



our ref  
contact  
for further  
information

ENS:MM

16 AUGUST 1979

Department of  
Community Welfare Services  
Victoria

Winlaton Youth Training Centre  
186 Springvale Road  
Nunawading 3131  
Telephone (03) 878 5577  
Winbirra Remand Centre  
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MEMORANDUM TO: DIRECTOR FAMILY & ADOLESCENT SERVICES  
ATTENTION: MR BRUCE ANDERSON

RE: DEPOT PROVERA - ITS USE WITH WARDS OF STATE

I have in hand your letter to the Superintendent dated 27.7.79 about subject. In this letter you request guidelines and procedures for the use of the contraceptive Depot Provera at Winlaton with the young women under our jurisdiction. With this information you indicate in your letter that you will then "seek delegations for giving final approval for the use of the contraceptive".

I feel the need to state in writing that I do not endorse the use of Depot Provera as a contraceptive. I take this position based on my understanding of its side effects and on the consultative advice given to Sister Margaret Donogan by Dr. Warner V. Slack, Associate Professor of Medicine at the Harvard Medical School, dated July 3rd 1979. (Copy attached).

I have sent this note, as well as a copy of your letter of 27.7.79 to Dr. Heather Manning and Sister Margaret Donogan. As in the past with this issue I will comply with Australian Medical opinion as to our future guidelines and procedures, while making my own clear. Heather has written to Mr. John Leeton (copy enclosed) requesting that a meeting of clarification be arranged with him, representatives from our Department and those involved with the use of Depot Provera, i.e. Winlaton Staff, Regional Staff, etc., probably here at Winlaton. I'll keep you advised.

During the next few months I will be working with Heather and Margaret to answer your letter.

*D. Eileen Slack*

DR. EILEEN N SLACK  
A/G SUPERINTENDENT

c.c. DR. HEATHER MANNING  
SISTER MARGARET DONOGAN

b.c.c. Supts (4)