

CORRESPONDENCE BRIEF

Three letters (M15957, M16023, M15963) under reply from former resident AYN

- AYN was a former child in care and protection who was admitted to St Joseph's Home Neerkol on 28 July 1952 following the death of his mother.
- AYN file indicates he was transferred to the Westbrook Training Centre on 18 August 1960 following a request from St Joseph's concerning his conduct at that facility. He was 16 years old at the time. To place a child who is in care and protection in a care and control facility such as Westbrook would have required the approval of the Minister of the day.
- While at Westbrook he absconded several times and on the last occasion he was charged with unlawfully using a motor vehicle and breaking and entering. He was then transferred to Boggo Road Prison on 20 June 1961 at the age of 17 years.
- Over the past two years, AYN has been a prolific correspondent of the Minister's Office. The content of his correspondence is usually focused on the abuse he experienced and his desire to be compensated for this by the Government.
- AYN has written to the Minister on a number of occasions requesting a meeting to discuss individual compensation issues. The consistent response to these requests has been to advise AYN that it is in his best interests to obtain independent legal advice and that the Minister is unable to meet with him individually to discuss this matter.
- More recently, AYN has focused on the decision to transfer him from Neerkol to Westbrook. He has had extensive dealings with the Freedom of Information (FOI) branch, including the release of his records. AYN has been advised of his option to add his own documentation to his records if he feels they are not accurate.
- On 20 July 2001, a meeting was held with AYN Van Jeppesen, FOI Branch, Mary Ellen-Ryan, Senior Policy Adviser and Kelly Murdock, Ministerial Liaison Officer from the Minister's Office to discuss the reasons for his transfer to Westbrook. No further information above that contained in his files could be provided. Kelly Murdock and the Forde Contact Officer have recently spoken to AYN again explaining that there is no further information available.
- AYN has also been in telephone contact with the Department and the Minister's Office to express his dissatisfaction with the Forde Foundation. His dissatisfaction is related to reportedly receiving \$500 towards a trip to Neerkol, rather than the full amount he applied for to also purchase a computer. The Foundation has been advised of AYN concern. AYN has been advised of the independence from Government of the Foundation, as well as options available to him for the resolution of this matter and future application.