

EDEN PARK

BOYS HOME



BRIEF

\* RESIDENTIAL CHILDCARE WORKER \*

## " EDEN PARK HOME FOR BOYS "

### RESIDENTIAL CHILDCARE WORKERS BRIEF

#### INTRODUCTION

Eden Park has been a Home for boys since 1900 first as a Reformatory, then Orphanage, and since 1970 a Home for Emotionally Disturbed Boys, dealing with boys through The Childrens Hospital and other Child Guidance Clinics.

The present philosophy of modern Governments has been to move children into Cottage Homes with a fair measure of success, however, both in the U.K. and U.S.A. and now here in Southern Australian States, it is seen that there is still a place for the traditional "Congregate Care", although in much smaller units such as we have at Eden Park.

The Home has three units, or (sections), which have been given names - Aroona, Barmera, Coorong - This gives the boys a sense of belonging to a closer knit family with a Senior and Assistant Residential Childcare Worker.

#### MANAGEMENT

The Home is the property of The Salvation Army and at all times the Home is managed by Salvation Army Officers and Assistant Officers. The Home is financed by The Salvation Army with grants from both Federal and State Governments.

The Senior Officer and his wife accept responsibility as Manager and Matron, and their Assistant Officers accept responsibility as the Assistant Manager and Matron, and all staff in the Home work under their direction.

#### RESIDENTIAL CHILDCARE WORKER

Work closely with the Management in protecting and caring for each boy in their charge, and the environment in which they live, remembering that we are here to Serve the boys, making their stay as happy as possible, teaching them to respect and share simple rules of life without bribing them in any way to do their task.

#### DAILY ROUTINE

- 7 am Get up, make beds, attend to allotted duty.
- 7.30 am Breakfast.
- 8 am Prepare for School.
- 8.30 am High School Bus leaves - Primary boys assemble for prayers. Staff finish cleaning sections, presentable for visitors.
- 9 am Morning tea. Free time or duties as required (i.e. Doctor, Clinics, etc.)
- 9.30 am Thursday only - Staff Meeting or Review Boards.
- 3.15 pm Primary boys out of school, change into play clothes, clean shoes. Free play time until tea.
- 3.45 pm High School boys arrive home, change into play clothes, clean shoes, check homework, play time until tea.
- 5 pm Tea. Wash up. Boys are then supervised in their evening activities, directed if necessary to join in any sporting or other activities that might be arranged, helping with handicrafts and homework where necessary.
- 8.30 pm Lights out. Complete daily reports, see that boys have settled down.
- 9 pm Finish.

The R.C.W. is responsible to see that his Section is clean inside and out at all times. He also has the duty to see that boys learn to do chores, therefore he has the liberty to arrange the boys on a roster helping him to keep the home shipshape.

At all times the R.C.W. should have all his boys under some supervision knowing where they are and what they are doing. If the R.C.W. is caught up with a duty or other commitment, he should see that the boys are supervised by someone else.

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MEDICALS The R.C.W. has the responsibility to see that each of his charges are healthy and any sickness must be reported to the Matron who will administer medication and advise if a Doctor should see the boy. If a boy is confined to bed the R.C.W. should see that he is clean and comfortable and that the Cook is told so that the boy will not miss out on meals. If a boy is taken to the Doctor, the R.C.W. should make sure that he understands the nature of the boys illness, if he is on medication or has any allergy. The Matron should be advised after the visit to the Doctor of any comments made. All medication is to be handed to the Matron and all correspondence should be addressed to the Manager, Eden Park Boys Home.

SPIRITUAL The Salvation Army is a Spiritual organization and whilst our staff are not necessarily Salvationists, boys are taken into the Home with the full understanding with the parents that the Home will take responsibility for the Spiritual as well as the temporal needs of the boys, and this is undertaken by a saying of Grace before meals, worship on Sundays in a church, family prayers after Sunday tea, and all staff are expected to encourage boys in prayer life.

MORAL STANDARDS Many boys coming into the Home have been exposed to some grave moral behaviour and therefore the R.C.W. should be alert to new boys coming into the Home, listening to boys conversation, checking their language, and gestures, and also to be alert to boys ganging up for bullying or sexual behaviour. Whilst we have T.V. in each unit, which can be used as a good educational aid, also good for entertainment, it should also be remembered that many of these boys have been brought up in this T.V. age and accept the moral standards seen on T.V. as the norm, so the wise Child Care Worker will see that the boys are not placed in front of the T.V. for the sake of an easy evening, and generally the stations announce about 7.30 pm that future programmes are not suitable for children's viewing and then the boys should be really encouraged to write a letter, play indoor games, or read a book.

DISCIPLINE It is not easy to prescribe any particular method of dealing with misbehaviour, most of the boys have been used to getting their own way, Mum screaming at them with threats which were not carried out. A suggested way is keeping the voice low, and quiet, and making your commands sharp. If the boy does not react to this then a warning of a certain punishment, and if there is still no response, punish. This should be in relation to the boys misdeeds, i.e. dining room (let him clean the dining room), section (in the section) - again a lot depends on the boys age and understanding. On no account must a R.C.W. use an instrument (cane, belt) on any boy, and any serious breach of discipline should be brought to the Manager or his Assistant Officer.

CO-OPERATION AND COMMUNICATION It is important that if a small community like Eden Park is to be happy then there has to be sharing of responsibility, many tasks come up during the year, where many hands make light work, i.e. Fete, Chinese Birthday, Christmas Party, Haymaking, etc., also the sharing of boys to ease the burden of another. Communication is also very important, many rumours are spread throughout the Home from boys half hearing a conversation, therefore staff should be careful not to discuss business of any kind within the hearing of the boys, (many of them are masters at setting their parents up, and will not hesitate to set staff against each other) difference of opinion should be talked through, and if no solution can be agreed upon then together it should be brought to the Management.

HOLIDAYS are to be taken during School Holidays and dates need to be worked out with the Manager so that we always have staff on duty to cover boys who do not go home. Holiday rosters also need to be discussed, so that each R.C.W. gets a fair share of time on and off.

STAFF should refrain from using bad language in the Home, also whilst on duty no R.C.W. should smoke or use intoxicating liquor and should set an example at all times to the boys.

QUARTERS Where quarters are provided for staff and their families, no furnishings should be removed from the quarters, if however you wish to bring some of your own furnishings, then the old furnishings need to be stored in a spare room and replaced when the quarters are vacant, no alcohol should be brought into the property, visitors should be off by 10.30 p.m. unless permission has been obtained from the Manager for them to stay over, and the quarters and adjacent surrounds should be kept in a clean and tidy state.

May each Residential Child Care Worker feel he has more than just a JOB but a VOCATION where he can find a sense of satisfaction.