

Sub division 4Item (01) General Welfare Services

<u>1962/63</u> <u>Appropriation</u>	<u>1961/62</u> <u>Expenditure</u>
£62,000	£52,326
	Increase £9,674

In the main this sub-item provides for : Destitute, needy and neglected children cared for under the provisions of the Child Welfare Ordinance; in respect of certified mental patients, their transfer to and maintenance in mental institutions in the States: in respect of persons in indigent or necessitous circumstances; providing them with food, clothing, medical attention involving inter-State transfers if necessary, funeral expenses, care in the home in special cases, legal expenses etc.

Details of the 1962/63 Appropriation compared with 1961/62 expenditure are :-

	<u>1962/63</u> <u>Estimate</u>	<u>1961/62</u> <u>Expenditure</u>
(A) Maintenance of Receiving Homes, Darwin & Alice Springs	16,000	12,318
(B) Maintenance of State Wards	11,500	9,340
(C) Child Welfare Council	1,000	324
(D) Mental Patients	22,000	19,909
(E) Miscellaneous Relief	7,500	7,435
(F) Emergency Housekeeping	2,500	3,000
(G) Special assistance to needy families (new item)	1,500	-
	<u>£62,000</u>	<u>52,326</u>

Provision is made in the 1962/63 estimates for an increase over the 1961/62 expenditure in all sub-sections for the following reasons :-

(A) Receiving Homes : There will be two separate receiving homes operating for a full year in Darwin during 1962/63. These will be fully staffed and it is expected that for the most part of the year they will be fully occupied by inmates. The adolescents' receiving home in Darwin was only partially staffed for half of the 1961/62 year and because of this the intake of inmates was limited. The receiving home at Alice Springs will continue to be operated on a full scale basis throughout the year. Details are :-

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	Darwin Children's Home	Darwin Adolescents Home	Alice Springs Home
Food	av. 12 x £3/10/- per week 2,180	av. 7 x £4/-/- per week 1,456	av. 7 x £3/10/- per week 1,274
Clothing	500	300	200
Operation & Domestic Equipment	1,000	600	300
Medical & Dental	300	300	200
Wages	4 x £500 and overtime 4,200	2 x £800 and overtime 2,000	av. 1½ x £800 and overtime 1,500
	8,180	4,656	3,474
	say £8,000	say £4,500	say £3,500

(B) State Children : It is expected that there will be an addition to the total number of State children to be maintained during 1962/63 as against 1961/62 and experience shows that in every state in which State children are placed in institutions, costs of maintenance are increasing significantly.

(C) Child Welfare Council : An undertaking has been given that at least one meeting of the Child Welfare Council will be held during 1962/63 in Alice Springs. This will increase the requirement for funds in this sector. Beyond this, fees for Council members have been increased by ministerial direction.

(D) Mental patients : The cost of maintaining mental patients in institutions in the States increased substantially in the 1961/62 year. There may be a further increase in maintenance rates in the 1962/63 year and the current rate has been rounded to £700 per annum to provide for this. Also, we are providing for the maintenance of an additional few patients.

(E) Miscellaneous Relief : It is not known whether the trend in 1961/62 for a fairly large number of indigent people to come to the Territory and find themselves stranded will continue in 1962/63 but we have no reason to believe that the same situation will not obtain. Therefore an increased provision has been made in Miscellaneous Relief to meet this eventuality. Fees incurred under the Poor Persons Legal Assistance Ordinance have to be met from this sector and this year there has been a substantial increase in lawyers' fees to the point where it is considered that a special provision of £1,000 needs to be made in the 1962/63 estimates on this account. Cost of funerals has also increased significantly; and with the increase in the Northern Territory's population, it has been found that there has been an increasing drain on this sector to meet the cost of transfers of indigent sick persons for treatment in the States which is not available in the Northern Territory.

(F) Emergency Housekeeping : It is expected that the Emergency Housekeeping Scheme will be operating fully in Darwin and Alice Springs in the 1962/63 and our commitments will be £2,500 for that year.

(G) Special Assistance to Needy Families : The Housing Commission having taken over all housing that was formerly under the control of Welfare Branch, intend to charge a full economic rental. In certain circumstances it will be impossible for the tenants to pay this rental and this item is to cater for cases where assistance is necessary. This has the approval of the Minister - See Departmental memo 61/3166 of 23rd October, 1961.