



*Annual  
Report  
Child 1971~72  
Welfare  
Department*  
*WESTERN AUSTRALIA*





WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
1971-72

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Child Welfare Department  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

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for the year ended  
30th JUNE, 1972

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PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT







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Sir,	12
In accordance with Section 12 of the Child Welfare Act, 1947-1971, I hereby submit a report on the work of the Child Welfare Department for the year ended 30th June, 1972.	12
K. MAINE, Director, Child Welfare.	12
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## **APPRECIATION**

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



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## INTRODUCTION

The end of the year under review constituted another milestone in the history of Governmental welfare within this State. This Department, known as the Child Welfare Department for 38 years, ceased to operate in this exclusive capacity as at the 30th June, 1972 and has since assumed a more comprehensive role as the Department for Community Welfare.

Much activity during the latter part of the year was focused on the proposed amalgamation of the Native Welfare Department with this Department. Considerable attention was given to the provisions of the new Act itself. Professional staff and other interested welfare agencies, private and governmental, were invited to make submissions in this respect and thereby assisted in developing the philosophy of the proposed Legislation and its corresponding functions and responsibilities.

**A Group Home Scheme** for foster children, has been gradually developed whereby specially selected foster parents, normally restricted to caring for four children, are allowed to care for a maximum of ten children. This scheme is available to foster parents with proven capacity and interest and provides them with additional financial assistance respecting subsidies, bed allowances and other incidentals. Regular contact with field staff is maintained and professional relationships have been built up.

**Badgingarra "Warramia" Group Home.** This property, embracing 4,000 acres, was recently acquired by this Department

Its main function is to provide short term residence for children who experience difficulties at home but who, it is hoped, will return to their parents. It can accommodate ten children, who are supervised by a resident Cottage Mother.

**The Annual Conference** of Child Welfare Administrators was held in Brisbane from 17th to 21st April, 1972. Major agreements were reached with regard to Interstate Transfer of Guardianship; consequently all States now have some arrangement in their respective Child Welfare Acts allowing for the transfer of guardianship responsibility when wards move to another State on a permanent or long-term basis.

The Third Annual Conference of Australasian Child Welfare Ministers was held in Brisbane on 5th June. All States, the Commonwealth and New Zealand were represented. The Conference recommended that the minimum age of criminal responsibility be raised to ten years. The confidentiality of records and the availability of data for research purposes were also discussed. It was agreed that the recognition in Australia of New Zealand adoptions should be forthcoming, in view of the fact that there is full recognition in New Zealand of all adoptions made in Australian States and Territories. It was also resolved that there should be uniformity amongst the States and Commonwealth territories with regard to the recognition of foreign adoptions. This applied, in particular, to Vietnamese adoptions. All States agreed that when it was satisfactorily established that a particular overseas child is available for adoption, they would inform the Commonwealth of their support or otherwise, for the adoption in the Court of their respective States.

Other matters concerned the standardisation of family assistance programmes between States and the need for reappraisal of some of the Commonwealth provisions relating to unmarried mothers and deserted wives.

**Decentralisation of Field Services** continued into its fifth year. It is envisaged that the need for autonomy will be more clearly realised in the ensuing year, having regard to the expanded responsibilities that the new Department will have undertaken, encompassing the entire State. Divisional sub-offices have been established in selected areas to provide more convenient access to field services. Increasing *professionalisation* of field staff has also facilitated the decentralisation policy. Apart from current indications that welfare work is becoming more attractive, the Department has welcomed the annual, much-needed supply of newly trained social workers and clinical psychologists.

**Amendments to Child Welfare Act.** Because of a divided Supreme Court opinion, an amendment to Section 20 was required to clarify whether a person, who, at the time of alleged offence, was under 18 years of age, could be dealt with by the Children's Court if that person turned 18 prior to the date of his Court appearance. Two new sub-sections were added to Section 20 to extend these provisions.

Owing to the proclamation of the Community Welfare Act, various amendments to administrative provisions were made to co-incide with the proposed structure of the Department for Community Welfare. These amendments were effected in Sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9A.

Further amendments to Section 20 of the Child Welfare Act were necessary as a consequence of the amendments to the Criminal Code and Justices Act which related to certain indictable offences.

**The Future.** It has been most pleasing to observe the positive reaction of staff as the new responsibilities prescribed by the Community Welfare Act are gradually assumed.

Expectations are high that the implementation of the new Act to the fullest possible extent will soon be possible as unreasonable delay must invite criticism. It is our hope that the fine principles of the new Act will materialise into a fuller community service and not merely signify a departmental change. New services will be developed, but the familiar fields of welfare, very much under-provided for, remain our responsibility and must not be neglected.

This time of change requires the passing of a tribute to past Directors and all the many other officers of the old Child Welfare Department who, through their absolute concern for children and those in need, collectively achieved so much with very limited resources.







## STAFF AND FACILITIES





## STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION OF THE DEPARTMENT

The organisation chart which follows will show the Department to be structured in two divisions—the Administrative and Clerical Division and the Welfare Division, with staff numbering 110 and 478 respectively, an overall increase of 63 during the year.

Geographically the Department operates principally within the metropolitan area, although—with the opening of additional suburban offices—field services have become more decentralised.

In the country, district officers are located at Albany, Bunbury, Collie, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Narrogin, Northam and Port Hedland. In addition to district officers, Clerks of Courts in the country have been appointed with limited powers to act for the Department in certain circumstances. Honorary agents, usually Shire Officials, have similarly been appointed to offer assistance in urgent circumstances.

Areas serviced by the metropolitan and country-based staff are shown by the maps which follow.

### STAFF

The number of staff employed within the Department and its facilities totalled 588 at the end of the financial year, representing an increase of 63 over the previous year.

Details of this staff increase, in terms of occupational groups are as follows:—

<i>Public Service Staff</i>							
Social Work Supervisors and Social Workers	****	****	****	****	****	****	15
Clerical Officers and Typists	****	****	****	****	****	****	17
<i>Ministerially-appointed Staff</i>							
Institutional Officers	****	****	****	****	****	****	31
							—
							63
							—

### FIELD SERVICES

The problem of maintaining full staff and obtaining sufficient numbers of professionally trained Social Workers was again a factor in field service efficiency during 1971/72.

The trend towards greater community involvement of Divisional Staff in the Metropolitan Area has been maintained and local requests for help and guidance continue to grow.

In the State Housing Commission neighbourhood of Lockridge the Department pioneered an experimental form of inter Departmental co-operation aimed at promoting community development. Twelve Departments, the Local Authority, several voluntary organisations and the community have been working together to develop facilities and services to meet local needs.

The Victoria Park Division has been closely involved with the development of an after-school activity programme for 'latch key' children which runs at a local primary school under the control of a voluntary committee.

Field staff, despite the pressure of heavy work loads, continued to develop and extend additional ways of coping with traditional problems. Group work with foster parents and with deserted wives in receipt of financial assistance from the Department has been a feature of this year's work. Field Social Workers are also experimenting with forms of family therapy in conjunction with Departmental Psychologists.

All these developments clearly indicate support for the policy of employing professionally trained staff in the Field service. Further developments along these lines can be expected.

### INSTITUTIONAL FACILITIES

In spite of the continuing development of ways of caring for and treating children without using placement in an institution, the demand for institutional accommodation has been continuous and increasing. Admission numbers to virtually all institutions have been greater than for previous years.

Even given the present available facilities, the optimum level of treatment and of training cannot be given because children must be discharged before their progress indicates this. The efficacy of the post-institution work done by After-care Officers is diminished.

The accommodation pressures on institutions is exacerbated by the admission of children who do not require treatment in an institution, but who nevertheless must be detained in one while serving default for unpaid fines or restitution ordered by the Courts. The proper work of both assessment and training institutions is being hampered by such cases and consequent accommodation pressures.

#### Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre

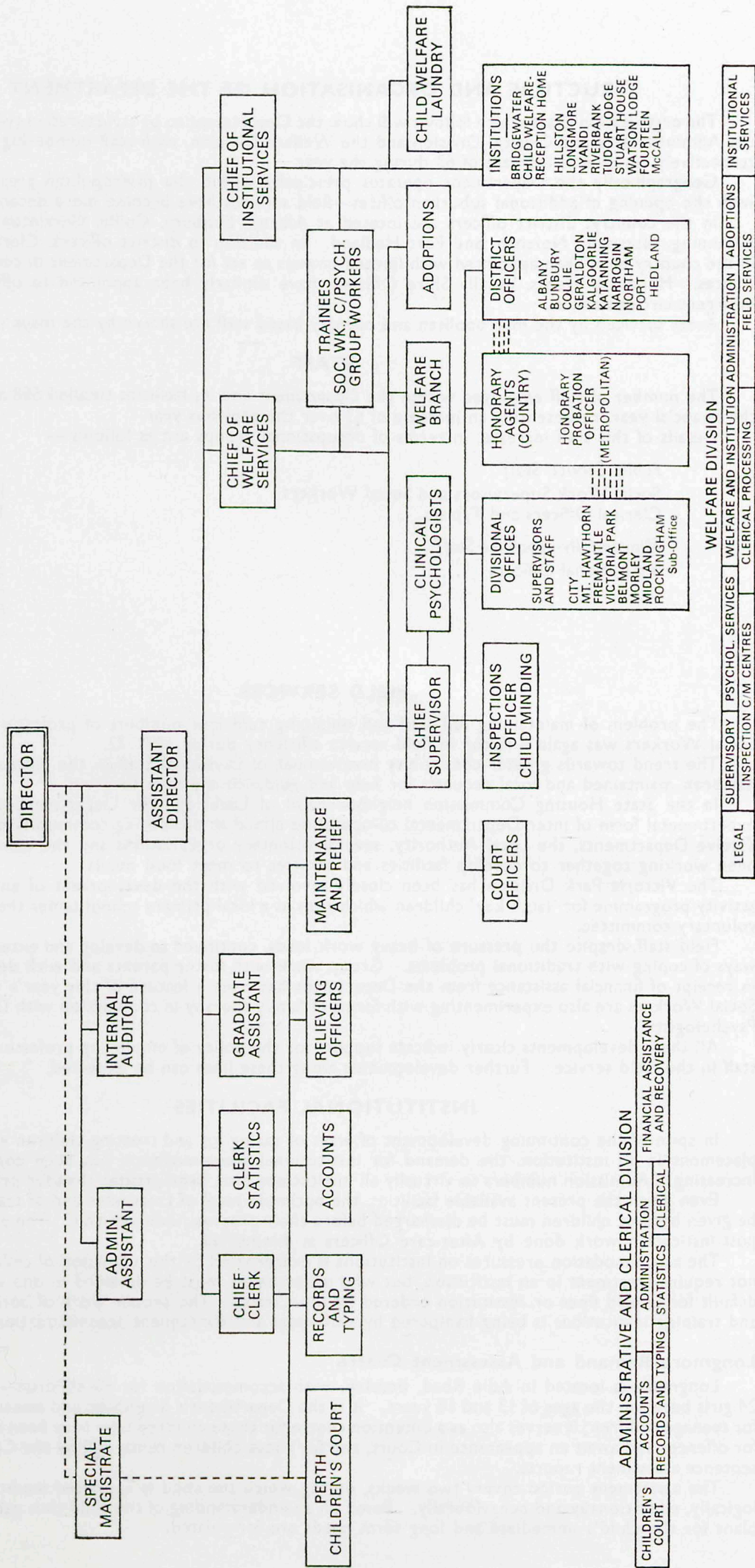
Longmore is located in Adie Road, Bentley, with accommodation for 60 children—36 boys and 24 girls between the ages of 13 and 18 years. It is the Department's diagnostic and assessment centre for teenage children; it serves also as a detention centre for those children who have been apprehended for offences and await an appearance in Court, and for those children remanded by the Court for pre-sentence assessment reports.

The assessment period covers two weeks, during which the child is appraised medically, psychologically, educationally and behaviourally. Based on an understanding of the child thus gained, suitable plans for the child's immediate and long term needs are formulated.

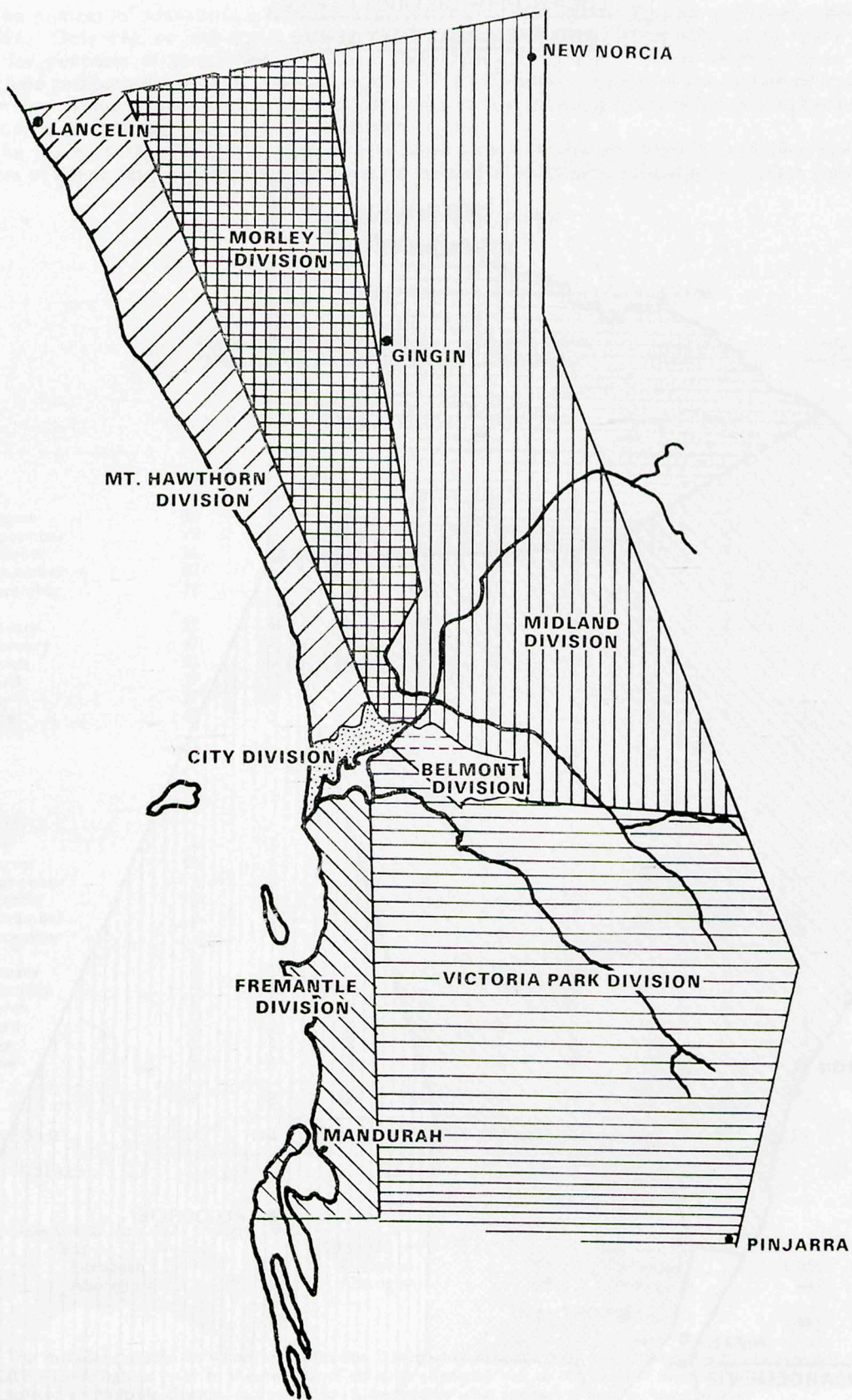


# CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT ORGANISATION CHART

## AS AT 30th JUNE, 1972



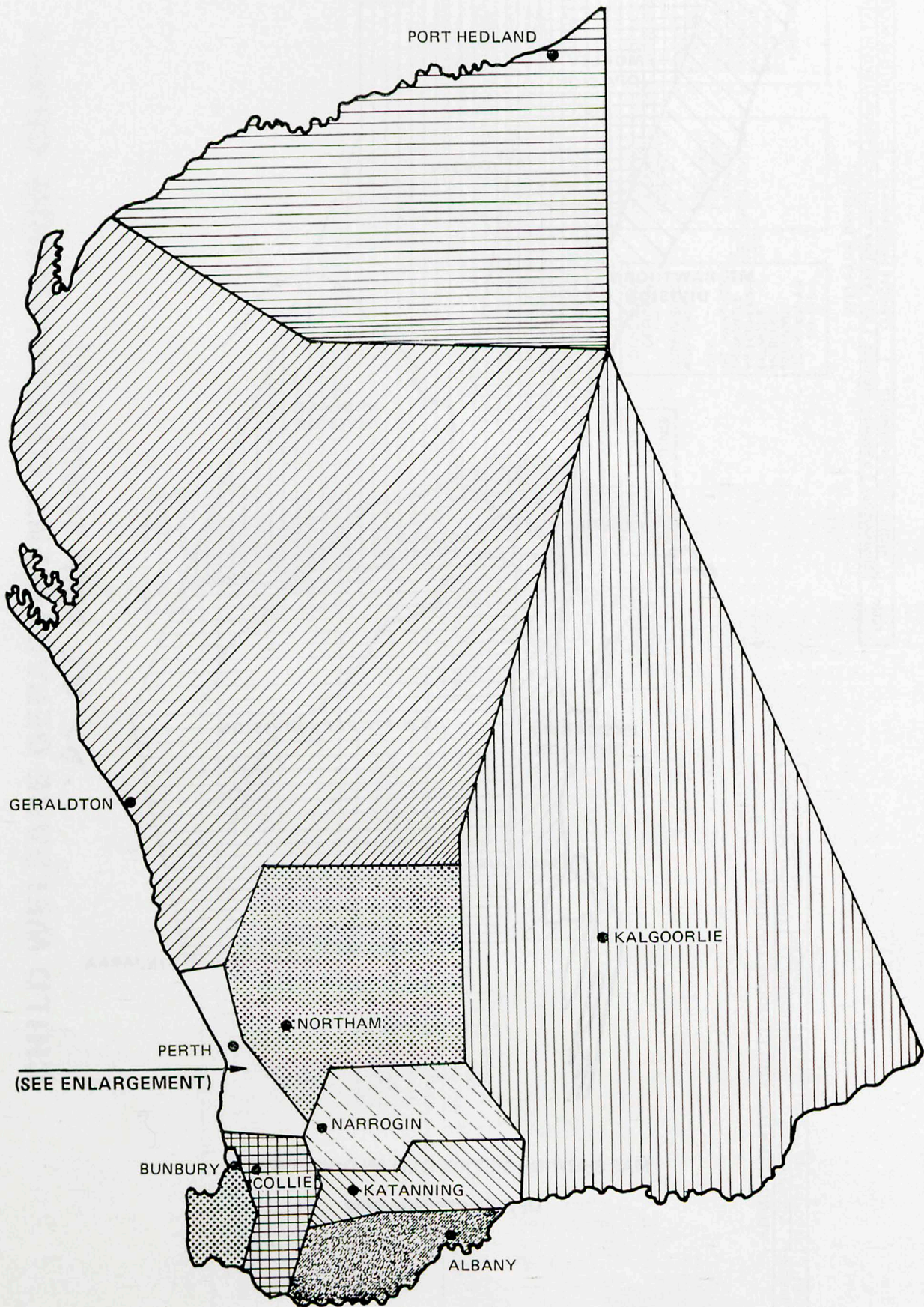




MAP SHOWING METROPOLITAN DIVISIONAL  
OFFICE BOUNDARIES



LOCATION OF DISTRICT OFFICES  
AND THE AREAS THEY SERVE.





The number of admissions continues at a high level. Admissions this year increased from 1,748 to 1,891. Only 442, or less than a quarter of all the children admitted to this centre, were placed there for purposes of assessment or to plan their future treatment. Other children were either being held temporarily pending their appearance in the Children's Court or the finding of a suitable placement. These circumstances reveal an imbalance in the use being made of Longmore between its functions as a "holding" and as an "assessment" centre.

The yearly increase in the number of admissions now indicates the need for a further facility or facilities of a type that will allow for the separate holding of children in detention for other reasons.

ADMISSIONS TO LONGMORE  
1/7/1971—30/6/1972

		Major Offence or Other Reason for Admission									
		Property Offences		Motor Vehicle Offences		Offences against Good Order		Other Reasons**		Default Warrants	
		Europ.	Abor.	Europ.	Abor.	Europ.	Abor.	Europ.	Abor.	Europ.	Abor.
Boys—											
1971—											
July	....	34	9	13	10	11	8	8	2	5	1
August	....	43	7	24	7	13	5	4	2	3	....
September	....	19	15	11	12	9	7	5	4	1	1
October	....	36	18	37	10	13	12	4	2	1	2
November	....	32	15	23	14	11	3	5	2	7	....
December	....	28	9	15	10	20	11	6	6	7	2
1972—											
January	....	27	8	31	26	16	6	11	5	4	2
February	....	47	12	20	10	17	8	10	1	4	....
March	....	35	16	22	18	21	8	15	3	1	....
April	....	37	8	16	7	11	7	11	3	2	....
May	....	31	13	9	17	11	6	15	5	4	....
June	....	48	5	15	6	21	6	8	6	5	....
		418	135	236	147	174	87	102	41	44	8
Girls—											
1971											
July	....	6	1	....	4	1	5	3	2	7	1
August	....	10	4	3	1	....	5	5	5	2	....
September	....	2	6	....	3	....	....	3	5	3	2
October	....	6	6	1	7	4	10	3	3	5	3
November	....	3	5	1	1	3	8	7	5	10	5
December	....	....	9	1	8	3	11	6	5	2	2
1972—											
January	....	2	2	1	7	2	4	10	3	10	....
February	....	5	4	....	5	....	8	5	6	10	1
March	....	9	9	1	2	....	12	5	5	6	1
April	....	3	6	1	6	5	6	5	4	8	1
May	....	5	3	2	14	6	5	3	5	9	....
June	....	5	3	2	2	2	10	3	1	7	....
		56	58	13	60	26	84	58	49	79	16
Boys and Girls		474	193	249	207	200	171	160	90	123	24
TOTALS		657		456		371		250		147	

Admissions—July 1971 to June 1972.

Girls—		Boys—		Total—	
European	232	European	974	European	1,206
Aboriginal	267	Aboriginal	418	Aboriginal	685
499		1,392		1,891	

\*\* This includes children for whom an application is being made to the Court to have them declared neglected children.

NOTE—These figures refer to the number of children admitted, not to the number of charges. In cases of children being admitted on multiple charges, categorisation is decided by what appears to be the major charge.

Child Welfare Reception Home

This facility, the oldest of the Child Welfare Department's institutions, is located at 3 Walcott Street, Mt. Lawley, and offered assessment facilities and temporary care whilst long term management plans were implemented for 1,033 children aged between 7 and 18 years.

The number of children admitted represented an increase of 4 per cent. over the previous year, yet the average number of children in residence at any one time decreased by 16 per cent., thus indicating that the length of stay was less. The number of children discharged in less than one week increased by over 6 per cent. whilst the number who stayed less than one month increased by almost 13 per cent.



With two-thirds of the children passing through this centre being either High School students or working children, the programme is orientated to this age group. Whilst most High School students are enrolled at various High Schools in the Metropolitan Area, some special schooling at this level is available within the Centre. The younger children attend the Maylands Primary School.

Through most of the year the building was undergoing extensive repairs and renovations which reduced the number of social evenings, to which families and friends are invited, to two, but interaction with the community was still maintained with frequent outings, and school holiday camps.

With the number of children admitted for assessment decreasing by approximately the same amount as those for re-placement increased, there was a decrease in the number of case conferences held throughout the year, and this may have had some bearing on the fact that the number of children discharged to institutions increased by almost 10 per cent., whilst those discharged to their parents or to foster homes decreased by about the same amount.

The overall number of children admitted by the Police as missing persons increased by almost 5 per cent., but with the number of girls increasing by some 25 per cent. over boys. The number of children admitted direct from Children's Courts showed an overall decrease of about 5 per cent., but at the same time the number of girls increased by some 23 per cent.

As an extraneous function, the Central Clothing Store, located at and administered by this Centre, outfitted 836 wards with clothing at a cost of \$35,379, and supplied, in bulk, clothing to other institutions at a cost of \$9,846.

#### *Admission:*

Of all children admitted 40.3 per cent. were Aboriginal, of which 67.7 per cent. were girls.

Of all children admitted 53.5 per cent. were girls, of which 50.8 per cent. were Aboriginal.

Of all the children admitted 46.5 per cent. were boys, of which 29.0 per cent. were Aboriginal.

Of all the children admitted due to foster home breakdown, 60.4 per cent. were girls, or 67.3 per cent. were non-Aboriginal children.

Of all the children admitted from their home, 70.3 per cent. were non-Aboriginal children, or 63 per cent. were boys.

Of all children admitted from an institution, hostel or mission, 53.5 per cent. were Aboriginal, or 50.7 per cent. were girls. Of all the children admitted direct from a Children's Court, 88.9 per cent. were non-Aboriginal children or 55.6 per cent. were boys.

Of all children admitted on a charge or application, and to appear in a Children's Court, 60.4 per cent. were non-Aboriginal, or 70.3 per cent. were boys.

#### *Discharge:*

Of all children discharged 41 per cent. were Aboriginal, of which 64.5 per cent. were girls.

Of all children discharged 53.4 per cent. were girls, of which 50.3 per cent. were non-Aboriginal.

Of all children discharged 46.6 per cent. were boys, of which 68.8 per cent. were non-Aboriginal.

Of all children placed in a foster home, 71.7 per cent. were non-Aboriginal, or 57.9 per cent. were girls.

Of all children returned to their parents 68.6 per cent. were non-Aboriginal, or 60 per cent. were boys.

Of all children placed with a relative 58.1 per cent. were Aboriginal, or 71 per cent. were girls.

Of all children placed in an institution, hostel or mission, 50 per cent. were Aboriginal, or 56.1 per cent. were girls.

#### *Length of Stay:*

	In Residence on 30/6/71 per cent.	Discharged During Year per cent.
Less than one week	25	45.9
One week to one month	38.9	31.1
One month to three months	19.4	17.4
Over three months	16.7	5.6

These figures, when compared with those of the previous year, show a marked decrease in the length of time that a child remained at C.W.R.H.; 77 per cent. were discharged in less than one month. Of those in residence on 30/6/72, only 36.1 per cent. had remained for more than one month, as compared to 56.8 per cent. on 30/6/71.

#### *Age on Admission:*

Calculations based on the age of a child when admitted produced a mean of 14.3 years with a standard deviation of 2.3 years. In other words 68 per cent. of the children admitted during the year were between 11.7 years and 16.6 years at the time of admission.



CHILD WELFARE RECEPTION HOME  
ADMISSION

Breakdown of Total		Boys		Girls	
		Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
From—					
Home .....	32.7	48.2	14.8	22.2	14.8
Institution Break Down or Transfer .....	25.6	31.8	17.5	14.9	35.8
Foster Home Break-down .....	17.5	28.7	10.9	38.6	21.8
As Missing Person .....	15.3	15.9	4.5	39.8	39.8
Children's Court .....	1.6	55.6	.....	33.3	11.1
Other .....	7.3	16.7	14.3	26.2	42.8
Reason—					
For Replacement .....	51.4	34.6	9.5	30.6	35.3
For Assessment .....	20.7	36.8	14.1	25.4	23.7
On Charge or Application .....	14.7	50.5	19.8	19.8	9.9
Temporary With No Action .....	2.5	57.0	.....	21.5	21.5
Other .....	10.7	27.0	25.4	15.3	32.3

CHILD WELFARE RECEPTION HOME  
ADMISSION

Foster Home Breakdown:

Non-Aboriginal boy	....	....	....	28.7%	}	67.3%	}	39.6% boy 60.4% girl
Non-Aboriginal girl	....	....	....	38.6%				
Aboriginal girl	....	....	....	21.8%	}	32.7%		
Aboriginal boy	....	....	....	10.9%				

From Home:

Non-Aboriginal boy	....	....	....	48.1%	}	70.3%	}	63.0% boy 37.0% girl
Non-Aboriginal girl	....	....	....	22.2%				
Aboriginal girl	....	....	....	14.8%	}	29.7%		
Aboriginal boy	....	....	....	14.9%				

From Institution:

Non-Aboriginal boy	....	....	....	31.8%	} 46.7%	} 49.3% boy 50.7% girl	
Non-Aboriginal girl	....	....	....	14.9%			
Aboriginal girl	....	....	....	35.8%	} 53.3%		
Aboriginal boy	....	....	....	17.5%			

From Children's Court:

Non-Aboriginal boy	....	....	55.6%	}	88.9%	}	55.6% boy 44.4% girl
Non-Aboriginal girl	....	....	33.3%				
Aboriginal girl	....	....	11.1%	}	11.1%		
Aboriginal boy	....	....	00.0%				

On Charge or Application:

Non-Aboriginal boy	....	....	....	50.5%	}	60.4%	}	70.3% boy 29.7% girl
Non-Aboriginal girl	....	....	....	9.9%				
Aboriginal girl	....	....	....	19.8%	}	39.6%		
Aboriginal boy	....	....	....	19.8%				

# CHILD WELFARE RECEPTION HOME DISCHARGE

Inclusive:	per cent.
To Institution, Hostel or Mission	42.8
Returned to Parents	28.3
To Foster Home	16.8
Placed with Relatives	6.3
To Live-in-Employment	5.0
To Hospital	0.8
	<u>100.0</u>

## Specific:

	Boys		Girls	
	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal
	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
<i>Home in Metropolitan Area—</i>				
To Institution, Hostel or Mission	33.3	39.2	47.6	37.4
Returned to Parents	39.4	37.6	33.4	22.2
To Foster Home	12.1	18.4	9.5	29.3
Placed with Relatives	9.1	2.4	9.5	4.0
To Live-in-Employment	6.1	2.4		6.1
To Hospital				1.0
<i>Home in Country Area—</i>				
To Institution, Hostel or Mission	53.8	35.3	58.3	23.5
Returned to Parents	20.5	49.1	14.5	32.4
To Foster Home	15.4	5.9	10.9	14.7
Placed with Relatives	2.6	5.9	10.9	11.8
To Live-in-Employment	7.7	2.9	3.6	17.6
To Hospital		2.9	1.8	

# CHILD WELFARE RECEPTION HOME DISCHARGE

## Children Placed in Foster Home:

Non-Aboriginal boy	....	....	25 = 30.1%	}	71.1%	}	42.1% boy 57.9% girl
Non-Aboriginal girl	....	....	34 = 41.0%				
Aboriginal girl	....	....	14 = 16.9%	}	28.9%		
Aboriginal boy	....	....	10 = 12.0%				

## Children Returned to Parents:

Non-Aboriginal boy	....	....	63	=	45.0%	}	68.6%	}	60.0% boy 40.0% girl
Non-Aboriginal girl	....	....	33	=	23.6%				
Aboriginal girl	....	....	23	=	16.4%	}	31.4%		
Aboriginal boy	....	....	21	=	15.0%				

## Children Placed with Relatives:

Non-Aboriginal boy	....	5 = 16.1%	} 41.9%	} 29.0% boy 71.0% girl
Non-Aboriginal girl	....	8 = 25.8%		
Aboriginal girl	....	14 = 45.2%	} 58.1%	
Aboriginal boy	....	4 = 12.9%		

## Children Placed in Institution:

Non-Aboriginal boy	....	....	61 = 28.8%	} 50.0%	} 43.9% boy 56.1% girl
Non-Aboriginal girl	....	....	45 = 21.2%		
Aboriginal girl	....	....	74 = 34.9%	} 50.0%	
Aboriginal boy	....	....	32 = 15.1%		



CHILD WELFARE RECEPTION HOME  
ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES BETWEEN 1/7/71 AND 30/6/72

	Admissions			Discharges			Total at End of Month
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1971—							
July	31	38	69	37	36	73	26
August	33	44	77	35	48	83	20
September	35	59	94	29	54	83	31
October	60	60	120	59	66	125	26
November	29	54	83	28	57	85	24
December	20	36	56	25	26	51	29
1972—							
January	24	45	69	18	54	72	26
February	24	45	69	25	36	61	34
March	25	54	79	26	60	86	27
April	23	74	97	24	71	95	29
May	45	51	96	46	56	102	23
June	66	58	124	59	53	112	35
TOTALS	415	618	1,033	411	617	1,028	....

### Bridgewater Care and Assessment Centre

Bridgewater is situated on an 11 acre site at Applecross and provides emergency care and assessment facilities for children between the ages of 3 and 18 years. Children are admitted only in extreme necessity, and move on to a normal home placement as soon as possible.

The 1971–72 financial year saw the completion and progressive opening of an administration building and four new cottages of more functional design. Consequently, the total capacity of Bridgewater has increased from 44 to 107. In addition, the adventure playground was completed and work commenced on a sports oval and various playing courts.

During the year there were 504 admissions, an increase of almost 50 per cent. on the previous year. Two trends have been evident. The first is a general increase in the proportion of high-school age children being admitted. The second is a continued increase in the proportion of adolescent girls, to the point where they now constitute more than one-third of the total population. Usually these girls have run away from home, and may have serious family problems. Children of high-school and working ages now comprise approximately 50 per cent. of the Bridgewater population. Statistics showing age and sex distribution are presented in the following table:—

BRIDGEWATER CARE AND ASSESSEMENT CENTRE  
*Age and sex distribution of children admitted during the 1970–1971 and 1971–1972 financial years*

Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	1970–1971	1971–1972	1970–1971	1971–1972	1970–1971	1971–1972
Pre-school (0–5·11 years)	42	44	25	39	67	83
Primary School (6·0–11·11 years)	71	94	66	75	137	169
High school (12·00–14·11 years)	24	51	51	106	75	157
Working Age (15·0 years plus)	11	14	50	81	61	95
TOTAL	148	203	192	301	340	504

About half the children were admitted for temporary care only. Of the other 225 who were fully assessed, approximately half were fostered, one-third were placed with parents or relatives, and only one-eighth proceeded to other institutions. With most of the latter group, the plan was for eventual placement in a normal home. At present, the characteristics of length of stay data appear to remain basically unaltered. A large number of children leave within one week of admission, whilst most other discharges tend to cluster around the 5–6 week mark. Very few children remain for longer than 3 months.

During the year the Centre has had to adapt to the many problems which have been associated with an increasing and changing population.

- (1) The increased number of adolescents has required a broadened programme offering more appropriate activities and increased responsibility, independence and privacy to selected children. Adolescents are frequently permitted to make unsupervised outings and this privilege has very rarely been abused.
- (2) Bridgewater children are now more noticeable as a sub-group within the local schools. The children are very sensitive to their social and educational disadvantages and this is manifested in frequent truancy and school refusal. The school authorities have been



tolerant of these difficulties, but special arrangements have had to be made in individual cases, and schooling facilities for selected children are urgently required on site.

- (3) To maintain a policy of positive, consistent, individualised, home-like care, it is now necessary for group workers to exercise greater initiative and responsibility. In turn, administrative and professional staff have the responsibility of maintaining regular guidance and supervision, despite a doubling of staff numbers. In order to achieve these objectives, staff have been grouped in cottage "teams" and each meets as a team with the Superintendent and a Psychologist at least monthly.

As expertise develops it is envisaged that, subject to the policies and directives of the Department and the Centre, more decisions will be made at a cottage level rather than at an institutional level, so that the child's experience will be one of cottage life within a small community, rather than one of being in an institution.

- (4) Research and in-service training remain neglected areas, but some interesting work was undertaken this year with child behaviour and staff attention patterns. The research was supervised and assisted by Professor Donald Baer, a behavioural scientist visiting from the United States. It is hoped to develop more consistent resources in order to considerably extend research activities.

We have continued to receive the generous support of various service clubs, charitable bodies, entertainment houses, sporting clubs and youth organisations.

Finally, a developing role of Bridgewater has been educating the community in the functions of the Department and the Centre. Apart from academic and professional people from related services and disciplines, sometimes from interstate and overseas, there have been regular visits from student medical practitioners, nursing sisters, kindergarten teachers, school guidance officers, social workers and psychologists.

### **Nyandi Girls' Treatment Centre**

Nyandi is a multi-facet Rehabilitation and Research Centre for atypical female adolescents. The 42 girls committed to Nyandi during the 1971/1972 financial year represent a considerable amount of previous Departmental expenditure and effort prior to their admission to this Centre.

*Description of Population:* All girls have been admitted to Longmore on an average of 4 times before coming to Nyandi, and 60 per cent. of them have been admitted to the Reception Home, with the average number of admissions to that Centre being 3. As the average length of stay at Longmore and the Reception Home was approximately 30 days for each admission, this reflects some of the previous overt costs of Nyandi's population to the Department. Consistent with research findings, there is a significant lag between the clients' average chronological age on admission of 15.2 years, and their social, personal and academic skills. An indication of such a lag is that the average reading, spelling and comprehension ability was approximately 5 years behind normal performance.

*Treatment Programme:* Given such clients, Nyandi's treatment programme draws upon the theoretical and experimental work of operant, reality and milieu therapy approaches. Guided Group Interaction, family and individual counselling techniques are also utilised where applicable.

A major part of the rehabilitation programme is based on the principles of systematic and immediate reinforcement and punishment on a behaviourally contingent basis.

Within the maximum security section, which accommodates 20 girls, the aims of immediate reinforcement are achieved by the use of a Token Economy System. Briefly, this programme involves the specification of those work behaviours which are considered necessary for the child's successful adjustment outside the institution. Such behaviour is selected following discussion between the girl and various staff members. The girl can then earn token money for the performance of the specified behaviour, and with the tokens can buy a wide range of reinforcers such as extra privileges, clothing, food stuffs, etc. One advantage of the token economy is that it also allows a large number of required, yet incidental, skills such as budgeting, banking, health insurance and so on to be taught within the institution setting.

Girls' participation in their own treatment programme is encouraged by individual and group counselling techniques. The latter mainly involves Guided Group Interaction tactics in which the peers are encouraged to act as responsible, therapeutic agents. The average lengths of stay within the maximum security section is three months.

The hostel or half-way house caters for 10 girls who go to work or school. Within this open setting a point system of reinforcement is used which is administered by a Manager, elected by the girls each week. Guided Group Interaction techniques continue with increasing emphasis on the girls' relationship with non-offending peers. Efforts are continually made to work with the families, using counselling and behaviour modification techniques. Recent innovations include street corner research and the use of interested employers and volunteer workers to help train and model non-offending skills.

*Research Programmes:* Underlying all treatment at Nyandi is an emphasis on the objective evaluation of the utilised methods. As a result 3 research papers have been presented for publication in scientific journals. Two are concerned with staff training and examine techniques of altering the inmates' attention span and content of delinquent speech, while the third compares the effects of staff versus peer management techniques.



### **McCall Residential Treatment Centre for Children**

McCall Centre was established in May 1971 in temporary premises in West Perth. In March 1972 it moved into more spacious premises in Highgate, and it is expected to move to the permanent location in Cottesloe during the second half of the next financial year. Plans for alterations and additions to the old Cable Station in Cottesloe are in their final stages.

The Centre is designed as a long term residential treatment centre for 20 children between the ages of 6 and 12. The main criterion for admission is the presence of problem behaviour which precludes any other placement. Treatment programmes are devised according to the needs of each particular child, and the aim is to return the child to the community as soon as possible. On discharge each child is followed up for a minimum period of two years.

The staff consists of clinical psychologists, social worker, occupational therapist, teachers and specially trained group workers.

### **Hillston Boys' Farm School**

*Location:* Stoneville Road, Stoneville, W.A. 6554.

*Telephone:* 95 1133 and 95 1277.

*Accommodation:* Sixty boys in the main institution. Six boys in cottage accommodation.

*Population:* Boys between the ages of 12 and 18 years committed to the care of the Department and who as the result of a case conference are placed for training, and boys serving default for non-payment of fines. There was a slight drop in the number of admissions during the year, 211 as compared with 233 during the year ended June, 1970. Nevertheless, continued pressure for accommodation was experienced and the average length of stay per boy was 13.6 weeks. There was a marked increase during the year in the number of boys admitted to serve default, 81 as compared with 49 in the year ended June, 1970. Many of these admissions were caused by accommodation pressures at Longmore and the resultant necessity for them to shed part of this population. A breakdown of admissions is shown in the graph at page 22.

### **General:**

*Agricultural:* Hillston is an open type institution set in 367 acres of land, partially cleared and developed, and progression towards the more modern methods of farm management and production are being achieved through projects carried out by staff and boys. A new piggery with stud stock has been incorporated into the agricultural programme and a programme of artificial insemination for cattle breeding continues. Twenty-eight head of cattle, bred and reared at Hillston, have been transferred to the Department's property at Badgingarra to form the nucleus of a beef breeding herd. Produce in the form of milk, eggs, mutton, beef, pork, butter, cream and poultry to the market value of \$11,363 was either consumed at Hillston or made available to other institutions.

*Educational:* Demands in the area of education have increased, particularly during the latter part of the year, to a point where in excess of 66 per cent. of the population have an essential need for school programmes at an individual level. A further three 'Bristol' type school rooms are in the process of being erected and these will be a further acquisition in dealing with the ever present educational problems. Regular outings of educational interest have been conducted throughout the year as an integral part of the school programme.

*Manual and Trade Training:* Pre-trade training is available in woodwork, carpentry, metalwork, machinery maintenance, bricklaying, concrete work, etc. Plans to build improved facilities as a teaching project, and to provide a wider range of learning opportunities and experience in the area of secondary industry, are in hand.

### **External Activities:**

*Physical:* Teams from the school have continued to participate in local sporting competitions; football, cricket and basketball. The interest of other clubs in these competitions, especially their involvement with the Hillston teams and their invitations to participate in various club functions, has undoubtedly assisted greatly in the area of social development. In the Hills Junior Football Association under 17 competition, Hillston players polled second and third in the Fairest and Best competition and three other players scored points. Individual boys from the school have also been involved with an external club, training and playing with them. This pilot programme also appears to have assisted greatly in their development and the co-operation of the Swan View under 14 Football Association is acknowledged.

*Community:* Projects for various local organisations have been undertaken during the year and community involvement is always held high in order of priorities.

*Intradepartmental:* Close involvement with "Warramia" has been maintained throughout the year and many boys have spent various periods working on the property. Such placements are keenly sought by the boys, and they also provide a realistic working situation in which to assess ability, reliability, self-confidence and industry. Boys working on the property have also become socially involved in the Badgingarra district.



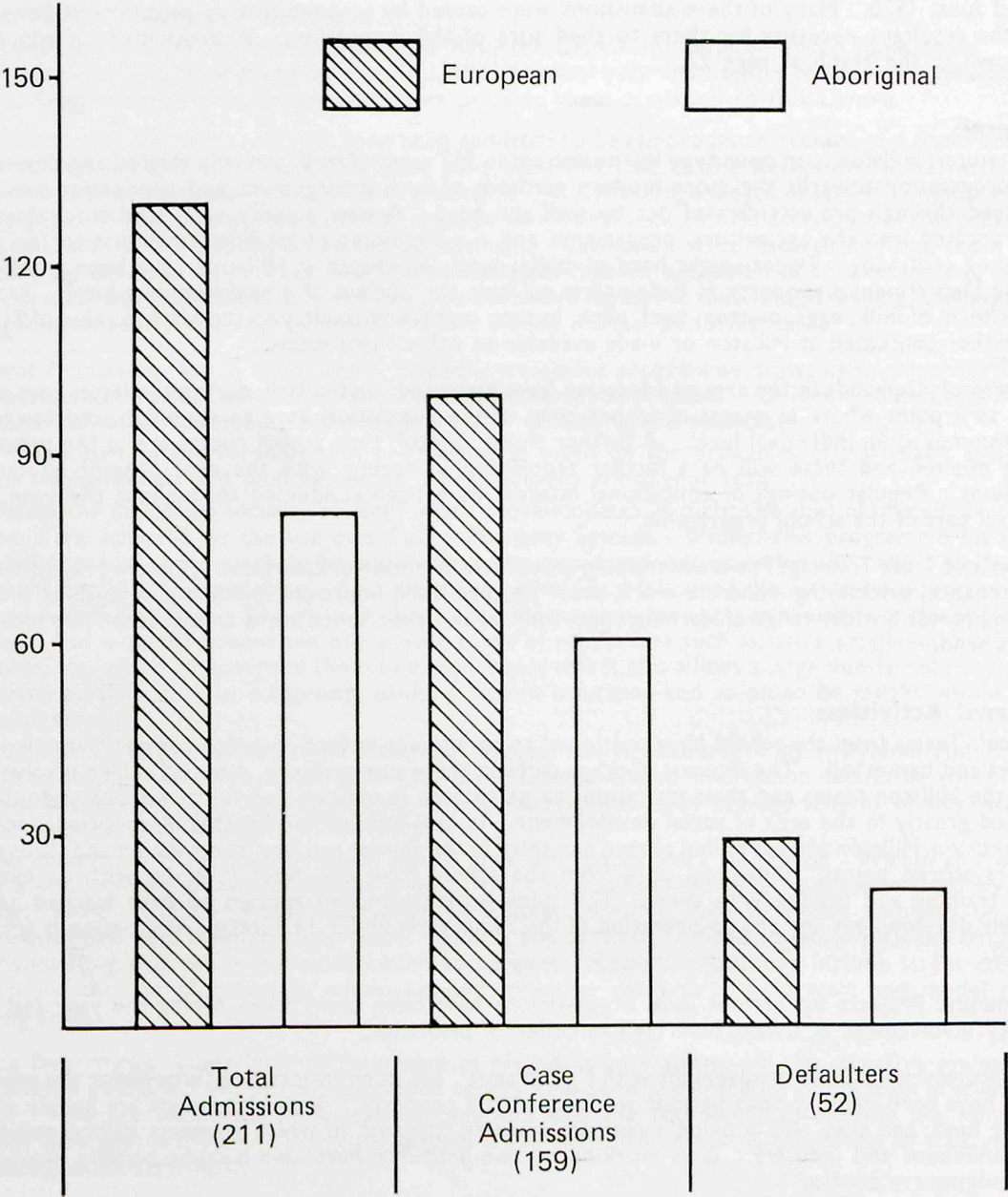
**After Care:**

The trial leave concept with boys being supervised by after-care officers attached to the institution continued throughout the year. One hundred and twenty cases have now been placed on trial leave in the Metropolitan Area since the programme commenced and a breakdown of these cases is as follows:

No further offences, no breakdown	....	47%	} 61%
No further offences, but returned to Hillston as a preventative measure	....	14%	
Offended and returned to Hillston	....	25%	} 39%
Offended and placed at Riverbank	....	6.5%	
Offended and imprisoned	....	7.5%	

**HILLSTON**

Admissions & Breakdown 1971-1972





### Riverbank Boys' Treatment Centre

This facility has been the Department's secure treatment centre for teenage male offenders since it was opened in 1960 at Caversham.

The programme of rehabilitation will vary with the needs of each boy, but will include work training, school and social activities such as sports, dances, clubs and outings. Built to accommodate only 43 boys, Riverbank had 231 admissions this year to force an average stay of just over two months. This shorter length of stay has been reasonably successful, partly because the programme has been changed to force more and more responsibility on to the boys. A form of student government, planned outings, community service projects and continued use of pre-release living quarters next door to Riverbank, have all been used for this purpose.

After a boy has worked his way through the programme with sufficient success to earn release, he is placed on trial leave, with after-care supervision undertaken by officers assigned specifically to this task. This period of after-care lasts until the boy's term as a ward expires—often between three and four years. There were approximately 120 boys on trial leave at any given time during the year, an increase of 40 over last year. Because of this increased load, one additional officer was placed on after-care duties this year. These after-care officers assist their boys with problems and will also recommend their return to Riverbank if terms of trial leave are breached.

A "half-way house" in the form of a hostel, known as "Fourteen" continues to be invaluable as a means of easing some boys back into the community. Located in Perth, it provides close supervision, as well as an ideal location from which boys may seek employment. It also provides living quarters for boys who commute daily to Riverbank to attend school, and was always available as a temporary haven for boys on trial leave who might suddenly be without accommodation.

As was predicted last year, Riverbank continues to admit younger boys for a shorter period of time (140 admissions from January 1st–June 30th, 1972). The following figures show the number of boys passing through Riverbank in the past seven years:

Year	No. of Children
1965–66	55
1966–67	65
1967–68	67
1968–69	90
1969–70	123
1970–71	173
1971–72	231

### HOSTELS

#### "Watson Lodge"

Watson Lodge had a reduction in the number of girls handled in 1971–72. Only 35 girls passed through. The trend is for younger girls and longer stays than previously, but with better results since the introduction of our training programme last September. Fewer girls have been returning following breakdowns in placements, but girls like to feel they still have our support after leaving here, and even after turning 18.

The type of girl admitted is altering. They do not tend to be offending against the community as much as against themselves. There have been a few instances of drug taking, but promiscuity is the biggest problem, with the consequential rise in the number of pregnant girls.

#### "Tudor Lodge"

Tudor Lodge is located at 59 Chelmsford Road, Mt. Lawley. It is an adjustment centre which provides care for 14 working boys, normally between the ages of 14 and 18 years.

*Procedure for Admission:* All proposed admissions must be discussed with the liaison officer. The conference notes are required, and must include the fact that the case has been discussed with the liaison officer. A plan for placement after Tudor Lodge must also be indicated. A copy of this conference must be handed to the matron on admission—boys should not be admitted on Fridays.

#### *Criteria of Admission:*

- Working boys and boys genuinely in process of employment. Employment of boys is the responsibility of field officers.
- Have reasonable expectations of an early integration with society, including transfer to other accommodation.

Tudor Lodge is not a treatment centre or a corrective establishment. It should be regarded as an adjustment centre and used as a stepping stone into the community.

Boys with a record of violence, assault and abnormal sexual behaviour must not be admitted on any condition.

*Visiting:* Unless otherwise specified by field officers, parents are encouraged to visit. Field workers are welcome at any time to discuss these boys' progress and should remain in contact with boys at least once a month.

*Length of Stay:* Tudor Lodge is used for short term placements; boys do not stay more than four months. After admission, boys are on trial placement for one week, thereafter they are invited to stay a further three weeks at a time.



*Reports:* Every three weeks the matron sends a brief report on each child to the liaison officer. This includes the progress of problems of the boy or whether he is considered ready for private board. The matron also keeps a diary for Tudor Lodge generally and a record on each child's behaviour. The matron and her husband are anxious to assist field officers with their boys.

*Clothing:* Field officers are required to see that boys are outfitted prior to being placed at Tudor Lodge. This is in respect of working clothes and casual wear. After a settling period of approximately a fortnight, the matron is to be supplied with a clothing order for the purpose of her purchasing a better quality clothing suitable for social occasions; this applies only if the boy does not have a decent suit or sport outfit.

*Staff:* Matron—in charge  
Domestic—full time  
Domestic—part time  
Weekend Relief—in charge on weekends.

The Matron, husband and family reside at Tudor Lodge.

*Board, Pocket Money:* The standard charge for board is \$8. The pocket money scale is as follows:

15 years and under	....	....	....	\$5 per week
16 years	....	....	....	\$6 per week
17 years and over	....	....	....	\$7 per week

Fares required to and from work are also given out of pay. Boys who do not earn enough to cover board, pocket money and fares are given special subsidy. Boys whose wages extend beyond these expenses have their extra money banked.

*Duties:* Boys are required to do daily chores about the house as directed by the Matron.

*Leave:* Weekend leave to parents and relatives is allowed after permission is obtained from the field officer. Before going out, boys must be inspected for cleanliness and tidiness and then fill out a leave book indicating destination, the meals he requires at Tudor Lodge and the approximate time of return. On Saturday nights the boys must return by midnight; Friday night 11 p.m.; Sunday night 9 p.m. Boys are not allowed on leave for a week after admittance.

*Loss of Privileges:* A boy loses privileges if he misbehaves or neglects his duties. This means he is not allowed out except for work and he must do extra duties if required. The maximum duration is usually one week and for minor breaches one or two days may be imposed. In case of persistent misbehaviour, the support of the boy's F.W.O. may be sought.

*Philosophy of Tudor Lodge:* To provide a homelike atmosphere and good living conditions to young men and to assist them in their adjustment to re-entering society.

### **"Stuart House"**

Stuart House provides accommodation, and a degree of supervision, for eight teenage working girls. During the past year 27 girls have lived at the hostel for periods varying from a few weeks to the full year. Placement in private board or with their own families is generally the aim for girls leaving Stuart House.

### **"Fourteen"**

Centrally located in the city area, "Fourteen" is ideally situated for easy accessibility to transport, employment, social activities and the host of norms accepted by today's society.

The hostel was made available to the Department in 1968 to be used primarily as a "half-way house" for selected boys being discharged from Riverbank. These boys have difficulty settling into the normal life of the community following their discharge from the controlled environment of an institution. Some control is therefore necessary, gradually decreasing as adjustment to acceptable behaviour patterns is reached.

Each individual is assessed daily until return home or placement in private board under Riverbank's after-care supervision which is considered essential to rehabilitation.

In the year under review there were 76 admissions to "Fourteen".



## CHILD WELFARE FUNCTIONS





## THE CARE OF WARDS

### General

Children come into the care of the Department for a number of reasons, some as offenders, others as destitute or neglected children in need of stable and effective guardianship. As individuals, however, each child is unique. It is important to discover the pattern of his needs so that his future care and training are based upon a complete understanding of his real life situation. To obtain such an assessment children are admitted to the residential institutional facilities of "Longmore", "Bridgewater" or the "Child Welfare Reception Home". There each child is medically, educationally, psychologically and behaviourally assessed. The information thus gained forms the basis for planning the future care and treatment of the child.

Without such an approach it is too easy to fall into the error of categorising children by their outward behaviour alone and to mistake the symptom for the cause.

Most children coming under the guardianship of the Department can best be cared for as members of a family unit. It follows, therefore, that more than two thirds of the number of the Department's wards have been returned to the care of their parents, are fostered with substitute parents, or are in private board, all under supervision and guidance from the Department's field officers.

A smaller proportion of these children, unable to return home, and unable yet to adjust to living as a member of another family, are cared for in the large group situation of the denominational or non-denominational children's institutions.

With some children hostel placement is utilised.

Another group of boys and girls—those for whom rehabilitative training in a reform centre is necessary—form the inmate populations of "Riverbank", "Hillston" and "Nyandi".

For those wards suffering severe mental or physical handicaps, and so requiring long term institutional care, the Department seeks to arrange admission to mental health or hospital facilities.

### Wards Returned to the Care of Parents or Relatives

At the end of the year 1,850 children living in the care of their parents or with relatives were being supervised by periodic visits or were receiving more intensive case-work by field officers. Of these, 957 were in the metropolitan area. The Department of Native Welfare supervised 77 native children for the Department in areas where there is no Child Welfare Officer.

### Foster Care

Foster homes provide the next best alternative form of care for most children who cannot return home. The Department has difficulty in securing placement for some children, however, particularly if they are Aborigines, are of working age or are regarded as "difficult" children. Most applicants seek to foster relatively young children and are reluctant to undertake responsibility for the care and guidance of teenage children, especially girls.

Foster parents receive a subsidy towards the cost of caring for the child and in addition the Department meets the total cost of medical, hospital and dental treatment and assists with some clothing expenses.

At 30th June, 1972, 1,680 wards were being cared for by foster parents and of this number 1,342 were subsidised. Of these subsidised children 1,107 were of school age or pre-school age, and 235 though in employment, were earning insufficient to meet all reasonable outgoings on board, fares and other expenses. The balance of 338 children were financially self-sufficient.

### Emergency Care Foster Home Scheme

This scheme originated in 1967 and entails having suitable foster parents available to look after young children in emergencies for short periods only. In this way the Department is able to increase its "reception" accommodation and at the same time take advantage of the availability of the services of a number of foster parents who would not be available to the Department for long-term foster cases.

Presently there are 33 such homes in use by the Department.

### Wards in Non-Departmental Children's Institutions and Missions

The Child Welfare Act requires such institutions to be licensed by the Department if they accept the care of children under six years of age.

Institutional placement is usually decided for those children for whom a return home or foster placement is not feasible or will be delayed, or as a means for keeping the children of one family together. For a number of Aboriginal children, placement in an institution in their own district enables more frequent contact by parents.

The Department remains in contact with its wards in these institutions by means of visits by its field officers and psychologists who appraise the child's progress and the need for continued institutional care.

A growing and worthwhile practice among institutions is in arranging "holiday" placements for children who cannot return home during the school vacations. Such a scheme, properly managed,



has the benefit of providing the children with the opportunity of living as members of normal families. A number of successful foster placements, too, have originated from such holiday outings.

Institutions receive a subsidy payment for each ward and, in addition, grants are made to assist with educational and clothing expenses.

## MIGRANT CHILDREN

The Federal Minister for Immigration becomes the guardian of all unaccompanied migrant minors, but delegates his responsibility in each State. In Western Australia guardianship has been delegated to the Director of Child Welfare. All the services available to wards are extended to such children.

At 30th June, 1972, 132 migrant children were under guardianship, in the following placements—

Children's institutions	....	....	....	....	28
Board and employment	....	....	....	....	104

Children coming under the "one parent scheme" are not under the guardianship of the Department as they travel in the company of one of their parents. The Department does, however, subsidise their stay during the first year after arrival if the children are under 16 years of age and in institutions for that time.

Twenty-seven children arrived under the "one parent scheme" during the past year.

The British Boys' Movement, formerly the Big Brother Movement, now functions in Western Australia and has brought 46 boys between the ages of 15 and 20 here to live in the past year.

## ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

Contrary to the trend over previous years, the number of babies made available for adoption decreased this year. A total of 448 babies were placed by the Department for the year. The main factor responsible for the decrease appears to be that many more unmarried mothers are now keeping their babies.

The number of families requesting approval to adopt a child also decreased. There were 458 families approved to adopt who intended to have the Department place a child with them, and 121 were approved who were going elsewhere to arrange for the placement of a child with them. The last few months of the year showed an increase in the number of families requesting approval for adoption, whilst the number of babies available continued to show a decline. The placement of babies should become easier if the trend continues.

Orders granted by the Court to Departmentally sponsored applications more than doubled, compared with the previous year. This was the effect of an increase of staff in the clerical section of the Branch. It is expected that the improvement will continue into next year as the new staff becomes more experienced in the work, and certain changes to the Adoption of Children Act facilitate the preparation of Applications to the Court.

Adoption Orders for 15 wards and 8 part-Aboriginal children were secured by the Department during the year.

Because of overcrowding in Claver House, the Branch was moved to 45 Havelock Street in November, 1971. It is intended that the Branch should only occupy the premises there on a temporary basis, as they are not really suitable for its requirements.

The number of staff in the Field Section of the Branch has been increased and the Branch is now completely assessing all those families in the metropolitan area who want the Department to place a baby with them. It is hoped that during the next year the Branch will be able to accept the responsibility for the assessing of all the metropolitan requests for adoption.

Hereunder are further details of children who were the subject of Adoption Orders made during the year.

			Departmentally Sponsored Applications	Non Departmental Applications
1. Status of Children				
<i>Prior to Adoption</i>				
Ex-Nuptial Children	....	....	289	137
Legitimate Children	....	....	17	14
2. Relationship to				
<i>Adoptive Parents</i>				
Natural Parents	....	....	18	21
Relatives	....	....	4	1
Unrelated Persons	....	....	284	129
3. Age of Children at Adoption				
Under one year	....	....	24	96
One year	....	....	158	28
2-5 years	....	....	100	11
6-12 years	....	....	18	14
13-15 years	....	....	4	2
16-20 years	....	....	2	....



## SPECIAL TREATMENT OF SELECTED FIRST OFFENDERS

### Juvenile Panel—Metropolitan Area

Since August, 1964, some first offenders of certain age have been dealt with by being seen by the Juvenile Panel which consists of a Departmental Officer and a representative of the Police Department. This action is taken so as to prevent the necessity of a Court appearance for these children.

On the 1st April, 1971, the maximum age of children who could be dealt with was raised to 15 years. Since the 1st July, 1971, to the 30th June, 1972, a total of 143 children, comprising 59 boys and 84 girls of 15 years of age have appeared before the Panel.

As has been the case in previous years, the total number of children dealt with has increased. For this year there has been 934 children, 502 boys and 432 girls; compared with 647 children, 390 boys and 257 girls, for the previous year. A notable feature of the increase has been in the number of girls seen in recent years.

Panels are held in Perth, Fremantle and Midland in the metropolitan area. The following table gives the figures for the children seen at these venues.

	Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Totals
Boys .....	366	113	23	502
Girls .....	365	57	10	432
Totals .....	731	170	33	934

Children can only appear once before the Panel. If they offend again, they go before a Children's Court. In a survey taken recently of those who have been dealt with by the Panel, of the total number of 1075 girls who have been seen, only 80 have offended again and been before a Court. The boys have not responded as well as the girls, as out of 2,105 boys seen, 471 have appeared before the Courts later.

### Juvenile Panel—Country Districts

In April, 1971, the functions of the Panel were extended to the major country centres in the southern part of the State, where departmental officers were stationed and there were Police Inspectors available to constitute the Panels.

This meant that the Panels could function for a start at Albany, Bunbury, Collie, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Narrogin and Northam.

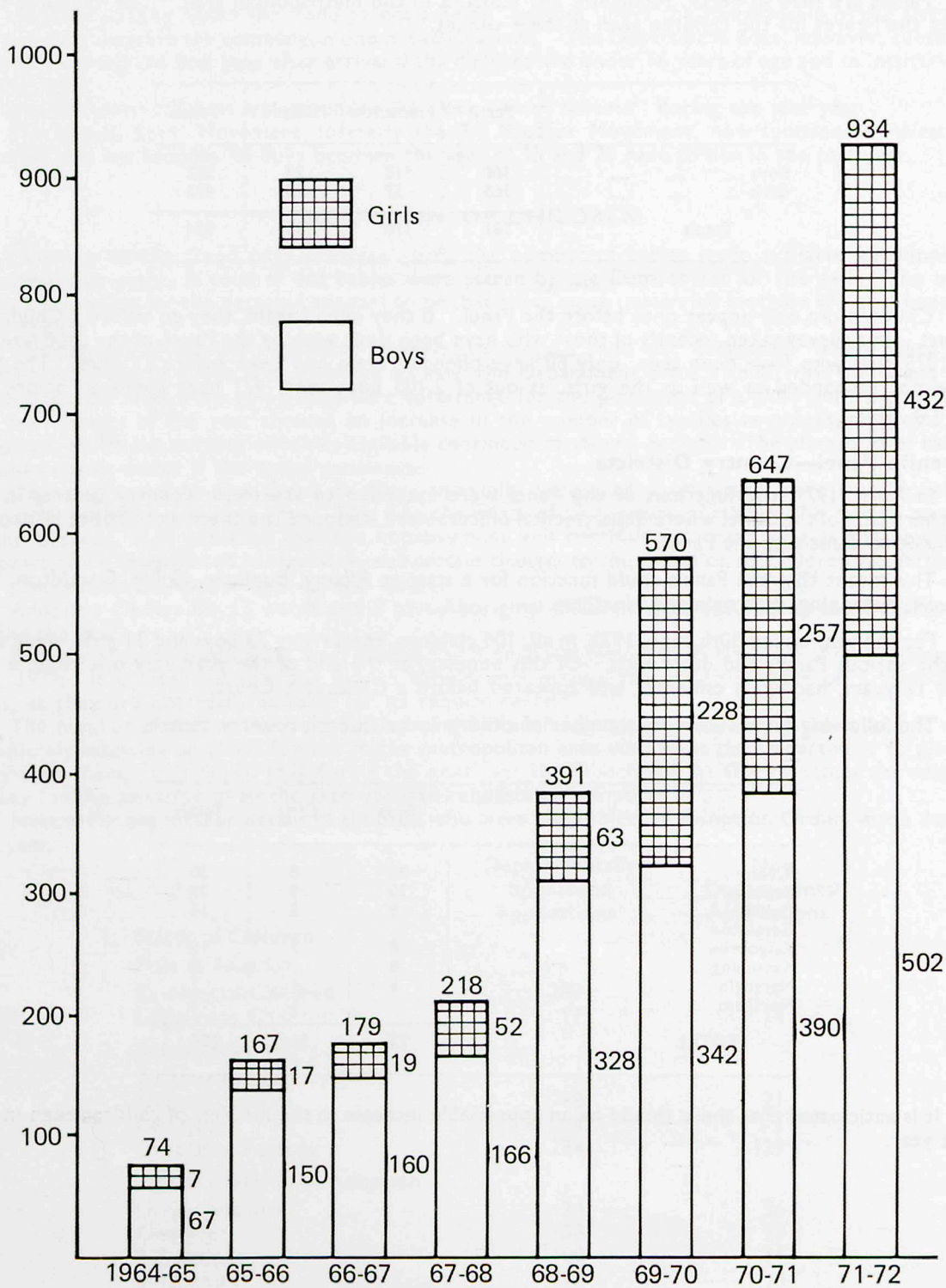
For the year ended 30th June, 1972, in all, 104 children, comprising 73 boys and 31 girls, were seen by the various Panels and dealt with. Of this number, at the end of the year only one child, a boy aged 11 years, had again offended, and appeared before a Children's Court.

The following table shows the number of children seen in each country centre.

	Boys	Girls	Totals
Albany .....	22	8	30
Bunbury .....	20	9	29
Collie .....	9	5	14
Geraldton .....	.....	.....	.....
Kalgoorlie .....	8	7	15
Katanning .....	8	.....	8
Narrogin .....	6	1	7
Northam .....	.....	1	1
TOTAL .....	73	31	104

It is anticipated that there should be an appreciable increase in the number of children seen in the next year.

NUMBERS AND SEX OF CHILDREN APPEARING  
BEFORE THE JUVENILE SUSPENDED COURT  
ACTION PANEL IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA





## CHILD ABUSE

During the year under review the Special Unit dealing with the physically abused child and his family, now in its fourth year of operation and situated in City Division, has continued to extend and consolidate its work. This Section was referred to under "Maltreated Children" in the 1970-71 report.

Knowledge of the Unit's protective resources, rehabilitative casework service, and the philosophy behind its operations have been given considerable publicity through the various media.

Special efforts have been made by the Department to extend to country areas knowledge of the service offered and in particular to the developing industrial areas in the North West where living and working conditions may place considerable stress on the small and highly mobile family unit.

As reports of suspected inflicted injuries continued to rise, it became necessary to confine the unit's investigations to children under six years of age, the most vulnerable group.

In 1971-72, 101 investigations were carried out by the Unit as a result of reports of physical abuse of children under 6 years of age. As a result, protective action was taken in the Children's Court in respect of 20 children, as follows:—

Cases where an application to declare a child neglected was granted	....	15
Children committed to care of the Department on application of the parents		2
Where a Neglect Application was granted, but child placed on probation	....	1
Child was already under the custody of the Director	....	1
Case dismissed	....	1
		—
		20
		—

Age and sex details of these 20 children are summarised in the following table:—

Under 6 months		6 months—1 year		1-2		2-3		3-4		4-5		5-6	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	1	6	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	2

### Recent Developments.

As its knowledge and experience has grown, the Unit this year undertook more preventive work with the voluntary co-operation of parents in order to test the effectiveness of early intervention in such cases before serious injury occurs. These cases could not have been undertaken without the collaboration and assistance of other agencies in the community, and in particular, the Hospitals and Infant Health Services. Joint experience so gained has shown that Kindergartens, Day Care (both regular and intermittent), temporary foster care, mothers' groups (both in the home and hospital settings) and homemaker services, if used flexibly and constructively, can all play a significant part in combating child abuse. It is hoped that these resources will be more readily available in the near future.

Because the increasing incidence of child abuse is causing world wide concern, it was recognised that this phenomenon cannot be studied and planned for effectively on a State basis alone. This year Western Australia has attended and contributed to a meeting of State Statistical and Research Officers representing joint efforts by the States to co-ordinate and standardise the collection of statistical and social data to aid future research. In addition, discussions between the State Directors of Child and Social Welfare and Professors of Child Health at the First National Conference on Child Care in Melbourne in 1972, have laid foundations for effective communication and exchange of information that will undoubtedly gain momentum in the future.

## LICENSING

As a safeguard against child exploitation and as a protection for infant life the care of very young children by non-related persons is subject to the control of the Minister by special provisions of the Child Welfare Act. Foster mothers and institutions undertaking the care of children under the age of 6 years must be approved and licensed by the Department for this purpose. Day nurseries and other child minding centres must similarly be licensed.

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

### Foster Mothers Caring for Young Children

A foster mother is defined in the Child Welfare Act as "a female having the care or custody of a child under the age of six years to adopt, rear, nurse or otherwise maintain such child apart from his or her parent, and not being a near relative of such child."

It is an offence for any person except a near relative of the child to act as a foster mother without being licensed by the Department for the purpose.

During the year 15 foster mothers were licensed, each to care for one child.



### Institutional Care for Young Children

Other provisions in the Act provide that "no person shall keep, use or manage any house, room, or place for the purpose of receiving or keeping in his care, charge or custody, two or more children under the age of six years, in order to rear, nurse, or otherwise maintain such children, apart from their respective parents, except pursuant to a license granted for the purpose by the Director".

Under these requirements licenses have been issued to the following centres. Against each is shown the number of children each is licensed to accommodate:

Hollywood Children's Village	....	....	....	....	....	6
Catherine McAuley Centre	....	....	....	....	....	60
Kingsley Fairbridge Farm School (Pinjarra)	....	....	....	....	....	20
Maria Goretti Home (Broome)	....	....	....	....	....	12
"Mofflyn" Methodist Cottage	....	....	....	....	....	20
Nazareth House (Geraldton)	....	....	....	....	....	12
Ngala Mothercraft Home and Training Centre	....	....	....	....	....	60
Parkerville Children's Home	....	....	....	....	....	50
Sister Kate's Children's Home	....	....	....	....	....	20
Wanslea Children's Home	....	....	....	....	....	50
Withnell House Girls' Home	....	....	....	....	....	6
Hillcrest Hospital	....	....	....	....	....	15
Salvation Army Girls' Home	....	....	....	....	....	6
						<hr/> 337 <hr/>

### Day Nursery and other Child Minding Facilities

The Child Welfare (Care Centre) Regulations proclaimed in 1968, recognise three types of Child Minding facilities. They are:

- "Family Care Centres", meaning child minding centres conducted in a private dwelling and in which children are received for care in a family environment.
- "Occasional Care Centres", meaning centres conducted for the casual care of children on an hourly basis during business hours.
- "Day Care Centres", meaning child minding centres that are neither Family Care nor Occasional Day Centres, and referring generally to the type of establishment often called a day nursery.

The following table shows the growth of licensed centres since the Care Centre Regulations were proclaimed in 1968.

Year Ended	Day Nurseries	Family Care Centres	Occasional Care Centres
30/6/68	11-256 children	....	1-20 children
30/6/69	18-457 children	9-44 children	2-120 children
30/6/70	28-711 children	3-36 children	1-75 children
30/6/71	41-1098 children	19-63 children	1-75 children
30/6/72	47-1335 children	52-190 children	4-150 children

All but 10 of the 103 Centres are run as private business. The average fee is \$12 per week which places the service offered by such Centres outside the means of most supporting mothers.

At present four nurseries are receiving Government finance.

These are—

Esme Fletcher Day Nursery, Fremantle  
 Marjorie Mann Day Nursery, Mount Lawley  
 Ngala Day Nursery, South Perth  
 Port Hedland Day Nursery, Port Hedland

It is hoped that local government and other community organisations will accept some of the financial responsibility for establishing day care centres.

### Licenses for Children Involved in Public Performances and in Commercial Advertising

During the year licenses were issued in respect of 5,823 children, mainly concerning children who were appearing in annual concerts organised by Dancing Schools, and in children's television programmes.

### Street Trading by Children

Only boys over the age of 12 years may be licensed to engage in street trading. During the past year 450 children were licensed to sell newspapers after school hours.



## CHILDREN'S COURTS





## CHILDREN'S COURTS

There are 114 Children's Courts established throughout the State.

In the metropolitan area, comprising Perth, Fremantle, Midland and Rockingham, Courts are presided over by Special Magistrates, Messrs. G. R. Hitchin and W. Fellowes, the latter being appointed in March, 1972, on account of increase in number of cases appearing. Five hundred and seventy-six members are appointed to assist the Magistrates in the conduct of these Courts throughout the State.

Children's Courts deal with all charges against children and determine such charges, with the exception of Wilful Murder, Murder, Manslaughter, and Treason. In these instances, the Courts hear preliminary proceedings and commit to superior Courts for trial.

Provision exists for Children's Courts to hear and determine certain offences against children by adults. These offences are covered under the third schedule of the Criminal Code. This is to avoid exposure of children as complainants or witnesses to the rigors of Criminal Courts. The offences are those of a sexual nature. It is provided that in these instances they be heard before Stipendiary Magistrates.

In matters concerning offences by children, Section 25 of the Child Welfare Act states:—

"The Court in dealing with a child shall have regard to the future welfare of the child."

At the present time, Courts may:—

1. Dismiss without conviction notwithstanding and taking into account the background of the child, but order a period of supervision by Departmental Officers.
2. Place a child on probation for period up to 18 years on such conditions as the Court may determine.
3. Release the child on the understanding of a parent to punish the child.
4. Place on bond, and may also include parents as sureties.
5. Fine.
6. Commit to the care of the Child Welfare Department until 18 years of age, or if over 16 years, for a period of two years.
7. Imprison if the child is over 14 years for a period of three months, or if over 16 years for a period of six months.
8. Commit to Criminal Court or District Court for trial or sentence.

Difficulties arise as the Department has insufficient residential facilities for the care of children committed who may require "treatment, training and discipline". Also the Act provides that children sentenced to imprisonment should serve such sentence in a Juvenile Prison; unfortunately no such place exists.

The scope of the Court is somewhat hampered as the period of probation terminates at 18 years of age and no statute exists where a child's term can be extended in these instances. Frequently, better use could be made of "probation" if it were possible to extend beyond 18 years, even to become eligible for supervision by the Probation and Parole Service. Hence a young person appearing in a Children's Court, who is aged 17½ years cannot be supervised after 18 years even though he may be in need of such supervision. This is a flaw in the legislation and is worthy of consideration.

Other provisions would assist in the determination of offences, such as Breaking and Entering, Stealing and Receiving and Wilful Damage. Many offences involve the stealing of petrol, tyres, car parts, cigarettes, liquor and wilful damage and vandalism. Where the offender is in possession of a driver's licence, it would be a useful tool to be able to suspend, for a period, a driver's licence held by juveniles where a vehicle is used as a means of transport in order to commit such offences. There would be no need for other penalties in these cases. The use of cars is often conducive to the committing of these offences.

Offences under the Traffic Act and its regulations are on the increase and in some instances indicate inability to drive, rather than irresponsibility. The compulsory suspension of driver's licence, it is felt, could be better dealt with by retraining some young drivers. To this end, the Special Magistrate, Mr. G. R. Hitchin, approached and received support from the National Safety Council Driving team. As a result, 100 young drivers have been processed in this manner with very satisfactory results. The wastage has been less than 4 per cent. and it is satisfying to know that we now have 100 capable drivers on the roads.

Facilities of the Department are over-taxed, particularly where children are arrested for offences. This sets off chain reaction and in each instance over 30 persons are ultimately involved in processing a child so arrested, to say nothing of temporary residential and holding facilities.

Prior to the child appearing in Court, liberal use is made of bail, but this in itself, is insufficient. Ninety per cent., approximately, of children appearing in Courts, appear after having been arrested. The remainder are proceeded against by summons or notices. It would avoid unnecessary cost and waste of man hours if we adopted a system of proceeding by notice or summons wherever possible. The test should be:—

1. Will the offender desist from offending further?
2. Will he respond to summons or notice and be present when his case is called?
3. Has he a home?

If the answer to the foregoing is yes, then it would be much more economical and practical to proceed by summons or notice. In many offences committed by children, supervision or probation is wasteful of Departmental resources unless it can be closely managed.



The metropolitan Court has adopted a "surcharge" system of time payment. In instances where the time of Police Department Officers, Fire Brigades, Education Department, Store Security Officers, etc., is used, a small surcharge is imposed on the offender who has the responsibility of paying a nominal amount weekly, for as little as 50 cents, against an amount of \$5-\$10 total surcharged.

We live in an affluent society and the young people have the means and are the spenders and accept such penalties. In these instances, the Court is able to deal with the child without recording conviction but such surcharge reinforces the necessity of the child avoiding repetition of such an offence.

It also gives justice for all, particularly where stores and trades people have suffered financially as the result of such offence.

An increasing number of children are appearing for traffic offences involving the use of motor cycles and buggy type vehicles on roads (as defined under the Traffic Act). In these matters the parents are informed that if they permit a child to acquire a vehicle to use on private property, they must also accept the responsibility that the child does not become a hazard on the road.

## Drugs

During the year in the Perth Children's Court, 16 boys and 9 girls involving 31 charges in connection with drugs have been dealt with, as against 4 boys in the preceding 12 months.

Of the current charges—

17 charges involved Cannabis

14 charges involved Drugs of Addiction

These have been dealt with, as under—

9 Probation

10 Committed to care of Child Welfare Department

11 Fined

1 Bond

By comparison with 1970/71, 4 charges were dealt with, as under—

3 Probation

1 Committed to care of Child Welfare Department

All of these charges involved Cannabis.

The following table shows the number of actions passing through the Perth Children's Court over the past six years, together with the amount of Revenue and Trust Collections:

	Number of Charges			Collections		
	Traffic	Other	Total	Revenue	Trust	Total
1966-67 ....	1,657	3,078	4,735	22,027	7,312	29,339
1967-68 ....	1,799	2,915	4,714	31,696	7,747	39,443
1968-69 ....	2,026	3,891	5,917	37,080	11,163	48,243
1969-70 ....	2,068	4,195	6,263	46,898	14,833	61,731
1970-71 ....	1,896	6,514	8,410	56,520	13,898	70,418
1971-72 ....	1,784	6,301	8,085	58,989	13,391	72,380

The Court is indebted to:

The Members of the Children's Court  
Staff of the Children's Court  
Officers of the Police Department  
Crown Law Department  
Legal Fraternity  
Officers of the Child Welfare Department  
Officers of the Education Department  
Mental Health Department  
Child Guidance Clinic  
Dr. Ross McKinnon, Psychiatrist  
To many private practising Psychiatrists  
Psychologists  
The National Safety Council and its members  
The Clergy  
Youth Organisations  
The Press

and many private citizens too numerous to particularise, who have contributed information and help to the Court during the year without which it would not have functioned efficiently.

## REPORT OF SUBSIDY FOR WARD AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

### Ward and Migrant Children—Ward:

Ward children are those who are in the care of the Department of Social Services and are under the age of 16 years. They are provided with food, clothing, and shelter. The Department also provides for their medical and dental needs.

In addition, the Department provides for the education of ward children. They are provided with a full-time education in the State of New York.

The Department also provides for the medical and dental needs of ward children. They are provided with a full-time medical and dental care.

### Migrant Children:

Migrant children are those who are in the care of the Department of Social Services and are under the age of 16 years. They are provided with food, clothing, and shelter. The Department also provides for their medical and dental needs.

### One Parent Family Allowance (OPFA):

OPFA is a benefit provided to one parent who is the sole provider of support for a child under the age of 16 years. The benefit is provided to the parent who is the sole provider of support for the child.

### Foster Rates of Subsidy—Children in Normal Foster Homes:

Ward and migrant children in foster homes are provided with a subsidy. The subsidy is provided to the foster parent who is providing care for the child. The subsidy is provided to the foster parent who is providing care for the child.

### Foster Rates of Subsidy—Children in Emergency Care, Group Home, or Residential Facility:

Subsidy of the ward and migrant children in emergency care, group home, or residential facility is provided to the foster parent who is providing care for the child.

### Special Subsidies:

There are special subsidies provided to foster parents who are providing care for ward and migrant children. These subsidies are provided to the foster parent who is providing care for the child.

## FINANCE, STATISTICS AND RECORDS

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Department of Social Services has a financial statement for the year 1970. The financial statement shows the Department's income and expenses for the year.

1. Full year 1970: \$1,100,000.00 and full year 1971: \$1,100,000.00.

2. An increase in income and total assets of \$1,100,000.00 and \$1,100,000.00.

3. Full year 1970: \$1,100,000.00 and full year 1971: \$1,100,000.00.

4. An increase in the number of children in foster care from 1,100 to 1,100.

5. An increase in the Department's operating costs from \$1,100,000.00 to \$1,100,000.00.

6. The Department's operating costs for the year 1970 were \$1,100,000.00.

7. The Department's operating costs for the year 1971 were \$1,100,000.00.

8. The Department's operating costs for the year 1972 were \$1,100,000.00.

9. The Department's operating costs for the year 1973 were \$1,100,000.00.

10. The Department's operating costs for the year 1974 were \$1,100,000.00.

11. The Department's operating costs for the year 1975 were \$1,100,000.00.

12. The Department's operating costs for the year 1976 were \$1,100,000.00.

13. The Department's operating costs for the year 1977 were \$1,100,000.00.

14. The Department's operating costs for the year 1978 were \$1,100,000.00.





## RATES OF SUBSIDY FOR WARDS AND MIGRANT CHILDREN

### **Institutional Subsidy Rates—Wards**

Weekly rates of subsidy for wards in children's institutions are \$7.50 a week per child for those institutions which also receive the Lotteries per capita grant of \$1 weekly. Otherwise the weekly rate of subsidy is \$8.50.

In addition, an educational allowance can be claimed at various rates, depending upon the age of the child, up to \$30 a year for high school children.

Children admitted to institutions are initially outfitted by the Department and given an additional clothing allowance of \$40 towards clothing costs.

### **Migrant Children**

Unaccompanied migrant children are subsidised to the extent of \$1.50 a week, in addition to the contribution made by the United Kingdom Government towards their support.

### **One Parent Scheme Migrant Children**

Sixty cents is payable by the Department for a maximum period of one year. Subsidy ceases if a child turns 16 years of age or leaves the children's institution where he has been living. Additionally, the institution receives a subsidy from the United Kingdom Government.

### **Foster Rates of Subsidy—Children in Normal Foster Homes**

Wards and migrant children in foster homes are subsidised at the rate of \$7 a week for each child. On attaining the age of 15 years subsidy is increased by \$1 a week for pocket money. In addition, educational, medical, dental and hospital expenses are met by the Department.

### **Foster Rates of Subsidy—Children in Emergency Care (Short Term Foster Homes)**

Subsidy of \$7 a week is paid for each child placed temporarily in an Emergency Care Home.

### **Special Subsidies**

These subsidies are determined in individual circumstances to ensure that a working ward or migrant child is able to meet his reasonable weekly expenses when his current income is inadequate. Subsidy under these conditions is paid only where the child boards away from home.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As shown in the Statement of Expenditure and Revenue, net expenditure increased by \$1,815,587 or 40.01 per cent. on the previous year. The main reasons for this increase were:—

1. Full year effect of salary rises granted in 1970/71 and new staff appointed, which increased salary payments by \$798,589.
2. An increase in claimants and rates payable to Women and Outdoor Relief, amounting to \$720,149.
3. Full year effect of subsidies payable for Wards and development of the Group Home Scheme—\$154,495.
4. An increase in the number of claimants seeking unemployment assistance—\$42,085.
5. An increase in Departmental Institution operating costs, mainly due to the opening of the second stage of Bridgewater—\$57,478.

### **Expenditure:**

#### *Administration*

Salary rises and the effect of increased staff accounted for \$123,712 of the increase under this item. The balance, \$12,146, was mainly due to increased operating expenses as a result of decentralisation.

#### *Field Activities*

Salary rises and increased staff numbers were again largely responsible for the increase in expenditure in this area. The rise in salaries being \$194,080. The balance, \$31,548, was caused in the main through the effects of decentralisation. However, there was a considerable increase in expenditure on Parole Classes, mainly re-equipping of the various classes.

#### *Institutions*

The total cost of operating Institutions rose by \$536,709 and of this figure the salary component was \$479,231. The effect of salary rises and new staff were the cause of significant increase. During the year Bridgewater opened additional cottages, involving the appointment of additional staff. Also McCall Centre was operational for a full year. The operations of these two Institutions also affected the normal operating costs and increased expenditure in this area by \$57,478.

#### *Burial of Indigents*

A carry over of accounts from 1970/71, an increase in claims and an increase in Burial Contract Rates, all led to an increase in expenditure in this item.

#### *Maintenance of Wards*

Full year operation of subsidy rises granted in October 1970 and the enlargement of the Group Home Scheme are the main causes for increased expenditure in this area.



#### Maintenance of Migrant Children

Expenditure in this item has remained steady over the last two years.

#### Payments to Women and Outdoor Relief

Pension rises in October 1971, and April 1972, and the continuing upward trend of women applying for assistance in this area are the cause of the increase of \$720,149 in this item.

#### Unemployment Relief

The downturn in the economy caused an increase in the numbers seeking financial assistance under this category.

#### Adoption of Children

A rise in hospital charges; the number of babies becoming available for adoption and subsequent delays in placing of the babies are the causes for the increase in costs of this item.

#### Revenue

Total Revenue for the year amounted to \$306,352, an increase of \$25,863.

The major reason for the increase was the continued increase in recovered assistance payments which followed the higher number of people receiving assistance.

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

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
	\$	\$	\$
Maintenance of Wards .....	12,873	4,455	8,548
Maintenance of Aboriginal Wards	647	1,116	1,263
Recoverable Financial Assistance	13,409	21,037	4,551
	<u>26,929</u>	<u>26,608</u>	<u>14,362</u>

#### Trust Funds

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

1971/72	1970/71
\$	\$
37,504	37,377

#### Savings Bank Funds

Deductions from wages by employers of Wards under the terms of Service Agreements received for banking purposes:—

	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts .....	75	.....	.....
Balance as at June 30 .....	2,432	1,580	1,242

Other remittances received for banking purposes:—

	1969/70	1970/71	1971/72
	\$	\$	\$
Receipts .....	3,319	2,990	2,181
Balance as at June 30 .....	15,766	17,215	19,163

## STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1972

	Expenditure 1970/71		Expenditure 1971/72		Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Administration—						
Salaries—						
Head Office (Clerical Division) ....	361,424	....	485,136	....	....	....
Children's Court ....	31,613	....	33,179	....	....	....
Telephones ....	20,187		14,023			
Printing ....	13,058		11,494			
Miscellaneous Expenses ....	40,345		58,653			
		466,627		602,485	135,858	
2. Field Activities—						
Salaries—Field Division ....	549,441		743,521			
Telephones—Departmental and District Offices	21,264		27,938			
Upkeep of Departmental Vehicles ....	23,342		39,760			
Mileage and Travelling Allowances ....	67,714		71,740			
Parole Classes for Delinquents ....	4,062		8,017			
Honorary Probation Officers (Mileage, etc.) ....	652		1,127			
		666,475		892,103	225,628	
3. Institutions—						
Child Welfare Reception Home—						
Wages ....	145,937		178,838			
Other ....	78,374		66,613			
Hillston Farm School—						
Wages ....	206,805		260,218			
Other ....	48,788		43,333			
Riverbank Reformatory—						
Wages ....	215,165		267,315			
Other ....	42,121		41,919			
Child Welfare Laundry—						
Wages ....	17,694		18,917			
Other ....	6,152		6,175			
Tudor Lodge Hostel—						
Wages ....	6,351		8,200			
Other ....	8,528		7,363			
Stuart House Hostel—						
Wages ....	5,406		7,041			
Other ....	4,878		5,891			
Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre—						
Wages ....	274,439		324,830			
Other ....	53,764		56,350			
Watson Lodge Hostel—						
Wages ....	25,430		32,729			
Other— ....	6,861		6,656			
Fourteen Hostel—						
Wages ....	4,752		5,254			
Other ....	5,074		5,374			
Bridgewater Care and Assessment Centre—						
Wages ....	178,022		328,338			
Other ....	39,820		93,023			
Nyandi Girls' Treatment Centre—						
Wages ....	184,547		222,315			
Other ....	32,515		34,542			
McCall Remedial Centre—						
Wages ....	19,252		109,036			
Other ....	1,597		22,537			
Katanning Hostel—						
Wages ....	....		....			
Other ....	110		98			
Coogee Hostel—						
Wages ....	....		....			
Other ....	3,814		....			
		1,616,196		2,152,905	636,709	
4. Burial of Indigents—						
Funeral Expenses ....	8,137		13,526			
Coffins Supplied to Outstations ....	1,495		1,090			
		9,632		14,616	4,984	
5. Maintenance of Wards—						
In Private Institutions ....	376,374		375,529			
Boarded Out with Families ....	682,686		838,026			
		1,059,060		1,213,555	154,495	
6. Maintenance of Migrant Children—						
In Private Institutions ....	1,815		....			
Boarded Out with Families ....	3,133		4,913			
		4,948		4,913	....	35
7. Payments to Women and Outdoor Relief—						
Cash Assistance—Ration Orders—						
Clothing ....	867,945		1,580,631			
Other (Fares, School Books, etc.) ....	36,325		43,788			
		904,270		1,624,419	720,149	
8. Unemployment Relief—						
Cash Assistance—Ration Orders ....	28,574		70,507			
Other ....	221		373		42,085	
		28,795		70,880		
9. Adoption of Children ....	62,220		83,797		21,577	
		62,220		83,797		
Gross Expenditure ....	....	4,818,223		6,659,673	1,841,485	35
REVENUE						
1. Maintenance of Wards ....		67,169		50,751		
2. Recoverable Assistance (Welfare and Assist-		150,170		185,114		
ance Act) ....		63,150		70,487		
3. Other Revenue ....						
GROSS REVENUE ....		280,489		306,352	25,863	
NET EXPENDITURE ....		4,537,734		6,353,321	1,815,587	



## GENERAL STATISTICS

The statistics relating to offences by children dealt with by the Children's Court and other details related thereto, which appear in the following tables, have been systematically gathered from standardised informative reports on each child appearing before a Children's Court and collated by use of the Government computer, with the co-operation of the staff of the Computer Centre.

### List of Tables and Graphs

Table	1	Number and disposition of children under notice of the Department.
Table	2	Juvenile Crime—cases appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia during the past three years.
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Graph	2	Juvenile Crime—numbers of children appearing in Children's Courts during the past three years and in 1960-61.
Graph	3	Juvenile Crime—Aboriginal and European children appearing in Children's Courts during the past three years.
Graph	4	Juvenile Crime—Court decisions on cases appearing in Children's Courts for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1972.
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Graph	5	Juvenile Misbehaviour—Cases appearing by age.
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Graph	7	Juvenile Misbehaviour—Departmental Placement.
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## STATISTICS CONCERNING JUVENILE CRIME, JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR AND CHILD NEGLECT

### Juvenile Crime

The figures for this year show a slight downward trend after two years in which there was substantial increases. At this stage the reason for the reduction is not apparent. (See Table 2.)

The increase in the percentage of girls charged is still in evidence. (See graph 4.) In 1970-71, 17 per cent. of the children charged were females, and in the current year it is 18 per cent. in spite of the slight reduction in numbers.

The trend shown in the past 2 years, which indicated an increase in the numbers of Aboriginal and part-Aboriginal children charged, is still in evidence. (See graph 3.)

### Juvenile Misbehaviour (See Table 4)

There has been an increase in the number of children appearing before the Children's Court in this category. In 1970-71, there were 46 boys and 136 girls for a total of 182, compared to 49 boys and 170 girls totalling 219 for this year.

### Child Neglect (See Table 5)

Here again there is an increase in the number of children dealt with by the Courts. In the previous year, 121 boys and 107 girls—228 in all—whereas for this year the figures are 141 boys, 143 girls, totalling 284 children.

TABLE I

STATUS, NUMBERS AND PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN UNDER NOTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT AT 30th JUNE, 1972.

#### 1. Wards—

##### 1.1 In Departmental Institutions:

Child Welfare Reception Home	35
Longmore	63
Bridgewater	70
Riverbank	44
Hillston	62
Nyandi	32
McCall Centre	16
	<hr/> 322

##### 1.2 In Departmental Hostels:

Tudor Lodge (Boys)	10
Fourteen (Boys)	8
Stuart House (Girls)	6
Watson Lodge (Girls)	9
Native Welfare Department Hostels	23
	<hr/> 56

##### 1.3 In Denominational Children's Institutions:

Roman Catholic	289
Anglican	5
Presbyterian	41
Salvation Army	25
Methodist	54
Church of Christ	95
Baptist	48
Miscellaneous Missions in Southern Areas of the State	20
Miscellaneous Northern Missions (under Native Welfare supervision)	95
	<hr/> 672

##### 1.4 In non-Denominational Children's Institutions

1.5 In Foster Homes	127
1.6 In Private Board	1,342
1.7 In the Care of Parents or Relatives	338
1.8 In Hospital	1,850
1.9 In Gaol	68
1.10 Absconded or Missing	43
1.11 In Itinerant Employment	53
	<hr/> 36

#### TOTAL WARDS

	<hr/> 4,907
2. Migrant Children—	
In Institutions	28
In Board and Employment	104
	<hr/> 132
3. Children on Probation or Supervision	796
4. Children under 6 years of age—	
(i) Placed privately with foster parent or institutions	330
(ii) In nurseries or other child minding centres	1,675
	<hr/> 2,005
5. Children under guardianship pending adoption	726
6. Children in families receiving monetary assistance	5,620
	<hr/> 14,186
GRAND TOTAL	



TABLE 2  
JUVENILE CRIME

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

		1969-70			1970-71			1971-72		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Offences against property....	(A)	4,538	509	5,047	6,941	1,058	7,999	6,556	817	7,373
	(B)	2,215	342	2,557	2,895	565	3,460	2,618	545	3,163
	(C)	1,746	291	2,037	2,059	442	2,501	1,931	403	2,334
Offences against person ....	(A)	176	3	179	197	13	210	239	19	258
	(B)	153	1	154	168	13	181	198	15	213
	(C)	113	1	114	123	9	132	144	11	155
Offences against good order	(A)	933	133	1,066	1,084	213	1,297	1,321	231	1,552
	(B)	424	91	515	474	114	588	555	180	735
	(C)	319	64	383	391	80	461	410	117	527
Totals ....	(A)	5,647	645	6,292	8,222	1,284	9,506	8,116	1,067	9,183
	(B)	2,792	434	3,226	3,537	692	4,229	3,371	740	4,111
	(C)	2,178	356	2,534	2,563	531	3,094	2,485	531	3,016

(A) Number of offences for which children were charged.

(B) Number of child appearances (including appearances of children who appeared on two or more occasions.)

(C) Number of individual children concerned.

**Offences against Property:** Includes stealing and receiving (largest category); breaking, entering and stealing; unlawful use of motor vehicles; wilful damage; false pretences.

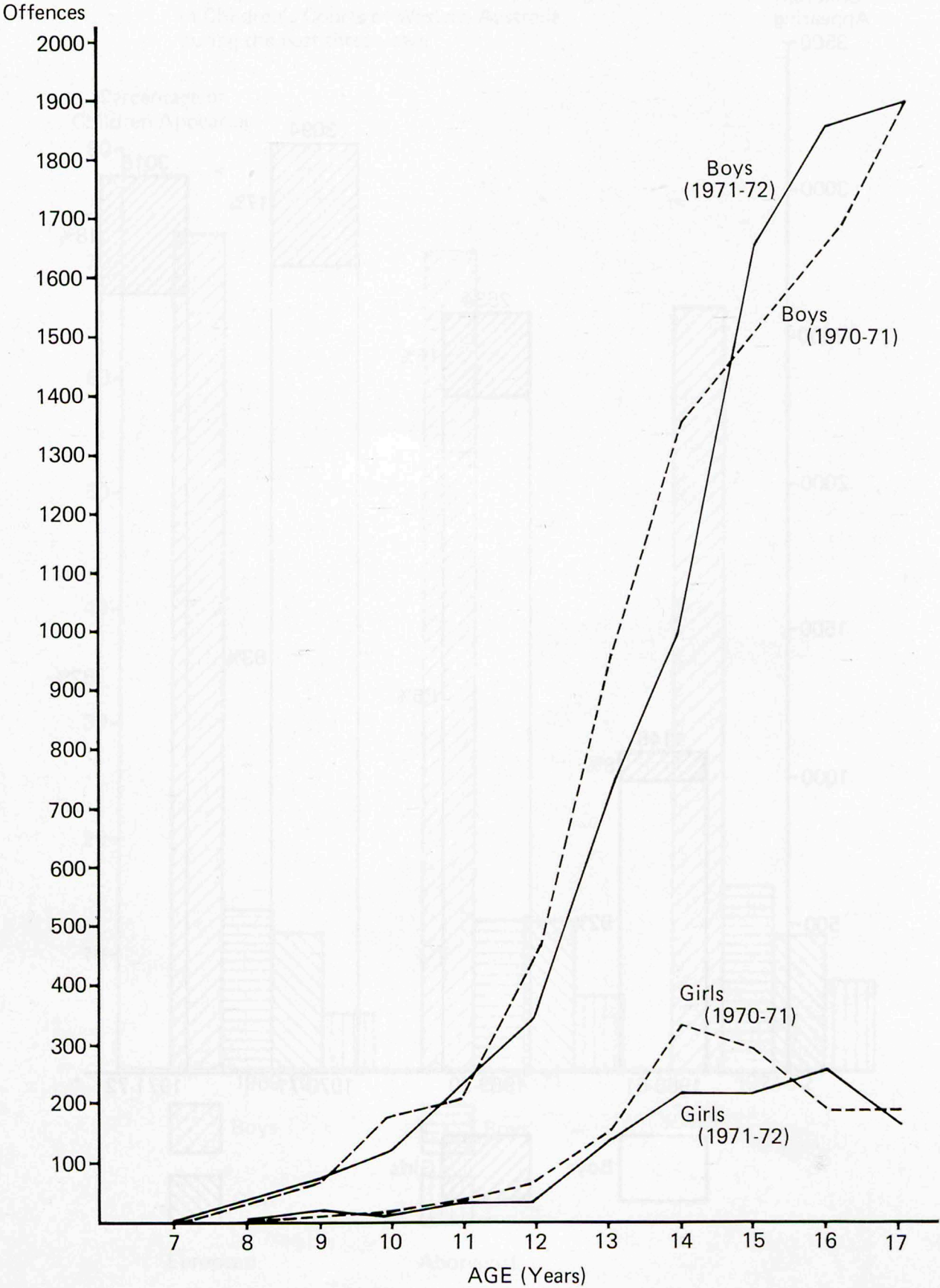
**Offences Against the Person:** Includes assault; sex offences; robbery with violence.

**Offences Against Good Order:** Includes disorderly conduct; false name and address; resisting arrest; liquor; betting and traffic offences.

GRAPH 1

JUVENILE CRIME

Numbers of offences with which children were charged in terms of the children's ages (Children's Courts in Western Australia for the past two years).

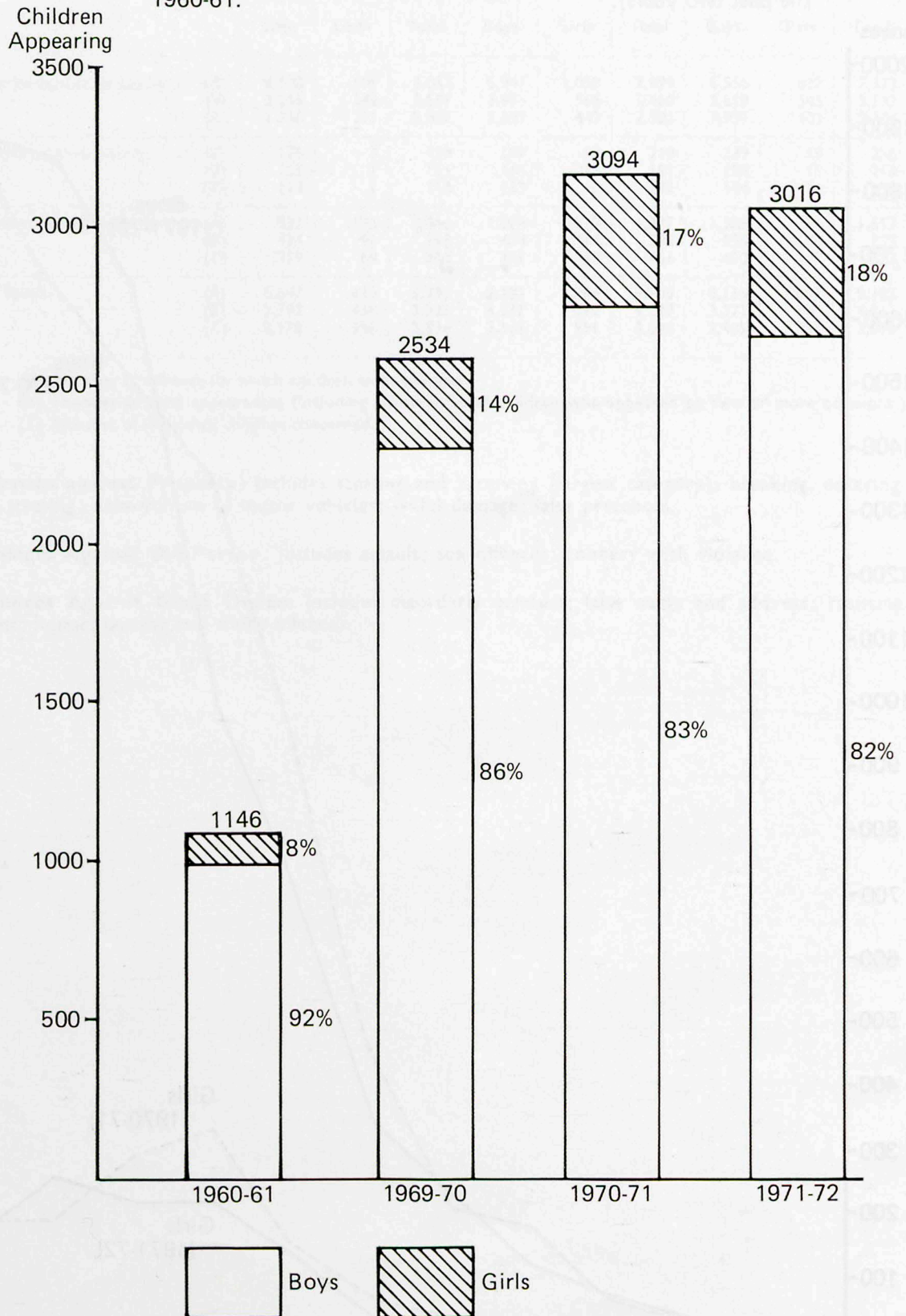




GRAPH 2

JUVENILE CRIME

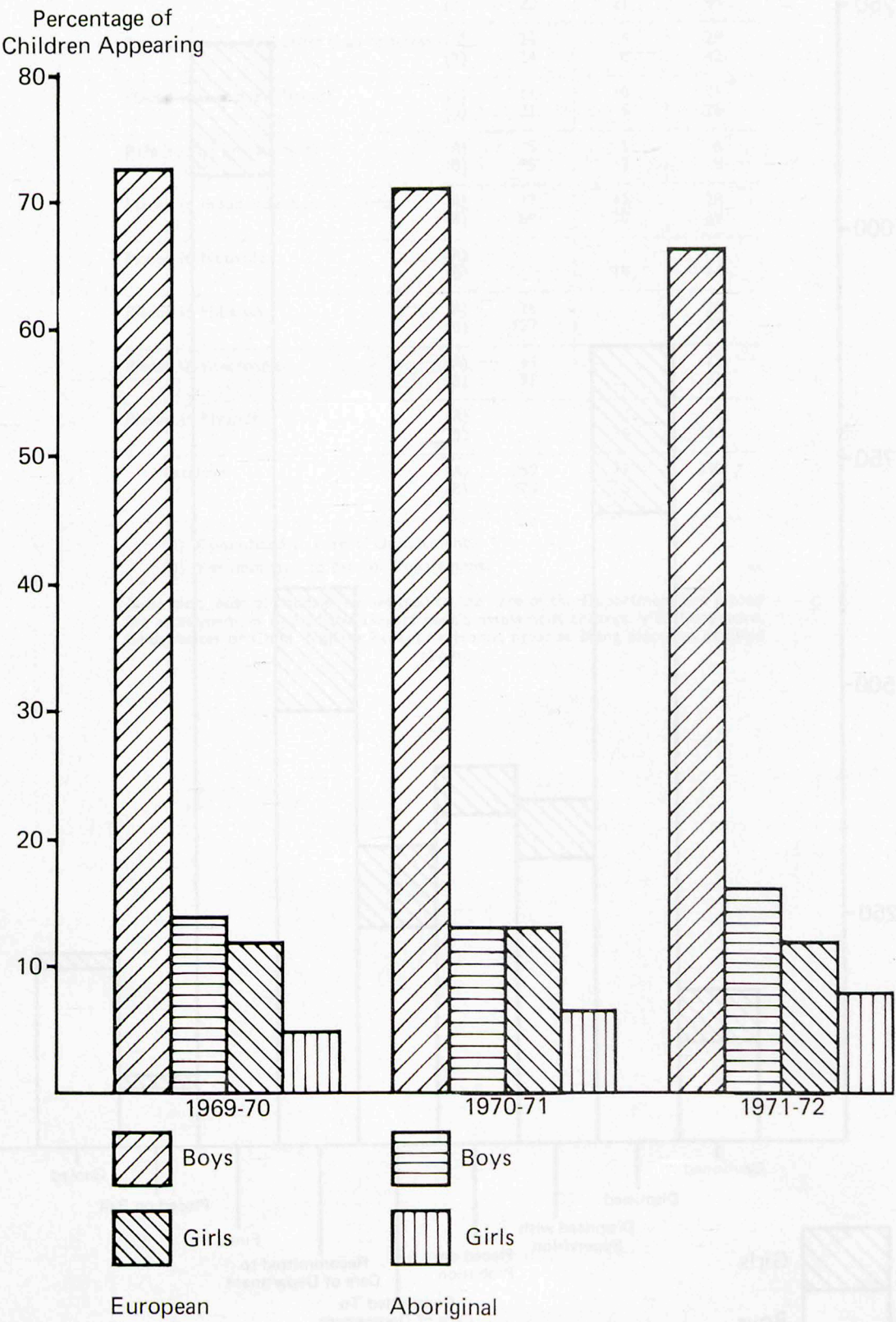
Number of Children appearing in Children's Courts during the past three years and in 1960-61.



GRAPH 3

JUVENILE CRIME

Aboriginal and European children appearing  
in Children's Courts of Western Australia  
during the past three years.





GRAPH 4

JUVENILE CRIME

Court decisions on cases appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia (at which Departmental Officers were present) for 12 months ended 30th June, 1972.

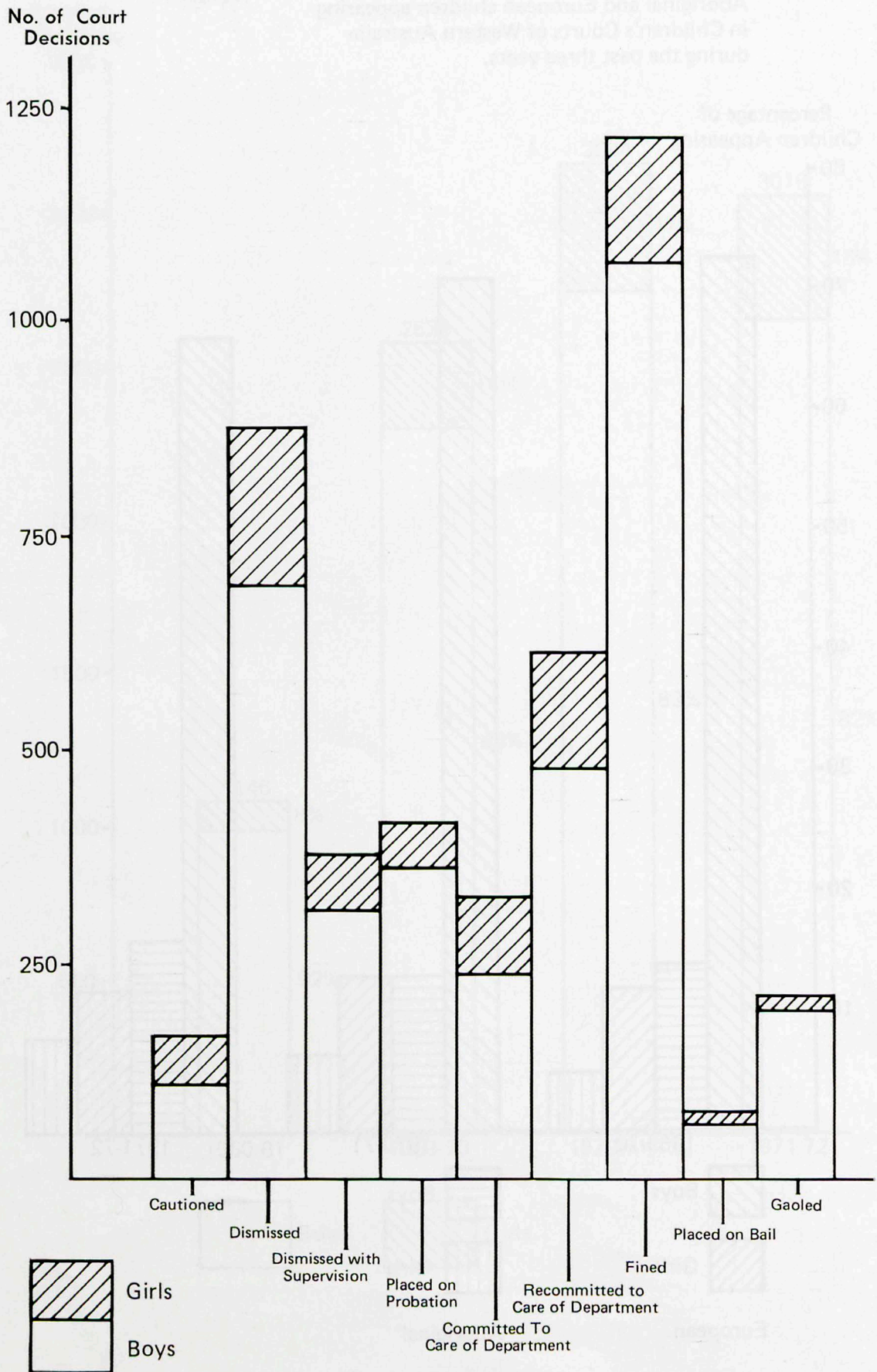


TABLE 3  
JUVENILE CRIME

Departmental placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Child Welfare Department for the year ended 30th June, 1972.

	Male	Female	Total
Released to Parents .... (A) 150 34 184 (B) 108 48 156			
Released to Relatives .... (A) 13 6 19 (B) 23 21 44			
Released to persons other than relatives (A) 24 5 29 (B) 34 8 42			
Placed with Foster Parents .... (A) 11 10 21 (B) 21 5 26			
Released to Employment .... (A) 5 1 6 (B) 5 3 8			
Placed in independent institutions .... (A) 17 11 28 (B) 69 20 89			
Placed in Neuville .... (A) ..... 1 1 (B) ..... 14 14			
Placed in Hillston .... (A) 26 ..... 26 (B) 122 ..... 122			
Placed in Riverbank .... (A) 13 ..... 13 (B) 91 ..... 91			
Placed in Nyandi .... (A) ..... 3 3 (B) ..... 36 36			
Totals .... (A) 259 71 330 (B) 473 155 628			

(A) Committed to care of Department.

(B) Recommitted to care of Department.

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



TABLE 4

JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR

Cases of Juvenile Misbehaviour appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1972.

Reason for Appearance	10 yrs			11 yrs			12 yrs			13 yrs			14 yrs			15 yrs			16 yrs			17 yrs			Totals		
	B G T			B G T			B G T			B G T			B G T			B G T			B G T			B G T			B G T		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Uncontrolled	1	...	1	2	...	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	6	2	6	8	1	2	3	...	1	1	10	16	26
Neglect (generally uncontrolled)	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	6	6	2	2	8	...	14	14	5	14	19	2	13	15	...	4	5	12	57	69
Neglect (involving sexual misconduct)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	8	...	11	12	...	21	21	1	18	19	...	8	8	2	67	69
Truancy	3	...	3	...	1	...	3	6	...	8	9	17	5	9	14	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	23	42
Breaking Terms of Probation	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	2	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	8
Possession of Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Totals	4	...	4	3	3	6	5	10	15	13	25	33	10	39	49	8	44	52	4	36	40	2	13	15	49	170	219

B ... Boys appearing  
G ... Girls appearing  
T ... Totals appearing

TABLE 5

CHILD NEGLECT

Cases of Parental Neglect and Destitution appearing in Children's Courts in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1972.

Reason for Appearance	Age																	TOTAL	
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		17
Parental Neglect	24	9	5	8	12	9	6	4	8	6	6	6	5	3	5		2		118
	25	10	8	6	11	8	6	10	8	6	6	2	4	8	7	6	1		132
Destitution	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	1					23
	3	2	1												1				11
TOTALS	25	10	6	11	15	10	7	7	10	8	7	8	6	4	5	5	2		141
	28	12	9	6	11	9	7	11	8	6	6	2	5	8	8	6	1		143
TOTAL	53	22	15	17	26	19	14	18	18	14	13	10	11	12	13	6	3		284

TABLE 6

**JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR AND CHILD NEGLECT**

Court decisions with regard to cases of Juvenile Misbehaviour, Neglect and Destitution in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1972.

Court Decision	Male	Female	Total
Cautioned .....	....	....	....
Dismissed with Supervision .....	2	1	3
Placed on Probation .....	10	35	45
Committed to care of Department .....	175	273	448
Recommitted to care of Department .....	3	4	7
Fined .....	1	2	3
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>191</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>506</b>

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

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

TABLE 7

**JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR AND CHILD NEGLECT**

Departmental placement of children committed and re-committed to the care of the Child Welfare Department for juvenile misbehaviour, parental neglect or destitution in Western Australia for the year ended 30th June, 1972.

Departmental Disposal	Male	Female	Total
Released to parents .....	30	82	112
Released to relatives .....	12	28	40
Released to other than relatives .....	10	26	36
Placed with Foster Parent .....	69	80	149
Released to employment .....	....	2	2
Placed in independent institutions .....	56	47	103
Placed in Neuville .....	....	10	10
Placed in Hillston .....	....	....	....
Placed in Nyandi .....	....	4	4
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>177</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>456</b>

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

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



TABLE 8  
MINISTERIAL COMMITTALS

Children placed under the care of the Child Welfare Department by means of Ministerial Commitment for the year ended 30th June, 1972.

	Age																	Total Boys	Total Girls	Total	
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				17
Section 47A— Boys Girls	3 .....	1 .....	1 .....	1 .....	1 .....	.....	.....	2 .....	.....	1 .....	.....	.....	1 .....	1 .....	1 .....	1 .....	1 .....	8 .....	9 .....	17	
Section 47B— Boys Girls	2 .....	1 .....	.....	.....	1 .....	.....	.....	2 .....	1 .....	1 .....	3 .....	.....	1 .....	1 .....	.....	2 .....	2 .....	9 .....	10 .....	19	
Section 47C— Boys Girls	6 12 .....	3 .....	3 2 .....	1 2 .....	4 1 .....	4 .....	2 .....	1 2 .....	3 .....	4 3 .....	2 1 .....	2 2 .....	2 1 .....	1 .....	3 2 .....	3 1 .....	1 .....	41 .....	35 .....	77	
TOTALS	23	6	6	4	4	10	2	7	4	9	7	4	5	3	6	7	5	1	58	55	113

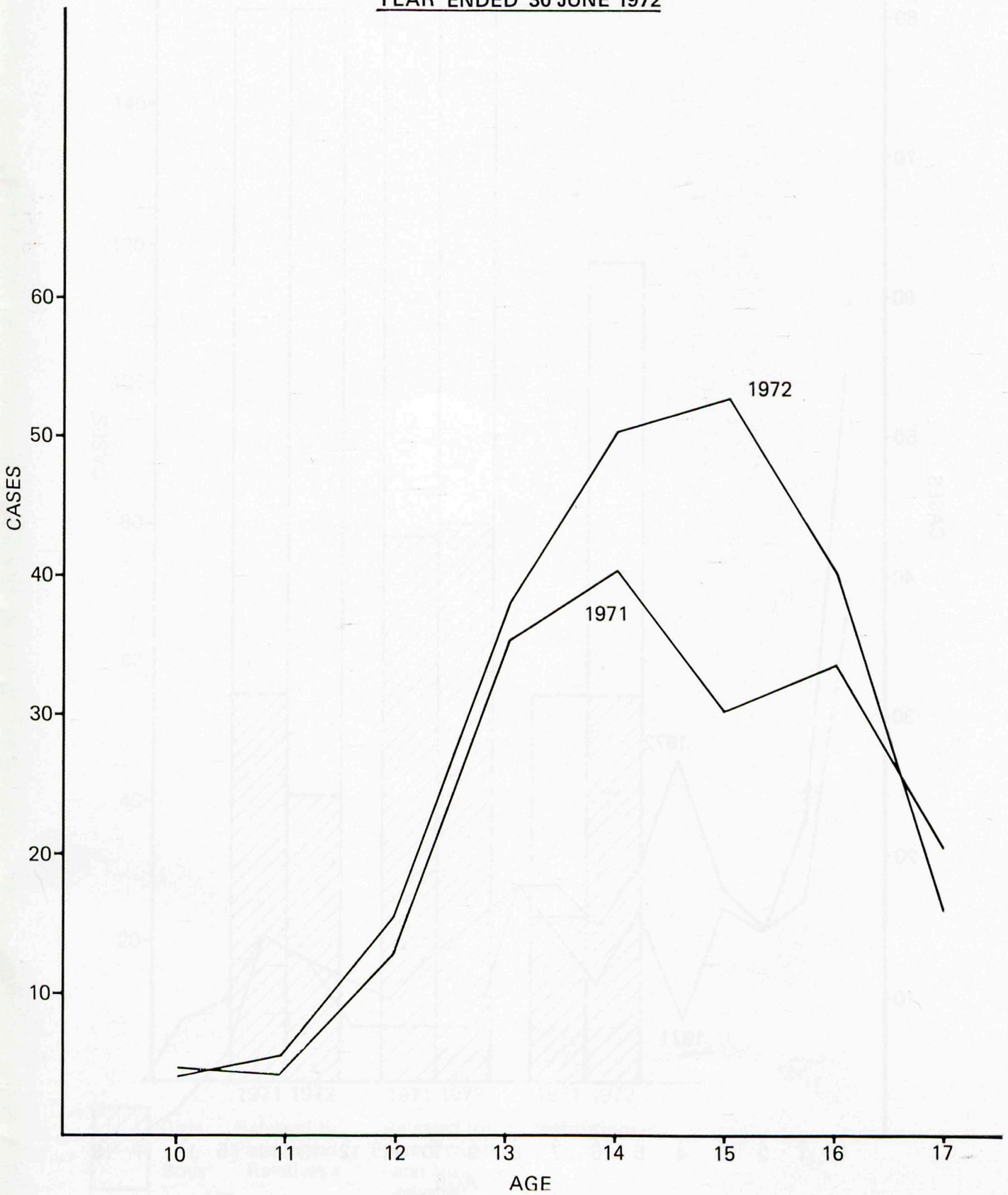
NOTE: These committals are authorised by the Hon. Minister by virtue of power given to him in accordance with Sections 47A, 47B and 47C of the Child Welfare Act, which provides for power to commit those cases which may not otherwise be committed.  
47A deals with children left by their parents in Institutions or with other persons and no maintenance.  
47B deals with children who have no legal guardians but who are not destitute.  
47C deals with children whose parents consider it is in the best interests of the children to be committed.

GRAPH 5

JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR

CASES APPEARING BY AGE

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1972



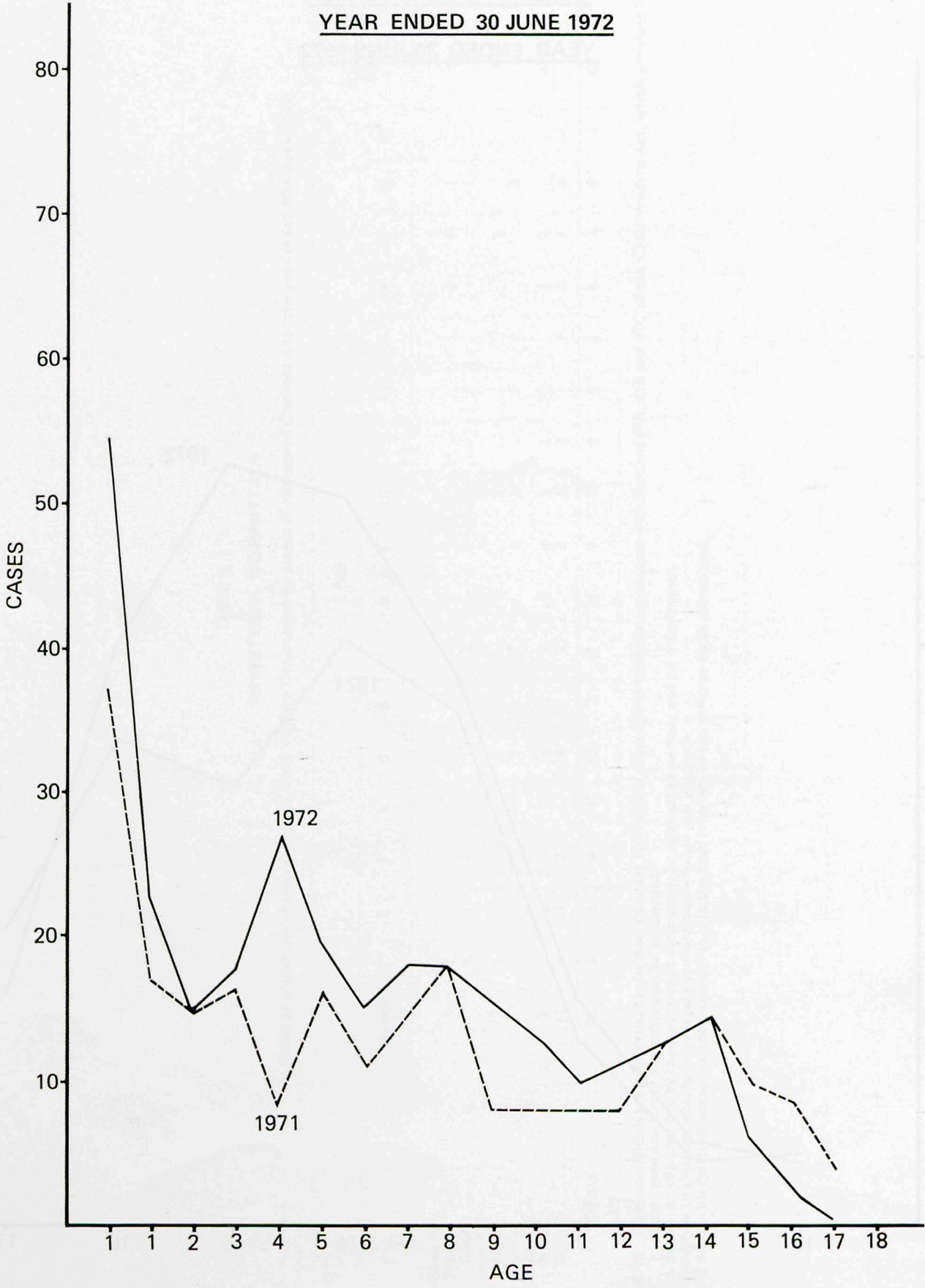


GRAPH 6

CHILD NEGLECT

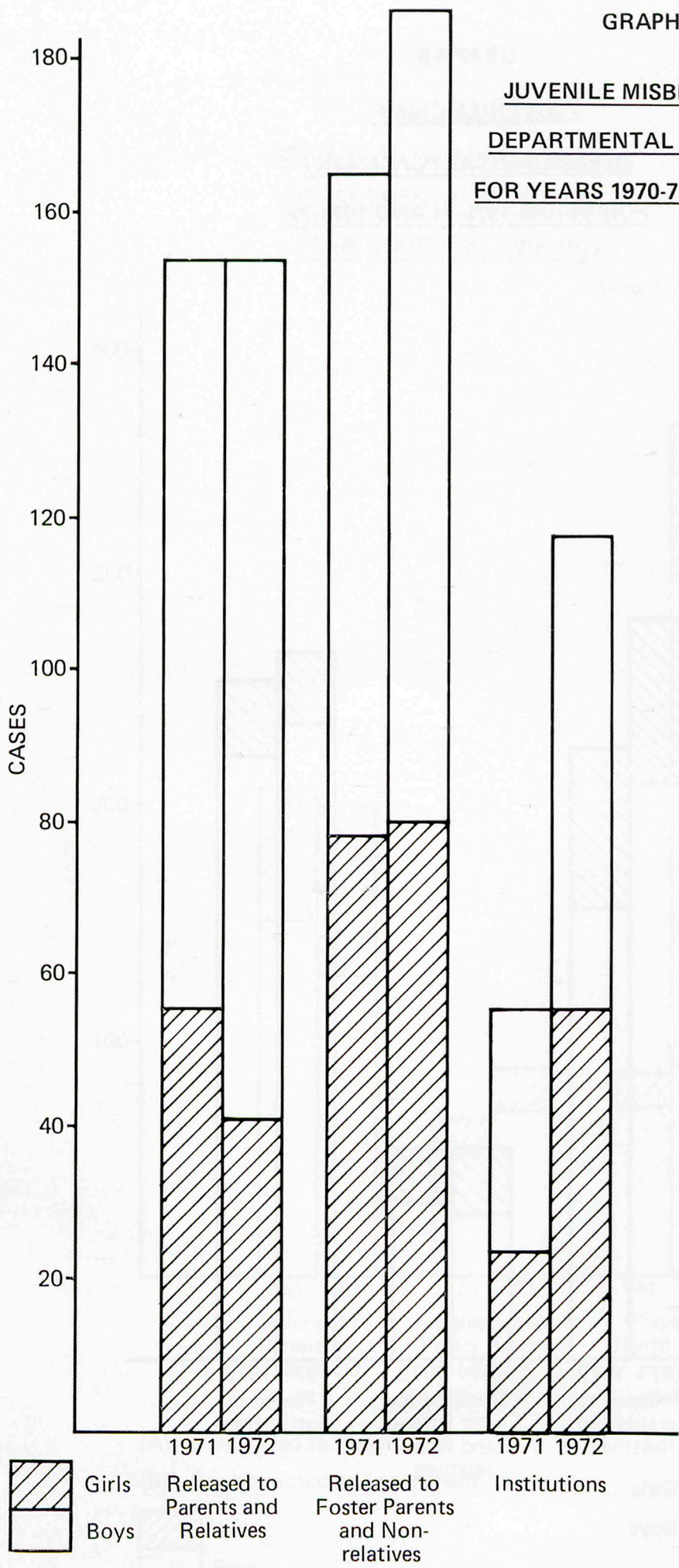
CASES APPEARING BY AGE

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1972



GRAPH 7

JUVENILE MISBEHAVIOUR  
DEPARTMENTAL PLACEMENT  
FOR YEARS 1970-71 AND 1971-72



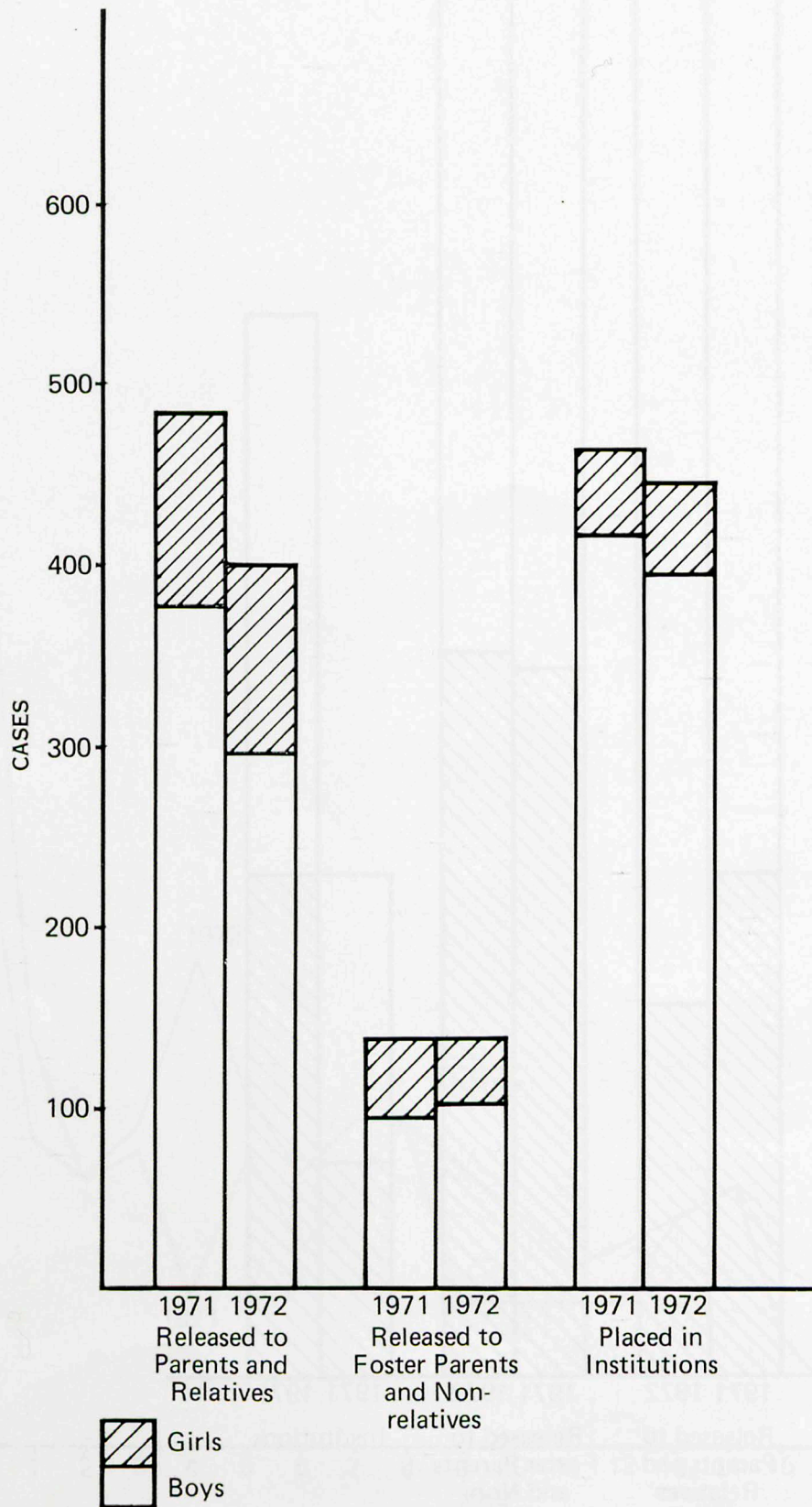


GRAPH 8

JUVENILE CRIME

DEPARTMENTAL PLACEMENT

FOR YEARS 1970-71 AND 1971-72



GRAPH 9

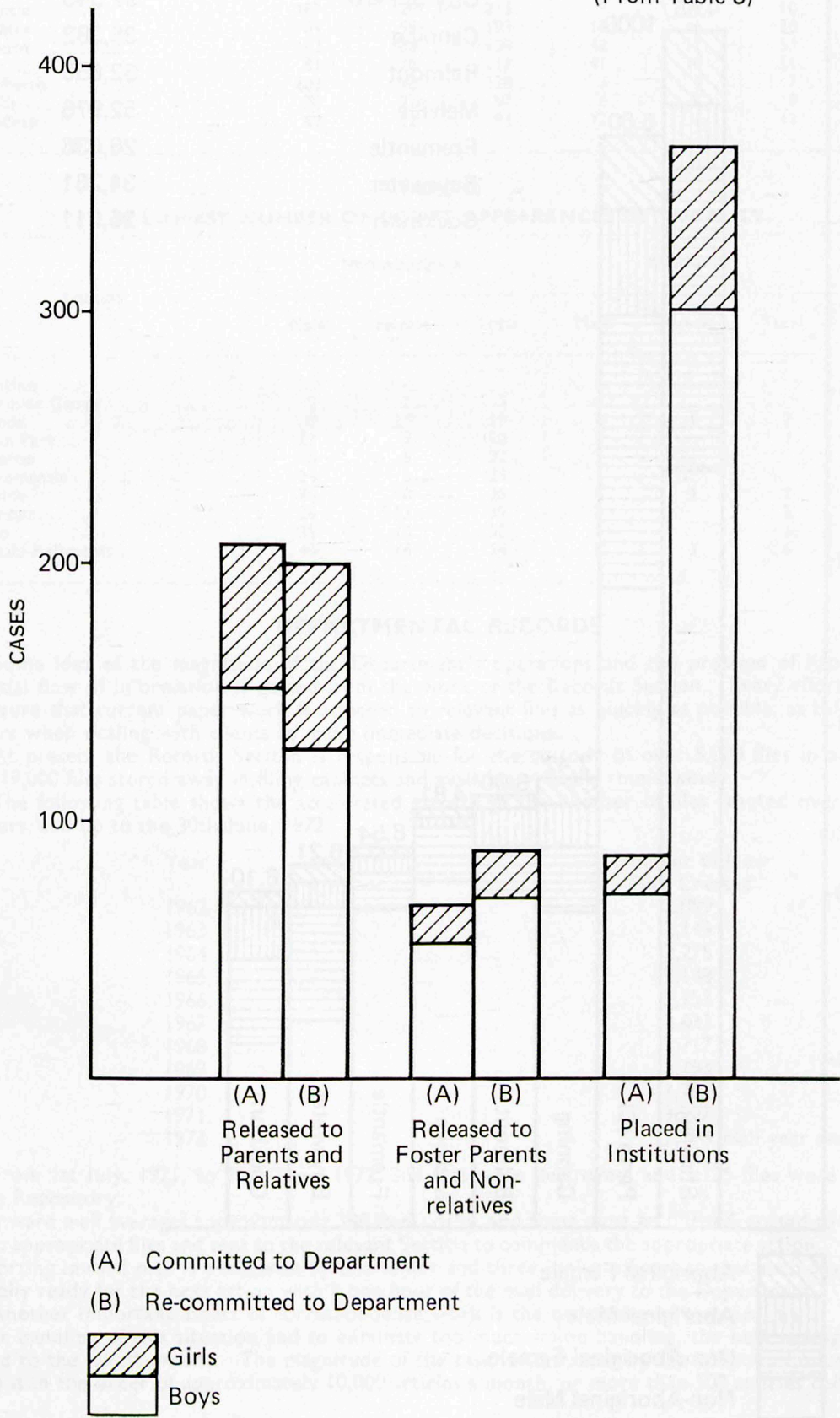
JUVENILE CRIME – 1972

COMMITTAL AND RECOMMITTAL

DEPARTMENTAL DISPOSALS

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1972

(From Table 3)





GRAPH 10

EIGHT HIGHEST NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES BY LOCALITY

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1972

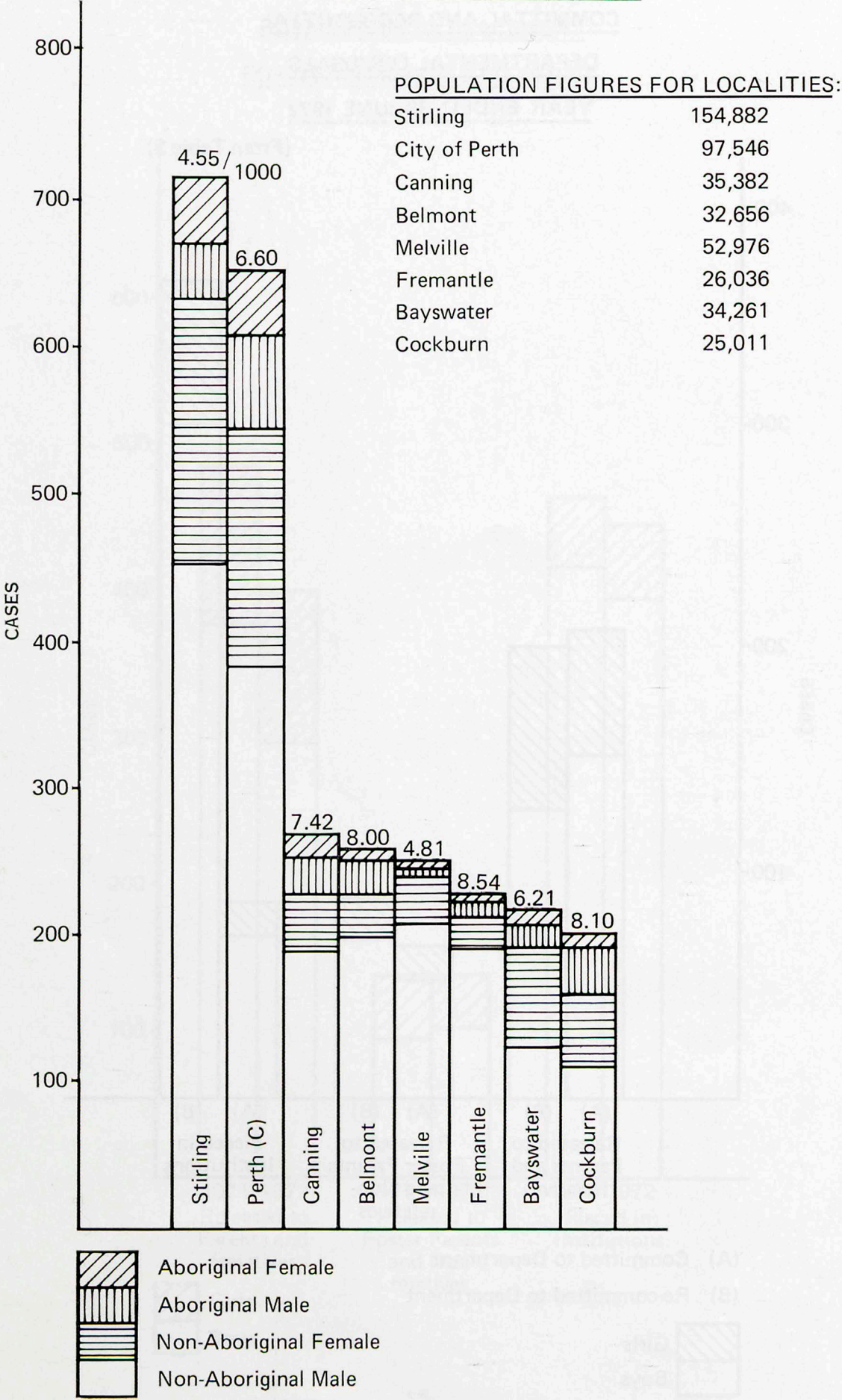




TABLE 9  
12 HIGHEST NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES BY LOCALITY

Locality	Non-Aboriginal			Aboriginal			Totals
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Stirling .....	440	189	629	33	44	77	706
Perth (C) .....	378	139	517	73	54	127	644
Canning .....	176	51	227	21	18	39	266
Belmont .....	185	47	232	17	13	30	262
Melville .....	207	43	250	2	3	5	255
Fremantle .....	187	26	213	9	1	10	223
Bayswater .....	134	59	193	14	6	20	213
Cockburn .....	112	38	150	42	11	53	203
Swan .....	81	30	111	41	10	51	162
South Perth .....	102	36	138	3	4	7	145
Gosnells .....	70	27	97	6	3	9	106
Bassendean .....	69	22	91	12	1	13	104

TABLE 10  
10 LOWEST NUMBER OF COURT APPEARANCES BY LOCALITY

Locality	Non-Aboriginal			Aboriginal			Totals
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Serpentine .....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Peppermint Grove .....	2	1	3	.....	.....	.....	3
Nedlands .....	8	11	19	1	1	2	21
Mosman Park .....	11	9	20	1	.....	1	21
Wanneroo .....	16	6	22	.....	.....	.....	22
East Fremantle .....	24	1	25	.....	.....	.....	25
Cottesloe .....	26	10	36	1	1	2	38
Claremont .....	26	13	39	2	.....	2	41
Subiaco .....	35	15	50	1	.....	1	51
Armada-Kelmscott .....	40	14	54	3	3	6	60

### DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS

Some idea of the magnitude of the Department's operations and the problem of handling the essential flow of information is gained from the work of the Records Section. Every effort is made to ensure that current paper work is attached to relevant files as quickly as possible, as this enables officers when dealing with clients to make immediate decisions.

At present the Records Section is responsible for the custody of over 5,000 files in action and over 19,000 files stored away in filing cabinets and available virtually immediately.

The following table shows the accelerated growth of the number of files created over the past 10 years, and up to the 30th June, 1972.

Year	Number of New Files Created
1962 .....	2,099
1963 .....	2,143
1964 .....	2,275
1965 .....	2,148
1966 .....	2,153
1967 .....	2,623
1968 .....	2,717
1969 .....	2,793
1970 .....	3,797
1971 .....	3,907
1972 .....	2,398 Half year only

From 1st July, 1971, to 30th June, 1972, 363 files were destroyed, and 1,125 files were sent out to the Repository.

Inward mail averages approximately 380 items daily, and these must be opened, sorted to Sections, and to appropriate files and sent to the relevant Section to commence the appropriate action. Opening and sorting inward mail is dealt with by one senior and three junior officers so that each day's mail is normally ready for the next action within one hour of the mail delivery to the Department.

Another important aspect of correspondence work is the processing of outward mail. To speed up the handling of this situation and to eliminate too much stamp handling, the bulk postage system is used to the fullest extent. The magnitude of the task is illustrated by the volume of outward mail which is in the order of approximately 10,000 articles a month, or more than 500 articles daily.





## WELFARE AND ASSISTANCE ACT, 1961





## REPORT ON WELFARE AND ASSISTANCE ACT, 1961

For the Period 1st July, 1971 to 30th June, 1972

This Act regulates the function of the Child Welfare Department in administering relief to or on behalf of indigent persons. The Minister, under this Act, is empowered to grant financial assistance to or on behalf of indigent persons and to provide for their transport. Provisions are also made for the recovery of moneys advanced and expended for such purposes.

The Act preserves the discretion of the Minister for Community Welfare to decide the scales of monetary assistance which shall generally obtain, and to vary scales from time to time for groups of beneficiaries, or for single persons.

The Act empowers the officers of the Department to make enquiries into the circumstances of applicants for help and to enforce the repayment of it by those who have that responsibility. With the introduction of this Act it has been possible to increase the Department's control of recovery of assistance granted, from parents who deliberately fail to support their families.

Assistance to deserted wives, wives whose husbands are in prison and unmarried mothers account for the greatest part of assistance of \$1,624,420 rendered during the year.

Under the provision of the Commonwealth State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act an amount of \$1,161,745 was recouped from the Commonwealth Government, making total expenditure before recoup of \$2,786,165.

The rates of assistance were increased in October and April, following increases granted to pensioners, and a table showing the increase is attached.

During this financial year there has been a large increase in the number of families seeking assistance from the Department. By far the greater percentage of these applications are from deserted wives and unmarried mothers.

The following table shows applications granted in the various categories and those on assistance at the end of this financial year compared with the previous year.

Category	1970-71		1971-72	
	Applications Granted	Number Receiving Assistance on June 30	Applications Granted	Number Receiving Assistance on June 30
Deserted Wives	1,274	857	1,510	1,282
Unmarried Mothers	463	365	610	742
Husbands in Gaol	272	79	463	164
Widows, Divorcees, Aged or Invalid Pensioners	98	175	155	185
Foster Mothers	103	87	255	153
Special	125	7	36	25
TOTAL	2,335	1,570	3,029	2,551

Expenditure in these two years is shown hereunder with the amount recovered.

	1970/1971	1971/1972
<b>Expenditure</b>	\$	\$
Financial Assistance to Indigent Persons	904,270	1,624,420
Unemployment Relief	28,795	70,880
	933,065	1,695,300
<b>Revenue by Recovery</b>	150,169	185,114

### WELFARE AND ASSISTANCE ACT, 1961

Variations in Rates Paid to Monetary Assistance

Cases During the Period 1st July, 1971 to 30th June, 1972

Unit	14/4/71	13/10/71	26/4/72
	\$	\$	\$
1	14.25	15.25	16.00
2	22.50	25.75	26.75
3	26.00	30.25	31.25
4	31.50	36.75	37.75
5	35.00	41.25	42.25
6	38.50	45.75	46.75
7	42.00	50.25	51.25
8	45.50	54.75	55.75
9	49.00	59.25	60.25



Payments—

Receipts—





