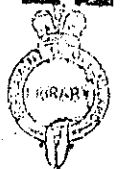


One in ten W illegitimate

Smiley
Mail 12/7/67

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ADOPTION LISTS ARE SHRINKING

One in 10 births in Queensland is illegitimate. Almost any girl, in the wrong set of circumstances, can become an unmarried mother. Social workers throughout Australia are concerned at shrinking waiting lists of foster parents for illegitimate children.

These facts were given yesterday at the Council of Social Service of Queensland seminar on the unmarried mother and her child, held at Queensland University.

The Justice Minister (Dr. Delamothé) said: "Appallingly, one out of 10 births in Queensland is illegitimate."

\$50,000 Pay to youth groups

16 JUN 1967

16/6/67

DISTRIBUTION of \$50,000 to 29 youth organisations was announced yesterday by the Minister in charge of Child Welfare (Mr. Herbert).

- The grants are:
- Adventist Youth Society, \$500;
 - Bardon Youth Club, \$400;
 - Department of Christian Education, Baptist Union of Queensland, \$1500;
 - Boys' Brigade, \$1000;
 - Boy Scouts Association, Queensland branch, \$5000;
 - Chernside and District Youth Club, \$400;
 - Churches of Christ in Queensland, Youth and Christian Education Department, \$800;
 - Church of England, Diocesan Youth Organisation Committee, \$6000;
 - Girls' Brigade, \$1000;
 - Girl Guides' Association of Queensland, \$4000;
 - Inala Co-operative Parish, \$500;
 - Indooroopilly and District Youth Club, \$500;
 - Junior Red Cross (Queensland Division), \$500;
 - Kingsway Sporting Club, \$500;
 - Leary Club of Brisbane, \$1000;
 - Lutheran Youth of Queensland, \$300;
 - Methodist Young People's Department, \$1500;
 - Mitchellton Youth Club, \$400;
 - Nundah and Districts Youth Club, \$500;
 - Oakey Avoca Youth National Fitness Club, \$80;
 - Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia in Queensland, \$3500;
 - Queensland Country Women's Association, \$2000;
 - Queensland Police Citizens' Youth Welfare Association, \$2000;
 - Roman Catholic Church (Young Christian Workers' Movement), Boys and Girls, \$5000;
 - Rural Youth Organisation of Queensland, \$2000;
 - St. John Ambulance Brigade, \$400;
 - Salvation Army Student Fellowship, \$220;
 - Y.M.C.A., \$3500;
 - Y.W.C.A., \$3000.

"Penther-brained people have propounded hare-brained solutions—increasing pressure for the licensing of prostitution or legalising abortion—but these are appalling suggestions."

"They deal with the results, and not the cause. Those who listened to Dr. Delamothé were not surprised by his statistics. Counsellors, ministers of religion, doctors, social workers and representatives from Brisbane homes for unmarried mothers attended the seminar."

Dr. Bertrand Klug, psychiatrist, said: "Almost any girl given the wrong set of circumstances could become an unmarried mother."

"The larger proportion of unwed mothers ends up having nervous breakdowns."

Dr. Klug had his own statistics.

Ex-maternal births between 1947 and 1966 increased by 210 per cent.

The increase in the under 16 years of age group in the period was 540 per cent.

What are the wrong set of circumstances? How does an ordinary girl become an unmarried mother?

"Social forces and a deep-seated psychological cause are usually the reason," Dr. Klug said.

They confuse

"We find a background of emotional deprivation with many of these girls."

"Often they're emotionally-starved girls who confuse sex with love."

Miss K. G. Lynne, of "Kookina," the Presbyterian home at Bradehill, thought the lack of religious teaching, and drink, drugs and loneliness were the cause of the trouble.

What sort of girls be-

come unmarried mothers?

"We've had student nurses, schoolgirls, teachers, telephonists, shop assistants, domestics," Miss Lynne said.

Brigadier W. Holdway, of "Boothville," the Salvation Army Home at Windsor, said 98 per cent of the girls now in the home had attended Sunday School or church as children.

Only five per cent had below average intelligence.

Parents love

Mother St. Liam, of the Holy Cross Home, Woolloowin, Miss M. Williams, of "Koinonia," the Methodist Home at Graceville, and Mrs. Bryan Ward, of the Anglican St. Mary's Home at Toowoong, described the girls as "sweet-wonderful" and said it was apparent that "most

of them had been, and are loved by their parents."

What happens to the children? According to Dr. Delamothé only 50 per cent are adopted, and 2684 illegitimate children have been born in Queensland in the past 11 months.

Mr. L. Hayes, a Life-Line counsellor, said overseas studies indicated it was preferable that illegitimate children be adopted.

"This requires counselling specialists."

How can the illegitimacy rate be reduced? Dr. Delamothé advocated awakening the public conscience to the true meaning of sex.

"The great problem is public apathy," he said.

Mr. Hayes said the oral contraceptive pill had not made any difference to the illegitimacy rate.

STATE AID TO SUB-NORMAL

THE State Government has agreed in principle to a new 50 per cent payment to the Queensland Sub-Normal Children's Welfare Association.

The Health Minister (Mr. Tooth) said yesterday that extra funds would go towards the cost of furnishing and equipping a residential unit being built.

He said the unit would accommodate sub-normal people attending the sheltered workshop at Galles.

"This will be the first residential accommodation in Australia for those attending a sheltered workshop," Mr. Tooth said. "A second is planned."

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500,000 TO aid
6 APR 1967
work for youth

STATE CABINET yesterday approved a \$50,000 allocation this financial year to Queensland youth organisations to extend their work for young people.

Youth clubs, societies and associations now could apply under a new scheme for grants, the Minister in charge of Child Welfare (Mr. Herbert) said yesterday.

He emphasised youth organisations associated either directly or indirectly with any political party would not be eligible for a grant.

Grant applications will close on May 15.

For training

Mr. Herbert said State Cabinet had decided this year's grants be confined to extension of leadership training. Allocation of preferences would be given to "parent bodies."

Mr. Herbert said smaller amounts would be allocated to individual groups so that they could send suitable young people to appropriate courses.

He said a committee had been appointed to consider

the applications and to make recommendations for individual allocations.

Cabinet also decided that only reputable and recognised organisations should receive grants and that there should be absolute discretion in admitting or refusing any application, without having to give a reason.

Mr. Herbert said that applications for the grants had to be made on the prescribed form copies of which were available on inquiry from the Department of Labor and Training, third floor, Treasury Building, Brisbane. Applications should be addressed to the Under Secretary of that Department.

He added that the manner in which the disbursement of future annual grants for the extension of youth activities will be made was being considered.

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**ADOPTION WORRY
ON ILLEGITIMACY**

S.M. 19/4/67
Boy babies 'bank up'

CHILD Welfare authorities in Queensland are concerned that baby boys could soon be left in orphanages for want of parents to adopt them.

The Minister in charge of Child Welfare (Mr. Herbert) said waiting lists had shortened to such an extent in the last two years that there was a danger of babies out-numbering prospective parents.

"This could occur if the illegitimacy rate continues," he said.

Mr. Herbert said the current waiting list for girls varied from six to 12 months, from the date of application to the date of placing the child in its new home. The waiting list for boys was from three to four months.

Most of the adopting parents want little girls. With boys banking up it becomes an embarrassment.

"The variations in waiting time among the girls and boys depended on matching, religion, education, personality and economic factors such as the number

of children already in the family.

Mr. Herbert said the factors causing the present situation were the increasing number of illegitimate births, the increased cost of living, the reduction in the size of the average family and in the size of houses, and the difficulties associated with running a home.

Approved

"Last year we approved 1398 adoptions, of which 74 were adoptions by relatives, 247 by the spouse, and 1077 by non-relatives. "The previous year there were 1268 adoption orders issued — 81 by relatives, 287 by the spouse, and 910 by non-relatives — and the year before that, the number was 1084; 58 by relatives, 210 by the spouse, and 816 by non-relatives.

He said the average time taken to vet an adopting couple was three months.

"The only children not normally adopted within two weeks of birth were certain children classed as "deferred adoptions."

Foster care

"All children for adoption are examined by specialist medical personnel. There are some children who suffer handicaps from infancy — some physical or other defects — who are not immediately available for adoption.

"They become suitable for foster care, with the

possibility of a future adoption. Every effort is made to find a home for these children.

"The Department is always anxious to hear from people who are able and willing to care for one of them."

Mr. Herbert said there was no longer any restriction on the number of children who could be adopted into a family. "But we do give preference to childless couples and to couples who have only one child and are unable to have more.

"Second placements of adopted children, and subsequent placements, are related to the age of the other children, not to the waiting lists.

"We prefer childless

couples, when they adopt a child, to put their names down again. When their adopted child is 18 months to two years old, we look at the situation, and arrange the adoption of another child if they so wish. "This means that a close family unit can be established."

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