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DEPARTMENT OF CHILD WELFARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE



Young Australians—"Myee"



ANNUAL REPORT

1957

1957

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT
OF THE
Minister for Child Welfare and Social Welfare
ON THE
Work of the Child Welfare Department
for the Year ended 30th June
1957

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BY COMMAND

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CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Report of the Minister for Child Welfare and Minister for Social Welfare on the Work of the Child Welfare Department for the Year ended 30th June, 1957

I SUBMIT herewith the Report on the work of the Child Welfare Department for the year ended 30th June, 1957.

The inaugural year of the Ministry of Child Welfare last year witnessed the amalgamation of Child Welfare and Social Welfare services. I remarked at the time that increased benefits had already begun to accrue to recipients of both services, and the year just concluded has seen a most pleasing growth of that development. Certain administrative changes designed to increase the speed with which financial assistance is granted, and to extend the benefits of case work to certain widows and their families, have resulted in an all-embracing organization of family welfare services.

It will be remembered that a sudden and pronounced rise in the rate of delinquency among male juveniles was featured in last year's Report. A note of warning against undue alarmism, sounded on that occasion, has been happily vindicated. While it is true that the fall in the rate of delinquency is slight, it should be borne in mind that such a rate need hardly inspire despondency in those among us who are aware of the juvenile delinquency rates in other countries. Neither, on the other hand, is there any cause for complacency. It is a melancholy reflection that the conditions necessary and sufficient for delinquency have never been isolated; nor, it seems, will this be possible in the foreseeable future. All that can tentatively be said is that the emotional climate of a child's home life appears to play a decisive part in causation.

This leads me to speak of the measures being taken to combat delinquency at its source. My Departmental Officers have always regarded preventive work, which is another way of saying case work in relation to the child's home, as the ideal at which to aim in combating delinquency. This Report expounds the manifold difficulties with which these Officers have had to cope, but suffice it to say that 15.6 per cent. of cases of neglect and uncontrollability were disposed of by court action in comparison with 17 per cent. last year.

The Child Welfare Information and Extension Service, the establishment of which I approved shortly after taking up my portfolio, has given a new fillip to the preventive programme. In the short time this Service has been functioning, it has been directly responsible for an astounding growth in the means of prevention. Children nowadays grow up less and less within the bosoms of their families. As the multiplicity of their social roles increases, so does the amount of time which they are obliged to spend away from home; so also do the influences making for delinquency. These and other reasons underlie the need for Youth Clubs. My appeals to Local Government authorities to establish Youth Councils for this purpose have been assisted by this Service. I hesitate to mention specific Youth Councils for fear of omitting many others, equally worthy, but those at Maitland, Leeton and Chatswood West readily come to mind as admirable bodies of citizens of conscience, like many others, sincerely and selflessly giving their services to build a happier and better community.

This excellent work would scarcely have been possible without the goodwill and active assistance of the various Local Government authorities. The gentlemen of the press and radio have been most helpful in publicising the work and objectives of Youth Councils and of the Department generally: facilities have kindly been extended for many appeals for foster homes for wards.

It is a matter for regret that there has been a very great pressure of numbers in establishments for wards and training schools, increasing as the year progressed. I view such a development with grave concern, particularly in a school like "Mount Penang", where such a factor could cause a serious depreciation in the value of the training received. The receiving homes in Sydney—"Royleston", "Bidura" and "Myec"—were established under the Child Welfare Act, 1923, and no additional receiving homes have been established since. They are not adequate to meet the

demands of to-day. The position could become critical in the very near future. Moreover, the great suburban development in the outer Western and Southern suburbs is proceeding apace and, with a rapidly increasing population, this area also will no doubt require establishments for the reception and temporary care of wards. I consider that the need for increased accommodation for training school inmates and wards can no longer be ignored. It is a matter of necessity.

Once again I desire to thank individually and collectively the many Church and other organisations for their continued assistance to the Department. Each and every one of these organisations is conducted by men and women of very strong humanitarian and Christian principles, all striving towards the common goal—the welfare of children and the improvement of family life. Without the assistance of these good people the labours of the Officers of my Department would be much more arduous and certainly less fruitful.

To the Press, Radio, Television and other organisations which have done so much to bring the work of the Department and its needs before the public, I also express my sincere thanks.

The Child Welfare Advisory Council has been of considerable assistance throughout the year and I wish to place on record my appreciation of their advice so willingly given when required.

F. H. HAWKINS,

Minister for Child Welfare and
Minister for Social Welfare.

26th November, 1957.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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The Honourable the Minister for Child Welfare and Minister for Social Welfare:

Submitted herewith is a report on the activities of the Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare for the year ended 30th June, 1957.

PREVENTIVE WORK.

The preventive aspect of the Department's work in the sphere of juvenile delinquency is not as tangible as the remedial, but is considered to be one of the most important aspects of the Department's work. Casework aimed at prevention has as a prime object the preservation of the physical and emotional unity of family life; for it is now widely recognised that the child who is a behaviour problem, a truant or an otherwise neglected child, is such largely because of a home life that fails to give him satisfaction and security. For this reason, also, he is a potential delinquent.

Ideally, adjustment should take place within the family; the child should not be taken out of the familial setting. Very frequently cases of neglect involve the rehabilitation of whole families, and Field Officers have redeemed families whose circumstances were such that no magistrate would have hesitated to order the children's removal if legal proceedings had been taken.

A factor which makes the preventive work carried out by the Department peculiarly effective is the functional concentration of child welfare facilities within one department. This aspect was remarked by Sir Basil Henriques in his book, "The Indiscretions of a Magistrate", published in 1950. Since that time there have been further changes which have resulted in the Department's acquisition of other functions proper to it but previously exercised by the Department of Labour and Industry and Social Welfare. The practical effect of this, from a preventive point of view, is that a supplementary monetary allowance for certain widows has now been brought under the administration of the Department. It is thus possible to supervise more homes in which mothers are alone in rearing growing children; over such families the type of supervision which has proved its worth in respect of recipients of allowances under Section 27 of the Child Welfare Act should continue to be a valuable preventive measure.

The prevention of neglect and juvenile delinquency is work the efficacy of which cannot be measured statistically. Its long-term benefits do, however, become apparent over the years and it is a heartening fact that, in the year ended 30th June, 1957, there has been no increase in the rate of delinquency, despite intensified methods of detection and an increase of 19,920 in the male population aged 8 to 17 years. The following analysis of the work done during the year is a good pointer to the values at work behind the Department's preventive programme.

The number of cases of neglected and uncontrollable children dealt with in the twelve months ended 30th June, 1957, was 1,378, relative to which a total of 34,263 visits was made—an increase of 4.6 per cent. over the total in the preceding year—comprising 12,462 to the children's homes and 21,801 other visits. Of the 1,378 cases, 589 were on hand at the beginning of the year and 789 were reported during the year. Sources of reference were as follows:—

Private Individuals	151
Relatives	175
Anonymous	27
Social Worker or Agency	72
Police	146
School	56
Observation by Departmental Officers	162

Of the 1,378 cases, 812 or 59 per cent. were disposed of as follows:—

Adjusted without Court Action and Filed	537 or 39 per cent.
Private Placement (mostly Denominational Homes)	61 or 4.4 per cent.
Court Action	214 or 15.6 per cent.
(The balance of cases still under supervision is	566 or 41 per cent.)

It is unfortunate that the Department's aims in the preventive field have been somewhat circumscribed by the current shortage of trained field staff. Preventive work is necessarily

time-consuming and the depleted staff of Field Officers has, to some extent, been compelled to be more selective than is altogether desirable in respect of time allotted to purely preventive work. The quality of the work done, however, has been in keeping with that of the preventive work of other years, and it is hoped that staff will become available in the near future in order that the Department may adequately cope with the larger volume of work which will flow from a juvenile population increasing at the rate of just under 6 per cent. annually.

Neglect and Uncontrollability.

A special squad, the main duty of which is to make accostings, supplements the work of other officers in the preventive field. Stationed at the Department's headquarters in the city, it operates throughout the metropolitan area, maintaining surveillance of danger spots: cinemas, fun parlours, hotels, parks, wharves, race meetings, cafes, circuses and other places tending to be frequented by neglected children. These accostings have brought to light cases of serious neglect and uncontrollability, such as that of a 13-year-old boy accosted during the year at a circus in the city. He was escorted to school and later to his home. Information from these sources indicated that, not only had he failed to attend school continuously for the previous five months, but also that he had habitually left home for days on end, taking his semi-crippled younger brother with him. His whereabouts had been unknown to his mother for a week prior to his apprehension.

It was later learned that the family had previously been under notice from a preventive point of view, but that the mother had taken up with a *de facto* husband, changed her name and those of her children, and had removed to another address. It became obvious that continued hardship had combined with the mother's general incompetence to create home circumstances which, after unsuccessful initial efforts, she found herself totally unable to control. The boys were at this stage beyond her control, her "husband" had rejected them out of hand and she herself had lost the will to continue what appeared to her hopeless efforts to be a mother to them. So far had her efforts deteriorated that she had not attempted to find the boys during any of their periodic abscondments, had never even reported them to the police as missing. Casework aimed at rehabilitating the family situation is now being carried out by the Field Officer in whose area the family lives, and the results to date are promising.

Many other cases have come to notice, in the majority of which prosecutions would have been bound to be successful. Court action was not taken, however, with justifiable results, as Departmental officers do not approach such cases with any fixed ideas as to the degree of neglect which would necessarily incur prosecution. Experience shows that people neglect their children for a variety of reasons not readily apparent; and Field Officers are guided by their training and experience in assessing the redeemability of parents and children rather than by notions as to the standards which would sustain a charge of neglect or uncontrollability. For example, it was recently reported that a small girl, the child of a migrant couple, was kept locked in her yard all day. She could neither enter the house nor leave the yard in order to attend school.

With the assistance of an interpreter, inquiries were made and it was disclosed that the parents had recently purchased the home and were heavily in debt. In order to reduce their indebtedness they both went to work and worked overtime. As neither spoke English, they could not enlist the help of neighbours to mind the child and so had evolved the drastic solution of locking her in the yard all day until they returned late in the evening. Both parents impressed as basically decent people and were not slow to co-operate with efforts made to resolve their plight. Suitable arrangements were made for the child's care and education during their absence from the home.

In cases of material neglect, guidance and advice are generally sufficient to bring about the desired improvement: proper home standards of cleanliness, suitable clothing and bedding for the children, realistic budgeting and the like. A necessary ingredient of casework is, of course, the mobilisation of community resources, and every Field Officer, in addition to a good knowledge of such resources in his area, has valuable personal contacts (which can be used in certain emergencies): sources of employment, of temporary child care,

small local clubs, and people he can approach on a personal basis to help the family over any small domestic crisis that might arise. The necessary material improvement brought about in the home, the disappearance of that air of general wretchedness typical of the "neglect" home, frequently result in permanently satisfactory home standards.

Emotional neglect is, of course, much harder to remedy and, in many instances, casework is greatly assisted by psychiatric attention. Accordingly, parents and their children are referred to Child Guidance Clinics, and casework and psychiatric treatment proceed contemporaneously.

Delinquency can claim emotional neglect as an operative factor more serious than neglect of a material kind, though in the majority of cases the two are associated. A factor apparently common in all delinquency cases is a sense of insecurity in the delinquent, stemming from certain well-known home conditions: a home broken in fact or in spirit, constant domestic discord, defective home training, defective discipline in the home, drunkenness, continual or violent quarrels, rejection. The effect is the development of insecurity and frustration in the child, emotional states which lead him to seek satisfaction in anti-social conduct.

Casework aims at bringing about a gradual and simultaneous change in the parental attitude and in the child's way of spending his leisure away from home. To this end, Child Guidance Clinics, Marriage Guidance Bureaux and Youth Clubs, and the guidance, friendliness and help of the Department's officers are frequently sufficient to stabilise the case without the necessity of court action.

Child Welfare Information and Extension Service.

The Extension Service attached to this Department also functions as an instrument of prevention, and has gained considerable momentum since its inauguration in February, 1956. Its advocacy of the establishment of Youth Centres and its support of the Minister's appeal for the establishment of Youth Councils by Local Government authorities are meeting with considerable success, and Youth Councils are being set up each month by some Local Government authority. In addition, the importance of sound family life in the prevention of juvenile unhappiness, and therefore of anti-social behaviour, has been widely publicised by the Service through lectures to such organisations as The Country Women's Association Annual Conference, Mothers' Clubs, Parents and Citizens' Associations, Rotary Clubs, Apex Clubs, Lions Clubs, Church Fellowships, Parentcraft Leagues, and the like. In the course of the year, roughly 200 lectures and fifty broadcasts have been delivered, in addition to newspaper articles, letters to the editor, and conferences with police safety lecturers, the Father and Son Movement, and so on.

Youth Councils have now been established throughout the State at Albury, Griffith, Wollongong, Forbes, Leeton, Maitland and other centres, and in the metropolitan area at Chatswood West, Kingsgrove, Fairfield, etc. The informing idea behind them is stated by D. H. Stott¹: "Every adolescent is in need of a framework for social broadening, and the main function of the Youth Club must be to provide this for the ordinary, sensible young people who run no danger of lapsing into criminalism, anyway".

Training in leadership, first aid, health, hygiene, psychology, programme planning, club organisation and management and handicrafts should form part of the activities of every club; crafts should be taught, including basketry, leatherwork, pottery, toy-making, modelling and wood-carving. The physical education programme could include athletics, gymnastics, sports and games; and suitable social activities are parties, folk dancing, ballroom dancing, community singing, a boys' camp, hikes and trips, parties, and so on. Perhaps the most important of all the activities, however, are Youth Leader Training Courses, the aim of which is to assist boys and girls who volunteer to gain more knowledge and to develop their leadership ability. The objective is a fairly limited one: not to make in a few days perfect leaders in every aspect, nor faultless organisers for camps, but to inculcate some basic principles of leadership, which is based on the principle of service to the community by better knowledge, by more work, by good example in private life at home or at school. The training proceeds by suggestion and comparison of good and bad leaders, and Club members are left alone to face the problems that arise on hikes or at other social gatherings.

The preventive aspect of Youth Clubs has long been apparent to overseas observers. Professor Ferguson², of the University of Glasgow, has stated: "Where boys were members of such groups as Boy Scouts, Boys' Brigades, Social and Welfare

Clubs, the incidence of crime in post-school years was appreciably lower than among lads who were not members of groups, and the number of lads with more than one conviction was small." He goes on to give comparative statistics.

Experience so far indicates that the services of the Department's officers, already keenly sought, will be in greater demand by Council members as time goes on. Council members assume that such officers should sit on every Committee formed and should give a lead in all projects. A good deal of responsibility thus devolves on officers of the Department for the continuity of the Council's functioning. Because of their knowledge and experience in the field of community organisation, they are also looked to for ideas as to what projects will be undertaken. Hence the scope of a Field Officer's duties is greatly extended: on a community basis, he now reaches a wider juvenile population, helping boys and girls who are neither delinquent nor neglected to realise their individual and social potentials and thereby to lead happier and more useful lives.

The Department's Officer resident at Maitland writes: "A common interest in the Youth Welfare Council creates real ties between the Department and other affiliated organisations such as Rotary, Lions, Apex and the Churches. To work with members of the Youth Welfare Council is a thoroughly enjoyable experience and, personally, I would not have missed any part of it".

Financial Aid to Destitute Families (Children's Allowances).

Mindful of the delinquent influence of broken families on children, this Department has continued its efforts towards ensuring that children are nurtured within their own families as far as possible. The end, which the maintenance of the family's unity goes far toward serving, is prevention of delinquency and neglect and one of the means used to that end is financial assistance and casework with families in straitened circumstances. It is generally found that such families have problems other than financial ones; there is, consequently, a wide scope for casework.

During the year under review, the Department's activities have been greatly extended, and this has resulted in an extension of the functions of the Section 27 Branch.

The Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Labour and Industry and Social Welfare was transferred to the Department, which is now known as the "Department of Child Welfare and Social Welfare".

Section 27, being a branch established for the payment of Social Services in accordance with the provisions of Section 27 of the Child Welfare Act, 1939, was transferred to the Social Welfare Division.

Payment of allowances in respect of the children of "de jure" widows was previously administered by the State Supplementary Children's Allowances Section of the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Labour and Industry and Social Welfare. With the amalgamation of that Branch with the Child Welfare Department, it was decided that, as the functions of the State Supplementary Children's Allowances Section were very similar to those of the Section 27 Branch, the two sections should be amalgamated; the resultant branch is now known as the "Children's Allowances Branch".

The most important activity of the Section 27 Branch was that of providing assistance speedily in respect of the children of a parent or parents who found themselves in financial difficulties through circumstances which were both unforeseen and beyond their control. With the foundation of the Children's Allowances Branch and the extension of its functions, the granting of assistance as speedily as possible has continued to be the policy of the Branch.

During the year 3,289 applications for assistance were received, of which 2,232 were approved, 544 were withdrawn and 513 were declined. Most of the applications were withdrawn in circumstances in which either the deserting husband had returned home prior to the determination of the application, or the husband had returned to work after a short period of sickness. Some of the applications refused were from "de jure" widows, who were forwarded advice that they were eligible for Federal widows' pensions and State Supplementary Children's Allowances; the necessary forms were enclosed for completion and return direct to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, thus saving any unnecessary delay. Since the formation of the Children's Allowances Branch, however, no application from "de jure" widows has been refused on these grounds, the applicant being referred to the appropriate section for attention. Other applications were declined following the applicant's refusal to take the

¹ "Saving Children from Delinquency".

² E. Ferguson, Professor of Public Health and Social Medicine, University of Glasgow. "The Young Delinquent in His Social Setting".

appropriate court action against either the husband or the alleged father of the child in respect of whom assistance was sought.

Allowances were discontinued in 2,134 cases, the net increase in the number of cases receiving assistance being ninety-eight. The total number of recipients receiving allowances is 2,312, the number of children concerned in the allowances being 6,363.

Applications from migrants and displaced persons, many of whom cannot speak English, continue to increase. In these cases, there is frequently some difficulty in verifying the information given; it is usually done through interpreters, who are sometimes the children of the applicants.

For many years it has been the Department's policy to encourage scholastically able children to remain at school in order to complete their education. To this end, approval was given for the allowances to continue beyond the child's 15th birthday in seventy-two cases, in order that a number of children might sit for the Intermediate Certificate Examination, or attempt the Leaving Certificate, and others might complete technical courses. In addition, allowances were continued beyond 15 years of age, in some cases, in respect of children medically unfit for employment.

A noteworthy feature of the inauguration of the Children's Allowances Branch is that the benefit of the advice and guidance of the Department's Field Officers has now been extended to "de jure" widows and their children. Over the years recipients of Section 27 allowances have found the advice and guidance given by officers of the Department invaluable, and its desirability has never been in dispute; for these recipients were alone in rearing growing children in "broken" homes as the father was either a deserter, divorced, in gaol, in hospital, or the recipient was a single woman. In homes thus heavily weighted towards delinquency and neglect, it has continued to be a surprising fact that very few of the children appear before a children's court either as neglected children or as delinquent offenders; in the current year, for example, only forty such children appeared before a court. The extension of the services to "de jure" widows and their children is, therefore, an important step towards the social security and well-being of the community.

School Attendance and Truancy.

The Public Instruction (Amendment) Act, 1916, and Section 72 (o) of the Child Welfare Act, 1939, provide a fruitful source of preventive work in respect of school-age juveniles.

Experience has shown that school default, unless remedied at its outset, is closely related to delinquency; the two phenomena are so highly correlated that school default has often been unwarrantably assumed to cause delinquency. While school default is neither delinquency nor the cause of it, the association between the two cannot be ignored. Cases of school default are reported from various sources, chiefly from schools and members of the public, and the bulk of the remainder is brought to notice by officers who accost children apparently of school age during school hours, if such children are seen away from school and unaccompanied by an adult.

Latest available figures relating to school attendance throughout New South Wales are most encouraging; they show an average daily attendance of 622,359 from a total school enrolment of 675,377, equivalent to 92.1 per cent. This compares with 583,643 out of 653,335 in the preceding year, and represents an increased average daily attendance of 2.8 per cent. This year's percentage is also the highest for at least thirteen years.

Although school enrolment throughout the State has increased considerably during the last year, the number of cases of unsatisfactory school attendance reported from public and certified schools has decreased by 616. Prosecutions of parents and children for school default increased by only thirty-four in the same period. Prosecutions of children for truancy have not increased, but prosecutions of parents increased from 216 last year to 247 this year.

An increasing number of New Australians is being prosecuted yearly for failure to send their children to school. Most of these people work small holdings—farms, market gardens and the like—on the fringe of the metropolitan area or in the country, and keep their children away from school in order that they may assist in the work. Vigorous action has been taken against these parents during the current year. For example, a number of Italian farmers in the Griffith area were prosecuted and arrangements made for all the cases to be heard on the same day. Appropriate penalties, which were added to by loss of working time, were imposed by the

Court. The news apparently spread about the area, as there is now very little school default among this section of the community in the district.

"Anglewood" Special School for Truants, Burradoo.

This school is solely for truants: no child is admitted to it unless a charge of truancy under the Public Instruction Act or for failure to attend school regularly under the Child Welfare Act has been found against him. Thus truants are not exposed to the possibly harmful influence of delinquents.

"Anglewood" was originally a dwelling and later a private boarding school of good standard. Since its acquisition by the Department, another home named "Nattai" has been built in the grounds and accommodation is now sufficient for seventy-two boys of school age.

The aims of the school are the social and scholastic rehabilitation of the child: social because truancy is itself a symptom of maladjustment within the home or school; and scholastic because frequent absences from school invariably cause retardation.

The training programme at "Anglewood" is necessarily individual because the school problems of the inmates differ widely. The objective of the training in every case, however, is to replace an attitude of aversion to schooling by one conducive to regular school attendance and thus reasonable scholastic progress following discharge. The Principal takes pride in the fact that six of his boys passed the Intermediate Certificate Examination during the year.

The inmate may select from a wide range of sports, hobbies, handicrafts and other recreational activities such as hiking and camping.

A school counselling service prepares each boy for his return to a normal school situation, and a Probation Officer from the Department supervises the boy's school attendance and general adjustment to home and school following discharge.

Exemptions from School Attendance.

Exemptions from school attendance are granted in accordance with a policy which provides that children over 14 years of age may be exempted where there is financial need at home, illness of a parent, or some physical or psychological aspect of the child himself which would render his continuance at school undesirable.

Each application is carefully considered, and even those within policy are declined if school reports indicate that the child has good prospects of passing the Intermediate Certificate Examination.

In recent years, about 5,000 applications have been dealt with annually, of which about 5 per cent. are declined. The current year's figures vary little from those of the previous twelve months, showing an overall increase of fifty-four applications, due largely to a greater number of applications respecting children who passed the Intermediate Certificate Examination whilst still under school leaving age.

The constancy of the number of applications for exemption from school attendance in recent years is remarkable in view of the rapidly increasing annual school enrolment; the annual average increase since 1951 being more than 30,000. This trend indicates that parents may be coming to a realisation that higher educational requirements than formerly are now necessary to secure employment of a type which did not necessitate secondary education some years ago; the Intermediate Certificate is now a prerequisite for apprenticeship in most trades.

Employment of Children.

The employment of children is provided for in Section 69 of the Child Welfare Act, 1939-1952; the purpose of the legislation is, in the wording of that Section, "to safeguard the health, welfare and education of the child". The Department, therefore, supervises children between the ages of 7 and 16 years employed in various fields: taking part in public performances, street trading or selling sweets in theatres.

Conditions under which children are employed are closely supervised by the Department's officers. The issue of a licence depends, in the case of a child of school age, on certification by his Headmaster as to satisfactory attendance; and the conditions under which any child is employed, unless they satisfy the standards laid down, may result in revocation of the licence by the Minister.

Licences to engage in street trading are limited to males between 14 and 16 years of age and street trading is normally confined to the selling of newspapers. The Department ensures that the boy's parent is made aware of the conditions of the licence, and also approves the site of the stand from which the boy will sell, provided that it is not in the vicinity of a hotel and that it does not involve any danger to the boy's physical safety. The number of street trading licensees issued this year, 499, is a decline of thirty-nine on last year's total. Most newsagents abide by the conditions under which boys are employed, but others encourage them to sell in hotels and on moving trams and buses in order to secure greater returns from increased sales, whilst a few employ unlicensed boys. Such newsagents are prosecuted.

Boys between the ages of 12 and 16 years only are licensed to sell sweets in theatres; those under the age of 14 are permitted to work at Saturday matinees only, and those 14 and under 15 are licensed to work on one additional evening during the week. Boys over the age of 15 may be fully employed in sweet selling, although it is not considered to be an altogether suitable type of work. The purpose of the limitation of the working time of boys under the age of 15 is to allow proper time for study and rest.

Children licensed to perform in public are variously employed: on the stage, as models displaying children's clothing, in radio, in films, and, since last year, in television. This type of licence covers children of both sexes between the ages of 7 and 16 years. A recent alteration in policy provided that in stage performances of all kinds, two children are to be engaged for each part, in order that no child should appear in consecutive performances. The effect of this decision is that children have sufficient rest between performances, and that their school attendance is not adversely affected. Exceptions are made where circumstances warrant, but such circumstances need to be exceptional.

In general, these licences relate to a particular stage show or act rather than to individual children. The procedure is that an officer from the Department witnesses the show and assures himself as to the suitability of conditions under which the child will work: proper dressing and toilet facilities, hours of work, fire precautions, and like matters. It is also necessary that the child should not be exposed to any danger to life or limb during the performance. If these conditions are satisfactory, a licence is issued covering any child who might appear in that particular show or act, which is then visited from time to time to ensure that the conditions of the licencees are being observed. Most of the licences for stage performances are granted to enable children to appear in pantomime during the Christmas vacation and in certain acts in vaudeville shows; but similar "blanket licences" are also issued for regular well-known radio features, such as "Quiz Kids", "Australia's Amateur Hour", "Children's Jamboree", "Children's Parade", "Teen Time", and other children's sessions.

Towards the end of 1956, television was introduced into Australia, and three stations were established in New South Wales. The demand on the services of children in the new medium has exceeded expectations, and the interviewing type of programme has proved the most popular. These programmes are similar to the radio sessions for children and are thus of a harmless character.

WAYWARD AND PROBLEM CHILDREN.

Juvenile Delinquency.

Last year the incidence of juvenile delinquency in New South Wales showed a sudden upsurge which was surprising in view of the decline in the previous year; moreover, the higher incidence was atypical, and appearances towards the end of the year suggested an abatement and a possible return to the level of occurrence of previous years, which was of the order of eight or nine per thousand of the appropriate juvenile population.

The following table reveals a slight abatement, but the level of incidence remains relatively high:—

	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Major offences, male	2,299	2,587	2,366	3,536	3,724
Male population 8 to under 18 years ...	259,930	269,322	285,560	297,450	317,370
Rate per 1,000	8.8	9.6	8.2	11.8	11.7

These statistics have no pretensions to being an accurate measure of the actual incidence of delinquency in the community, and it may be that the higher incidence in the last two years reflects not the fact that there are necessarily more delinquent offenders, but rather new policies on the part of certain authorities in the detection of juvenile crime.

Statistics supplied by the Police Department indicate that police officers are making less use than formerly of warnings in dealing with juvenile offenders. A total of 542 male juveniles was cautioned in New South Wales during the year as against an estimated 677 the previous year, a decline of 135, despite a juvenile population increase of 19,920. In addition, the Police Department has continued the dispersal of its force of detectives to police stations throughout the metropolitan area. A more recent development is the use of mobile squads of detectives who visit selected country areas at various times; these officers pay particular attention to the type of offence in which adolescents are often involved, such as vice or the illegal use of motor vehicles. The rise in statistical incidence appears to have paralleled these developments.

A feature which may be related to the Police Department's decentralisation policy is the change in the territorial distribution of offences. Despite the juvenile population increase which has been noted, there were seventy-three fewer offenders in the City of Sydney, but twenty-six more in the outer suburban area and 121 more—or an increase of 16.3 per cent.—in the country areas of the State. These facts seem to suggest that the detection of delinquency in the City proper has reached saturation point and that the "artificial" increase in the country and in the rest of the metropolitan area is due, at least in part, to the increasing use in those areas of the intensified methods of detection which have previously been used in the City only.

The increase may, of course, be due to other factors, one of which may be the slight recession in industry noted during the current year. This is, however, a factor which should be treated with caution. It might be expected that a period of over-employment and high wages, followed by a recession in some industries—with consequent pockets of unemployment, as at present—would bring in its train a higher incidence of crime, due to such causes as idleness, boredom, the frustration of "expensive" tastes developed during the years of plenty, and like conditions which really make for increased opportunity and incentive to transgress. But past experience does not seem to confirm this prediction: in 1951-52, for example, a similar recession, notably in the building trade, was not the precursor of a higher incidence of crime. There is, of course, always the possibility that there are social features of the current recession not present in those of the past, and that these contributed to the incidence.

It seems reasonable to assume, however, if a connection does indeed exist between the recently introduced techniques of detection and the increase, that delinquency (so far as it is measurable) has reached a new order of occurrence which will normally fluctuate but slightly.

Though the fact that there has been a slight decrease in the delinquency rate this year is not viewed with any complacency, the New South Wales statistics do not compare unfavourably with overseas figures. The latest such figures available, presented by the Secretary of State for Scotland to Parliament in May, 1957, reveal that of an estimated population of 376,000 in the 8-16 age group, a total of 8,357 was found guilty of crime³; the incidence is thus 22.1 per 1,000 of population in the age group. The estimated population in this age group in New South Wales is 291,960, of whom there were 2,927 offenders, a rate of ten per 1,000.

It is desirable to point out that the meaning of the term juvenile delinquency varies according to its use: some sections of the community use the terms to denote only criminal acts by juveniles; and others, misled by mass media of communication such as the press and radio tend to regard such improbable phenomena as the dress, mode of speech and manner of recreational activity of a small but much-publicised segment of the juvenile population (such as "bodgies" or "widgies" who are often not delinquent) as indicators, if not actual determinants, of delinquency. The term, however, may be properly used to refer to behaviour which diverges from acceptable social standards as well as to juvenile offenders against the law.

Juvenile delinquency does not seem to result from any one cause, nor from a plurality of causes, but rather from a group of interacting factors which are in some way related to the emotional climate of the delinquent's home, the influence of the early years of life on his personality development.

³ Criminal Statistics, Scotland, 1956. H.M.S.O. (Edinburgh) Table 7, pp. 33.

Accordingly, the Department aims to check incipient delinquency whilst the child is still young and impressionable and, as the symptoms first appear at school, much preventive work is associated with school attendance. However, attention is not directed merely to the symptoms, and officers of the Department are constantly at work to effect the necessary improvement in home conditions. The type of work carried out by the Department on a preventive level is described in this Report under the section "Preventive Work". This section refers primarily to the work done with juveniles whose delinquent behaviour is a matter of record, and who, in consequence of it, are committed to institutions for training or are placed on probation.

Children's Courts.

Under Sections 82 and 83 of the Child Welfare Act, 1939, the Special Magistrate constituting a Children's Court may, on hearing and determining cases concerning juveniles:—

- (1) Admonish and discharge.
- (2) Release on probation for such a period of time as he thinks fit and on such terms and conditions as he prescribes.
- (3) Commit to the care of an approved person on similar terms and conditions.
- (4) Commit to the care of the Minister for Child Welfare (by a 1956 amendment to the Act) to be dealt with as a Ward admitted to State control.
- (5) Commit to an Institution either in general terms or for some specified period not exceeding three years.
- (6) Commit to an Institution but suspend the order of committal on the juvenile's entry into a recognizance to be of good behaviour and to comply with any conditions the court may specify.
- (7) Deal with according to law (i.e., fine, bind over, commit for trial, order imprisonment).

The Special Magistrates on the Children's Court Benches are officers of the New South Wales Department of Justice, but the Courts are, naturally, judicial tribunals of primary jurisdiction and function in a completely independent manner. The forms and procedures proper to such Courts are at all times observed.

Section 89 (2) of the Act provides that "the Court . . . shall before making any Order give consideration to reports, if tendered, setting out . . . the antecedents, home environment, companions, education, school attendance, habits, recreation, character, reputation, disposition, medical history and physical or mental characteristics and defects, if any, of the child or young person."

In New South Wales, children's Courts at the Metropolitan Children's Court, Albion Street, Sydney, Ashfield Children's Court, and at Parramatta, Wollongong, Liverpool and Newcastle are presided over by Special Magistrates selected and trained for such work.

Children's Court magistrates in Sydney deal exclusively with juvenile cases. By training and experience, such magistrates are able to assess the various considerations associated with a child's appearance in Court and they have the additional responsibility of striking a balance between the protection of society and the welfare of the child. On the question of the child's welfare, the magistrate is greatly assisted by the Department; for the reports referred to under Section 89 (2) of the Act comprise both clinic reports and detailed reports on the home conditions of the juvenile, which latter are compiled by Probation Officers. In addition, the magistrate relies on the Court Officer, the representative in Court of the Department, to acquaint him with the full circumstances surrounding the child's appearance in any particular case, a knowledge of which aids him in making an appropriate order.

The Court Officer is, in fact, a channel through which the social resources of the community flow to the Court; he has before him a list of appointments available in the Child Guidance Clinics; he is in touch with every social agency in the State; and before each child appears in Court, he explores the possibility of placement, if needed, in a home or other establishment. He is in close contact with the Department's field officers, e.g. where remands are necessary for clinic reports, he requests field officers to inspect the child's home, interview the parents and suggest a suitable placement.

Institutional Training of Wayward and Problem Children.

Modern studies in juvenile delinquency stress the part played by the unconscious in the delinquent's motivation. One sees the archetype of the delinquent as emotionally disturbed and blindly succumbing to his urge to steal or to perform any of a variety of acts contrary to the established order. Though this picture is firmly grounded on fact, it is open to the fallacious interpretation that, because the motives of an act are unconscious the act cannot be controlled. The absurdity of such an interpretation can be readily seen: Neustatter¹ points out that "as all acts have an unconscious component of some sort, the ultimate conclusion of these arguments would be that no one is responsible for anything they do."

The Department's view is that all delinquents, except a few psychopaths and psychotics, are responsible for their actions, and the programme in each training school is designed to impress on the delinquent an appreciation of the social and personal consequences of his conduct and of his own responsibility for it.

Accordingly, character formation is a vital end of training. It has been said that "the only route to the complete prevention of delinquency is by the building up of sound character in all the children of the community."² Training Schools aim to provide a basis of self respect, without with reformation can neither be desired nor achieved. Two other principles inform policy in regard to training: education and vocational training. The education system is carefully graded and adapted to the needs of juveniles ranging from very dull to bright; it includes spiritual instruction for juveniles of every denomination. Vocational training is intended to provide a foundation for useful and contented lives and has proved a valuable factor in the emotional adjustment of discharged juveniles to the community at large.

Statistics relating to recidivism and abscondments for the year ended 30th June, 1957, provide a good index of the quality of training in establishments. Of a total turnover of 2,344 male and female inmates of all training schools under the Department's control, 316 or 13 per cent. were recidivists and abscondments totalled 185 or 7.9 per cent. This proportion of recidivists is gratifyingly low, while the rate of absconding compares favourably with that in the United Kingdom. The Home Secretary (Mr. R. A. Butler) was recently asked for details of absconding from approved schools and remand homes. It appears that from populations of 6,823 in approved schools and 624 in remand homes, there were, respectively, 2,273 and 278 abscondings³. These rates are respectively 33 1/3 per cent. and 44 1/2 per cent.

The year ended 30th June, 1957, has been a very busy one and accommodation in all training schools under the Department's control has been severely taxed. Many other difficulties have been encountered, mainly arising from a shortage of trained staff with its consequent supervisory problems.

A noticeable trend was the increase in the number of cases of delinquency disposed of by committal to an institution during the year; the number committed increased by more than 50 per cent. over that for 1954-55, and by 25.7 per cent. over the preceding year's total. Another trend is the increase in the numbers committed to institutions proportional to the total placed on probation or committed to the care of an approved person: the ratio for 1956-57 is 37.6 per cent. as against 31.9 per cent. in 1955-56 and 33.2 per cent. in 1954-55. The implication of these two trends—set out in tabular form in tables 17 and 24 of this Report—is severe pressure on the training schools. It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain the high standard of training which was a feature of these schools in the past. Unless other training schools are established in the very near future, inevitably, there must be a serious deterioration in the training standards and general effectiveness of these establishments.

Despite great difficulties, there have been many pleasing features. By and large, the tone of all training schools has been particularly good. This is implied in the statistics for recidivism and absconding given above, and it is emphasised by the fact that the number of transfers to the Institution for Boys, Tamworth, for custodial training decreased.

The manner in which policy is implemented in the various training establishments controlled by the Department is described in the reports which follow.

¹ "Psychological Disorder and Crime" by W. Lindsay Neustatter (Christopher Johnson, 1953).

² "The Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency" by Kenneth Soddy, M.D., World Mental Health, Vol. 7, No. 3, p. 134.

³ "Probation", Vol. 8, No. 5, March, 1957, page 72. Journal of the National Association of Probation Officers, U.K. Published Quarterly.

The Training School for Boys, Mittagong.

The Training School for Boys, Mittagong, is conducted on the cottage system. Private home life is available for boys from 8 years to 14 years who have been committed to an institution by a juvenile Court for a variety of offences: stealing and breaking, entering and stealing are the main offences, and 68 per cent. of this year's admissions committed one or other of these offences.

Each cottage accommodates twenty to thirty boys, those under the age of 12 being segregated from the older boys. Each of eight cottages is run by a Housemaster and a Matron who are a married couple; the other cottage is used as a hospital. In addition, there is a farm, a dairy, a laundry, a bootshop, a maintenance shop and a seamstress's shop. Boys are allotted to a cottage home on the basis of religion, age, physique, level of sophistication, previous history and associates. The process of re-education in acceptable social conduct then begins.

On admission, every boy presents a behaviour problem of some kind or another. Most have a history of disrupted home life. The majority have been maladjusted at school and some have physical defects.

As soon as possible after admission, each boy is examined by the visiting medical officer and by the dentist, who give appropriate treatment. The morning after admission, the new boy is introduced to the Headmaster of the Lower Mittagong Special School. This School is staffed by the Department of Education and provides remedial and specialised tuition exclusively for the boys of the training school. All the previous information about the boy, embodied in clinic reports and reports on his home situation are available to the Headmaster, who is thus able to plan the boy's training programme on an individual level.

The boys' scholastic prospects generally are aided by the periodic visits of a school counsellor who acts as a liaison between Lower Mittagong School, the Department of Education and the individual schools to which the boys will return after discharge. His efforts in helping with school placements and in following up boys in the school situation after discharge have been invaluable.

In addition to the formal school subjects, the boys are also instructed in manual work, art, music and physical education. The range of manual work is very comprehensive and two well-equipped manual rooms are in use. Organised sport and recreation are supervised by a specialist teacher, and boys compete among themselves and in competition with other local teams in a variety of games.

The social training received by each boy stresses industry and reliability and as he progresses he is given jobs involving responsibility and trust. He is encouraged to build proper social attitudes, respect for authority and for the rights of others. Some sporting and recreational activities are designed to assist training in personality development. In outdoor sport, team work and co-operation are fostered by emphasising team games such as football, cricket and softball.

Many cases are known where it may be said that the remedial and rehabilitative work carried out by this Institution have been very successful. Recent examples of such cases include the case of a boy named John J—— who needed to wear a special surgical boot because of an atrophied left leg and foot following poliomyelitis. Because of his physical defect and its implications and his previous lengthy hospitalisation, he presented a difficult psychological problem. What he needed was acceptance by his fellows on a basis of equality and not a limited acceptance due to his disability.

He appeared at first to take advantage of his physical incapacity. Apparently selfish and undisciplined, he was subject to moods of irritation and depression. He did not mix well with his companions, took no interest in the activities of the institution and no part in sports. He was examined regularly by an orthopaedic specialist in Sydney who supplied him with new boots whenever they were required as he became older.

John J——'s re-education was designed to assist him to accept his physical disability and to gain acceptance among the boys as an equal. He was treated as far as possible as if he were a normal boy physically, and was required to take part in the normal routine and duties of the home. He was gradually inducted into sporting activities beginning with softball, at which stage a boy ran for him between wickets. He later progressed to cricket, his standard of play improved and he became a good wicket-keeper. He then acquired sufficient self-confidence to do his own running between wickets and also learned to play tennis.

At this time, certain other interests seemed to be released in him, for he developed a taste and an aptitude for drawing, modelling and leather-work.

He left Mittagong a pleasant, co-operative and likeable boy, popular with his fellows and a keen sportsman. With his extended interests, he also acquired a bright and cheerful personality and plenty of self-confidence.

John J—— has written to the staff at Mittagong regularly and has also visited since his discharge. He now works in a factory manufacturing enamel badges where his flair for drawing and designing has ample scope. He is a member of a Police Boys' Club, a tennis club and plays an occasional game of golf.

Mt. Penang Training School for Boys.

Mt. Penang Training School is an establishment for the corrective training and re-education of adolescent juvenile offenders. The main section of the training school comprises four company groups to one of which each new admission is directed, allocation being on the basis of age, physical and mental maturity, level of sophistication and antecedent history. From these groups the Privilege Cottage provides a relaxation of the stricter disciplinary training of the main school and opportunity for the development of self-discipline and social awareness; this is an ideal transition from institutional to community living and undoubtedly has helped the hundreds of boys who have passed through in their adjustment on discharge.

The extensive facilities at Mt. Penang are the result of the planning, expansion and consolidation of many years. Worth-while opportunities in the fields of education and pre-trade training in a variety of occupations are available to every inmate. The two school groups have a curriculum which, although stimulating and challenging, is yet flexible enough to meet the needs of any boy and which is closely co-ordinated with the practical work of associated trade and craft classes. In these classes, interest and pride of achievement are always evident, particularly among the retarded and dull youths of the Junior School group who produce work of high quality in weaving and woodwork. On the other hand, those of greater ability are encouraged to pursue academic courses. Seven boys in the Senior School are currently following courses with a view to obtaining their Intermediate Certificate and it is expected that another boy will attempt the Leaving Certificate.

All boys in these classes, and many others, have been vocationally tested and advised during the year by visiting Vocational Guidance Officers. It is proposed that regular visits, probably at three-monthly intervals, will be made by these officers, whose assistance will be most helpful in the placement of discharged boys in employment. Their advice is particularly valuable, and possibly decisive, in the case of younger boys of ability who might be induced to accept apprenticeship training in skilled trades in which an interest has been developed and fostered during their stay at Mt. Penang.

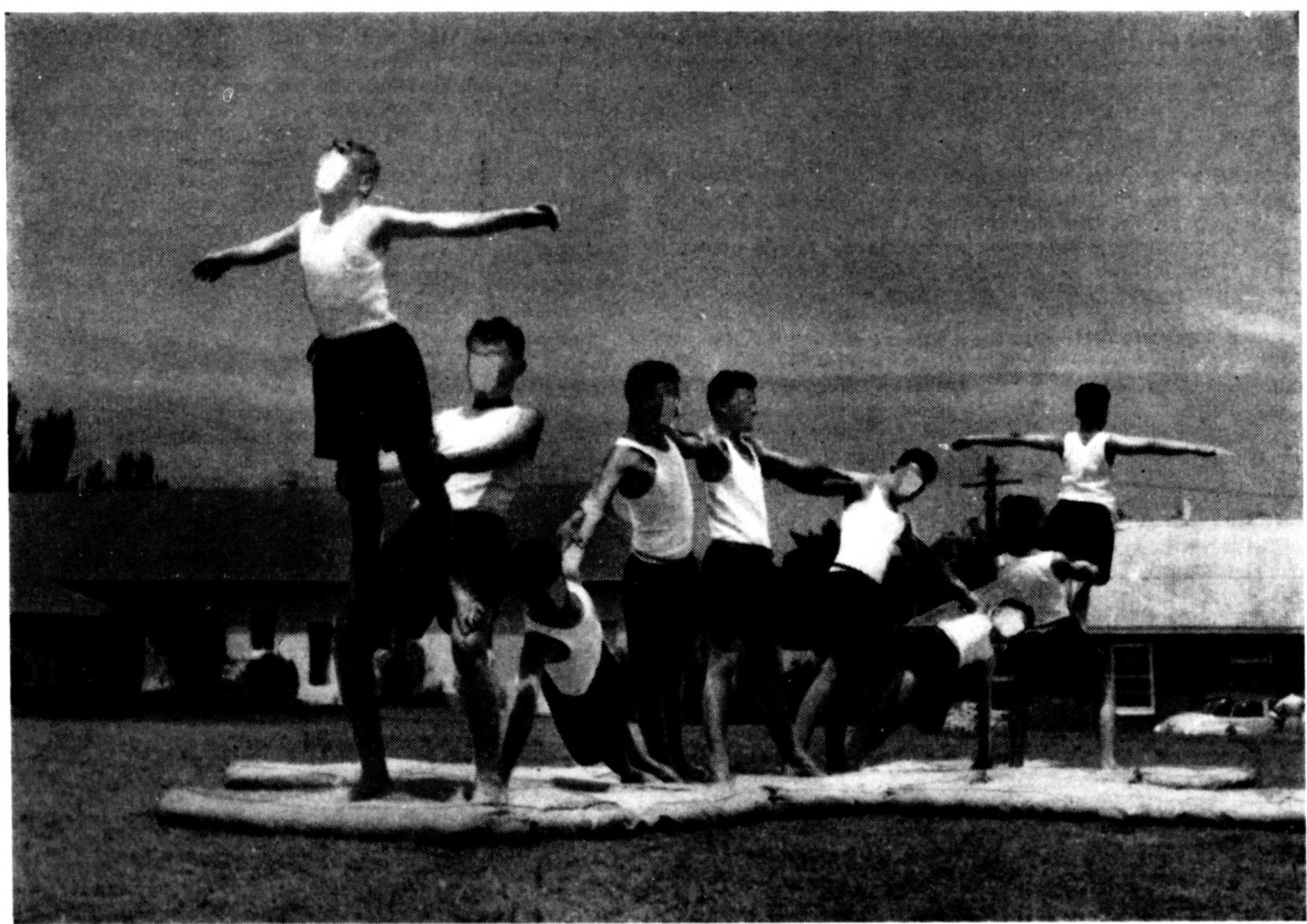
Specific training in motor mechanics, boot-repairing and laundry work is available to those who show interest and ability. On the rural side, there are comparable avenues in flower and vegetable gardening, in dairying and in pig-raising. Many city-reared youths find a new interest in this type of work and to one at least, who had failed on several occasions in an urban environment, it has apparently proved the means of rehabilitation. This boy was placed on a farm in the Singleton area some six months ago and latest reports of him are most encouraging.

With the object of stimulating interest in acceptable leisure-time occupation, the full spread of recreational and sporting activities has been maintained. On a voluntary basis, all boys have the opportunity to participate in the evenings in hobby work of many types, in theoretical instruction in gardening and animal husbandry and in a variety of indoor games. The library and classes in musical appreciation have been well patronised and the growth of interest in the carefully selected programme of educational films, screened regularly each week, has been notable. The normal sporting programme has been continued, with frequent matches against visiting cricket and football teams. The School has again been asked to participate in an unofficial competition in Rugby and Soccer organised by public and denominational schools in the area. This competition, in which at least three teams will be fielded, provides for "home" and "away" matches. A shield, designed and manufactured in the metalwork class at Mt. Penang, is to be presented to the most successful competing school.

This extension of community contacts is desirable and has already proved beneficial. The School's exhibits at the local (Gosford) Show were again the subject of much favourable comment and the gymnastic display, a feature of the Show, gained such recognition that several later demonstrations were given by request at fund-raising functions arranged by local Rotary branches.



Football Team—“Mount Penang”.



Gymnastic Team—“Mount Penang”.

The annual Field Day of the district Junior Farmers' Clubs was again held at Mount Penang and was attended by Club members and adults, drawn from an area extending from Hornsby to Wyong.

Throughout the year, there has been further developmental work carried out on the lawns and gardens in the main school areas. A trellis has been erected in the boiler room area and several new rockeries have been constructed by boys trained in this work, from local sandstone quarried and donated by Gosford Quarries.

Further extensive work has also been carried out on pasture improvement, and there is considerable local interest in the methods and results of this work at Mt Penang.

The provision of additional dormitory accommodation, the formation of a fourth Company group, and the appointment of additional staff have done a great deal to alleviate the problems associated with the steady rise in population mentioned in the Annual Report for 1955-56. This rise, however, has continued during the current year, and there is no present indication that the trend will be discontinued. It has also



Garden Trellis constructed by the Boys at "Mount Penang".

Leen noted that a greater proportion of inmates is now being committed for specified periods rather than in general terms. The latest analysis taken recently showed that slightly more than one-third of the current population is held on determinate committals. As these periods range to as much as three years, the general effect will probably be to raise slightly the average period of training at this school.

One of the most interesting cases handled at Mt. Penang during the year was that of Graham G——, who was admitted to this school early in the current year. The case illustrated the value of psychiatric diagnosis available to the institution and of the remedial and rehabilitative work carried on by the staff.

This youth was committed on a charge of attempted suicide. The circumstances of the case were that he had taken a large number of dexedrine and sleeping tablets, following an argument with his girl friend. This was a repetition of similar behaviour on a previous occasion following family quarrels, and on each occasion he stated that his intention had been to kill himself.

The family history in this case presents a picture of instability. The parents had been separated for a number of years. The father was an alcoholic who ill-treated both his wife and children before deserting them. Subsequently, the mother and children went to live with the maternal grandmother for several years. This, again, was a most unsatisfactory arrangement as there was constant conflict with the grandmother, and with another relative who also lived in the house. The family had a home of its own for a period of only eighteen months before Graham's committal.

On admission to the school, the boy was in a very depressed state. His physical condition was poor, and he was completely disinterested and detached from the life of the school. He was insistent that he had meant to commit suicide and on several occasions during the early part of his stay threatened to do harm to himself, or to abscond with the stated object of committing suicide. As stated in the Clinic report, he regarded any normal attempt to assert discipline as unjustified persecution, and for some months was quite unwilling to accept the fact that any adjustment would have to be made by himself, and not by those responsible for his care.

Mrs. G——, who was seen regularly on each visiting day, was adamant at first that her son's suicide attempts had been genuine, and frequently warned of the danger of repetition if he were subjected to any pressure. As the boy himself improved physically and emotionally, Mrs. G—— too came to adopt a more realistic attitude, and latterly accepted the view originally stated by the psychiatrist that the suicide attempts were gestures, and that Graham could behave as a normal

youth provided he were handled sensibly and consistently. Graham, realizing after a time that his self-dramatising no longer served the end he had intended it to, became willing to discuss his difficulties dispassionately. Case work over a period of months and the personal interest of various officers stabilised him emotionally, and for some months prior to his discharge, he was to all intents and purposes a normal inmate.

It is very difficult to forecast the future of this boy, particularly, as his mother would not be competent to deal with any regression. There is no doubt, however, that his period of training at Mt. Penang equipped him to make a fresh start in the community on level terms with other youths of his age and with sound prospects of success.

"St. Heliers", Muswellbrook.

"St. Heliers", Muswellbrook, is a successful experiment in the use of the cottage system for the training of the less-sophisticated type of delinquent in the age group 14-18 years. Established in 1954, it is a 1,300 acre property on the rich Hunter River flats with accommodation sufficient for sixty boys. A housemaster and a matron are in charge of each of the three residential cottages on the property under the general control of the Superintendent. Other main buildings are a hospital block, an administration block, a kitchen block, a manual training room and a school.

The school gives a comprehensive rural training, but education of a formal nature and instruction in manual work are also provided.

Two of the residential cottages are used for the accommodation of the newly-admitted boys who, after suitable response to training, progress to the third cottage for a period prior to discharge. Here supervision is relaxed and individuality is encouraged, as this period is a transitional one during which the boys are preparing for a resumption of life in the community.

School age boys are divided into two groups by the Education Officer for training purposes. Those of sufficiently high intelligence are given the normal secondary school education; one has completed the fourth year of his High School course and another is studying for his Intermediate certificate. Those not suitable for the formal education course are divided into five parties for instruction in agricultural activities and handicrafts. For those purposes, a herd of 300 Hereford cattle, a flock of 345 Corriedale sheep, twenty Guernsey cows, five saddle horses, poultry and a few pigs, and extensive handcrafts materials are provided.



Vegetable Harvesting—"St. Heliers".

One group is trained in the care of fat stock: horseback riding, branding, castrating, shearing, wool-sorting, wool-pressing, marking lambs, drafting, slaughtering, and the treatment of sick animals. The dairying group is taught handmilking, dairy hygiene, feeding and the general care of dairy stock. Two groups are engaged in the cultivation and production of crops. One group receives tuition in all branches of vegetable production, including cultivation of the soil, manuring, watering, weeding and treatment of insect pests and fungus; good crops of peas, beans, onions, lettuce, pumpkins, cantaloupes, watermelons, cucumbers, potatoes, carrots, cabbages, cauliflowers and other vegetables have been produced.

The other party is under the direction of a Vocational Instructor who holds a diploma in Agriculture, and the course includes ploughing, pasture improvement, field crop diseases, harvesting, and so on. The boys in both parties learn to handle all types of horse-drawn agricultural machinery and some have become competent tractor drivers.

The fifth party is trained in building and machinery maintenance: concrete work and welding and machinery repairs. This party has just completed a machinery shed and an up-to-date dairy building.

The personnel of these parties changes constantly in order that the boys might have experience in all the types of work involved.

Indoor recreation has been a feature of this year's activities. Various handicrafts such as cane work, felt toymaking and leatherwork are now rivalling table tennis in popularity.

An interesting case was that of Ernest H—, discharged during the year after a stay of just under twelve months. On admission, he was a very disturbed youth, low in intelligence, and had spent the previous seven years in a church home. He was fearful of new and strange surroundings and situations, and his work potential appeared to be nil. He had apparently been beaten into obedience and did not know what it was to hear a kind word.

Gradually, his confidence was gained and he lost his perpetual fear as he responded positively to his day to day training. From a boy who could not carry out the smallest task, he developed into a reliable performer of routine assignments, and though still lacking in initiative, he should give every satisfaction to any employer who will treat him with kindness, tact and patience. He was placed with a gentleman at Dartbrook who has been successful with other boys from this establishment. So far, he has been in the job for nine months and current reports on his progress are favourable.

Institution for Boys, Tamworth.

The only closed institution for boys under the Department's control, the Institution for Boys, Tamworth, provides disciplinary training for recalcitrant and hardened delinquents in the 14 to 18 year age group. The majority of the inmates are boys who have, in various ways, failed to respond to the training at other establishments. Rarely, however, are boys sent to Tamworth immediately following committal to an institution. These youths have had most unfortunate histories of delinquent conduct.

The prospect of transfer to Tamworth acts as a deterrent to boys at Mt. Penang, and the training programme is thus necessarily more intensive at the Institution.

Despite the fact that the aggregate of inmates of the main establishment at Mt. Penang Training School was 858 this year as against 735 last year, the number of transfers to Tamworth decreased by 17 per cent. These facts reflect a very satisfactory standard of training at Mt. Penang, and the lower intake of boys—35 as compared with 39 in the year ending 30th June, 1956, has enabled the staff at Tamworth to intensify its efforts to stabilize the conduct of boys who have been a disruptive influence tending to undermine the discipline at the Institution.

The training programme includes various kinds of handicrafts such as the making of mats, brooms and several types of brushes, and instruction in farming methods. Crop production has continued to increase since the completion of an irrigation system last year, and the surplus of vegetables is distributed to other establishments and to the Tamworth Base Hospital. In addition, other work done at the Hospital by the boys has enhanced the reputation of the Institution and enlisted the goodwill of the local community.

Training School for Girls, Parramatta.

The institutional training of delinquent girls poses certain difficulties not encountered in the training of boys. The female delinquent tends to be of duller intelligence than her male counterpart—this was established in a survey carried out some years ago by the Department—and is thus less likely to have any insight into her conduct. In addition, she is more prone, because of greater opportunity stemming from certain social and biological causes, to express her emotional unrest in habitual misconduct of a sexual nature; habits of loose sexual morality tend to persist and, as they are socially reprehended, to bring unhappiness. The difficulty of training dull girls to reorganize their habits in the fundamental manner thus required will be readily apparent.

The Training School for Girls, Parramatta, is confronted with this onerous task. It provides normal accommodation for 100 girls to the age of 18 years and aims to provide a basis for the social adjustment of the girls, who are trained in domestic sciences, drama and choral singing in addition to formal education for those girls of school age. Other activities conducive to spiritual enrichment are play readings and exercises in voice production and mime. Physical training and sport go to make up a balanced programme.

Following discharge, the girls receive aftercare assistance by female Probation Officers who aim to help them to develop the fulfilling interests gained from their training and to overcome inclinations to return to their former habits and associates. The case which follows is by no means a rare indication of the effectiveness of this Training School.

A girl whose behaviour had taxed every facility available in another State was transferred to Parramatta to see if some improvement would ensue. Over the years, she had become embittered by an intense hatred of her mother who first deserted her at the age of 18 months and later gave her to the care of an aunt who did not want her either. She seemed to have transferred her hostility towards her relatives to society in general, and her attitude was one of continual suspicion and defiance.

She was a girl of strong and, in some ways, prepossessing character, which she was quick to demonstrate at Parramatta by becoming something of a leader among the girls, inciting them to riotous conduct and defiance of authority. Her basic emotional turmoil frequently expressed itself in spasms of violence and hyperactivity: on one occasion, she was responsible for a brutal, unprovoked and premeditated attack on another inmate.

As she was obviously an intelligent girl, she was first put into a position to gain some insight into the consequences of her conduct. Accordingly, every divergence from the rules of the establishment was swiftly and inevitably followed by punishment. After a time, she began to abide by the rules, and it is very likely that, at this stage, her motives in conforming were purely expedient and that the conformity itself was merely overt.

At any rate, her turbulence abated sufficiently to enable the staff, and particularly the Superintendent, to establish contact with her and to show her that warmth and kindness which had been so lacking in her earlier years. She responded at first in a tentative way, and the pattern of her response to the new relationship was typically ambivalent: a period of

good behaviour giving glimpses of a burgeoning capacity for affection, followed by a sudden and unexpected regression to hatred and violence. As her suspicions were lulled and gradually dispelled, however, these relapses became less frequent and finally ceased altogether.

The Superintendent at Parramatta hoped, when the time came for her discharge, that he and his staff may have played some small part in making her an emotionally whole person. After leaving Parramatta, she never forgot to write notes or send seasonal greeting to the Staff, and early in 1957, she wrote telling of her marriage and of the birth of her baby. In this letter she said that she has settled down happily in another State and only now realises how much she owes to her training at Parramatta.

Training School for Girls, Thornleigh.

Girls who have made a satisfactory response to the training at Parramatta are transferred to the Training School for Girls, Thornleigh, for a period prior to discharge in order to prepare them for their return to the community. Thornleigh acts, therefore, as a privilege cottage in much the same way as that at Mt. Penang Training School for Boys and allows of a transitional period between the more circumscribed environment of the training school at Parramatta and that of a normal family life. Accommodation is provided for twenty-eight girls, but the number in residence at any time is rarely as high as twenty.

The atmosphere at Thornleigh is far removed from that popularly attributed to a training establishment. In effect, Thornleigh, is a superior type of hostel for many of the girls, as they are permitted to take normal employment outside the Training School. Each girl has her own bedroom which is tastefully furnished and decorated, and a most pleasant place in which to live. She is permitted to retain a reasonable proportion of her income for her personal needs, and the balance is banked, to be withdrawn by her on discharge.

Regular contacts with the community are maintained in other ways: visits by the A.B.C. Youth Group, a musical body; group attendance at monthly dances at Pennant Hills (with approved partners); visits to the cinema and other trips.

Domestic science and dressmaking are in the general training programme, and suitable girls also receive musical training. Physical education and games are available to all and some girls have gone in for painting and decorating this year.



Recreation Lounge—Training School for Girls, Thornleigh.



Domestic Science Group—Training School for Girls, Thornleigh.



Dressmaking—Training School for Girls, Thornleigh.

Probation and Aftercare.

Probation and aftercare, as administered by this Department, are services which are more readily described in functional terms rather than defined descriptively, because of the nature of the duties of Probation Officers.

The work of Probation Officers is not confined to the supervision of juveniles placed on probation by courts or discharged from institutions, but also includes investigations of cases of neglect, uncontrollability, truancy and other forms of incipient delinquency. Thus, by virtue of his diverse duties, the Probation Officer personally knows the majority of children in his area who become probationers. He is aware of their backgrounds and problems and of all community resources in his area. He is accordingly able to plan the most appropriate individual programme for each child placed on probation.

This valuable knowledge is added to in the case of juveniles in training schools, by the system of visitation to institutions: Probation Officers visit all juveniles from their areas undergoing institutional training, get to know them thoroughly, keep in touch with their needs which become apparent during training and discuss plans with the training school staff who have the benefit of advice from vocational guidance officers, school counsellors, psychiatrists and others. Probation Officers in this way acquire comprehensive information and establish relationships with the children which are vital in the success of the aftercare programme of every institution inmate.

Aftercare can thus properly be said to commence as soon as a juvenile is committed to an institution. In addition to visiting the inmate in the training school, the Probation Officer also visits the inmate's home. The object of home visits is to prepare the home for the juvenile's return, and Probation Officers often find that casework is necessary to raise the home to acceptable standards. The Probation Officer therefore acts as a link between the juvenile and his home, the training school and the Department.

No distinction is made in the general character of the assistance given to juveniles, whether on probation or receiving aftercare. The Department recognizes the identical basic aim of probation and aftercare—the development of acceptable behaviour standards and the achievement of useful and reasonably happy lives by delinquent and neglected juveniles—which is realised by practical assistance, guidance and advice from Probation Officers eminently situated to deal successfully with any particular case.

For the twelve months ended 30th June, 1957, the volume of work in the field of probation and aftercare was very great: 37,995 visits were made to the homes of juveniles placed on probation or receiving aftercare, 29,470 additional enquiries were made and 7,675 visits were made to juveniles in training schools. These figures represent increases of 21.1 per cent. in home visits and 57.1 per cent. in visits to institutions in comparison with the numbers for the preceding year. In addition, the current number of probation and aftercare cases as at 30th June, 1957, was 4,262 against 3,549 as at 30th June, 1956, an increase of 20 per cent.

The able manner in which the probation and aftercare programme has been implemented reflects great credit on the responsible officers in the Department. The statistics given above—which tell only part of the story—indicate an increase of over 30 per cent. in the volume of work, a fact which should be considered in conjunction with a rapidly increasing juvenile population and with more intensive methods of crime detection. Increases can, therefore, reasonably be expected to continue. It says much for the genuine interest in a difficult but rewarding task by the Department's team—not only those in the field and in training schools but also the administrative personnel who co-ordinate the work—that officers voluntarily remained on duty long after office hours to produce work comparable to that of other and far less arduous years.

There has not, however, been an increase in staff at all comparable with the greater work load, and the acute shortage of trained personnel has been keenly felt in this as in other of the Department's field of endeavour.

THE DEPENDENT CHILD.

Dependent children in this section of the Report are wards under the control of the Minister: such children become wards in one of three possible ways:—

1. By committal to the care of the Minister to be dealt with as a ward admitted to State control. Such committals are made by Children's Courts and refer to children who, within the meaning of the Child Welfare Act, 1939, are neglected or uncontrollable or guilty of an offence.

2. By admission to wardship by the Minister on the application of persons or relatives where circumstances warrant such application: lack of housing, loss of parents or other misfortune.
3. By transfer from an Institution for boarding out under Section 53 of the Child Welfare Act. This class forms a very small proportion of the total number of wards.

The Minister thereupon becomes the legal guardian of the children to the exclusion of any other guardian, whether natural or appointed under any other Act. Although the Child Welfare Act does not bestow on the Minister any power or control over either the person or the estate of the ward after his or her attaining the age of 18 years, guardianship may continue until the ward's twenty-first birthday. The purpose of this is to give legal effect to decisions which the young person, lacking another guardian, is not (in law) competent to make. In such cases, the Minister gives his consent for marriage, or the young person's enlistment in the Armed Services, and the like.

Children who become wards have, in the main, endured stress or anxiety for significant periods in their own homes and are thus, in varying degrees, deprived children. They are often victims of gross neglect; some have suffered the consequences of misfortune befalling guardians who are found, ultimately, to have invited misfortune by their selfishness, ignorance, thriftlessness; others, in consequence of defective training and discipline, are uncontrollable or beginning to acquire a delinquent pattern of behaviour. In almost every case, however, they have been harmed in differing degrees by emotional neglect which, though indirect and intangible, is neglect of the most serious kind. The actual incident which results in wardship is often the last straw in a series of small crises steadily tapping the child's nervous and affectional resources. A definite relationship appears to exist between emotional neglect and juvenile delinquency; it has latterly been exemplified by the work of D. H. Stott in England, who urges that anxiety due to defective relationships with parents lies at the heart of delinquent motivation. Many children becoming wards, therefore, need a period of security and training, during which they are physically, emotionally and spiritually replenished and are freed of sub-conscious anxiety and conscious fears.

On first becoming a ward, the child goes to a receiving home, such as "Bidura" or "Royleston" for observation and assessment with a view to his subsequent placement in a foster home. The observations of the staff and the impressions of the Placement Officer are supplemented by medical and psychiatric reports. A clear picture of the child's physical condition, temperament, personality and level of social learning then emerges. If he is suitable for immediate foster home placement, the Placement Officer selects, from a list of available foster homes kept in the Dependent Children Branch, the home most likely to satisfy the particular needs of the child.

Effects other than the basic insecurity stemming from emotional neglect, however, render many wards unsuitable for immediate foster home placement: malnutrition and related maladies resulting from prolonged material neglect and necessitating careful nursing and medical attention; lack of rudimentary home training in, for example, personal hygiene, toilet habits, table manners, dressing, general standards of conduct and the like. These wards, together with the mentally disturbed and retarded children, receive a period of necessary training in such departmental establishments as "Montrose", "Winbin", "Corelli", "Brougham" or "Waverley Cottage" at Mittagong.

The training in these establishments is accompanied by, and supplements a routine whose value in giving, of itself, security of a kind is often overlooked. Pediatricians tell us that one of a child's fundamental needs is a "rhythm of life": living in his own home with his parents who love him, waking each day to the familiar routine of washing, dressing, eating, learning, travelling, playing, preparing for bed. He knows this rhythm and expects it. It is part of his world, a reassurance, in the words of Donald McLean: "that life is in tune and his parents in the accord that supports his own security".

Most children in establishments, coming as they do from neglectful parents, have lacked this important adjunct to security or, having experienced it spasmodically, have learned never to count on it. The child thus often notices the ordered routine of the establishment as a desirable state of affair lacking his parents certainly but often offering an acceptable substitute. It is not as satisfying as his own home, but better than it might be; and if he does not there recapture his happiness, he becomes at least receptive to it. The routine gives him an important part of a necessary basis of reassurance and security. The Department's aim is that these be added to by his training and completed by the affection of his foster parents.

The third group of wards is composed of children whom, for one reason or another, it would be undesirable or impossible to place, and these are more or less permanently cared for in establishments. Owing to a shortage of foster homes for boys of their age group, adequate accommodation is provided for up to twenty at "Castle Hill House", forty at "Yarra Bay House", thirty at "Weroona" and twenty-six and twenty-seven respectively at "Suttor" and "Turner" Cottages at Mittagong. Others are unplaceable by reason of mental defect and are accommodated at such establishments as "Brush Farm Home" (girls) and "May Villa" or "Werrington Park" (boys); some boys prefer (and are better suited for) rural pursuits to urban foster home placement, and about thirty of these boys, aged from 14 to 18 are accommodated at Berry Training Farm and School of Husbandry. "Lynwood Hall" accommodates fifty-eight girls aged from 12 to 16 years; severely deprived socially and educationally, some have failed to find happiness in foster homes, others are unsuitable for placement.

However, the Department regards group care, even of the cottage type, as but a poor substitute for care in foster homes. Since the eighties of last century, policy has been informed by this principle, the soundness of which has been demonstrated by scientific inquiry only in recent years. For a considerable time now the proportion of wards in foster homes has averaged 75 per cent. of the total, despite the fact that the present total (30th June, 1957) of 3,222 wards—1,711 boys, 1,511 girls—is the nearest post-war approach to the peak number of 3,647 at the end of June, 1941. The present total compares with 3,020 wards as at 30th June, 1956, and represents an increase of 7 per cent.

The percentage appears to be among the highest in the world and approaches the optimum placeable proportion of wards. It now seems indisputable that, within these foster families children are able to form close affectional ties which would be impossible in the atmosphere of an establishment, no matter how well conducted. Increased numbers of foster homes have, of course, been necessary to keep this percentage at its high level, and officers have commendably managed to locate them in the face of a housing shortage. The efforts of officers have been greatly assisted by the Information and Extension Service of the Department which, since its formation in 1956 has achieved a good deal of success in its appeal for foster homes.

The selection of suitable foster homes for individual children is most important, for each unsuccessful placement makes succeeding ones progressively more difficult for the child: his capacity to give and to reciprocate affection, his sense of being loved and wanted, are impaired until, after a significant number of breakdowns in placement, he is quite likely to develop as an affectionless psychopath, a type so vividly described by Bowlby and others, whose whole life is blighted by his fundamental inability to form lasting intimate relationships with his fellow human beings.

Soon after placement, the officer who will be supervising the ward visits the home to give trained assistance during the period of initial adjustment, for both ward and foster parent. This officer is often no stranger to the foster family, for he has previously visited it in order to assess it. Thenceforth he sees the ward at least three times yearly, both in the home and elsewhere, and submits detailed reports on the child's progress. This number of visits is an absolute minimum and, in practice, in the majority of cases it is exceeded: the ward's medical and dental requirements, his clothing, miscellaneous aspects of his emotional and material welfare, his scholastic progress—these all necessitate added time and attention.

The Department's policy is to refrain, on placing a ward in a foster home, from giving assurances that the child will remain in the home permanently: the possibility of the rehabilitation of his natural parents or of his obtaining a home with relatives renders such an assurance undesirable. Many wards, however, do remain permanently in their foster homes and are subsequently adopted by their foster parents. This year seventy-five wards were so adopted as against fifty-two for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1956. Included in this number are children who, on assessment at the outset of their wardship, were considered unsuitable for adoption. Every such adoption is testimony of the power of human love. The spiritual and emotional growth of these children is something which results from a warm and continuous relationship that cannot be simulated, nor set out in a cut-and-dried way in textbooks.

"Myee", Arncliffe.

"Myee" is primarily a short-stay establishment for babies of both sexes who have not yet reached the walking stage of development. The length of time for which a particular baby

remains, however, varies according to circumstances. "Myee" is at present serving as a hostel, a remand home and a ward establishment. Expectant mothers, most of them unmarried, receive pre-natal care for about three months and their babies generally remain for about one month after birth, following which they leave with their mothers, or are adopted or placed in foster homes. Other babies charged as neglected and remanded by a Children's Court are kept at "Myee" pending the determination of the charge. These functions—as a lying-in home and as a Depot—are proper to "Myee" and are in keeping with the purposes which the establishment is intended to serve.

Latterly, however, and particularly in the year just concluded, "Myee" has acquired an extraneous function (viz., as a home for wards), which is having an undesirable effect on the efficiency with which this establishment is wont to carry out its prescribed work. The present trend to increased incoming numbers of babies who, by reason of mental defect, are both unplaceable in foster homes and unsuitable for adoption, has caused this state of affairs, for such infants become wards following the surrender of custody by their mothers. These babies require long-term, specialised care (for as long as two years in some cases) and must be cared for at "Myee" until they mature sufficiently to walk or until other arrangements can be made for their care.

Other effects of this development are that additional and unremitting demands are made on the staff's time and attention, for these children are very susceptible to infection and their general condition deteriorates rapidly unless they are kept under continual observation. In addition, the waiting list for admission is lengthening, and this in respect of babies who would be genuine short-stay cases but who must necessarily wait until cots are available. It is therefore obvious that the reception and long-term care of mentally deficient infant wards is tending to undermine the purpose for which "Myee" was founded.

Normal accommodation is adequate for sixteen babies and fifteen mothers. Because of increased numbers of infant wards, great difficulty has been experienced in accommodation and throughout the year the normal complement was greatly exceeded.

The Department has always made a point of giving the best possible care to subnormal babies, even those whose prognoses are hopeless. The plight of some of these children is truly pitiful. Miss D—, for example, is typical of the young women who, year in and year out, bear children who are literally doomed from the cradle. A mental defective with an intelligence quotient in the forties, she has had several idiot children, all of whom were certified under the Lunacy Act and failed to survive the first few years of life. The last such child, a mongoloid, was so well cared for at "Myee" that it survived until the age of 2 years, after which it was certified and died a short time later in a mental institution. Miss D— has returned to "Myee" and is now awaiting the birth of yet another child. There is no reason to suppose that its lot will be any less tragic than those of its predecessors.

The Department's services to these unfortunate babies are anything but grudgingly given. Their care at "Myee", however, does restrict the number of placeable or adoptable babies that could be cared for on a short-stay basis.

"Montrose", Burwood.

"Montrose", like "Corelli" and "Winbin", provides for the nurture of children of both sexes from the walking stage up to the age of 6 years.

Meeting the needs of children in the age group next above that provided for at "Myee", "Montrose" receives a few children from that establishment. But most toddlers who have not previously been placed in foster homes—either direct from hospitals or from "Myee"—are unplaceable, usually because of mental defectiveness and are cared for on a relatively long-term basis at "Waverley Cottage".

The majority of the children at "Montrose" are those who have become wards as a result of neglect by their parents. Many are thus in poor physical condition on arrival, emotionally disturbed in varying degrees, or lacking in acceptable social and personal habits. All of these children are, however, actually or potentially placeable in foster homes, and the length of time for which any particular child remains at "Montrose" is governed by: (1) the availability of foster homes, and (2) the response he makes to pre-placement training, if required.



Subnormal baby cared for at "Myee".



Playroom at "Montrose"—Friezes were painted free of charge by an interested visitor.

The atmosphere in this establishment is especially warm and homely. Its material ingredients include new curtains, blending colourfully with their surroundings, prints on the nursery walls, blue bedcovers, new carpets toning with the rest of the interior decorating scheme, and so on. But atmosphere is something more than these, and the excellent tone at "Montrose" is largely due to the personalities, interest and efficiency of the staff.

Outside organisations continue to show their interest in "Montrose" and visitors from them during the year were impressed by the pleasant atmosphere of the place. The children are delighted with the friezes in their playroom, painted by a young Teachers' College student. The task occupied a number of this gentleman's week-ends, and was entirely free of charge.

"Brougham", Woollahra.

This establishment accommodates twenty male wards from the age of five years to the age of fifteen years. The object of the training policy is to fit the boys, who are either of low intelligence or socially inadequate, for placement in foster homes.

The atmosphere at "Brougham" is quite unlike that generally associated with "children's homes". Basically, the boy's need is to harmonise his shortcomings with normal social demands in a world in which those shortcomings have often been painfully evident; and such a need implies a prior one: a need for change in the boy's conception of himself. To the latter end, the boy is taught, or rather encouraged, gradually, to master a world in which he has so frequently failed. The training programme is designed to build up his confidence in himself, to encourage a proper degree of self-esteem, and to keep formalities at a minimum.

The boys attend a school attached to "Brougham". The curriculum is remedial and designed to meet the particular needs of each boy.

Recreational activities are varied: singing, poetry recitation, handicrafts, television viewing, musical evenings, films, reading, listening to the radio, organised games, group outings. Some of these activities have a certain therapeutic value—for example singing and poetry help to remedy speech defects and also provide means of self-expression.

There is no lack of normal contact with the outside world: the boys spend their pocket money in the local shops, visit the local cinema, Bondi and Bronte beaches and other places of particular interest to children such as the Zoo, the Museum, the Harbour Bridge. Their spiritual needs are met by services in the local Churches, and religious and social organisations have maintained their keen interest in the boys. The Bondi Lions Club provides funds and uniforms for four Scouts and four Cubs to attend local troops.

The effect of training is seen in a case characteristic of many. A small boy had repeatedly failed to adjust to foster home placement, and the symptoms of emotional disturbance were clearly discernible in his behaviour: truancy, stealing, defiance of authority, apparently purposeless assumed stupidity, bed-wetting. At the age of seven, he was brought to "Brougham", a small, plump, freckled boy, ill-tempered, lazy, infantile, unable to dress himself, ignorant alike of table manners and of personal hygiene.

The staff at "Brougham" began by building up his self-confidence piecemeal, allotting him small tasks well within his capabilities. As his confidence increased with the mastery of these, he seemed to generate an impetus which carried him to a social and physical competence which others, and very probably he himself, had regarded as a forlorn possibility. That boy is now happily settled with foster parents.

"Royleston" and "Bidura", Glebe.

"Bidura" and "Royleston" are the two main receiving homes in Sydney. "Bidura" provides for girls 1 to 18 years, and boys from 1 to 6 years, boys above this age being admitted to "Royleston".

Both establishments are of the short stay type and are designed to meet the needs of children placed on remand pending a court decision or of those awaiting placement or transfer to a more permanent home. Training begins from the time of admission, and an internal school meets the needs of all those of school age. For those above school age, evening activities of an educational nature, including hobby-work are provided.

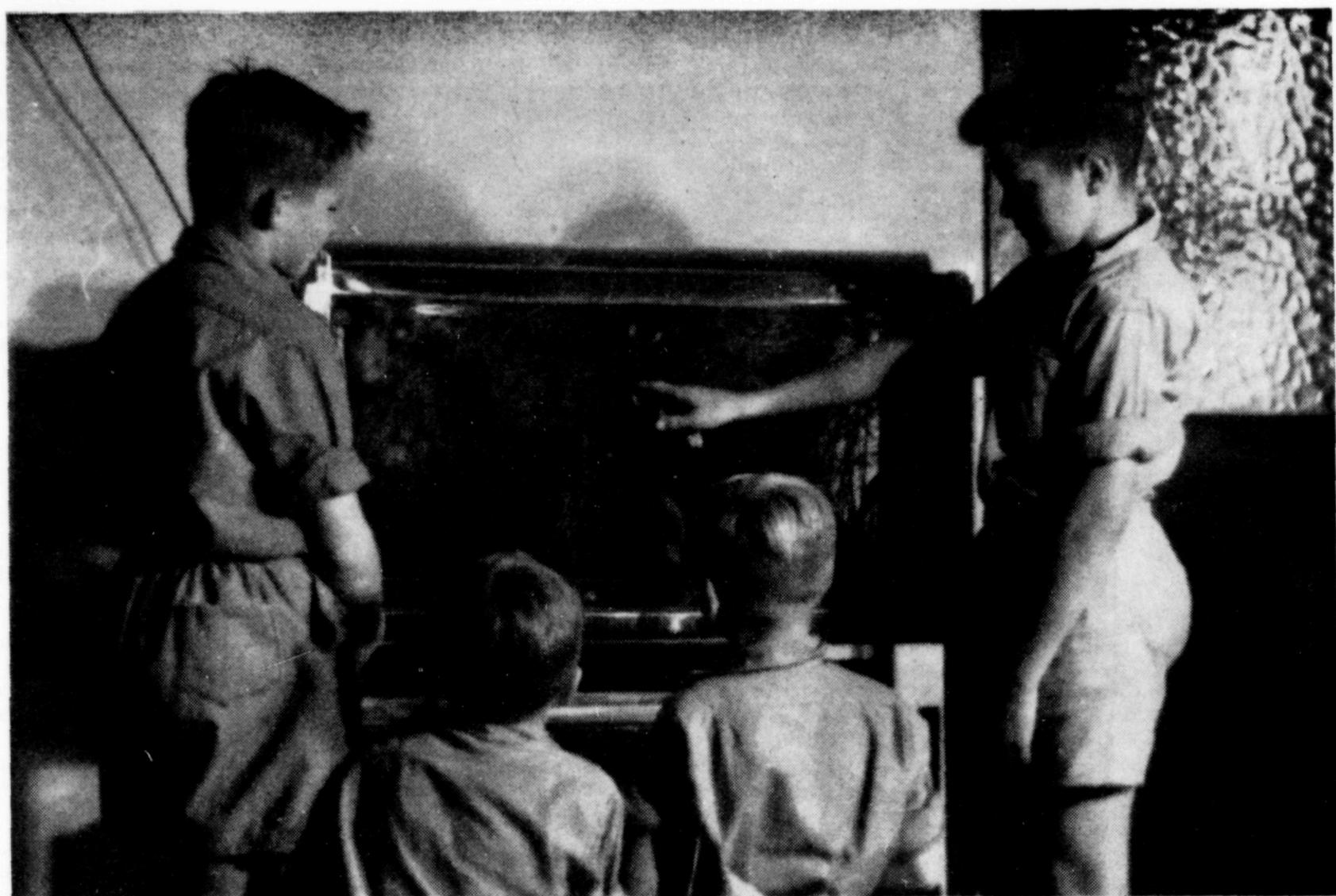
Since many of the children in these receiving homes have been seriously neglected, it is the task of the staff to improve both the physical and psychological condition of the children in order that, should the Department be required to accept permanent care of the children following a court determination, each child will be ready for placement in a foster home as soon as one becomes available. "Bidura" and "Royleston" also provide for the temporary accommodation of children moving from a foster home to hospital or to another home.

It is the Department's policy to encourage the free circulation of wards in the community. It is undesirable that these children should be regarded, either by themselves or others, as in any way different from ordinary youngsters living with their parents.

Thus wards do not, for example, wear uniform clothing; each child is well dressed in the clothes which suit him or her best. As far as possible, the Department ensures that the social climate in which wards live—at school, in the foster home, in the neighbourhood—is substantially the same as that enjoyed by children in more fortunate circumstances.



Television viewing—"Royleston".



Tropical Fish Aquarium—"Royleston".

Wards in establishments spend a great deal of their time in the wider community. All are given frequent outings; those of appropriate ages are members of outside clubs, scouts, girl guides, sporting teams and the like, and in this way live their social lives on terms of equality with their age peers.

Many outside bodies—such as Rotary clubs, Lions clubs, Apex clubs and so on—take a keen and practical interest in "Bidura" and "Royleston" as in other of the Department's establishments. The Department deeply appreciates the kindly interest of such bodies, who are well rewarded by the happiness they help to bring the children. Sans Souci Lions Club donated £250 during the year to "Royleston", which sum was spent on playground equipment and a 24-inch screen television set which is a source of abiding pleasure, particularly for the younger boys.

The relationships of staff and wards at "Royleston" are particularly good. During the year a member of the staff donated a large aquarium of tropical fish, together with plant for filtration and aeration. The monetary value of an aquarium such as this is considerable, and the gift is convincing evidence that the wards are in good hands.

"Lynwood Hall", Guildford.

Accommodation and training are provided at "Lynwood Hall" for fifty-eight girls between the ages of 12 and 18 years. Many of them have failed to respond to foster home placement and others have personality disturbances, the result of deprivation in their earlier years, which indicate that the hostel type of life among their fellows at "Lynwood Hall" is more suitable than living in a foster home, at least for a time. In an atmosphere of taste and elegance, these girls are given training which aims at the acquisition of high personal and social standards, discriminating and cultured tastes and practical and social adequacy.

The establishment is organised on advanced modern lines and has an internal school staffed by teachers of the Education Department. A graded syllabus has been carefully prepared to meet the needs and difficulties of girls of widely varying mental abilities and ages. The capacity and interests of each girl are carefully considered. Self-expression is encouraged by handicrafts, such as embroidery, flower arrangement and needle-craft in which the girls have shown up well in public exhibitions.

Cooking and home management classes provide a sound training in the domestic sciences, and the career training at "Lynwood Hall" has equipped many girls to pass Nurses' Entrance Examinations, as well as State and Commonwealth Public Service Examinations.

Cultural activities include tuition in ballet, choral work, dramatic art and verse speaking, whilst there are facilities for such sports as basket ball, soft ball and swimming.

Girls frequently visit art exhibitions and art galleries, and other outings include picnics and excursions, visits to the theatre, to ballet and selected films. Various social functions are arranged and visits interchanged with young people's clubs, thus ensuring that the girls do not become isolated from the community at large.

In July, 1956, "Lynwood Hall" was severely damaged by fire, which appears to have started in the kitchen in the early hours of the morning. The kitchen, two dormitories, staff bedrooms, living rooms and most of the front portion of the home were burnt out, but fortunately two dormitories to the rear of the home escaped unharmed. There were, happily, no casualties and the girls displayed excellent spirit and pride in their home in saving valuable and irreplaceable furnishings: a large cut-glass chandelier in the reception hall, an antique looking-glass, pictures and prints and other expensive furniture.

The fire had an unsettling influence for months afterwards. The staff was compelled to improvise its own living quarters and to sleep in the girls' dormitories, and the internal stability of the home was continually upset by the repair work following the fire. Restoration work is now almost complete, and the new interior decoration features an imaginative use of colour. The reception hall has been restored to its former beauty and tastefulness, and "Lynwood Hall" is now re-established as a first-rate home for wards.

Training Farm and School of Animal Husbandry, Berry.

This establishment was at one time an experimental farm managed by the Department of Agriculture, but in 1934 it came into the use of the Department as a long-stay home for male wards, many of them being below average intelligence. It affords a basic training in the modern practices of farming and dairying and aims to equip boys with an aptitude and an inclination for agricultural pursuits with the necessary background of knowledge and experience for placement in happy, useful and congenial employment on the land.

The wards under school leaving age attend Nowra High School and are making good progress. A marked improvement has been noticed in their class positions in the yearly examination, as compared with the half-yearly. One boy topped the class in his yearly examination. Those over school leaving age are employed on the farm in groups of about six, either attached to the dairy or assisting in the agricultural, horticultural or domestic jobs about the farm. The jobs of the groups are rotated at least once monthly so as to ensure that each boy has experience in the variety of tasks involved.

The farm pastures have improved considerably due to the recent good weather, and the farm's Australian Illawarra Shorthorn cattle exhibited at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney and at the Berry Show were of good quality. "Berry Matilda 23rd" and "Berry Angler's Strawberry 6th" distinguished themselves in exhibition against the best cattle of their breed in the State. "Berry Matilda 23rd" won, among other awards, first place in the Special Cow Section (over 4 years, in milk or dry) at the Royal Show, and "Berry Angler's Strawberry 6th" was awarded the Champion A.I.S. cow ribbon at the Berry Show.

Recent advances in dairy technology and breeding methods have been implemented at Berry and their effect on the quality of the stock produced in recent years has been enhanced by the enthusiasm of the boys passing through this establishment. Close contact has been maintained with the Artificial Insemination Centre; "Alfa Vale Modish", the Farm's main sire, has been used for the insemination of a number of heifers, a high percentage of which are in calf and doing particularly well.

In addition to ordinary hobbies and games, the boys visit nearby beaches, local entertainments and occasional concerts in Sydney. As might be expected, the tone at this establishment is particularly good, for the boys are united by a common interest in the creative rural life and by a sense of corporate achievement exemplified by the increasing success of the stock and of the farm generally.

ADOPTION.

Dr. John Bowlby, Consultant in Mental Health to the World Health Organisation, and Director of the Child Guidance Department, Tavistock Clinic, London, has pointed out that adoption presents very real problems, which have received little serious study.

The parties to the process—the mother, the baby, the adopters—are individuals, and are, therefore, unique. This fact should not be lost to sight in a welter of facile generalisations; but the work done in recent years indicates that agencies such as the Department, interested in arranging adoptions may base policies on a few guiding principles whose soundness appears reasonably attested.

Dr. Bowlby's work has demonstrated in a quite spectacular way the effect of maternal deprivation on very young children. He adduces convincing evidence that severe deprivation in any of its forms—prolonged impersonal group care, parental rejection, actual physical separation from the parent figure, and many others—has serious and sometimes permanent effects on the functional intelligence, and on the general personality development of children so deprived as early as in the first months of life.

Such evidence strikingly illustrates the principle that early adoption (as soon as possible after birth) is in the interests of the baby's mental health. And it is an interesting fact that early adoption, the advantages of which have thus latterly become apparent, has been Departmental practice for many years, the average age of children "allotted" for adoption being less than one month. It had, until recent years, been urged that early adoption means less opportunity to assess the baby's potential. It now appears that there is no reliable way in which potential may be determined: Bayley's work has indicated that test scores made before the age of 18 months have absolutely no predictive value for assessing school age abilities. Bowlby suggests that the best guide, and that no more than a very rough one, is the intelligence of the baby's parents; this Department has, in fact, always given great weight to that factor when matching babies and adoptive parents, while taking into account other considerations such as similarity of physical appearance and social background.

Allotting, as it does, children for adoption at a very early age, the Department takes great care to eliminate the possibility of precipitate decision by the child's mother. Mothers desiring to keep their babies are afforded every reasonable facility: financial assistance under Section 27 of the Child Welfare Act if required, admission of the baby to wardship until the mother is able to resume guardianship and skilled and sympathetic guidance by specially trained female officers of the Department, who also ensure that indigent mothers receive social service benefits to which they are entitled. Due account is taken of the mother's state of mind immediately following the birth, and the question of her consent to adoption is deferred until it is apparent that she is mentally and emotionally capable of making a realistic decision.

The Department's role in the process of adoption is dual: direct or negotiative, and indirect or supervisory.

Directly, the Department enters the process at the beginning and selects, from applicants desiring to be allotted children for adoption, suitable adoptive parents for specific infants surrendered by their parents (usually single women) for adoption. The process ends with the order of adoption made by the Supreme Court in its Equitable jurisdiction. This class is much larger than the others, and is composed in the main of babies of an average age of less than one month. During the year 1,373 such applications were received, a decrease of ninety-two on last year's total.

In its supervisory role the Department, through its Field Officers, provides comprehensive reports to the Court as to the suitability of applicants who have made private application; the Court takes full cognizance of these reports in deciding the applications. Requests from the Court during the year for reports respecting these applications totalled 630, an increase of 124 over last year's total. The children concerned are generally babies and (rarely) toddlers.

The Department is interested in a third class of adoption: applications concerning children already in the care of the applicants. This is a mixed group, as the Department does not allot the children with a specific view to adoption—though some wards, on becoming so available, are adopted by their foster parents—neither do the adoptive parents approach the Court on their own initiative. The ages of the children in this class vary considerably and some children are adolescent by the time they are adopted. Applications of this kind received during the year totalled 686, an increase of ninety over the previous year's aggregate. A most pleasing feature of the increase is the adoption of seventy-five wards by their foster parents as against fifty-two in the preceding twelve months.

There has, however, been a disquieting trend during recent years towards an increasing proportion of private applications (those in which the Department's sole interest is the provision of reports to the Court as to the suitability of the applicants). It will be noticed that the total number of applicants respecting "allotted" children and those already in the care of the applicants is two less than last year's total, but that there is an increase of 124 private applications. Information available to the Department's officers in these cases is inclined to be one-sided: a great deal can be elicited concerning the applicants, but, in general, nothing is known of the natural parents. A valuable guide to proper matching is thus lost and the child's life may be adversely affected.

Even so, the distinctions here drawn in the way in which the Department enters the field of adoption are somewhat academic as, in view of the tremendous responsibility, the same high standards are insisted on in all cases.

LICENSED HOMES—KINDERGARTENS AND DAY NURSERIES.

Licensed Homes.

Residential care of children under the age of 7 years apart from their parents is provided for in Section 28 (1) (a) of the Act. Licences are granted in respect of establishments, which are required to meet certain standards laid down in the Regulations under the Act. The Department's Field Officers supervise these establishments in the course of their normal duties; at present, two female specialist Officers supervise places licensed for the care of five or more children.

There has been an upward trend in the numbers of these homes licensed annually, this year's total of 352 being an increase of fifty-six over the total as at 30th June, 1956. Despite this, regular supervision by the Department ensures that the conditions of the licences are properly observed, and that the children receive the required standards of care and attention.

Kindergartens and Day Nurseries.

The licensing of day nurseries and kindergartens was transferred from the Education Department to this Department in August, 1955, and 160 licences have been granted so far. Progress has been impeded by the general shortage of field staff and by the illness, lasting some months, of a Field Officer who had been specially engaged on inspections of this type of establishment. Taking these things into account the amount of work done to date has been satisfactory.

Where the conditions necessary for the granting of a licence are flagrantly ignored, the applications are declined. Where the place continues to function without a licence the person responsible is prosecuted. Twelve applications for licences have been refused to date. One woman was prosecuted on two occasions, and was fined; the premises have now been closed.

The standards adopted by the Department are neither unreasonable nor rigid. For example, where deficiencies exist, the person in charge is advised as to their nature by letter and, if they are minor ones and the person gives an assurance that they will be remedied, a licence is invariably issued.

GENERAL.

Considered from almost any aspect, the year under review has made more severe demands than for many years on the Department's complement of Officers. The outstanding difficulties were very grave ones: a pronounced increase in the juvenile population coincident with a record annual birth rate, pressure of numbers in establishments and training schools, shortage of trained staff, heavy case loadings. However, the vigour and worth of the efforts of Officers despite these difficulties will be immediately apparent to anyone reading this Report and noting such phenomena as the lower delinquency rate, statistics relating to absconding and recidivism, the care of wards, the tone in training schools and establishments and the quality of preventive work. These Officers are deserving of the highest commendation, and I congratulate them heartily.

The great pressure of immediate demands has not for a moment been allowed to obscure the ideals which have continually informed the Department's policy. Foremost among these is prevention: the removal of control of the sources from which delinquency springs. Prevention has received a fresh impetus from the Information and Extension Service, which is conducted by an educationist well known in Australia and abroad. It informs the public about the Department, its needs and its aspirations, and strengthens the bonds of goodwill and amity uniting the Department and the community: a community of men and women in other organisations, lay and clerical, devoted primarily to the welfare of children; of an interested and responsible citizenry; of yet other groups whose various raisons d'être may be alien to that of the

Department, but which are now increasing their efforts to bring happiness to deprived children. This service is, indeed, both extensive and creative. It disseminates the most advanced modern philosophy of child care, and has brought into existence groups of parents and other citizens for discussion and critical examination of the many problems associated with the subject. I am deeply gratified at the rapid development of this valuable adjunct to preventive work, and thank the many men and women of good-will whose endeavours, directed as they are towards children, go to lay a sound foundation for a mentally healthy, virile and law-abiding community.

Denominational, social agencies and many other organisations have co-operated admirably with the Department in the past. However, their co-operation has at no time been more greatly appreciated than during this, a year in which the Department's facilities have been very rigorously tested. I have every confidence that this most desirable give-and-take will continue in the years to come. I sincerely thank all these good people.

The facilities of the Department were again extended to Colombo Plan students from Pakistan, Ceylon, Thailand, The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaya, Burma and Borneo. I express the hope that some of these countries have benefited by what was seen of Child Welfare in this State. One cannot but become aware that the problems of the neglected, deprived or delinquent child are by no means confined to Western civilisation, that the loosening of the ties of family life, the pace and tension and problems of modern living are everywhere around us.

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and to the Members of the Child Welfare Advisory Council for their very valuable assistance during the year.

R. H. HICKS,
Director.

APPENDIX "A".
HOMES FOR DEPENDENT WARDS.

APPENDIX "B".
ESTABLISHMENTS FOR DELINQUENT CHILDREN.

Establishment.	Normal Accommodation.	Boys or Girls.	Remarks	Establishment.	Normal Accommodation.	Boys or Girls.	Remarks.
<i>Receiving Homes.</i>							
"Bidura," 357 Glebe-road, Glebe.	42	Both	These are the main receiving depots where children are temporarily accommodated awaiting placement in foster homes or transfer to other establishments in transit from foster homes to hospitals or other foster homes.	Metropolitan Boys' Shelter, Albion-street, Sydney	20	Boys 15-18	Besides providing shelter for children awaiting appearance before, or on remand from, the Children's Courts, the three Metropolitan Shelters are used to accommodate inmates of training schools needed in Sydney for medical or psychological testing or treatment. A one-teacher school provides primary education at Yasmor and a manual training teacher is included in the staff at Metropolitan Boys' Shelter.
"Royleston," 270 Glebe-road, Glebe.	43	Boys		"Yasmor" Hostel, 185 Parramatta-road, Haberfield.	50	Boys to 15	
<i>Homes for Babies.</i>							
"Myee," Forest-road, Arncliffe.	16	Babies	In addition to the reception of babies apart from their mothers, "Myee" accommodates expectant mothers and, in certain cases, mothers with babies for post-natal care.	Metropolitan Girls' Shelter, Avon-street, Glebe	25	Girls to 18	
<i>Homes for Pre-school Children.</i>							
"Corelli," 325 Marrickville-road, Marrickville.	16	Both	Children remain at "Corelli" and "Montrose" for varying periods until they are considered suitable for placement in foster homes; "Montrose" and Waverley Cottage have kindergartens with trained kindergarten teachers for the older ones. Most of the children at Waverley Cottage are unsuitable for placement. They are in the care of a married couple who act as substitute parents.	Broken Hill Shelter, Chloride-street, Broken Hill.	6	Boys and Girls	For the reception and temporary detention of children awaiting appearance at Broken Hill Children's Court.
<i>Homes for School-age Children.</i>							
"Brougham," Nelson and Wallis streets, Woollahra.	20	Boys	Except King Edward Home these Homes accommodate school-age boys who cannot be boarded out, mainly due to lack of foster homes for lads in the age group. "Brougham" and Turner Cottage provide for the younger lads, "Weroona," Suttor Cottage and Yarra Bay House for the older primary school boys, and Castle Hill the post-primary and secondary school group. King Edward Home at Newcastle serves as a reception depot for that district and as a home for girls who are considered to require some training to fit them for foster home placement.	Mount Penang Training School, Gosford.	200	Boys 15-18	Operates in two sections—the main institution and the Privilege Cottage—and in conjunction with Institution for Boys, Tamworth (see below).
Yarra Bay House, Yarra Bay road, Yarra Bay.	40	Boys		"St. Heliers," Muswellbrook.	58	Boys 15-18	For boys who have responded to training in other schools and show interest and aptitude in agricultural or pastoral work. Organised in eight cottage homes in charge of married couples. Boys attend lower Mittagong Public School which provides for these boys only.
"Weroona," Woodford...	30	Boys		Training School for Boys, Mittagong.	180	Boys to 15	
Suttor Cottage, Mittagong	26	Boys		Training School for Girls, Fleet-street, Parramatta.	100	Girls to 18	Operates in two sections—the main institution and the hospital block. With the introduction of new methods of dealing with medical cases, part of hospital block is now being prepared for use as a Privilege Section.
Turner Cottage, Mittagong.	27	Boys		Training School for Girls, Thornleigh.	25	Girls to 18	Acts as a separate Privilege Home in conjunction with Training School for Girls, Parramatta.
Castle Hill House, Castle Hill.	21	Boys					
King Edward Home, Newcastle.	25	Both					
<i>Homes for Subnormal Children.</i>							
Brush Farm, Eastwood...	61	Girls	These homes provide training in personal habits and hygiene, together with education, mainly of an individual and activity nature, in basic social and pre-vocational skills, to the limit of the children's capacity. Werrington Park now caters for the older age group.				
May Villa, Pennant Hills road, Dundas.	26	Boys					
Werrington Park, St. Marys.	25	Boys					
<i>Special Training Homes.</i>							
Training Farm and School of Husbandry, Berry.	40	Boys	Berry provides training in rural pursuits, particularly dairying, pasture development, cultivation of fodder crops, and includes breeding of cattle, treatment of sick stock and general animal husbandry.	Institution for Boys, Tamworth.	30	Boys 15-18	"Closed" institution for boys who have not responded to rehabilitative training provided at Mount Penang. Training is concentrated on the development of self-discipline through attention to vocational and recreational activities with a view to transfer to an "open" training school.
"Lynwood Hall," Byron-road, Guildford.	58	Girls	Lynwood Hall is organised as a home-science training establishment and develops special courses where necessary for girls proposing to take up employment in particular avenues, e.g., commercial and industrial business, and nursing.				
<i>Special School for Truants.</i>							
Anglewood Special School, Burradoo.	72	Boys 9-15	Organised in two cottages in the charge of married couples. Individual schooling is aimed at enabling a boy to adjust to the normal school situation.				

TABLE I.
NUMBER OF VISITS, INQUIRIES AND COURT ATTENDANCES BY DISTRICT OFFICERS.

	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.		1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Wards—Home	10,528	12,183	14,181	State schools	17,244	16,824	16,725
Wards—Miscellaneous	8,419	10,226	11,249	Non-State schools	3,943	4,146	3,912
Section 27—Home	8,101	9,495	10,017	Defaulters seen at School	12,074	14,612	13,373
Section 27—Miscellaneous	7,815	9,494	8,855	Departmental Establishments	2,067	2,538	2,350
Probation—Home	28,837	31,371	37,995	Non-State Establishments	631	415	631
Probation—Miscellaneous	22,223	24,241	29,470	Wards seen in Establishments	4,305	5,492	6,047
Neglect—home	9,436	9,202	9,430	Inmates seen in Institutions	4,585	4,884	7,675
Neglect—Miscellaneous	15,706	16,247	17,507	C.P. Homes—Section 28	1,763	1,608	2,824
Uncontrollable—Home	2,862	2,966	3,032	Lying in Homes—Section 39	859	979	1,060
Uncontrollable—Miscellaneous	3,792	4,352	4,294	Court attendances—C.W. Act	2,545	2,632	2,441
School Default—Home	12,908	13,353	14,038	Court attendances—P.I. Act	132	122	143
School Default—Miscellaneous	20,328	24,600	24,835	Court Attendances—Other Acts	929	1,010	918
Adoption—Home	3,280	2,806	3,381	Social Agencies	6,735	5,420	5,470
Adoption—Miscellaneous	6,160	5,604	6,473	Affiliation	2,752	2,675	3,195
Application C.W.—Home	5,505	6,136	6,385	Other Miscellaneous	22,014	23,042	19,149
Application C.W.—Miscellaneous	5,689	6,242	6,674	Unfinished	22,048	22,980	24,545
Other applications—Home	1,231	1,723	1,488	Accostings	5,178	6,713	6,501
Other applications—Miscellaneous	1,853	2,481	2,237	Enquiries, M.C.C.	2,825	1,384	947
School exemption—Home	3,080	3,230	3,067	Total	294,031	317,084	337,654
School exemption—Miscellaneous	3,650	4,052	4,097				

TABLE 2.
SEX OF ADOPTED CHILDREN.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
1954-55	555	530	1,085
1955-56	514	498	1,012
1956-57	507	465	972

TABLE 3.
AGES OF ADOPTED CHILDREN AND RELATIONSHIP OF ADOPTING PARENTS TO ADOPTED CHILDREN.

Age of Child.	Relationship of Adopting Parent to Adopted Child.											
	Natural Parents.			Relative.			No Relation.			Total.		
	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.
Birth to 1 year	18	3	2	8	3	4	516	464	542	542	470	548
1-2 years	29	20	13	7	15	7	26	25	33	62	60	53
2-3 years	49	27	20	4	3	6	22	16	14	75	46	40
3-6 years	94	105	59	14	16	8	23	35	32	131	156	99
6-9 years	93	76	54	6	9	6	19	20	15	118	105	75
9-12 years	48	57	53	4	11	2	5	7	5	57	75	60
12-15 years	29	38	41	2	5	4	6	3	5	37	46	50
Over 15 years	41	39	38	15	7	4	7	8	5	63	54	47
Total	401	365	280	60	69	41	624	578	651	1,085	1,012	972

TABLE 4.
AGES AND INCOMES OF ADOPTING PARENTS.

Income Per Annum of Adopting Parents.	Mid-parent Age of Adopting Parent.																	
	Under 20 years.			20 years to 30 years.			30 years to 40 years.			40 years to 50 years.			Over 50 years.			Total.		
	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.
Under £250 .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	3	...	2	6	...	6	9	...
£250-£500 .....	...	...	...	2	1	...	3	7	2	4	1	2	6	10	4	15	19	8
£500-£750	3	...	...	101	102	55	148	159	103	64	61	27	15	11	7	331	333	192
£750-£1,000 .....	...	...	1	83	57	79	144	165	206	71	48	63	9	5	3	357	275	352
Over £1,000 .....	...	...	...	41	31	51	168	183	212	54	48	66	7	2	5	270	264	334
Totals	3	...	1	228	191	185	514	514	523	195	161	158	39	34	19	979	900	886

TABLE 5.
RELIGION OF ADOPTING PARENTS.

TABLE 6.
ADOPTING PARENTS WITH OR WITHOUT OTHER CHILDREN.

Year.	Protestant.	Roman Catholic.	Mixed.	Others.	Total.	Year.	With Children.	Without Children.	Total.
1954-55 ...	573	217	178	11	979	1954-55	480	499	979
1955-56 ...	511	205	168	16	900	1955-56	482	418	900
1956-57 ...	491	241	148	6	886	1956-57	464	422	886

TABLE 7.

OCCUPATIONS OF ADOPTING PARENTS.

	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Professional	34	38	16
Commercial	131	138	131
Clerical	78	73	74
Skilled (Trades)	207	222	206
Semi-skilled (Trades)	90	77	107
Rural	105	92	85
Servicemen	29	19	18
Pensioners	20	23	6
Public Servants	81	50	68
Others	204	168	145
Total	979	900	886

TABLE 8.

CLASSIFICATION OF WARDS.

Classification.	At 30th June, 1955.		At 30th June, 1956.		At 30th June, 1957.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Boarded-out	866	767	963	924	1,035	1,024
Adopted Boarders	158	166	179	153	173	163
Placed-out	31	13	32	10	25	12
Restored to parents under Section 23H	...	...	46	37	47	37
Children in depots and homes	312	196	311	180	353	195
Children in institutions and mental hospitals	84	81	94	91	78	80
Total Wards	1,451	1,223	1,625	1,395	1,711	1,511

TABLE 9.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES OF WARDS.

Classification.	1954-1955.		1955-1956.		1956-1957.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Wards under control at the commencement of the year	1,408	1,224	1,451	1,223	1,625	1,395
Wards admitted during the year	274	233	340	318	338	343
Discharged during the year	150	164	160	146	177	161
Deaths during the year	5	1	6	3	3	3
Wards discharged on reaching 21 years in respect of whom guardianship had been retained	69	76	...	...	72	63
Total Wards at end of year	1,451	1,223	1,625	1,395	1,711	1,511

TABLE 10.—HOSTELS, HOMES AND DEPOTS FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN—ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.

Name of Hostel, Home and Depot.	Total Enrolment at beginning of Year.		Admissions.		Inmates during Year.		Discharges during Year.		Inmates in Residence at end of Year.		Absentees at End of Year.		Total Enrolment at End of Year.		
	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	
Berry*	28	29	34	39	44	62	68	72	33	40	42	29	27	29	28
Bidura	51	56	49	347	363	450	398	419	342	370	434	50	47	56	49
Brougham	20	19	20	18	24	38	43	38	19	23	18	19	20	19	20
Brush Farm**	54	55	62	22	18	40	76	73	21	11	39	55	62	55	63
Castle Hill House	19	20	18	16	17	20	35	37	15	19	20	18	21	21	21
Corelli	18	21	20	50	58	59	68	79	47	59	58	21	21	20	21
King Edward Home	27	26	26	36	36	53	62	52	27	36	26	27	26	26	27
Lynwood Hall*	46	45	37	34	52	81	80	97	118	35	60	83	45	37	35
May Villa*	24	25	26	20	17	14	44	42	40	19	16	25	26	25	27
Montrose	25	27	22	109	133	123	134	160	107	138	118	25	20	27	27
Myee (Children)	21	18	17	66	105	120	87	123	69	106	113	17	24	18	24
Royleston	46	37	47	332	440	325	378	477	372	341	430	37	47	37	47
Turner, Waverley and Sutton Cottages, Mittagong	74	75	75	50	44	44	124	119	49	44	43	73	74	75	76
Weroona	30	30	30	9	23	18	39	53	48	9	23	18	29	30	30
Werrington Park**	...	...	10	...	13	6	...	13	16	...	3	5	10	11	11
Winbin	39	37	42	59	51	33	98	111	61	69	34	35	8	8	8
Yarra Bay House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	37	42
Totals.....	522	520	537	1,192	1,509	1,472	1,714	2,029	2,009	1,194	1,492	506	527	520	537
												9	9	520	537

* Special Training Homes. ** Homes for Mentally Defective Wards

TABLE 11.
ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES—REMAND HOMES (SHELTERS).

	Inmates at beginning of year.			Admissions			Total Inmates During year.			Discharges During year.			Deaths during year.			Total Deaths and Discharges During Year.			Inmates at End of Year.		
	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.
Broken Hill Shelter .....	...	...	...	24	23	25	24	23	25	24	23	25	...	...	...	24	23	25	...	...	...
Metropolitan Boys' Shelter	18	18	20	1,105	1,485	1,613	1,123	1,503	1,633	1,105	1,483	1,601	...	...	...	1,105	1,483	1,601	18	20	32
Metropolitan Girls' Shelter	16	11	14	552	681	800	568	692	814	557	678	798	...	...	...	557	678	798	11	14	16
Newcastle Shelter .....	...	...	...	47	39	59	47	39	59	47	39	56	...	...	...	47	39	56	...	...	3
Yasmar*	22	53	62	1,416	1,704	1,773	1,438	1,757	1,835	1,385	1,695	1,768	...	...	...	1,385	1,695	1,768	53	62	67
Totals	56	82	96	3,144	3,932	4,270	3,200	4,014	4,366	3,118	3,918	4,248	...	...	...	3,118	3,918	4,248	82	96	118

* Included are boys received from other institutions, cases for hospital, clinical and medical treatment.

TABLE 12.
FINALISED CASES OF JUVENILES—METROPOLITAN CHILDREN'S COURTS, SYDNEY.

Court Order.	Major Offences.			Minor Offences.			Child Welfare Act Complaints.			Public Instruction Act Complaints.			Major Offences.			Minor Offences.			Child Welfare Act Complaints.			Public Instruction Act Complaints.			
	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	
Males.																									
Released on Probation	606	873	822	12	4	26	143	163	154	40	56	36	38	55	52	1	...	1	172	212	266	...	...	...
Committed to an Institution	259	364	434	1	2	3	95	105	156	4	15	6	7	9	11	...	...	...	71	90	116	...	...	...
Committed to the Care of the Minister	1	9	1	...	...	...	96	118	138	...	...	...	6	3	3	...	...	...	76	139	151	...	...	...
Committed to the care of an Approved Person	20	18	9	...	...	...	39	32	47	...	...	...	6	3	8	...	...	...	75	80	80	...	2	...
Committed to Care of Aborigines Welfare Board	144	272	305	...	1	2	2	6	8	...	...	...	2	3	13	...	1	...	6	10	26	...	...	...
Committed to Institution—Order Suspended	7	24	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Committed for Trial	49	115	56	598	692	743	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	97	114	92	...	3	...	...	...	...
Fined	41	83	76	3	7	4	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	5	9	...	2	...	...	9	...	...	...	...
Bound Over .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Admonished, Not Proceeded with, Discharged, etc.	107	167	127	124	208	70	60	73	74	2	2	3	15	12	7	39	57	5	59	84	121	...	...	...
Returned to Former Custody	2	7	...	16	32	9	1	1	16	33	16
Ordered to be Detained in Prison .....	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isolated Detention Within Institution .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	1	...	...
Variation of Order	5	1	5	...	...	...	1	8	6	8	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	7	8	18	...	...
Detained to Rising of Court	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Committed to Prison, Order Suspended	2	6	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Detained for Deportation .....	...	...	...	7	13	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Disqualified from holding Driver's Licence .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Adjourned generally .....	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Returned to Canberra in Custody .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	1,242	1,938	1,865	746	934	861	460	538	597	46	74	45	75	98	105	137	172	100	488	661	804	...	2	...	
Grand Total (Males and Females)	1,317	2,036	1,970	883	1,106	961	948	1,199	1,401	46	76	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

CATEGORIES OF JUVENILE OFFENCES—

Major Offences:—Stealing; Break, Enter and Steal; Receiving; Take and Use Car; Assault; Robbery; Sex Offences; Malicious Damage; Other Offences under the Crimes Act 1900.

Minor Offences:—Traffic Offences; Tram and Train Offences; Other Offences. Public Instruction Act Complaints: Truancy.

Child Welfare Act Complaints: Uncontrollable; Neglected; Absconding from Proper Custody; Breach of Probation Conditions.

TABLE 13A.

DISSECTION OF MAJOR OFFENCES SHOWN IN TABLE 12—MALES.

Court Order.	Steal.		B., E. and Steal.		Receiving.		Take and Use Car.		Assault.		Sex Offences.		Malicious Damage.		Other Offences.		Robbery.										
	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.						
Released on Probation	306	398	385	183	316	262	17	17	21	24	38	2	29	23	20	40	46	17	7	14	40	40	33	...	1	...	
Committed to an Institution	70	114	156	103	122	143	2	4	5	44	71	82	14	14	7	7	11	18	7	9	8	12	16	13	...	3	2
Committed to Care of the Minister .....	...	2	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Committed to Care of an Approved Person	11	6	7	5	10	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	1	...	1	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...
Committed to an Institution—Order Suspended	32	79	65	20	54	79	4	1	6	75	105	125	...	2	8	5	10	12	4	...	1	4	10	5	...	8	4
Committed for Trial .....	...	2	1	3	2	9	...	...	...	1	1	6	...	6	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	11	4
Fined	15	40	34	...	...	...	...	5	2	3	19	3	3	6	8	3	3	2	9	9	4	16	34	3	...	...	...
Bound Over	20	27	30	5	17	12	4	2	...	6	19	12	2	4	3	2	6	6	...	2	5	2	6	8	...	...	...
Admonished, Not Proceeded with, Discharged, etc.	34	67	60	13	26	7	1	...	4	5	14	11	4	7	6	15	4	9	6	1	18	29	47	12	...	...	...
Ordered to be detained in Prison .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Variation of Order	4	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Detained to Rising of Court .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Committed to Prison—Order Suspended .....	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Detained for Deportation .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Returned to Former Custody .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Returned to Canberra in Custody .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isolated Detention .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	492	736	745	332	559	512	28	29	38	158	259	280	25	71	59	55	77	94	43	28	50	109	158	77	...	23	10

TABLE 13B.

DISSECTION OF CHILD WELFARE ACT COMPLAINTS—SHOWN IN TABLE 12—MALES.

Court Order.	Uncontrollable.			Absconding from Proper Custody.			Breach of Probation Conditions.			Neglected.															
	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.				
Released on Probation	9	12	23	1	2	1	20	24	12	68	66	66	13	7	8	21	33	21	11	19	23				
Committed to an Institution	17	18	37	5	...	5	36	38	50	29	46	49	3	2	...	...	...	...	5	1	15
Committed to the Care of the Minister	4	5	57	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	8	...	44	74	86	42	30	42	3	...	4	
Committed to the Care of an Approved Person	2	7	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	3	4	2	11	6	18	16	14	17	4	...	3
Committed to the Care of Aborigines Welfare Board .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Committed to an Institution, Order Suspended	1	3	15	7	6	8	2	6	4	14	20	36	15	14	9	5	8	2			
Committed for Trial	1	1			
Admonished, not Proceeded with, Discharged, etc.	17	16	...	1	7	6	8	2	6	4	14	20	36	15	14	9	5	8	2
Returned to Former Custody	1	...	15	32	9	1
Isolated Detention within an Institution	1	3	3	3	2	2	1	3	...	5	2	2	1	...	3	1	1	
Variation of Order	1	2	1	5	2	2	1
Totals	50	62	89	22	38	18	69	71	72	106	132	123	89	110	154	96	93	90	28	32	51

TABLE 14A.

DISSECTION OF MAJOR OFFENCES SHOWN IN TABLE 12—FEMALES.

Court Order.	Steal.		B., E. and Steal.		Receiving.		Take and Use Car.		Assault.		Robbery.		Other Offences.					
	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Released on Probation	19	46	38	11	2	4	2	1	2	3	2	5	1	1	1	3	4	2
Committed to an Institution	6	6	5	...	6	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	3	...
Committed to Care of Minister	5	1	2	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Committed to Care of an Approved Person	5	2	6	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Committed to an Institution—Order Suspended	2	2	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Committed for Trial .....	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Fined .....	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Bound Over	1	3	2	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3
Admonished, Not Proceeded with, Discharged	11	6	6	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	1
Ordered to be Detained in Prison .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Variation of Order .....	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Returned to Former Custody .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	49	71	67	14	6	15	2	2	4	3	4	11	1	2	1	...	2	...
																6	12	7

TABLE 14B.

DISSECTION OF CHILD WELFARE ACT COMPLAINTS SHOWN IN TABLE 12—FEMALES.

Court Order.	Uncontrollable.			Absconding from Proper Custody.			Breach of Probation Conditions.			Neglected.											
	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	Exposed to Moral Danger.	No Abode and Destitute.	Improper Guardianship.	Miscellaneous (Not Attend School, etc.).	Child Welfare Act-Misc.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	
Released on Probation	14	28	26	...	1	...	...	7	6	91	117	163	9	7	7	32	26	23	26	26	41
Committed to an Institution	12	16	27	11	15	13	6	7	6	38	47	65	3	5	1	...	1	1	...	3	...
Committed to Care of Minister	2	9	3	...	...	...	...	3	5	3	10	2	28	67	95	39	46	43	4	4	3
Committed to Care of an Approved Person	12	10	11	2	...	1	3	2	3	21	33	29	11	14	17	22	20	16	4	1	3
Committed to Care of Aborigines Welfare Board .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Committed to an Institution, Order Suspended .....	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	3	3	5	4	13	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	3	...
Bound Over .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Admonished, Not Proceeded with, Discharged, etc.	7	14	5	3	1	1	...	1	2	24	35	46	15	17	41	7	8	12	3	6	14
Returned to Former Custody	1	1	1	14	31	14	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ordered to be Detained in Prison .....	...	...	...	6	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isolated Detention within an Institution .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Variation of Order	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	6	...	2	3	2	4	...	3	...	4
Fined .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals	50	78	83	36	50	30	10	23	25	183	247	330	67	114	167	102	102	99	38	40	70
																		7	...	...

TABLE 15A₂

FINALISED CASES OF JUVENILES—NEWCASTLE, WOLLONGONG, PARRAMATTA AND *LIDCOMBE AND LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S COURTS.

	Major Offences.			Minor Offences.			Child Welfare Act Complaints.			Public Instruction Act—Complaints.			Major Offences.			Minor Offences.			Child Welfare Act Complaints.			Public Instruction Act—Complaints.				
	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.		
Males.																										
Newcastle	219	236	202	114	32	45	22	46	41	6	...	2		8	8	4	...	1	1	49	37	46	...	...	1	
Wollongong	50	59	62	24	67	35	24	3	19	...	...	...		1	1	5	1	1	2	24	14	17	...	...	...
Parramatta	240	240	313	102	104	253	30	34	59	6	1	2		7	11	18	12	11	29	18	8	33	...	...	...
Liverpool	82	150	135	4	28	32	13	27	39	3	4	4		6	8	1	...	2	1	3	12	22	...	1	...	
Totals	591	685	712	244	231	365	89	110	158	15	5	8		22	28	28	13	15	33	94	71	118	...	1	1	

CATEGORIES OF JUVENILE OFFENCES.

Major Offences :—Stealing; Break, Enter and Steal; Receiving; Take and Use Car; Assault; Sex Offences; Malicious Damage; Other Offences, under the Crimes Act, 1900

Minor Offences :—Traffic Offences; Tram and Train Offences; Other Offences. *Public Instruction Act Complaints* :—Truancy.

Child Welfare Act Complaints —Uncontrollable; Breach of Probation Conditions; Neglected; Absconding from Proper Custody.

* Figures from Parramatta Children's Court include cases heard at Lidecombe Children's Court since March, 1954.

TABLE 15B.

FINALISED CASES OF JUVENILES—NEWCASTLE, WOLLONGONG, PARRAMATTA AND LIDCOMBE, AND LIVERPOOL CHILDREN'S COURTS.

Court Order.	Newcastle.						Wollongong.						Parramatta and Lidcombe.						Liverpool.						
	Males.			Females.			Males.			Females.			Males.			Females.			Males.			Females.			
	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.										
Released on Probation	108	136	105	32	24	26	29	33	54	10	7	9	172	161	169	12	9	21	51	103	98	8	15	15	7
Committed to an Institution	18	55	35	8	2	8	8	8	4	...	1	3	46	64	109	2	1	9	17	21	27	...	1	1	6
Committed to Care of Minister	5	2	10	6	6	7	11	...	3	9	2	2	5	3	19	5	5	7	...	6	10	1	4	4	6
Committed to Care of Approved Person	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	...	2	4	...	5	34	...	5	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Committed to Institution—Order Suspended	9	25	30	3	1	...	7	9	9	...	...	...	...	14	23	...	...	...	11	10	15	...	...	...	1
Committed for Trial	4	1	3	...	1	2	24	59	35	1	1	1	99	112	263	12	11	34	7	25	28	...	2	...	...
Fined	137	41	59	...	1	2	...	...	2	3	...	...	1	...	5	...	2	...	3	7	9	...	...	...	...
Bound Over	2	4	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Admonished, Not Proceeded with, Discharged, etc.	70	48	34	...	9	7	17	...	6	2	3	4	20	25	31	3	2	8	13	36	20	...	...	...	1
Returned to Former Custody .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Order to be Detained in Prison	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Isolated Detention within Institution.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Variation of Orders	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Recognizance Forfeited .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Detained to Rising of Court .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Committed to Prison—Order Suspended .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ordered to be Returned to Another State .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Adjourned Generally .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Disqualified from Holding Driver's Licence .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	361	314	290	51	46	52	98	129	116	26	16	24	378	379	627	37	30	80	102	209	210	9	23	20	

TABLE 16.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES—INSTITUTIONS FOR DELINQUENT AND TRUANT CHILDREN.

Name of Institution.	Total Enrolment at Beginning of Year.			Admissions from Shelters.			Transfers In.			Transfers Out.			Total Inmates during Year.			Discharges during Year.			Deaths during Year.			Total Deaths and Discharges During Year.			Inmates at End of Year.			Absentees at End of Year.			Total Enrolment at End of Year.		
	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.			
Training School for Girls, Parramatta	76	75	113	†150	‡167	183	10	15	*84	15	24	*92	236	257	288	†146	‡120	141	...	...	...	146	120	141	65	106	137	10	7	10	75	113	147
Training School for Girls, Thornleigh	18	15	18	15	11	14	15	24	32	10	16	20	48	50	44	23	16	23	...	...	...	23	16	23	13	48	20	2	...	1	15	18	21
Mt. Penang Training School for Boys, Gosford—																																	
Main Institution	228	252	296	348	393	514	55	90	48	130	148	144	613	735	714	249	291	329	...	...	...	249	291	329	245	293	384	7	3	1	252	296	385
Privilege Cottage	12	14	19	...	...	...	80	109	116	13	7	7	92	123	128	65	97	108	...	...	...	65	97	108	14	18	20	...	1	14	19	20	
St. Heliers	35	48	57	64	102	86	20	10	9	5	13	14	119	160	138	66	90	82	...	...	...	66	90	82	45	55	55	3	2	1	48	57	56
Institution for Boys, Tamworth	21	16	16	1	4	6	32	35	29	36	39	33	54	55	18	2	2	2	...	...	...	2	2	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	
Training School for Boys, Mittagong	198	197	242	158	232	300	...	...	5	8	11	356	429	531	154	179	249	...	...	1	154	179	250	197	242	278	...	3	197	242	281		
Special School, Burradoo (Truants only)	74	69	75	62	71	87	...	...	2	...	136	140	162	65	65	91	...	...	...	65	65	91	69	73	67	...	2	4	69	75	71		
TOTALS	662	686	836	798	980	1,190	212	283	318	216	255	321	1,654	1,949	2,023	770	858	1,025	...	...	1	770	858	1,026	664	821	977	22	15	20	686	836	997

* Includes a total of 64 Girls remanded for medical observation and not subsequently committed.

† Includes 20 Girls admitted on remand for medical observation and not subsequently committed.

‡ Includes 33 Girls admitted on remand from Metropolitan Children's Court and not subsequently committed to an Institution.

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TABLE 17.

OFFENCES COMMITTED BY CHILDREN ADMITTED TO INSTITUTIONS AND TO TRUANT SCHOOL.

	Training School for Girls, Parramatta.			Mt. Penang Training School, Gosford.			Institution for Boys, Tamworth.			Training School for Boys, Mittagong.			"Anglewood" Special School, Burradoo (Truants).			"St. Heliers" Muswellbrook.			Training School for Girls, Thornleigh.			Totals.									
	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.	1954-1955.	1955-1956.	1956-1957.							
Stealing	9	8	18	83	113	146	1	1	1	50	66	107	...	...	...	15	31	23	3	...	1	161	219	296						
Break, Enter and Steal	3	3	7	114	114	135	...	1	1	57	78	95	...	...	...	20	24	31	...	...	...	194	220	269						
Take and Use Car	1	2	...	69	87	92	...	1	1	...	4	2	...	...	...	11	26	17	...	...	...	81	120	112						
Receiving .....	...	...	...	2	4	2	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	4	8	4						
Assault	1	3	3	10	10	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	11	13	18						
Malicious Damage .....	...	...	...	4	9	1	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	4	11	6						
Sex Offences .....	...	...	...	23	16	28	...	...	...	...	4	3	...	...	...	1	6	4	2	...	...	24	22	31						
Uncontrollable	26	23	30	10	6	29	23	38	29	1	1	6	4	2	7	73	71	98						
Neglected	74	71	101	8	6	22	...	...	...	8	16	23	33	38	58	1	3	4	2	1	3	126	135	211						
Breach of Probation	4	10	9	13	13	18	...	...	...	11	21	25	18	13	14	5	4	4	1	1</td										

TABLE 18.

AGES OF CHILDREN ADMITTED TO INSTITUTIONS AND TO TRUANT SCHOOLS.

Age.	Training School for Girls, Parramatta,						Mt. Penang Training School for Boys, Gosford.						Institution for Boys, Tamworth.					
	1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.		1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.		1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.	
	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.
Under 12 years.....	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 years.....	4	1	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 years.....	13	...	12	2	18	...	5	...	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 years.....	22	...	18	4	25	1	78	...	59	2	85	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 years.....	32	2	26	9	32	15	63	6	90	20	108	15	...	...	...	...	...	...
16 years.....	22	7	31	6	45	11	73	25	96	22	130	28	...	...	...	...	2	...
17 years.....	11	16	16	7	12	19	60	32	74	17	97	36	1	...	3	1	3	1
18 years and over.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	9	2	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	104	26	106	28	137	46	283	65	330	63	427	87	1	...	3	1	5	1

TABLE 18—*continued.*

Age.	Training School for Boys, Mittagong,						"Anglewood" Special School, Burradoo (Truants).						St. Heliers, Muswellbrook.					
	1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.		1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.		1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.	
	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.
Under 12 years.....	47	...	59	7	78	12	13	1	7	1	16	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 years.....	36	5	34	6	44	17	10	1	10	2	14	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 years.....	54	8	71	11	84	27	20	2	20	3	17	5	2	...	...	3	...	...
14 years.....	8	...	34	9	28	9	15	...	26	2	25	7	21	...	25	...	19	...
15 years.....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	36	...	29	...
16 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	23	...	21	...
17 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	18	...	13	...
18 years and over.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals.....	145	13	198	34	235	65	58	4	63	8	72	15	64	...	102	...	86	...

TABLE 18—*continued.*

Age.	Training School for Girls, Thornleigh,						Totals.					
	1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.		1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.	
	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.	New.	Retd.
Under 12 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	1	67	8	96	14
12 years.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	51	7	46	8	61	18
13 years.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	95	10	105	16	126	32
14 years.....	2	...	1	...	3	...	146	...	163	17	185	21
15 years.....	3	...	3	...	4	...	117	8	155	30	174	30
16 years.....	7	...	5	...	6	...	114	32	155	28	204	39
17 years.....	...	...	2	...	...	...	82	48	113	25	125	55
18 years and over.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	9	2	5	5
Totals.....	15	...	11	...	14	...	670	108	813	134	976	214

TABLE 19.
SUBDIVISION OF FIGURES IN RETURNED COLUMN OF TABLE 18.

	Training School for Girls, Parramatta.						Mt. Penang Training School for Boys, Gosford.						Institution for Boys, Tamworth.					
	Returned within 1 year.			Returned after 1 year.			Returned within 1 year.			Returned after 1 year.			Returned within 1 year.			Returned after 1 year.		
	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957
Under 12 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 years.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 years.....	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 years.....	...	3	...	...	1	1	...	...	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 years.....	1	7	11	1	2	3	6	15	12	10	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
16 years.....	6	6	9	1	...	2	15	15	17	12	7	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 years.....	16	5	15	...	2	4	20	16	23	...	1	10	...	...	...	...	1	1
18 years and over.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	24	23	35	2	5	11	43	48	60	22	15	27	...	...	...	...	1	1

TABLE 19—*continued*.

	Training School for Boys, Mittagong.						"Anglewood" Special School, Burradoo (Truants).						St. Heliers, Muswellbrook.					
	Returned within 1 year.			Returned after 1 year.			Returned within 1 year.			Returned after 1 year.			Returned within 1 year.			Returned after 1 year.		
	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957
Under 12 years.....	...	7	10	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 years.....	5	4	12	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 years.....	8	9	25	...	2	6	2	1	12	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 years.....	...	8	5	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 years.....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 years.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18 years and over.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	13	28	52	...	6	13	4	1	14	...	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE 19—*continued*.

	Training School for Girls, Thornleigh.						Totals.											
	Returned within 1 year.			Returned after 1 year.			Returned within 1 year.			Returned after 1 year.			Returned within 1 year.			Returned after 1 year.		
	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957	1954-1955	1955-1956	1956-1957
Under 12 years.....	1	7	11	...	...	...	1	2	...
12 years.....	7	4	12	...	...	...	4	3	...
13 years.....	10	12	37	...	...	...	5	8	...
14 years.....	11	10	...	...	...	6	3	...
15 years.....	7	22	23	11	8	...	6	6	...
16 years.....	21	21	26	13	7	...	7	8	...
17 years.....	36	21	38	...	4	...	4	14	...
18 years and over.....	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	9	...
Totals.....	84	100	161	24	35	53	...	...	...

TABLE 20.

AGES AND PERIODS OF DETENTION OF CHILDREN DISCHARGED FROM INSTITUTIONS AND TRUANT SCHOOLS.

Age.	Under 6 months.			6 to 12 months.			1 year.			2 years.			3 years.			Total.		
	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.	1954- 1955.	1955- 1956.	1956- 1957.
Training School for Girls, Parramatta.																		
13 years	...	...	3	5	3	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	7
14 "	...	...	2	6	7	16	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	19
15 "	2	...	4	11	11	19	6	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	16	24
16 "	1	...	3	19	17	35	3	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	21	43
17 "	1	1	3	27	16	20	9	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	38	18	28
17 " +	5	...	4	18	16	14	6	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	30	17	20
Total	9	1	19	86	70	108	30	16	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	127	87	141

Training School for Girls, Parramatta.

13 years	...	...	3	5	3	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	7
14 "	...	...	2	6	7	16	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	19
15 "	2	...	4	11	11	19	6	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	16	24
16 "	1	...	3	19	17	35	3	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	21	43
17 "	1	1	3	27	16	20	9	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	38	18	28
17 "	+	5	...	4	18	16	14	6	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	30	17	20
Total	9	1	19	86	70	108	30	16	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	127	87	141

Mt. Penang--Main Institution.

14 years	...	7	1	13	14	13	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	14	21	15
15 "	4	12	11	43	42	70	3	5	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	59	89
16 "	16	14	10	43	60	78	14	4	8	...	...	1	...	...	...	73	78	97
17 "	10	15	9	49	62	56	12	6	7	2	...	...	...	...	1	73	83	73
18 "	+	...	13	6	32	32	45	2	3	3	...	2	1	...	...	34	50	55
Total		30	61	37	180	210	262	31	18	27	3	2	2	1	244	291	329

Institution for Boys, Tamworth.

Training School for Boys, Mittagong.

8 years	1	1
9 "	2	1	2	2
10 "	...	...	...	...	1	2	11	14	9	8	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
11 "	...	...	...	...	1	9	19	18	14	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
12 "	...	...	...	...	5	30	31	14	18	17	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
13 "	1	...	...	...	1	20	39	74	47	23	22	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	22
14 "	...	1	1	...	7	9	16	17	11	10	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
14 , +	...	...	...	...	7	9	16	17	11	10	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Total	1	1	2	37	96	170	110	79	75	5	3	2	1	...	...	...	154	179	249		

TABLE 20—*continued.*

Training School for Girls, Thornleigh.

13 years	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
14 "	1	...	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1
15 "	1	1	5	1	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	10
16 "	...	1	8	5	3	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	4	9
17 "	...	3	2	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	2
17 "	+	2	...	...	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	1
Total	4	5	16	14	10	7	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	16	23

Mt. Penang—Privilege Cottage.

14 years	5	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	3
15 "	8	7	3	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	7	8
16 "	12	21	6	...	4	17	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	25	28
17 "	18	31	7	2	9	24	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	40	46
18 " +	20	17	4	...	7	12	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	24	23
Total	63	77	21	2	20	60	...	...	27	...	...	...	...	...	...	65	97	108

St. Heliers, Muswellbrook.

14 years	...	...	...	4	12	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	12	7
15 "	2	1	...	19	21	22	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	22	23
16 "	...	...	...	17	26	23	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	28	24
17 "	...	...	...	12	16	17	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	18	18
18 "	+	1	1	5	8	10	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	10	10
Total	3	2	...	57	83	79	6	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	90	82

“Anglewood” Special School, Burradoo (Truants).

8 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
9 "	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	3	3	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	8	1
10 "	...	...	...	2	...	3	3	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7	
11 "	...	...	2	4	3	2	6	4	4	5	1	1	2	...	...	...	8	9	17	
12 "	...	2	4	4	2	7	4	2	4	4	2	...	1	...	...	...	14	8	15	
13 "	1	2	4	7	1	10	6	6	10	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	16	11	26	
14 "	2	2	6	7	14	9	11	11	5	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	19	30	17	
14 , , +	1	2	2	6	14	9	11	11	5	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	65	65	91	
Total	4	8	19	20	22	38	32	27	31	8	8	3	1	...	...	65	65	91		

TABLE 21

CHILDREN COMMITTED TO INSTITUTIONS, COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF THE MINISTER, RELEASED ON PROBATION AND COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF AN APPROVED PERSON.

	1954-1955.					
	Metropolitan and Suburban Courts.		Country Courts.		Totals.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Committed to an Institution	433	85	259	51	692	136
Committed to the care of the Minister	105	94	89	78	194	172
Released on Probation and committed to the care of an Approved Person.	1,046 61	236 85	707 45	121 41	1,753 106	357 126
TOTALS	1,645	500	1,100	291	2,745	791

TABLE 21—*continued*.

	1955-1956.					
	Metropolitan and Suburban Courts.		Country Courts.		Totals.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Committed to an Institution	653	104	297	40	932	144
Committed to the care of the Minister	138	159	77	63	215	222
Released on Probation and committed to the care of an Approved Person.	1,529 51	322 86	826 43	89 25	2,355 94	411 111
TOTALS	2,353	671	1,243	217	3,596	888

TABLE 21—*continued*

	1956-1957.					
	Metropolitan and Suburban Courts.		Country Courts.		Totals.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Committed to an Institution	783	153	327	62	1,110	215
Committed to the care of the Minister	181	176	74	82	255	258
Released on Probation and committed to the care of an Approved Person.	1,464 66	382 97	900 78	137 41	2,364 144	519 138
TOTALS	2,494	808	1,379	322	3,873	1,130

TABLE 22.

OFFENCES COMMITTED BY CHILDREN RELEASED ON PROBATION AND COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF AN APPROVED PERSON BY METROPOLITAN AND SUBURBAN COURTS.

Offences.	1954-55.			1955-56.			1956-57.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Steal	420	32	452	527	59	586	567	52	619
Break, Enter and Steal	263	13	276	478	12	490	370	15	385
Receiving	24	1	25	27	...	27	25	2	27
Take and Use Car	24	6	30	60	5	65	65	6	71
Assault	4	...	4	43	1	44	31	1	32
Sex Offences	21	...	21	65	...	65	69	...	69
Malicious Damage	28	1	29	18	...	18	20	...	20
Uncontrollable	12	25	37	23	37	60	34	37	71
Neglected	163	231	394	176	255	431	183	348	531
Truancy	48	...	48	71	11	82	51	...	51
Others	100	13	113	92	28	120	115	18	133
Totals	1,107	322	1,429	1,580	408	1,988	1,530	479	2,009

TABLE 23

OFFENCES COMMITTED BY CHILDREN RELEASED ON PROBATION AND COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF AN APPROVED PERSON BY COUNTRY COURTS.

Offences.	1954-55.			1955-56.			1956-57.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Steal	280	23	303	332	18	350	350	28	378
Break, Enter and Steal	190	4	194	243	5	248	246	7	253
Receiving	9	...	9	10	...	10	15	1	16
Take and Use Car	35	...	35	66	1	67	51	6	57
Assault	6	...	6	12	2	14	26	1	27
Sex Offences	44	...	44	30	...	30	53	...	53
Malicious Damage	25	...	25	37	...	37	42	...	42
Uncontrollable	26	12	38	21	6	27	27	18	45
Neglected	69	120	189	61	80	141	79	109	188
Truancy	12	...	12	4	...	4	3	...	3
Others	56	3	59	53	2	55	86	8	94
Totals	752	162	914	869	114	983	978	178	1,156

TABLE 24.
AGES OF CHILDREN RELEASED ON PROBATION AND COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF AN APPROVED PERSON

Age in Years.	1954-1955.				1955-56.				1956-1957.			
	Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
	Metropolitan and Suburban Courts.	Country Courts.										
Under 8 years	42	28	49	37	48	25	41	26	46	21	35	23
8 years	13	18	5	2	16	13	9	2	18	21	10	5
9 years	28	19	9	3	32	20	5	4	45	29	7	5
10 years	59	39	8	7	66	36	7	5	46	30	6	8
11 years	47	41	5	1	99	44	5	3	80	52	11	7
12 years	105	57	15	7	140	60	18	9	135	95	23	8
13 years	188	97	30	19	295	110	46	11	209	107	63	10
14 years	241	144	45	21	313	179	73	11	283	172	89	29
15 years	130	120	59	26	188	145	66	17	231	167	90	27
16 years	146	97	58	23	204	117	82	14	225	137	77	26
17 years	99	78	38	15	150	107	43	12	168	114	49	24
18 years	7	9	9	6	1	...	16	12	3	...
Not reported	2	5	...	1	20	15	12	...	28	21	16	6
Totals	1,107	752	321	162	1,580	869	408	114	1,530	978	479	178

TABLE 25.
PERIOD FOR WHICH CHILDREN WERE RELEASED ON PROBATION AND COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF AN APPROVED PERSON.

Period of Probation.	1954-1955.				1955-1956.				1956-1957.			
	Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.		Boys.		Girls.	
	Metropolitan and Suburban Courts.	Country Courts.										
Under 6 months	6	2	4	...	3	1
6 months	37	10	8	5	60	10	19	6	33	19	18	4
Over 6 and under 12 months	211	86	148	134	308	4	170	1	270	28	181	22
12 months	402	338	97	50	773	448	114	46	791	597	186	69
Over 12 and under 24 months	298	43	9	10	257	20	46	3	291	55	26	7
24 months	113	180	21	16	136	250	21	28	91	178	21	22
Over 24 and under 36 months	13	12	4	5	3	1	1	...	4	12	4	2
36 months	5	48	3	16	10	96	2	12	16	44	5	16
Over 36 months	22	32	31	26	27	31	32	17	30	33	36	28
Not reported	1	2	9	...	1	4	12	2	7
Totals	1,107	752	321	162	1,580	869	408	114	1,530	978	479	178

TABLE 26.
JUVENILES RELEASED ON PROBATION AND COMMITTED TO THE CARE OF AN APPROVED PERSON BY CHILDREN'S COURTS IN THE STATE.

	1955-56.			1956-57.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number of children on Probation and in the care of an approved person under Departmental supervision at beginning of year	2,116	527	2,643	2,510	547	3,057
Number released on Probation:-						
Metropolitan and Suburban Courts ...	1,529	322		1,464	382	
Country Courts.....	826	89		900	137	
Number committed to the care of an approved person:-			2,971			3,165
Metropolitan and Suburban Courts ...	51	86		66	97	
Country Courts.....	43	25		78	41	
Number discharged from Probation during year	1,965	446		1,952	426	
Number discharged from the care of an approved person during year	90	56		79	83	
Number on probation and in the care of an approved person at end of year ...	2,510	547	3,057	2,987	605	3,682

TABLE 27.
AFTERCARE—EX INSTITUTION CASES.

	1955-56.			1956-57.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number of Aftercare cases at beginning of year	394	69	463	462	64	526
Number placed under Aftercare supervision during year	722	103	825	861	160	1021
Number discharged during year.....	654	108	762	740	148	888
Number remaining under supervision at end of year	462	64	526	583	76	659

TABLE 28.

CASES OF UNSATISFACTORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REPORTED FROM PUBLIC AND CERTIFIED SCHOOLS.

	1954-1955.			1955-1956.			1956-57.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
From Public Schools	6,257	4,813	11,070	6,355	5,187	11,542	6,204	4,790	10,994
From Private Secular and Junior Denominational Schools	816	869	1,685	858	785	1,643	825	750	1,575

TABLE 29.

PROSECUTIONS OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL DEFAULT THROUGHOUT NEW SOUTH WALES.

	1954-55.			1955-56.			1956-57.		
	Parents.	Children.	Total.	Parents.	Children.	Total.	Parents.	Children.	Total.
Public Instruction (Amendment) Act	272	107	379	216	107	323	247	84	331
Child Welfare Act .....	...	185	185	...	195	195	...	221	221
Totals	272	292	564	216	302	518	247	305	552

TABLE 30A.

PROSECUTIONS FOR SCHOOL DEFAULT AT THE METROPOLITAN CHILDREN'S COURT.
(Child Welfare Act and Public Instruction Act.)
1956-1957.

Method of Disposal.	Child Welfare Act.		Public Instruction Act.		Totals.		Totals.
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
Children—							
To Institution	17	...	...	...	17	...	17
To Truant School.....	32	...	6	...	38	...	38
Released on Probation	66	38	36	...	102	38	140
Committed to the Care of the Minister .....	...	3	...	...	...	3	3
Committed to the Care of an Approved Person	2	3	...	...	2	3	5
Not Proceeded with, etc.	4	2	3	...	7	2	9
Committed to an Institution—Order Suspended	1	1	...	...	1	1	2
Variation of Order	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Parents—							
Fined .....	}	...	...	...	...	...	67
Not Proceeded with, etc.							14
Discharged .....							...
Totals.....	123	47	45	...	168	47	296

TABLE 30B.

CHARGES AGAINST ADULTS IN RESPECT OF JUVENILES.

Method of Disposal.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Fined	28	16	16
Not Proceeded With .....	...	...	7
Other Orders Made	1	4	4
Totals	29	20	27

TABLE 31.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR EXEMPTION FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

How Dealt With.	1954-55.						1955-56.						1956-57.					
	Boys.			Girls.			Boys.			Girls.			Boys.			Girls.		
	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.
Granted Complete Exemption	1,516	228	1,744	1,670	316	1,986	1,473	222	1,695	1,613	292	1,905	1,584	272	1,856	1,692	298	1,
Granted partial or temporary exemption	48	7	55	232	53	285	50	6	56	219	49	268	31	3	34	189	27	
Declined	445	79	524	393	89	482	425	62	487	358	73	431	385	43	428	349	60	
Withdrawn	52	16	68	61	16	77	58	10	68	56	19	75	47	8	55	45	6	
Totals	2,061	330	2,391	2,356	474	2,830	2,006	300	2,306	2,246	433	2,679	2,047	326	2,373	2,275	391	2

TABLE 32.

AGES AND SEXES OF CHILDREN APPLYING FOR EXEMPTIONS.

	1954-55.						1955-56.						1956-57.					
	Boys.			Girls.			Boys.			Girls.			Boys.			Girls.		
	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.
Under 14 years	47	8	55	86	21	107	31	8	39	61	17	78	37	4	41	48	17	65
Over 14 years	2,014	322	2,336	2,270	453	2,723	1,973	292	2,265	2,188	415	2,603	2,005	326	2,331	2,222	373	2,595
Totals	2,061	330	2,391	2,356	474	2,830	2,004	300	2,304	2,249	432	2,681	2,042	330	2,372	2,270	390	2,660

TABLE 33.

REASONS FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Reason for Application for Exemption.	1954-55.						1955-56.						1956-57.					
	Boys.			Girls.			Boys.			Girls.			Boys.			Girls.		
	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.	State.	Non-State.	Total.
Domestic Necessity	96	12	108	516	88	604	96	8	104	507	81	588	63	8	71	483	83	566
Health	27	2	29	65	7	72	34	3	37	42	15	57	23	4	27	47	5	52
Necessitous circumstances	388	53	441	273	73	346	483	80	563	360	52	412	525	90	615	354	74	428
Business College and Special Classes.....	1,053	167	1,220	1,046	200	1,246	910	136	1,046	923	192	1,115	1,012	174	1,186	987	162	1,149
Dancing and Music Lessons .....	...	1	1	2	1	3	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	2

TABLE 34.

LICENCES ISSUED AUTHORISING CHILDREN TO ENGAGE IN STREET TRADING.

Boys.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
14 years	456	460	410
15 years	86	78	89
Totals	542	538	499

TABLE 35.

NUMBER OF LICENCES ISSUED AUTHORISING CHILDREN TO BE EMPLOYED IN PLACES OF AMUSEMENT OR ENTERTAINMENT.

	1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Number of licences in operation at the beginning of year	9	9	3	2	...	2
Number of applications received during year	43	319	58	405	64	222
Number of applications declined during year	1	3	2	1	1	2
Number of applications withdrawn during year .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Number of licences issued during year	42	316	56	404	63	220
Number of licences in operation at end of year	3	2	2	2	...	...

TABLE 36.

AGES OF CHILDREN GRANTED LICENCES TO BE EMPLOYED IN PLACES OF AMUSEMENT OR ENTERTAINMENT.

Age in Years.	1954-55.			1955-56.			1956-57.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
7-8 years	1	23	24	4	20	24	...	12	12
8-9 years	3	29	32	1	20	21	3	15	18
9-10 years	1	33	34	8	53	61	3	22	25
10-11 years	4	41	45	6	54	60	11	30	41
11-12 years	8	51	59	9	72	81	8	28	36
12-13 years	11	49	60	9	88	97	10	34	44
13-14 years	7	39	46	7	46	53	14	35	49
14-15 years	4	38	42	9	38	47	10	30	40
15-16 years	3	13	16	3	13	16	4	14	18
Totals	42	316	358	56	404	460	63	220	283

TABLE 37.

PLACES LICENSED UNDER PART VII, CHILD WELFARE ACT, 1939, FOR RECEPTION OF CHILDREN APART FROM THEIR PARENTS.

	1955-1956	1956-1957
Institutions and Homes licensed for the Reception of more than Five Children	112	111
Number of Children under Seven Years resident in such Institutions and Homes at end of year	1,107	1,052
Homes licensed for the Reception of Five Children or less	184	241
Number of children under Seven Years in such Homes at end of the year.....	204	251

TABLE 37A.

ISSUE OF MILK TO DAY NURSERIES, KINDERGARTENS, ETC., UNDER STATE GRANTS (MILK) ACT, 1950.

	1956-1957.
Number of centres receiving milk	337
Number of children attending daily and receiving milk	9,366
Amount of milk supplied daily (pints)	4,574

TABLE 38.

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN.

AGES OF CHILDREN ON ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA.

Date.	Under 6 years.		Under 15 years.		Under 21 years.		Totals.
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
1954-55 ...	4	1	76	21	215	3	320
1955-56 ...	5	...	37	14	197	4	257
1956-57 ...	1	...	28	2	189	8	228

TABLE 39.

PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN ON ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA

	1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Big Brother Movement	209	...	187	...	183	...
Barnardo Homes	44	9	23	8	20	1
Fairbridge Schools	27	13	13	8	10	2
Methodist Homes .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
United Protestant Association	7	...	11	...	...	...
Catholic Homes	1	...	...	1	...	...
Displaced Persons (Minors) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Others (Nominated)	7	3	5	1	5	7
Totals	295	25	239	18	218	10

TABLE 40.

DISCHARGES FROM PLACEMENT SINCE ARRIVAL IN AUSTRALIA.

Original Placement.	1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Big Brother Movement	354	...	533	...	260	...
Barnardo Homes	6	5	7	3	37	11
Fairbridge Schools	9	3	2	2	2	2
Other Placements.....	11	9	13	6	19	8
Totals	376	17	555	11	318	21

TABLE 43.

RECIPIENTS AND CHILDREN CONCERNED IN ALLOWANCES GRANTED UNDER SECTION 27 OF THE CHILD WELFARE ACT AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Number of Recipients.	Number of Children.	Expenditure.
1954-1955	2,208	5,756	£ 166,026 17 6
1955-1956	2,214	5,960	173,311 7 9
1956-1957	2,312	6,363	165,272 0 0

TABLE 41.

DISCHARGES FROM ORIGINAL PLACEMENT.

Reasons for Discharge.	1954-55.		1955-56.		1956-57.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Over Age	238	6	39	1	36	9
Left Australia*.....	24	1	3	...	1	...
Returned to Parents	13	1	2	2	12	...
Adopted	2	...	2	...	2	1
Moved to Other States	30	3	15	1	8	1
Deaths	1	...	...	...	...	...
Exemptions	68	6	494	7	259	10
Totals	376	17	555	11	313	21

Children under guardianship at 30th June, 1955, 1,170; at 30th June, 1956, 863; at 30th June, 1957, 754. *Altered from "Returned to U.K." as some children have gone to other countries.

TABLE 44A.

INTERSTATE DESTITUTE PERSONS' RELIEF ACT. NEW MAINTENANCE ORDERS COLLECTED IN OTHER STATES FOR PERSONS RESIDENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

State.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Tasmania	50	6	3
Queensland	48	56	61
South Australia	2	21	16
Victoria	15	46	44
Western Australia	3	9	8
Totals	118	138	132

TABLE 44B.

NEW MAINTENANCE ORDERS ENFORCED IN NEW SOUTH WALES FOR PERSONS RESIDENT IN OTHER STATES OF AUSTRALIA.

State.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Tasmania	34	52	5
Queensland	39	34	40
South Australia	15	9	9
Victoria	21	19	39
Western Australia	4	4	17
Totals	113	118	110

TABLE 42.

RECIPIENTS OF ALLOWANCES UNDER SECTION 27 OF THE CHILD WELFARE ACT, GROUPED ACCORDING TO ELIGIBILITY.

Ground of Eligibility.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Women who are alone in bringing up children	1,243	1,237	1,347
Women whose husbands are incapacitated or in gaol	942	952	937
Men whose wives are not assisting in bringing up children and who are incapacitated.....	23	25	28
Totals	2,208	2,214	2,312

TABLE 45.

AFFILIATION SECTION.

Particulars.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
No. of requests for assistance in affiliating children...	461	504	573
No. of cases presented to Court, together with Deeds and Agreements obtained	257	277	194
No. of Court Orders made, Deeds and Agreements obtained	252	271	183
No. of Appeals—			
By Defendant—Upheld	2	1	4
By Defendant—Dismissed	5	7	1
By Complainant—Upheld .....	...	...	...
By Complainant—Dismissed	3	1	...
By Defendant—Withdrawn.....	1	...	1
By Complainant—Withdrawn	3	...	...

TABLE 46.

REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR YEAR 1956-57.

Head Office.		Institutions.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Maintenance of children under the Child Welfare Act	56,890 2 5	Sales of Farm Produce—
Sundry Collections	4,753 2 11	Training Farm for Boys, Berry
		Mt. Penang Training School, Gosford
		St. Heliers, Muswellbrook
		Training School for Boys, Mittagong
		Miscellaneous Collections
	£61,643 5 4	£15,535 16 3

TABLE 47.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE VOTE, 1956-57.

Head Office.		Institutions.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries and Payments in nature of Salary.....	263,590 19 7	Salaries and Payments in the nature of Salary... 374,873 16 11
Workers' Compensation Insurance	724 0 0	Workers' Compensation Insurance 2,439 19 0
Tea Money	51 2 0	Repairs to Buildings, etc. 34,987 5 3
Rent	4,601 0 3	Travelling and Removal Expenses 2,796 16 6
Travelling and Removal Expenses, etc.	24,952 3 9	Maintenance of Motors, etc. 2,689 1 1
Motor Vehicles, etc.	3,383 14 1	Freight, Cartage and Packing 4,298 2 4
Freight and Cartage.....	509 4 7	Books, Periodicals, and Papers 800 0 0
Books, Periodicals, and Papers	233 5 1	Fees, for Services Rendered 9,418 11 4
Fees for Services Rendered	8,098 17 2	Laundry Expenses 3,491 8 8
Postal and Telephone Expenses	6,896 10 0	Postal, Expenses 1,181 7 6
Stores, Provisions, etc.	235 15 4	Stores, Provisions, etc. 165,973 7 3
Minor Expenses N.E.I.	70 7 4	Minor Expenses N.E.I. 32 18 8
Maintenance of Children under the Child Welfare Act, Section 23	115,463 1 11	Grants to Clergymen 150 0 0
Special Clothing and School Requirements for Wards	2,120 9 6	Gratuities to Inmates of Institutions 1,447 2 9
Maintenance of Children in Shelters, etc.	22,615 18 5	Purchase and Installation of Plant and Recreational Equipment 2,825 12 1
Funeral Expenses of Wards	126 17 0	Fencing, Roads, and Ground Improvers 1,818 6 11
Expenses of Witnesses Deemed Material in Affiliation Proceedings and in circumstances of Destitution ...	21 2 0	Purchase of Livestock 475 0 0
	£453,694 8 0	Mt. Penang Training School—Bus Subsidy 1,022 18 11

TABLE 48.

STATEMENT OF COSTS OF ESTABLISHMENTS FOR YEAR 1956-57.

Establishment.	Salaries.	Maintenance and Working Expenses.	Renovations and Repairs to Buildings.	Rates.	Light, Heat and Power.	Telephone Service.	Total.
Anglewood	18,410 7 1	12,929 3 2	438 11 2	427 5 10	350 1 1	173 7 5	32,728 15 2
Berry	13,044 14 10	9,232 0 6	246 13 3	36 1 0	180 16 7	47 13 0	12,241 15 8
Bidura	11,592 12 7	6,297 0 7	417 15 3	72 5 11	535 3 4	64 12 6	18,979 10 2
Brougham	5,165 3 7	2,983 17 11	2,335 2 2	62 19 3	162 1 11	37 3 10	10,746 9 2
Brush Farm	13,442 13 0	6,014 19 3	268 14 2	94 7 3	439 15 11	42 8 5	20,302 18 0
Castle Hill House	3,463 1 1	3,191 11 8	49 3 1	16 9 2	122 8 7	28 12 10	6,871 6 5
Corelli	7,236 5 11	2,715 12 2	89 19 0	37 6 10	409 19 2	44 7 5	10,533 10 6
King Edward	6,832 15 1	3,157 11 3	1,474 11 5	55 16 0	197 17 5	47 10 10	11,766 2 0
Lynwood Hall	11,728 1 2	4,517 12 0	397 17 3	14 14 0	580 0 6	66 19 11	17,305 4 10
May Villa	5,046 0 5	2,716 16 11	37 6 3	2 12 0	114 2 5	25 17 6	7,942 15 0
Metropolitan Boys' Shelter ...	15,967 9 6	4,098 13 8	1,858 8 9	.....	510 9 1	216 15 9	22,642 16 9
Metropolitan Girls' Shelter ...	6,768 13 9	2,469 12 0	143 6 10	7 16 0	113 14 1	44 19 0	9,548 1 8
Mittagong Training School ...	51,371 7 9	39,123 4 3	1,162 5 8	905 3 10	1,035 5 6	267 5 0	93,864 12 0
Montrose Hostel	9,377 17 4	3,154 16 6	601 18 4	20 17 9	442 4 9	34 2 8	13,631 17 4
Mt. Penang, Gosford	64,367 19 3	36,280 6 7	2,223 6 7	94 4 0	1,392 17 6	262 16 4	104,621 10 3
Myee Hostel	7,438 9 7	2,733 9 8	362 11 7	49 12 9	619 14 5	65 17 7	11,269 15 7
Parramatta and Thornleigh ...	37,335 6 7	17,866 0 2	17,227 8 5	281 4 4	2,435 13 0	290 14 4	75,436 6 10
Royleston	12,882 5 2	6,051 3 7	611 14 6	49 0 11	272 16 7	59 4 11	19,926 5 8
St. Heliers	16,999 8 9	9,368 7 9	1,935 4 7	.....	1,220 17 0	126 6 7	29,350 4 8
Tamworth	12,840 8 9	2,598 19 3	392 9 0	192 0 7	140 9 9	68 7 4	16,232 14 8
Yarra Bay House	5,428 12 1	6,474 4 6	74 8 6	36 1 0	180 16 7	47 13 0	12,241 15 8
Yasmar	25,857 3 10	7,222 18 9	175 5 8	174 18 6	1,435 16 5	226 5 5	35,092 8 7
Weroona	6,277 18 0	4,732 17 4	263 2 8	152 1 6	155 15 8	42 2 4	11,623 17 6
Werrington Park	3,578 2 3	2,239 9 5	90 9 9	9 6 10	140 10 3	38 6 2	6,096 4 8
Winbin	6,407 4 5	1,119 13 10	2 16 0	23 19 6	228 7 8	45 18 10	7,828 0 3
	378,560 1 9	199,281 2 8	32,880 9 10	3,516 16 9	13,514 1 9	2,478 7 3	630,231 0 0

TABLE 46.

REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR YEAR 1956-57.

Head Office.			Institutions.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Maintenance of children under the Child Welfare Act	56,890	2 5	Sales of Farm Produce—		
Sundry Collections	4,753	2 11	Training Farm for Boys, Berry	9,397	17
			Mt. Penang Training School, Gosford	1,393	1
			St. Heliers, Muswellbrook	3,289	1
			Training School for Boys, Mittagong	273	6
			Miscellaneous Collections	1,182	9
	£61,643	5 4		£15,535	16

TABLE 47.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FROM DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE VOTE, 1956-57.

Head Office.			Institutions.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Salaries and Payments in nature of Salary.....	263,590	19 7	Salaries and Payments in the nature of Salary...	374,873	16 1
Workers' Compensation Insurance	724	0 0	Workers' Compensation Insurance	2,439	19
Tea Money	51	2 0	Repairs to Buildings, etc.	34,987	5
Rent	4,601	0 3	Travelling and Removal Expenses	2,796	16
Travelling and Removal Expenses, etc.	24,952	3 9	Maintenance of Motors, etc.	2,689	1
Motor Vehicles, etc.	3,383	14 1	Freight, Cartage and Packing	4,298	2
Freight and Cartage.....	509	4 7	Books, Periodicals, and Papers	800	0
Books, Periodicals, and Papers	233	5 1	Fees, for Services Rendered	9,418	11
Fees for Services Rendered	8,098	17 2	Laundry Expenses	3,491	8
Postal and Telephone Expenses	6,896	10 0	Postal, Expenses	1,181	7
Stores, Provisions, etc.	235	15 4	Stores, Provisions, etc.	165,973	7
Minor Expenses N.E.I.	70	7 4	Minor Expenses N.E.I.	32	18
Maintenance of Children under the Child Welfare Act, Section 23	115,463	1 11	Grants to Clergymen	150	0
Special Clothing and School Requirements for Wards	2,120	9 6	Gratuities to Inmates of Institutions	1,447	2
Maintenance of Children in Shelters, etc.	22,615	18 5	Purchase and Installation of Plant and Recreational Equipment	2,825	12
Funeral Expenses of Wards	126	17 0	Fencing, Roads, and Ground Improvers	1,818	6
Expenses of Witnesses Deemed Material in Affiliation Proceedings and in circumstances of Destitution ...	21	2 0	Purchase of Livestock	475	0
			Mt. Penang Training School—Bus Subsidy	1,022	18
	£453,694	8 0		£610,721	14

TABLE 48.

STATEMENT OF COSTS OF ESTABLISHMENTS FOR YEAR 1956-57.

Establishment.	Salaries.	Maintenance and Working Expenses.	Renovations and Repairs to Buildings.	Rates.	Light, Heat and Power.	Telephone Service.	Total.
Anglewood	18,410 7 1	12,929 3 2	438 11 2	427 5 10	350 1 1	173 7 5	32,728 15 2
Berry	13,044 14 10	9,232 0 6	246 13 3	36 1 0	180 16 7	47 13 0	12,241 15 8
Bidura	11,592 12 7	6,297 0 7	417 15 3	72 5 11	535 3 4	64 12 6	18,979 10 2
Brougham	5,165 3 7	2,983 17 11	2,335 2 2	62 19 3	162 1 11	37 3 10	10,746 9 2
Brush Farm	13,442 13 0	6,014 19 3	268 14 2	94 7 3	439 15 11	42 8 5	20,302 18 0
Castle Hill House	3,463 1 1	3,191 11 8	49 3 1	16 9 2	122 8 7	28 12 10	6,871 6 5
Corelli	7,236 5 11	2,715 12 2	89 19 0	37 6 10	409 19 2	44 7 5	10,533 10 6
King Edward	6,832 15 1	3,157 11 3	1,474 11 5	55 16 0	197 17 5	47 10 10	11,766 2 0
Lynwood Hall	11,728 1 2	4,517 12 0	397 17 3	14 14 0	580 0 6	66 19 11	17,305 4 10
May Villa	5,046 0 5	2,716 16 11	37 6 3	2 12 0	114 2 5	25 17 6	7,942 15 0
Metropolitan Boys' Shelter ...	15,967 9 6	4,098 13 8	1,858 8 9	.....	510 9 1	216 15 9	22,642 16 9
Metropolitan Girls' Shelter ...	6,768 13 9	2,469 12 0	143 6 10	7 16 0	113 14 1	44 19 0	9,548 1 8
Mittagong Training School ...	51,371 7 9	39,123 4 3	1,162 5 8	905 3 10	1,035 5 6	267 5 0	93,864 12 0
Montrose Hostel	9,377 17 4	3,154 16 6	601 18 4	20 17 9	442 4 9	34 2 8	13,631 17 4
Mt. Penang, Gosford	64,367 19 3	36,280 6 7	2,223 6 7	94 4 0	1,392 17 6	262 16 4	104,621 10 3
Myee Hostel	7,438 9 7	2,733 9 8	362 11 7	49 12 9	619 14 5	65 17 7	11,269 15 7
Parramatta and Thornleigh ...	37,335 6 7	17,866 0 2	17,227 8 5	281 4 4	2,435 13 0	290 14 4	75,436 6 10
Royleston	12,882 5 2	6,051 3 7	611 14 6	49 0 11	272 16 7	59 4 11	19,926 5 8
St. Heliers	16,999 8 9	9,368 7 9	1,935 4 7	.....	1,220 17 0	126 6 7	29,350 4 8
Tamworth	12,840 8 9	2,598 19 3	392 9 0	192 0 7	140 9 9	68 7 4	16,232 14 8
Yarra Bay House	5,428 12 1	6,474 4 6	74 8 6	36 1 0	180 16 7	47 13 0	12,241 15 8
Yasmar	25,857 3 10	7,222 18 9	175 5 8	174 18 6	1,435 16 5	226 5 5	35,092 8 7
Weroona	6,277 18 0	4,732 17 4	263 2 8	152 1 6	155 15 8	42 2 4	11,623 17 6
Werrington Park	3,578 2 3	2,239 9 5	90 9 9	9 6 10	140 10 3	38 6 2	6,096 4 8
Winbin	6,407 4 5	1,119 13 10	2 16 0	23 19 6	228 7 8	45 18 10	7,828 0 3
	378,560 1 9	199,281 2 8	32,880 9 10	3,516 16 9	13,514 1 9	2,478 7 3	630,231 0 0