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INSTITUTION OFFICER.

I have read your report on the various boys at Bindoon and am not very happy about the position obtaining there. I take it from your report that all the information you have recorded was conveyed to you by Brother Quilligan and that you did not see the boys. When the next Review Committee goes to Bindoon it is imperative that each of the trainees be interviewed.

Ans.

2. I notice that you state a couple of boys may desire to stay on at Bindoon. This is a strange state of affairs because the obligation is on this Department to see that they are placed in employment, otherwise the boys are suffering financial loss while they remain at the institution and are not being assimilated into the community.
3. I think you should point out to Brother Quilligan that the definite policy of the Department is that after a boy has been a trainee for six months he is to be placed in employment, unless a special report is submitted and the Secretary approves of his retention. Furthermore, you will note in the policy that unless there are special circumstances no boy is to remain at the institution after attaining the age of 16 years. If it is stated that a boy is immature, morally unsound, etc., etc., it will be necessary for such boy to be brought to Perth, tested by Mr. Flecker, and, if necessary, medically examined by a competent authority.
4. I also notice that a panel of five honorary doctors is going through all the lads and an individual medical card is being kept for each boy. This is very fine as far as it goes, but I think the Department is entitled to know when it is necessary for any boy to receive medical treatment. I have in mind the case of the two boys who were urgently in need of optical attention. From information gathered from Bindoon I understood that all optical attention had been provided and actually wrote to the Commonwealth Authorities at Canberra on the matter. It now appears that the optical attention was not given. These are the two boys who are to enter hospital for operations. It will be seen, therefore, that there has been a time lag of practically 12 months in these cases.
5. I realise you are in a difficult position in visiting at this institution and I suggest that in future you refrain from committing the Department in any shape or form. If proposals are put to you, will you please inform Brother Quilligan that the matter will have to be referred to the Department for decision and he will be advised in writing.
6. As you are aware, I am hopeful that the Secretary and Director will approve of a policy I propose to outline to them concerning trainees and their ultimate placement in employment. If this is brought about half of our troubles will disappear.

22.10.54
FDM:H

J. J. J. J.
ACTING SECRETARY.

N.B. *pocket money aspect to be checked upon.*

23 DEC 1954