

ORIGINS

Supporting People Separated by Adoption
PO Box W18
Fairfield West
NSW 2165

For the Attention of Committee Secretary
Senate Inquiry into Stolen Wages

Re Inquiry into Stolen Wages

Dear Secretary

Please find enclosed the attached submission into the "Stolen Wages Inquiry. We are available to give evidence should the committee decide to call us

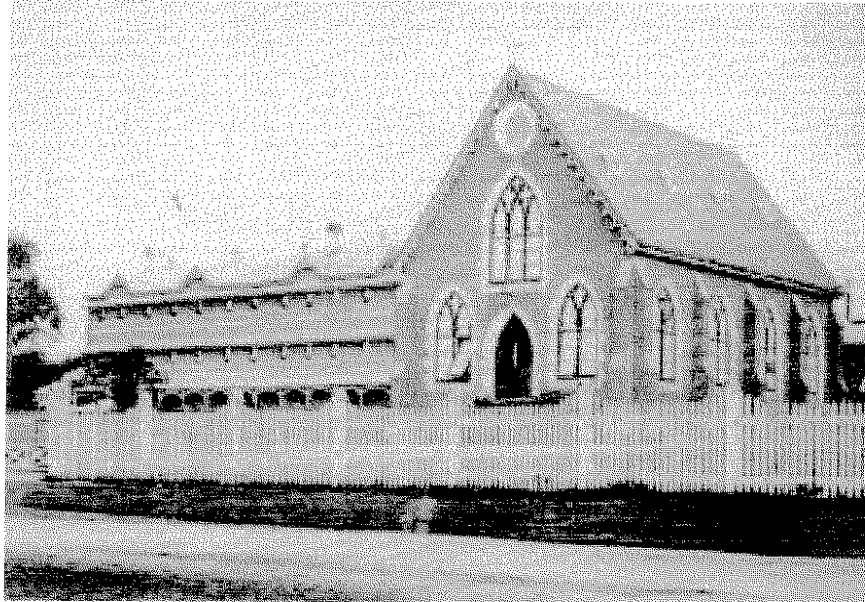
Yours sincerely

Lily Arthur

Co ordinator
Origins Supporting People Separated by Adoption
Phone 02 9604 7006

Submission into Stolen wages

Slavery and Child Exploitation in Queensland



MAGDALENE LAUNDRY

HOLY CROSS WOOLLOOWIN QUEENSLAND

Operated by The Sisters of Mercy

I would like to present this submission on behalf of state wards and mothers who were minors who were used as slave labour and those who have lost children to unlawful adoption in Queensland Institutions.

My name is Lily Arthur; in 1967 I was a former Ward of the State under the guardianship of the State of Queensland. I am currently the Co-ordinator of Origins Inc Supporting Persons Separated by Adoption. I was incarcerated at the above institution in Qld and gave evidence to the Forde Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.

Since 1997 I have studied welfare and law and am currently working in a volunteer position with people who are affected by adoption "Forgotten Australian" and Indigenous Stolen Generations

Submission into Stolen wages

My Story

16th February 1967. At the age of 16 years and eleven months I was taken from my bed, arrested and imprisoned overnight at the South Brisbane Watchhouse. I appeared before the Children's Court the next day and was incarcerated for an indefinite period at Holy Cross Woolloowin Brisbane.

I was placed into an infamous Magdalene Asylum known as the Holy Cross Industrial School for Girls

My "crime"? I was pregnant and was considered to be "exposed to moral danger" even though I had a home of my own and the father of my child was prepared to marry me with our parents consent.

I was unlawfully arrested having committed no crime under criminal law and I should not have been under the care and control of the State.

All incidents in relation to my arrest, incarceration, and the adoption of my son were under the sole direction of the state its employees and its agents.

At the age of 16 years and 11 months I was 11 months over the age of consent and living in a de-facto relationship with the father on my child with whom I had intentions to marry.

I was allowed under Commonwealth Marriage Act 1963 to legally marry at the age of 16 with parental permission, which I had.

CHILD SLAVERY AND IMPRISONMENT

I was placed into this institution by the Children's Court and where the State knew I was going to be put into slavery situation, being forced to work without payment, a breach of the **Queensland Children's Services Act 1965 sec 110. 111**

In 2004 I applied for the wages due to me and received the attached letter stating there was no provision for wages from girls under "care and control"

See letter from Queensland Government Freedom of Information

The average age of girls in this institution ranged from 14-16. I was the oldest girl there at this time

I was 2 months pregnant at the time of my arrest. The State placed me into this institution where I was forced to perform hard dangerous work, not only in the commercial laundry but also in the home buildings, for a period of seven months, without rest and up to the very day I went into hospital to give birth.

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I was forced to stand all day folding sheets that were ironed by the steam press or untangling wet sheets for folding before being fed into the giant press. I had to bend over wire trolleys pulling and tugging up until the ninth month gestation of my pregnancy.

I was forced to work in this situation regardless of my health and was only allowed to sit down when it suited the nun to let me sit and fold pillowcases

The State knowingly placed me into an Institution where for 7 months before the birth of my baby I was abused, neglected, punished, given unhealthy food that I could not eat.

I was placed into an institution which the State knew I could not easily escape from, and if I did escape or caused problems, I would be punished and sent to Karalla House.

See Directors Reports to Qld Parliament.

Along with approximately 20 other minor girls (some of them Aboriginal see photos) I was forced to work in the laundry, failure to do so resulted in girls being kept in solitary confinement, whipped with feather duster (this happened to me when I refused) or being sent to Karalla House a maximum security reform home and subject of Forde Inquiry confidential investigation

The 'reward' for working in the laundry was 30 cents worth of lollies on a Friday any misbehavior by the girls saw this privilege removed

I was placed into Holy Cross, an institution where my name was changed and my identity was taken from me, and where the agents of the State had control of my every movement, discipline and contact with those who could help me.

The State incarcerated me into an institution where it knew that I could not easily escape and where any escape was notified to the police, and where any escapee was transported to the maximum security "prison" Karalla House.

I was locked up behind 3 high fences and locked in a dormitory at night with bars on the windows, and dragged out of bed at all times of the day and season to attend mass either at night or early morning.

The State incarcerated me in an institution where all mail into and out of was read by the nuns and censored.

I was not allowed to leave the Home unless escorted to hospital appointments.

I was not allowed to use a telephone, nor was I allowed to fraternize with the "hospital girls" young unmarried mothers, some of whom were younger than my self, they were allowed to come and go freely.

The State incarcerated me in a place that controlled the times, days, and the nature of the visitors who were allowed to see me.

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The State incarcerated me in a place where I could not freely receive advice from counselors, social security and welfare agencies.

I was not allowed contact with the father of my child who was prepared to marry and support myself and our baby.

CHILD EXPLOITATION

On the 1st September 1967 I went into labor and was transported to Royal Women's Hospital Herston Brisbane

As a vulnerable 17 year old that was experiencing the birth of her first child the treatment I received before, during and after the birth and was nothing short of torture and neglect.

I went into to the labor ward un-prepared and with no idea of what the labor process was to involve.

- * I was given drugs during the labor.
- * I was tied down to the bed.
- * I was held down by the nurse.
- * My screams to be allowed to move were ignored.
- * I was torn to pieces
- * I was taken to a ward with only unmarried mothers residing.
- * My baby was taken from me straight after the birth.
- * My baby was placed in a locked nursery
- * At no time did I give permission for this treatment or approach the Department of Children's Services to arrange for the adoption of my child.
- * Nor did the Department contact me in regard to the future welfare of my baby even though it had me incarcerated for seven months previous to the birth of my child.
- * I signed illegal adoption consent under threat of further imprisonment, for a baby whose sex was informed to me anecdotally and for who I had not seen.
- * I signed an illegal adoption consent for a baby who may or may not have been alive or dead.
- * On the birth registration form it was I who was to give the supposedly "true information" in respect of my baby as in the case of the adoption consent, not an employee of the State

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*I signed a birth registration for a baby who may or may not have been alive or dead.

* After the theft of my child the State placed me back into an institution where for the duration of my incarceration I did not receive any counseling for the loss of my baby, and where my experience and my baby was never mentioned.

On the very afternoon and immediately after being forced to sign the consent to the permanent loss of my baby, the State incarcerated me back into Holy Cross where again I was abused by being put back to work in the laundry on the very day I lost my child.

The State placed me back into an institution where for the duration of the revocation period, I was incarcerated, isolated and had no means of revoking my consent.

The State adopted my baby out long before the 30 day revocation period.

The State "sold" my child to his adopters for the sum of \$5

The State did not advise my mother of my incarceration.

The State did not return me to my mother after my arrest.

The State did not inform my mother of the birth of my child.

The State and its agents denied me access to the father of my child.

Under common law I was the sole legal guardian of my child and had every legal right to keep my child. Having been illegally incarcerated in Holy Cross and being made a ward of the state I had a right to have my child placed in state care or given to his father until I was released from care.

As a prisoner of the State it was the duty of the State who appointed itself as my guardian to offer those options to me and provide those services and advice to me.

ENTITLEMENTSWAGES AND BENEFITS

Queensland Children's Services Act 1965 sec 110. 111 Under this section of the Act I was entitled to award wages for a person of my age.

* I was entitled to marry my son's father who would have supported me and our son financially.

* The financial benefits that I would have been entitled to if I did not marry the father of my child i.e. State aid 1965 Children's Services Act, plus other benefits i.e. school books, see Directors Report to Qld Parliament 1967

* Commonwealth Special Benefit available after 1945 to persons who did not fit any other benefit. And benefits including child allowance etc.

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* Maintenance from my son's father

I was kept in ignorance of these benefits. I was incarcerated by the State and not physically free to explore and find out the benefits available to me.

In the seven months prior to my son's birth the State had more than ample time to prepare me for the birth of my child both financially and emotionally.

As my guardian it was the duty of the State not only to look after me properly and keep me from slavery, danger, physical and emotional violence, it was also its duty and responsibility to ensure that I had full information on what was going to happen to me.

Not only in respect of wages but also financial benefits to enable me to provide for my baby, also the treatment I was to receive in the hospital and information on the care and protection of my baby.

At the age of 17 years and 6 months after the birth of my baby I was entitled to these above benefits.

EXPLOITED AND USED

On the 26th of October 1967 six weeks after the theft of my baby I was suddenly released from Holy Cross. I was dispatched from the Home and sent back to my mother in NSW. My plane fare paid for with the baby bonus and sickness benefit I was paid during the last 6 weeks of my confinement.

The State so traumatized me with my imprisonment slavery and the theft of my child that I was unable to speak of it to anyone for decades. I lived with the shame of not only being arrested and incarcerated but for the loss of my first child and only son. This has not impacted on my personal life but also the mental health damage I suffered has seen me attending a psychiatrist on a fortnightly basis for the past 6 years.

I was unable to gain a further education and did menial cleaning work for over 20 years not realizing that I had the ability to achieve a position where I could have earned a decent wage and not suffered physical disability from hard physical labor.

The indifference of the State in relation to the damage caused to me by its illegal treatment was reflected in a court case I brought against the State in the Supreme Court of Queensland

ARTHUR v QUEENSLAND S.C.Qld 2004

In 2004 I brought an action against the State of Queensland for my illegal arrest, slavery, and the theft of my son. My claim was dismissed because I could not prove I was "coerced" out of my first born. The judge ignored the crimes committed against me, thus condoning the crimes of my abuser, the State of Queensland, whom to date have still denied and concealed their crimes against me and my son, and to date have not

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compensated me for the psychological damage it caused me or the forced labor I was subjected to. I have asked the both of the Ministers of the Departments of Child Safety and Families Messers Reynolds and Pitt for compensation for the damage and the expenses for the treatment of my mental health condition and was in effect told to 'get lost'.

My husband has spent tens of thousand of dollars so far for my treatment and there is no end in sight for a recovery.

The indifference and the lack of accountability of the State of Queensland to address the issues I have raised is an insult to the notion of common decency and the rule of law, whereby no one is exempt from criminal prosecution if they have knowingly breached the law.

FINALLY

I would add here that I am not an Aboriginal person and I ask that this Inquiry should also include the issues of Non-Aboriginal "stolen wages" for young and vulnerable children such as me who also shared the misery of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters..... We were all there together in these homes, working along side of each other and to date there has been no addressing of this situation for people who are still affected by the abuses of the past.

I would also ask that the committee make recommendations for a national Inquiry into past illegal child abduction carried on under the guise of adoption. This is situation which affects at least 450 000 persons directly and an estimated 40% of indigenous children who were "removed" from their families.

As one of the greatest human rights crimes violations to occur in this country it is an affront to civil society to conceal the crimes and abuse of power by the governments of our democratic country, and the need to have a "Truth Commission" or forum on these issues should be explored and implemented.

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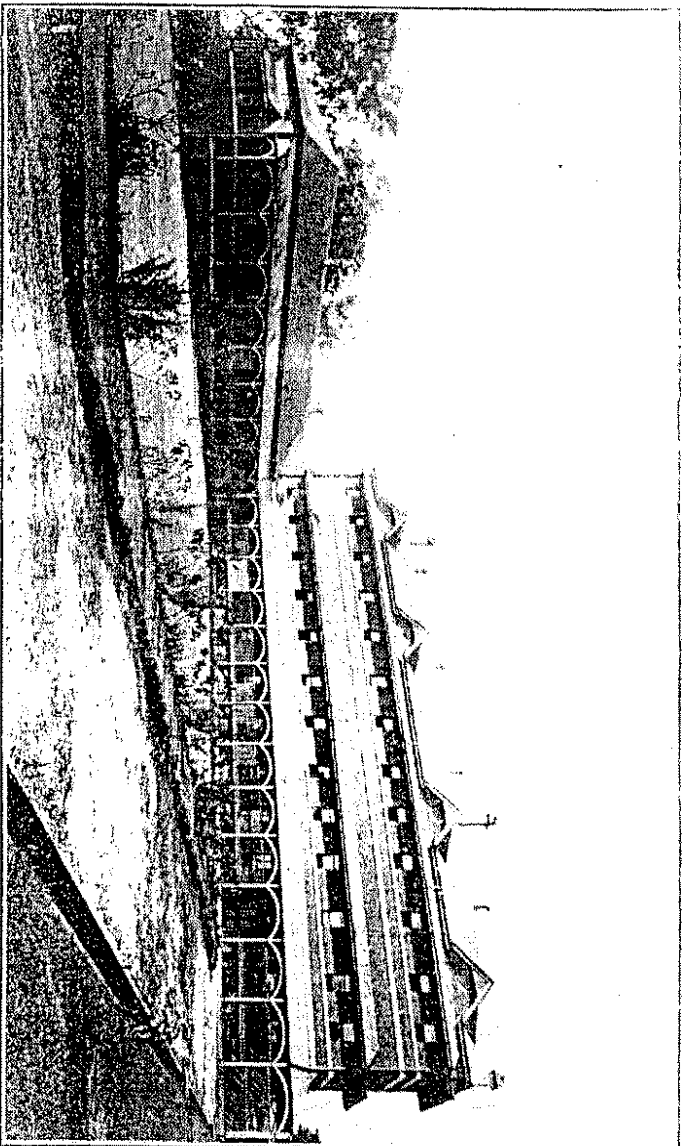
Aboriginal girls Holy Cross October 1967. All were forced to work in the laundry.

Picture on the left is "Chris" aged 14

Picture on the Right from the left girls name forgotten about 14, "Chris' Sister Theophane "Mary Chris's sister aged 15 and "Veronica" aged 15



Left photo "Dot" aged 15 > Right "Venita" about 15-16 and Dot notice fences in background

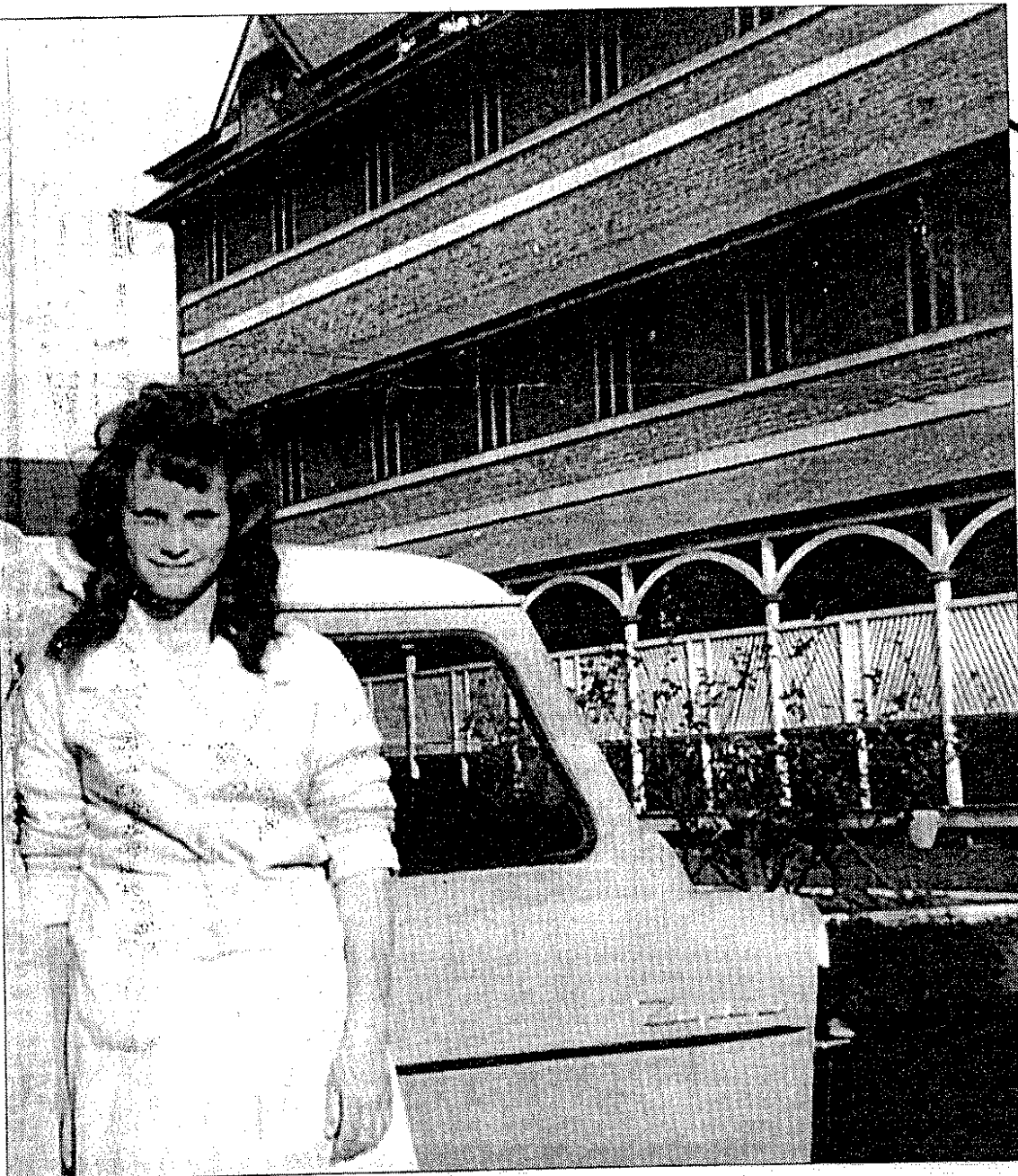


Holy Cross Retreat, Woolloowin

A Home for Women and Girls

THIS institution was built as a memorial to the late Right Rev. James O'Quinn, first Bishop of Brisbane. It is now 34 years in existence. It is under the care of the Sisters of Mercy, whose silent and self-denying labours there have helped to better ways, the erring, the suffering, and the destitute.

More abuse claims emerge



ETHEL Lauchlan outside the Holy Cross home in Wooloowin in the early 1960s . . . 'There was only a bucket in the corner to go to the toilet and you only got one meal a day'.

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NEW Zealand fight an Austratinue a ban on ir apples. NZ Interter Lockwood S ralian Quarantidraft recommen ban "exten fight on will se

Waco

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Jail con

CORRECTIVE Russell Cooper concerned about Wacol, in Brisban than 2500 people have complain consulted about p high and mediu which will be clo State Primary Sc

Feud sp

POLICE have bl for a riot involv Aborigines in th Queensland town said the violence long-running fam ent in the town, 1 on Friday. Ten pe up for the two- during the melee Sergeant Steve encountered a ho 100 people.

Beef boi

ROCKHAMPTON seams yesterday a beef event moved week-long nation was launched las Prime Minister s Tim Fischer at the

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experienced, a wide body of stralian.

was told long child sex abusake offenders released if their son.

nsultant psy aid studies o s over decade; recidivism wal offender was eviancy where d an average ism.

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lack of under- ome occasions es in the utter- narkable from ismayed they ie reactions to

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(3)

Recently the two schools have been connected and form practically one building. Many improvements have also been effected in the school-grounds and Father Walsh and his Committee are certainly to be congratulated on accomplishing all this in addition to having built the Presbytery and practically doubled the accommodation at the Church."

The Brisbane Centenary Official Historical Souvenir, 1921, page 265 states:

"Magdalen Asylum - Holy Cross Retreat, Woolloowin.

The above-mentioned institution is under the care of the Sisters of Mercy. Its objects are:

- (1) to provide a home for the destitute and needy irrespective of creed or country;
- (2) to aid and reform the erring;
- (3) to shelter the weak minded;
- (4) to train the wayward and uncontrollable to habits of self-restraint by necessary instruction and kind but firm discipline.

The need of such an institution was long felt and as far back as 1877 Dr. James O'Quinn then Bishop of Brisbane assigned the jubilee alms of that year to this great charity. His lordship's desire for the establishment of such a refuge was so well known that at a general meeting held in Brisbane immediately after his death in 1881 a Magdalen Asylum was selected as the most fitting public monument that could be erected to his memory. Hence the amount of £1,600 already subscribed was devoted to this purpose. To this Mrs. Quinlan and Mr. G.W. Gray added the sum of £1,000 in November 1887, which, with a previous donation of £100 rendered possible the commencement of the erection of the much desired building. The Sisters of Mercy gave the site, a valuable freehold property of 12 acres. The foundation stone was blessed and laid by Archbishop Dunne on 22nd April 1888 and in 1889 the building was formally opened by His Excellency Sir Henry. W. Horman.

In connection with the home is the Holy Cross Steam Laundry, well equipped with up-to-date machinery and all labour-saving appliances."

Telephone: 3225 8442
Reference: ART / 1237
Refer To: Jenny Brown
Your Ref:



Queensland
Government

Department of
Families

Administrative Release Team

Freecall: 1800 809 078
Facsimile: (07) 3224 7050

21 November 2003

Ms Lily Arthur
33 Chadwick Crescent
FAIRFIELD WEST NSW 2165

Dear Ms Arthur

Following our recent telephone conversation and your previous discussions with Patrick McCormack, I am writing in response to your request for further information from departmental files.

As I mentioned, I have found only one document on the file relating to your son's birth and adoption which does not appear to have been given to you previously. This is a form called *Questionnaire – Expected Child for Adoption* and I have enclosed a copy of this document.

I have also enclosed copies of two documents you have already received – the advice of *Birth/Death of Illegitimate Child* and the *Report of Investigation* under Part VIII of the Children's Services Act. Part VIII of the Act provided, among other things, 'for the notification within a prescribed period of births and deaths of illegitimate children'.

The District Registrar of Births advised the Department when the birth of an illegitimate child was registered. The advice form was a small piece of paper and when these were received by the Department they were always glued to a larger sheet of paper for easier handling on the file.

The paper used for backing sheets for these and other small pages was usually 'recycled' paper. Often superseded forms or standard 'form letters' no longer required were used as backing sheets. Pages used as backing sheets usually had no relevance to the particular file.

You mentioned that the copy you received of the *Birth/Death of Illegitimate Child* advice shows part of a letter which you have not received, and the words 'payments for which you are eligible' can be read on the back.

I have included two copies of the advice – one has been copied with the photocopier using a 'light' setting showing only the information on the form.

The other has been photocopied on a darker setting, so that some words from the backing sheet show through. I have copied the backing sheet on the back of the advice, so you can understand how the page appears on the file.

The backing sheet is a roneoed letter which was prepared for the information of people receiving financial assistance from the Department in 1966, advising of changed arrangements after the Children's Services Act of 1965 came into force from 1 August 1966. By the time your son was born over a year later, these letters were presumably no longer required and remaining copies were used for backing sheets and scrap paper.

I hope this explains why information which does not relate to you or your son appeared on the copy which you received some time ago.

In relation to money owed to you for the work you did in the laundry while at the Holy Cross Retreat at Woolloowin, Patrick has examined departmental records in relation to trust accounts.

Each year the trust accounts held by the Department were audited by the Auditor General. A check of these records has not located any reference to you, which means there is no record of any money ever being held in an account under your name.

When wages paid to a child in care were held in a trust account, the money was held by the Department until the child turned 18. Any money not claimed from a trust account was transferred to the Treasury Department, and placed in the Treasury's Audit Act Trust Fund (AATF). The list of children with unclaimed moneys has been checked, but there is no record of your name in those records.

I am sure you will be disappointed to learn that this is the case. However the fact that no references to you have been found in the Trust Account records means that (a) the Department has no record that money was placed in a trust account for you and (b) that no money is owed to you by the Department.

I have checked administrative files which record contact between the Department and the Sisters in charge of Holy Cross, but I could find no references in these files to the conditions under which girls worked in the laundry. However from other inquiries we have made, it seems that girls in care and control were not paid wages to work in the laundry.

I am sorry that we have not been able to provide a more positive response to your inquiry. If you wish to discuss any of these matters, please call Patrick McCormack or myself on freecall 1800 809 078.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Brown
Information Review Officer
Administrative Release Team
Freedom of Information Branch

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

for the Year Ended 30th June, 1967

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND

TO THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR AND TOURISM

"The Children's Services Act of 1965" came into operation on the 1st August, 1966, and with it, the implementation of further policies for the improvement of children's services throughout the State. Although the Act has been in force for only eleven months of the year, the statistical data and other information contained in this report have been compiled under the concepts of "The Children's Services Act of 1965" covering the whole of the year. This is necessary to avoid duplication of presentation.

Taking into consideration that procedures have had to be applied not only by the Officers of the Department of Children's Services, but by Courts, Police and other public officials, as well as Denominational bodies and other agencies associated with child welfare, there has generally been a smooth transition from principles of the repealed State Children and other Acts to those of the Children's Services Act.

One of the purposes of the Children's Services Act was to remove stigma and other discriminatory attitudes relating to socially deprived children and their families. It abolished the terms as "State child" and "ward of the State", substituting therefor, the overall description of "child in care". The purpose was to remove any impression that these children were mendicant, or that they were different to other children. It was also necessary to ensure that the children felt themselves part of the community and, as well as people having a responsibility to them, they should have a responsibility to other people. The change to "child in care", and name of the Department to "The Department of Children's Services" have not been recognised completely as there are still such references as "State child" and the "State Children Department". This was to be expected, because these names, like other aspects changed by the Act, applied for many years, and it will be some time before new titles, as well as changes in procedures, are in general use.

The plans to improve and extend accommodation have been further developed both in respect of facilities provided by the Department and by Denominational Homes, priority being given to the replacement of wooden structures which constitute fire hazards. Most Institutions were built in timber and it will take some years to reconstruct them all in fire resistant materials.

Projects completed or receiving attention during this year included:—

- (i) Completion of the administration and general living block at "Carramar", Townsville, so finalising the rebuilding programme for this Home;
- (ii) Completion of the administrative, medical and isolation block at "Warilda" Receiving and Assessment Centre in Brisbane. This block, which will be occupied early in the coming financial year, is the second of a five stage programme for the rebuilding of the whole Centre;
- (iii) Commencement of the second stage in the rebuilding programme of Westbrook Training Centre by the construction of a new remand and security block;
- (iv) Completion of the first project in the remodelling and extension of Mt. Maria Re-Education Centre for Girls, Mitchelton, conducted by the Order of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd;
- (v) Commencement of a new dormitory for boys at St. Joseph's Home, Neerkoll;

- (vi) Completion of a new Family Group Home at Jellicoe Street, Toowoomba, by the Presbyterian Church;
- (vii) Construction of two Family Group Homes at Wynnum, conducted by the Methodist Church. These two Homes will be occupied early in the new financial year;
- (viii) Repairs and improvements to "Bethesda" the Salvation Army Home at Rockhampton for Unmarried Mothers;

Other improvements subsidised by the Department have been made to Homes conducted by Denominational bodies and licensed under the Children's Services Act. The total payment of subsidies during the year amounted to \$313,771.69.

The Department of Works expended \$323,074 on Institutions and services associated with the Department of Children's Services.

It is a matter of concern that more children have been involved in family disruption than in any previous year, not only for the adverse effect on the children but also because of the increasing financial burden on the Government and on Denominational and charitable agencies. Helping a family because of the death or invalidity of the father must be accepted, but the greatest demand to help children arose generally from desertion, divorce and parental failure through a multiplicity of factors, psychological, social and economic.

Social agencies are endeavouring to prevent family breakdown, but it is unfortunate the people concerned do not seek help before it is too late. This is understandable, because most people resent intrusion into their domestic affairs, and their right to privacy must be respected. Those that do seek aid come only at the crisis.

On the 30th June, 1967 there were 9,607 children, either directly within the Department's care or supervision, or were with parents or relatives who received financial assistance for their maintenance. Of that number 3,047 were "in care", 6,051 were financially assisted, and 534 were subject to Supervision Orders. Details of these figures, showing the disposition of all children, are contained in the table appended to this report. The number of children for whom the Department was in some way responsible increased by 1,068 or 12.5 per cent. over the previous year and 29.5 per cent. above the 1964-65 figure.

The following figures and percentages show in detail the increases, and in some instances, the decreases which have occurred:—

| | 30-6-66 | 30-6-67 | Per cent. Increase | Per cent. Decrease |
|---|---------|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Assisted children | 5,318 | 6,051 | 13.8 | .. |
| Children in institutions | 1,323 | 1,378 | 4.2 | .. |
| Children boarded with foster parents | 903 | 1,042 | 15.4 | .. |
| Children under supervision | 483 | 534 | 10.6 | .. |
| Children appearing before Children's Courts throughout Queensland | 1,772 | 1,450 | .. | 18.1 |
| Children committed to care by Courts | 402 | 365 | .. | 9.2 |
| Children in care | 2,738 | 3,047 | 11.3 | .. |
| Children adopted | 1,398 | 1,386 | .. | 0.9 |

The Department of Works has also prepared plans for improvements to "Birralee", Rockhampton, and it is hoped that work will proceed in the new financial year.

The Matron of "Warilda", Miss D. Knox, commenced long service leave prior to her retirement in September next. Miss Knox has been Matron of "Warilda" since 12th July, 1951. It is desired to express thanks and appreciation for the services she rendered and for the care and attention she gave to the children who came into the Home during the time she was its Matron. Miss M. Bennett is acting as Matron during the absence on leave of Miss Knox.

Difficulties have been experienced in obtaining trained staff for the three Receiving and Assessment Centres, particularly in respect to "Birralee", Rockhampton. The services of Miss D. MacKelvie as Matron, "Birralee" and a Sub-Matron have now been obtained for that Centre. A Sub-Matron has also been appointed to "Carramar". The staff of both Homes has been increased to meet the demands being made on both Centres.

A feature of the facilities at "Warilda" is the kindergarten. "Warilda" has sufficient pre-school children to justify the establishment of a kindergarten and, in fact, two sessions for different groups of children are conducted daily. It is conducted in collaboration with the Creche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland, which assisted the Department in the selection of the teacher. It is desired to thank the Association for their help and guidance, not only in the selection of teachers, but for supervision of the kindergarten.

Children under school age at "Warilda" and any other disturbed children are psychiatrically examined and assessed by the Welfare and Guidance Division of the Department of Health which makes available a psychiatrist, a psychologist and a speech therapist. General medical and paediatric services are provided by Doctors Fison and Eckert of the Brisbane Children's Hospital. It is desired to express thanks to these Doctors, and also the personnel of the Welfare and Guidance Division of the Department of Health for their co-operation. Dental services are provided by the North Brisbane Hospital Board, and, in addition to treatment at the Brisbane Dental Hospital and Children's Dental Hospital, a specially equipped caravan also visits the Centre and any required treatment receives attention.

"Carramar" is visited by Dr. L. Halberstater and "Birralee" by Dr. J. E. Rees, who are Government Medical Officers. Other medical and dental facilities are provided by the Townsville and Rockhampton Hospital Boards respectively. The service rendered by these medical officers and dentists and the co-operation received from the Townsville and Rockhampton Hospital Boards is much appreciated.

DENOMINATIONAL HOMES

For the purposes of "The Children's Services Act of 1965," it was necessary to classify licensed Denominational Homes by specifying the Governing Authorities and the type of service provided in each Home. A table is appended to this report showing such Governing Authorities and the classification of each Home. It will be noted from this table, that some Homes are licensed for children admitted to care and protection and others, for children who are committed to care and control. In some instances, Homes have been licensed for both categories of children.

The co-operation received from Denominational Homes is excellent, and there is complete understanding between the Governing Authorities and the Department. The Governing Authorities are progressive in their thoughts, striving at all times to provide the best possible facilities for the children placed in their charge. A close liaison with the Homes is maintained by the Department through the regular visits by Child Welfare Officers. These Officers not only go to the Homes to help and advise those in charge, but also to maintain a personal contact with the children. This relationship is important, particularly if a child on returning to its parents needs support, and the home needs supervision. It is also important in foster placement to support the child in the new environment and guide the foster parents.

At 30th June, 1967, there were 999 "children in care" compared with 962 twelve months ago in Denominational Homes licensed to take children in care and protection. This represents an increase of 37 children.

The following table shows the Homes licensed at 30th June, 1967, together with the number of children resident on that date:—

| DENOMINATIONAL HOMES | | Residents |
|--|--|-----------|
| Conducted by Roman Catholic Church | | |
| St. Vincent's Home, Nudgee | | 253 |
| St. Joseph's Home, Neerkoll, Rockhampton | | 110 |
| Loreto House, Kangaroo Point | | 5 |
| Nazareth House, Wynnum | | 52 |
| Boys' Town, Beaudesert | | 33 |
| Conducted by Church of England | | |
| Tufnell Home, Nundah | | 70 |
| Tufnell Toddler's Home, Nundah | | 30 |
| Boys' Home, Enoggera | | 77 |
| St. George's Homes, Parkhurst, Rockhampton | | 45 |
| Conducted by Presbyterian Church | | |
| Family Group Home, Aspley | | 8 |
| Family Group Home, Brighton | | 7 |
| Family Group Home, Holland Park | | 4 |
| Family Group Home, Fairfield | | 7 |
| Family Group Home, Toowoomba | | 5 |
| Peirson Memorial Home, Goodwood | | 10 |
| Conducted by Methodist Church | | |
| Margaret Marr Home for Boys, Wynnum | | 31 |
| Cottage Homes— | | |
| Kingsbury, Bardon | | 8 |
| Robgill, Bardon | | — |
| Alexandra, Bardon | | 12 |
| Harrison, Aspley | | 11 |
| Nicklin, Aspley | | 8 |
| Moore, Toombul | | 6 |
| Stewart, Toombul | | 11 |
| Conducted by Congregational Church | | |
| Marsden Home for Boys, Kallangur | | 22 |
| Marsden Home for Boys, Booval | | 12 |
| Conducted by Salvation Army | | |
| Boys' Home, Indooroopilly | | 55 |
| Boys' Home, Riverview | | 11 |
| Horton House, Toowoomba | | 27 |
| Girls' Home, Rockhampton | | 1 |
| Conducted by Open Brethren Assembly | | |
| Silky Oaks Haven for Children, Manly | | 45 |
| Conducted by Association of Bethel Home | | |
| Bethel Home, Dalby | | 23 |
| Total | | 999 |

The amount of \$4.50 per week previously paid by the Department to Denominational Homes for the support of each "child in care" was increased to \$6.50 per child per week as from 2nd October, 1966. An additional \$1 per child per week for maintenance as well as 50c per week pocket money is paid for each child attending a secondary school. The Homes also receive Commonwealth child endowment at the rate of \$1.50 for each eligible child. The total payment to these Homes for the maintenance of "children in care" during the past year was \$343,810.

Apart from St. Vincent's Home, Nudgee, St. Joseph's Home, Neerkoll, and Nazareth House, Wynnum North, all children in Denominational Homes attend local schools. St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's provide primary facilities to Grade 7, but when children are ready to proceed to Grade 8, they are placed in foster care and in some instances boarding schools, and enrolled at local secondary schools. Older girls at Nazareth House while attending local secondary schools, remain at the Home. The Opportunity School at St. Vincent's Home, Nudgee, continues to operate with beneficial results for the children. It caters for slow learners from post-infant to pre-vocational classes, and has received favourable reports from Inspectors of the Department of Education.

As St. Vincent's Home, Nudgee, will celebrate its Centenary during the latter part of 1967, it is desired to congratulate the Sisters of Mercy on the excellent work which they have done for children over those long years.

A commencement is being made on a rebuilding programme at this Home. The first unit in the plan is to be a Home for the small children now accommodated in a building called "St. Roch's". The new building estimated to cost \$380,000 will be a project for the Centenary year, and will cater for 60 children on the family group principle.

"Loreto", the Family Group Home conducted by the Sisters of Mercy at Kangaroo Point, Brisbane, in conjunction with St. Vincent's Home, Nudgee, has functioned satisfactorily.

proposing to construct a second Home on the Goodwood property and are hoping that this work will commence in the next financial year.

The Methodist Church of Queensland has six Family Group Homes in the Brisbane area and two new Homes, to be named "Lewis" and "Tainton", are under construction at Wynnum on land near the Margaret Marr Home for Boys. The Cottage Home, Robgill, is now being used as a temporary care centre.

The Methodist Church also conducts the Margaret Marr Home for Boys, at Wynnum, and improvements carried out to this Home have made it very attractive. The House parents at Margaret Marr and other members of the staff make it possible for the boys to enjoy more personalised care, because of the deep interest they are taking in their welfare.

Horton House at Toowoomba continues to provide a very necessary service for children coming into care in this particular part of the State. Two family group units, which at present comprise the Home, are modern structures offering attractive facilities and accommodation for the children. A third unit is to be built, but work has not yet commenced.

At "Silky Oaks" the Children's Haven at Manly, improvements have been made to the boys' dormitory, the farm cottage and the original building which comprised the Home. The family group cottage adjoining the main Home has functioned well and is rendering an excellent service. The Superintendent and his wife endeavour to fulfil the mother and father role for all children at "Silky Oaks" and this they are doing with considerable success. Children regard "Silky Oaks" as "home" and many of the children since married return "home" from

time to time and bring their families. The manner in which the Superintendent and his wife and staff provide for the children is of a very high standard.

Bethel Children's Home at Dalby continues to give every care and attention to the children placed in its charge. The committee, which is comprised of local people, is devoting a considerable amount of time and effort improving the Home and making conditions more and more comfortable and attractive for the children. It has embarked on a rebuilding plan and will proceed as funds become available. The measure of success in this Home is the sincerity with which the committee and the staff carry out their work. They should be given every encouragement in the objectives that they are endeavouring to achieve.

The Honourable John Herbert, M.L.A., on becoming Minister in charge of the Department of Children's Services set himself an objective to visit every Children's Home, Departmental or Denominational, in the State and he fulfilled this undertaking in December, 1966. There are 36 of these Homes and he is the first Minister to have visited all Homes during a term of office. Homes were most appreciative of his interest and the opportunity of discussing their problems directly with him. They have all expressed the wish that he will soon find time to visit them again.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN CHILDREN

A pleasing feature of Children's Courts statistics for the year 1966-67 is the reduction in the number of children appearing before these Courts. A child is a person under the age or apparent age of seventeen years. The table set out hereunder summarizing details of the Children's Courts statistics shows that during the year, there was a reduction in children's appearances of 322, 18.1 per cent. less than in 1965-66.

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1965

| | Boys | Girls | Total | Offences other than Traffic | Traffic Offences | Uncontrollable | Neglected* |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------|
| Metropolitan | 541 | 105 | 646 | 500 | 5 | 71 | 70 |
| Country | 648 | 112 | 760 | 604 | 17 | 45 | 94 |
| | 1,189 | 217 | 1,406 | 1,104 | 22 | 116 | 164 |

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1966

| | Boys | Girls | Total | Offences other than Traffic | Traffic Offences | Uncontrollable | Neglected* |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------|
| Metropolitan | 631 | 176 | 807 | 596 | 43 | 70 | 98 |
| Country | 826 | 139 | 965 | 746 | 43 | 46 | 130 |
| | 1,457 | 315 | 1,772 | 1,342 | 86 | 116 | 228 |

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1967

| | Boys | Girls | Total | Offences other than Traffic | Traffic Offences | Care and Control | Care and Protection* |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Metropolitan | 482 | 109 | 591 | 414 | 56 | 84 | 37 |
| Country | 753 | 106 | 859 | 664 | 56 | 85 | 54 |
| | 1,235 | 215 | 1,450 | 1,078 | 112 | 169 | 91 |

* Under "The Children's Services Act of 1965," children who are likely to lapse into a career of vice or crime or are exposed to moral danger are brought before the Court on an application for care and control. Prior to the introduction of the "The Children's Services Act" these children were charged with being neglected.

The greater reduction was in the Metropolitan area where the decrease was 216 or 26.8 per cent. The decrease in the country is 106 or 11 per cent. The reduction has been mainly in offences other than traffic which showed an increase. There was a slight increase in the number of uncontrollable and neglected children.

The fluctuation in the number of appearances in Children's Courts since 1962-63 are unusual, particularly the combined rise during the years 1964-65 and 1965-66 of 42.3 per cent. over the year 1963-64. The reduction in this year is

Influences causing these fluctuations are not clearly definable, but it is doubtful whether they are attributable to behaviour patterns which would not change to the extent that could support these statistics. This year's reduction should not be accepted with any degree of complacency because influences which effected the sharp rise in 1964-65 and 1965-66 could, because of contra effect, be responsible for the reduction in this year. As a further illustration of the position, the following table shows details of annual Court appearances

| | Metropolitan | | | Country | | | Totals | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females | Total |
| 30th June, 1960 | 564 | 154 | 718 | 380 | 86 | 466 | 944 | 240 | 1,184 |
| 30th June, 1961 | 552 | 129 | 681 | 537 | 100 | 637 | 1,089 | 229 | 1,318 |
| 30th June, 1962 | 573 | 116 | 689 | 573 | 76 | 649 | 1,146 | 192 | 1,338 |
| 30th June, 1963 | 583 | 105 | 688 | 598 | 118 | 716 | 1,181 | 223 | 1,404 |
| 30th June, 1964 | 479 | 92 | 571 | 585 | 89 | 674 | 1,064 | 181 | 1,245 |
| 30th June, 1965 | 541 | 105 | 646 | 648 | 112 | 760 | 1,189 | 217 | 1,406 |
| 30th June, 1966 | 631 | 176 | 807 | 826 | 139 | 965 | 1,457 | 315 | 1,772 |
| 30th June, 1967 | 482 | 109 | 591 | 753 | 106 | 859 | 1,235 | 215 | 1,450 |

This table shows that in 1963-64, there was a comparable reduction to the year 1962-63, and it could well be that the factors operating in 1963-64 were again at work in 1966-67.

The number of children committed to the care and control of the Department shows an overall reduction. This reduction is interesting because it relates only to the Metropolitan area, the country showing an increase of 13 cases over 1965-66. Whilst the overall increase in committals was 9.2 per cent., the decrease in the Metropolitan area was 25.1 per cent. The country increase was 6.4 per cent. Children placed under Supervision have, however, increased, and Courts, particularly the Metropolitan Children's Court, have utilized Supervision to a greater extent.

COMMITTALS TO CARE BY CHILDREN'S COURTS

| | Metropolitan Courts | | | Country Courts | | |
|------------|---------------------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|
| | Boys | Girls | Total | Boys | Girls | Total |
| 1964-65 .. | 131 | 63 | 194 | 119 | 60 | 179 |
| 1965-66 .. | 126 | 73 | 199 | 156 | 47 | 203 |
| 1966-67 .. | 95 | 54 | 149 | 165 | 51 | 216 |

The level of committals of teenage girls, which considerably increased in 1964-65 and in 1965-66, has shown a reduction as is the case of overall committals. The committal of girls in the country Courts has increased, but there has been a reduction of 19 or 26 per cent. on the previous year's figure in the Metropolitan area. It is of interest that this reduction in the committal of girls has been mainly since March, 1967, because to that time the accommodation in the four Training Homes for committed girls had been taxed to capacity. Since March, the position has been relieved. Indications are that towards the latter part of this year this position may not remain static and that accommodation may again be under pressure. However, a second unit at Karrala House to accommodate 13 girls has become available. This will relieve the accommodation position in the Training Homes.

The Welfare and Guidance Division of the Department of Health has been used by the Children's Court and by the Department of Children's Services, as it is essential for the application of corrective treatment that psychiatric and psychological assessment be made. It is on the basis of these reports that the Court and the Department are guided in applying services to help young people.

The Children's Court Magistrate, Mr. R. T. Matthews, LL.B. has shown a keen understanding of the Department's problems and he endeavours to help young people by making recommendations to guide the Department. Under the Children's Services Act, placement of children now rests with the Director, or in the case of serious offences, the Minister.

Stipendiary Magistrates, generally, have continued to show an understanding of the problems of anti-social behaviour in children and they too have assisted and guided the Department in programmes to help for corrective treatment.

Child Welfare Officers attend the Metropolitan Children's Court and in Children's Courts generally. It is not always possible to have a Welfare Officer in all Courts, because distance in some cases makes it impossible. Child Welfare Officers also attend Supreme and District Courts when children appear.

Restitution totalling \$3,298.73 was ordered by the Metropolitan Children's Court. During the year \$3,853.68 was collected and dispersed to persons in whose favour orders were made.

TRAINING HOMES FOR GIRLS

The following table sets out the number of girls resident in Training Homes at 30th June, 1967:—

| | Residents |
|--|-----------|
| Conducted by the Salvation Army— | |
| Kalimna Vocational Centre for Girls, Toowong | 30 |
| Salvation Army Home for Girls Rockhampton | — |
| Conducted by the Roman Catholic Church— | |
| Holy Cross Home, Woolloowin | 22 |
| Mt. Maria Re-education Centre for Girls, Mitchelton | 38 |
| Conducted by the Department— | |
| Karrala House, Ipswich | 9 |
| Total | 99 |

These Homes receive teenage girls committed to the care and control of the Director as uncontrollable, or because their conduct was such that they were in moral danger or likely to lapse into a life of vice and crime.

The problem involving girls is generally morals, but in a few cases, they have been involved in criminal offences.

During the past year 204 girls were admitted to the Homes and 213 left. These figures are slightly less than the previous year when 227 were admitted and 222 left. This decrease cannot be regarded as significant, because although from July to February all available accommodation was in use, there was a decline in the number of girls committed, resulting in relaxing of pressure on bed capacity.

It was always necessary to maintain continual vigilance over the availability of beds in the Homes, even in the latter half of the year when committals to care and control were reduced. The margin between bed capacity and bed occupancy is always small to such an extent that it could have become difficult within a matter of hours. The accommodation position, however, is now improved because of the availability of the second accommodation unit for 13 girls at Karrala House. This building was converted by the Department of Works to meet the needs of emotionally disturbed and uncontrollable girls.

Karrala House accommodates girls whose behaviour is such that they cannot be retained in any of the three Denominational Homes. The conditions in the three Denominational Homes are of a high standard and conducive to a girl being rehabilitated, provided she takes advantage of the opportunity offered. There is, however, a small group of girls not prepared to accept these advantages and it is they who go to Karrala House.

Karrala House contributes to a great extent in the maintenance of good behaviour in the three Denominational Homes. When a girl shows that she is prepared to behave and take advantage of efforts being made to help her, she is returned from Karrala House to the Denominational Home from which she came. Every effort is made to ensure that her stay at Karrala House is the minimum, but because of the difficult accommodation position such as existed earlier in the year, it was not always possible to transfer the girl back to the Home from which she was transferred, because a bed was not available. It was then necessary to hold the girl at Karrala House until such time as a vacancy occurred for her.

Karrala House has been subject to public criticism, but in order to understand the policies of this home, it is necessary to have experience in handling girls with extreme behaviour problems. Those in charge of the Denominational Homes frankly admit that they could not operate without the support of Karrala House as girls who are serious behaviour problems disturb others who are trying to take advantage of the opportunities given to them during their stay in a Denominational Home.

Karrala House is under the superintendence of the Medical Superintendent of the Ipswich Special Hospital, and trained psychiatric nurses together with nursing assistants who have obtained experience in handling this type of girl are employed at this Home.

There is an urgent need for a remand and assessment unit for girls similar to the service provided for boys at the Wilson Youth Hospital. At present, girls taken into care are admitted direct to one of the Denominational Training Homes, and without a knowledge of their background and behaviour, there are risks to the other girls who are endeavouring to improve themselves. The Department of Works is preparing plans for such a unit and it is hoped that construction work on it will commence in the next financial year.

The Mt. Maria Re-Education Centre for Girls, Mitchellton, which is conducted by the Order of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, recently underwent major extensions and improvements, and although accommodation has not been greatly increased, improvements and additional facilities for the training and rehabilitating of the girls have been supplied. Self-contained units for up to 12 girls have been provided so that a family atmosphere can prevail in each unit within the Home. A new concert and recreation hall and improved accommodation for the school within the Home were included in the extensions. It is the intention of the Sisters to proceed at a later date with further extensions and improvements which will enable an increased number of girls to be accepted.

Mt. Maria provides educational facilities to Junior level, and in addition to academic subjects, commercial and home science courses are available. It also has extra curricular facilities such as drama, music, pottery, lapidary and dress-making.

In February last the Home again produced a musical comedy, "The Girl Friend", and the performance of the girls was of a high standard. The Sisters, who train them, are to be commended for the excellence of performance and for the benefit they are giving to these young people. The girls possibly would not have had any experience in the performing arts before coming to the Home, and it would be unusual if any of them had seen a live theatre performance.

Sport and recreation play an important part in the programme at this Home.

Kalimna Vocational Centre for Girls, Toowong, provides a training programme, which includes dressmaking, needlework, mothercraft, music, and general handicrafts. Correspondence courses are arranged through the Education Department for school-age girls. A system of conduct badges which has been operating in this Home has been very successful. Girls work hard to advance and once they have obtained the highest award, it is not long before they return to their own home or other accommodation arranged for them.

The Portia Debating Club has taken an interest in the girls and a debating group has been formed in Kalimna. The girls compete with teams from High Schools and Colleges and enjoy taking part in these debates. The arrangement is proving a most beneficial activity. Like other Homes, girls are given every opportunity for visits from cultural and sporting groups. For those girls in higher grades, the practice is now to grant weekend leave as a means of preparing them for re-entry to the Community.

The Holy Cross Home at Wooloowin has continued its policy of giving girls in its charge as much contact as possible with sporting and other youth activities outside the Home. The girls are frequently taken for outings and picnics, and recreation plays an important part in the Home's training programme. Educational facilities are available and a girl going to Holy Cross is given every opportunity to improve herself. The policy being followed by the Sister in Charge has proved of much benefit. The Sisters take a keen personal interest in each girl. There has been close contact between the Department and the Home, and as with other Centres, liaison is maintained through the Department's Welfare Officer.

The standard of the services offered by the three Denominational Homes is high and comparable with accepted modern practices for helping wayward girls. Amenities in the Homes are often far better than the girls have ever enjoyed. These standards are essential if the girls are to be trained to a better approach to living and acceptable behaviour which is the objective when they are committed to care and control.

WESTBROOK TRAINING CENTRE

The training programme at the Westbrook Training Centre has functioned satisfactorily. This programme includes wider avenues of vocational training, such as woodwork, metalwork, building maintenance and construction, mechanical maintenance, as well as agricultural and animal husbandry.

Manual training activities have been increased since the appointment of a second practical training officer who

officers. They receive instruction not only in woodwork and metalwork, but in the use and care of tools, including machine tools. They learn trade drawing and how to translate their plans into practical articles. It is most important that the boys be given a sense of achievement as part of their training, and efforts are made to produce useful articles. Not only have they made items required at Westbrook, but are making various types of furniture for Children's Homes, including Denominational Training Centres in Brisbane. This furniture includes school desks, tables, chairs, dining room tables, book cases, cupboards and other articles. The work is of a very high standard and well up to that of commercially made articles.

Another major facet of the training programme is building construction and during the year a new dairy, feeding stalls and holding yards were completed. Plans were prepared by the Department of Works in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries. Credit must be given to the boys and the training officers for having completed the work so efficiently. Westbrook now has a modern mechanised dairy, which will promote greater efficiency in the Home's dairying activities, as well as providing for training boys.

A school teacher visits Westbrook two evenings each week and conducts classes in English, arithmetic, reading and writing. On admission, each boy is given an educational test to enable the teacher to design a programme for him. Before coming to Westbrook, the educational standard of boys had suffered by their behaviour patterns and their failure to take advantage of schooling offered to them. It is most essential for their rehabilitation that they obtain a degree of efficiency in reading and writing, as well as in simple arithmetic.

The basis of the rehabilitation programme is useful activity in leisure time and in practical training. Sport and recreational activities are therefore important. Football (Soccer and Rugby League), cricket, tennis, swimming, basketball and softball are played and keenly contested. A gymnasium and facilities for indoor games are also available. Each boy is encouraged to take part in some activity so that his leisure time can be profitably occupied not only whilst in Westbrook, but later when he returns to community life.

As religious education also plays an important part in helping boys, Ministers of religion are encouraged to visit Westbrook and to give spiritual guidance.

On 30th June, 1967, there were 65 boys resident in the Centre. During the year 165 boys were admitted and 159 left. The daily average was 65. The highest number at any one day was 76. These figures indicate that there was a higher average than the year 1965-66 and that the figure of 76 was the highest number of boys resident on any one day since the critical period experienced in 1961. It is important for the effective administration of Westbrook that the number of boys resident at Westbrook be not greater than a daily average of 70, with the highest number on any one day not exceeding 80. Beyond this, it is difficult to maintain personal relationships and to understand the needs of particular boys. Control with existing staff would be difficult beyond these numbers.

Every boy is afforded an opportunity of leaving Westbrook as soon as possible so that he can extend his training by resuming his place in the community. In the initial stage after leaving Westbrook, it is the practice to place a boy with parents, relatives, or other suitable people, and for the boy to remain "in care", with the Department retaining guardianship. If this placement period of from 3 to 6 months be successful, the boy is then ordered to be under "Supervision" in which he remains for at least a further twelve months. This arrangement has proved beneficial and has reduced the period spent in Westbrook to a minimum.

Psychiatrists from the Welfare and Guidance Division of the Department of Health make weekly visits to the Home to keep in contact with those boys who have come through the Wilson Youth Hospital. If a boy has not come through Wilson, the psychiatrists assess the boy and decide whether he should remain at Westbrook or be transferred to Wilson Youth Hospital or another Centre.

The Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. A. W. L. Row, comes to Westbrook twice weekly and at such other times as are necessary. Only minor medical treatment is undertaken. If treatment be of a major nature, the boy is sent to the Toowoomba General Hospital.

A full time Matron is on the staff of the Centre. She attends to the daily needs of the boys and supervises treatments prescribed by the Welfare and Guidance Division of the Department of Health or by the visiting Medical Officer.

The Department of Works let a contract for the construction of a new remand and security unit, and the contractor commenced work in February, 1967. It is anticipated that this building will be completed towards the middle of the coming financial year. This building represents another stage in the rebuilding of Westbrook for which there is a master plan prepared by the Department of Works in collaboration with this Department. This master plan is to be carried out

Agricultural and animal husbandry activities have faced a long period of dry weather and until recent weeks little beneficial rains fell. By careful conservation of fodder and the use of irrigation, the Centre has come through these dry conditions with little difficulty, and without purchasing any stock food. Conservation of grain and fodder has continued and present stocks are in a very satisfactory position.

Produce and stock sold from Westbrook during the year yielded \$15,773. Excellent results were achieved again with the Berkshire pigs at the Toowoomba and Pittsworth Shows.

A project, which the Centre is establishing on its land which formed part of the original Harrow Estate, has progressed and good yields from crops have been obtained. With recent rains, another good yield is assured in the coming financial year.

WILSON YOUTH HOSPITAL, WINDSOR

There were 39 patients at the Hospital on the 1st July, 1966, and 40 on the 30th June, 1967. During the past year 403 patients were admitted and 402 were discharged, resulting in a daily average of 38 patients. The highest number on any one day was 52. The average length of stay for boys retained in the Hospital was 118 days, whilst the average for boys held in transit or on remand was 8 days.

Fifty boys were returned to their homes, but 15 were readmitted for further offences, inability to settle at school and incompatibility with parents. Transfers from Wilson to other Institutions totalled 98, but 21 of these had to be returned to the Hospital.

A table appended to this report divides the patients into age groups. It will be noted that the greatest number of admissions was for boys aged 15 followed by those aged 14. Those admitted at age 17 had not generally come from Children's Courts, but had been returned by the Department from other institutions, or from parents for further observation and treatment.

On admission, most patients display abnormal behaviour patterns, but those in the restless and anti-social behaviour groups settle in fairly quickly. There are, of course, more disturbed boys who had to be kept in the observation section of the Hospital for a longer period.

During the year a total of 141 pupils were enrolled in grades ranging from primary 3 to secondary level at the school within the Hospital. There was also a number of retarded patients who had previously been attending Opportunity school. There was a heavier enrolment this year of secondary school pupils who had been placed in Wilson Youth Hospital with records of truancy or abscondment from home because of school problems. Very few of these pupils are able to cope satisfactorily with academic subjects and benefit greatly from manual training work.

Non-school boys spend their time in the work therapy section under the guidance of an occupational therapist. Many of them have limited ability. Social therapy is provided by plays, concerts, music appreciation, singing and art competitions. This treatment is supervised by the Matron and nursing and orderly staffs.

The whole of the programme at the Wilson Youth Hospital is subject to the supervision of the Division of Welfare and Guidance, Department of Health, and each boy is treated individually in accordance with the directions received from the Welfare and Guidance Division. A good working arrangement exists between professional staffs of the Welfare and Guidance Division of the Department of Health and the Department of Children's Services. No difficulties have arisen as the result of the transfer of the Hospital to the Department of Children's Services in January, 1966, the Division of Welfare and Guidance now functioning in an advisory capacity and in supervision of treatment of the patients.

SUPERVISION

With the proclamation of "The Children's Services Act of 1965" on the 1st August, 1966, the title of process of law known as "Probation" under the repealed State Children Act was changed to "Supervision", which is now the term applying to juveniles.

The Act makes provision for two types of Order that may be issued by Courts—

- (i) A Supervision Order, applying to those children found guilty of offences, or uncontrollable, or likely to lapse into a life of vice and crime.
- (ii) A Protective Supervision Order applying to those children who, through no fault of their own, are subjects of an application to Courts because their parents or guardian do not exercise proper care of, and guardianship over them, and they are neglected, exposed to physical or moral danger, or are under unfit guardianship.

In (i) the Court may, if it so desires, order the Director, Department of Children's Services to exercise Supervision over and in relation to the child for a period and under conditions required by the Court.

With regard to (ii) the Court may, if it so desires, order the Director to exercise Protective Supervision over and in relation to the child under such conditions as the Court may require until it attains the age of 18 years.

The general conditions of both Supervision and Protective Supervision with regard to the child and his parents are prescribed in the Regulations made pursuant to the Act, and in addition, the Court may specify any additional matters and objects over which the Director is to exercise his Supervision.

It is notable that the Court under both types of Order prescribes conditions binding parents, and if parents fail to fulfil these obligations, they are guilty of an offence under the Children's Services Act.

Provision is made for persons convicted of capital offences who are detained in such places and on such conditions as the Minister may direct, to be discharged by the Governor-in-Council from the care and control of the Director, and the Governor-in-Council may also order, if the person be over seventeen years of age, that the Chief Probation Officer appointed under and for the purposes of "The Offenders Probation and Parole Act of 1959" exercise Supervision over and in relation to them for such period as may be prescribed. If the person be under seventeen, the Governor-in-Council may order that the Director exercise Supervision.

During the twelve months under review, Courts have made increased use of Supervision and this is indicated by the fact that even though the number of children appearing before Children's Courts has decreased by 18.1 per cent., the number of children being placed on Supervision by Children's Courts has increased by 15.2 per cent. Furthermore, for the year 1965-66, of a total of 1,772 children appearing before Children's Courts, 258 or 14.6 per cent. were placed under Supervision. In the year under review, of a total of 1,450 children appearing before Children's Courts, 303 or 20.9 per cent. were placed under Supervision.

A Supervision Order, besides being a help to the child, gives it the added advantage of remaining within his family and attending school or employment. The Protective Supervision has a similar objective, permitting the Department to work with the parents and family.

The Supervision section of the Department is staffed by a full time Supervision Officer with the assistance of eleven Child Welfare Officers on a part-time basis. These officers have their own individual cases, and in the Metropolitan area interview the children regularly at their own homes or at the Department's office. Appointments are made at times not to interfere with schooling or employment, and thus avoiding embarrassment for the child in having to ask to leave school early or to take time off from employment.

During interviews, discussion is directed towards the child's activities and interests. He is encouraged to speak freely and discuss any problem or difficulty which might be worrying him. Every endeavour is made to gain the confidence of the child who is counselled not only with regard to his responsibilities under the Supervision Order, but also to his family, school, employer and the community itself.

On occasions, it is necessary to arrange for Vocational Guidance tests, psychiatric or psychological examinations or the assistance of the Department's Employment Officer for the purpose of obtaining suitable employment.

Visits are made to the homes of children under Supervision when the Child Welfare Officer not only discusses with the parents the child's progress and difficulties, but also has an opportunity of assessing the home conditions and environment. Parents may also be required at the Department's office for an interview with or without the child.

The District Officers at Townsville and Rockhampton and the Child Welfare Officer resident in Toowoomba supervise cases in their territories.

Girls are supervised by female Child Welfare Officers, male officers only being used when required, but then always in collaboration with a female Child Welfare Officer.

Regular correspondence passes between the Supervision Officer and children on Supervision residing in distant country centres. Their parents are also encouraged to write regularly giving details of children's behaviour and progress. Their homes are visited by a Child Welfare Officer when in their district.

The Supervision section of the Department also deals with young persons who are placed on trial in the care of their parents, relatives or other suitable persons following a period in a Training Home. This period gives the child an opportunity to prove that he has benefited from such a period

and is therefore better equipped to adjust under Supervision to the requirements of society. After satisfactorily completing a period of trial, he is discharged from care and control and made subject to Supervision.

It is pleasing to report that in the majority of cases, children placed under Supervision accept the opportunity given them by the Court in not committing them to the care and control of the Director and appreciate the opportunity of having regular contact with their supervising officer with whom they can discuss their difficulties and problems.

It is considered that the effect of a Court appearance and the fact that a child is made subject to Supervision has a restraining influence and enables the child to assess in a better perspective the advantages to be gained in avoiding further conflict with the law.

EMPLOYMENT

On 30th June, 1967, 237 "children in care", comprising 138 males and 99 females were in employment. Of these, 87 males and 83 females were employed in occupations subject to Industrial Awards. There were 55 males and 12 females working under agreements between the Director and the employer pursuant to Section 110 of "The Children's Services Act of 1965". Of these, 17 males were working in rural employment and 8 females in domestic employment and handling their own wages at a rate which the Department arranged with the employer to the child's advantage.

Of the 170 children in employment under Industrial Awards, there would be some who were already in employment on 30th June, 1966, and still with the same employer. During the year 273 children were referred to employers, resulting in approximately 237 being placed. This will show the good relationship existing between the Department and employers, most of whom are prepared to accept and try children from Institutions and corrective Homes.

Every assistance has been given by the Commonwealth Employment Service within the Department of Labour and National Service in placing children in employment.

At present 23 boys are undergoing apprenticeships. Due to the raising of education qualifications for entry to trades, particularly the engineering and electrical trades, and the higher standards now demanded by employers in most apprenticeships, it is becoming exceedingly difficult to place boys, many of whom are reluctant to gain, or are not capable of obtaining the required educational standards.

Boys undergoing apprenticeships are engaged in the engineering, electrical, building, motor, printing and food trades, while those who have not had either the desire or the qualifications for apprenticeship, are employed as clerks, sales assistants, warehousemen and storemen, as well as process workers and factory hands in establishments where certain skills can be learnt. The girls are mainly employed in office work, sales work, food processing, printing, clothing and general manufacture. Most of the children are living in hostels provided by Institutions or in foster homes.

This year, a further 40 placements of children, including 9 females were made in employment where the wages are determined by an agreement between the Department and the employer. The total number in employment under wages by agreement rose from 46 as at 30th June, 1966, to 67 at 30th June, 1967.

All children in employment are encouraged to bank portion of their wages in a Trust Account operated by the Department. Whenever a "child in care" commences employment for the first time, he or she is outfitted with appropriate and adequate clothing. When replacements are required, the cost is charged against the child's Trust Account.

A trend is developing whereby specific employment counselling and placement given by the Department's Employment Officer to children subject to Supervision of the Department is in many cases having a stabilizing effect on the performance of the child. Similarly, when employment assistance has been extended to a family receiving only financial assistance from the Department, much has been done to improve the family's welfare. Assistance has also been extended to the placement in suitable live-in domestic employment of unmarried, or deserted mothers and their children when it is obvious that the mother and children would otherwise suffer without a home and income.

MAINTENANCE

The increased number of families needing the assistance of the Department because the father has deserted has placed

Every effort is made to ensure that fathers, and in some cases—mothers, who desert their children do not avoid their obligations. Mothers are required to take maintenance action against their deserting husbands, and when an order for maintenance in respect of the children is obtained, the mother is asked to give a written authority to the Department to collect maintenance for the children and thus assist in making her husband meet his obligations. Payments to the family are continued whilst the father is not paying maintenance or where he is making irregular payments. When he commences to pay regularly, the Department then discontinues its financial assistance, but advises the mother to contact the Department if the husband fails to continue paying regularly.

Many of the husbands disappear and it is difficult to locate them. The search often involves enquiries in other States or overseas. In some instances, the deserting father, when located, has established a de facto association and has another family to maintain. These cases prove difficult, because if maintenance orders were enforced, the Department could easily find itself with more children to maintain, either as assisted children or "children in care". In a majority of cases, there is little hope of any payment, but, nevertheless, deserting fathers are followed in the hope that they may at some future time be able to pay. In other cases, orders are enforced.

Parents who place their children in the care of the Department are required to contribute according to their circumstances towards the maintenance of their children. The maximum rate of contribution is \$6.50 per week corresponding to the rate of payment to licensed Institutions or foster parents. As in the case of desertion, difficulty is experienced in obtaining payment in many cases.

During the year \$72,328.11 in maintenance payments was collected. This represents an increase of \$2,676.31 over collections in 1965-66.

STREET TRADING LICENSES

As with the repealed State Children Acts, "The Children's Services Act of 1965" requires school children over the age of 12 years to be licensed to engage in street trading, the principal form of which is selling newspapers. Children under 12 years of age cannot be licensed to so trade.

The Children's Services Act goes further than the repealed law in that it prohibits canvassing of orders for the supply of goods in a public place, or premises adjacent to a public place, or any other place without a license. This extension of the definition of street trading is to prevent the practice which has grown up in recent years of offering prizes for children to canvass orders, the seller of the goods benefiting considerably from the work of the children, and only one, or maybe two or three of the children being offered a reward in the form of a prize for their services. There were examples where children in their enthusiasm were canvassing for orders at night.

Persons who employ children under twelve to sell newspapers, or to engage otherwise in street trading, commit an offence as do those who employ children over twelve years of age without the permission of the Department.

The purpose of the licensing system is to ensure that the welfare of a child does not suffer or be exploited and his schooling neglected. Before a license is issued, a certificate must be obtained from the Principal or Head Teacher, that his attendance and punctuality at school are satisfactory, and that engaging in trading will not be detrimental to his education.

Newspaper managements co-operate with the Department to ensure that newsboys are correctly licensed, and comply with the required conditions.

The number of licenses issued during the year was 119.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

"The Children's Services Act of 1965," requires that children under the age of 17 years performing in public be granted permission to do so by the Department.

The purpose of issuing these permits is to ensure that schooling is not neglected, that children are not exploited, and that the performance is not detrimental to their welfare. It is not desired to hinder any children in developing their talents, rather it is generally the desire of the Department to encourage them. It is necessary, however, to maintain a control over the situation, otherwise children can be exploited and perform in unsuitable places. Cases come under notice of parents who are prepared to exploit talented children to increase their own incomes.

This aspect of the Department's work has increased with the advent of television and radio, particular the teenage "pop" artist. It is to be noted that the Department

Island Affairs are much appreciated. Many coloured children are "children in care" or assisted children and the close relationship with the Director of Aboriginal and Island Affairs and his officers is helpful and in the interests of these coloured children and their families.

Thanks are also expressed to the Under Secretary, Department of Works and his officers, as well as to other Government Departments, both State and Commonwealth.

There is an excellent spirit of co-operation with Child Welfare Departments in other States, Commonwealth Territories and New Zealand, and thanks are extended to the Directors and their officers.

Sincere thanks must also be expressed to the Governing Authorities of Denominational Homes and other welfare agencies for the services they have rendered for children and

the co-operation they have given to the Department. The Superintendents' and Matrons' Association has proved a valuable link, particularly for discussion of common problems and for the training of staff of Children's Homes.

Service clubs continue to show a great deal of interest and are always seeking ways and means of helping Children's Homes, and their contributions are much appreciated. Special mention must be made of Legacy with which the Department has a very close association. It is essential for the successful administration of the Department and for the benefit of the children, that community organizations should be active in their welfare, and an expression of thanks must be extended to them and to very many private people who help, particularly those who come forward at vacation times and at weekends and take the children for holidays and outings.

C. A. P. CLARK, Director.

DETAILS OF LICENSED INSTITUTIONS

| Name of Institution | Governing Authority | Purpose |
|--|---|---|
| Salvation Army Girls' Home, Horton House, Toowoomba | The Queensland Salvation Army Property Trust | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Salvation Army Vocational Centre for Girls, Kalimna, Toowong | The Queensland Salvation Army Property Trust | Care, education, training, control or welfare of children |
| Salvation Army Home for Girls, Rockhampton | The Queensland Salvation Army Property Trust | Care, training, control or welfare of children |
| Salvation Army Home for Boys, Indooroopilly | The Queensland Salvation Army Property Trust | Care, protection, training, control or welfare of children |
| Salvation Army Training Farm for Boys, Riverview | The Queensland Salvation Army Property Trust | Care, protection, training, control or welfare of children |
| St. George's Homes, Parkhurst | St. George's Homes for Children Executive Committee, Diocese of Rockhampton | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Tufnell Home, Nundah | The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Tufnell Toddler's Home, Nundah | The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Church of England Boys' Home, Enoggera | The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane | Care, protection, training, control or welfare of children |
| St. Vincent's Home for Children, Nudgee | The Corporation of the Trustees of the Sisters of Mercy, All Hallows Convent | Care, protection, education, training, control or welfare of children |
| "Loreto," Family Group Home, Kangaroo Point | The Corporation of the Trustees of the Sisters of Mercy, All Hallows Convent | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| St. Joseph's Home, Neerkoll, Rockhampton | The Corporation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Diocese of Rockhampton | Care, protection, education, training, control or welfare of children |
| Holy Cross Retreat, Wooloowin | The Corporation of the Trustees of the Sisters of Mercy, All Hallows Convent | Care, education, training, control or welfare of children |
| Mt. Maria Re-education Centre, Mitchelton | The Corporation of the Trustees of the Order of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Queensland | Care, education, training, control or welfare of children |
| Nazareth House, Wynnum North | The Congregation of the Sisters of Nazareth | Care, protection, education or welfare of children |
| Boys' Town, Beaudesert | The Corporation of the Trustees of the De La Salle Brothers in Australia | Care, protection, education, training, control or welfare of children |
| Albion Lodge, Albion | The Corporation of the Trustees of the De La Salle Brothers in Australia | Care, protection, training, control or welfare of children |
| Methodist Children's Homes— Alexandra, Bardon | The Corporation of the Methodist Church of Australasia in Queensland, through the Methodist Child Welfare Council | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Kingsbury, Bardon | The Corporation of the Methodist Church of Australasia in Queensland, through the Methodist Child Welfare Council | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Robgill, Bardon | The Corporation of the Methodist Church of Australasia in Queensland, through the Methodist Child Welfare Council | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Harrison, Aspley | The Corporation of the Methodist Church of Australasia in Queensland, through the Methodist Child Welfare Council | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Nicklin, Aspley | The Corporation of the Methodist Church of Australasia in Queensland, through the Methodist Child Welfare Council | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Moore, Toombul | The Corporation of the Methodist Church of Australasia in Queensland, through the Methodist Child Welfare Council | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Stewart, Toombul | The Corporation of the Methodist Church of Australasia in Queensland, through the Methodist Child Welfare Council | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys, Wynnum | The Corporation of the Methodist Church of Australasia in Queensland, through the Methodist Child Welfare Council | Care, protection, training, control or welfare of Children |
| Peirson Memorial Home, Goodwood | Peirson Memorial Trust | Care, protection, training, control or welfare of children |
| Presbyterian Family Group Homes— Aspley | Presbyterian Church of Queensland | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Brighton | Presbyterian Church of Queensland | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Holland Park | Presbyterian Church of Queensland | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Fairfield | Presbyterian Church of Queensland | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| Toowoomba | Presbyterian Church of Queensland | Care, protection or welfare of children |
| The Marsden Home for Boys, Kallangur | Marsden Homes for Boys Committee, Queensland Congregational Union | Care, protection, training, control or welfare of children |
| The Marsden Home for Boys, Booval | Marsden Homes for Boys Committee, Queensland Congregational Union | Care, protection, training, control or welfare of children |
| "Silky Oaks," The Children's Haven, Manly | The Committee of "Silky Oaks," The Children's Haven, Manly | Care, protection, training, control or welfare of children |
| Bethel Children's Home, Dalby | Bethel Children's Home Incorporated | Care, protection or welfare of children |