

1876



Dismanhina Receiving Depot and Infant's Home

Woolloowin.

15th April. 1944

(74)

To The Director
State Children Department,
Brisbane.

Dear Sir.

I wish to inform you that at 4.35.P.M. as I was walking through the Childrens Dining Room to go out to vote. I spoke to Nurse Joyce Wren. and also [REDACTED] who then appeared quite normal and happy. I met Sub Matron Miss F. C. Ditton on the way and was telling her about another child and it was then about 4.45. P.M. and the children just ready to sit down for their tea when Grace Dyer ran out of the BOYS' dressing room and said [REDACTED] has hanged himself.

Miss Joyce Wren, Nurse in charge of the Depot for the Afternoon was already in the room and she said she found [REDACTED] hanging to the roller with a roller Towel wound tightly round his neck he was not breathing and almost black in the face.

Sister Ditton arrived as soon as called and I followed, the boy was then on the floor, and I noticed his lips move I advised Sister Ditton to apply Artificial Respiration and went to the Telephone to call a Doctor. I could not contact our own Dr. J.M. Thoms on so then rang Dr Harold POWER who lives opposite the Home. he was here in about 2 Minutes and by that time the boy was breathing more freely but still unconcious.

I notified the Windsor Police, and Constable Vogel came over and interviewed some of the other children who had watched the whole procedure.

(73)

Dr Power then wrote a letter and advised me to ring the Ambulance and transferr the boy to ward 16 GENERAL HOSPITAL. .

The Ambulance arrived at 5.5 P.M and then left for the Hospital. with the boy.

I have just telephoned the Hospital at 9.55 pm. and have been informed that the boy is now conscious, but very shocked.

I do not think it advisable to allow REDACTED to be returned to this Home as the associations and contact with the other children would not be good for him or the children who were with him at the time.

I wish to state that I do not think that REDACTED wished to take his LIFE, but that it was just a foolish prank, which I have been told since , has been played before . but not ended on such a serious ACCIDENT.

All precaution is taken to the best of our ability ,to protect the children from harm . but on account of the shortage of STAFF. one Nurse cannot be in every place at once.

I am of the opinion that this happening was purely an accident.

Trusting that this report is satisfactory, and to my knowledge is true.

I am,

Yours faithfully

Ernie M. Scott.

(Matron.)