

300 Elger Rd.
Box Hill.
3-7-68.

Colonel Saunders
Chief Secretary.

Dear Colonel,

This information is intended to acquaint you with the particular situation at the Box Hill Boy's Home.

Since the beginning of the year I have made repeated requests to our managers, Major Broadstock and Major Sumsion to increase the number of child care staff which at the best of times has been inadequate to provide the proper care and development for the children in our care. Since the departure of Major Broadstock overseas the position has altered for also Capt. Argent was transferred without replacement and the set up is critical.

Again since this time we have had three employees in the child care field, none of whom were qualified in the field of child care. One of these three lasted three weeks, one stayed only one night, each gave the reason that the work was too hard, while the third, who appeared to be emotionally disturbed lasted a fortnight.

I did lodge a complaint to Colonel Stevenson concerning this and other matters concerning our immediate needs. Briefly, accommodation for the single staff, housing for the children, some form of incentive scheme for the improving of the morale of the boys..the latter to be brought into being now in the form of a small amount of pocket money.

At the moment we have only three child care staff in the Howard House Section. Two officers, namely Major Sumsion who is also the manager, myself and one young man who is willing but quite inadequate to cope with the large number of boys. (53 at present).

Consider that sometimes staff must be relieved of duty either on days off or away on essential services such as taking boys to hospital or backwards and forwards to school. Often these things leave one man in charge of the whole situation which involves at one time boys to be showered, dressed, supervised at play etc.

This Sir, is the situation and the reason for the lodging of this complaint. I feel there are times when, because of pressure, there is loss of control in handling and discipline and fear that the pressure will be beyond coping with if it continues.

My request is this, that you personally would view the situation at this Home.

May I recommend..Increase of child care staff reduce number of inmates to the accommodation in Howard House main section.. Make the Wilson Trust available for the smaller boys in which case we could employ female child care workers and transfer the bigger boys to Howard House with male child care staff.

Thank you for attending this matter and trust that something shall be done to relieve our situation before the pressure becomes too great to bear.

May God bless you,
Yours sincerely,


Captain.