

William Booth, Founder.



Cable: "Salvation, Melbourne."  
Phone: 63-4851 (5 lines)

## The Salvation Army

(AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN TERRITORY)

F. W. HARVEY  
HUBERT R. SCOTNEY,  
Territorial Commander.

Territorial Headquarters,  
69 Bourke Street,  
Melbourne, C.I.

Ref: CS:sk/G.7. SA.  
Please quote in reply.

July 1, 1970.

Mr. Oxenbury,  
Social Welfare Department,  
ADELAIDE.

Dear Mr. Oxenbury,

re: Mt. Barker Boys' Home.

As promised I have further looked into the administration of this Home and wish to assure you that the following matters raised in our discussion have been attended to -

- (a) Roles and Responsibilities of Staff. Our State Social Secretary, Brigadier Semmens, will have attended to this matter and submitted same.
- (b) Punishment Record. It has always been our policy, especially in recent years, to obviate the necessity of corporal punishment by a well defined system of awards, and I was a little surprised to find that this was still in vogue at this Home. Assurance has now been given to me, that if used in extreme cases, a proper record will be kept with the name of the offender, the offence, the extent of the punishment and the name of the witness. This will only be given by the Manager or his Assistant and not by any other member of the staff.
- (c) De~~te~~ntion. This will not be tolerated in any circumstance and I am assured that this unfortunate episode was an isolated case to protect an emotionally disturbed boy from his own foolishness.
- (d) Annexe. This old part of our building housing several boys in dormitory style is now being converted into storage and a place for sewing and mending facilities. Other rooms are being renovated to accommodate the boys that were housed here. It will be appreciated that when our building scheme is completed that this will do away with our domiciling any boys in the old original building.

To A/O  
6/7/70 GH

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- (e) Training Courses. Brigadier Semmens will give every encouragement to the members of the staff to attend these when they are in operation.
- (f) Oversight of Administration. Brigadier Semmens will attend to this and will arrange staff conferences in line with our general policy.

Having given you these assurances, I would like to state that from evidence gleaned at my enquiry at this Home, I am quite sure that these matters would not have arisen, if the Manager had not rebuked the member of the staff who made the complaint for doing things which others were accused of, and telling him that under no circumstance would they be tolerated. Also that with all the people interested in our Home, and with the type of boy that we cater for, often emotionally upset and with behaviour problems, we have never before had any complaints from parents or visitors or those closely associated with the place.

Mr. & Mrs. Heinzé, <sup>Education Dept Teachers</sup> who have had charge of our school for some years, speak only in the highest terms of the Management and referrals are often made by Mr. W. Nichols, Truant Officer, Department of Education.

Dr. Steele and Dr. Malor of the Wakefield Child Guidance Clinic use our facilities, and Mrs. Eustace, the Social Worker I understand associated with the Clinic, is a constant visitor and has only spoken in the highest terms because of the change of attitude in some of their most difficult cases.

I understand also that Dr. Edhouse of the Children's Hospital often speaks of his gratitude in the case of a boy he asked us to take who had marked suicidal tendencies and who has now taken his place again in the community.

Our school is now registered as a "Special School" by the Department of Psychology, and in the light of all this it is difficult to keep our numbers down, hence the dormitory use of the place you called the "Annexe".

I do trust that your next visit may give you every confidence in the programme associated with the Home, and if there is any query or question, Brigadier Semmens will be only too pleased to discuss the situation with you.



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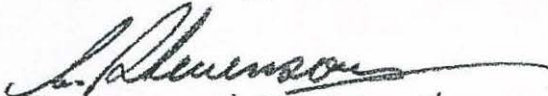
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Thank you again for your courtesy in receiving me while in Adelaide recently.

With very kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(C. Stevenson) Lt.-Colonel,  
TERRITORIAL MEN'S SOCIAL SECRETARY.