



WILLIAM BOOTH, FOUNDER
 WILFRED KITCHING
 GENERAL
 INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
 LONDON
 FREDERICK COUTTS
 TERRITORIAL COMMANDER
 CABLE & TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS
 SALVATION, SYDNEY
 TELEPHONE: BA 2641 (7 LINES)
 P.O. BOX 33, HAYMARKET

The Salvation Army

EASTERN AUSTRALIA TERRITORY

Territorial Headquarters,

140 Elizabeth Street,

Sydney, N. S. W.

OA/IC

17th June, 1958.

Major D. Henry,
CANOWINDRA.

Dear Comrade,

It has come to my notice that in some Children's Homes corporal punishment is being administered in such a manner as would bring disgrace to the organization if the facts were made public. Children have been badly marked and bruised, to say nothing of the humiliation and the damage done to the personality of the child.

In view of the above and the fact that the treatment of children is such a live issue in the minds of the public and the Government Authorities to-day I feel I must remind you again of our policy in the treatment of dependent children - a policy which has been recognised and accepted over the past years in the Women's Social Department.

There are two main issues to which you must rigidly adhere:-

1. No Officer, Matron or Assistant, has the right to administer corporal punishment. Not at any time or in any circumstances must a child be hit either with the hand, strap or cane.
2. If a child requires punishment (and all children do at times need some restraint) then details of punishment to be administered must be carefully considered and later recorded in the Punishment Book. The form of punishment must first be approved by the Matron and should not involve any form of corporal punishment or physical hurt, e.g. you must not deprive a child of a meal or stand her in cold and dark passage, etc.

Territorial Headquarters. Sydney.

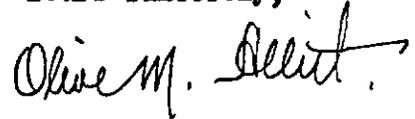
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Having stated the above I am not unmindful of the difficulties that exist to-day in the management of these children, who, in many instances, are difficult personalities to handle.

Within the next week or so I will send you some general directions regarding the management of children with the hope that it may help you and perhaps lead on to further ideas.

In the meantime may God bless you and guide you in all you undertake to do for these children.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olive M. Elliott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Lieut. Colonel
WOMEN'S SOCIAL SECRETARY.