



Our ref: 01/34037

Det. Sen. Const. Peter Freer  
Cobar Police Station  
Cobar NSW 2835

Dear Det. Sen. Const. Freer

**Re: Bethcar**

I refer to your request for information relating to *Bethcar*, a facility for Aboriginal children, formerly operating in Brewarrina.

DoCS has a file in relation to this service. The file contains information relating to funding and administration only - it does not have case work information attached to it. The file indicates the facility commenced in 1976 and that it provided accommodation for children needing out of home care and at times also acted as a remand home (1978).

*Bethcar* was a funded service, with funding being sourced via the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. It would appear that in cases where DoCS placed children in the service, additional funding was provided through DoCS in the form of cash assistance and various one off grants in relation to these individual children.

The file indicates that the service was operated by a couple from its inception to closure (the couple's surname was not Gibson). A report in 1989 indicated that owing to the age and health of the carers no further children would be placed there. However, there were still six children in their care at that time and it is not clear when the facility actually closed. It would appear that the carers subsequently fostered a couple of children and our most recent information in relation to them is from 1994.

As a funded service, *Bethcar* would have been responsible for its own staffing and associated records. DoCS does not, therefore, have records that indicate who may have been employed there. Nor do we hold admission/discharge information in relation to the service. DoCS may have individual client records relating to children placed at *Bethcar* but would need names and dates of birth in an attempt to identify that information.

However I can confirm that DoCS has child protection information in relation to allegations of sexual assault against Collin Gibson in 1992. The allegations were referred to the Child Mistreatment Unit within Police. Part of the information contained in the allegation suggested that Collin Gibson was a relation of the child whom he allegedly assaulted and that he was "teaching staff at the school" the child attended. Further information may be available on the child's file that is not currently available to me.

**NSW Department of Community Services Communications and Executive Support Directorate**

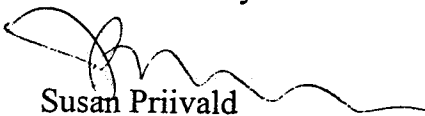
I have made enquiries as to whether DoCS currently employs Collin Gibson and confirm that we do not. Our payroll records only have information for employees back to 1992. I am therefore unable to confirm whether DoCS has ever employed Collin Gibson.

There are two current DoCS staff who may have further knowledge of *Bethcar* and who may be willing to discuss information with you. If you could indicate your needs in relation to information that you may require from them I can contact them and discuss whether they are able to assist you.

Should you wish to access DoCS files that contain confidential client information then we will need a lawful excuse by way of subpoena or warrant to provide the information to you.

If you require further information please contact me on 9716 2766.

Yours sincerely



Susan Priivald  
Acting Manager  
Information Exchange Team  
9 April 2001