

MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY, VICTORIA

PHONE: 63 8831



CHILDREN'S CLINIC
BATMAN AVENUE
MELBOURNE

4th November, 1971.

Mr. B. A. Keddie,
Director,
Youth Division,
Social Welfare Department,
1 MacArthur Street,
Melbourne 3002

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Keddie,

Winlaton Youth Training Centre

I have been the psychiatrist attending the above centre on several occasions each week for the past 10 months.

I undertook to attend Winlaton, rather than delegate a staff member, so that I could personally evaluate the philosophy and management operative at the centre.

In my opinion the basic philosophy of youth care at Winlaton is distorted and unrealistic in many areas. It lacks consistency and logicality, being out of touch with enlightened youth corrective practices elsewhere in Victoria and overseas.

Some of the out-dated practices at Winlaton create rather than solve management problems. Examples of these practices are:

1. Inappropriate use of maximum security placements.
2. Automatic isolation of all returned absconders in locked rooms for 48 hours, irrespective of reason or circumstances.
3. Lack of programing for non-school girls: much sectional inactivity.
4. Lack of participation in physical exercise and sports.
5. Some petty section regulations which impede rather than mature personality development (copy attached).
6. Their management of disturbed youths often shows a rule of thumb approach rather than comprehending the reason for the problem and the correct intervention strategy required.

I believe Winlaton possesses some excellent staff and has definite potential to be a first class institution, but it sadly requires a clarification of its purpose and mode of operation.

In contrast, Turana is far ahead of Winlaton in philosophy and care and provides a guiding light of how Winlaton could be re-structured.

These viewpoints are my own and are obviously subject to my own biases and weaknesses, but I hope that my limited opinion is of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

T. L. Chatz,

Psychiatrist Superintendent, Children's Clinic

See
Attachment