

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Subject: Salvation Army Endeavour Training Farm, RIVERVIEW

RECORD NUMBER

MINUTE

I refer to my report of 29th November, 1973, concerning the Endeavour Training Farm and the proposed new institution at Mulgowie which was referred to the Salvation Army by the Director on 3rd December, 1973.

I strongly object to being accused of having rather academic and idealistic concepts. I further object to being accused of having no regard to the problems of the Salvation Army nor its procedures and practices.

I also deny that I lack any understanding of the motivation of persons working in the Salvation Army. I am quite aware of such motivation and no one could have continued to work under the conditions existing at Riverview without such motivation.

If the Salvation Army removed Major Bennett because of the report then this is an indictment upon their administrative and personnel procedures.

I also object to being accused of being academic and lacking understanding in relation to the proposed Mulgowie development. My report might set out some ideals but they are based upon minimum requirements accepted in other places and if the Salvation Army or any other organization cannot meet minimum child care standards, then they should not be in the field at all. In fact, the proposals included in the report are not even up to the standard which the Department will be providing at Boonah.

Colonel Peterson has asked for clarification of future Departmental policy. If this is confusing for him then it is equally confusing for staff of this Department who must represent the Department to denominational representatives and other persons.

If there is any part of my report that is not acceptable as Departmental policy, then I would like to know of the parts which are acceptable so that at least in the future I may know whether or not statements I make will receive Departmental support.

Don Smith
A/Principal Child Care Officer

7th March, 1974