

CONFIDENTIAL.

FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION

O/C Children's Homes

Bayswater Boys' Home.

A visit was paid on 18.3.69.

Superintendent: of a very few weeks standing, Brigadier Wright, for 27 years dairy master at Bayswater Youth Training Centre and latterly for 6 years, a full time S.A. Probation Officer.

A good deal of time was spent advising Brig. Wright on various technical aspects of boys' as distinct from youth work.

While Brig. Wright is a thoroughly decent, kindhearted sort of man, he came to Bayswater under pressure and is very much at sea.

On the whole I see Bayswater going downhill a bit.

Problems include -

1. Staffing. Apart from the elderly Envoy, all care staff in the main house are new this year and inexperienced at that. Other than Brig. Wright and the Envoy, there is only a bright but inexperienced 2 O.C., (Capt. Barker) and one ineffectual single man. An unsuccessful Corps Lieutenant who was being tried in residential work this year has faded out. However, last years cottage couple have stayed on and the domestic staff are stable and good.

2. Activities. because of staff shortage, very limited, A Scout group operates, one night per week, but other than T.V. there is little else although there are facilities which could be used for hobbies etc. At the moment, only 1 staff member is rostered on each evening with 40 boys.

I have suggested that staff rosters be altered to put on 2 men each evening, that Baltara staff be approached for information on running activity groups and that the possibility of having extra evening staff (for example, teachers) be looked into. I have also suggested that someone such as a retired S.A. Headquarters admin. officer be employed part-time to attend to the clerical work Brig. Wright dislikes and finds difficult.

3. Maintenance needs are beginning to be noticeable now that the building is 10 years old, and owing to the staff shortage boys are not fully supervised at their chores with the result that the standard of housekeeping has slipped in some areas.

At the moment the boys are sensing the indecision of the senior staff and more unrest is seen than has been for a long time, a high rate of absconding being one of its features.

On the credit side, the school seems to be working well. An R.M.I.T. Apprentices Preparatory Trade Course has been introduced and several boys are coping reasonably with it. S.W.D. Training Institute are paying the cost of the actual courses but difficulty is being found in financing some of the equipment.

I am not at all happy about this place at the moment and will keep in touch.

Col. Stevenson has been made aware of our disquiet about Bayswater. He will endeavour to increase the staffing.

[Signature]

(D. JAGGS)

SUPERVISOR OF APPROVED CHILDREN'S HOMES

The Director of Family Welfare

15.4.69
16/4/69
14/4/69