were contributing to the social and physical deterioration of tenants, has developed a policy to close all reserves in the Great Southern Region.

As landlord, the Department felt a responsibility to provide not only improved accommodation, but a supportive programme which would assist families to adjust to conventional housing and maintain their new position in the community.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs provided funds to close reserves at Albany, Beverley, Borden, Pingelly, Quairading, Tambellup, Williams and Moora and rehouse thirty families. Since the emphasis has been on an integrated programme, a number of service agencies have co-operated in the project. Responsibility for the houses will pass to the State Housing Commission after twelve months, and tenants will continue to receive support when needed from Departmental field officers and homemakers.

In planning the programme, it was emphasised that housing cannot be viewed in isolation from other social factors, and that consequently, a total social programme was necessary. Although housing is only one part of personal and social needs, it is the tool through which other social developments can occur. The project aimed to encourage participation and commitment by allowing the Aboriginal people the greatest possible personal choice. This meant that the prospective tenants could select the site and design of their house, choose the most suitable domestic appliances and their own colour schemes.

Such involvement in the planning of their future surroundings has developed and increased the dignity and self esteem of those involved and led to a higher motivation to make further positive social adjustments.

With the guidance of field staff, homemakers have played a key role through the planning and implementation stages and have assisted with the ongoing adjustment to the new house and neighbourhood.

An interim report and evaluation has indicated that the programme is exceeding expectations. A fuller evaluation is planned during the 1978/79 year. Early trends show an improvement in the care of houses creating a personal and homely atmosphere.





*New transportable house at Borden.*



*Typical structure of Type III houses on Aboriginal Reserves.*

Those in employment have shown a tendency to more stable work habits. Budgeting skills are being developed and rental arrears are minimal. Better living conditions have led to a reduction in health problems and hospitals report a shorter, average length of stay for the children, who can be sent home to a healthier environment.

Clearly the principle of maximising consumer choice must lead to the development of programmes that are suited to the varied needs of different communities. It is hoped that the principles and design of this scheme can be useful as a model for future housing programmes in other areas.

## Southern

During the year Southern Division has continued to focus on Community Development programmes and the provision of child care facilities, however staffing pressures have limited extension of services. Continued advancement towards phasing out Aboriginal Reserves has occurred, with the current closure of three Reserves in the Division. In addition some residents of the Pingelly Reserve are to be rehoused at Brunswick Junction during July of 1978. Gnowangerup Reserve remains the only Reserve living situation in the Southern Division and should now receive priority in consideration for closure.

Houses built through the Pensioner Rehousing Scheme, initiated in Collie three years ago, are now occupied by Aboriginal tenants. The Scheme appears to be working although as yet no management

arrangements have been formally established. It is hoped that when these arrangements are completed, serious consideration will be given to including existing Aboriginal community groups in the management structure.

The growth of suburban areas of Bunbury has led to a proposal to provide sub-office facilities in Withers. Community development has been pursued where staff resources allow. The Community Development Officer at Bunbury has given support to such projects as the development of an Aboriginal Arts and Crafts Store at Brunswick Junction and the development of a proposal for a Family Support Scheme. A similar scheme is proposed for Manjimup, where attention is also focussed on social and educational programmes for isolated children and adults.

In the area of youth activities, the department has organised holiday activity programmes and a peer group leader has been appointed in Katanning to supplement the Departments' work with juvenile offenders. This appointment has catered for children living with their parents as well as those placed at Kartenup Hostel and indications at this early stage are that the programme is effectively providing acceptable outlets to children who might otherwise re-offend.

Childcare, particularly in relation to Aboriginal children, has received increased attention. Consultation with Marribank Mission has resulted in internal re-arrangements and training for child care staff to the advantage of children placed at the Mission. In addition a second scatter cottage has been established in the Katanning townsite.

Group foster homes have now been established in Bunbury, Collie, Katanning and Albany, which cater for child care needs previously provided for by Metropolitan facilities.

## Central

With a full complement of staff the Division has been able to provide a variety of services with emphasis on community development projects.

The Reserve Rehousing Project has been most successful. Eleven houses have been allocated at Moora, three at Pingelly and four at Williams.

Other community development work has included support for a community centre at Dalwallinu, a school lunch scheme at Moora and the formation of the Northam Community Forum. Constructive progress has been achieved with the formation of the Northam Aboriginal Housing Committee with representatives from various local and State government bodies.

Youth activities have also been promoted. A Divisional camp held at Point Walter was attended by 30 disadvantaged children who participated enthusiastically. A youth group has been formed at Northam which, as well as organising social activities took the initiative in approaching the Department for a contract to clean the Northam Reserve. Improved employment chances have evolved for seven Aboriginal children at Kellerberrin through the efforts of officers in securing enrolments, away from home, in upper grades of high school, technical courses and the adult Aboriginal education course.

Severe unemployment has led to problems throughout the Central Division. Allied with this is increased pressure on staff through lack of Department of



Social Security facilities in the major towns. Employment has been created for 10 Aboriginal men in Moora through the development of an Arts and Crafts Centre.

## Goldfields

A number of interesting developments have occurred in the past year in the Goldfields Division. The relocation of our officer from the Warburton Ranges to Laverton has meant that regular patrols are now made through the area every six weeks. A major initiative has been taken in organising a youth activities programme for the Central Reserve Aboriginal communities. This was carried out with the co-operation of the Mt. Lawley Teachers College and aimed at encouraging communities to take responsibility for the content and variety of programmes. Back-up services were provided by this Department and community leaders were brought to Perth for a week long intensive training course. The success of the project can be judged from the fact that the communities are now implementing the second stage of the programme, that is the acquisition of equipment.

The three officers now at Laverton have been kept busy with social service enquiries and liaison with medical personnel, especially in the transfer or medical evacuation of Aboriginal children to Kalgoorlie or Perth.

The transfer of control of the Central Reserve Communities from The Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Kalgoorlie to Alice Springs has posed some interesting problems regarding communication and State jurisdiction. The Department intends to provide an itinerant service to the regional organisations in this area, continuing community development programmes.

Homemakers were involved in the provision of five new houses at the Margaret Mission, erected by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

A community education programme has been developed in Kalgoorlie to prepare suitable Aboriginal couples to act as foster parents for children in the Goldfields. It is hoped that an Aboriginal Group Home will be set up in the future which can cater for the problems in this area.

Two full time staff have been placed in a permanent office in Kambalda, to service that district and the Norseman area. Community resources in Norseman have increased with the provision of a scatter cottage to the Churches of Christ Mission. It is hoped that this will also serve as an emergency accommodation centre for itinerant youth stranded in the Norseman area. The sealing of the Eyre Highway has resulted in an increase in the number of young and itinerant clients.

A number of initiatives have been taken in liaising with local shires to generate more interest in welfare and community issues. This has had some success in that several submissions have been made for grants under the Family Services Support Scheme.

## Adoption Branch

In the last year emphasis has been given in the Adoptions Centre to consolidating organisational and procedural changes that occurred during the previous year with the aim of providing a more consistent and professional service.

Individual staff members continue to be responsible for liaison with Country Divisions and the past year has seen a gradual increase in contact between Adoptions staff and Metropolitan Divisions following the re-organisation of the adoptions workload into corresponding geographical areas.

The need to develop adoption skills in country field staff was recognised by the provision of two, week-long training programmes in August/September 1977. The success of these programmes has determined that they should continue.

The trend of past years in the area of adopting an unrelated child has continued in that there has been further reduction in both the number of children available for adoption and the number of applications to adopt. A total of 158 children were placed for adoption in 1977/78 and there were 228 applicants. This includes departmental and non-departmental figures. The imbalance between supply and demand continues to add to the backlog of existing applicants from previous years and there is now an approximate waiting time of between 3-3½ years between application to adopt and the placement of a child. The adoption of ex-nuptial and previous marriage children continues to be popular.

It had been expected that greater use would have been made of the Amendment to the Adoptions Act 1976 which allowed a new spouse alone to adopt his partner's ex-nuptial/former marriage child. This has not eventuated. Similarly there has, as yet, been no occasion to use a newly created section of the Child Welfare Act 1977 which provides for ministerial committal of a child for whom the consent to adoption of one parent is available but where consent of the other parent cannot be obtained. The child, under this section of the Act, may be committed until the second consent is obtained or dispensed with by the Family Court.

Over the past year discussions with King Edward Memorial Hospital have resulted in some changes in the use made of their facilities. Some babies for adoption are now moved more quickly from the hospital and placed with temporary foster families or in Ngal-a. This has taxed our temporary foster facilities to the extent that currently we are looking to engage more temporary foster parents for pre-adoptive children. An active recruitment programme will be necessary.

The Second Australian Conference on Adoption titled "Current Concerns and Alternatives for Child Placement and Parenting" was held in Melbourne in June 1978. Four staff attended from the Department representing not only Adoptions but Child Placement Section and Social Policy and Planning Unit thus reflecting the broad theme of the conference and emphasising current thinking that adoption is only one of a variety of alternatives for child care.



The themes of the conference have all to a greater or lesser extent been expressed as areas of concern at a local level and hopefully, given resources, the coming year will see practical development alongside changes in thinking. As an initial step it is proposed to look at our children for adoption who have special needs and develop appropriate resources to meet these needs.

## **Adoptions—International**

Over the past year, the Department has been involved in consultations with other State and Commonwealth Departments, on the question of recognition of foreign adoptions. The Unit has assisted in recommendations to the Director of suitable policy and legislation. Automatic recognition of all foreign adoptions has now been accepted in principle by all States, but legislation may vary in detail. The final draft for legislation for this State is under consideration and, hopefully, will be presented to Parliament in the coming financial year.

The Unit is concerned to foster information, sharing and mutual support between applicants interested in, or awaiting placement of children and couples who have already adopted from various countries. It also sees the formation of a friendly community of adopting parents with their natural children and adopted children of all races, as a support group for the adopted child, so that evidence of difference is a shared experience and is accepted as a positive value evolving self-worth, instead of personal and social embarrassment.

ASIA(C) exists as a parent-support group for these purposes (as well as the provision of material aid to disadvantaged children in Asia). The Unit continues to encourage and appreciate the existence of ASIA(C) and maintains close co-operation with it in its adoption-related activities. Several valuable meetings and social functions have been jointly organised and have enabled families and children adopted from several countries such as Vietnam, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, to share common interests.

This year the Department has given priority in assessment to applications for foreign adoption, as long as children are known to be available in the countries concerned. Waiting periods before assessment have been reduced to approximately three months from the date of application. Waiting times after assessment and approval and before placement vary depending on the country concerned.

### **Philippines**

The Department of Social Services and Development, Philippines have advised us that, with very few exceptions, the only children who are in need of placement are boys over the age of five. The policy of that Department, which we fully endorse, is to place children with local applicants wherever possible and to use foreign placement only as a last resort. This policy has apparently led to an increase in applications from Filipinos and on an average the Filipino Department now places only about ten children a month for foreign adoption. Eleven applications have been sent from Western Australia over the past three years, as the Filipino Department

declined to accept any more until these have been cleared. To date three couples have received children (none of them infants) and we have invited the others to apply to other countries, as the likelihood of placement appears minimal.

### **Sri Lanka**

Over the past year there have been fewer babies under one year available from Sri Lanka, as the Sri Lankan Department has placed many children, particularly in Western European countries. Applications for children over one year are still being accepted and the waiting period is about one year from the time of approval by us.

### **Bangladesh**

At present no children are being placed for foreign adoption and the future policy of the Bangladesh Government is uncertain.

### **India**

Limited numbers of children may be available for adoption from India. No applications have been received by this Department to adopt Indian children.

### **Thailand**

The Department of Public Welfare in Thailand decided in May of this year to suspend applications for at least three months. We await notice that they may proceed. If they do, then it is likely that applicants with more than one child will not be permitted to adopt. All applicants must be over 30 years of age.

Private adoptions have effectively ceased because exit visas are no longer issued for children to leave the country unless the Public Welfare Department is satisfied that there has been no malpractice. Even if a child has already been adopted through the services of a private solicitor and a local District Court, this provision now applies.

### **Other Countries**

The Unit is willing to investigate the possibility of adoption from any foreign country with which it does not already have working arrangements and, wherever possible, the Department will set up suitable procedures through reputable government or government-recognised adoption agencies. At this stage the availability of children from most foreign countries is already known and it is evident that the number of children available from Asian countries is decreasing, as a result of an ever-increasing demand from Western countries, or as the result of restrictions imposed by the foreign country itself, in response to that demand.

## **Child Life Protection Unit**

The Unit received this year 136 reports of suspected abuse of children under six years of age, of which 10 were re-referrals. One report only came from an anonymous source. In 30 cases it was found necessary to institute legal protective action on behalf of the child concerned. The remaining 106 cases were dealt with on a preventive or supportive basis, helping



the parents overcome their difficulties and encouraging co-operation with the Unit until any risk to the child appeared to have been overcome. An extension of wardship was successfully sought for nine wards who had earlier been committed to the Department's care. This was necessary because either the problem was found to be more serious than at first thought, or the Unit and the parents had not been able to co-operate enough to make the expected progress, and more time was needed.

The Unit's practice of working very closely with parents in planning and encouraging their participation has entailed more responsibility and work, but this has brought its own rewards in the growth of partnership between Unit workers and parents. An increased number of parents sought help directly from the Unit this year.

There has been a rise this year in the number of severe injuries (see Statistics Section). This is seen to be connected with isolated itinerant families, under severe stress. The Parents' Help Centre continued to refer a small number of cases that they felt were potentially too serious for them to handle. In all these cases the parents concerned were completely accepting of referral to the Unit. Otherwise the reporting from other sources remains as much as in other years. However there was a significant decrease in the number of cases of suspected child abuse referred to the Unit by medical practitioners, from 8 per cent to 3.7 per cent. This is a particularly disappointing development since a great deal of generalised discussion, information and publications in professional journals has left doctors in little doubt that child abuse does exist in the community. A pamphlet seeking to inform doctors and other professionals of the many resources available to prevent child abuse and help the child and his parents is ready for distribution and it is hoped that this will prove more effective in helping doctors to be a bridge between their patients and these services.

## New Developments

One of the most important developments has been the formation of a State Advisory and Consultative Committee on Child Abuse. Membership of the Committee is drawn from the major hospitals, emergency services, community and child health services, law enforcement, social welfare, education and women's health care organisations under the chairmanship of the Director, Mr. K. Maine.

The Committee's work so far has been characterised by a high level of interest and co-operation and it has already determined that its discussions will address themselves urgently to the following areas:

- The exploration of ways in which the collection of data concerning child abuse could provide a more accurate overview of the problem in this State.
- Extension of services and help to the older abused child and his family.
- Co-ordinated and constructive ways in which help can be brought to the sexually abused or sexually exploited child.

The Unit was pleased to participate in a seminar on child abuse in Kalgoorlie in May, which aroused considerable interest. The standard of debate and discussion was high and the seminar ended with resolutions to improve resources for women and children experiencing violence.

Another successful innovation was a weekend in which a number of families with small children took part in a residential group experience which was new for many of them. The programme included discussion, role sharing and parenting. Those who attended have made constructive comments and suggestions and are all committed to repeating the experience again in the next few months in view of the value they felt they had gained from it.

## Public Education

This year Unit staff undertook a heavier burden than in the previous years of lectures and talks and the general dissemination of information about child abuse and the services available to combat it.

We have had invaluable assistance from the Australian made film "Do I Have to Kill My Child?", a copy of which is held by the Unit. The value of this film cannot be overstated. The film is available on loan from the Unit, however the presence of a professional who is able to answer questions arising from it gives additional value.

Unit staff have also continued contributing actively to in-service training of new officers and those already in the field who wish to increase their skills in child protection and family work.

## Child Placement Service

The placement of children continues to be an area of major concern to the field and also to the Child Placement Service. Increasing difficulty is being experienced in locating suitable placements, including foster homes for children, particularly children who must be regarded as "difficult to place". This trend has been brought about, in part, by increasing the emphasis placed on the suitability of the placement to meet the child's needs.

A Foster Parent Training Programme is being developed to prepare Foster Parents for some of the many demands which are made upon them. The programme will allow for a degree of specialisation for selected families who are able to care for particular categories of children.

Benefits are being extended to children as a result of the recommendations included in the Inquiry into Residential Child Care. Most facilities are working towards the goals contained in the Report. The Child Placement Service has been involved with a number of facilities on a consultation and staff selection basis. The distribution of the Resources Index containing details of Child Care resources has proved valuable to staff and those working in allied fields.

The development of the concept of the Child's Progress Book has now widened to incorporate the Child's Scrapbook. Originally it was proposed that the Progress Book would be a detailed gathering of information concerning the child's past, his development, and significant events. However, in endeavouring to cover such a large area of information, it became apparent that the role of the Progress Book could be separated into two distinct areas; a recording of developmental details for the child's care and a personal recording and documentation of significant experiences for the child himself. The Progress Book will remain with the child's caregiver, while the Scrapbook remains the personal property of the child.



Over the past 12 months each of these Books has received considerable attention and they have now been developed to the stage of actual implementation. While the role and purpose of each Book differ slightly, they are similar in providing a detailed recording of the child's past—an area which is often sadly neglected for some of the children under the care of the Department.

The Child Placement Service has been able to assist country field staff in many areas of work. Through travelling to country Divisions, general and specific issues concerning the placement of children have been explained and discussed. Major areas of travel have been through the Southern, Murchison and Kimberley Divisions.

## Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel

Extensive amendments to the Child Welfare Act, approved by Parliament in October 1976, provided for detailed legislative backing to the then existing system of Juvenile (now Children's) Panels. The amending legislation, establishing wider powers for the Children's Panel and extending the Panel procedure throughout Western Australia, was proclaimed as operative from 1st January 1978. The previous procedure had operated with increasing success for 13 years, with authority by agreement between the Minister for Child Welfare, later Minister for Community Welfare, and the Minister for Police. Officers of the Department had worked for many months beforehand preparing for the effective introduction of expanded activities and increased responsibilities throughout the State.

Regulations relevant to Children's Panel procedures were formulated and included in the Child Welfare Regulations, 1977, made by the Governor in Executive Council on the 4th November 1977.

The Children's Panel Unit is an integral part of the Field Services of this Department and field officers have shown a commitment to the success of the Panel system. The responsibility for conducting Children's Panels involving clients resident within their Divisions has been passed to Social Work Supervisors and many field officers now sit as Panel members representing the Department.

Panels within the metropolitan area are allocated by division. In country areas, Panels are arranged through Divisional and District Offices. The Department has insisted that a Children's Panel be available throughout Western Australia in at least every venue where a Children's Court is available.

Effective liaison with the Police Department has continued.

It is appropriate to express appreciation for the untiring efforts over thirteen years of the former Chairman, the late Mr. D. O. Fogarty, in his administrative management of Children's Panel procedures, his conduct of Panel hearings and his liaison with the Police Department.

## Cases Dealt with by Children's Panels — Metropolitan Area

Between 1st July 1977 and 31st December 1977, (531 males, 280 females) = 811. Order of Panel in each case—Supervision for 6 months.

Between 1st January 1978 and 30th June 1978, (634 males, 317 females) = 951. Orders of Panel:—

Complaints dismissed—769

Supervision—104

Proceedings Suspended—78.

The age range of the 1 762 children concerned is:—

Age	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Males	11	18	47	72	109	179	254	254	221
Females	4	1	6	12	39	87	164	150	134

During the last seven years the upper age limit of children dealt with by Children's Panels has been 15 years. In this period 9 999 children were dealt with in the metropolitan area and of these 1 100 have re-offended and appeared in Children's Courts. Of the re-offenders, males totalled 864, females 236 and these children represent 11 per cent of the total children dealt with by Panels.

## Cases Dealt with by Children's Panels — Country Areas

Between 1st July 1977 and 31st December 1978, (108 males, 38 females) = 146. Order of Panel in each case—Supervision for six months.

Between 1st January 1978 and 30th June 1978 (199 males, 40 females) = 239. Orders of Panel:—

Complaints dismissed—139

Supervision—99

Proceedings Suspended—1.

The age range of the 385 children concerned is:—

Age	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Males	7	13	27	16	38	35	51	65	55
Females	1	....	3	1	9	10	21	16	17

The increase of Children's Panel activities in country areas has been 174 cases during the year. Of the total of 385 children (males 307 and females 78) 17 re-offended during 1977/78 and appeared in Children's Courts.

## Orders of Children's Panels

Since the legislation concerning Children's Panels has been in operation (1/1/78), 1 190 children were dealt with by Panels in Western Australia in the six months from 1/1/78–30/6/78. Complaints were dismissed in 76.3 per cent of these cases and 17.1 per cent were subject to an order as to supervision. The remaining 6.6 per cent were dealt with by "Suspended proceedings" for periods of up to six months.

## Early Childhood Services

### General trends in Day Care in Western Australia

The year 1977/78 has seen a continual fall-off in the demand for day care in commercial centres; a steady demand for care in the funded Day Care Centres, and in most instances these centres have not had long waiting lists. There has been a continued expansion in the development of Family Day Care



Centres in new areas and some projects, both in the metropolitan area and in the country, involve the development of multi-purpose centres.

The demand for day care is greatest in areas where two parent families are working to service high mortgages. In other areas there is much more emphasis upon the provision of a range of services which meet the needs of the mother staying at home with her children as well as the working mother.

## **The Early Childhood Services Unit**

The Unit now comprises 11 full-time and two part-time professional officers. This includes the three officers resident in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia. These officers hold qualifications in Pre-school teaching, Social Work, Psychology, Nursing and Child Care. They share the responsibility for supervising and advising all Day Care Centres, whether they be commercial or funded, and the Family Day Care Centres. The value of having a multi-disciplinary team responsible for these services as well as assisting in the development of multi-purpose facilities continues to be demonstrated.

## **Ministerial Review of the Day Care Regulations**

The Minister appointed a Committee to review the Child Welfare Day Care Centre Regulations, 1968. He drew upon experts from a wide range of disciplines and experience and the Committee has been meeting since September 1977. At the time of writing the recommendations are being put into draft form and it is hoped that they will come before Parliament by the end of 1978. The validity of long accepted standards in day care has come under very close scrutiny and it can be anticipated that the recommendations will be of nation-wide interest.

## **Country Areas**

Mining and some country centres have pre-school child populations considerably above the national average. Therefore, we can anticipate that most of the further expansion of the Unit will be in the country. The work-load of the full-time Adviser in Port Hedland who has been there for the past six months, is an indication of the need for children's services in these rapidly growing but isolated towns. She has devoted much time to advising the existing Day Care Centre, to the planning of a new multi-purpose centre, the planning and operation of two Occasional Care Centres and the registration and support of 11 Family Day Care Centres. Part-time Child Care Co-ordinators are working successfully in mining centres.

A multi-purpose centre funded by the Office of Child Care, is planned for Kununurra in which it is hoped to combine emergency residential care, occasional care, playgroups, out of school care and mothers' activities. In Esperance, an Occasional Care Centre has been operating for some months and this has proved to be a much needed service.

The needs of communities are always different and it is therefore of the utmost importance that Government funding to children's services should be as flexible as possible if programmes are to be developed that truly meet their needs.

## **Training**

Liaison and co-operation with educational institutions and the Lady Gowrie Centre, have resulted in plans for the provision of a series of in-service courses, and workshops for trained and experienced staff in day care.

The Child Care Attendant Courses which are basic introductory courses, continue to attract a very large number of students. A full-time tutor has now been employed by Technical Education Department, and assessment of students in their place of employment is now an integral part of the course in Perth. A Child Care Attendant Course has been introduced in Kalgoorlie and Karratha, and there are plans to extend the course to other country towns.

## **Family Day Care**

There are now three Family Day Care schemes (financed through the Office of Child Care) under way in the State. Several local authorities, and community bodies have shown great interest in the schemes and are awaiting funding. The Early Childhood Services Unit has developed guidelines for the appointment, functions, and work skills of Family Day Care Co-ordinators administering these schemes whilst retaining responsibility for the licensing of the caregivers.

Family caregivers, registered and co-ordinated by the Early Childhood Services Unit, still provide the majority of Family Day Care. State financed toy loaning schemes are an integral part of the service. There is evidence of an increasing parental awareness of family care, and a demonstrated preference in many cases for this type of care for their children. As the Department for Community Welfare has a traditional and strong commitment to Family Day Care and all caregivers in this State must be licensed by this Department, unnecessary duplication could be avoided if Federal funding for Family Day Care Co-ordinators and subsidies for needy children could be administered through this Department, with Co-ordinators seconded to local authorities or other appropriate bodies. This issue is still being debated.

## **Statistics**

Following agreement last year at the meeting of all the States and Territories concerning a national base for the collection of Day Care and Pre-school statistics, planning is under way between the Department for Community Welfare, the Education Department and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, to collect uniform data in August of this year. Because of the comparatively small number of children involved in Western Australia, it is planned to collect additional data to that which has been agreed upon nationally. This information will be invaluable to us in planning and monitoring further developments in day care services.

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

This specialist branch of the Department began the 1977/78 year with a Director and five counselling officers. The workload continued to increase significantly and two additional counselling positions



were created. One appointment was made in January 1978 and the second will take effect in July 1978.

Court Counsellors provided assistance to 2 065 families during the year. Forty-five per cent (924) were directly referred by the Court and the remainder were either self referred or referred by other service agencies or legal practitioners. Significantly, 55 per cent of the clientele were referred other than by Court order.

Of the Court ordered referrals 544 were for conferences to discuss differences between parents as to the welfare of their children and for the purpose of seeking to resolve such differences. Two hundred and ninety-three orders were made for the preparation of reports by Court Counsellors, the purpose being to enable the Court to be better informed as to matters affecting custody and access decisions.

Fifty-seven orders were made for access orders to be supervised by Court Counsellors and on 30 occasions the court ordered counselling pursuant to Section 14 of the Family Law Act.

Self referred clients sought assistance for marriage counselling (211), custody or access disagreements (405), general support associated with separation (372), property and maintenance enquiries (110) and mandatory counselling for seeking a divorce within two years of marriage (43).

Court Counsellors have increased the frequency of service to country towns, with regular visits being made to Bunbury, Albany, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Port Hedland and visits to smaller towns when needed. Country magistrates have had less involvement with Family Law matters during 1977/78 than the previous year, an indication that the Court's circuit visit system is effective.

There is evidence that the greater the availability of Court Counsellors, the greater is the demand for service and counsellors are hard pressed to maintain the service at the rate required by the public and the court.

Counselling involvement prior to court proceedings is playing an important role in preventing further deterioration of relationships and more amicable means of providing arrangements for children. Court Counsellors are now looking to other methods of enhancing the service they provide, such as group programmes, research projects and public education programmes in matters of marriage relationships, marital breakdown and its effects.

## Homeless Aborigines Project

The Special Project concerned with assisting homeless Aboriginal families and individuals continued its work until 30th June 1978. The project, supported by a grant from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, was located in the Planning and Research Unit.

In the last 12 months an accommodation service run in conjunction with the Aboriginal Advancement Council has handled 193 requests for assistance from Aboriginal families. This is an increase on last year's total of some 100 clients. 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.

A request has been made to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to fund an Aboriginal Accommodation Service modelled on the service operated by the Special Project. The service will employ a co-ordinator, two welfare officers and a typist/receptionist.

It has been recommended that this service should be guided and co-ordinated by an Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Homelessness. This Committee would also guide the activities of the Swan Valley Task Force and other projects which may be directed towards ameliorating Aboriginal homelessness in Perth.

Community development services continued to operate in the Swan Valley area. Much of this work was taken over by a Special Task Force operating from Midland Division but there was continued involvement by the Special Project with the people of Saunders Street to assist them in their efforts to obtain housing and develop services within the community.

The project has also conducted several basic and evaluative research programmes. These have included a report and evaluation of the pilot accommodation service, a report on the problems of community development, a follow-up study of night shelter accommodation and a survey of lodging housing accommodation. A final report containing much of this research is at present being compiled. With the cessation of the Special Project itself it is hoped that both the research conducted and the proposed accommodation service will alleviate to some degree the problems of Aboriginal homelessness.

## 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.

The Homemaker Service offers practical support to groups in the community by renting or purchasing meeting places. These facilities are used for a great many different activities and are often the only community resource centre in a locality. During 1977/78 new Homemaker-involved centres have been opened in the Metropolitan area at Belmont, Innaloo, Medina and Midland, and in the country at Kambalda, Kununurra, Pingelly and Williams. As an example of the variety of activities that take place at a Centre, the house at Kambalda is used for such community purposes as Migrant Education—for teaching English; Citizens' Advice Bureau, Continental cookery classes, dressmaking activities and a general drop-in resource centre.

Homemaker Centres have been a focal point for people moving from sub-standard or inadequate housing into State Housing Commission accommodation and into the new transportable homes provided under the Department's Reserve Re-Housing Scheme. The success of the scheme, which emphasises the involvement of families in the provision of furnishings and the landscaping of the blocks has been helped by both Homemakers and tenants having access to a mutually acceptable and supportive environment where group activities can be enjoyed.



During the year the Unit examined the special needs of Aboriginal Homemakers, and has been working at the development of training programmes designed specifically to give encouragement and support to these workers. The Community Homemakers who are working within their own Aboriginal communities have been taking part in familiarisation and knowledge-expanding visits to neighbouring towns to attend meetings and seminars. In October 1977 the Homemaker Service subsidised seven Fitzroy Crossing Homemakers as part of its training commitments, on a visit to an Aboriginal Women's Seminar in Alice Springs. Plans are now being developed for a Conference of Aboriginal Homemakers—both urban and community Homemakers—at which it is hoped to help further develop confidence and expertise.

The procedures for selection and orienting new Homemakers have been further refined and the unit has been able to respond to all requests for assistance in these areas.

Three orientation programmes have been conducted. The indications are that these programmes allow Homemakers to take on a full workload more quickly and effectively than would otherwise be the case, and ease the initial orientation tasks of supervising field officers.

The Homemaker Service has continued to administer the Aboriginal Emergency Housekeeper Service, which operates with a small budget for the benefit of Aboriginal families where the caring person is ill, hospitalised or needs a short break. The Service also caters for the needs of elderly Aboriginal pensioners. In every case the Emergency Housekeeper, who visits for a limited time, has been Aboriginal.

As a result of a discussion paper produced by the Homemaker Service, it has been recommended that a small Financial or Budget Advisory Service be attached to the unit. It is proposed that this will be a resource service available to clients who would be referred by field officers. The proposal is for a pilot project to operate in a small way and be evaluated as to its range and effectiveness.

Two members of the Homemaker Service attended the Second National Conference of Specialist Officers Homemakers in May 1978 and presented papers which opened up new ground for some agencies within community groups.

Publications during 1977/78 were: the collected papers of the First National Conference of Specialist Officers (Homemakers) held in Perth in June 1977 and (in preparation) Guidelines for Homemaker Co-ordinators—this being a companion volume for the previously published Guidelines for Homemakers. Together these three volumes contain a

synthesis of the work developed by the Homemaker Service since its inception. Perhaps it is fitting to note here that the Homemaker Service will be ten years old in August 1978, having had its beginnings in 1968 with the Department of Native Welfare.

## Parent Education and Assistance Project

The Parent Education and Assistance Project has been operating with funds from the Office of Child Care, Department of Social Security since May, 1976. It is now experiencing a period of consolidation having successfully launched its Drop-in and Resource Centre and developed a range of services and programmes for one parent families with pre-school children. Approximately 80-90 families are involved with the Project at any one time. The Occasional Child Care facility and the Toy Lending Library are well utilized by the 8-10 families who visit the Centre each day.

As detailed in the Project's Third Progress Report, December 1977, pp 2-9; a number of the original Project objectives have already been achieved. The remainder, which include improvement in the children's development and changes in the attitudes and knowledge of the parents, are being assessed by the research team. A report on the overall success of the Project in achieving its objectives will be prepared before the end of its pilot period in April, 1979.

The Project appears to meet many of the needs of the families involved in a manner not otherwise available in the community. The emphasis on parent education in particular, is quite unique.

Consistent with the Project's goal of developing a model parent programme for use, or adaptation, by other groups has been the development of various resources and resource indexes for use in such programmes. A selection of these resources is available from the Project Co-ordinator.

## Parent Help Centre

The Centre has now completed its Pilot period of two years operation. During that period, 488 families fulfilling the centre's criteria came for help. There were 1 534 follow-up contacts. Since the end of the pilot period in January, 1978, a further 121 families appropriate to the centre have been in touch, with a further 587 follow-up calls.

New families come to the centre at the rate of five per week and acceptance is growing within the community. A section of the population not previously accessible to welfare services is being reached. Through constant low-key publicity the centre is attracting calls from people in need of services the centre does not provide. In the pilot period 951 such calls were received and since then a further 243. A comprehensive resource index has been built up to give callers the information they need to find help. The centre continues to refer families where the child is seriously at risk for professional help with the parent's consent. During the pilot period 25 families were helped in this way.

There is a definite tendency to serve a local neighbourhood, as most parents who come into the Centre live within 15 km of it: this seems to indicate a need for a second centre in another part of the metropolitan area.

**NUMBER OF ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL HOMEMAKERS EMPLOYED AS AT 30th JUNE, 1978**

Division	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
Metropolitan	1	61	62
Southern	5	24	29
Central	6	17	23
Murchison	7	13	20
Goldfields	6	9	15
Pilbara	4	12	16
Kimberley	23	5	28
Total	52	141	193



The Centre's residential facilities have so far not been used as extensively as anticipated, and it has been noteworthy that all these families involved have been solo parents.

However, it is felt that this facility should continue to be available, in order to meet future needs in times of crisis and to enable the Centre to give a greater flexibility of response.

The evaluation completed at the end of the two year pilot period offers 26 recommendations on the future operation of the Centre: it is hoped that these will provide a starting point for further development of the service offered to parents.

Centre staff appreciate the continuing encouragement and support received from the Office of Child Care.

## **Pilbara Isolated Communities Project**

The Pilbara Isolated Communities Project has been funded by the Office of Child Care for a three year pilot programme to develop an adaptable social service delivery model for isolated communities. The programme focus is on the re-development of existing

resources in the communities of the Shire of Roebourne, in order to provide families of socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally handicapped children with the skills and support to care for their children in the home. Further local resources such as education, day care centres, play groups, and medical services are provided supports on a complementary basis to enable families to receive support in the local community.

At 30th June, 1978, the Project was providing direct service to 174 children. In addition many more families have been involved through parent effectiveness training and developmental screening.

The acceptance and utilization of the Project services have been excellent and are increasing. This is represented by the increase in individuals and groups using the service, and the proposal by the Shire of Roebourne to continue operation of the Project's service delivery component on completion of the Project in 1979.

Several components of the model which have been evaluated on an interim basis and found to be successful, are now being tested in other need areas to validate the adaptability of the model.



*Adventure camp at Nunnery Gorge, Pilbara.*



## Psychological Services

Psychological services in the Department have been extended and upgraded over the past year. A psychologist has been placed at Hillston, a medium security facility for boys. The service to country areas has consolidated, particularly in the Kimberley and Goldfields districts. The appointment of a psychologist to Geraldton will mean an upgraded service to the Murchison area during the coming year. Services to the metropolitan area have remained stable.

A recent development is the introduction of quarterly psychologist conferences. The first of these in April examined the psychologist's role in fostering, and future conferences will focus on such issues as juvenile delinquency and the assessment and treatment of Aboriginal children.

Psychologists have been instrumental in the redevelopment of the Drug Abuse Unit, which will in future place greater emphasis on public education regarding alcohol use or abuse and adopt a more consultative function in relation to problems of illegal drug abuse.

Following are some other examples of the psychologist's contribution to Departmental programmes:

### Nyandi

Because of the variety of treatment modes operating in the Nyandi system, the psychologist works mainly as a consultant for the group workers. Programmes range from treatment of specific serious problem behaviour in a closely controlled setting to general maintenance of appropriate behaviour in the community. The research role of the psychologist at Nyandi centres firstly on evaluating the efficiency of current treatment techniques in the short term and secondly on an assessment of the long term benefits of programmes.

Staff training is always an important area of need, as more experienced staff move into top positions of greater responsibility and recently qualified group workers are appointed.

### Country Psychological Services — Southern Division

Within a 40 kilometre radius of Bunbury, the psychologist has been able to provide an efficient service. In areas distant from Bunbury services to families in trouble are intermittent and are supplemented by close liaison with the District Officer who has regular contact with the families and telephone consultations. The psychologist has spoken at seminars and participated in health education programmes and a human relationships series for intellectually handicapped adults. She has also contributed to Departmental projects in health education and with a foster parent group.

### Consultant Educational Service

In addition to the general oversight of programmes, the educational consultant has been involved in the following areas:—

Acting as Departmental liaison for those private institutions which include schools in their child care

provision. This necessitates attending the admissions and review meetings, and monitoring the programmes in these institutions on behalf of the Department.

Liaison with the Education Department in regard to children committed to the control of the Department under Section 18 of the Education Act, i.e. for truancy. This has followed an investigation to obtain information about the children so committed during the year. It is hoped to hold conferences to explore all possible means of handling individual cases, with the aim of avoiding Court action.

Liaison with the Education Department in regard to project-type education for Aboriginal wards attending a country High School from a private institution. This was preceded by educational assessment of all the children as part of overall planning for them. School Reports requested by the Department on all children going out to school from foster homes and institutions have been cited by the educational consultant before being passed to the child's officer. Whenever these indicate that problems exist, there is a follow-up through the field officer, a departmental psychologist or a guidance officer.

Where the school suggests that a tutor would help a particular child, this is followed up at the school and at home to decide whether tutoring would be acceptable to the child and likely to benefit him.

### Summary

Psychologists are increasingly emphasising the consultative role and the team approach, in order to provide a more comprehensive service. In addition, whilst continuing to take a traditional case role with individual children and families, they are examining and developing ways of assisting larger groups in the community, so that the community can solve many of its own problems without professional assistance.

## State Counter Disaster Plan — Welfare Services

Under the State Counter Disaster Plan, approved by Cabinet in December 1976, the Director of the Department is responsible for one of several emergency committees established, that of Welfare Services. The Department is to co-ordinate all welfare services in Western Australia in times of emergency. For some time now the Department has been proceeding with the development, with other services, of plans at local, regional and State levels. The task ahead is complex. Committee meetings of the State Counter Disaster Welfare Committee have been held at the headquarters of the Western Australian State Emergency Service. The Committee includes representatives of the Department for Community Welfare, Western Australian State Emergency Service, Commonwealth Department of Social Security and several of the major voluntary agencies.

In the event of a major disaster, officers of the Department will be responsible for the mobilisation of welfare resources both statutory and voluntary. Designated areas of responsibility have been agreed upon. Reception areas under the Department's control will be set up and the registrations of effected persons (undertaken by the Red Cross) will proceed. Necessary clothing (organized by the Seventh Day



Adventist Church) will be available. The supply of relief rations at the Reception Centre will be organised by the Salvation Army. Personal counselling if required will be provided by officers of the Department for Community Welfare.

District Officers, Supervisors and Head Office personnel are involved and in the event of an emergency, have a vital and critical role to play in the mitigation and management of its effect on the people of Western Australia.

## Student Unit

Placement in the Student Unit allows social work students to apply their theoretical knowledge to real life situations in a closely supervised situation.

Clients are selected from the Fremantle Division caseloads according to each particular student's interests and learning requirements. The Student Unit retains the case only for the period of that student's placement, so the case is then returned to the Fremantle Division at the end of each placement. The students have frequently handled time-consuming cases referred to the Student Unit by Fremantle Division staff who realised that they could not do justice to those cases in terms of the time they currently had available. With the close supervision of a full-time teacher the students are able to do some very effective casework and so are readily accepted by clients.

Social Work students are not expected to cope with the same workload that is carried by Divisional staff, as their primary role is a learning one. However, over a year it has been estimated that work done by the Social Work students in the Student Unit would constitute approximately one-and-a-half officers' workloads.

During the 1977/78 year the Student Unit took a total of 18 students; eight from the University of W.A. and 10 from W.A.I.T. The length of the placement varies from nine to 12 weeks duration. In addition to this the Social Work Supervisor of the Student Unit acts as a liaison to arrange placements with individual Supervisors throughout the Department. Twenty-two Social Work students were placed throughout the Department with individual Supervisors (13 from the University and nine from W.A.I.T.). The W.A.I.T. Community Work Student Unit, which is based within the Fremantle Division itself, took 10 students in the same period. So altogether the Department for Community Welfare took 50 students.

## Youth Activity Services

The major emphasis of work undertaken by this section continued to be with small groups of children in need. These children were involved in a variety of small group activities, ranging from those that centred around their own neighbourhood to adventure camping activities in fairly remote areas of the State. The section also continued the important work of liaising with other youth agencies. Most of these agencies are eager to include needy children in their programmes and in many cases sponsors provide the required fee.

During the year the Department allocated funds (made available by the Commonwealth Government Office of Child Care) to organisations providing

school holiday care programmes for children. Special consideration was given to groups providing programmes in areas where there were known to be poor families and in isolated areas. One hundred and three thousand dollars was allocated to 102 organisations conducting 155 different projects. Approximately 4 200 children were involved.

In the period under review, 331 children were involved in 34 separate programmes at the Department's Port Kennedy Beach Camp. Each programme was over a minimum period of two days, although most were of longer duration, up to five days. Each child attended an average of two or three programmes and there was a total attendance of 887. The age of the participants ranged from 11 (two per cent) to 17 (five per cent). The majority were 13 (24 per cent), 14 (27 per cent) and 15 (25 per cent).

The programme at Port Kennedy is designed for teenage children, many of whom are offenders. The children are referred by the Department's field staff, who may use involvement at the camp as a reward for good behaviour, as a break for both the child and its family, or as an opportunity to develop social and leisure time experiences. The volunteer leaders share their skills with the children and try to involve them in successful experiences.

In addition, an equivalent number of programmes involving fewer children were held at campsites hired by the Department, on private land, or vacant Crown land. Over 50 leaders with a variety of backgrounds including tertiary students, tradesmen, teachers and nurses and with a common interest in children, made it possible for the Department to conduct these programmes.

One of the conditions accepted by a child when placed on Probation is attendance at the Department's Youth Centre, if and when required. Most teenage probationers are required to attend twice a week for a period of ten weeks. This introduces an often appropriate formal expectation into the probation agreement and helps the child to understand his part of the contract. Involvement in a structured programme enables the child to participate in a wide variety of leisure time activities and perhaps to develop an ongoing interest in some of them.

The contribution made to this programme by Mr. J. M. Forde has been mentioned in previous reports. Mr. Forde has been the senior instructor since 1957. Regretfully, Mr. Forde indicated early in the year that he would have to discontinue his involvement in the programme. He conducted his last programme in May 1978. Many young persons who are now adult members of the community are grateful for the influence Mr. Forde was able to make whilst they were involved at the Department's Youth Centre at some stage during its long history. We are most grateful for Mr. Forde's service to them and the community as a whole.

The Department is still using an old maximum security centre in Mount Lawley as the venue for the Youth Class programme. Whilst this is a good place for the storage of equipment, it is not really appropriate for use as a Youth Centre. Our previous home, the East Perth Public Hall was demolished in August 1973 and the programme has been without a suitable permanent venue since that time. The Department has an interest in the land and funds available as a result of the disbandment of the East



Perth Public Hall Trust. It is hoped that this land and funds may become available in the near future and provide a venue for the Department to use in this important aspect of its work.

In July, 1977 representatives from local government, community service groups and officers of the Department met to consider the feasibility of a juvenile Community Service Order Scheme. After careful consideration the committee recommended that such a scheme would be appropriate and Cabinet agreed to the proposal in February, 1978. This additional option for Children's Courts to consider when dealing with young people in trouble officially commenced on 26th June, 1978. It received a great deal of public support as well as that from Magistrates of the Children's Courts and field staff of the Department.

Initially, the scheme will operate in the Perth Metropolitan area. Children aged between 12 and 16 years, who are responsible for property offences (including stealing motor cars, breaking and entering, as well as wilful damage) are eligible to be ordered to complete between 10 and 70 hours of community service within a period of three months. Volunteer

service groups are involving the children in their own community service projects. In addition to performing the work it is hoped that children will benefit from the exposure to the concept of voluntary community service, as well as have the opportunity to become involved in other youth activities.

The scheme has been based on a number of fundamental points raised by the committee:—

- (1) The contract between the Children's Court and that person is very specific with all the implications that has for the initiation of breach procedures;
- (2) Family support and involvement is most desirable;
- (3) The person on community service should be viewed as a giver rather than a consumer of help;
- (4) It is most important that the hours should be kept to the recommended achievable levels within the time limits established;
- (5) Maximum use should be made of existing volunteer groups, voluntary supervisors and opportunities to extend and develop contacts made during the work order period.







# INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

The Department's Institutional Service is responsible for providing care, accommodation, assessment and treatment for children with special needs.

Major centres in the metropolitan area and their ancillary hostels provide all of these services. Most of the children catered for in these centres have problems arising from a particular set of family or socio-economic circumstances. Such children may exhibit behavioural problems, be subject to emotional disturbances, have committed offences, or may simply require residential care as a result of family breakdown.

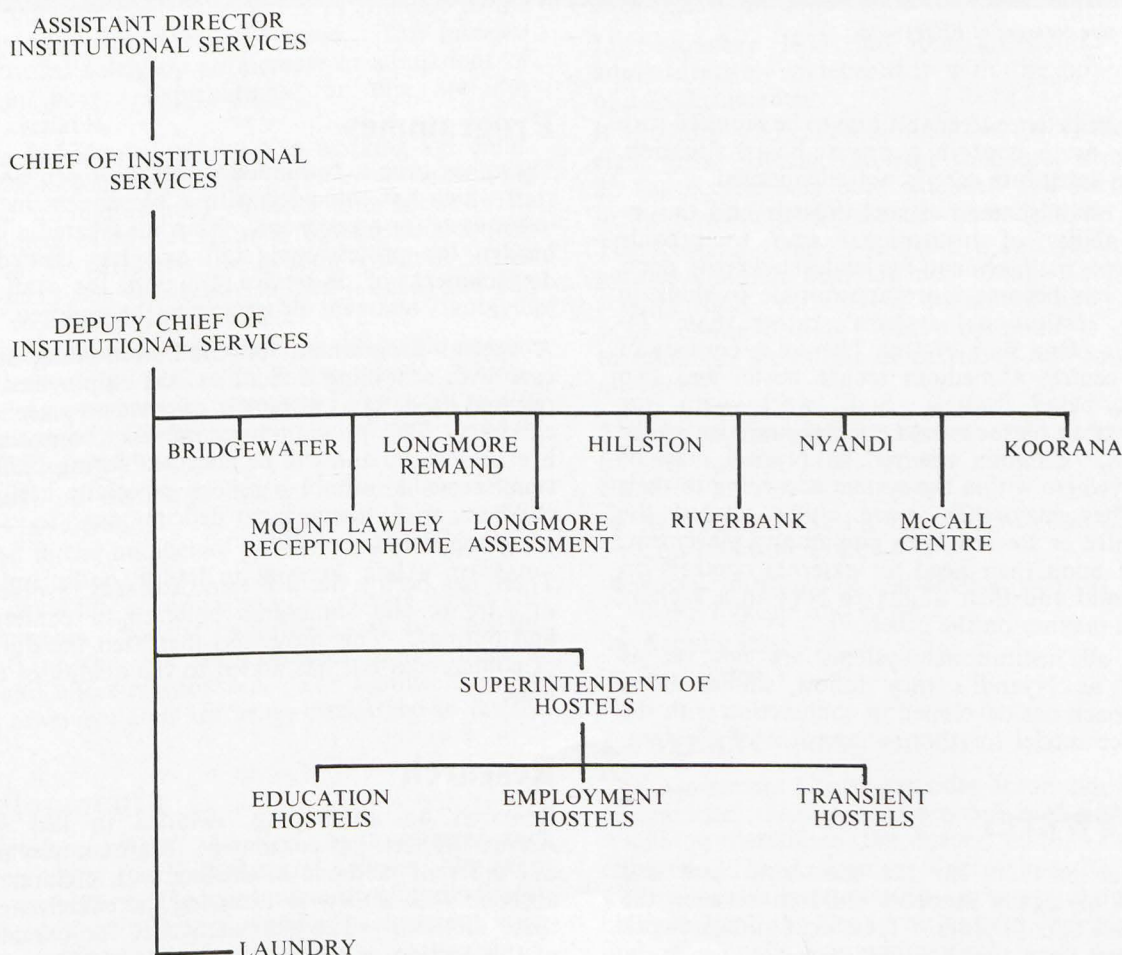
In addition, the Department has educational and employment hostels located in both country and metropolitan areas. These hostels, which are not associated with the major centres, cater mainly for Aboriginal children from isolated areas attending school. As well as accommodation these children need support in adjusting to life in a larger town or in the city. The boys and girls referred to hostels for working-age children have left school but are not ready for fully independent living.

## Care, Assessment and Treatment Centre

The emphasis on centres providing a total service to the child and his family noted in the last year's Annual Report has continued. This total-service concept views care, assessment, training and support as integral parts of the whole process of child management. Although Department centres continue to specialise in either assessment or treatment there is increased flexibility of function. Greater effort is also made to ensure that a child's care, assessment and treatment is relevant to his future needs and lifestyle.

All centres catering for adolescents have or will shortly have small community-based hostels for their use. A number of these hostels, which provide training and support for difficult children, are already providing a valuable resource for the centres. Their basic aim is to assist a child to reach a sufficient level

## Guide to Institutional Services







*One of the nine cottages at Bridgewater.*

of social competence to enable him to be reunited with his family or to cope in a private-board situation. Long-term substitute care is not encouraged.

With the establishment of such hostels and the increasing ability of institutional staff to provide support and management for children in the community it has become more appropriate to think in terms of "institutional systems" rather than "institutions". One such system, Nyandi's, consists of a secure centre, a medium secure hostel and two community-based hostels. Staff work with the children within these various settings and also in the community. Children referred to Nyandi may be placed anywhere within the system according to their needs. They may then move either toward the secure centre or toward open community placement, dependent upon their need for external controls on the one hand and their ability to cope in a socially acceptable manner on the other.

Although all institutional systems are not yet as developed as Nyandi's they follow similar lines. This approach has developed in conjunction with the total-service model for the management of children.

## Bridgewater

Bridgewater provides for the short-term care and assessment of legally innocent children between the ages of three and 18 years. Treatment and casework are provided from time to time.

## Programmes

There has been a continued shortage of professional staff which has coincided with a 30 per cent increase in requests for assessment. This has created a heavy burden for professional staff and has limited the development of in-service training for staff and individual treatment programmes for children.

A special programme for children needing special care with schooling difficulties and employment has resulted in faster placement of hard-to-place older children. This programme, confined to one cottage, is experimental and will be reviewed during 1978. A small remedial school has been especially useful for children with temporary deficits due to severe emotional crisis.

There has been a decided trend towards involvement of parents and sometimes children in conferences and outings. This move has increased the duration of conferences but has added to the quality of decisions.

## Research

Research on absconding, detailed in last year's Annual Report, has continued. Staff are now trying out different methods of dealing with children who abscond with a view to assessing the effectiveness of these methods. The estimated date for completion of this section of the project is April 1979.



A rating programme of social inter-actional characteristics with feedback to children resident in Oceanview Hostel has been completed and will be re-run with minor adjustments.

During 1978-79 it is planned to review health aspects of children admitted, in order to verify a suspected trend towards malnutrition, an aspect of care not previously a major issue at this Centre.

## **Development — Current and Proposed**

Increased interaction with all members of families is planned through group worker follow-up into the home to teach effective management techniques and through family counselling. Community resource persons, such as Child Health Sisters and school teachers have co-operated closely with many admissions.

To decrease the trauma of separation and involve parents more closely, it is proposed to examine the possibility of some children attending the Centre on a daily basis.

## **Mt. Lawley Reception Home**

Mt. Lawley Reception Home is an "open" facility accommodating up to 40 boys and girls.

Short term care, assessment and training is provided for children from seven to 18 years of age who require residential care but for whom a secure setting is not considered necessary. Most of the children have short histories of offending behaviour.

There has been an 11.2 per cent increase in total admissions over 1976/77 which is in contrast to the previous two years downward trend. This increase is constituted solely by an increase in admissions of caucasian boys. Explanations for this are not readily available.

An increase of seven per cent in working age children's admissions occurred with a corresponding decrease in high school children admissions. The development of M.L.R.H. as a resource centre, with reference in particular to helping children attain employment has apparently tapped a need, and can largely account for this increase.

A significant though not readily explainable change in the reasons for admission is also noted. Admission for Assessment has increased 12 per cent whilst a reduction of nine per cent in admission through court actions has occurred.

Placement on discharge figures indicate a marked change in direction. A 38 per cent increase has occurred in the number of children being discharged to an institution, hostel or mission, and a decrease of 35 per cent of discharges to private board or foster parents. Several hypotheses can be made to account for this but it is difficult to construct a cause and effect relationship. The significant point is that fewer children are being discharged to family care.

## **Developments**

The development of M.L.R.H. as a referral and resource centre for Departmental agencies has been a key concept in the continued development and implementation of more detailed assessment and training programmes.

The extension of M.L.R.H. involvement into community based training programmes at Stuart House is an example of this. School aged children and working aged boys are target populations that are seen as requiring similar training settings within the community.

## **Stuart House**

Stuart House is a hostel for working-aged girls who require accommodation and training in a supportive setting, prior to a discharge to more independent living.

From February 1978, supervision was transferred to the Superintendent, Mt. Lawley Reception Home and a re-organisation of programme policy and staffing arrangements has occurred.

The programme encourages girls to learn the skills they will need to live in the community. Girls are helped to find employment, taught duties relevant to job placement and supported while they are settling in to new employment.

Referral to Stuart House is made through a case conference format. Following conference approval, a programme is developed and responsibilities are allocated to Stuart House and field personnel. A fortnightly review of progress occurs, involving the girl, her field officer, Stuart House personnel and the Superintendent of M.L.R.H.

## **Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre**

### **Longmore Remand**

In September 1977 the Remand Centre became administratively independent with the appointment of a Superintendent.

It provides secure accommodation for 14 boys and eight girls. During the year this total capacity of 22 has occasionally been extended and cabin space in the Assessment Centre has been utilised.

The Remand Centre's function is to hold for short periods children who are due to appear in court, serving short warrants of committal and in some cases serving default. The programme is designed to minimise the effects of detention and institutionalisation.

The programme is divided into four sections catering for the various needs of the children. These include:

- Information kits on the D.C.W., the Children's Court and the Police.
- Social information on alcohol, driving, employment, hygiene and so on.
- Activity kits.
- Recreation.

### **Longmore Assessment**

The Assessment Centre provides accommodation for 60 children. A case conference is held within three weeks to determine the future placement of the children. The Assessment Centre like the Remand Centre is maximum security, however a number of children leave the Centre on outings, weekend leave, and occasionally to attend work.



The philosophy of the Assessment Centre is to provide a structured and where possible, also a normal environment in which to assess the children in terms of their inter-personal skill and attitudes as well as their behaviour and their performance at a wide range of activities. The Centre is also pleased to be involved with the psychological section and other assessment centres in a project to examine the case conference procedure especially with respect to those cases where there is not the expertise or facility to deal with the presenting problems.

This year has been one of consolidation in terms of programmes and procedures for the Assessment Centre. All daily duties have been examined and written down in a form that allows for easy access and reference. A number of activities have been improved and new ones implemented. Dancing, music and swimming lessons are now all part of the normal programme.

Renovations have been carried out to provide modern fire fighting equipment. Work has begun on air conditioning the children's cabins, upgrading the electrical supply to enable installation of improved security lighting and general repainting and landscaping.

The outside hostel is yet to be completed but when this does become operational in several months time, it will allow the Longmore complex to provide a more complete service and complement the extensions to the Longmore programme.

## Hillston

Hillston provides for the treatment and training of boys in the age range 11 to 18 years who have been placed under the control of the Department. The average age of admissions over the 12 month period has remained stable although it has been reducing consistently over previous years.

The trend towards a shorter average stay has continued. This is attributable to a more refined programme being developed in line with a policy of community based treatment programmes wherever practicable.

## Programmes

Most boys admitted to Hillston are educationally retarded or have problems associated with poor adjustment at home, at school or in employment, so all activities have a remedial aspect. However where a boy has gained sufficiently from his particular programme, he may be permitted to attend a normal school or go out in a work release situation. Boys are also encouraged to pursue leisure activities in the community. This allows progress to be monitored and appropriate action taken in the event of a breakdown.

All boys admitted to the Centre are tested to determine their social skills. Programmes are undertaken to remedy individual deficiencies. A simple reward system operates as a means of behaviour modification. The completion of the Science Building late in 1977, has added to the range of educational experience.

When he returns to community living, each boy's progress is monitored through the centre's after-care service and assistance is given where necessary. Evidence of a boy's success can earn him a return to Field supervision or termination of wardship before the set time of expiry.

## Warramia Farm

Warramia Farm, the Department's property at Badgingarra, is serviced by Hillston boys who can gain experience for release to farm employment. In return, Hillston is supplied with hay and grain.

## Darlington Cottage

Darlington Cottage, one of two community based facilities under Hillston direction and supervision functions as a family unit for up to ten boys who attend the local school and participate fully in local community life. The community is encouraged to use the cottage leisure and recreation provisions so that benefits can be shared to mutual advantage.

## McDonald House

McDonald House is the second of the two facilities under Hillston management.

Accommodation is provided in the metropolitan area for up to ten boys and the hostel has proved successful in establishing appropriate work habits, personal self care behaviours and developing social competence. The programme enables boys in residence to be prepared for ultimate release to the home situation or some form of independent living.

## Developments

The work release programme in conjunction with the Abattoir at Wooroloo, has suffered in recent months due to scaling down of the industry. Opportunities for such employment are becoming progressively worse and alternatives are not available. The poor state of the economy generally is affecting the after-care service. It is extremely difficult to place boys about to be released in work situations.

The appointment of a Deputy Superintendent and a permanent Psychologist has enabled staff to review the current programmes. It is envisaged that Hillston will function as a resource centre for the community, with an integrated training and after-care programme.

## Riverbank

Riverbank Boys Treatment Centre provides accommodation for 43 adolescent male offenders within a secure environment. A hostel annexe provides community-based management for a further eight boys. During the year an extensive structural upgrading programme has been commenced which includes a new kitchen and the provision of sewerage to 33 cabins.

## Programme

Training programmes monitored by periodical reassessment and supported by a token economy system continue in a wide range of areas. Work training is designed to develop both basic skills and an ability to persist in repetitive tasks. Education at varying levels including social competence and leisure use receives high priority.

Visits by outside groups into the centre have been a regular feature of the programme throughout the year. The boys' own social club, with guidance from staff, has been encouraged to accept the responsibility for the planning and programming of such events.



Selected boys have participated in a youth driver education programme and Outward-bound camp type activities have continued to feature strongly in the Centre's programme. It is anticipated that this facet of the programme will be further extended.

Recommendations by the Courts during the year for specific periods of detention in Riverbank have continued to restrict progressive rehabilitative programmes at the centre. At any time, over 50 per cent of the population have been subjected to such constraints.

Emphasis is placed on an intensive and effective support system being available to boys on trial leave in the community. Staff, with the assistance of an Aboriginal Aide, continue to be detached to provide this service.

During the year it was anticipated that Riverbank's Metropolitan hostel at Francis Street would be resumed for development purposes, and it was necessary to allow the programme there to run down.

Fortunately a reprieve was obtained and the facility is now able to continue to function into 1979, which allows for alternative accommodation to be sought and so not detract from the valuable function Francis Street provides in the total rehabilitative process.

## Developments

With the new general trend of having a near two-thirds of the in-population of boys on long term Court recommendations, for placement at Riverbank (frequently for a six month period), the existing shorter term treatment programme has been found to be inadequate in many such cases. An extension to this programme to meet the particular needs of these children is being developed.

## Nyandi

Nyandi's system of treatment for disturbed adolescent girls is conducted through the security unit, a residential treatment hostel, Gwynne Lea Cottage, two hostels, Karingal and Watson Lodge and a comprehensive after-care service. The flexibility of treatment available for girls furthers the dual aim of teaching appropriate skills and increasing motivation towards socially acceptable behaviour.

Nyandi security offers intensive training for the most difficult cases in a maximum security setting. On first admission girls spend an average of four to six weeks before being discharged. Girls may earn their way towards discharge by successful completion of their individual treatment programmes. During the year, 29 new referrals were admitted directly to Nyandi Security.

It is also used as a Time-out from reinforcement to support community and hostel treatment programmes run by Nyandi. This is used when the girl is participating in an overall positive programme and all alternative treatment strategies have failed to bring about a change in some serious anti-social behaviour. Time-out is generally of one to two days duration after which the girl returns immediately to a positive programme in which alternative appropriate behaviour is heavily rewarded.

Gwynne Lea Cottage is an open residential treatment facility in the grounds of Nyandi Security. The average length of stay on first admission is two

to three months. During the year a total of nine new referrals to Nyandi were admitted direct to Gwynne Lea.

The girls admitted to Watson Lodge are generally from the older age group of referrals and their treatment programmes are often centred around obtaining and maintaining employment. The average length of stay for the first admission is approximately two months. During the year a total of 24 new referrals to Nyandi were admitted direct to Watson Lodge.

Adjacent to Watson Lodge in the same grounds is a self-contained flat which is used in training particular girls to cope with a more independent living style.

Karingal specialises in the younger age group of referrals to Nyandi whose treatment programmes usually involve school attendance and performance. The average length of stay on first admittance is four to five months. During the year 16 new referrals to Nyandi were admitted direct to Karingal.

It is the only facility which has treatment staff living permanently on site.

An After-Care Officer is allocated to each girl referred to Nyandi. They co-operate with, and supplement the residential facilities' treatment programme and assume responsibility for the supervision of the girl after discharge. The community programme is a logical extension of a girl's treatment programme from a residential facility to the girl's natural environment. At the 30th June, 1978 there were 173 girls under the supervision of Nyandi. Of these, 144 were resident in the community and being supervised by After-Care Officers. These girls reside in family situations with parents, relatives, or foster parents; or have boarding accommodation in hostels, boarding houses or flats. They are expected to attend school or join the workforce.

Also attached to the After-Care treatment unit are three Homemakers. These women assist selected clients in various areas of home management.

## Developments

Although the basic treatment philosophies and programmes have remained the same as in previous years a number of advances have been made in specific areas:

- During the year there has been a continuing emphasis on treating girls in community-based settings first wherever possible. Of the 82 new referrals made to Nyandi during the year only 29 (36 per cent) were admitted direct to maximum security. The other 53 were admitted to hostels or After-Care.
- As at the 30th June, 1978 only seven of the 53 had failed to respond satisfactorily to community-based treatment programmes. This resulted in their transfer to Nyandi Security.
- A comprehensive manual was written to assist group-workers in implementing the treatment programme at Watson Lodge. While this manual relates specifically to Watson Lodge at present, it is hoped to develop it into a general manual which will be relevant to anyone carrying out treatment in a hostel situation.
- Research and evaluation continues, and it has been found that the recidivism rate of between 50 per cent and 55 per cent compares favourably with that of other programmes both nationally and internationally.



- The game "choice and consequences", based on real life decision-making, is used as a therapeutic tool. It was developed at Nyandi, and 12 copies of this game have now been professionally printed.
- A number of steps have been taken to try and improve and enrich the teaching of practical skills by Nyandi. During the year four mothers, with their babies, were admitted. A large segment of their treatment programme centred around mothercraft training. Because of this a comprehensive teaching package was developed which utilised guest tutors, cassettes and video films as well as normal instruction.

## McCall Centre

McCall Centre is a residential treatment centre for children aged 4–12 years whose behaviour and situation requires intensive intervention. Treatment is continued with the children upon their return to the community, and currently there are nearly 50 such cases.

### Programme

The philosophy of the Centre is directed toward developing the child's self esteem and self control through experiencing strong, accepting relationships with limits clearly defined. Within this framework programmes are developed according to each child's specific needs.

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 may come to the Centre for intensive work and be accommodated in an on-site Parent Unit. Every endeavour is made to return the child to the community as quickly as possible.

As a continuation of the treatment programme, some children are placed in foster homes. Foster parents are very carefully selected and once selected, undergo an intensive eight week training course.

### Developments

Previously, a part of the criteria for admission to McCall Centre was that there was no organic dysfunction. In this year we have relaxed this criteria and admitted three children with severe brain damage. The behaviour problems consisted primarily of frequent and extreme aggression, poor self control and difficulty in relating and playing with peers. All of these were long standing problems.

Within an average of 2–3 months all the children were able to be discharged with no problems in the areas for which they were referred. They were returned to their parents, who had been taught how to continue the successful management of their child.

McCall has been encouraging referring agencies to refer younger children. Treatment is more successful and requires less time when the child is referred earlier in his life, before the problems have become entrenched and the family too resentful. This year has seen more younger children admitted which is most encouraging.

The skills required to manage and relate to disturbed children are usually beyond the experience of most parents. To assist the parents of such children, training in these skills is provided by McCall. This year the training programme has been systematised, and includes both theory and practice. Nine parents went through the programme.

## Koorana

Koorana is a day-attendance centre for children of primary school age whose behaviour is such that they cannot profit from normal school attendance, and for whom there is no available alternative treatment setting. It is not residential; most children live with their families. Children are transported daily from throughout the metropolitan area.

Wardship is not necessary. Most of the families represented at Koorana have no other contact with the Department. Before a referred child attends Koorana the staff investigate the possibility of maintaining his attendance at his own school.

The upper limit for the number of children at any time is variable. About 30 children full-time would be the absolute maximum.

Most (92 per cent) of the children attending Koorana had earlier contact with another specialist agency—psychiatric and neurological or social welfare. Referrals come from any source, but are mainly from Guidance or Special Education staff of the Education Department or from Departmental Field staff.

### Programme

Teaching and treatment programmes are monitored closely and changed as performance data dictate. Very frequent and close staff contact allows for more integration of treatment/teaching strands than is usually possible. Professional expertise not available through Koorana staff is supplied through visiting staff. Various theoretical approaches influence teaching and treatment, but the over-riding treatment orientation is behavioural. Precision teaching techniques are used for all skill subjects.

When a child is transferred from Koorana to his local school Koorana staff assist the class teacher as required. Support continues to be provided for the child within the family unit. Assessment of long-term effects poses many problems. The most frequently used method is through a weekly checklist report from the post-Koorana school. Assessment of whole family functioning is more subjective.

### Developments

Koorana's role in training staff who will work with children has extended to include all schools of primary teacher education in Perth, and other training courses for professional work with children. This has often meant interpreting in practical terms material published elsewhere, and helping parents and staff working with children to implement behaviour management techniques.

Training materials made by Koorana staff are available to other training institutions.



Research into the functioning of the families represented at Koorana has led to these two emphases in work with them:

- training parents to see their children's behaviour in a more positive light, and to focus more on the positive events;
- encouraging families as units to involve themselves more in neighbourhood community facilities and events.

Research has begun into some aspects of teaching children who do not learn by normal methods.

## Hostel Facilities

### Education and Employment Hostels

Hostels provide accommodation for school and working aged boys and girls. Most of the children are Aborigines. In the country with the exception of the Geraldton Working Youths Hostel the facilities are owned, maintained and staffed by the Department. The Metropolitan facilities are owned and maintained by the Department but are operated by private individuals and church groups under the supervision of the Department.

There has been an increasing demand for accommodation for High School aged Aboriginal students. In the past year the country facilities have been near capacity. Aboriginal parents are insisting that their children live in a well supervised environment and that their children receive an education that is relevant to their own situation. Hostel staff liaise closely with schools to provide back-up support to the parents and students. Tutors are attached to each facility with High School aged children.

Children in residence range from those who come from a tribally oriented aboriginal community to those who are more sophisticated from large country centres. The task of hostel staff therefore encompasses much more than providing for the physical needs of the students. Support and encouragement is needed to assist them make the big adjustment of living in an urban community or coping with a large High School. For those with the academic potential hoping to continue to tertiary level, the aim is to provide a supportive environment until such time as the student is able and the parents willing for them to live independently. For all there is an out-of-school programme aimed at broadening their life experiences and teaching basic social skills which will enable them to take their place in the community with more confidence.

### Kartanup Hostel — Katanning

This facility continues to cater for 14 metropolitan and country working aged boys who require a supervised environment. The hostel provides an invaluable group living experience. City boys have been able to develop socially in the smaller country centre by participating in local organised sport and other outdoor activities. The experience matures them to the point where they can move on to private board or return home and make a more positive contribution to their own families. Country boys have also gained in confidence and acquired improved work habits.

### Admission during the year:

Twenty-six (17 Caucasian and nine Aborigines).

Fifteen boys came directly from Perth centres.

Three boys were re-admitted for a further training period.

The average number in residence: 12

To overcome the problems of unemployment the hostel runs its own programme for those boys not in work. This includes gardening, home maintenance, woodworking activities, vehicle maintenance and community projects. The boys run their own well patronised canteen.

### Tudor Lodge — Chelmsford Road, Mt. Lawley

The demand for accommodation for working aged boys in the metropolitan area continues to be met by this facility. It can accommodate 14 boys. Centrally located with excellent amenities it provides board for boys who need a neutral environment when they are unable to tolerate strained family relationships and require supervision of their leisure hours. Most of the boys move to Tudor Lodge from one of the Department's larger Centres. Once they are settled in employment and acquire the skills necessary to cope with an outside living situation they leave the hostel, maintaining contact with their Field Officer

### Educational and Employment Hostels

#### METROPOLITAN

Applecross	....	....	Primary School (Boys and Girls)
Ardross	....	....	Secondary School (Girls)
Bedford Park	....	....	Secondary School and Business College (Boys and Girls)
Bentley	....	....	Secondary School (Girls)
Como "Kyewong"	....	....	Secondary and Tertiary (Boys)
Greenmount "Inniminka"	....	....	Secondary School (Boys)
Hamilton Hill	....	....	Secondary School (Boys and Girls)
Kewdale	....	....	Secondary School (Girls)
Medina	....	....	Secondary School (Boys)
Mt. Lawley "Cooinda"	....	....	Secondary School (Girls)
Mt. Lawley "Tudor Lodge"	....	....	Working aged Boys
Mt. Lawley "Katukutu"	....	....	Secondary School (Boys)
Mt. Yokine "Warralea"	....	....	Secondary School (Boys)
Mt. Yokine "Bamburra"	....	....	Secondary School (Girls)
Subiaco "Myera"	....	....	Secondary and Business College (Girls)

#### COUNTRY

Boulder "Nindeebai"	....	....	Secondary School (Boys and Girls)
Boulder	....	....	Secondary School and Working Boys
Cue "Kyarra"	....	....	Primary School (Boys and Girls)
Derby	....	....	Primary and Secondary School (Boys and Girls)
Geraldton	....	....	Working Aged Boys
Halls Creek "Charles Perkins"	....	....	Primary and Secondary School (Boys and Girls)
Kalgoorlie	....	....	Tertiary and Working Aged Girls
Katanning "Kartanup"	....	....	Working Aged Boys
Leonora "Nabberu"	....	....	Primary School (Boys and Girls)
Marble Bar "Oolanyah"	....	....	Primary School (Boys and Girls)
Onslow "Gilliamia"	....	....	Primary School (Boys and Girls)
Port Hedland "Moorgunya"	....	....	Secondary School (Boys and Girls)
Roebourne "Weerianna"	....	....	Primary and Secondary School (Boys and Girls)
Yalgoo "Warramboo"	....	....	Primary School (Boys and Girls)





Swimming at Kyarra Hostel, Cue.



## **Laundry**

A Departmentally operated laundry, located at Mt. Lawley, provides an efficient service to 46 Departmental Centres, Hostels and Group Homes. Four tons of linen, clothing, blankets and other miscellaneous items are laundered each week at a cost which represents a considerable saving on normal commercial rates. An experimental bleaching programme introduced this year has reduced the disposal rate of heavily soiled linen by thirty per cent.

In addition to maintaining a laundry service, the facility also provides an opportunity for selected adolescents to obtain work training in a tolerant setting. Award wages are paid. This programme has proved most successful in assisting young people who have not previously been able to cope with employment to learn necessary work skills and to obtain employment in the community.

## **Teaching Staff**

The Department employs 23 teachers in Departmental Centres and in two independent facilities where special circumstances exist. Nearly all of

these are seconded from the Education Department and may return to normal schools if they wish.

Liaison with the Education Department has been facilitated by the appointment of the Superintendent of Education (Special Education) as liaison person within the Education Department. During the year he visited all Departmental schools and met the teachers.

Most of the children attending Departmental schools are educationally retarded and have attendant behaviour, emotional and social problems. Educational programmes and methods are tailored to meet these needs and emphasize the teaching of basic skills. During the year teachers attended the Learning Assistance Teachers course conducted by Mt. Lawley Teachers College, designed to provide further training for experienced teachers in behaviour analysis and strategies of handling behaviour and academic problems.

The appointment of three additional teachers, funded initially by the Schools Commission, has improved the staff/child ratio and given staff some opportunity for programme development.





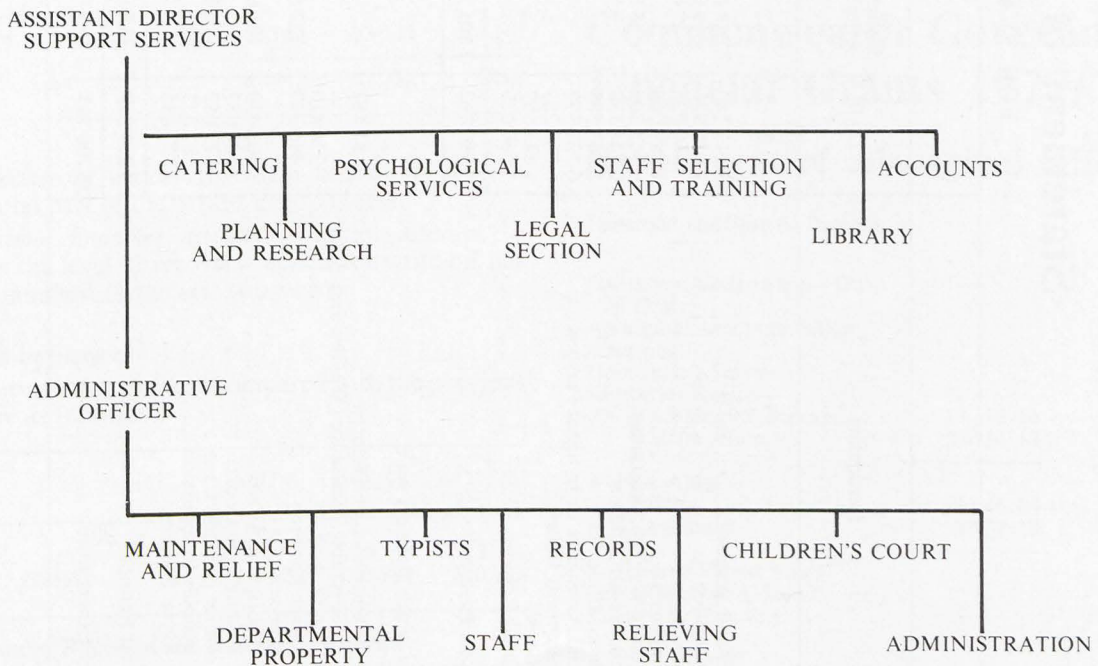


# SUPPORT SERVICES

During the year under review an Assistant Director (Support Services) was appointed. The areas of administrative responsibility of this office are:—

Budgeting & Finance  
Income Maintenance Services  
Planning & Research  
Staff Selection & Training  
Legal Services  
Community Services Training College  
Children's Courts  
Library  
Departmental Property  
Catering  
Recording  
Publications

## Guide to Support Services





# Statement of Receipts and Payments

FOR YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1978

1976/77	Particulars	Children's Expenditure						Departmental Institutions				
		1977/78	General Admin.	Field Operations	Private Institutions (Wards)	Boarded Out (Wards)	Non Wards	Reserves	Financial Assistance	Assessment	Treatment	Hostels
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
12 103 225	Salaries and Wages	13 712 140	2 048 418	5 261 034						2 495 057	2 343 739	1 563 892
821 744	Administration	1 034 931	669 020	365 911								
46 021	Printing	60 028	30 014	30 014								
994 355	Field Expenses	1 199 064		973 731								
896 251	Community Welfare Assistance	968 805	58 065	230 181								
2 863 349	Maintenance of Children	2 744 134										
	Residential Child Care	1 245 883										
2 623 303	Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	6 127 372										
166 138	Unemployment Relief	282 289										
1 307 383	Institutions	1 545 587										
1 079 095	Residential Reserves	1 060 529										
22 900 864	Total Payments	29 980 762	2 805 517	6 860 871	1 367 304	1 842 302	1 033 589	1 060 529	7 062 375	2 924 878	2 763 808	2 259 589
	Against which Receipts were:—											
42 164	1. State:	31 182				31 182						
273 173	Maintenance of Children											
446 715	Recoverable Assistance (Welfare and Assistance Act)	224 410										
	Other Revenue	446 777	122 639	631								
	2. Commonwealth:											
918 293	Aboriginal Affairs	1 103 430	101 651	428 731								
111 078	Family Law Court	124 087		124 087								
266 910	Office of Child Care	379 052	110 836	156 273								
	Schools Commission	87 233										
	Social Security	2 877 888										
2 058 333	Total Receipts	5 274 059	335 126	709 722		31 182	95 213	546 918	3 121 940	38 879	153 465	241 614
20 842 531	Net Expenditure	24 706 703	2 470 391	6 151 149	1 367 304	1 811 120	938 376	513 611	3 940 435	2 885 999	2 610 343	2 017 975



## Grants in Aid 1977/78

Mission	Detail	Amount
		\$
Albany Crisis Centre ....	Group Home .....	47 950.00
Balgo .....	Recreation Centre—Renovations .....	12 000.00
Centre Care—Beverley ....	Capital Costs (50 per cent) .....	17 500.00
Fairhaven .....	Materials .....	600.00
Ingada Village—(Carnarvon)	Renovations .....	4 000.00
Maranatha .....	Supply & Erection of Workshop .....	2 500
	Materials .....	1 000
		3 500.00
Marribank .....	Purchase & Renovation of Cottage .....	66 005.13
Moongong Darwung .....	Establishment Costs .....	5 000.00
Norseman .....	Scatter Cottage .....	22 500.00
Parkerville .....	Cottage Construction .....	60 000
	Purchase of Land—White Gum Valley .....	18 000
		78 000.00
St. Josephs School Hostel—Derby	Solar Heaters & Fittings .....	4 868.83
Yandeyarra Hostel ....	Laundry (2 washing machines) .....	909.26
		\$262 833.22

### Write-offs

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

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
	\$	\$	\$
Wards' Wages .....	235	Nil	Nil
Maintenance of Wards .....	3 043	Nil	Nil
Maintenance of Aboriginal Wards .....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Recoverable Financial Assistance .....	84 169	23 535	Nil
Total .....	87 447	23 535	Nil

### Note:

*Maintenance of wards*—this item was unfilled for a substantial part of the period due to illness.

*Recoverable financial assistance*—in an attempt to increase the level of recovery, action for write-off has been minimised in the last two years.

### Receipts in Suspense

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

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
	\$	\$	\$
Total .....	258 030	293 381	340 632

### Remittances Received for Banking Purposes

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts .....	6 825	14 378	3 851
Balance as at 30th June .....	87 809	65 110	61 245

### Remittances Received and Held in Trust Account at Treasury

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts .....	42 092	55 031	63 391
Balance as at 30th June .....	20 107	22 105	28 113

## Commonwealth Government Financial Grants 1977/78

### Department of Aboriginal Affairs

#### Recurrent and Specific Purpose

	\$	\$
Carnarvon Coffee Shop—Drop in Centre .....		4 000.00
Aboriginal Accommodation Service .....		101 650.85
Homemaker Service .....		280 000.00
Kimberley Region—		
Psychological Services .....	19 310.14	
Welfare Aides .....	95 114.18	
		114 424.32
Welfare Aides—		
Pilbara .....	21 046.84	
Katanning .....	8 439.18	
		29 486.02
Roebourne Parent Aides .....		819.47
Group Worker Aides .....		51 959.33
Reserve Re-Housing .....		521 089.35
Total .....		\$1 103 429.34

### Family Court

Recurrent Costs Counselling Services .....	\$124 086.98
--------------------------------------------	--------------



## Childhood Services Programme

Recurrent and Specific Purpose	\$
Children's Playtime Co-ordinator .....	8 331.30
Parent Help Centre .....	66 567.24
Child Care Advisory Staff .....	58 505.11
Parent Education Assistance .....	46 869.77
Pilbara Isolated Communities .....	63 966.13
Balga Creative Play .....	3 645.69
Community Development Officer .....	13 648.45
McCall Centre Kindergarten—Salaries .....	12 826.34
Children's Holiday Programmes .....	82 678.09
Reserve Playgrounds .....	16 438.08
South West Mobile Children's Resource Centre .....	5 575.59
Total .....	\$379 051.79

## Schools' Commission

	\$	\$
Children in Institutions—		
1st Allocation .....	14 882.91	
2nd Allocation .....	18 297.55	
Special School Funding .....	54 052.20	
		\$87 232.66

## Department of Social Security

Re-imbursement of Assistance to One-Parent Families .....	\$2 877 888.07
-----------------------------------------------------------	----------------

## Maintenance and Relief Branch

### Financial Aid

Financial assistance may be provided to families or single persons in need under the terms of the Welfare and Assistance Act 1961. This Act also regulates the recovery of the money 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 dependant 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.

The conditions of eligibility for continuing assistance have been reviewed and extended over the last few years, resulting in the development of a relief programme highly appropriate to the financial needs of one parent families when they are first placed in their predicament and over the period before they qualify for a Commonwealth pension.

In the process the Department has—

- extended the limits on earned income so that earnings up to \$20.00 for the parent plus \$6.00 for each dependent child do not affect the basic eligibility for assistance.
- allowed temporary increased payments to recipients who are financially crippled by heavy accommodation costs whilst they are seeking a cheaper alternative.

- confined assessment of cash or property assets to income received from such assets.

At the same time the Department has taken measures to conserve its expenditure and has increasingly sought to encourage the persons primarily responsible for the support of the estranged family to contribute reasonable maintenance. The success of these measures is reflected in claims submitted to the Commonwealth Government by the various States under the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act, to partially recoup expenditure to supporting mothers. The financial saving to Government is indicated by the fact that the proportion claimed by this State has steadily dropped from 17 per cent in 1972/73 to 12.45 per cent in 1977/78.

## Current Cases

The number of families receiving continuing assistance as at 30 June 1978, were as follows:—

Category	1976/77		1977/78	
	Families	Children	Families	Children
Separated Wives .....	1 327	2 178	1 630	2 971
Unmarried Mothers .....	210	234	282	336
Wives of Prisoners .....	60	131	71	249
Separated Husbands .....	28	65	20	58
Others .....	20	45	26	62
Total .....	1 645	2 653	2 029	3 676

## Applications

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

## Continuous Assistance

Category	1976/77	1977/78	Variation
Separated Wives .....	3 856	4 366	+ 13.09%
Unmarried Mothers .....	623	692	+ 10.90%
Wives of Prisoners .....	234	203	— 13.30%
Separated Husbands .....	64	95	+ 46.80%
Other .....	121	102	— 15.70%
Total .....	4 898	5 458	+ 11.29%

## Non-continuous Assistance

Category	1976/77	1977/78	Variation
Emergency Aid .....	9 710	14 218	+ 46.42%
Travel .....	755	1 096	+ 45.16%
Total .....	10 465	15 314	+ 46.33%



# Expenditure

Expenditure for the year totalled \$3,535,039 after recoup of \$2,877,888, from the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Thus a total of \$6,412,927 was paid to families receiving assistance.

	1976/77	1977/78
	\$	\$
Continuous Assistance	4 164 292	5 959 917
Emergency Aid	240 496	390 269
Travel Assistance	55 022	62 741
Total	\$4 459 810	\$6 412 927

# Recovery

	1976/77	1977/78
	\$	\$
Assistance Paid to Families	273 173	224 409
Maintenance of Wards	42 164	31 182
Total	\$315 337	\$255 591

# Variation in Rates

The rates of payment to families receiving continuing assistance have been reviewed and subsequently increased twice during the financial year. An increase of \$2.20 per week in the rates was made on 9th November 1977, and a further increase of \$2.15 per week was made on 10th May 1978.

Parent	11/5/77	9/11/77	10/5/78
	\$	\$	\$
Parent	47.10	49.30	51.45
Parent and one child	58.60	60.80	62.95
Parent and two children	66.10	68.30	70.45
Parent and three children	73.60	75.80	77.95
Parent and four children	81.10	83.30	85.45
Parent and five children	88.60	90.80	92.95
Parent and six children	96.10	98.30	100.45
Parent and seven children	103.60	105.80	107.95
Parent and eight children	111.10	113.30	115.45

# Planning and Research Unit

During the past year the unit has attempted to consolidate its research, planning and statistical activities. In December, 1977, the Research Advisory Committee was constituted. The independent committee is chaired by the Director and consists of four outsiders, known and respected for their research expertise, the social planning consultant and the research psychologist. The committee assesses all research proposals put up to the Department and advises the Minister accordingly. Prior to the setting up of the R.A.C. proposals were reviewed and funded on an ad hoc basis. The R.A.C. is attempting to assess proposals in a consistent way and develop priorities and an integrated research programme for the Department. In 1977-78 six new research initiatives were funded, three of an intra-departmental nature and three in the private sector. Research is being conducted into the homeless youth population, child care needs, children's

perceptions of the juvenile judicial process, local government social planning development, and children in limbo. During the past year the co-ordinator and the research officer of the Aboriginal Accommodation Advisory Service were housed in the unit. The project terminated on the 30th June having provided an extremely effective experimental service to Aborigines seeking accommodation. Hopefully, the effort that went into this project will not be wasted and a permanent accommodation service will be set up. In addition to monitoring research and service projects, the unit has had an increasingly demanding role in relation to State-Commonwealth welfare liaison in that all proposals submitted to the Office of Child Care are submitted to the unit for comment. Furthermore, the unit has been directly involved in setting up the Family Support Services Scheme. This involvement has taken two forms, the development of State guidelines, and assistance to a range of local government and private agencies in the development of their proposals for the three year period of funding. One-third of the projects recommended for funding are local government based and, of the remaining two-thirds, three are Aboriginal, one ethnic, three child-based and the rest new forms of service delivery. A review of Departmental statistical systems was undertaken in February, 1978, and it is hoped that the implementation of its recommendations and the refinement of national definitions and data collection systems (through our continued involvement with the National Working Party on Welfare Statistics) will lead to a situation wherein there is easy accessibility to day-to-day statistical data and improved retrieval for research and planning activities.

# Staff Selection and Training

In August 1977 a new Supervisor in charge of Selection and Training was appointed. The concept of a Training Pool was approved in late 1977 following on a report prepared by the Supervisor on the training and development needs of the Field. It is designed to provide the Department, over a 20 week period, with a source of motivated, trained and skilled field staff and has as its aims, three major areas.

- the provision of professional, competent service to clients, compatible with their needs.
- a continuum of D.C.W. presence throughout Western Australia in the form of available staff at all times.
- a reduction in staff turnover rates, brought about by minimising stress on new staff and better forward planning of staff postings.

The structure of the course was determined by—

- a training needs analysis.
- recognition of the need to blend actual training with contact familiarisation and with on-the-job experience under supervision.
- construction of a flow sheet to determine sequence.

The Training Pool is intended to provide an on-going basis for both new and existing field staff. It is the first stage in making systematic training and development available at all levels. Interest in the Training Pool has been high, with over 180 applicants for the first pool.



	Social Workers	G.W.O's	F.W.O's	D.O's	TR.F.O's	Total
Recruitment .....	18	8	1	3	4	34
Resignations .....	10	2	6	....	....	18

## Training Programmes

### 1. INDUCTION/FAMILIARISATION (Training pool and others)

Duration	Location	Attendance		
		Metropolitan	Country	Total
13/2/78—10/4/78 .....	Head Office Institutions and Country Divisions .....	4	....	4
20/2/78—5/5/78 .....	Head Office Institutions and Country Divisions .....	....	3	3
1/5/78—15/9/78* .....	Head Office Institutions and Country Divisions .....	....	6	6
	Total .....	4	9	13

\* Ongoing into next financial year.

Parts of the Training Pool programme were attended by serving officers, as a means of refresher training in key areas.

## Legal Branch

As the Department has broadened its scope and depth of activities in the community in recent years, so has the Legal Branch broadened its services within the Department. The acquisition of a second Legal Officer has enabled the section to improve the service it provides as it is now possible to have at least one officer readily available during office hours.

The functions of the branch can be broadly divided into four categories—representing the interests of wards, acting for the Department, advising on new legislation and providing an advisory service to officers.

### Representing wards

This section has been involved in an increasing number of Children's Court representations in the last year with a pleasing success rate. If the case is of a serious nature and a Departmental solicitor is unavailable, this section will arrange a private legal representation. The solicitor has appeared in the Children's Court on 26 occasions during the last 12 months and has successfully secured the withdrawal of several wards' charges before they appeared in Court.

The legal branch also ensures that arrangements for children, both wards and non wards, appearing in District and Supreme Courts are finalised. This entails seeing that a welfare report on the particular child is available to the Court and that counsel is obtained.

Legal services for the Department's wards are however not restricted to criminal matters. The branch is involved in matters such as Worker's Compensation claims, Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust claims and protecting the rights of children in relation to deceased parents' estates.

### Acting for the Department

The branch offers assistance in administrative matters covering such topics as insurance policies, staff matters, new forms, inter-departmental correspondence, various contracts and tenancy agreements. The branch also prosecutes people dealing dishonestly

with the Department such as receiving financial assistance under false pretences or operating unlicensed day care centres. Recently it has become increasingly involved in matrimonial disputes in the Family Court when children are involved. This has been done in conjunction with the Adoptions Branch and involved liaising closely with the officials of the Family Court. The recent legislation in this area has broadened this area of law. The branch continues to represent the Department in defended care and protection applications in the Children's Court.

### New Legislation

The branch is involved in the drafting of legislation that concerns the operations of the Department. This involves liaison with such bodies as the Family Law Court and the Crown Law Department. Current examples include the amendments to the Child Welfare Act, and new regulations for day care centres.

### Advisory Service

Advice requested is by no means restricted to criminal matters. The branch is contacted regularly by Departmental officers from all parts of the State who require advice on all manner of legal matters arising out of their work.

In addition the branch provides numerous ancillary services to the Department such as the training of student social workers and field officers in court procedures and practice. A series of mock courts has been used to familiarise students with the conduct of cases in a court setting.

## Community Services

### Training College

#### General

On 28th November, 1977, the College moved from Kings Park Road to its new premises in Mount Hawthorn. As this coincided with the end of the academic year it enabled the staff to settle down and prepare for the opening of a new academic year.



## 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, in both statutory and voluntary facilities, is offered. This year a full-time one-year course for persons of aboriginal descent ran parallel to the part-time residential child care course.

## New Activities

The programme of "remote learning packages" for the training of residential staff in country areas was further developed, but is still in an experimental stage. In response to expressed needs, a variety of courses, seminars and workshops has been offered, for example:

- training in family counselling,
- advanced uses of audio and visual aids,
- B Class driver's licences, for child care staff,
- sex and alcohol,
- marital counselling,
- parent effectiveness training,
- "sharing in caring" (workshops on "caring for the elderly").

A more detailed report will be seen in the College's Annual Report for 1978 which will be compiled in December.

## Metropolitan Children's Courts

Accommodation continues to be a problem with the Perth Children's Court still located in temporary premises and the Midland Council Chambers doubling as a court room.

As well as this, there has been a substantial increase in the number of juvenile offenders appearing; from 12,472 in 1976-77 to 13,339 in 1977-78, despite the legislative formalisation of the Children's (Suspended Proceedings) panel, and the subsequent increase in numbers of offenders appearing before it. There would appear to be a correlation with increased juvenile unemployment throughout the community.

From January 1978, the Legal Aid Commission began a pilot duty counsel scheme in Children's Courts bringing these courts into line with other courts of petty sessions. The number of defended matters has continued to increase and there is a waiting period of between three and four months to have these matters heard.

Representations have been made to have one additional clerk appointed to the Court to assist the Magistrates. This would reduce the waiting period for defended matters, enable separate courts to be held for offenders and children in need of care and protection and facilitate the scheduling of uncontested matters.

It is fitting to record the retirement of Special Magistrate, Mr. W. Fellowes. His lifelong connection with Courts and his deep knowledge of the law and children was recognised by Police Prosecution, Defence Counsel and Departmental Staff alike, and all wish him well in his retirement.

Two additional Special Magistrates will commence in July 1978. It is intended to list hearings on additional days and thereby reduce the waiting period for defended cases to approximately four to six weeks.

## Library

The Department's Library, now in its second year of operation, continued to expand its collection of books and periodicals. Presently the Library subscribes to 200 odd journal titles. There are approximately 6 000 books, 55 films, 20 video-tapes and 27 cassettes.

Despite a rather disruptive year of service, because of staff changes and lack of library personnel, many of the new initiatives implemented in the previous year were carried through. The services and facilities of the library were well used by departmental staff, and an increasing number of tertiary students.

On an average, the library handled about 200 written and telephone inquiries per month, covering a wide range of topics. Besides this, library staff undertook 45 literature searches for departmental staff, some of which were fairly extensive in nature.

The Library maintained its regular circulation of journals, and the distribution of its monthly Accessions Lists and Current Awareness bulletins. Departmental staff found these lists and bulletins particularly useful in requesting items on loan. During the year a total of 3 668 books and journals were loaned to departmental staff, and a further 69 items sent out on inter-library loan. In return, the library obtained 663 items on inter-library loan.

From time to time, the Librarian gave introductory talks on the library and its services to trainees and new staff appointed to the Department.

To promote library services to country staff, the librarian visited Bunbury divisional office, as well as Albany office. These visits highlighted the general lack of information among staff of the resources and services of the Library. Regular visits of this nature are essential in promoting a better service to country staff.

During the year, the library undertook a survey into the reading habits of professional staff attached to the Department. Findings of the survey enabled the librarian to make some assessment of the quality of the collection and the relevance of various library programmes and services.

In conjunction with the Library Association of Australia Special Libraries Section, W.A. Branch, the Department hosted a *Workshop on Selective Dissemination of Information*. The Librarian was also involved in the organisation of another one day *Seminar for Special Librarians in the Social Sciences*. A report of the seminar, with edited papers, was published in the *Australian Special Libraries News*, December 1977 issue.

## Departmental Property Offices and Institutions

This Department has 56 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 Kambalda, South Hedland, Tom Price, Merredin and Innaloo, and an office is soon to be opened at Newman.

Offices were closed at Paraburdoo and Mt. Hawthorn.

## Vehicles

The Department operates a fleet of 148 vehicles stationed at 56 centres located throughout the State. During the past year, these vehicles covered 2 744 637 kilometres on official business. Exclusive of capital costs for vehicle purchases, the cost to operate these vehicles for the year was 6.94 cents per kilometre.

Private vehicles used on official business during the same period covered 1 237 926 kilometres.

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

7 Trucks 48 Trailers 36 Buses 3 Tractors 5 Caravans

## Catering

The Department's Catering Service controls 49 individual Departmental food service outlets located throughout the State from Wyndham in the North to Katanning in the South and inland to Warburton Ranges.

Besides catering for departmental needs, this service is able to offer advice and expertise to other private agencies working in related fields that administer a combined total of 82 missions, hostels and group homes.

Many Youth Activity and Divisional camps are held throughout the year particularly during school holiday periods. Assistance is given to camp leaders with supplies, menus and general catering needs.

Menus are carefully compiled for balance and nutritional value, which involves a full component breakdown of all food elements, and are approved by a qualified dietician before being implemented in any of our establishments. Emphasis is placed on the needs of the individual, changes being made where necessary to suit specific needs. These include age, ethnic and cultural requirements, physical disabilities and malfunctions.

Residents in Hostels and Institutions who wish to pursue cooking as a vocation are taught the basics by Catering staff and then may be assisted to find suitable employment. The Catering Service is currently involved with field staff at Fitzroy Crossing in helping Aboriginal group parents with food ordering and catering needs in their group homes.

The Catering Section continues to liaise with food Technologists, Dieticians and Manufacturers throughout Australia to keep the Department's food service up to date with modern trends in diet and food servicing.

## Statistical Information 1977/78

Number of Departmental facilities serviced by the Catering Section: ....	49
Staff employed in service delivery (Cooks, kitchen domestics etc.): ....	64
Number of meals prepared and served: 1 614 400	
Number of private facilities receiving advice and other assistance: ....	82

## Records

The staff of the Record Branch has increased over the past year to 41 officers, three of whom are S.Y.E.P. Scheme employees.

The section has approximately 48 000 files stored for referral and in current use. During the year approximately 5 400 new files were created, and 2 250 are to be microfilmed and destroyed in the culling programme. The microfilming programme has been extended to include Divisional and District Office files, many of which have been retained in country offices since before the formation of the Department for Community Welfare. Culling of Administration files is also in process. Some will be microfilmed and destroyed and others will be retained in the State Archives.

The Records Branch continues to serve the needs of an ever-expanding Department. During the year there has been a steady increase in the volume of correspondence handled.

## Licensing

Licensing of foster parents and managers of private centres or facilities, who have in their care children under the age of six years, other than on a casual or day-time basis, continues to be a function of the Department. Twenty-two licenses were issued during the year.

Amendments to Section 112 of the Act delete the requirement of a fee to be paid on the issue of a foster license. The Director is empowered to cancel any license and the Minister will hear appeals against the cancellation of a license.

## Children Involved in Public Performances and in Commercial Advertising

As from January 1st, 1978, with the proclamation of the amended Child Welfare Act, it is no longer necessary for organisations to apply for a license permitting them to employ children under 16 years of age for the purposes of public entertainment or advertising.

## Street Trading by Children

Licenses to engage in Street Trading have also been abolished from January 1st, 1978, however legislation now precludes males under twelve years of age and females under fourteen years of age from engaging in any form of street trading.

Younger boys (12-14 years) are precluded from street trading between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. except on a casual or part-time basis during the school vacations.

The Child Welfare Act, as amended, now places the responsibility for the employment of children with the employer rather than with the child as was previously the case.

## Permits to Enter Camping Reserves

Departmental regulations provide that a permit is required in instances where persons intend to enter Aboriginal Reserves adjacent to major towns. Before the Department will issue a permit 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. Two permits were issued during the year.

Persons requiring permits to enter reserves which are not adjacent to major towns and therefore not usually under the control of this Department, must approach the Aboriginal Lands Trust.



# STATISTICS

All processing of data was done manually. Care was taken and special steps implemented to eliminate all errors.

On the 30th June 1978 the Department surveyed all children under its care. It was found that a total number of 4 185 children were under the care of the Department, 3 546 were wards and 639 subsidised children.

## SCALE SHOWING THE TYPES OF OFFENCES IN PERTH CHILDREN'S COURT FOR COMPARISON

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
Traffic .....	2 556	1 724	1 701
Breaking and Entering .....	2 055	2 044	2 144
Stealing and Receiving .....	1 527	1 472	1 753
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle .....	996	742	1 050
Disorderly Conduct/Assaults .....	229	350	595
False Name .....	124	131	127
Liquor Act Offences .....	68	65	105
Drug Offences .....	62	56	50
Drinking Driving Offences .....	137	109	102
Other .....	1 345	1 191	1 430
Total .....	9 099	7 884	9 057

## CHARGES AND APPLICATIONS IN METROPOLITAN CHILDREN'S COURTS

	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
Perth .....	9 099	7 884	9 057
Fremantle .....	2 812	2 174	2 192
Midland .....	1 700	1 555	1 556
Rockingham .....	794	859	534
Total .....	14 405	12 472	13 339



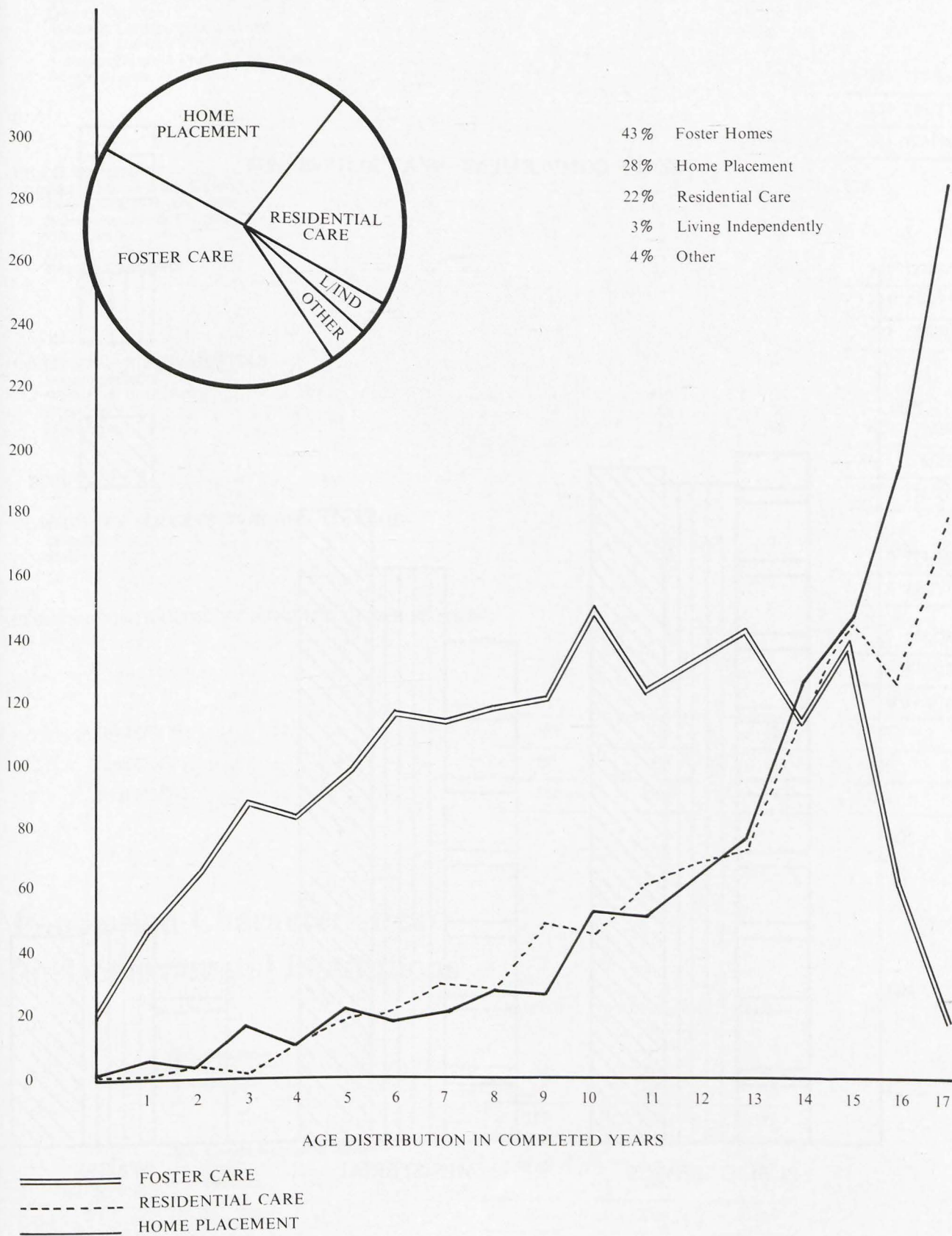
CHILDREN UNDER CARE/CUSTODY OF DEPARTMENT AS AT 30th JUNE, 1978, BY AGE, SEX AND TYPE OF CARE

Type of Care	Age in Completed Years																	Total	
	Sex	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16
Foster Care	M	9	32	29	57	40	52	67	59	62	60	80	72	71	72	68	81	26	10
	F	13	20	38	35	44	46	50	56	57	61	72	54	64	72	58	59	37	9
Residential Care	T	22	52	67	92	84	98	117	115	119	121	152	126	135	144	116	140	63	19
	M	2	2	4	2	6	12	11	19	16	30	22	41	46	46	60	99	68	116
	F	1	1	1	...	6	7	11	11	12	20	25	21	23	27	55	48	59	64
	T	3	3	5	2	12	19	22	30	28	50	47	62	69	73	115	147	127	180
Home Placement	M	...	4	2	8	8	14	8	13	18	17	33	30	36	47	72	86	131	190
	F	...	1	3	9	3	8	9	8	10	9	21	22	28	29	59	56	64	88
Living Independently	T	1	7	5	17	11	22	17	21	28	26	54	52	64	76	131	142	195	278
	M	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	9	23
	F	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	10	24
	T	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	2	1	3	1	19	47
Other	M	...	1	...	2	...	2	1	3	2	5	5	2	4	4	14	10	14	29
	F	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	...	3	3	2	5	3	8	15	30
Total	T	...	1	...	2	...	3	1	5	5	5	8	5	6	9	17	18	29	59
		26	63	77	113	108	142	157	172	181	202	262	247	276	303	392	448	433	583
																			4 185

CHILDREN UNDER CARE/CUSTODY OF DEPARTMENT AS AT 30th JUNE, 1978, BY AGE, SEX AND TYPE OF CARE

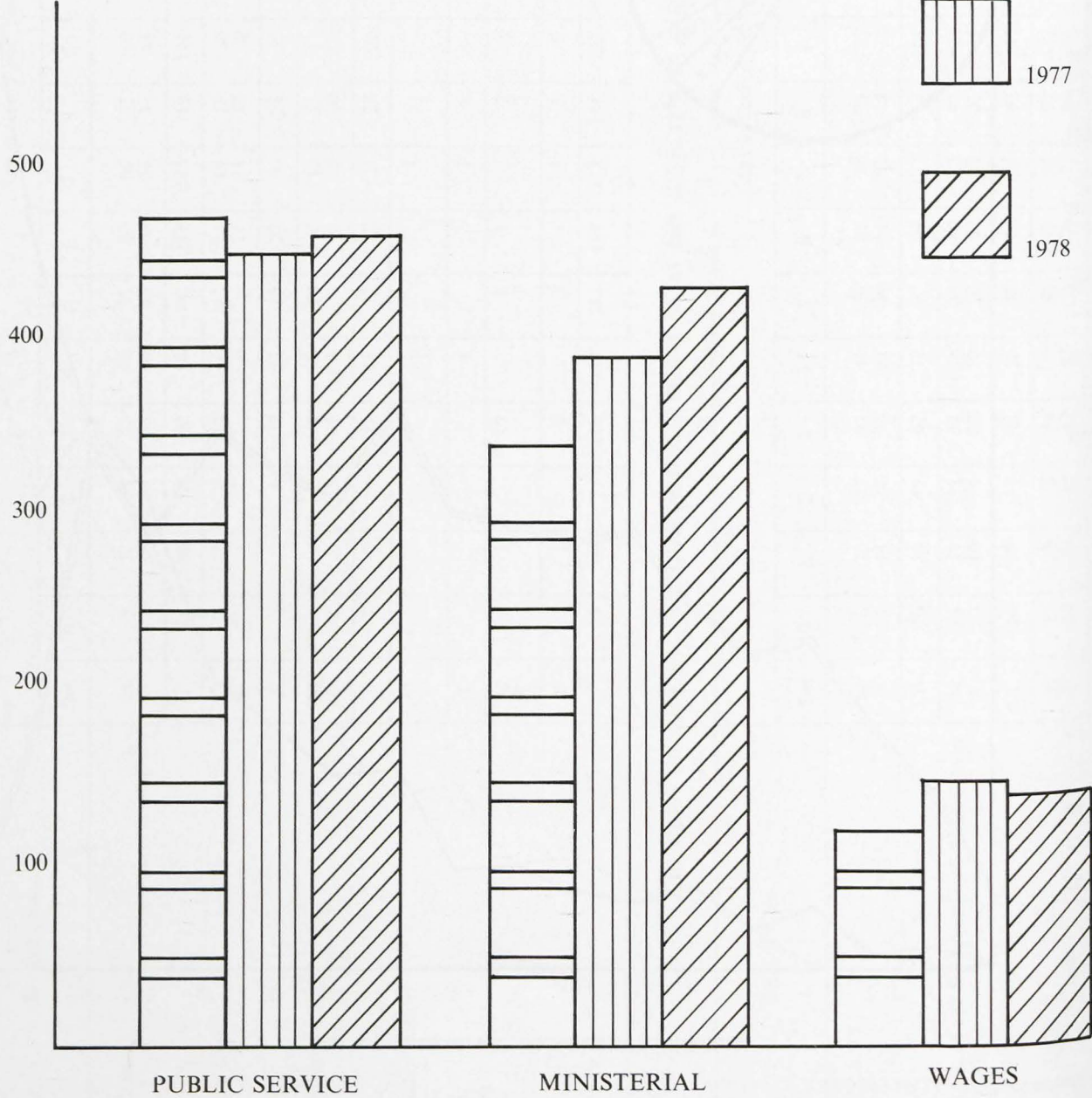
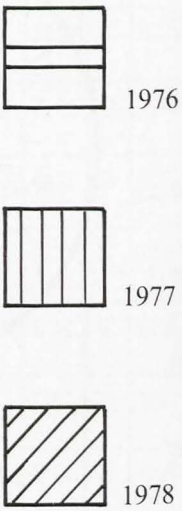
Type of Care		Age in Completed Years																	Total	
		Sex	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16
Wards	...	M	6	20	17	42	41	58	48	75	75	82	117	119	133	148	219	259	244	360
	...	F	4	14	28	25	31	39	51	52	63	75	98	86	110	113	143	165	175	211
	...	T	10	34	45	67	72	97	99	127	138	157	215	205	243	261	362	424	419	571
Privately Placed and Subsidized by S.W.D. (Foster Care only)	...	M	6	19	18	24	16	25	30	22	22	29	22	24	22	20	14	12	6	2
	...	F	10	10	14	22	20	20	28	23	21	16	25	18	11	22	16	12	8	10
	...	T	16	29	32	46	36	45	58	45	43	45	47	42	33	42	30	24	14	12
Total	...	M	12	39	35	66	57	83	78	97	97	111	139	143	155	168	233	271	250	362
	...	F	14	24	42	47	51	59	79	75	84	91	123	104	121	135	159	177	183	221
	...		26	63	77	113	108	142	157	172	181	202	262	247	276	303	392	448	433	583
																				4 185







STAFF COMPLEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE, 1978





# Staff Complement

As at 30th June 1978

	Public Service	Minis- terial	Wages	Total
HEAD OFFICE—				
Director .....	1	....	....	
Deputy Director .....	1	....	....	
Assistant Director (Institutions) .....	....	....	....	
Assistant Director (Welfare) .....	1	....	....	
Assistant Director (Support Services) .....	1	....	....	
Administrative & Clerical .....	186	2	2	194 (77/78)
				187 (76/77)
				185 (75/76)
FIELD DIVISIONS—				
Senior Social Work Supervisor .....	2	....	....	
Chief Clinical Psychologist .....	....	....	....	
Administrative & Welfare .....	236	....	....	
Office Staff .....	91	....	1	
Cadets in Training.....	5	....	....	
Reserve Caretakers .....	....	....	6	341 (77/78)
				334 (76/77)
				342 (75/76)
INSTITUTIONS AND HOSTELS—				
Superintendents .....	....	9	....	
Welfare & Institutional .....	11	416	....	
Office Staff .....	4	11	50	
Hostel Staff.....	....	13	106	620 (77/78)
				611 (76/77)
				549 (75/76)
COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINING COLLEGE—				
Director .....	....	1	....	
Staff .....	....	10	....	11 (77/78)
				8 (76/77)
PERSONS CONTRACTED BY MINISTER UNDER SECTION				
8 (4) .....	....	9	....	9 (77/78)
				9 (76/77)
				6 (75/76)
Total (77/78) .....	539	471	165	1 175
Total (76/77) .....	525	451	173	1 149
Total (75/76) .....	541	398	143	1 082

## Population Characteristics for Departmental Institutions

	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Total
Bridgewater—			
Male .....	59	203	262
Female.....	66	249	315
Total .....	125	452	577
Mt. Lawley Reception Home—			
Male .....	110	182	292
Female.....	45	88	133
Total .....	155	270	425



<b>Longmore Remand and Assessment—</b>					
Male	....	....	....	494	1 091
Female	....	....	....	91	149
Total	....	....	....	585	1 240
<b>Hillston—</b>					
Male	....	....	....	164	164
Total	....	....	....	164	164
<b>Riverbank—</b>					
Male	....	....	....	109	85
Plus 20 preventive re-admissions	....	....	....	....	20
Total	....	....	....	....	214
<b>Nyandi—</b>					
Female	....	....	....	35	46
Total	....	....	....	35	46
<b>McCall Centre—</b>					
Male	....	....	....	9	12
Female	....	....	....	3	3
Total	....	....	....	12	15
<b>Koorana—</b>					
Male	....	....	....	3	36
Female	....	....	....	....	3
Total	....	....	....	3	39

## Adoptions — Departmental

						Male		Female		Total	
						1976/77	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78
<b>NUPTIAL—</b>											
<b>Relationship to Adoptive Parent—</b>											
Natural Parents	....	....	....	....	....	37	26	36	31	73	57
Related	....	....	....	....	....	1	2	1	....	2	2
Unrelated	....	....	....	....	....	5	3	1	3	6	6
Total	....	....	....	....	....	43	31	38	34	81	65
<b>EX-NUPTIAL—</b>											
<b>Relationship to Adoptive Parents—</b>											
Natural Parents	....	....	....	....	....	39	29	34	29	73	58
Related	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	....	5
Unrelated	....	....	....	....	....	114	91	108	92	222	183
Total	....	....	....	....	....	153	120	142	126	295	246

## Adoptions — Non-Departmental

						Male		Female		Total	
						1976/77	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78
<b>NUPTIAL—</b>											
<b>Relationship to Adoptive Parents—</b>											
Natural	....	....	....	....	....	27	35	35	28	62	63
Related	....	....	....	....	....	5	1	....	....	5	1
Unrelated	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	....
Total	....	....	....	....	....	32	36	36	28	68	64
<b>EX-NUPTIAL—</b>											
<b>Relationship to Adoptive Parents—</b>											
Natural	....	....	....	....	....	19	4	7	8	26	12
Related	....	....	....	....	....	....	5	1	....	1	5
Unrelated	....	....	....	....	....	10	15	16	10	26	25
Total	....	....	....	....	....	29	24	24	18	53	42



# Age of Children at Adoption — Departmental

			1976/77			1977/78		
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 Year	....	....	3	3	6	2	4	6
1 year	....	....	78	75	153	55	60	115
2-5 years	....	....	73	53	126	51	50	101
6-12 years	....	....	37	42	79	38	38	76
13-15 years	....	....	6	4	10	2	7	9
16-20 years	....	....	1	1	2	3	1	4
Total	....	....	198	178	376	151	160	311

# Age of Children at Adoption — Non-Departmental

			1976/77			1977/78		
			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	....	....	9	11	20	7	5	12
1-2 years	....	....	4	4	8	5	7	12
3-5 years	....	....	18	11	29	11	11	22
6-12 years	....	....	26	24	49	31	20	51
13-15 years	....	....	5	5	10	2	4	6
16 plus	....	....	3	2	5	1	2	3
Total	....	....	64	57	121	57	49	106

# The Total Number and Percentages of Departmental and Non- Departmental Applicants and Placements

From July 1975 to June 1978

## Applicants

			Depart- mental	%	Non-Depart- mental	%	Total	%
1975-76	....	....	302	80	76	20	378	100
1976-77	....	....	249	82	53	18	302	100
1977-78	....	....	211	93	17	7	228	100

## Placements

			Depart- mental	%	Non-Depart- mental	%	Total	%
1975-76	....	....	177	86	29	14	206	100
1976-77	....	....	146	88	19	12	165	100
1977-78	....	....	136	86	22	14	158	100



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

The following table represents the total number of placements in both fields compared with the total of applicants in both fields in each year from 1975 to 1978.

	%
1975-76—	
206 placements .....	54.50
378 applicants	
1976-77—	
165 placements .....	55.00
302 applicants	
1977-78—	
158 placements .....	69.00
228 applicants	

The above figures are obtained by comparing the numbers of applications received and placements made during the stated periods of time.

**Total Number of Applicants  
Awaiting Placement**

The total number of approved applicants as at 30 June 1978 and still awaiting placement is:—

Departmental .....	81
Non-Departmental .....	64
Total .....	145

The total number of applicants awaiting assessment (includes those at present undergoing assessment) as at 30 June 1978 is:—

Departmental .....	566
Non-Departmental .....	83
Total .....	649
Total applicants waiting .....	794

**Placements — Total number of  
Children Placed**

The total number of children placed during 1977-78 —158

(This is a combined total of Departmental and Non-Departmental placements).

**Enquires and Applications**

Total number of enquiries—324.

Total number of applications accepted—228.

(This represents 211 Departmental and 17 Non-Departmental applications).

**Approvals**

In the 12 months up to the 30th June 1978, 117 applicants were approved after assessment by the field staff. They represent 95 departmental adoptions and 22 non-departmental adoptions.

**Applications Filed and Orders Made**

**Departmental**

Adoption Orders filed .....	319
Adoption Orders made .....	311

Of these, eleven children were brought to W.A. from overseas for adoption.

Orders made consisted of:

Children of a previous marriage and ex-nuptial children adopted into a marriage—122.

Children placed by the Adoption Centre (Generally these children were placed prior to 1977-78) —189 Total—311.

**Non-Departmental**

Adoption Orders made—106.

Orders made consisted of:—

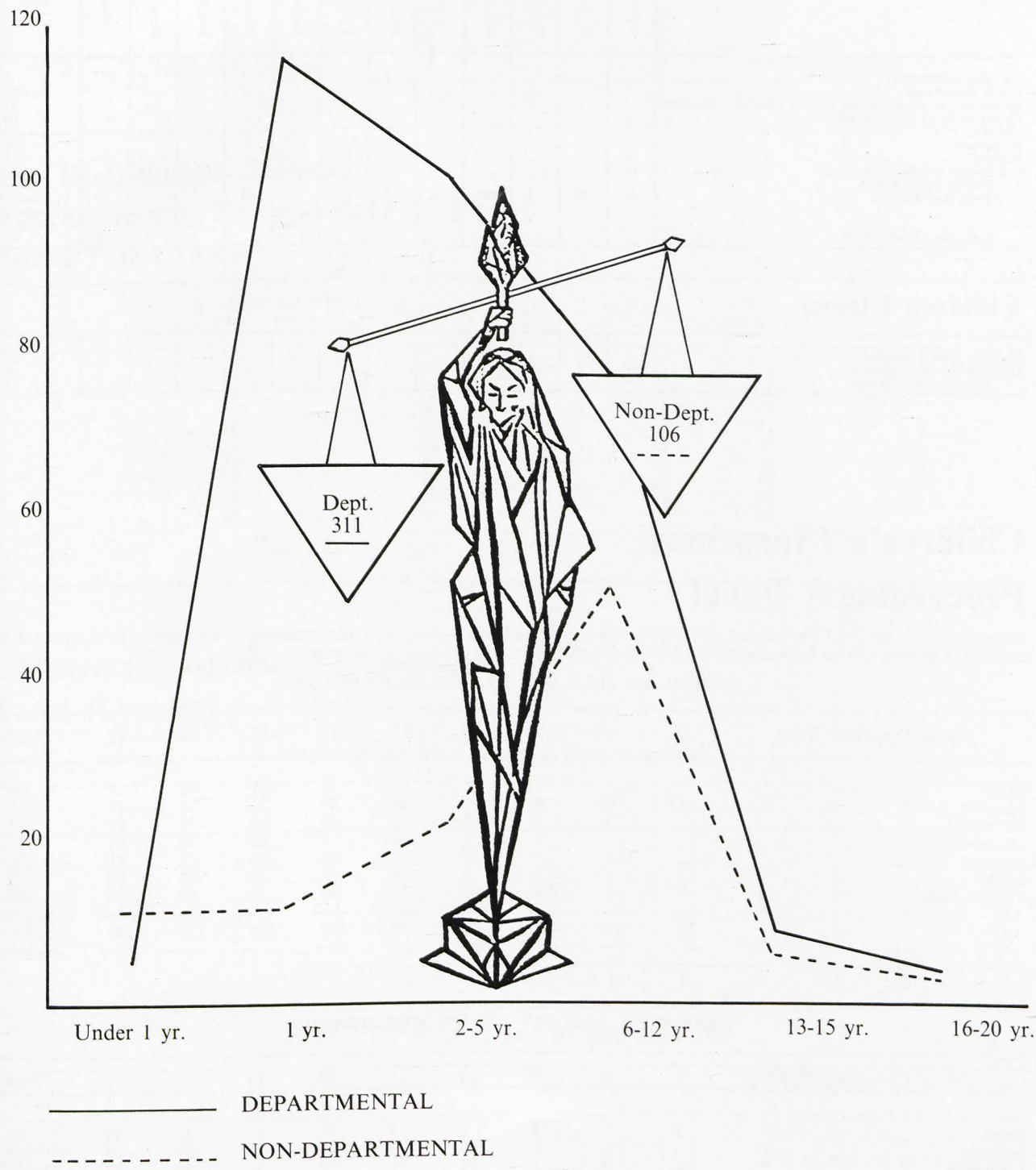
Children of a previous marriage and ex-nuptial children adopted into marriage—81.

Children placed by solicitors—25.

Total—106.



Number of Children and Age at Adoption for 1977/78





# International Adoptions

## Applications and Orders

The following figures relate to action current in the financial year 1977/78. Some applicants were registered prior to that date. All Vietnamese children were placed in 1974 or 1975.  
 Note: Adoption Orders for Sri Lankan children are made in Sri Lanka.

	Philippines	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh	Malaysia	Thailand	Burma	Yugoslavia	England	Undesignated	Taiwan	West Germany	Vietnam	Grand Total
Awaiting Assessment .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	4
Under Assessment .....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	.....	.....	.....	13
Approved and Applications Sent to Country Concerned .....	3	2	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	12	.....	.....	.....	20
Approved and Child(ren) Placed .....	2	5	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Deferred .....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	8
Withdrawn .....	29	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	40
Refused .....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Transferred to other Countries .....	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Application before Court .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Total Applications .....	54	10	2	1	1	2	2	2	38	.....	.....	.....	112 Less 14 Transferred = 98
Adoption Orders Made .....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	8	11

## Children Placed

Children Placed (Related) .....	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Children Placed (Unrelated) .....	2	5	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Total Children Placed .....	4	5	.....	1	.....	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	13

# Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel

Amendments to the Child Welfare Act, 1947–1977, relative to Children's Panels, came into operation on 1st January 1978, thus breakdown of "Children's Panel Appearances" by Metropolitan divisions and age is in two segments as follows:

PERIOD 1ST JULY 1977 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1977

Age in Completed Years	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
Balga .....	1	.....	3	3	7	16	31	22	7	90
Belmont .....	.....	2	6	7	14	20	25	26	19	119
Fremantle .....	.....	5	2	5	16	16	36	37	25	142
Midland .....	.....	.....	1	3	8	9	25	14	14	74
Innaloo .....	.....	1	1	6	7	23	26	33	31	128
Perth .....	.....	1	3	3	10	22	33	20	20	112
Victoria Park .....	1	1	8	11	17	26	39	19	24	146
	2	10	24	38	79	132	215	171	140	811

PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 1978 TO 30TH JUNE 1978

Age in Completed Years	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
Balga .....	2	1	3	3	7	12	15	27	18	88
Belmont .....	.....	1	3	1	5	13	25	29	23	100
Fremantle .....	4	2	2	13	17	22	35	35	43	173
Midland .....	.....	1	3	3	4	18	14	17	18	78
Innaloo .....	2	1	4	7	10	17	40	47	43	171
Perth .....	2	1	7	10	19	28	34	38	25	164
Victoria Park .....	3	2	7	9	7	24	40	40	45	177
	13	9	29	46	69	134	203	233	215	951



# Age Distribution of Panel Appearances by Sex and Race in the Metropolitan Divisions

Age in Completed Years				Male	Female	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
7	....	....	....	11	4	2	13
8	....	....	....	18	1	2	17
9	....	....	....	47	6	8	45
10	....	....	....	72	12	4	80
11	....	....	....	109	39	9	139
12	....	....	....	179	87	4	262
13	....	....	....	254	164	10	408
14	....	....	....	254	150	8	396
15	....	....	....	221	134	7	348
Total				1 165	597	54	1 708

# Age Distribution of Panel Appearances by Sex and Race in the Country Divisions

Age in Completed Years				Male	Female	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
7	....	....	....	7	1	3	5
8	....	....	....	13	....	4	9
9	....	....	....	28	3	16	15
10	....	....	....	16	1	7	11
11	....	....	....	38	9	15	32
12	....	....	....	35	10	10	35
13	....	....	....	50	21	11	60
14	....	....	....	65	16	12	69
15	....	....	....	55	17	8	63
Total				307	78	86	299

# Children's (Suspended Proceedings) Panel (Country)

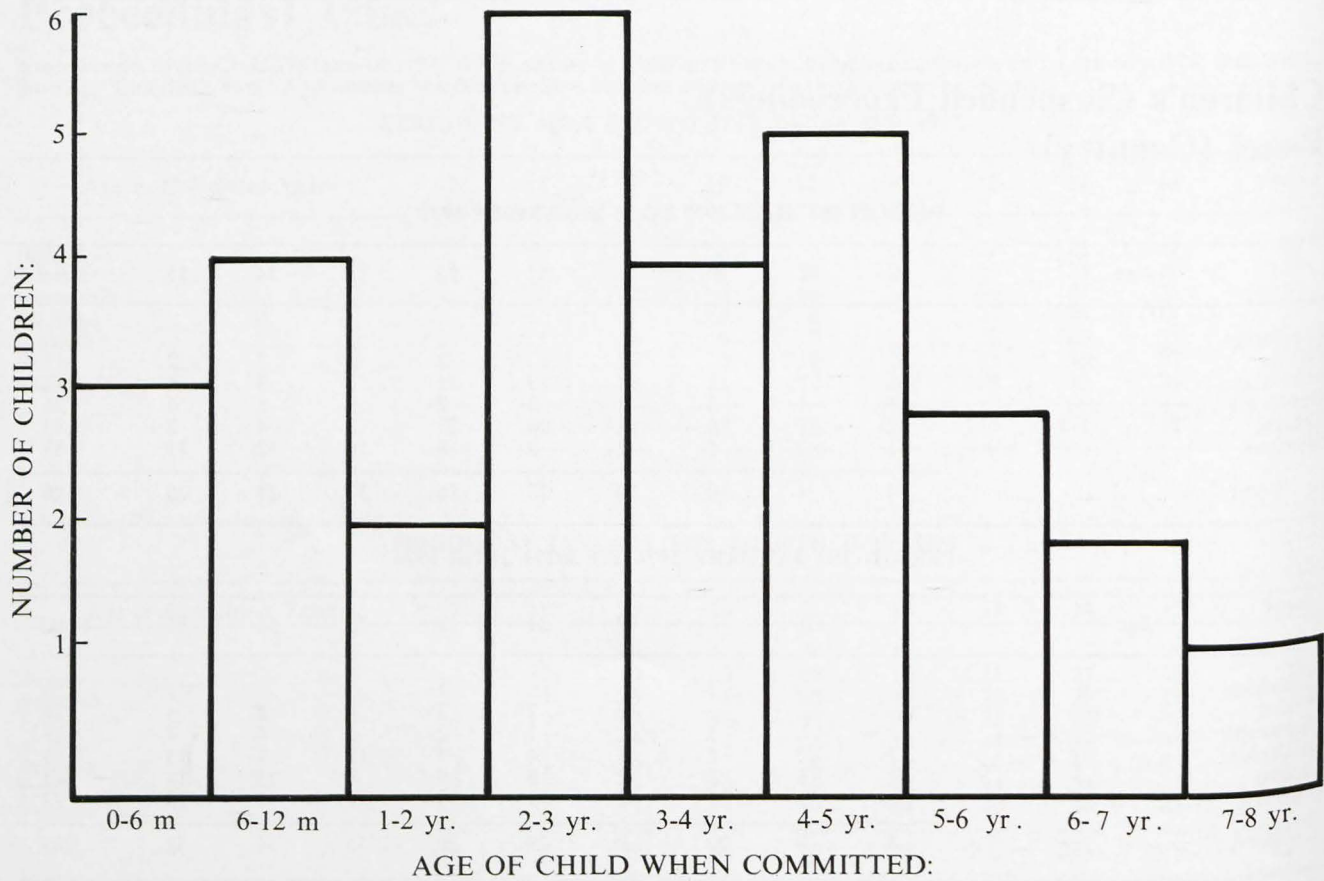
PERIOD 1ST JULY 1977 TO 31 DECEMBER 1977													
Age				7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
Kimberley	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pilbara	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	....	2	2	7	2	15
Murchison	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	3	1	3	3	1	13
Goldfields	....	....	....	....	1	3	2	3	2	9	1	4	26
Central	....	....	....	....	2	1	2	2	10	3	7	2	33
Southern	....	....	....	....	1	2	5	2	2	8	16	11	59
Total	....	....	....	....	4	4	10	10	18	16	37	20	146

PERIOD 1ST JANUARY 1978 TO 30TH JUNE 1978													
Age				7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
Kimberley	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	1	3
Pilbara	....	....	....	....	....	....	2	7	3	4	8	4	28
Murchison	....	....	....	....	....	3	....	1	2	5	4	4	19
Goldfields	....	....	....	....	1	2	1	4	5	11	9	13	51
Central	....	....	....	....	1	5	6	2	8	9	8	15	65
Southern	....	....	....	....	2	2	5	2	9	9	7	18	73
Total	....	....	....	....	4	9	20	7	29	29	35	52	239



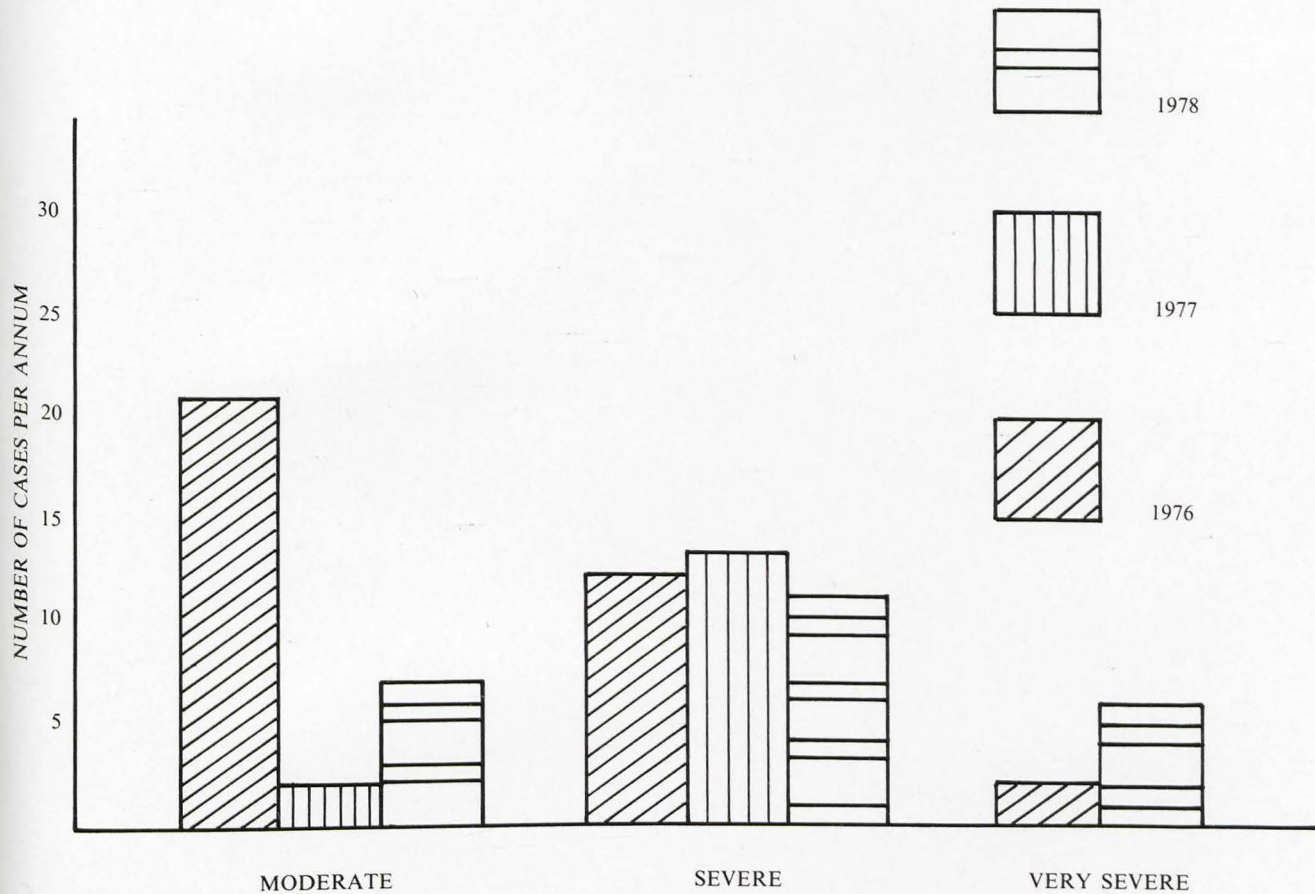
# Child Life Protection Unit Committals to Wards of the Department 1-7-77 to 30-6-78

IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT—						
Until 16 years of age....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Until 6 years of age ....	....	....	....	....	....	5
For 5 years ....	....	....	....	....	....	1
For 3 years ....	....	....	....	....	....	2
For 2 years ....	....	....	....	....	....	4
For 12 months ....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Total ....	....	....	....	....	....	14
Application by the parents to the Minister ....						16
Committals extended for a further period ....						9
Total Number of Committals ....						30





SEVERITY OF INJURY IN CASES IN WHICH LEGAL PROTECTIVE ACTION WAS TAKEN (CHILDREN UNDER SIX YEARS 1976-1978)



KEY TO INJURIES:

*Very Severe*

Skull Fractures Multiple Fractures Severe Facial & Body Bruising Failure to Thrive (Severe) Very Severe Emotional Rejection

*Severe*

Limb Fractures Severe Body Bruising Dislocations (Severe) Mild Facial Bruising Poisoning Failure to Thrive Severe Facial Bruising Only Emotional Rejection

*Moderate*

Moderate Body Bruising Burns and Scalds Rough Handling Dislocations

NOTE: For the period July, 1976 to June, 1977, 12 cases reported to C.L.P.U. were committed to the Department as they were deemed in need of care and protection for reasons not involving physical abuse. Similarly there were 13 such cases for the period July, 1977 to June 1978.



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(1159)





