



- FOUNDED IN 1905 BY MRS. R J LONG
- DIRECTOR: REV. E C LONG
- MOTTO: "OUR GOD IS ABLE"

242 PITT STREET. SYDNEY NEW SOUTH WALES. PHONE MA2078

January 4th, 1956.

Mr. H. C. Giese.  
Director of Welfare,  
N.T. Administration.  
DARWIN.

Dear Sir,

As you know Miss Shankelton, our Home Superintendent is away on her furlough. In her absence Mr. Stretton is acting as Superintendent with Miss Dinham in charge of the girls.

Mr. Stretton has written to us about his interview with you over problems which have arisen, mainly in connection with the discipline in the Home. We realise, of course, this is not a new issue. Rather it is an ever recurring one and we feel that you will agree with us that it is one which does not have an easy solution.

Mr. Stretton tells us that corporal punishment of any sort is forbidden by your Department, and naturally the whole of our Darwin staff are greatly concerned about this.

In consequence of certain happenings in past years the ruling in the Home is that only the Superintendent is to give this punishment or a person delegated to do it in the presence of the Superintendent. This is in line with what happens in the Public Schools and certain other similar Institutions to the Home, and this much authority, at least, must be vested in our Superintendent. You will agree that this is a reasonable position. We, who are parents, exercise a similar authority in our own homes over our own children. Our Mission would not expect to do any more than that to the children entrusted to our care in the Home.

Mr. Stretton and Miss Dinham are both well known to your officers in Darwin and over the years of service in Darwin have, we trust, gained and merited the confidence of your Department. The only way we can work is to have confidence in each other. Our workers have made great sacrifices to go to their work there; this should give you the assurance that they do have the physical, as well as the spiritual, welfare of the people uppermost in their work.

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We are as anxious as you are to get this question on to a proper basis and for harmonious working to do it as soon as possible.

Part of the question of discipline is wrapped up in the location of the Home and also in the fact that it is housing far more than originally intended.

We have been gravely concerned that in spite of repeated promises made by your Department in Darwin and by Canberra the alternative accommodation is, apparently, no nearer being made available to us. We are not unmindful that these promises were made long before your appointment as Director. At the time of the August conference in Darwin we understood that it was to be definitely included in the financial programme for the year.

Could you please give us further advice as to how the matter now stands?

Yours very truly,

*E.A. Collins*

E.A. Collins.  
Acting Director.

Mr. Wilkins:

There are several matters in this letter which I would like to discuss with you urgently:

1. The question of <sup>imposed</sup> punishment of wounds placed in this institution.
2. The problem of alternative accommodation for ch. at Ricketts River (particularly the few years).  
 r. On the second pt. I propose to have Peter Eilers investigate a report on the present functions of the public houses responsible for these institutions in the light of our accepted policy for accommodation of the Salvation Army.
3. On the first pt. I propose to find out primarily where I should legally in respect of corporal punishment of the boys for their own welfare to the Sup. of this institution.

fundament of  
wounds

H. L. Wise  
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