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VICTORIA

# CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT

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## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1960

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 8 OF  
THE *CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT* 1958.

*[Approximate Cost of Report.—Preparation not given. Printing (900 copies), £235.]*

*By Authority:*

A. C. BROOKS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 3.—[PRICE 2s.]—6513/61.

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# REPORT FOR 1960

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## CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT

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179 Queen-street,  
Melbourne,  
30th June, 1961.

*The Honourable the Chief Secretary,*

SIR,

In accordance with the requirements of Section 8 (1) of the *Children's Welfare Act 1958*, I have the honour to submit a Report as to proceedings for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

On the 1st August, 1864, the Neglected and Criminal Children's Act came into operation. This was the first statutory enactment relating to the welfare of children in the State of Victoria. Amending legislation was enacted from time to time during the ensuing years. The more notable reforms were effected by the *Neglected Children's Act 1887*, the *Juvenile Offender's Act*, of the same year, the *Neglected Children's Act 1890*, the *Infant Life Protection Act 1907*, the *Children's Maintenance Act 1919*, the *Children's Welfare Act 1924*, the *Street Traders Act 1925*, the *Children's Welfare Act 1928* (a consolidating Act) and the *Children's Welfare Act 1954*, which was consolidated in 1958.

The foregoing briefly summarizes child welfare legislation in this State from the first Act in 1864 until 15th June, 1960, on which date the Social Welfare Act was passed. This Act is generally regarded as the most comprehensive and progressive social reform legislation yet formulated in this State.

The very title of the first Act in 1864, the "Neglected and Criminal Children's Act", is repugnant to modern thought, but it was in keeping with the approach to the subject by legislators and administrators of that period.

In his first Annual Report dated 13th February, 1867, the Administrator at that time, Mr. Geo. O. Duncan, when referring to the mortality rate among State wards, stated "the year 1866 shows a decided improvement upon the preceding year". The figures to which he referred were 117 deaths among 1,458 wards in 1865, and 99 among 1,750 wards in 1866. Thus 8.02 per cent. of wards died in 1865, and 5.6 per cent. died in 1866. By comparison, the average annual number of deaths among State wards for the four years prior to 31st December, 1960, was 0.11 per cent., which compares favourably with 0.17 per cent.—the figure supplied by the Government Statist as representing the deaths in Victoria during 1960 in the 0-18 years group.

In the Annual Report of 1870 under the heading, "List of articles manufactured in the Industrial and Reformatory Schools during 1869, and the estimated value of labour employed in their manufacture", the following item appears:—"Coffins, 6 at 5s. each, total 30s.". Apparently it was not considered odd to have wards making coffins for the use of themselves or their fellow wards.

These two extracts from Annual Reports of other days are recorded merely as an indication of the progress made in thought and practice relating to child welfare during the last 96 years. It is from that early beginning that legislation has advanced step by step to the Social Welfare Act of 1960.

The provisions of this Act embrace many new fields of activity such as preventive work, family counselling, research and statistics, staff training, &c. Full implementation, and the ensuing benefits, may not be effectively achieved for a period after the proclamation of the Act.

The problems of obtaining the necessary staff with specialized training and qualifications, and new establishments for the care of handicapped children with special needs, have to be solved before the advantages to the community, particularly the children in this State, may be dispensed in full measure.

However, a determined start has been made to press on with this challenging project by the appointment on 12th July, 1960, of Mr. A. R. Whatmore, B.Com., Dip. Ed., as Director-General of Social Welfare, and Mr. E. V. Shade, B.A., Dip. Ed., as Director of Prisons on 19th August, 1960; Mr. A. G. Booth, LL.B., Dip. Pub. Admin., was appointed Director of Family Welfare on 21st December, 1960, and on the same date Mr. B. A. J. Keddie, B.A., was appointed as Director of Youth Welfare.

The Prisons Division of the Social Welfare Act was proclaimed on the 5th July, 1960, and the Family and Youth Welfare Divisions will be proclaimed on 1st July, 1961.

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS.

Between 14th and 18th November, 1960, the second Australasian Conference of Child Welfare Administrators was held at Melbourne and the meetings took place in this Department's Council room which is ideally equipped for such a purpose and which was the subject of very favourable comment by visiting administrators.

The conference was opened by the Hon. the Chief Secretary, Mr. A. G. Rylah, who welcomed the visitors. He was supported by Mr. A. Garran, Chairman of the Public Service Board. Although the conference had no mandatory powers, discussion embraced many important phases and problems of child welfare work and provided an invaluable exchange of ideas. Mr. R. H. Hicks, O.B.E., Under Secretary, Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare, New South Wales, who was in his last year of a long and distinguished career of service, made an impressive contribution to the conference. He gave generously from his great store of knowledge and experience, acquired, not only as a leader in his own State, but as an authority on world trends in this sphere which he has seen and studied whilst visiting and participating in international conferences on the Continent, in England, Canada and the United States. Our best wishes to Mr. Hicks in his retirement and thanks to him for his great help in our problems. Best wishes also to Mr. H. Harris, Director, State Children's Department, Queensland, and Mr. F. J. McNally, Chairman, Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department, South Australia, both of whom have retired since the conference.

In their appraisal of the conference, participants unanimously agreed that apart from the great value of State administrators getting to know one another personally, each was returning to his respective post richer in ideas and better equipped to report to his Minister for the benefit and improvement of child welfare services in his State.

For his outstanding and efficient services as Raporteur to the conference, thanks to Mr. George Barker of this Department. Alone he recorded verbatim the entire proceedings, which he later transcribed, had printed, bound, and presented in book form comprising 65 pages. Each participant was thus provided with a complete record for presentation to his Minister.

#### ROLES OF THE STATUTORY AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

For many years, Child Welfare Administration in this State has been heavily committed to the voluntary, charitable and denominational agencies, and the Department is indebted to them for the magnificent work they have done, particularly in their Children's Homes. A most cordial relationship exists between the Department and these authorities and a continuance of that happy partnership is anticipated in the future.

At the second Australasian Annual Conference of Child Welfare Administrators, it was unanimously agreed that—

- (a) in each State there is a function for both statutory and voluntary agencies;
- (b) the services rendered by each is complementary and supplementary to the other;
- (c) in order to provide a co-ordinated effort between statutory and voluntary agencies, the statutory agency should develop a uniform policy on a State-wide basis.

Experience has shown that both short and long term plans are necessary, and that a consistent uniform policy having positive aims and objectives should be established. Plans must be sufficiently flexible to allow for changes dictated from time to time by variation of circumstances and conditions in the community. For instance, during the year, the Department, due to overcrowding in its establishments, was compelled to establish new children's homes for the accommodation of those of its wards who have special needs and problems, whilst at the same time certain voluntary establishments, some of which have had substantial capital grants from the Government, were unable to obtain sufficient inmates to enable them to function on an economic basis.

The main cause of this unbalance is that there are insufficient homes available for children in need of special care due to physical, mental and other handicaps, and an over-provision of homes for the accommodation of normal healthy children of school age.

In the Roman Catholic set-up there are Marillac House, Brighton, and St. John of God, Cheltenham, which cater for mentally retarded girls and boys respectively, also St. Mary's School for the Deaf, Portsea, catering for deaf mute boys and girls, and St. Paul's School for Blind Boys, Kew. Juvenile delinquent girls are catered for at the Convents of the Good Shepherd at Abbotsford and Oakleigh. As there are no institutional counterparts available for Protestant children having these particular handicaps, the State, either this Department or the Mental Hygiene Authority, is required to provide for the accommodation of this group of Protestant children.

There is, however, one group of boys between eleven and fourteen years of age for which no suitable accommodation is available in the Roman Catholic set-up. These are the very disturbed pre-delinquents, mostly educationally retarded, whose behavioural and educational problems render them unsuitable for, or unacceptable to, existing Roman Catholic homes for normal school boys such as St. Vincent de Paul's, South Melbourne, and St. Augustine's, Geelong.

On the other hand, most Protestant boys in this category are catered for at the Salvation Army Boys' No. 2 Home, Bayswater, or the Tally Ho Boys' Village which operates on a cottage system.

As a number of these Roman Catholic boys accumulated at Turana with no available alternative placements for them within their own denominational settings, the Department established Hillside Boys' Home two years ago. The functioning of this home is dealt with separately in this Report. Twenty-seven of the 35 boys there are Roman Catholics.

Another reason for the numerous vacancies in voluntary institutions catering for normal healthy children of school age, is the concentrated drive by the Department in the placement of this type of child in private foster homes. Reference is made to this elsewhere in this Report.

The foregoing illustrates the wisdom and necessity of co-ordinating the efforts and activities of the statutory and voluntary agencies as suggested in (c) above. Section 7 (1) (b) of the new Social Welfare Act provides the basis for a move in this direction, and it is anticipated that a mutually satisfactory plan of co-ordination between these two agencies will eventuate after the proclamation of that Act.

#### ADOPTIONS.

Legal adoption is the ideal means of foster placement. The natural parents, by consent, totally and permanently forego all parental rights, and the foster parents become the father and mother as if the child had been born to them in lawful wedlock. This arrangement is sealed with the authority of the Court which also directs that particulars of the birth registration be amended to indicate that the child is the lawful issue of the adopters.

Very few parents of State wards are willing to consent to the adoption of their children even though many of these parents cannot, or will not, support them, and have no apparent prospects or intentions of doing so in the future. Such parents prefer to have their children indefinitely in the Department's care, and in institutions, so that they may perhaps resume custody of them when they reach the age of employment. Meanwhile, they rarely visit their children, and often make little or no contribution towards their support.

There are many such children in the care of the Department, deprived of parental love and home life, who could well be placed with worthy foster parents clamouring for the opportunity to adopt them.

As the law now stands, the Department may offer prospective adopters the care and custody of these children on a fostering basis subject to the possibility of the arrangement being terminated if, and when, the natural parents seek custody of their children. This insecurity deters many prospective adopters from entering into such a precarious contract, whilst those who do accept the risk at the outset, subsequently display the strongest reactions to any move by the Department or the natural parents for the resumption of custody by the latter.

The Department experiences much difficulty in adjudicating between parents and foster parents in such cases, and is constrained to make decisions which must cause distress to at least one of the parties with consequential emotional disturbance to the child concerned.

The problem could be resolved simply by an amendment to the "Adoption of Children Rules 1957" enabling the Department to make an application to the County Court for dispensation of the consent of any person who answers to any of the descriptions enumerated in Section 5 (3) (i to v) of the *Adoption of Children Act 1958*. Under existing legislation, an application cannot be made for the sole purpose of dispensation of consent. The Rules, in their present form, envisaged consent, or dispensation thereof, as an issue for consideration at the same time and place as the hearing of an application for an adoption order.

The fact is, of course, that an application for adoption is not made until some time (usually months, sometimes years) after the child has been in the custody of the foster parents. The period between actual placement with foster parents and the application to the Court, is one of testing and adjustment for foster parents and child. It is desirable, and necessary, that the adjustment should not be hampered by insecurity and doubt as to whether the Court at some future date may or may not dispense with parental consent.

In practice, the application to the Court is not made until all problems of early settlement and adjustment have been resolved, and both foster parents and child, and possibly other children in the home, are so emotionally bound together as a family unit that the arrangement is assured of ultimate and permanent success.

It is clear then that the child's eligibility for legal adoption should be determined prior to its foster placement, and not made an issue for decision after the *de facto* adoption is an accomplished fact; moreover, many children now destined for futures in institutions or the insecurity of being boarded out as State wards, could be made available for legal adoption, and so placed, if the Department and adoption agencies were enabled by statutory process to apply to the Court with a view to obtaining orders dispensing with parental consents.

An amendment, as proposed, would not in any way vary or increase the existing powers of the Court. It would, however, by a slight variation of Court procedure, render many children now in institutions eligible for adoption which, apart from the advantages already stated, would—

- (a) relieve the Department and voluntary agencies of the financial burden of maintaining these children;
- (b) relieve staffs of the duties entailed in their care and management;
- (c) relieve accommodation problems in children's homes, particularly babies' and toddlers' homes;
- (d) help meet the requirements of the many worthy applicants desirous of adopting children.

The Department places all wards who are suitable and fully eligible for adoption with approved foster parents, also as many wards as possible who are suitable and likely to become eligible for adoption, either by parental consent or by Court dispensation thereof.

Table 1 herein shows that 56 wards were legally adopted during the year 1960. This figure was seventeen below that of 1959. However, Table 4 indicates that, during 1960, 78 wards were placed in foster homes pending legal adoption and this figure is



26 higher than the number so placed during 1959, although there was some lag in obtaining adoption orders in 1960 due to the loss of the Department's adoption officer, and the appointment and training of his successor. The adoption orders obtained during 1961 will show that the lag has been overtaken, and that a record number of adoption orders in respect of wards will have been made by the Courts in that year.

As the Department deals only with the adoption of its own wards, the adoption orders obtained by it represent only about 6 per cent. of the total number of children adopted throughout the State.

During the year, departmental field officers acted as guardian *ad litem* in 115 adoption cases of infants who were not wards.

#### FOSTER CARE.

The Department has intensified its efforts to place as many wards as possible into private homes with carefully selected foster parents. Table 4 shows the steady increase in the number of wards so placed. In 1958, there were 668 in foster care. This number increased to 910 in 1959, whilst the 1960 figure has risen to 1,027 and the figure for 1961 will indicate a further increase.

From Table 4, it will be observed that 1,027 wards are in foster care and 725 are placed with relatives, thus 1,752 out of a total of 4,775 wards are in private homes. The remainder, 3,023, are placed in childrens' homes, juvenile schools, departmental establishments (including family group homes), Mental Hygiene establishments, hostels, live-in employment, hospitals and 48 of them are absconders. Of this 3,023, only a few would be suitable for foster placement, after excluding the juvenile delinquents, hospital and mental cases, teenagers in live-in and hostel employment and those belonging to family groups, the splitting up of which would be impracticable or undesirable. Most wards in departmental establishments, excepting those in reception centres, are so placed because of their special needs such as physical, mental and behaviour difficulties, or they are committed to the Department's care for specified terms fixed by the Courts.

The indication, therefore, is that foster placement is nearing its limit and will, in the near future, flatten out to a stable number of fosterable children representing a fixed percentage of the total number of wards. At present, this percentage is 21.5 and it may be possible, with extra staff, to increase that figure to, say, 30 per cent. before reaching the limit of fosterable children.

Whilst there is no doubt as to the benefits to children in foster care, the placement of wards with substitute parents whilst the natural parents continue to have an interest in, and access to their children, presents many difficulties and, in some cases, differences, or even hostilities, between parents and foster parents with the children as buffers, and the Department endeavouring to arbitrate between the parties. The problem is one of human emotions on the part of parents and foster parents, and divided affections and loyalties among the children.

Notwithstanding all the difficulties of administration and supervision, wards in foster care generally thrive and react well to private home life and the individual parental care received.

#### JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

In recent years, public authorities and communities generally have indicated a growing concern and, in some quarters, grave disquiet about the problem of juvenile delinquency. The incidence of it is not confined to particular States or countries, but is world wide.

Much has been written and said on the subject by competent authorities and experts who have examined the causes and extent of it. In this State, an expert Committee was appointed by the Government in 1956 to investigate the problem and to submit recommendations to the Government. That Committee's report, known as the "Report of Juvenile Delinquency Advisory Committee", was presented at Melbourne on the 17th July, 1956. It is a monumental work covering a survey of the position in Victoria, aspects of law in relation to the subject, and the Committee's conclusions and recommendations.

The following excerpts from that Report, I quote :—At p. 56 (ii) Statistics—“ The present system of collecting and analysing data does not allow for a ready appreciation of the current situation, nor for estimation of trends in delinquency occurrence and behaviour. There is great need for a more effective statistical system ”; and at p. 58 (d) Children’s Welfare Department (i) Statistics—“ As in all matters relating to juvenile delinquency, collection of statistical and sociological data is inadequate . . . . There is need for trained staff to collect significant data and to institute research where necessary ”. Also, at p. 93 (o) Recommendations—“ Research into juvenile delinquency and associated problems should be undertaken by a special section of a central State Authority, in conjunction with the appropriate government departments and the departments of the University of Melbourne which are concerned with the social and behavioural sciences ”.

The foregoing and other references emphasize the lack of statistical data and the urgency of action to meet this need. Without reliable and adequate facts and figures, it is difficult to formulate positive plans in relation to the prevention and correction of juvenile delinquency.

Even the expression itself “ juvenile delinquency ” requires definition, and many authorities vary as to its meaning. Sir Cyril Burt in “ The Young Delinquent,” 4th Edition, p. 15, states—“ A child is to be regarded as technically a young delinquent when his anti-social tendencies appear so grave that he becomes, or ought to become, the subject of official action ”.

The Juvenile Delinquency Advisory Committee define the term “ juvenile delinquent ” for the purpose of its report, as :—“ A person, male or female, under the age of seventeen years who has been convicted of a summary or indictable offence, or of conduct which, if committed by a person aged more than seventeen years, would constitute a summary or an indictable offence, or who, though not convicted by a children’s or other court, has been guilty of conduct which, if he were charged, would result in his being so convicted ”.

Under the *Children’s Court Act 1928*, Section 3, “ juvenile offender ” was defined as “ a convicted child liable to be sent to a reformatory school or to the care of the Children’s Welfare Department under the provisions of Part II. of the *Crimes Act 1928* ”.

It is clear, therefore, that the term “ juvenile delinquent ” is capable of such a variety of definitions that it is necessary when dealing with the subject or preparing any statistical data, to state the meaning of the term according to the purpose of its use.

Using the term in its broadest sense, the total number of juvenile delinquents under seventeen years of age in this State would comprise the following :—

- (a) those sentenced to imprisonment by courts ;
- (b) those committed by courts to juvenile schools or to the care of the Department ;
- (c) those convicted by courts and dealt with otherwise than (a) or (b) above, i.e., fined, released on probation, adjourned, &c. ;
- (d) those who have admitted offences and were warned by police, without charges being preferred ;
- (e) those who commit offences, but are not detected.

Of the foregoing categories, only those under (b) are known to and recorded by this Department. Table No. 2 of this Report refers to this group, but here again the 217 boys and 52 girls (total 269) *admitted* to the care of the Department as “ in need of care and protection—lapsing or likely to lapse into a career of vice or crime ”—*vide* (h) of the same table, cannot be excluded from classification in the juvenile delinquent group. Many of those so *admitted* have committed numerous and sometimes serious offences, but the courts have considered them to be deprived and ill-used, rather than vicious children with well defined anti-social tendencies and a pre-disposition to crime.

During the year 1960, police presented 4,665 children before children’s courts either charged with offences or on “ Protection Applications ”, i.e., “ in need of care and protection ”. Of this number, only 1,213 were committed or admitted to juvenile schools or to departmental care. Police also warned 650 offenders in the presence of their parents without bringing them before courts.

The figures shown in Table 2 of this Report, therefore, represent only 22·8 per cent. of the known cases, and any analysis thereof would not be a reliable guide to present trends, or the extent of juvenile delinquency in this State.

Moreover, Table 2 indicates that 194 offenders were committed to juvenile schools or to the care of the Department, for 194 offences, whereas, in fact, neither the number of offenders nor the number and type of offences is accurate.

Included in the 194 are the recidivists, some of whom have been committed on several occasions during the one year, thus inflating the number. On the other hand, there are those already under current committal who abscond, commit further offences, and are charged before courts which, instead of re-committing them, convict and return them to the care of the Department pursuant to Section 30 of the *Children's Court Act 1958*. Their offences are not recorded in the number and type of offences, thus deflating the 194 shown in Table 2.

The Juvenile Delinquency Advisory Committee's comments in regard to the inadequacy of statistical data are therefore substantiated, and its sound recommendation has been embodied in the *Social Welfare Act 1960*, Division 4 of which establishes and states the functions of a Research and Statistics Division of the Social Welfare Branch.

#### DEPARTMENTAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

Under Part II., Section 12, of the *Children's Welfare Act 1958*, the Governor in Council may establish, for the purposes of the Act, reception centres, children's homes, juvenile schools and juvenile hostels.

Prior to 1956, Turana Reception Centre at 203 Park-street, West Brunswick, was the only departmental establishment. For the reasons outlined in this Report under the heading "Roles of the Statutory and Voluntary Agencies", it has been necessary for the establishment from time to time of a number of homes, hostels and reception centres, each designed to meet pressing needs for particular types of children who, for various reasons, could not be placed with any of the voluntary establishments or foster homes.

Urgent necessity was always the impelling factor in establishing these departmental residences which, in every instance, relieved an existing pressure. Unfortunately, Turana was always the pressure point.

Under the new social welfare legislation, it is anticipated that, not only will existing pressures be relieved, but in due course, by means of short and long term planning, they will be anticipated, and adequate provision for the reception and care of wards will be available to meet the needs as they arise. Already several establishments have been erected or purchased, whilst others are in the course of planning or being acquired.

The Department's existing establishments are :—

- "Turana" Reception Centre, 203 Park-street, West Brunswick (Royal Park).
- "Winlaton" Girls' Training Centre, 186 Springvale-road, Nunawading.
- "Winbirra" Girls' Remand Centre, 206 Springvale-road, Nunawading.
- "Leawarra" Girls' Hostel, 208 Springvale-road, Nunawading.
- "Hillside" Boys' Home, Jell's-road, Wheelers Hill.
- "Sutton Grange" Children's Home, Mornington.
- Sunshine Boys' Hostel, 129 Durham-road, Sunshine.
- Family Group Homes—4 at Preston, 2 at Northcote, 2 at Coburg, 2 at Heidelberg and 2 at Ararat.

In course of establishment are :—

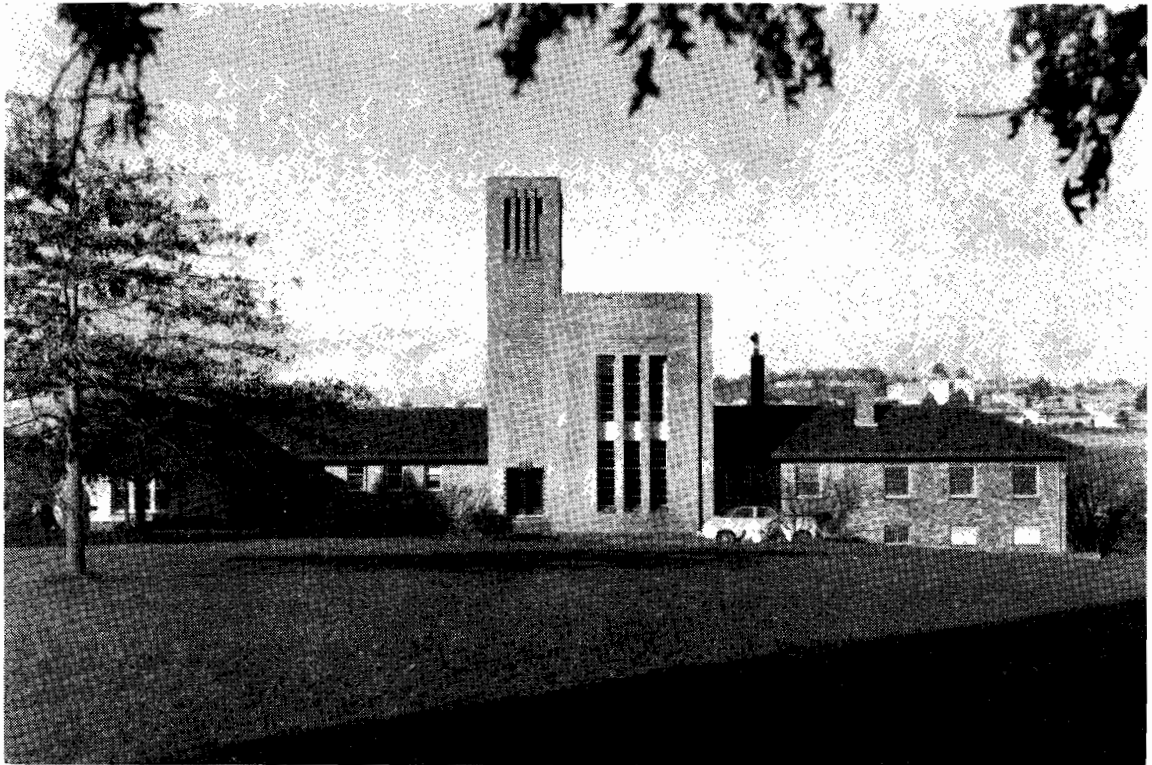
- "Pirra" Children's Home, Lara.
- "Allambie" Reception Centre, 70 Elgar-road, Burwood.
- Ballarat Reception Centre, Victoria-street, Ballarat East.

*Turana Reception Centre, Royal Park.*

Turana is a reception, treatment, classification and transit centre. It accommodates boys and girls from infants onwards—boys to late teenage and girls to early teenage. This multi-purpose establishment, which covers an area of approximately 26 acres, consists of fourteen separate sections in which the various groupings of children are placed. The overall normal capacity of Turana is for about 265 children but the average number of children in residence during the year was approximately 350.

The handling of children in such numbers has been a major problem, especially as they range in age from infancy to late teenage, are of both sexes and are mostly deprived, emotionally disturbed, mentally or physically handicapped, ill or delinquent. Such a task would have been impossible if it were not for the magnificent work of the staff who, under difficult conditions, have remained loyal to their task and devoted to the children in their charge.

Concerted efforts were made to relieve Turana during 1960, and are continuing. A most effective achievement was the making available of 40 vacancies at the Lady Northcote Children's Home at Bacchus Marsh. A special Act of Parliament was necessary to achieve this. Also, the establishment of a new home for girls at Lara, known as "Pirra". A third measure was the purchase of Kildonan Presbyterian Children's Home, Burwood, which will be known as "Allambie", whilst the fourth project was the erection of two new family group homes at Ararat.

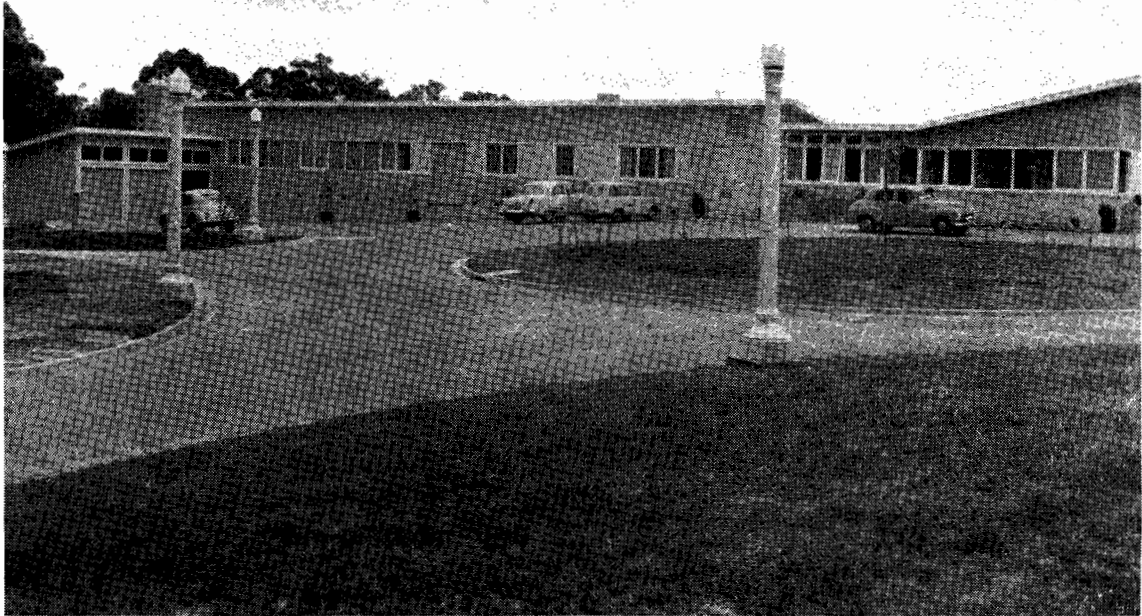


Allambie Children's Home, Burwood.

Turana already has been considerably eased and, with the implementing of plans under the new social welfare legislation, it is anticipated that, by the end of 1961, the problems there will have been almost completely resolved.

I may add, as a tribute to the Turana staff, that, with all the difficulties due to overcrowding and inadequate facilities for segregation, never has there been a complaint from any source regarding the care, medical and dental attention, food, clothing, education and general treatment of the children in residence.



*Winlton Girls' Training School, Nunawading.*

Winlton Girls' Training School, Nunawading.

Under this heading, there are three separate sections which comprise Winlton proper, viz., "Goonyah," "Warrina" and "Karingal". These sections enable the segregation of girls in their various stages of training, thus avoiding the mixing of "new admissions" with girls who have almost completed their periods of training. Each section was designed to accommodate fifteen girls, but it has been necessary to increase the number of girls in each to between twenty and 25, thus making a total of between 60 and 70 girls in all.

On the same property, but quite apart from Winlton Training School, is "Winbirra" Remand Centre, and a little further removed again is "Leawarra" Hostel.

Over this entire area, girls from fourteen to eighteen years are fully catered for. Winbirra, which has operated as a remand centre since early 1960, has proved an outstanding success in that it completely segregates girls prior to their admission to the Department from those who have already been admitted.



Winbirra Girls' Remand Centre, Nunawading.

“Leawarra” Hostel on the other hand, has proved itself ideally suited for the accommodation of girls who have completed their training, and are worthy of a trial in private employment to enable them to adjust to proper social standards during a period of unsteadiness until they are capable of managing for themselves, or returning home.



Leawarra Girls' Hostel, Nunawading.

After some early problems during the first year or two of its operation, Winlaton has now settled down to a smooth functioning, almost trouble-free establishment. Valuable work has been done by members of the Winlaton Auxiliary who have provided sports equipment and other amenities for the girls. Thanks to the Auxiliary for their excellent work during the year.

All wards in the juvenile school classification undergo their training at Winlaton, except those of the Roman Catholic faith who are transferred to the Convents of the Good Shepherd at Abbotsford and Oakleigh, which are the only non-departmental juvenile schools for females approved under the Children's Welfare Act.

*Hillside Boys' Home—Wheelers Hill.*



Hillside Boys' Home, Wheelers Hill.

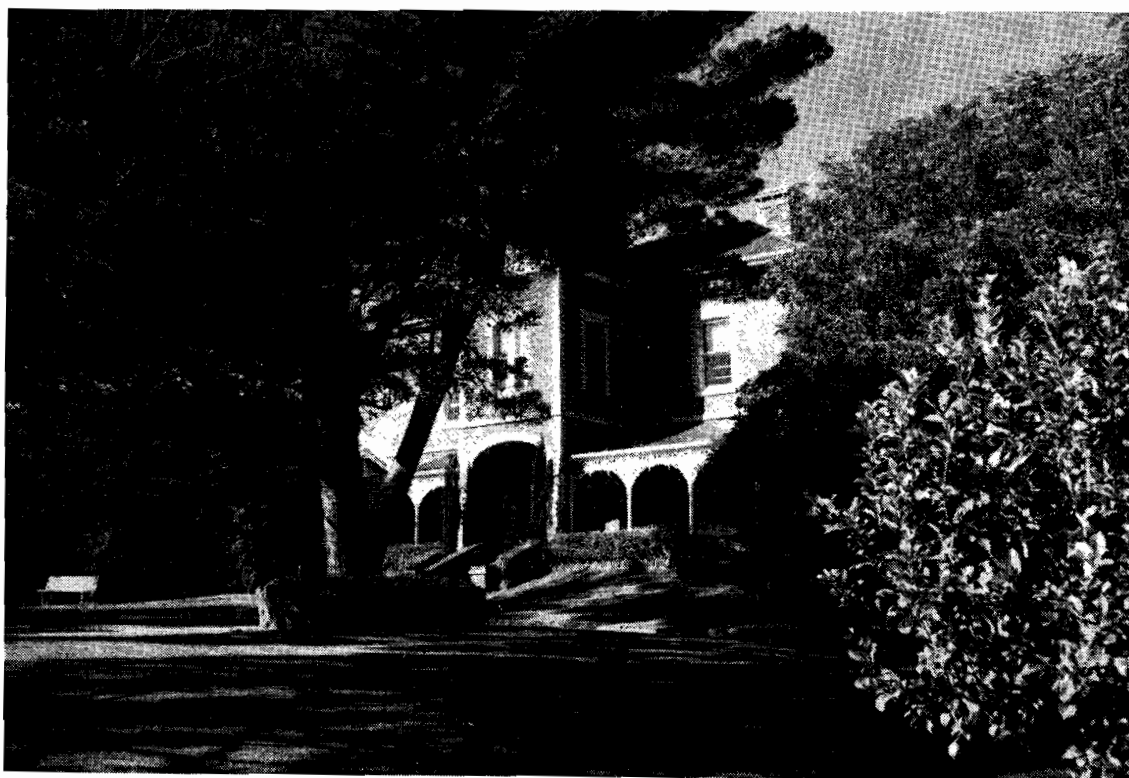
Since its establishment in 1958, this home has proved itself to be an effective solution to the placement problem presented by a group of some 30 or 40 boys of school age. These boys were of the truant or pre-delinquent type who were either unacceptable to, or rejected by, the voluntary institutions catering for the average type of schoolboy. For one reason or another, this hard core of boys with special problems and needs, simply would not fit into other institutions, and consequently, formed a group of otherwise “unplaceables” at Turana.

Hillside was originally an experimental measure designed to meet the needs of these boys, most of whom were persistent absconders due probably to their inability to adjust to any other type of placement, whether in private homes or institutions. After almost two years of trial, it can now be confidently stated that the success of the home has exceeded expectations, and abscondings are almost non-existent.

The success of Hillside may be attributed in large measure to the Superintendent, Mr. Ron Buckley, who, as a substitute father, guide and philosopher to his charges, has won the confidence and respect of the boys and created a homely atmosphere, which has had such a marked influence in the transformation of the boys from their former shiftless, insecure and anti-social attitudes and activities, to well-adjusted and socially acceptable outlooks.

To Mr. Buckley, therefore, and his loyal staff, our grateful acknowledgment for their fine work; also to Dr. Phyllis Tewsley, former Medical Superintendent of Turana who, as honorary welfare officer, has been a tower of strength to the Department and the Superintendent at Hillside. In her retirement, Dr. Tewsley has given her valued services, experience, and most helpful advice voluntarily in all matters concerning the management and functioning of this home. Thanks again to Dr. Phyllis Tewsley.

*Sutton Grange, Mornington.*



Sutton Grange, Tanti-avenue, Mornington.

Established in 1957 for the special purpose of accommodating deprived and disturbed children in family groups of brothers and sisters from four to fourteen years of age, this lovely old mansion home in a spacious garden setting, 100 yards or so from an excellent and safe beach, continues to be one of our most pleasant and homely homes.

Matron M. Rolls, with her fine staff and "family" of about 30 little boys and girls, live together in the warmth and happiness of a family atmosphere. The children have all thrived in health and social adjustment here, whilst their progress at local State and private schools has been excellent.

The children are very much a part of the local community which has completely accepted them into its homes for week-ends and holidays, and into local activities such as scouts, basketball and other sports.

Matron Rolls is responsible for the homely atmosphere and the excellent health and happiness of the children at Sutton Grange, and her valuable services are therefore gratefully acknowledged.

*Sunshine Boys' Hostel.*

Sunshine Boys' Hostel.

The hostel, established in 1959, provides accommodation for fifteen male wards of working age who are not acceptable to, or have been rejected by, hostels controlled and operated by the voluntary organizations. Such lads usually found difficulty in maintaining continuity of employment due to some physical, mental or behavioural weakness. Most of them have been reared in institutions, whilst none has any suitable friend or relative to provide accommodation for him in a private home.

Notwithstanding their individual handicaps, these lads, after failing in other placements, have settled down remarkably well, both in the hostel and at local employment, which has been freely available in industries close to the hostel.

The hostel has excellent facilities and amenities. The lads participate in local sporting and other activities. Local clubs and voluntary organizations take a great interest in the lads and have presented them with a television set, tennis equipment, and other amenities.

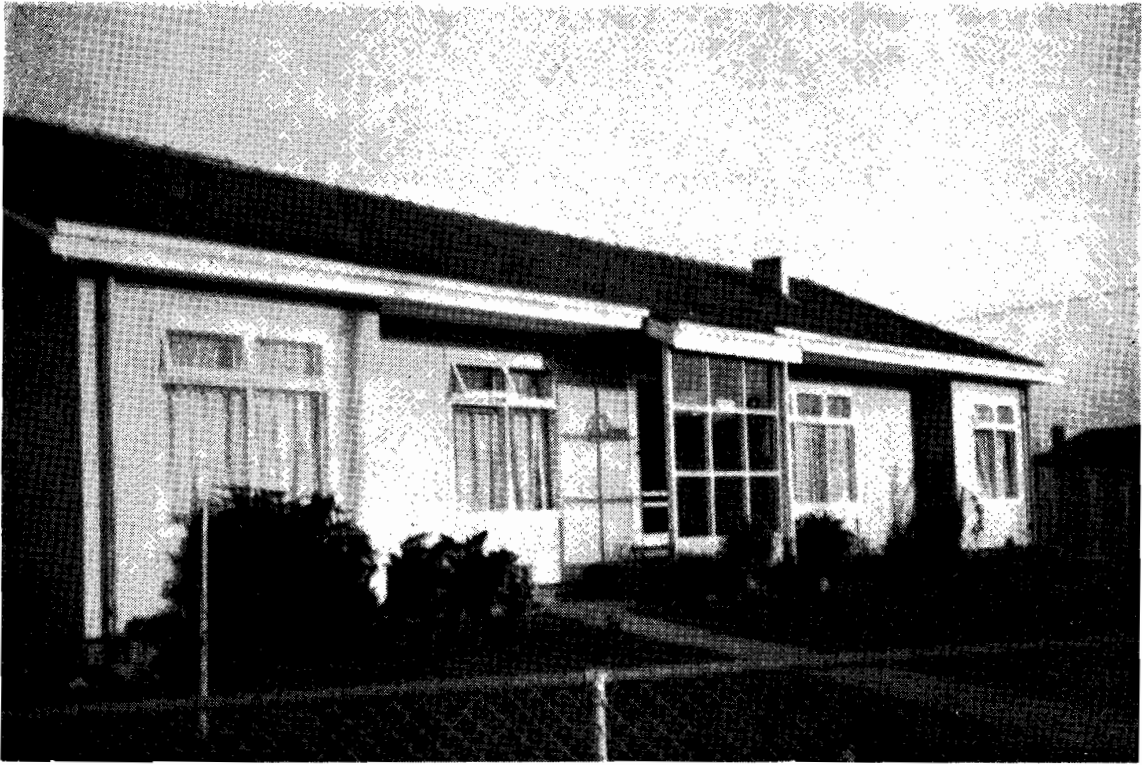
*Family Group Homes.*

There are ten of these homes in the metropolitan area—four at Preston, two at Heidelberg, two at Northcote and two at Coburg. The first two homes commenced to function in October, 1957, and the remaining eight were operating by March, 1958. Eight children are accommodated in each home in the care of a cottage mother. The homes are six-bedroom units, specially designed to serve their particular functions, but similar to most ordinary suburban homes. No particular features or labels about them would indicate that they are different from any other private home in the residential areas surrounding them.

The children admitted into the Family Group Homes range in age from two years upwards, both boys and girls, many of them brothers and sisters. They are specially selected either to avoid the separation of family units, or to provide more intimate and individual care for certain types of deprived children who would not fit into a large institutional setting.

In most of the ten homes, there is also the cottage mother's husband. He is not employed by the Department, and therefore goes out to work in the normal way. However, he plays a very effective "father" role in relation to the children, thus contributing to the good general family atmosphere of the home





A Family Group Home.

The Department has been extremely fortunate in its selection of cottage mothers, who maintain high standards of child care and home management. A trained social worker, as supervisor of family group homes, maintains close and frequent contact with all cottage mothers and children. She advises and assists the cottage mothers and generally supervises the functioning of the homes as well as the progress of the children. The supervisor also arranges for the admission of new children, and for the transfer of children already there into more appropriate placements, such as return to the custody of their parents, legal adoption or fostering in private homes.

Two new family group homes, now under construction, are to be opened shortly at Ararat.

#### ALLOWANCES FOR CHILDREN IN NECESSITOUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

Section 30 of Part V. of the Act provides that any parent, or other person having the care and custody of any child who is without sufficient means of support and who is unable by any available legal means to obtain sufficient means of support for such child, may apply in writing for a weekly sum to be paid to him or her towards the maintenance of such child.

Those assisted are mainly widows, deserted wives, wives of men unable to work due to invalidity or incapacitation and wives of men in gaol or unemployed. Assistance may also be granted for children who, because of the death, desertion or inability of their parents to provide for them, are in the care of relatives or non-related persons. Children for whom assistance is given do not come under the guardianship of the Department. The granting of assistance, like child endowment, in no way affects their existing legal guardianship.

Details of operations in connection with these allowances are shown in Tables 7 (a), (b) and (c) of this Report. At the end of 1960, the total number of children being assisted was 4,881 or 34 more than 1959.

Table 7 (c), which shows a classification of fathers whose children are being assisted, reveals one disturbing feature, namely the progressive increase each year in the number of "deserters".

Assistance was afforded during 1960 for the children of 1,785 fathers, an increase of 42 over the previous year. There were fewer fathers in every category except that of desertion, which increased from 795 in 1959, to 885 in 1960. This means that, of the

total amount of assistance afforded by the Department during the year for children in necessitous circumstances, 49 per cent. of it was paid to deserted wives. In other words, 885 fathers, mostly husbands, have disregarded their moral and legal liabilities, and left the State to bear the burden of their children's support. Approximately 2,000 children are in this category, whilst their mothers receive a widow's (deserted) pension from the Commonwealth Social Services Department. Observers frequently question this somewhat ambiguous state of affairs, particularly when it is provided in both Commonwealth and State legislation that no assistance may be afforded to the wives or children of deserting husbands or fathers unless all available legal proceedings have been taken.

The reason is that the machinery provided under Part I. of the *Maintenance Act* 1958 for the obtaining and enforcement of maintenance orders against defaulting husbands and fathers is quite inadequate for certain types of persons. Present maintenance laws are ineffective against husbands or fathers who keep themselves concealed and away from their usual places of abode or business so that an original summons, and a number of subsequent enforcement processes cannot be served upon them.

It is these men who move frequently from place to place and job to job, often under assumed names, whose wives and children are dependent upon the State. Existing legislation provides for the obtaining and enforcement of maintenance orders by means of summonses, and personal service of other documents, but, as these cannot be served upon such men, the State must continue to bear the burden of maintaining their children. The only effective means of obtaining maintenance payments from this type of defaulting husband or father, is to make provision under Part I. of the *Maintenance Act* 1958 for the issue of warrants for obtaining and enforcing maintenance orders.

The breakdown of the family is a serious social problem, not only because of the financial burden so thrust upon the State, but mainly because of the distress and deprivation resulting to the children. The provision of financial assistance to the wives and children is vital, of course, to the material needs of the family, but falls far short of replacing the important role of the husband and father in the home.

The first function (Section 7 (1) (a) ) of the *Social Welfare Act* 1960 is "To promote family welfare in the community, to prevent its disruption, and to mitigate the effects thereof". A family counselling section is to be established to implement the foregoing provisions.

This is a progressive step in the field of preventive work, and it is confidently anticipated that the functions of this section of the Family Welfare Division will be of great help to the community in the preservation and welfare of the family, with consequential reduction in the numbers of deserting husbands.

## INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

### PART VII. OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT.

Table No. 8 shows the operations in 1960 of the Infant Life Protection provisions of the Act. Such provisions require, *inter alia*, that no person shall for payment or reward have charge in any house of an infant under five years, apart from its parents, unless such person and such house are registered. The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that the welfare of infants placed for payment apart from their parents is safeguarded. Registration of persons, and houses, is made only on favourable report and investigations. Upon registration, departmental field staff keep in close touch with the homes and with the infants placed there.

Where the rate of payment agreed upon for an infant is not greater than that fixed for wards boarded-out in Children's homes, Section 67 provides that the application to board out an infant with a registered person shall be made to the Department, and that payment be made by the parent through the Department. If the parent's payments fall into arrear for four weeks, the infant becomes a ward of the Department. In that way, the registered persons, who are mostly persons in charge of institutions for young children, are protected financially by the State against default by the parents, and they are relieved by the Department of the unpleasant task of taking court action against the parent for maintenance of the infant.

Hospitals and educational establishments are exempt from the operation of the Act. Where the infant is in the care of a relative, exemption may also be made by the Minister if he is satisfied that the circumstances are such that it is unnecessary or undesirable that the provisions of the Act should apply.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN IN STREET TRADING AND IN PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Street Trading Act is administered by this Department, and for the purpose of the Act there is appointed a Street Traders Licences Board, consisting of an officer of this Department as Chairman, and three other members representing the City Newsboys' Society, Education Department, and Authorized Newsagents' Association, respectively.

The Act applies only to the City of Melbourne. No male over the age of twelve years and under the age of fourteen years who is not licensed under the Act may engage in street trading. Males under the age of twelve years, and females under the age of 21 years are prohibited from street trading. This prohibition, as stated above, does not apply outside the boundaries of the City of Melbourne.

An application by a boy between the ages of twelve and fourteen years must bear the consent of his parent or guardian, a certificate as to school attendance from the teacher, evidence as to age, and a reference as to character. The Board will not approve of any application unless satisfied that the boy has been regular in his school attendance, and that such attendance would not be likely to be adversely affected by engaging in street trading during the prescribed hours. The Board may, at any time, cancel or suspend a street trader's licence if it considers it desirable to do so. An inspector is employed to supervise the licensed street traders, and in the detection of breaches of the Act and Regulations.

During the year 1960, 119 licences were issued and 34 were renewed. In each instance the licence was for news vending.

Part VIII. of the Children's Welfare Act, provides that no child, unless the holder of a permit, shall be employed, whether for reward or not, in places of public entertainment or amusement, circus, broadcasting, and the like. There is exemption for occasional entertainments, the net proceeds of which are wholly devoted for the benefit of any school or any charitable object.

An application for a permit, which must be accompanied by a school report, cannot be granted for any child under seven years of age. The Department must be satisfied that the child is fit for the proposed employment, and no permit can be granted for employment between the hours of ten o'clock at night and six o'clock in the morning or on any Sunday.

The number of permits issued during 1960 was 723.

#### CHILD MIGRATION.

By delegation from the Commonwealth Minister of Immigration under the *Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946-52*, the Director of the Department exercises legal guardianship over children and young people up to 21 years of age who come from overseas without their parents or relatives to reside in this State.

Most of the children from the United Kingdom come on the sponsorship of what are officially termed "Approved Voluntary Child Migration Organizations". Table No. 10A gives the figures of the children who have been received to date by such organizations. The children do not necessarily remain in the institutions until they are ready to go out to employment. On the other hand, the organizations and the Department encourage the introduction of migrant children into private homes of suitable foster-folk. This arrangement mostly ensues from school term-holiday visits and the development of interests and affection between holiday host and the child. At the end of the year there were 23 children placed in private homes, apart from those who were in board or in live-in employment. Three of the children were legally adopted last year by their foster-parents, and there are seven others in respect of whom application to the Court for an adoption order will be made in due course.

In addition to British children introduced by the approved voluntary child migration organizations, the Department is concerned with children and young people—British and non-British—who come here without parents or relatives, and who are personally nominated by individuals. When such a nomination is made, the Department is required by the Immigration authorities to report on the proposed provision for the child or young person by the nominator—see figures in Table 10B—and upon arrival the child or young person comes under guardianship, unless specially exempt.

#### EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS (TABLE No. 11).

Expenditure increased from £1,151,783 in 1959 to £1,298,451 in 1960, whilst receipts also increased from £58,918 in 1959 to £68,653. The overall net cost of operations for the year 1960 was £1,229,798 as compared with £1,002,865 for the previous year.

The increase of £226,933 was due to—

- (a) an increase of 429 in the number of wards in care ;
- (b) an increase of 34 in the number of assisted children ;
- (c) increases in rates of payment as from July, 1960, made by the Department for wards in foster care, children's homes and juvenile schools ;
- (d) increases in rates of payment to mothers of assisted children, due mainly to increased rental commitments ;
- (e) increased operational costs of Departmental establishments ;
- (f) increased administrative costs ; and
- (g) increases in subsidies for wards and non-wards in approved hostels, and increased clothing allowances.

The overall picture is one of general expansion commensurate with the steady increase in population, and consequential increased demands for services including all forms of social welfare activities.

#### GENERAL.

During the year, the Department lost through retirements, transfers and promotions, many of its most experienced and senior administrative officers. In child welfare work, continuity of employment is essential for efficient administration. Cordial relationships and personal contacts between staff and parents, children and controlling authorities of voluntary organizations and institutions take years to establish and, once these links are established, the need to preserve them is of the utmost importance.

Last year's staff losses followed heavy losses in 1959. In fact, during those two years, retirements caused the loss of the Director, Deputy-Director and the officers in charge of the Assisted Children and Maintenance Collection Sections, whilst consequential promotions and transfers to other Departments resulted in vacancies and new appointments to the positions of officers in charge of Boarding-out and Adoptions Sections. In that period, the Department also lost the services of the Medical Superintendent of Turana, the Assistant Superintendent (female) of Turana and the Supervisor of Family Group Homes. In all, 50 per cent. of the administrative staff, most of them senior officers, left the Department during the last two years and new appointments were necessary for the positions in charge of every major section except the Accounts Section. This serious loss of experienced officers and the training of their replacements imposed a heavy strain on the remaining staff.

The greatest single loss was the retirement due to ill health of the Director, Mr. J. V. Nelson, who terminated his 46 years of public service on the 14th September, 1960. The onerous position of Director, as legal guardian of between four and five thousand children in this State, requires all the vitality and energy of a very active and physically fit man. The calls upon the occupant of this position which continue with unrelenting pressure at all hours of the day and night, every day in the year, take physical and mental toll of the fittest. Mr. Nelson applied himself to his task with such zeal and vigour that the sustained effort ultimately caused his premature retirement. To him, therefore, we extend our best wishes and trust that his health will improve sufficiently in the future to enable him to enjoy a long and well-earned retirement.

As Deputy-Director, I have occupied the position of Acting Director for a period which has been prolonged due to the anticipated proclamation of the *Social Welfare Act* 1960. Mr. E. R. Gleed, Chief Clerk, was meanwhile assigned to the position of Deputy-Director whilst the Chief Clerk's position has remained vacant. Thus, the Deputy-Director and the Chief Clerk have carried on the duties of the three senior administrative positions.

Under these circumstances, my duties and responsibilities as Acting Director have been particularly onerous, but these burdens were considerably lightened by the loyal and wholehearted support of the staff at Head Office, also those engaged in the control and functioning of our Departmental establishments and family group homes. For their loyalty and co-operation, I am deeply grateful.

To Mr. Gleed, as acting Deputy-Director, I desire to record a special and personal tribute for his devotion to duty and great help.

To the Children's Welfare Advisory Council, the voluntary agencies, the controlling authorities of the charitable and religious institutions and their staffs, the Police and especially the Women Police, other Departments, Children's Courts, Hospital Almoners, clinics and community organizations, I wish to express the Department's appreciation and my personal thanks for their co-operation and help throughout the year 1960.

M. MORGANTI,  
Acting Director.

TABLE NO. 1.  
ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES OF WARDS FOR THE YEARS 1958-60.

	1958.			1959.			1960.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Wards under care at the commencement of the year .. .. .	2,136	1,454	3,590	2,330	1,621	3,951	2,570	1,776	4,346
<i>Admissions.</i>									
Court Committals (Children's Court Act)— Section 28 Offences—									
(a) Children's Welfare Department ..	57	..	} 181	32	..	} 158	48	..	} 194
(b) Juvenile School .. .. .	124	..		126	..		142	4	
Court Admissions (Children's Welfare Act)—									
Section 16—Protection applications ..	349	247	596	465	299	764	495	307	802
Section 19—Uncontrollable applications ..	20	7	27	15	4	19	19	4	23
Admissions on application to Department (Children's Welfare Act)									
Section 20 (1) No means .. .. .	52	53	105	59	40	99	41	41	82
Section 20 (10)—No means .. .. .	46	24	70	39	17	56	33	15	48
Section 67 (d)—Default in payment by parent .. .. .	46	38	84	43	27	70	52	44	96
Total Admissions .. .. .	694	369	1,063	779	387	1,166	830	415	1,245
<i>Discharges.</i>									
By direction of the Minister .. .. .	117	83	200	206	105	311	185	184	369
Death .. .. .	2	1	3	1	6	7	2	5	7
Legal adoption .. .. .	50	34	84	37	36	73	31	25	56
Effluxion of time :—									
(a) Children's Welfare Act, Section 21 (1) at 18 years .. .. .	185	83	268	161	83	244	149	77	226
(b) Children's Court Act, Section 28 (1) (f)	111	1	112	95	..	95	119	1	120
Court Review—Children's Court Act, Section 28 (4) .. .. .	35	..	35	35	..	35	20	..	20
Appeals .. .. .	..	..	..	4	2	6	13	5	18
Total Discharges .. .. .	500	202	702	539	232	771	519	297	816
Total wards under care at the end of the year ..	2,330	1,621	3,951	2,570	1,776	4,346	2,881	1,894	4,775

TABLE No. 2.

## ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF ADMISSION AND COMMITTAL OF BOYS AND GIRLS BY THE CHILDREN'S COURTS DURING THE YEARS 1958-60.

Causes of Admission and Committal.	1958.			1959.			1960.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Committals pursuant to Section 28, Children's Court Act—									
Larceny, stealing .. .. .	46	..	46	33	..	33	40	3	43
Breaking and entering (shops, houses, factories, &c.) .. .. .	60	..	60	47	..	47	54	..	54
Illegally using .. .. .	52	..	52	55	..	55	68	1	69
Robbery with violence .. .. .	1	..	1	4	..	4	1	..	1
Assault .. .. .	4	..	4	3	..	3	4	..	4
Indecent and unnatural offences .. .. .	10	..	10	7	..	7	7	..	7
Receiving .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..	2
Arson .. .. .	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..
Breach of probation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Unlawful possession .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Malicious damage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3
Forging and uttering.. .. .	2	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..
Miscellaneous .. .. .	5	..	5	6	..	6	8	..	8
Sub-totals .. .. .	181	..	181	158	..	158	190	4	194
Admissions—(i) pursuant to Section 16 of the Children's Welfare Act—									
(a) Found begging .. .. .	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..
(b) Found wandering or abandoned .. .. .	9	3	12	8	4	12	14	7	21
(c) No means of support or no settled place of abode .. .. .	73	65	138	121	97	218	113	77	190
(d) In a brothel or associating with known thieves, prostitutes, &c. .. .. .	11	6	17	..	1	1	..	..	..
(e) Not licensed to engage in street trading .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(f) Not provided with proper food, nursing, clothing or medical aid .. .. .	49	45	94	63	61	124	87	68	155
(g) In care and custody of persons who are unfit guardians .. .. .	47	48	95	84	66	150	52	54	106
(h) Lapsing or likely to lapse into a career of vice or crime .. .. .	146	34	180	175	35	210	217	52	269
(i) Exposed to moral danger .. .. .	5	38	43	2	31	33	3	46	49
(j) Truancy .. .. .	9	7	16	11	4	15	9	3	12
(ii) pursuant to Section 19 of the Children's Welfare Act—									
Uncontrollable .. .. .	20	7	27	15	4	19	19	4	23
Sub-totals .. .. .	369	254	623	480	303	783	514	311	825
Total number of children made wards of State through Victorian Children's Courts .. .. .	550	254	804	638	303	941	704	315	1,019

TABLE NO. 3.

## ANALYSIS OF "FIXED TERM" COMMITTALS—SECTION 28 (1) (f) OF THE CHILDREN'S COURT ACT—DURING 1958-60.

Term.	1958.			1959.			1960.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Up to 1 month ... ..	41	..	41	27	..	27	35	2	37
2 months .. .. .	6	..	6	6	..	6	7	..	7
3 " .. .. .	17	..	17	10	..	10	10	1	11
6 " .. .. .	19	..	19	12	..	12	13	..	13
9 " .. .. .	7	..	7	3	..	3	6	..	6
12 " .. .. .	69	..	69	70	..	70	74	..	74
Up to 2 years .. .. .	22	..	22	30	..	30	45	1	46
Totals .. .. .	181	..	181	158	..	158	190	4	194

TABLE NO. 4.

## LOCATION OF WARDS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1958, 1959 AND 1960.

	1958.			1959.			1960.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Placed in foster care .. .. .	298	370	668	433	477	910	466	561	1,027
Placed with relatives without payment ..	304	176	480	349	161	510	528	197	725
Boarded out in approved children's homes ..	1,171	696	1,867	1,175	700	1,875	1,182	715	1,897
Placed in approved juvenile schools ..	87	26	113	68	32	100	94	24	118
Placed in employment .. .. .	154	94	248	168	84	252	205	96	301
Placed at Turana Reception Centre, Royal Park	180	63	243	151	131	282	207	77	284
Placed at Winlaton Juvenile School, Nunawading .. .. .	..	57	57	..	50	50	..	76	76
Placed at Sutton Grange Children's Home, Mornington .. .. .	8	17	25	11	17	28	5	20	25
Placed at Hillside Boys' Home, Wheelers Hill	..	..	..	32	..	32	34	..	34
Placed in suburban family group homes ..	34	41	75	36	38	74	37	40	77
Placed in hospitals .. .. .	4	8	12	19	7	26	9	5	14
Placed in Mental Hygiene Special Schools ..	54	47	101	57	49	106	70	56	126
Placed in Mental Hospitals .. .. .	16	14	30	23	21	44	5	18	23
Absconders .. .. .	20	12	32	43	14	57	39	9	48
Totals .. .. .	2,330	1,621	3,951	2,565	1,781	4,346	2,881	1,894	4,775

*Analysis of Wards in Foster Care and in Employment arranged by the Department.*

<i>Placed in foster care—</i>									
(a) with payment .. .. .	198	265	463	303	362	665	303	408	711
(b) without payment .. .. .	68	75	143	95	98	193	121	117	238
(c) without payment and pending adoption	32	30	62	35	17	52	42	36	78
<i>Placed in employment—</i>									
(a) residing in Hostels of—									
voluntary organizations .. .. .	71	34	105	69	12	81	58	22	80
the Department .. .. .	..	..	..	11	4	15	13	11	24
(b) residing with employer .. .. .	63	36	99	71	45	116	67	49	116
(c) in private board .. .. .	20	24	44	17	23	40	67	14	81



TABLE No. 5.  
STATEMENT SHOWING TRENDS IN POPULATION AND IN NUMBERS OF CHILDREN—(A) COMING UNDER THE CARE OF THE DEPARTMENT  
AND (B) ASSISTED OWING TO NECESSITIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES—OVER THE YEARS 1954-60.

Year as at 30th June	Total Population of Australia.	Total Population of Victoria.	0-17 Age Group for Australia.	0-17 Age Group for Victoria.	Yearly Admissions to Children's Welfare Department.	Analysis of Yearly Admissions.			Total No. of Wards under guardianship at end of each year.	No. of Wards Per 1,000 of 0-17 Age Group in Victoria.	Children (non-wards) in Necessitous Circumstances for whom Allowances are paid.		
						From Children's Courts.		By Application (No Means).			0-13 Age Group for Victoria.	No. of Children assisted at end of each year.	No. per 1,000 of 0-13 Age Group in Victoria.
						Anti-Social Behaviour.	For Care and Protection.						
1954 ..	8,986,530	2,452,341	2,928,280	772,467	552	174	187	191	3,121	4.04	645,948	2,478	3.84
1955 ..	9,200,691	2,523,018	3,040,000	809,000	566	226	176	164	3,037	3.75	677,000	2,759	4.07
1956 ..	9,427,558	2,605,088	3,152,000	848,000	725	138	426	161	3,204	3.78	707,000	3,177	4.49
1957 ..	9,643,079	2,673,498	3,259,000	882,000	901	283	358	260	3,590	4.07	735,000	3,659	4.98
1958 ..	9,846,140	2,741,397	3,369,000	918,000	1,063	423	381	259	3,951	4.30	761,000	4,446	5.84
1959 ..	10,061,222	2,814,523	3,478,000	954,000	1,166	434	507	225	4,346	4.55	786,000	4,847	6.16
1960 ..	10,280,742	2,891,748	3,577,000	988,000	1,245	547	472	226	4,775	4.83	810,000	4,881	6.03

Notes :—  
Population.—

The figures given for the years 1954-1960 are taken from those compiled by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics.  
The census year 1954 is an actual figure, the others being estimates only from the Commonwealth Bureau.

TABLE No. 6.

## ANALYSIS OF AGES AND RELIGIONS OF CHILDREN ADMITTED OR COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEARS 1957-60.

	1957.			1958.			1959.			1960.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Age ranges—												
Up to 3 years .. .. .	113	97	210	136	112	248	127	109	236	121	101	222
3 to 6 years .. .. .	72	72	144	87	63	150	101	70	171	99	74	173
6 to 14 years .. .. .	196	125	321	198	120	318	307	142	449	310	142	452
14 years and over .. .. .	178	48	226	273	74	347	244	66	310	300	98	398
Totals .. .. .	559	342	901	694	369	1,063	779	387	1,166	830	415	1,245
Religions—												
Protestant .. .. .	308	199	507	422	242	664	476	237	713	513	272	785
Roman Catholic .. .. .	242	138	380	261	122	383	279	134	413	311	142	453
Jewish .. .. .	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others .. .. .	8	5	13	10	5	15	24	16	40	6	1	7
Totals .. .. .	559	342	901	694	369	1,063	779	387	1,166	830	415	1,245

TABLE No. 7A.

DETAILS OF ALLOWANCES PAID FOR CHILDREN IN NECESSITOUS CIRCUMSTANCES—  
PART V. OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT.

## ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN.

	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.
Applications received .. .. .	956	1,103	1,479	1,625	1,468
Number of children .. .. .	2,536	3,021	4,055	4,398	3,999
Applications approved .. .. .	687	763	991	1,040	962
Number of children .. .. .	1,872	2,226	2,759	2,809	2,705
Applications refused .. .. .	52	82	156	184	210
Number of children .. .. .	110	181	399	542	499
Applications withdrawn .. .. .	215	253	332	401	287
Number of children .. .. .	551	596	897	1,047	765
Applications not finalized (at end of year) .. .. .	2	5	..	..	9
Number of children .. .. .	3	18	..	..	30

TABLE No. 7b.

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN RECEIPT OF AID AND THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ASSISTED AS AT 31ST DECEMBER IN EACH YEAR, TOGETHER WITH THE TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF MAINTENANCE.

	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.
Number of parents as at 31st December ..	1,116	1,248	1,506	1,627	1,639
Number of non-parents as at 31st December ..	36	76	90	116	146
Number of children as at 31st December ..	3,177	3,659	4,446	4,847	4,881
Total cost of maintenance for year (exclusive of medical attendance and school requisites) ..	£153,229	£161,608	£199,119	£235,036	£242,306

TABLE No. 7c.

CLASSIFICATION OF FATHERS ON ACCOUNT OF WHOSE CHILDREN ASSISTANCE WAS BEING PAID AT 31ST DECEMBER IN EACH YEAR.

	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.
Deceased .. .. .	384	417	456	477	472
Deserters .. .. .	515	594	681	795	885
Temporarily or partially incapacitated .. ..	64	79	102	102	93
War service, invalid, and age-pensioners ..	128	131	149	175	170
In Gaol .. .. .	78	102	115	115	107
Deported aliens .. .. .	..	..	..	1	1
In Mental Hospital .. .. .	20	32	27	19	14
Receiving Unemployment Benefit .. .. .	..	23	66	59	43
Totals .. .. .	1,189	1,378	1,596	1,743	1,785

TABLE No. 8.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—PART VII. CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT.

Number at 1st January 1960 .. .. .	256
New placements during year .. .. .	670
Number supervised during year .. .. .	926
Discharged during year—	
To parents .. .. .	479
On reaching age of five years .. .. .	55
On becoming wards of Department .. .. .	96
On death .. .. .	3
On <i>de facto</i> adoption .. .. .	35
Total discharges .. .. .	668
Number at 31st December, 1960 .. .. .	258

TABLE No. 8—continued.

LOCATION OF INFANTS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1960.							
<i>In Registered Institutions.</i>							
Abbotsford Convent .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Alexandra Babies' Home .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Antonian Institute, Richmond .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Ballarat Orphanage .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Berry-street Foundling Hospital .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Bethany Babies' Home, Geelong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Burwood Boy's Home, Burwood .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Central Mission Memorial Home, Fairfield .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Church of England Home for Little Children, Darling .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Gordon Boys' Home, Highett .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Kardinia Home, Geelong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Kildonan Home, Burwood .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Lutheran Peace Memorial Children's Home, Kew .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Melbourne City Mission, Brunswick .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Melbourne Orphanage, Brighton .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Methodist Babies' Home, South Yarra .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Methodist Peace Memorial, Burwood .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Presbyterian Babies' Home, East Camberwell .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Providence Dutch Hostel, Bacchus Marsh .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Resurrection House, Essendon .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Salvation Army Girls' Home, East Camberwell .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Salvation Army Girls' Home, East Kew .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
St. Aidan's Orphanage, Bendigo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
St. Anthony's Home, Kew .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
St. Catherine's Girls' Orphanage, Geelong .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
St. Gabriel's Babies' Home, Balwyn .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
St. John's Home, Canterbury .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
St. Joseph's Home, Broadmeadows .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
St. Joseph's Home, Carlton .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
St. Joseph's Nursery, Kew .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
St. Joseph's Home, Sebastopol .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
St. Luke's Toddlers' Home, Bendigo .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
St. Mary's School for the Deaf, Portsea .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
St. Vincent de Paul Girls' Orphanage, South Melbourne .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
The Haven, North Fitzroy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Victorian Children's Aid Society, Parkville .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>In Registered Private Homes</i> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	258

## NEW REGISTRATIONS.

The following are details of applications received for the registration of new homes during the year shown, and the manner in which such applications were dealt with:—

Applications received .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Applications withdrawn .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Applications refused .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Applications granted .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Applications pending .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

A total of 337 infants were accommodated for varying periods during the year by registered persons whose fees are over the rate of £4 per week as determined under Section 29 of the *Children's Welfare Act* 1958.

## NOTIFICATION OF DE FACTO ADOPTIONS, SECTION 67 OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT.

Notifications in respect of 656 infants were received during the year, pursuant to Section 68, from persons who had taken over the entire care and charge of an infant under the age of five years from its parents or guardians.

While it does not necessarily follow that the infants represented in these notifications are forthwith, or subsequently, legally adopted, it is known that in most cases the notifications are a prelude to applications for legal adoptions. Some of the infants, however, remain with their new custodians merely on a *de facto* adoption basis.

TABLE NO. 9.  
SUBSIDIZED HOSTELS.

Name of Hostel.	Number of Inmates Approved for Subsidy as at 31st December—					Government Contributions to—	1956. £ s. d.	1957. £ s. d.	1958. £ s. d.	1959. £ s. d.	1960. £ s. d.
	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.						
Boys.											
Lyndon Lodge .. .. .	24	23	19	20	11	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. . Clothing Grants .. .. . Capital and other Grants .. .. .	343 12 7 .. .. . .. .. .	569 8 3 .. .. . .. .. .	487 5 5 20 0 0 611 9 7	459 4 11 40 0 0 .. .. .	170 6 7 .. .. . 882 15 4
Padua Hall .. .. . (Ceased to operate, September, 1960)	18	5	6	11	..	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. . Clothing Grants .. .. . Capital and other Grants .. .. .	1,613 10 5 60 0 0 40 9 2	1,001 0 11 .. .. . .. .. .	1,274 11 4 .. .. . .. .. .	2,562 9 5 .. .. . .. .. .	2,397 9 5 .. .. . .. .. .
St. Martin's House .. .. .	3	2	5	4	4	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. . Clothing Grants .. .. . Capital and other Grants .. .. .	92 14 9 20 0 0 .. .. .	86 3 0 .. .. . .. .. .	143 13 9 20 0 0 6,096 11 7	35 7 1 .. .. . .. .. .	46 6 11 20 0 0 .. .. .
Ballarat Boys .. .. . (Ceased to operate, June, 1961)	7	7	8	9	7	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. . Clothing Grants .. .. . Capital and other Grants .. .. .	13 3 11 15 0 0 103 6 8	187 11 4 80 0 0 .. .. .	59 19 4 .. .. . 66 0 0	297 11 0 .. .. . .. .. .	266 4 8 .. .. . .. .. .
St. Vincent's Boys .. .. .	9	27	32	31	34	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. . Clothing Grants .. .. . Capital and other Grants .. .. .	57 16 0 180 0 0 .. .. .	461 6 2 180 0 0 .. .. .	865 13 2 200 0 0 1,306 10 7	1,017 8 0 220 0 0 473 12 5	1,574 15 2 60 0 0 1,827 0 0
Young Christian Workers' Movement .. .. . (Ceased to operate, October, 1959)	8	9	6	..	..	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. . Clothing Grants .. .. . Capital and other Grants .. .. .	23 5 7 .. .. . .. .. .	112 18 11 20 0 0 380 8 0	185 8 9 20 0 0 125 13 4	98 9 5 .. .. . .. .. .	.. .. . .. .. . .. .. .
The Palms (Burwood Boys) .. .. . (Ceased to operate, December, 1958)	8	7	..	..	..	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. . Clothing Grants .. .. . Capital and other Grants .. .. .	95 10 6 60 0 0 .. .. .	78 1 2 .. .. . .. .. .	47 17 3 .. .. . .. .. .	.. .. . .. .. . .. .. .	.. .. . .. .. . .. .. .
Menzies Boys' Home .. .. .	9	9	11	9	7	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. . Clothing Grants .. .. . Capital and other Grants .. .. .	155 10 6 4 12 0 20 0 0 3,334 0 0	234 1 10 1,698 7 8 .. .. .	469 5 7 9 17 11 400 0 0	191 19 8 379 17 7 .. .. .	119 6 10 59 12 7 241 10 11
Total Boys .. .. .	86	89	87	84	63	Total .. .. .	3,358 12 0	1,932 9 6	879 3 6	571 17 3	420 10 4

TABLE NO. 9—continued.  
SUBSIDIZED HOSTELS—continued.

Name of Hostel.	Number of Inmates Approved for Subsidy as at 31st December—					Government Contributions to—	1956.		1957.		1958.		1959.		1960.	
	1956.	1957.	1958.	1959.	1960.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
GIRLS.																
Homecrafts Hostel .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. .	67	15 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	53 4 6
						Clothing Grants .. .. .	24	4 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16 10 0
						Capital and other Grants .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
						Total .. .. .	92	0 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69 14 6
McAuley House .. .. .	3	1	5	6	6	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. .	56	19 3	20	17 4	123	14 0	77	11 8	581	19 9
						Clothing Grants .. .. .	49	10 0	..	..	82	10 0	16	10 0	115	10 0
						Capital and other Grants .. .. .	..	..	1,300	4 6	1,376	0 0	6,157	6 8	672	9 4
						Total .. .. .	106	9 3	1,321	1 10	1,582	4 0	6,251	8 4	1,369	19 1
Marian Hall .. .. . (Declared an approved juvenile hostel on 14th April, 1958)	..	..	3	6	9	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. .	..	..	..	..	26	2 4	113	8 11	50	3 8
						Clothing Grants .. .. .	..	..	..	..	10	0 0	..	..	..	..
						Capital and other Grants .. .. .	..	..	..	..	8,614	0 0	186	0 0	..	..
						Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	8,650	2 4	299	8 11	50	3 8
Regent House .. .. . (Declared an approved juvenile hostel on 7th August, 1958)	..	..	5	5	3	Subsidy of Earnings .. .. .	..	..	..	..	85	5 5	207	6 6	212	4 0
						Clothing Grants .. .. .	..	..	..	..	16	10 0	16	10 0	..	..
						Capital and other Grants .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	749	0 0	..	..
Total Girls .. .. .	3	1	13	17	19	Total .. .. .	..	..	..	..	101	15 5	972	16 6	212	4 0
Totals .. .. .	89	90	100	101	82	Totals .. .. .	6,275	10 11	6,410	9 1	22,743	19 4	13,299	13 3	1,702	1 3

NOTE:—Subsidy of earnings at Padua Hall includes several grants to meet losses on operation, paid subsequent to the particular year concerned.

TABLE No. 10A.  
APPROVED VOLUNTARY CHILD MIGRATION ORGANIZATIONS.

Organization.	Accommodation Capacity for Migrant Children.	Total Number Received from Inception of post- war Scheme to 31st December, 1960.		Number in Residence at 31st December, 1960.	
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Northcote School, Bacchus Marsh .. ..	72 boys and girls of school age	77	35	12	7
Methodist Peace Memorial Homes, Burwood ..	48 boys and girls of school age	24	16	..	..
Dhurringile Rural Training Farm, Tatura ..	50 boys of school age ..	85	..	10	..
St. John's Homes for Boys, Canterbury ..	24 boys of school age ..	53	..	1	..
Church of England Boys' Society, Burton Hall, Tatura .. .. .	5 boys over school age ..	40	..	1	..
Nazareth House, East Camberwell .. ..	150 girls of school age ..	..	53	..	17
*Young Christian Workers' Movement, Haw- thorn .. .. .	60 boys over school age ..	125	..	..	..
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	.. .. .	<b>404</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>

\* Hostel closed as from the 31st December, 1954.

TABLE No. 10B.  
NOMINATION OF MIGRANTS BY PRIVATE PERSONS DURING THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY,  
1960, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

Place of Origin of Nominee.	Recommended.	Deferred, Cancelled or Rejected.	Total.
United Kingdom .. .. .	80	14	94
Other British—			
Malta .. .. .	1	1	2
Cyprus .. .. .	5	1	6
Non-British—			
Italy .. .. .	138	23	161
Greece .. .. .	165	9	174
Germany .. .. .	7	..	7
Yugoslavia .. .. .	20	9	29
Other Countries .. .. .	22	4	26
<b>Total</b> .. .. .	<b>438</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>499</b>

TABLE No. 11.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1960.

1. *Wards placed in—*

	£	£
<b>Foster Homes—</b>		
Maintenance .. .. .	83,628	
Clothing .. .. .	4,070	
	<u>          </u>	87,698
<b>Children's Homes—</b>		
Maintenance .. .. .	320,727	
Clothing .. .. .	12,224	
	<u>          </u>	332,951
<b>Juvenile Schools—</b>		
Maintenance .. .. .	23,834	
Maintenance Deficiency Grants .. .. .	9,761	
Special Grants .. .. .	1,000	
	<u>          </u>	34,595
Wards outfitted for employment .. .. .	11,152	
Subsidies for hostel inmates .. .. .	8,717	
Maintenance of migrant children .. .. .	1,757	
	<u>          </u>	21,626

2. *Wards placed in Departmental Establishments—*

Institution.	Provisions, clothing, travelling, &c.	Salaries, &c.	Gross Expenditure.	Payments by staff for quarters, rations.	Net Expenditure.
	£	£	£	£	£
"Turana" .. .. .	70,328	203,828	274,156	9,043	265,113
"Winlton" .. .. .	19,768	48,607	69,375	3,296	65,079
"Sutton Grange" .. .. .	4,646	8,973	13,619	1,052	12,567
"Hillside" .. .. .	8,684	13,502	22,186	1,142	21,044
"Sunshine" .. .. .	2,113	2,994	5,107	1,946	3,161
Family Group Homes .. .. .	15,309	26,194	41,503	3,946	37,557
	<u>120,848</u>	<u>304,098</u>	<u>425,946</u>	<u>20,425</u>	<u>404,521</u>

3. *Allowances for Children in Necessitous Circumstances—(Part V. of Children's Welfare Act)* .. .. . 242,3064. *General Maintenance Items—*

	£
School requisites .. .. .	8,424
Building grants (hostels) .. .. .	4,536
	<u>          </u>
	12,960

5. *Administrative Expenses—*

Salaries, &c. .. .. .	144,556
Postage and telephone .. .. .	4,585
Incidentals .. .. .	1,370
Printing and stationery .. .. .	2,847
Fuel and light .. .. .	19
Children's Welfare Advisory Council expenses .. .. .	676
Transport .. .. .	7,741
	<u>          </u>
	161,794
Total .. .. .	<u>1,298,451</u>

6. *Revenue—*

<b>Maintenance Collections—</b>		£
Court orders .. .. .	22,551	
Voluntary payments .. .. .	26,648	
	<u>          </u>	49,199
<b>Miscellaneous Receipts—</b>		
Appropriation of former years .. .. .	1,900	
Sale of Government property .. .. .	570	
Sundries .. .. .	3,727	
	<u>          </u>	6,197
Child endowment for children at departmental institutions .. .. .	13,257	
	<u>          </u>	68,653
Net Expenditure .. .. .	<u>          </u>	<u>1,229,798</u>



TABLE NO. 12.

COST OF OPERATION OF DEPARTMENTAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR 1959-60 SHOWING AVERAGE WEEKLY PER CAPITA COST OF MAINTAINING WARDS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1960.

Establishment.	Average Number of Inmates.	Provisions, Clothing, Travelling, &c.	Salaries, Overtime, Penalty Rates.	Gross Expenditure.	Payments by Staff and Inmates in Employment for Board, Quarters, &c.	Net Total Expenditure.	Cost per Inmate per Week.	
							Salaries, Other.	Total.
		£	£	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
"Turana" ..	327	83,307	195,485	278,792	9,363	269,429	S. 10 18 10 O. 4 18 0	15 16 10
"Winlaton" ..	63	19,373	42,927	62,300	2,681	59,619	S. 13 2 3 O. 5 1 10	18 4 1
"Sutton Grange" ..	26	4,710	8,754	13,464	1,052	12,412	S. 6 9 3 O. 2 14 9	9 4 0
"Hillside" ..	33	9,413	12,195	21,608	1,025	20,583	S. 7 1 10 O. 4 18 2	12 0 0
Sunshine ..	8	1,969	2,313	4,282	1,420	2,862	S. 5 12 6 O. 1 5 2	6 17 8
Family Group Homes	77	16,929	24,679	41,608	3,850	37,758	S. 6 3 5 O. 3 5 2	9 8 7
	534	135,701	286,353	422,054	19,391	402,663	..	..

Notes on average costs of operating departmental homes :—

(a) "Salaries" includes Penalty Rates and Overtime ;

(b) The average cost of "Clothing, Provisions, &c." is based on the total amounts in that column, less payments for quarters and rations and, in the case of inmates in employment, for board. At Sunshine Hostel, inmates' board is at the Hostel rate of £4 6s. 1d. a week whereas, in other institutions ("Hillside" and one or two family group homes), it is at the staff rate of £3 3s. 8d. a week. The cost at Sunshine Hostel is actually the cost to the Department of subsidizing the inmates' weekly wages.