

RDH INQUIRIES.

5th July, 1966.

Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Smith,

REDACTED

Dear Christian Friends,

Thank you very much for supplying the information about yourselves and we have noted that there are some details on which you would like to have more information.

You were asking about the short term training period. Under ordinary circumstances we have been able to arrange for people doing this course to stay in the Orana Methodist Homes and to travel from there to Hawthorn where the classes are conducted. Of all previous people doing the studies there have been no children involved. We are sure that this would not be an unsurmountable barrier and, should you be accepted, some solution can be worked out. We would require both of you to do the course.

The dates they have set down for this year are the 8th August until 3rd October and the next course starting on the 10th October and concluding on the 5th December. The Social Welfare Department make this proviso that they only accept candidates for the course after they have filled all the applications from their own government staff.

The Retta Dixon Homes pay for the board while prospective house parents are doing this course and the actual course itself is provided free by the Victorian Government. They organise quite a number of inspections in the different types of children's homes being operated in Victoria and some money is involved in travelling expenses. For instance, there would be going backwards and forwards to the classes each day as well as the tours of inspection made.

Another question that you were asking is the relationship of the houseparents to each cottage. The primary responsibility would

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be for the children in their own cottage although each one as some responsibility to the general overall upkeep and maintenance of the whole of the Retta Dixon Homes. It is situated on a ten acre block and with the men folk there is always a certain amount of maintenance work necessary. There is the work involved in keeping the grounds in good order especially in the wet season when there is so much growth which requires mowing and then there are certain spiritual opportunities such as R.I. classes in the school, open air work and regular meetings within the Home itself.

As to the responsibility for fares. We would say that it is the responsibility of the applicants to get to Melbourne to begin the training course and after a successful graduation there it has always been a matter of negotiation with the people concerned as to payment for the fares to Darwin. Some have preferred to pay their own, others have asked for some assistance and others again have asked that the Home accept the responsibility for the full amount involved. In the latter case some assurance is necessary that candidates will remain on for at least twelve months. It is a period of three years between furloughs and the Home pays the return air fares for a married couple and one child to any of the capital cities within Australia.

The last question you raised was, are there any deductions made from the remuneration mentioned. No, you receive the full amount.

You have not mentioned anything about your general health. Have you both had continuing good health? Before acceptance it will be necessary to submit a doctor's certificate.

Will you please pray this over together and if you feel that the Lord is still leading I think the next thing would be to write and make a definite application by letter asking that we send application papers to you.

Praying with you that the Lord will guide and reveal His will for your lives in service for Him.

Yours sincerely,
In Christ Jesus,

E.A. COLLINS
GENERAL SECRETARY

EAC.JMB.