

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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Subject: Endeavour Training Centre, Riverview - An Institution Licensed under the Children's Services Act and Conducted by the Salvation Army

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MINISTER

RECORD NUMBER CJ

MINUTE

81

I have been concerned for some time with the physical conditions involving old and dilapidated buildings and furniture at the Endeavour Training Centre, Riverview, and I have had meetings with the Salvation Army Authorities in an effort to improve the situation.

In March last, after consultation between the Department and the Salvation Army, there was a change in the Superintendency, and Major V. Bennett was transferred to the position. Major Bennett had previously been at "Alkira" Salvation Army Home for Boys, Indooroopilly, and had achieved a considerable degree of success in his efforts to raise the standards of this Home, both physically and in social relationships between the staff and the boys.

At a conference on 4th March last with the Men's Social Secretary of the Salvation Army (Eastern Australia), Colonel G. Carpenter, and with the local Men's Social Secretary, Brigadier Maxwell, it was agreed that the Salvation Army would take urgent steps to rebuild Endeavour Centre.

Sufficient funds were allocated in the Vote of this Department to subsidise any capital expenditure for that year. None of the funds was utilized.

Colonel Carpenter is located in Sydney and on two visits to Brisbane subsequent to 4th March, I have spoken to him concerning the matter, but, unfortunately, there has been no progress. Colonel Carpenter claims, of course, that the Salvation Army has not the finance available to proceed.

There has been a number of abscondings from Riverview in recent months, and I deemed it desirable to visit the Centre and did so on 6th instant. I am convinced that Major Bennett is doing the best he can, but the environment, because of the age and dilapidated condition of the buildings, is depressing, unhygienic, a considerable fire risk, and needs replacement urgently.

The training facilities, including manual training, are being carried out in old galvanized iron sheds and under very bad conditions.

If the Department was not in such urgent need of accommodation for boys in care and control, I would not hesitate in recommending that the licence under the Children's Services Act should be cancelled and the Home closed. However, the Department is not in a position where it can divest itself of accommodation for 45 boys, and therefore the situation is such that there is an urgent need for positive

2.

action by the Salvation Army. Funds have been re-provided in the current year's Programme to meet subsidy on anticipated capital expenditure.

I therefore propose, with the Minister's concurrence, to write to Colonel Carpenter in terms of the attached letter.


Director

8th October, 1970.

APPROVED:

Minister

9th October, 1970.