

350.

AGB/ED.

23rd April, 1968.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL:Box Hill Boys' Home - Use of Strap

Attached is a report dated 17th April, 1968, from Mr. Hughes, O.C., Children's Homes Section, a letter dated 15th April from the recently appointed Manager of the Home (Major Sumsion), and a letter dated 18th April from Colonel Stevenson, Territorial Men's Social Secretary, Salvation Army. These indicate that a leather strap has been used on a number of occasions, and that boys have also been given "a clip on the ear now and then". The strapping appears to have been mainly, if not solely, on the hand, and the report does not suggest that it has been very severe.

Mr. Hughes investigated the matter in conjunction with Colonel Stevenson. The latter believes that the incidents happened through ignorance and will not be repeated, and certainly not condoned.

I feel confident that Colonel Stevenson will ensure that there are no further similar breaches of the regulations. I suggest that the only action that need be taken is an acknowledgment to Colonel Stevenson's letter stating that the Department views the incidents seriously but accepts his assurances that they will not be repeated. It would seem desirable for you to send the reply, but I will do so if you would prefer.

Encls.

DIRECTOR OF FAMILY WELFARE.
