

GRS 4164/8 Unit 3, File 14/6/1, Eden Park Boys Home (Salvation Army) Mt Barker (Wistow) 5251

DISCUSSION WITH COLONEL ROGER FISHER, SALVATION ARMY - 23/8/62

FUTURE OF EDEN PARK BOYS HOME

Introduction:

At the present time there are approximately 12 boys at Eden Park Boys Home. The Salvation Army is concerned that their need for care and special support should be met, and have been seriously considering alternative possibilities such as:

- using Pullarton Cottage in a different manner
- continuing the Eden Park Home, or
- consider the changes that have been suggested by Departmental officers.

Following full discussion, it would appear that the best options for both the Department and the Salvation Army would be:

- 1: To guarantee the continuation of one cottage for up to 12 boys at Eden Park for this financial year.
- 2: Through discussion between the Department and the Salvation Army, develop a program at Eden Park which would be very suitable for family support and which will provide respite care for families who are experiencing problems with their children's behaviour.
- 3: This family support unit would consider such options as:
 - a) the assessment social worker being directly involved with families and give them support when the child is home
 - b) develop proposals where, for a time limited period, a child is admitted and is given programs to undertake. Consideration should be given to this being related to school term times, and the length of stay should not be a full year.
- 4: In considering the financial aspects of this development, the Residential Child Care Advisory Committee should take into account the fact that whilst the Home has reduced in numbers, there will be continuing overheads as far as administration is concerned and also a special need to supplement handicapped children's allowances when children are sent home for trial leaves. One of the problems with such allowances is that when children do go home for trial leaves, the amounts due are deducted and this adversely affects financial arrangements.
- 5: The full development of this proposal will depend on U.C.W. staff meeting with Brigadier Steer and his officers when he returns to work next month. However, it is considered that the above ideas are practical and will meet a definite need. Review of the program will take place in June 1963 to study the effects of the change in program, the smaller numbers and an assessment of its success.

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Areas of Concern:

Staff:

1. Inexperienced or unsuitable staff are employed. (age inappropriate)
2. No staff training programmes.
3. Recent high turnover of Residential Care Workers.
4. Lack of females.

Actual Care

1. a. No supervision at night.
1. No budgetary allowance for clothing.
2. Lack of privacy for boys.
3. Discouragement of personal possessions.
4. Parents and friends not encouraged to visit.
5. Social stigma - bus clearly marked "Boys Home", insistence on uniforms, etc.
6. Environment not used effectively.
7. Inappropriate bed times.
8. Lack of homework area, supervision.
9. Lack of pocket money.
10. Punitive attitude.

Management

1. Manager does not like to consult.
2. Poor communication with special school.

Programmes

1. Staff resistance to individualised programme.
2. Manager will not direct staff on the matter of programme panels.
3. Difficult to get outside involvement of professional input from consultants.

Overall

Very unprofessional attitude; staff philosophy based on rigid authoritarianism rather than modern ideas or appropriate management of difficult children.