



VICTORIA

## SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

"Winlaton,"  
186 Springvale Road,  
Nunawading,  
Victoria. 3131

TELEPHONE: 878 5577  
Winbirra Remand Centre: 878 9828

EMS:MM

26th May, 1978

Memorandum to: Mr. Bruce Anderson -  
A/g Supervisor of Classification and Treatment

I've included below for your review item number four from the minutes of Youth Training Centres Superintendents' Meeting chaired by you and held at Turana on Wednesday 9.11.77.

Item 4. Medical Examinations of Girls in Custody Relating to Carnal Knowledge Charges.

Mrs. Minister raised her concerns about the procedure of girls being examined by the Police Doctor to gain evidence in carnal knowledge cases.

The typical situation is a boy charged with carnal knowledge, the girl with being in need of care and protection. The police ask for a medical examination. The girl has a right to refuse but, staff, fearing confrontation with the police, tend to talk her into accepting. It was felt that the procedure was unlikely to result in any useful evidence and that it was an outdated as well as being a humiliating experience for the girl.

The A./S.C.T. will take this matter up with the Police Liaison Officer to appraise the necessity for this procedure.

Prompted by our continuing concerns at Winlaton, I'm wondering if you've had an opportunity to discuss this point with the Police Liaison Officer. Again last week on the Winbirra Remand Section, a girl was asked by the police to submit to this medical examination, not once, but twice, because the first report had been mislaid. This is often a physically painful procedure for young females, a humiliating one and produces questionable evidence in a particular case of carnal knowledge, other than the girl has had intercourse at some point in time. I can't agree with this procedure and I'm asking for your help.

Thank you in anticipation of your clarification about this persistent matter.

Sincerely,

*Eileen Slack*  
Dr. Eileen M. Slack  
A/g Superintendent

c.c. Mr. Ken Williams  
Mr. Lloyd Owen

Blind copy: Mrs. M. Minister  
Mrs. J. Difton  
Mrs. M. Boyd  
Mrs. M. Channon  
Sr. M. Donagan