

William Booth, Founder.



Cable: "Salvation, Melbourne."
Phone: 63-4851 (5 lines)

The Salvation Army
(AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN TERRITORY)

HUBERT R. SCOTNEY,
Territorial Commander.

Territorial Headquarters,
69 Bourke Street,
Melbourne, C.I.

CS/NB

Mr. A. Booth,
Director of Family Welfare Division,
Box 2765Y,
MELBOURNE, 3000.

25th July, 1969.



Dear Mr. Booth,

re: THE SALVATION ARMY BOYS' HOME, ELGAR ROAD, BOX HILL.

You may remember that in October last year (1968), I requested an interview to clarify the views of your Department as to what was considered the best approach to the housing of children committed to our care as Wards of the State at our Box Hill Boys' Home, in the event of our rebuilding this facility on modern lines.

Consequently Mr. Whatmore, and your good self, allowed me an interview, in which we discussed the various aspects of Child Care which were in my mind. After frank discussion, it was thought that part congregate care, combined with group homes, would be the answer to our particular need. We then made an approach through the Hospital & Charities Commission to the Government for financial aid, but without success.

I would like to point out that this Institution came into being as such in 1913 and was extended shortly after the first World War to fulfil, in which was those days, a pressing need, and through succeeding years has rendered valuable service in the realm of Child Care.

Today we are faced with the problem of old buildings, with some small exception, that are unsuited to modern needs and standards, and facilities that are insufficient and inadequate.

We feel that we have no right to house boys, as we do now in the section of the main building, known to us as the 7 & 8 Dormitories, and we are only keeping this open to provide a real need as far as your Division is concerned.

There is nothing personalised in this segment of our congregate care and we are only providing a much needed sleeping shelter and a building which in itself constitutes a fire hazard.

We have got away from the thinking that a roof over the head of a child and requisite meals each day will meet his needs, and recognize that the criteria by which we must evaluate Child Care are rooted in the



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provision of his emotional security, as well as meeting his physical, educational, recreational and spiritual needs.

Realizing this, it is in our thinking that we have to raise our image in the field of Child Care as far as this Home is concerned as we are no longer satisfied to work on a sub standard basis as in former years.

We have in mind a project for the resiting and the rebuilding of the whole of our Complex at Box Hill to what we would consider the most modern setting. The purport of this letter is to seek your advice in this matter and ask for your support in an approach to the Government. To this end I would be very happy to meet you again and outline our detailed proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Stevenson', written over a horizontal line.

(C. Stevenson) Lt. Colonel,
TERRITORIAL MEN'S SOCIAL SECRETARY.