

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From the

5th. October, 1965.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

To The Director of Education.

ATTENTION: Mr. Gunton.

Home Address 193. Shepherds Hill Road,  
Eden Hills, S.A.

Asst. Supt. Primary Schools.

Subject THE EDEN PARK BOYS SCHOOL, MT. BARKER, EDUCATION DEPT.

Forwarded to -

Sps. (9.)  
For - S.P.S.Ref: E.D. 839/4/2.  
2 OCT 1965.

E.D. FILE

Dear Mr. Gunton,

I wish to refer again to my letter of 22/9/65, (E.D. 839/4/2) in which I drew attention to many conditions at the Eden Park Boys School which needed careful study. You will remember visiting the school with me in 1964 and the discussions we had concerning the problems that were apparent.

During my visits of inspection this year, I found that nothing has been done to solve these problems, and that the school is being administered as before. I refer you to my 1965 annual report on this school.

Almost all of the boys at the school at present have been sent there on the recommendation of Dr. LePage, and some of the questions that come to my mind are,

What type of boy is being sent to this school?

What is the purpose of the boys being at the school?

What benefit is expected?

Is the schooling, which must be an integral part of their "treatment," providing what is expected of it?

I asked these questions of the Head Teacher, but he could not answer them. The school is progressing in an ordinary way with the normal curriculum without any apparent effort being made to cater for the particular needs that these boys obviously have.

This is not an ordinary school as far as conditions are concerned. The rooms are old, drab, and substandard in respect of lighting, ventilation, furnishing, heating and equipment, despite the efforts of the teachers to make the rooms more acceptable. Playing conditions, sporting equipment, library, handwork, washing and drinking facilities are all below standard. The teachers have

/2.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

From file

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

19

To.....

Home Address .....

Subject.....

-2-

not been specially chosen nor are they specially equipped to cope with the problems that exist. The teachers are following the normal curriculum, and they do not appear to be educationally capable of the necessary originality of thought to want to change or even "bend" the courses to suit the boys. Nevertheless, they are sound average teachers.

If these boys are benefiting from their sojourn at the Eden Park Boys' Home, I would say that their schooling is not contributing greatly to the improvement as every boy must have come from a better educational environment. The change to this drab institutionalised school atmosphere can hardly be beneficial. I believe that much more could be done for them educationally.

I request that the whole question of the boys' education be studied in all of its aspects, so that better conditions, and a better course of study can be provided.

I believe also that complete liaison between all concerned with these boys is a fundamental requirement.

Yours faithfully,

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.