



**Department of
Community Welfare Services
Victoria**

**WINLATON
YOUTH TRAINING
CENTRE
INFORMATION**

**Winlaton Youth Training Centre
186 Springvale Road
Nunawading 3131
Telephone (03) 878 5577**

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WINLATON YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

INFORMATION SHEET

1. LOCATION: 24 km from Melbourne, at 186 Springvale Road, Nunawading, Victoria. The Centre covers almost 20 acres of land and was opened in November, 1956.
2. POPULATION: Winlaton is the only Statutory Remand and Youth Training Centre for young women run by the Division of Family and Adolescent Services in the Department of Community Welfare Services of Victoria. All youth admitted to Winlaton, apart from those on Remand, come through the Children's Court or a Magistrate's Court. Each will be either:-

(a) A Ward of State, having been brought to Court by Police on a Protection Application, Uncontrolled Application, or charged with an offence.

or

(b) A sentenced young woman having been charged by Police with an offence. Only about twenty youth per year are admitted on sentence; most admissions are for wardship, although many of these youth have been involved also in illegal acts.

All young women admitted are between 14 and 21 years old, apart from some who are a bit younger, referred to Winlaton because they present severe management problems.

3. DESCRIPTION: Winlaton is an Institution with variable security and has three different building areas:-

(a) A fenced area or compound enclosing three cottage-sections with two cottages (Warrina and Karingal) capable of holding twenty-two girls, and one cottage (Goonyah) capable of holding twenty girls. Each cottage-section consists of two units with single or double bedrooms, and a floor plan which includes a lounge/recreation room, dining room, a kitchen, bathrooms and a staff room.

(b) An open hostel section, Leawarra, situated outside the fence with seventeen individual bedrooms.

(c) A self-contained high security Remand section, Winbirra, which has twelve bedrooms, one of which is a sick room, as well as dining, recreation and bathing areas.

Winlaton can accommodate up to 95 young women, if we place two youth in several of our rooms which is undesirable and to be avoided. A private single room is preferable for each youth, though not always possible. For the year 1.7.78 to 30.6.79 our flow-through of young persons included the following statistics for admissions and releases

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within Winlaton (not including Winbirra Remand):

SUMMARY - MOVEMENT OF TRAINEES WITHIN THE FOUR
COTTAGE SECTIONS (not including Winbirra/Remand)
1.7.78 - 30.6.79

<u>Admissions</u>		<u>Releases</u>	
Returned Wards	351	Returned Wards	391
New Wards	147	New Wards	122
Sentenced Non-Wards	6	Sentenced Non- Wards	5
	<u>504</u>		<u>518</u>

Winbirra Remand Centre had 553 admissions during the period
1.7.78 - 30.6.79.

4. FUNCTIONS: Winlaton is a multi-purpose institution.
- (a) Remand Centre: Holding youth for 3 or 4 days pending their appearance in the Children's Court. Youth on a Protection Application as well as those charged with an offence are held on Remand. Some are re-remanded for two or three weeks and some are bailed.
- (b) Assessment and Classification Centre: New admissions undergo a two or three week period of assessment. Each young woman is allocated to a Youth Officer and a Regional Services Social Worker who investigates and reports on family background and community supports. Individual assessments of each girl's educational functioning and potential are carried out by a School Teacher. After two or three weeks a Classification Meeting is held, information from all sources, including written reports from the youth herself, is discussed; when time allows, the youth is present at this meeting. A programme of institutional involvement and/or community placement, is decided upon. This initial classification plan is reviewed frequently.
- (c) Treatment Centre: Youth can be placed in the community fairly rapidly or can be retained in Winlaton for treatment with a view to eventual release. During this time they are involved in a variety of institutional programmes. All girls participate in daily group management sessions using the techniques of Triad counselling and positive peer culture. Concepts from Reality Therapy and Assertiveness Training are used frequently. Diadic counselling is also abundant.

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Youth are eligible for leave after six weeks or earlier, if directed by the Classification Meeting, and can take leave every weekend from Friday to Sunday night. In the case of sentenced girls leave is granted monthly after the initial six weeks. Winlaton believes that home contacts and the continued reinforcement of social/familial ties are important to the rehabilitative process.

5. PROGRAMMES:

Education: The Winlaton Education Centre provides educational facilities for every young woman in the Institution (with the exception of Remand where sometimes the high number of young women in residence cannot be accommodated in the Education facility).

Education Centre Remand: Provides a general education programme covering as many areas of the curriculum as is possible. The young women in Remand are often not able to cope with a normal education programme, as they are often in a state of extreme anxiety.

Education Centre Winlaton: The educational programme is divided into three main areas:-

(1) Assessment.

Assessment I: This programme operates for young women who are attending Winlaton for the first time. As well as taking part in "normal" education programmes - sewing, cooking, art, woodwork, etc., these young people have alternative educational experiences such as the opportunity of taking part in sexual education programmes, dealing with alcoholism and other difficult social problems. An attempt is made to explain the procedures of the Institution to young people at this stage to enable them to have a basic understanding of what is likely to happen to them in the Institution. The young women are given basic tests to ascertain their abilities at this time. At this stage the young women are able to decide whether or not they wish to continue on at School (in the community) or whether they wish to enter the work force.

Assessment II: This programme caters for young women who have been returned to the Institution. Basically class teachers try to help the young person build up a new plan and offer new educational options. Many of these young women do not wish to return to school and educational programmes are designed to meet their needs.

(2) Continuing Education: Those young women who eventually wish to return to school have the opportunity to enter programmes which cater for their continuing education needs. All who wish to continue with their education are placed in community schools. One teacher undertakes liaison work with community schools to aid this transition.

- (3) Career Training: By far, the greatest majority wish to leave school. The Education Centre has developed, with the co-operation and help of the Department of Community Welfare Services, a most comprehensive Work Preparation Programme. This highly successful programme also incorporates the services of a full time Commonwealth Employment Services Officer who has a high success rate, placing young women in a very scarce job market. The addition of a Commercial Teacher to this programme has increased the career options greatly.

General: All areas of school programmes have the options of art, sewing, cooking, soft toy-making and other homecraft programmes. All these programmes are most popular and in many ways help build up the expertise and self-image of many young women.

Schools Commission Grants have also increased our educational programme options. These include gardening, photography, woodwork, cross-age tutoring, music, voluntary work payment, sexual education, human relations, driver education, child care, printing, camps and holiday programmes.

6. CONSTRUCTIVE LEISURE PROGRAMME:

A Senior Youth Officer and a Part-Time Activities Officer are responsible for co-ordinating community members coming into the Centre to give talks and/or instruction in a variety of skills, hobbies and workshops and for organising girls to go into the community to participate in social and activity groups. Contact has been made with many local groups involved in drama, art and craft activities, camping, sports, etc.

7. STAFF: (As of September, 1979).

<u>Youth Officers</u> :	1	Principal Youth Officer (Female)
	2	Chief Youth Officers (Female)
	1	Chief Youth Officer (Male)
	10	Senior Youth Officers (Female)
	32	Youth Officers (Female)
	13	Youth Officers (Male)

They are from a variety of backgrounds and generally represent a cross section of the community. Selection is based on interview and personality testing. Youth Officers are involved in the daily management of youth and in carrying out individual treatment programmes. Eight Youth Officers are assigned to each cottage-section plus an allocation of Youth Officers for night-time supervision. Youth Officers have to complete a Certificate in Youth Work at the Department of Community Welfare Services Institute, to gain permanency as an employee in the Department of Community Welfare Services.

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Teachers: Our compliment of teachers includes two persons in the Remand Centre, four in the Assessment Programme, two art and craft Teachers, three Home Economic Teachers, three in Work Preparation and two Classroom Teachers. Most teachers hold a Certificate in Special Education. There is a Principal and two Vice-Principals.

Social Workers: Two Workers are based at Winlaton as part of the Liaison and Referral Unit which has Workers based in each of the major institutions in the Department. These staff liaise with workers in Departmental Regional Centres and other community agencies to co-ordinate case planning for the young women while they are in Winlaton.

Medical:

- (2) Nursing Sisters; 1 full-time and 1 part-time
- (3) Medical Practitioners - 3 days per week
- (1) Dentist (Doctor to the School Dental Services) - 1 day per week
- (1) Consultant Psychologist from the Children's Court Clinic - 2 days per week
- (1) Trained Psychiatric Nurse from the Children's Court Clinic - 1 day per week
- (1) Consultant Psychiatrist from the Children's Court Clinic - when required.

Professional:

- (1) Superintendent
- (1) Deputy Superintendent of Policy, Planning and Residential Treatment
- (1) Deputy Superintendent of Assessment Classification and Review.
- (1) Assistant Superintendent
- (3) Administrative Staff
- (1) Receptionist
- (2) Stenographers - 1 full-time, 1 part-time
- (1) Trade Instructor (Commercial)
- (1) Storekeeper
- (3) Cooks
- (1) Domestic
- (2) Maintenance Staff
- (1) Chauffeur
- (2) Patrolmen
- (2) Gardeners (employed by Public Works Department)

We are pleased about your interest in Winlaton, and extend to you our best wishes.