

350.

AGB/ED.

Mr. Booth.

16th November, 1966.

Colonel T. R. Darlow,
Territorial Men's Social Secretary,
Salvation Army Headquarters,
P.O. Box 1287K.,
MELBOURNE. C.I.

Dear Colonel Darlow,

I refer to our discussions of to-day and would like to confirm the suggestion that Box Hill Boys' Home be used to a greater extent for the short-term care of 10-14 year old boys with a history of educational retardation, truancy and minor offences.

This suggestion is based largely on the following considerations:

- (1) The Division's experience during the past two or three years is that the number of these boys admitted to care is increasing, whereas there is a comparative decrease in the number of long-term academic.- normal and conforming type of boy in this age range.
 - (2) The educationally retarded boys find difficulty in coping with ordinary schooling and this is often associated with truancy and the commission of minor offences. The school at Box Hill Boys' Home, especially if the services of a fully trained opportunity grade teacher were available, would be able to provide the necessary remedial teaching and thus help to advance the boys to the stage where they were able to return to their families and to employment or to an ordinary school in the community.
- The long-term conforming boys would, in the main, attend primary and secondary schools outside the Boys' Home.
- (3) As far as practicable, the short-term educationally retarded boys be cared for in a separate section from the long-term boys. They would require a higher staff ratio for the purposes of out-of-school supervision.

This suggestion does not involve any real change in existing policy, but rather a change in emphasis with an increasing proportion of short-term placements and the virtual establishment of a separate home within the main institution.

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Colonel T. R. Darlow.16th November, 1966.

I should emphasise that I would not like to see this suggestion interfere in any way with plans to establish scattered family group homes for children of both sexes.

Yours faithfully,



DIRECTOR OF FAMILY WELFARE.