

other psychiatric problems.¹⁷⁸¹ In spite of this the morale among the residents was said to be predominantly positive and reflected, "... the approach of the staff in their dealings with their clients."¹⁷⁸²

There was an increase in older and more sophisticated inmates being admitted to the Home in 1979.¹⁷⁸³ A more violent trend was evident that reflected the national pattern.¹⁷⁸⁴ These types of residents were not admitted during 1981.¹⁷⁸⁵ In 1982 the Director instructed social workers, "... to make known to the Police and the Court the other provisions for disposition of these cases, e.g., bail etc., to try and reduce the number of older, more sophisticated boys admitted during the night."¹⁷⁸⁶

In 1979, due to the increased numbers in the Dunedin Boys' Home and the decreased numbers in the Girls' Home, approval was given for admission of boys to the Dunedin Girls' Home as part of a pilot scheme for a mixed institution.¹⁷⁸⁷

Due to a psychiatric unit catering for intensive treatment of adolescents, many residents (from out of town) were sent to Dunedin Boys' Home so they could attend this unit. Approximately 20-25% of residents were receiving treatment at this unit at any one time.¹⁷⁸⁸

The goals and aims of the Institution which had guided the development of the Home for many years were codified in the Code of Practice in 1983.¹⁷⁸⁹

In 1984 the Principal said that the number of admissions from Dunedin for less than 48 hours (which amounted to half of the admissions from Dunedin) needed to be questioned. He considered that they were probably just a convenience for the police and not within the spirit of the Children and Young Persons Act 1974.¹⁷⁹⁰

In 1984 the Principal classified the groups catered for at the Home and their effectiveness.¹⁷⁹¹ These included shelter cases, remand and assessment residents, "unfosterables" and others.¹⁷⁹²

There was a decline in the use of the Dunedin Institutions in 1985 as future planning was, "... directed towards replacing both these institutions with one joint facility."¹⁷⁹³

The Principal commented on the challenge of adapting to the Criminal Justice Act 1985 and the problems this created for staff in adapting to a role they were not accustomed to.¹⁷⁹⁴

A fifteen year old charged with murder was held at the Home for seven months in 1985 which the Principal said initially created a feeling of tension.¹⁷⁹⁵

¹⁷⁸¹ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁷⁸² Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁷⁸³ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁷⁸⁴ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁷⁸⁵ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁷⁸⁶ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁷⁸⁷ Memo, illegible author, Director to Director-General 13/12/79, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27221.

¹⁷⁸⁸ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁷⁸⁹ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁷⁹⁰ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁷⁹¹ Paper on Groups Catered for at Dunedin Boys' Home, K McCullough, Principal, Dunedin Boys' Home (undated circa 1984), Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27220.

¹⁷⁹² Paper on Groups Catered for at Dunedin Boys' Home, K McCullough, Principal, Dunedin Boys' Home (undated circa 1984), Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27220. For more on these groups, see the paper.

¹⁷⁹³ Memo, MP Doolan, Director, Residential Services to Director-General, Dunedin Boys' Home Admissions F5000002186501.

¹⁷⁹⁴ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

The Visiting Committee was concerned about the increase in violent crimes committed by younger children in 1987.¹⁷⁹⁶ The Minister of Social Welfare appreciated the concern and the strain this placed on the staff and stated that it was of great concern to the Department and was being kept in mind with the reorganisation of adolescent services.¹⁷⁹⁷

In 1987 the Internal Audit report noted that the Dunedin Boys' home was a short stay institution but that this would change with the merge with the Girls' Home to create, "... an all purpose Residential resource centre serving the southern part of the South Island."¹⁷⁹⁸

This Audit report also noted that occupancy rates had been very high to the extent that alternative care arrangements were sought for some residents to make space for new admissions.¹⁷⁹⁹

The Principal advised the Department that numbers in the Home had reached a critical level in mid 1987 with 24 boys in residence when there was only a bed capacity of 18.¹⁸⁰⁰ It was causing serious overcrowding and asked if community placements for some residents could be made earlier than planned.¹⁸⁰¹

The Audit Report of 1988 stated that the Home provided a short term remand and assessment programme for boys aged up to 17.¹⁸⁰²

It is uncertain when the Home closed, but it had become "Lookout Point" Residential Care facility by 1990.¹⁸⁰³ Information suggests that this facility closed with the opening of the Elliot Street Residential Facility in 1991.

Length of stay

There is limited information available about length of stay for residents prior to 1979.

It was noted in 1967 that some boys were in residence at the Home for 12 months or longer if it was considered that they were benefiting from their stay.¹⁸⁰⁴

The statistics available in relation to discharge placement show that the majority of residents were discharged home from 1978 to 1980, and the other placements were

¹⁷⁹⁵ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁷⁹⁶ Visiting Committee Report, RW Harley, Chairperson, 25/06/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000002670197.

¹⁷⁹⁷ Letter, Michael Cullen, Minister of Social Welfare to Mr RW Harley, Chairman, Visiting Committee Dunedin (undated circa 1987), Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000006661405.

¹⁷⁹⁸ Audit Report: JA Blair, Assistant Director Residential Services and GM Honeyman, Internal Auditor 25/09/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986.

¹⁷⁹⁹ Audit Report: JA Blair, Assistant Director Residential Services and GM Honeyman, Internal Auditor 25/09/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986.

¹⁸⁰⁰ Memo, KJ McCullough, Principal to Regional Director, Southern Regional Office, 09/07/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000002670198.

¹⁸⁰¹ Memo, KJ McCullough, Principal to Regional Director, Southern Regional Office, 09/07/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000002670198.

¹⁸⁰² Audit Report: Milton Honeyman, Internal Auditor and Peter Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (Residential) 12/09/88, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000005243986.

¹⁸⁰³ Internal Audit Report on Dunedin Resource Centre, GM Honeyman and JSD Wallis 11-13/07/90, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986.

¹⁸⁰⁴ Extract from report of BM Manchester 13-17/03/67 & 17-21/04/67, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27221.

to foster or family homes, another institution, psychiatric care or to the justice department.¹⁸⁰⁵

From 1980 to 1982, approximately a quarter of residents stayed at the Home for less than 48 hours. This increased to about one-third in 1982 and 1983 but was at 25% for both 1984 and 1985. The number of residents who stayed between 48 hours and one week increased from 7% to 24% during 1980 to 1984 and decreased to 18% in 1985. Those who stayed at the Home between one week and a month varied from 16% to 23%, but no trend was evident. Those in residence between one and three months dropped from 27% in 1980 to 8% in 1982 and had increased again to approximately 25% for 1983 to 1985. The number of residents who stayed between three to six months decreased from 16% in 1980 to 10% in 1985. The number of residents who stayed over 6 months ranged from 1% to 11% during 1980 to 1985 but with a possible declining trend being evident.¹⁸⁰⁶

In 1979 difficulties continued in relation to placement of residents, meaning that often the residents stayed longer than necessary.¹⁸⁰⁷ In 1980 the Principal commented that the nature of the programmes run in the home which focused on the individual meant that many of the boys stayed for longer than expected of a "short-term" institution and it was his view that the need of the client rather than the designation of the institution should determine the length of stay.¹⁸⁰⁸

It was noted in 1980 that some of the residents who came to the Home were part of an intensive treatment programme that lasted longer than three months. These residents made up a "good percentage" of the longer staying residents as most treatment programmes lasted over three months.¹⁸⁰⁹

In 1981 the Principal was concerned about some of the longer stay residents whom he considered had not been placed due to inability to find a placement rather than a need to stay in residential care.¹⁸¹⁰

The problems with residents staying for periods longer than necessary was not a problem in 1982 and the Principal attributed this to, "... the new policy of admissions and discharges whereby admissions are only approved for good social work reasons and a finite task is agreed to at the time. Previously the institution had to accept whatever decision the staff in the District involved made."¹⁸¹¹

The problem with residents staying longer than necessary was occasionally experienced in 1983 and 1984.¹⁸¹²

There was one boy who was in residence for five months while awaiting a court hearing in relation to a serious assault charge and he was then sentenced to 9 months in youth prison.¹⁸¹³

In 1985 there was a slight increase in the number of residents staying over six months due to the planned medium term programmes.¹⁸¹⁴

¹⁸⁰⁵ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221; Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁰⁶ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197; Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁰⁷ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁸⁰⁸ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁰⁹ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸¹⁰ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸¹¹ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸¹² Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197; Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸¹³ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

The significantly longer length of stay at Dunedin Boys' and Dunedin Girls' Home was said to warrant further investigation in 1985.¹⁸¹⁵ There is no record that this was investigated further.

There was a shortage of foster placements in 1985 which resulted in a few residents staying longer at the Home rather than for the benefit of the resident.¹⁸¹⁶

Programmes and care

There is negligible information held on Dunedin Boys' Home files in relation to programmes and care pre 1978.

In 1967 Mr Manchester (designation unknown) commented that the home seemed to run quietly and well with a minimum number of rules and regulations.¹⁸¹⁷

In 1971 the Principals of both the Dunedin Homes had difficulty requesting material for their Homes. This matter was taken up with the Senior Clerk and the District Child Welfare Officer and a monthly meeting for requesting supplies was organised.¹⁸¹⁸

The Principal noted in 1978 that the staff tried to maintain a, "... positive programme tailored to meet individual needs" to cater for the increasing number of emotionally or psychiatrically disturbed residents.¹⁸¹⁹ He further reported that visitors to the home were of the view that this had some degree of success and there was a general improvement in behaviours and attitudes in most cases.¹⁸²⁰

A review of the role of the Institutions in Dunedin in 1979 resulted in a trial of "co-educational" institutions. Boys were placed in Dunedin Girls' Home but due to building restrictions no girls had been placed at Dunedin Boys' Home.¹⁸²¹

There was no particular model of social work practice followed at Dunedin Boys' Home, because the staff adopted an "eclectic approach" which included aspects of behaviour modification, reality therapy and group work as well as psychiatric care when thought necessary.¹⁸²² Dunedin Boys' Home worked on the premise that every boy who entered the Home should gain some benefit from the experience.¹⁸²³

In 1980 working with families as a unit increased in frequency.¹⁸²⁴ A Physical Education and Recreation Instructor was employed for two nights a week when staffing levels were low because of the inability to find a remedial teacher. Another person also came to the home to concentrate on craft and cultural activities. Boys

¹⁸¹⁴ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸¹⁵ Memo, MP Doolan, Director, Residential Services to Director-General, Dunedin Boys' Home Admissions F5000002186501.

¹⁸¹⁶ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸¹⁷ Extract from report of BM Manchester 13-17/03/67 & 17-21/04/67, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27221.

¹⁸¹⁸ Extract from Report of PS Bygate, Inspector 29-30/04/71, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing 27221.

¹⁸¹⁹ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁸²⁰ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁸²¹ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁸²² Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸²³ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸²⁴ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

who were interested were encouraged to learn basic cooking and baking skills from the Cook.¹⁸²⁵

Staff organised sports events regularly and arranged for individual residents to join outside groups or clubs. Part of the programme was "free time" where the residents were encouraged to use their time constructively and organise their own activities.¹⁸²⁶ Several camps were organised where the boys learned about the countryside. Mr English, Residential Social Worker, also taught regular groups outdoor skills such as climbing. Films were also shown on a Sunday night and education movies shown periodically.¹⁸²⁷

The Principal commented in 1981 that the Home had, "... been able to avoid the imposition of a rigid discipline on the boys in care, but rather to seek to develop in them the motivation to discipline their own behaviour."¹⁸²⁸ The Principal also stated that the programme emphasis was on the individual and that social work staff were expected to create a programme for each boy on their caseload to aim for their earliest return to the community.¹⁸²⁹

In 1981 the Principal commented that, "The advent of 'Planning for Children in Care' has increased the workload for staff, but has been greeted most enthusiastically by them."¹⁸³⁰

During 1981 a homework support and remedial education fee for service instructor was added to the programme and the physical education instructor continued.¹⁸³¹

During 1982 the Principal said there was an improvement in the planning of recreation and leisure activities which increased staff awareness of the need to plan ahead.¹⁸³²

The Principal was concerned in 1982 over the lack of a constructive programme available for those residents who were not in school or outside work training and requested the employment of a fulltime instructor to organise and supervise a programme for these residents.¹⁸³³

A long term programme was established in 1982 for one resident who could not be found a suitable placement either in the community or in another institution.¹⁸³⁴ This programme continued and he also received regular schooling for the first time in many years.¹⁸³⁵ He had to be withdrawn from the school and was placed in Cherry Farm.¹⁸³⁶

A hobbies workshop was established in 1982 and was to be used in 1983 to also provide manual training.¹⁸³⁷ The manual training class was run in 1983 for four hours per week.¹⁸³⁸

¹⁸²⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁸²⁶ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁸²⁷ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁸²⁸ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸²⁹ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸³⁰ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸³¹ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸³² Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸³³ Memo, KJ McCullough, Principal to Director-General 16/07/82, Dunedin Boys Home Education F5000005243980.

¹⁸³⁴ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸³⁵ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸³⁶ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸³⁷ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸³⁸ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

A community skills programme was implemented for four hours a week in 1982, as was a work programme to upgrade Camp Sutton. This camp was also used as a venue for outdoor skills training which was run by a volunteer.¹⁸³⁹

The upgrade of Camp Sutton continued in 1983 and it was used much more often despite difficulties in staff coverage. The Principal commented that the home was seeing, "... so many benefits accruing to the boys that we are committed to continuing the programme despite the problems involved."¹⁸⁴⁰ Camps were run during all the school holidays and on long weekends. Short camps were also held once a month as part of the assessment programme to ascertain responses to different environments and the development of skills.¹⁸⁴¹

A pre-admission assessment was developed in late 1983 as an informal process due to concerns about residents knowing the reason for their admission, social work staff being unsure of their role and contracts regarding parent and child were unclear.¹⁸⁴² This assessment included a meeting between the parents, the field social worker, the residential social worker and the boy in question. At this meeting certain things like alternatives to admission or the plan for admission were discussed. This assessment proved beneficial for a number of reasons including that the boy and his family felt listened to, there were no hidden agendas and a more realistic assessment as to length of stay could be made.¹⁸⁴³ This informal assessment was not carried out in 1984 due to staff sickness but its implementation was recommended by the residential social worker.¹⁸⁴⁴

In 1985 the Principal commented that whenever a resident was at the Home, "...a specific programme was developed designed to meet his particular needs."¹⁸⁴⁵

A behavioural management programme based on token economy was in operation at the Home in 1985.¹⁸⁴⁶ The Principal commented that this was frequently reviewed and psychologists and other advisors were utilised in this programme.¹⁸⁴⁷

A programme of care was set up specifically for the boy who was remanded on a murder charge in 1985.¹⁸⁴⁸

A social skills programme was introduced in 1985 and was said to make a major contribution to the work of the staff.¹⁸⁴⁹

Recreation and leisure activities continued much the same in 1985 with Camp Sutton being used to full capacity and the general programme run at the Home to assist residents in using their spare time constructively.¹⁸⁵⁰

The 1988 internal audit commented that the Home was, "... providing a good nurturing programme which is controlled and orientated to behavioural

¹⁸³⁹ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁴⁰ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁴¹ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁴² Memo, JA Fallon, Residential Social Worker to Principal, Dunedin Boys' Home 03/09/84, Dunedin Boys' Home Admissions 27220.

¹⁸⁴³ Memo, JA Fallon, Residential Social Worker to Principal, Dunedin Boys' Home 03/09/84, Dunedin Boys' Home Admissions 27220.

¹⁸⁴⁴ Memo, JA Fallon, Residential Social Worker to Principal, Dunedin Boys' Home 03/09/84, Dunedin Boys' Home Admissions 27220.

¹⁸⁴⁵ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁴⁶ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁴⁷ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁴⁸ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁴⁹ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁵⁰ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

management.¹⁸⁵¹ A Boys Programme Appraisal was completed which looked at different areas of the institution and what action steps could be taken to assist in establishing the new Resource Centre.¹⁸⁵²

Work and training

There is no information on file preceding 1980 apart from limited information from 1967.

A community member raised an issue about a resident working in the garden instead of going to school and that perhaps the saving of wages through getting residents to do the work was the reason the department considered it justified. The response from the District Child Welfare Officer was that this resident was only working in the garden as he was awaiting placement in a school and it was school holidays. It was also noted that there was a horticulturalist employed at the Home but that some general tuition was also given in gardening and horticulture.¹⁸⁵³

The staff ratio in 1980 prevented a full-time work training programme although there were various work projects. The Principal considered that this was an area where more could be done.¹⁸⁵⁴ This continued in 1981 but it was noted that Fee for Service hours could be allocated to overcome this problem.¹⁸⁵⁵

In 1980 the unemployment rate was high but the staff still found work for those residents who really wanted it. It was noted that it was increasingly difficult to motivate residents to work when their peers in the community were happy on the unemployment benefit.¹⁸⁵⁶

A work programme for residents who were not at school was initiated in 1982 due to the increase in Fee for Service staff.¹⁸⁵⁷ Some work experience placements for residents were also found in the community.¹⁸⁵⁸ This involved up to four boys a day and involved work around the Home and in the community.¹⁸⁵⁹

The Boys' on work training in 1985 assisted in the maintenance of two primary schools by repairing and painting the playground equipment.¹⁸⁶⁰

Resident-to-resident issues

There are only a few resident to resident issues contained on the files.

¹⁸⁵¹ Audit Report: Milton Honeyman, Internal Auditor and Peter Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (Residential) 12/09/88, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000005243986.

¹⁸⁵² Audit Report: Milton Honeyman, Internal Auditor and Peter Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (Residential) 12/09/88, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000005243986. For more detail see the audit report.

¹⁸⁵³ *Evening Star* newspaper column, undated (circa June 1967), Dunedin Boys' Home Education 27221.

¹⁸⁵⁴ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁸⁵⁵ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁵⁶ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁸⁵⁷ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁵⁸ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁵⁹ Memo, KJ McCullough, Principal to Director-General 16/07/82, Dunedin Boys Home Staffing F5000005243980.

¹⁸⁶⁰ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

The Manager of the Boys' Home noted in 1971 that one of the residents at the Home made claims about an exceptional amount of tormenting from the other residents. It was considered that this was, "fairly correct as his babish [sic] ways and tendency to burst into tears certainly make him susceptible to unkind comments."¹⁸⁶¹

In 1979 it was recorded that one resident had been forcing some of the younger boys to answer to his many demands.¹⁸⁶²

In 1985 the visiting committee investigated an assault complaint made by one resident against another.¹⁸⁶³ There are no further details or an outcome held on file relating to this investigation.

Any complaints made to the visiting committee by residents were, "...thoroughly investigated by the Principal and findings relayed to the Committee."¹⁸⁶⁴

The Internal Audit inspection commented that while there was a good understanding of the rights of young people to be heard, there was a lack of a formal system to ensure that a grievance has been fully explored and fairly dealt with.¹⁸⁶⁵ The Principal needed to set up a comprehensive system to meet with the regulations.¹⁸⁶⁶ "While the boys spoken to were aware that a grievance could be taken to senior staff or the Visiting Committee, staff in general expressed concern regarding their ability to convey the content of the Regulations to the boys."¹⁸⁶⁷ It was thought that this would be addressed with the rewrite of the comic book.¹⁸⁶⁸

In [REDACTED] a resident made a complaint to a staff member about being sexually abused by another resident. This was investigated by the social worker and the police were contacted. While the investigations were taking place the alleged offender and the victim were separated with the offender being placed in secure. The allegations were confirmed by the police and it came to light that the offender had sexually abused other residents as well.¹⁸⁶⁹ The Regional Director read the note about this spate of sexual assaults and considered, "... that the staff have satisfactorily investigated the various incidents. It is not clear what other follow-up work has occurred."¹⁸⁷⁰ It was recognised that incidents of sexual assault were damaging for both residents, and it was considered essential that the Group Care Practice developed to minimise the occurrence of assault.¹⁸⁷¹ The Acting Principal was told to check that the supervision of residents was adequate and to examine the training

¹⁸⁶¹ Memo, BP Maher, Manager to DCWO Dunedin 20/05/71, Dunedin Boys' Home Complaints 27221.

¹⁸⁶² Memo, Miss J Curran, for Director to Director-General 24/12/79, Dunedin Boys' Home Incidents F5000005243980.

¹⁸⁶³ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁶⁴ Visiting Committee Report, RW Harley, Chairperson, 25/06/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁶⁵ Audit Report: JA Blair, Assistant Director Residential Services and GM Honeyman, Internal Auditor 25/09/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986.

¹⁸⁶⁶ Audit Report: JA Blair, Assistant Director Residential Services and GM Honeyman, Internal Auditor 25/09/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986.

¹⁸⁶⁷ Audit Report: JA Blair, Assistant Director Residential Services and GM Honeyman, Internal Auditor 25/09/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986.

¹⁸⁶⁸ Audit Report: JA Blair, Assistant Director Residential Services and GM Honeyman, Internal Auditor 25/09/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986. The comic book was used to introduce boys to the rules and operation of the home.

¹⁸⁷⁰ Memo, V Milner, for Regional Director to Acting Principal [REDACTED] Dunedin Boys' Home Incidents F5000003461271.

¹⁸⁷¹ Memo, V Milner, for Regional Director to Acting Principal [REDACTED] Dunedin Boys' Home Incidents F5000003461271.

needs of staff in relation to dealing with sexually abused children.¹⁸⁷² Some interim response was expected, but there is nothing on the files to show whether this occurred.

Health and medication

There is negligible information on the Dunedin Boys' Home files prior to 1978.

In 1978 the Psychological Services of the Department of Education were considered to be continuing to provide a first class referral service, and every boy was assessed within a short time of admission.¹⁸⁷³ There was a reduction in the time the Psychological Services had available in 1979, but assessments were still obtained for the necessary cases.¹⁸⁷⁴ This was still the case in 1980, but the Principal noted that a requested report was always forthcoming and assessments were at their same high standard.¹⁸⁷⁵

A consultative service with the Psychology Department was set up by Dr Allan Fraser in 1979.¹⁸⁷⁶

The general medical services were of a high standard in 1978. The general practitioner visited the Boys' Home twice a week for routine examinations, but was also available outside these times.¹⁸⁷⁷ In 1980 each boy was examined by the General Practitioner on admission to the Home and he made specialist referrals when deemed necessary.¹⁸⁷⁸

There was a medical room at the Home which was being brought up to standard in 1980 and was equipped to deal with minor ailments.¹⁸⁷⁹ New equipment for the medical room in 1982 allowed for the General Practitioner to carry out more treatment at the Home rather than escorting residents to his surgery.¹⁸⁸⁰

There was difficulty in obtaining psychiatric assessment and treatment in 1978.¹⁸⁸¹ This changed in 1979 with an improvement in the quality and availability of the psychiatric services from the Department of Psychological Medicine.¹⁸⁸²

The Department of Psychological Medicine was still used in 1980 for psychiatric opinion and treatment. There were reservations about this facility as there were no in-patient facilities and the staff had to transfer the boys to and from there daily, and the staff at the unit were unable to cope with some of the behaviour of the boys and they frequently had to be withdrawn from the programme for a time which often caused erratic treatment.¹⁸⁸³ The Principal remarked that this programme was the only one in the southern South Island that catered for adolescents intensively and that some boys were sent to Dunedin Boys' Home just so they could receive

¹⁸⁷² Memo, V Milner, for Regional Director to Acting Principal [REDACTED], Dunedin Boys' Home Incidents F5000003461271.

¹⁸⁷³ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁸⁷⁴ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221

¹⁸⁷⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁸⁷⁶ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁸⁷⁷ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁸⁷⁸ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁸⁷⁹ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁸⁸⁰ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁸⁸¹ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁸⁸² Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁸⁸³ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

treatment at that unit.¹⁸⁸⁴ An unknown author stated that this was an undesirable situation that should not be occurring.¹⁸⁸⁵ This concern continued in 1981 and the unit was not considered to be achieving positive results for those residents who attended. Most of the residents were excluded or withdrawn from the programme.¹⁸⁸⁶ There was a decrease in the referrals to Dunedin Boys' Home for treatment in the unit. In 1983 the Principal stated that, "We have continued to work with the Out-Patient section of the Department of Psychological Medicine and have found them very helpful and co-operative."¹⁸⁸⁷ This opinion continued into 1984.¹⁸⁸⁸

The Principal commented that there were still difficulties experienced in gaining placements at Cherry Farm Hospital even when referrals had been made and the quality of service is also a cause of concern.¹⁸⁸⁹ This continued in 1980 and the only admissions Cherry Farm would take were through remand.¹⁸⁹⁰ A better relationship with Cherry Farm developed in 1984 due to working with them in their treatment of an inmate.¹⁸⁹¹

In 1981 Mrs Lyn Jenner of Psychological Services commenced working with the Home four hours a week. She was involved in the assessment programme as well as staff training.¹⁸⁹²

The Principal raised concern about the vetting process of admission to the Boys' Home in relation to one resident who was admitted in an acute state of schizophrenia and only when he became critical was he admitted to Cherry Farm.¹⁸⁹³

In 1982 a trainee psychologist was used to help implement a programme for the long-term residents.¹⁸⁹⁴

A review the input from Psychological Services was planned in 1984.¹⁸⁹⁵

Psychiatric hospital placement

There is no information on file in relation to psychiatric hospital placement other than that referred to above.

Staffing

There is limited information on the Dunedin Boys' Home files about staffing preceding 1973.

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- ¹⁸⁸⁴ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197
 - ¹⁸⁸⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197
 - ¹⁸⁸⁶ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.
 - ¹⁸⁸⁷ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.
 - ¹⁸⁸⁸ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.
 - ¹⁸⁸⁹ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.
 - ¹⁸⁹⁰ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197
 - ¹⁸⁹¹ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.
 - ¹⁸⁹² Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.
 - ¹⁸⁹³ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.
 - ¹⁸⁹⁴ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.
 - ¹⁸⁹⁵ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

Staffing Organisation

The response to concerns in 1958 that the Boys' Home was overstaffed was that due to the nature of the residents, continuous supervision was necessary and staffing levels were based on this need. It was also noted that a Home of this kind did not have stable working conditions due to often working over full capacity with difficult residents, so there were times with less numbers of residents and staffing could be considered generous, but other times for the Home to operate effectively, the staff had to work overtime.¹⁸⁹⁶

The need for supervision in the Home was prominent in 1973 with criticisms about the lack of supervision being made public in the papers by a Magistrate in Dunedin in relation to a group of residents absconding from the Home.¹⁸⁹⁷ Extra night supervision was required for the safety of the residents including the danger of fires, suicide and assaults sexual or otherwise, and for the protection of the community.¹⁸⁹⁸ Two night staff positions were established in 1973 as a result of this.¹⁸⁹⁹

In 1974 three staff provided day supervision at the Home, the manager and two housemasters.¹⁹⁰⁰

RJ Wilson, Inspector, stated in 1974 that Dunedin Boys' home had always been understaffed but due to the low number of residents and the low grading of the manager, no action had previously been taken. He recommended that due to increasing numbers of residents that the unfilled gardening instructor and attendant position be disestablished and that the positions of an assistant manager and a housemaster be introduced.¹⁹⁰¹

In 1974 a member of the public wrote to the Minister of Justice praising Dunedin Boys' Home. "It amazes me that a staff could be found who are all completely dedicated to serving the welfare of the boys and interested in each one personally. The manager aims at having the boys lead a happy, healthy, full and interesting life controlled by a wise and understanding discipline."¹⁹⁰²

In 1975 the staff establishment totalled 14.¹⁹⁰³ There was no Assistant Principal position within this establishment which was considered unsatisfactory as it meant that a housemaster had to assume control of the Institution in the Principal's absence.¹⁹⁰⁴ There were two housemasters, one full time night watch attendant, one part-time night watch attendant and three secure attendants. The recommendation was to establish the position of Assistant Principal, a further housemaster position and disestablish the part-time night watch position.¹⁹⁰⁵ This

¹⁸⁹⁶ Memo, CE Peek, for Director of Education 05/11/58, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 13470.

¹⁸⁹⁷ Note for File, AL Mitchell 11/05/73, Dunedin Boys' Home Supervision F5000005243980.

¹⁸⁹⁸ Memo, AL Mitchell, Acting A/D Institution Services to Assistant Director-General, Administration 18/05/73, Dunedin Boys' Home Supervision F50000054243980.

¹⁸⁹⁹ Minute Sheet, Return of Night Duty Staff, illegible author, 15/05/73, Dunedin Boys' Home Supervision F5000005243980.

¹⁹⁰⁰ Memo, W McCarroll, Chief Executive Officer to the Director, Social Work 00/02/74, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000005423980.

¹⁹⁰¹ Review of Establishment, Boys' Home, Dunedin, RJ Wilson, Inspector, (undated circa 1974), Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000005243980.

¹⁹⁰² Letter, Agnes Blackie, Retired Senior Physics Lecturer, Otago University to Dr Finlay, Minister of Justice 09/02/74, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27221.

¹⁹⁰³ Memo, W McCarroll, CEO to the Director, Social Work 14/01/75, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005243980.

¹⁹⁰⁴ Memo, W McCarroll, CEO to the Director, Social Work 14/01/75, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005243980.

¹⁹⁰⁵ Memo, W McCarroll, CEO to The Director, Social Work 14/01/75, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005243980.

was approved.¹⁹⁰⁶ The position of an Assistant housemaster as a permanent reliever at the Home was recommended and approved in 1975.¹⁹⁰⁷

Recommendation for the appointment of another night watchman for the Home was considered urgent in early 1977 as it was believed that housemasters should not be required to cover this position.¹⁹⁰⁸ This was agreed to by the Department of Social Welfare in late 1977.¹⁹⁰⁹

In 1978 the Principal remarked that Dunedin Boys' Home had been fortunate to have a stable, experienced staff over the previous years.¹⁹¹⁰

During most of 1978 two of the three residential social worker's positions were relieved by assistant residential social workers. The staff in this class were not considered to be as experienced as the Principal wished.¹⁹¹¹

1978 was the first time there were females in the position of assistant residential social workers and this was said by the Principal to have a good effect on the residents.

A second night attendant was employed for two months during 1978. The Principal commented that this was a great benefit in coping with a difficult situation and it uplifted staff morale and there was a greater feeling of security amongst the residents.¹⁹¹²

Several trainees came to the Home for observation periods in 1978, but there were problems such as communication and inability to relate to the course content.¹⁹¹³

In 1979, the Principal commented that even with the national increases in fee for service payments, this had not enabled the Boys' Home to attract part-time staff, even though there was a distinct need for several part-time remedial teachers.¹⁹¹⁴

There were acute shortages of trained staff at times in 1979. There were delays in making staff appointments, so relievers were employed to ease the situation. The Principal commented that the main difficulty was a shortage of suitable personnel available.¹⁹¹⁵ On two occasions, employment had to be terminated at short notice.¹⁹¹⁶ There is no further information regarding why this employment had to be terminated.

In early 1979 there was provision for only one Night Supervisor to be on duty at the Home unless there were high numbers or difficult residents. This was considered insufficient by the Principal and recommendation for the employment of two workers from a government employment scheme to provide additional night supervision was

¹⁹⁰⁶ Handwritten note by unknown author, 16/01/75 on Memo, W McCarroll, CEO to The Director, Social Work 14/01/75, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005243980.

¹⁹⁰⁷ Handwritten note by unknown author, 26/02/75 on Memo, W McCarroll, CEO to The Director, Social Work 25/02/75, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005243980.

¹⁹⁰⁸ Memo, JJ Terris for General Secretary to the Secretary, State Services Commission 29/03/77, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005243980.

¹⁹⁰⁹ Memo, JJW Bailey, for Secretary to the General Secretary 04/10/77, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005423980.

¹⁹¹⁰ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹¹¹ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹¹² Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹¹³ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹¹⁴ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹¹⁵ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹¹⁶ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

made.¹⁹¹⁷ In late 1979 the need for double night cover was considered to be urgent to avoid injury to staff and reduce high stress because of the older and more sophisticated inmates being admitted and also the problem with prowlers on the property.¹⁹¹⁸

Double night cover was gained in 1980 as the result of a threat of industrial action. The staffing established remained at 16¹⁹¹⁹ through the disestablishment of a position of one of the domestic staff who also helped with clerical duties, but head office approved part-time clerical assistance to combat this. The Principal stated that it allowed him and the Assistant Principal to devote more time to appropriate tasks such as planning and supervision.¹⁹²⁰

This restructuring in 1980 meant that there was a reduction in staff for supervision and other duties three days a week.¹⁹²¹

An assistant residential social worker resigned in 1980 and the position had not been filled by April 1981.¹⁹²² A relieving staff member was employed throughout 1980 to help cover this and this person was considered able to fit quickly into any vacancy that arose which maintained a level of continuity at the Home.¹⁹²³

The request for double night cover was made in 1980 due to potential threats from a resident.¹⁹²⁴ This was approved to be reviewed after one month.¹⁹²⁵

The Principal commented in 1980 that he, "... endeavoured to involve all staff in working with the boys in care regardless of their particular occupation group." It was planned to recommend non-social work staff for training courses in social work skills as part of their general development.¹⁹²⁶ By the end of 1981 the integration of all staff in working with the boys had been completed. This meant that while night and domestic staff were not involved in casework, they were involved in activities around the Institution and on various camps.¹⁹²⁷

There were two Fee for Service staff who worked a total of 16 hours a week in 1981.¹⁹²⁸ Mr NG Stevens (inspector) proposed the increased use of Fee for Service staff in order to overcome some of the staff ratio problems.¹⁹²⁹

The reorganisation of the domestic service in 1982 as part of the Principal's policy to integrate all staff in the social work task allowed for a more cohesive approach and staff resources were utilised more effectively.¹⁹³⁰

The Principal was concerned in 1982 over the inability to, "... achieve [sic] a fully professional standard in the casework aspect of the work done by Residential and

¹⁹¹⁷ Memo, TM Comer, Director to Director-General 21/03/79, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005423980.

¹⁹¹⁸ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹¹⁹ Memo, RJ McInteer, for Director-General to the Director, Dunedin 20/08/80, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005243980.

¹⁹²⁰ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹²¹ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹²² Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹²³ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁹²⁴ Memo, KJ McCullough, Principal to Director, Dunedin 02/05/80, Dunedin Boys' Home Supervision F5000005243980.

¹⁹²⁵ Memo, Director to Director-General 06/05/80, Dunedin Boys' Home Supervision 06/05/80, Dunedin Boys' Home Supervision F5000005243980.

¹⁹²⁶ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹²⁷ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹²⁸ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹²⁹ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹³⁰ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

Assistant Residential Social Workers" due to the diversity of task the staff had to undertake. A major part of this was the inability to run a constructive programme for the residents not attending school or outside work. Request was made for a full-time instructor to be appointed whose would be responsible for organising and supervising a full-time work programme for those boys.¹⁹³¹

The Home was also allocated 25 hours Fee for Service time to allow staff to implement appropriate programmes for the boy in long term residence. The Principal felt that this person proved to be a great asset to the Home.¹⁹³² A further 4 hours Fee for Service was used to provide a community skills programme.¹⁹³³ These Fee for Service hours continued in 1983 as well as 12.5 hours for a homework tutor.¹⁹³⁴

A submission made for a part time grounds man in 1983¹⁹³⁵ was approved in 1984.¹⁹³⁶

The Principal remarked that there were lengthy staff absences in 1984 due to injury, illness or vacancies.¹⁹³⁷ From March to September almost 50% of permanent staff were off work.¹⁹³⁸ Relievers were found and Kingslea staff assisted during this time.¹⁹³⁹

Several relieving staff were employed in 1985 to cater specifically for a programme that was set up for the resident on remand on a murder charge.¹⁹⁴⁰

The Principal commented in 1985 that while the half time clerical support was efficient, it would be vastly improved if the position was full time.¹⁹⁴¹

In 1985 a Senior Residential Social Worker position was established at the Boys' Home and the Assistant Principal position was disestablished.¹⁹⁴² Approval for a second senior residential social work position was gained and the position filled during the year, which enabled several new programmes to be set up and it increased supervision.¹⁹⁴³

The visiting committee commented that Mr K McCullough, Principal impressed them, "... with his sincerity, his very caring attitude towards the boys, his firm control of all aspects of the Home, and through Inservice and leadership makes every effort to obtain top performance from his staff."¹⁹⁴⁴

The staff in 1987 were considered to have had a long association with the institution and a wealth of experience.¹⁹⁴⁵ The visiting committee found in 1987 that staff were

¹⁹³¹ Memo, KJ McCullough, Principal to Director-General 16/07/82, Dunedin Boys Home Staffing F5000005243980.

¹⁹³² Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹³³ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹³⁴ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹³⁵ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹³⁶ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹³⁷ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹³⁸ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹³⁹ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁴⁰ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁴¹ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁴² Memo, Olwen Taylor, Advisory Officer to Assistant Director-General (Social Work) and others 23/05/85, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing F5000005243980.

¹⁹⁴³ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁴⁴ Visiting Committee Report, RW Harley, Chairperson, 25/06/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁴⁵ Audit Report: JA Blair, Assistant Director Residential Services and GM Honeyman, Internal Auditor 25/09/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986.

on the whole, "... dedicated and show a deep interest in the boys and make every effort to create the right climate for their rehabilitation."¹⁹⁴⁶

The increased recording that was required under the Regulations introduced in late 1986 was considered to have its advantages and was less onerous than was expected.¹⁹⁴⁷

Training and Supervision

Internal staff training continued in 1979.¹⁹⁴⁸ Training activities were reduced in 1980 due to the restructuring and smaller number of staff on shifts, but the Principal was working towards a schedule that would allow the same amount of training as had previously occurred.¹⁹⁴⁹

Two staff attended courses in Levin in 1979.¹⁹⁵⁰ In 1980 the majority of the staff attended external courses.¹⁹⁵¹ Most staff were nominated to go on training courses in 1981, but not all managed to attend. The Principal commented that, "There is a noticeable increase in both motivation and skills as a result of this policy."¹⁹⁵² The external training through residential courses and local courses run by other agencies continued to occur in 1983.¹⁹⁵³

In 1980 the assistant residential social workers had a small caseload and worked under the direct supervision of the residential social worker with whom they shared a shift.¹⁹⁵⁴ In 1981 this changed and the assistant residential social workers had a caseload independent of the residential social workers and were supervised by the Assistant Principal.

Staff supervision was carried out individually and in a group on a regular basis. There were weekly staff meetings with separate meetings for the social work and domestic staff. Individual supervision meetings had previously happened once a week, but by 1980 were reduced to two in three weeks due to staffing restructure.¹⁹⁵⁵ There was an "open door" policy which allowed for informal supervision.¹⁹⁵⁶

The Home attempted to prepare all staff for responsibility at the next level by giving them some duties belonging to those in that level under supervision.¹⁹⁵⁷

In 1981 the night attendant's roster was changed to give them one day shift in three weeks and they were asked to carry out a wider range of work.¹⁹⁵⁸

A National Code of Practice began to be developed in 1982 in which all staff were involved in.¹⁹⁵⁹

¹⁹⁴⁶ Visiting Committee Report, RW Harley, Chairperson, 25/06/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁴⁷ Audit Report: JA Blair, Assistant Director Residential Services and GM Honeyman, Internal Auditor 25/09/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986.

¹⁹⁴⁸ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁴⁹ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁵⁰ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹⁵¹ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁵² Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁵³ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁵⁴ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁵⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁵⁶ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁵⁷ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁵⁸ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁵⁹ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

The approach to training in 1983 was by way of seminars. This was considered by the Principal to be a more positive approach as a wider group could be involved and positive results were seen in the performance of staff.¹⁹⁶⁰

The formal training programme was curtailed in 1984 due to the need for "on the job" training for new staff and relievers, but courses were still attended if they were able to be.¹⁹⁶¹

Comment was made in 1984 over the lack of properly trained staff in the Dunedin Institutions.¹⁹⁶² It was considered that the management, "... should be trained professional social workers with energy, skill and the ability to facilitate and oversee the implementation of an effective social work service."¹⁹⁶³ Those at assistant or residential social work level were said to need to have professional competence but still retain the ability to interact with the young people they work with.¹⁹⁶⁴ It was felt that the institutions in Dunedin were not getting people with good qualifications and that there was a need for a minimum qualification level for new staff being appointed in order provide the care necessary.¹⁹⁶⁵

A formal staff development programme was established in 1985.¹⁹⁶⁶

A major team building exercise was the main focus of staff training in 1985, but some seminars covering a variety of topics were held.¹⁹⁶⁷

The "Care Profile" was considered to be of great value in 1985 and the Principal stated that the staff, "... found that to implement this process we needed to devote a lot of time in the preparatory stages if we were to maximise its full potential."¹⁹⁶⁸

The internal report of 1987 noted that because the Assistant Principal had a large amount of clerical work to do, "... an unusually high social work supervision workload is being placed in the Senior Residential Social Worker."¹⁹⁶⁹

Concerns with staff and specific incidents

Privacy Act s 29(1)(a) Affairs of another

An unknown author stated in 1950 that the Housemasters needed to record in more detail the incidents of the day involving the residents.¹⁹⁷⁰

A visit to the Home in [REDACTED] showed that [REDACTED] Manager, was not operating the officially approved timetable for staff but one he had created which benefited himself. He was told to revert to the authorised timetable.¹⁹⁷¹ This was considered to be an example of, "... [REDACTED] taking the law into his own hands and is one of the probable reasons he had created difficulties for himself with his own staff and that in district office."¹⁹⁷²

¹⁹⁶⁰ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁶¹ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁶² Paper from P Campbell, Principal, Dunedin Girls' Home 09/11/84, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27220.

¹⁹⁶³ Paper from P Campbell, Principal, Dunedin Girls' Home 09/11/84, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27220.

¹⁹⁶⁴ Paper from P Campbell, Principal, Dunedin Girls' Home 09/11/84, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27220.

¹⁹⁶⁵ Paper from P Campbell, Principal, Dunedin Girls' Home 09/11/84, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27220.

¹⁹⁶⁶ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁶⁷ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁶⁸ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁶⁹ Audit Report: JA Blair, Assistant Director Residential Services and GM Honeyman, Internal Auditor

25/09/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000005243986.

¹⁹⁷⁰ Note on file, unknown author 24/02/50, Dunedin Boys' Home Staffing 13470.

In [redacted] a resident reported to a housemaster that [redacted] [redacted] had made indecent suggestions to him. The resident was interviewed by the Manager and [redacted] transferred to the Girls' Home while investigations took place. The Police were contacted to make enquiries. The Manager had some doubts about the resident's truthfulness but [redacted] admitted touching the resident indecently. Charges were laid and [redacted] was dismissed from employment and the information recorded for future protection.¹⁹⁷³

In 1978 a former resident claiming to be high on LSD came to the Home late at night with a sawn-off .303 rifle. This was aimed at the staff member on duty and then another staff member when he later arrived at the boys' request. The police were contacted and the boy spoke to a lawyer. The two staff spent some time calming the boy and were able to get the gun off him.¹⁹⁷⁴

A complaint was made by a resident's father as to his treatment by a staff member in 1980.¹⁹⁷⁵ The Principal was made aware of these allegations and satisfied himself that they were without substance.¹⁹⁷⁶

Schooling

There is very little information held on the Dunedin Boys' Home files relating to schooling prior to 1978.

In 1945 the school was off site and some distance away from the Home.¹⁹⁷⁷

In 1967 concern about schooling of residents was raised by a community member who had seen a resident of the Home working in the garden and not attending school. This matter was addressed and it was noted that there was a definite instruction about school attendance unless the resident is only in the Home for a day or so.¹⁹⁷⁸ The resident in question was awaiting admission to a local school and it was the school holidays.¹⁹⁷⁹

A part-time remedial teaching position was approved for Dunedin Boys' Home in 1970, but had not yet been appointed at the time of the memo.¹⁹⁸⁰

The Principal commented in 1978 that there was, "... a distinct need for several part-time remedial teachers as there is no resident teacher attached to the Home."¹⁹⁸¹ A remedial teacher was employed for ten hours a week in 1979, but had to resign due to ill-health and no suitable replacement could be found.¹⁹⁸² The Principal stated that this pointed to the need for the appointment of a permanent teacher to meet the needs of the local institutions.¹⁹⁸³ An unknown author stated that when this remedial

¹⁹⁷⁴ Memo, V Milner and S Donohue to Principal 12/01/78, Dunedin Boys' Home Incidents 27221.

¹⁹⁷⁶ Minute Sheet, KJ McCullough 01/09/80, Dunedin Boys' Home Complaints F5000000935060.

¹⁹⁷⁷ Memo, District Child Welfare Officer to Superintendent 16/05/45, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline 13470.

¹⁹⁷⁸ Evening star newspaper column, undated (circa June 1967), Dunedin Boys' Home Education 27221.

¹⁹⁷⁹ Evening star newspaper column, undated (circa June 1967), Dunedin Boys' Home Education 27221.

¹⁹⁸⁰ Memo, PA Silva, Psychologist to SEA Breach, District Senior Inspector of Schools, Department of Education 27/11/70, Dunedin Boys' Home Education F5000000673297.

¹⁹⁸¹ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹⁸² Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹⁸³ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

teacher was appointed, Dunedin could not produce evidence to support a teacher in each home, but were asked to give a proposal for a combined school.¹⁹⁸⁴ A part-time remedial teacher had still not been found in 1980.¹⁹⁸⁵

There was an improvement in the relationship between Dunedin Boys' Home and the local secondary schools in 1979.¹⁹⁸⁶

A pattern developed in 1980 whereby the majority of residents were of secondary school age, but there were difficulties in gaining acceptance for them in the local schools.¹⁹⁸⁷ The Principal stated that he looked forward to the day when Dunedin Boys' Home had a classroom and a permanent teaching position was established.¹⁹⁸⁸

Progress was made in 1981 to set up a classroom to serve the needs of both the Dunedin Boys' and Girls' Home.¹⁹⁸⁹ A senior Teacher's College student was also employed on a Fee for Service basis at the Home to assist the residents with homework supervision and remedial work.¹⁹⁹⁰

A departmental classroom was established in 1982 on the Dunedin Girls' Home grounds. It alleviated the serious concern over those residents who were unable to attend community schools as they were able to attend this class.¹⁹⁹¹ It was called Highcliff High School.¹⁹⁹² The curriculum of the school was, "... broadly based and keyed to the needs of our youngsters."¹⁹⁹³

There was close liaison between the Home and the school at all levels which consisted of weekly management meetings and caseworkers visiting the school at least twice a week if they had clients there.¹⁹⁹⁴ In 1983 the Principal commented that although effort was made to promote a close working relationship between the Home and the school, the physical distance at times caused problems.¹⁹⁹⁵

The Home worked more closely with the teacher of Highcliff High School to overcome some of the problems created by the physical distance between the Home and School. This involved regular visits and camps at Sutton.¹⁹⁹⁶

Manual classes for the school were held twice weekly in the Boys' Home workshop.¹⁹⁹⁷

1985 was considered an extremely positive year regarding the relationship between the Home and the school, but the Principal did note that the teacher felt isolated and there was a need for support from the Home and the Department of Education as well.¹⁹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁸⁴ Handwritten note on page 2, Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹⁸⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁸⁶ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

¹⁹⁸⁷ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197

¹⁹⁸⁸ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁸⁹ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁹⁰ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁹¹ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁹² Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁹³ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁹⁴ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁹⁵ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁹⁶ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁹⁷ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

¹⁹⁹⁸ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

In 1985 there was a teacher and a teacher's aide.¹⁹⁹⁹

The visiting committee hoped that 1987 would secure more teaching staff, especially for the secure unit.²⁰⁰⁰

Absconding

The District Child Welfare Officer requested that when a boy absconded from the Boys' Home, the senior staff member on duty was to give notification and the details of the absconding in writing. Parents and home districts were to be notified the same day the absconding happened unless the resident was returned within a matter of hours.²⁰⁰¹

The overcrowding of the Institution and the delays in placements resulted in a higher number of abscondings in the latter part of 1979.²⁰⁰²

There were 70 absconding incidents in 1980 and this was a major concern as it appeared that most were boys who had been in residence for a long time or had been readmitted to the Home.²⁰⁰³

The Principal reiterated the concern from the Principal's conference about the inability to deal with the absconding problem due to the older and more sophisticated boys being admitted who had already been through the institutional system.²⁰⁰⁴ Relationships with police became strained during this time, but improved after discussion with them about the difficulties in coping with these residents in an open institution.²⁰⁰⁵

The absconding rate returned to a low level in 1981 (there are no figures for this year) and the Principal considered this was due to the fact that the older, more sophisticated group were not admitted to the Home and with the re-introduction of corporal punishment.²⁰⁰⁶

The number of incidents of absconding totalled 15 in 1982.

The higher level of absconding in 1983 was attributed to a small number of residents who had been in the Home for a very long time and were overdue for placement in the community.²⁰⁰⁷

The number of absconding incidents in 1984 was 26 and this increased in 1985 to 41 incidents.²⁰⁰⁸

¹⁹⁹⁹ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁰⁰ Visiting Committee Report, RW Harley, Chairperson, 25/06/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000002670197.

²⁰⁰¹ Memo, TD Kirby, DCWO to Manager, Dunedin Boys' Home 22/03/71, Dunedin Boys' Home Absconding F500000673295.

²⁰⁰² Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

²⁰⁰³ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁰⁴ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁰⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁰⁶ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁰⁷ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁰⁸ Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197; Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

The Principal noted in 1984 that, "It appears that the boys generally do not consider absconding until something triggers them to do so, frequently an unsettled new boy."²⁰⁰⁹

In 1985 the Principal remarked that absconding was viewed as commonplace among residents.²⁰¹⁰

Secure care

There is no information in relation to secure care held on files prior to 1970 and there is negligible information about these facilities between 1973 and 1980.

It was noted in 1970 that the delays over the Boys' Home building programme resulted in "making do" with the secure facilities which were the same as recorded in 1962.²⁰¹¹ One room at the Home was being used as an admission area, and the Acting District Child Welfare Officer requested that this room be inspected to examine what safety measures would be needed for the room to be used as a secure area.²⁰¹²

The need for secure facilities at the Boys' Home was considered essential in 1973. Other than use of Police custody, there were no secure facilities available for difficult boys.²⁰¹³

The construction of secure facilities to hold up to four residents was under way in 1974 to be ready for use at the end of March.²⁰¹⁴ Three additional attendants were recommended to be established to staff the unit.²⁰¹⁵ The proposal was that the unit be staffed from 6am to 10pm and then half hourly checks were to be made by the night supervisor.²⁰¹⁶ This proposal was approved.²⁰¹⁷

In 1973 the proposed day-to-day duties in the secure area for when it was opened in 1974 involved a one hour exercise period, five hours of supervised lessons or work around the Home depending on the age of the residents, and recreation.²⁰¹⁸ It was to be staffed from 6:30am to 9:30am at a minimum and half hour nightly checks were envisaged to be made. Three attendants to cover this were recommended to be established.²⁰¹⁹ This was recommended to the Director-General.²⁰²⁰

²⁰⁰⁹ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰¹⁰ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰¹¹ Memo, EH Dudley, Acting District Child Welfare Officer to District Commissioner of Works 30/12/70, Dunedin Boys' Home Secure F500000925973.

²⁰¹² Memo, EH Dudley, Acting District Child Welfare Officer to District Commissioner of Works 30/12/70, Dunedin Boys' Home Secure F500000925973.

²⁰¹³ Memo, TD Kirby, for Director to Director-General 18/04/73, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000005423980.

²⁰¹⁴ Memo, W McCarroll, Chief Executive Officer to The Director, Social Work 00/02/74, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000005423980.

²⁰¹⁵ Memo, W McCarroll, Chief Executive Officer to The Director, Social Work 00/02/74, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000005423980.

²⁰¹⁶ Memo, W McCarroll, Chief Executive Officer to The Director, Social Work 00/02/74, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000005423980.

²⁰¹⁷ Handwritten note by illegible author on Memo, W McCarroll, Chief Executive Officer to The Director, Social Work 00/02/74, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000005423980.

²⁰¹⁸ Proposed day to day duties attached to Memo, KJ McCullough, Manager to The Director, Dunedin 04/12/73, Dunedin Boys' Home Secure F5000005423980.

²⁰¹⁹ Memo, KJ McCullough, Manager to The Director, Dunedin 04/12/73, Dunedin Boys' Home Secure F5000005423980.

In 1976 a staff member was assaulted by a resident in secure because he failed to follow standing instructions regarding the opening of the secure unit without back-up staff.²⁰²¹

The secure unit was not used as an admission area unless in compelling circumstances. Those admitted to secure were usually returned absconders or those who were at risk from self-injury or were a risk to others through violent behaviour.²⁰²² It was not used as a form of punishment.²⁰²³

The staffing ratio and physical limitations of the secure unit meant that it was not a therapeutic situation, which the Principal considered would be good for some residents.²⁰²⁴

The secure unit was also a major area of concern in 1980. It was considered by the Principal to be inadequate for anything other than short-term admission and until recent renovations (after a resident managed to break out of the unit) had not been capable of containing anyone completely intent on escaping.²⁰²⁵ More work was needed regarding general security of the building, but there had been no financial approval.²⁰²⁶ There was no prospect of major expenditure to upgrade the secure unit in 1981, but some minor alterations were to be made. These were to improve the conditions for the residents but would not overcome the defects in the unit design and the less than ideal staff ratio.²⁰²⁷

The length of stay in secure was limited to 48 hours unless the circumstances required a longer stay.²⁰²⁸

The majority of admissions to secure in 1981 and 1982 were made by Police during the night.²⁰²⁹ The number of direct admissions to the secure unit in 1982 was considered by the Principal to be disproportionately high due to the high number of residents admitted by Police when only night attendants were on duty.²⁰³⁰

In 1982 no teacher was able to visit the residents held in secure due to the staffing situation not allowing the unit to be staffed full time when it was in use.²⁰³¹

It was noted that following the Johnson report, all secure admissions had to be approved by the Principal or his deputy and this would begin in 1983.²⁰³²

The severe physical limitations of the secure unit were not rectified in 1982 but the "cage" surrounding the area had been removed. Plans were made to upgrade the unit in early 1983,²⁰³³ but the Principal commented that as with other smaller

²⁰²⁰ Memo, TD Kirby, Director to Director-General 14/12/73, Dunedin Boys' Home Secure F5000005423980.

²⁰²¹ Memo, KJ McCullough, Principal to Director, Dunedin 18/09/76, Dunedin Boys' Home Secure 27221.

²⁰²² Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰²³ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰²⁴ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰²⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰²⁶ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰²⁷ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰²⁸ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰²⁹ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197; Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰³⁰ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰³¹ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰³² Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰³³ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

institutions, "... our staffing situation does not allow for us to staff the unit full time when it is in use."²⁰³⁴

As a result of the policy of secure admissions needing the approval from a senior officer, the number of residents admitted through secure dropped from the 40s in the three preceding years to²⁰³⁵ 17 in 1983.²⁰³⁶ The Principal commented that this placed an added burden on himself and the Assistant Principal but there was no alternative.²⁰³⁷ The night attendant's began to settle the boys in the Home and the local police also became more selective when seeking an admission to the Home.²⁰³⁸

The secure renovations were completed in 1983 with the addition of a recreation room and the upgrading of the toilet/bathroom area.²⁰³⁹

The use of the secure unit continued to be at a low level in 1983 with only one resident remaining in secure custody for more than 3 days.²⁰⁴⁰

The Principal commented on the number of admissions to secure in 1984 being higher than he would have liked, but said that on examination they were mainly fifteen year old boys with a history at the Home.²⁰⁴¹ The admissions to secure from the Institution in 1984 were because of violent behaviour, absconding and two for drug abuse who were "seriously at risk".²⁰⁴²

Only two boys were held in secure for more than 72 hours in 1984 and this because one was awaiting transfer to Kohitere and was a serial absconder and the other was being held at the Home for 5 months pending a court appearance for a serious assault charge.²⁰⁴³

The use of secure increased in 1985.²⁰⁴⁴ The Principal commented that this increased use highlighted the inadequacies of the unit and that provision would have to be made to build a new unit to cope with the increase usage and remand periods.²⁰⁴⁵ There were also 25 direct admissions to the secure unit who came under the Police arrest categories of the Criminal Justice Act.²⁰⁴⁶

In 1985 one boy was held in the secure unit of the Home for seven months because he was charged with murder and attempted murder.²⁰⁴⁷ During this time there was often two others in the secure unit which meant that there was, "... no room for emergency situations or violent outbursts."²⁰⁴⁸ There occasionally had to be a double up of boys in a room in order to accommodate them or a boy had to be released into an open institution sooner than planned because of this problem.²⁰⁴⁹

²⁰³⁴ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰³⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197; Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰³⁶ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰³⁷ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰³⁸ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰³⁹ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴⁰ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴¹ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴² Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴³ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴⁴ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴⁵ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴⁶ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴⁷ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴⁸ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁴⁹ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

The secure unit was also used as a time-out room in 1985, but this was also hindered by the lack of space.²⁰⁵⁰

Thirty-six admissions to the secure unit from the open institution in 1985 were for violent behaviour, drug or solvent abuse and also those residents in need of self protection.²⁰⁵¹ Other admissions were for repeat absconders or those absconders who were not in a fit emotional or physical state to be returned to the open institution.²⁰⁵²

The Visiting Committee were concerned over the number of boys placed in the Secure Unit at the Home during 1986-1987. They stated that this was caused by boys who had committed more violent crimes being placed at the Home.²⁰⁵³ But the Visiting Committee was impressed with the high standard of care given to residents in the Secure Unit.²⁰⁵⁴

The Internal Audit in 1988 found that no philosophy about secure care existed in the Home, "... so the understanding of secure care use was variable and confused and tended possibly to be over-used as a control measure, without other options being considered carefully."²⁰⁵⁵ It was also found that policies were vague and did not clearly outline procedures on admission, discharge and appeals amongst other things. The programmes were considered to be, "poorly developed, implemented, recorded, or documented."²⁰⁵⁶ There was poor integration from Secure to the open institutions and vice versa as well as a lack of appropriate training on secure care.²⁰⁵⁷ Recommendations for local and institution management action included fixing these problems.²⁰⁵⁸ There was no further information held on file about whether these recommendations were implemented.

Discipline

There was negligible information on file about discipline other than the use of secure and physical punishment.

The District Child Welfare Officer informed Dunedin Boys' Home in 1945 that putting the residents to bed as punishment was to cease.²⁰⁵⁹

In 1985, admissions to the secure unit from the open institution were for those with violent behaviour, drug or solvent abuse, repeat absconders, or those absconders

²⁰⁵⁰ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁵¹ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁵² Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁵³ Visiting Committee Report, RW Harley, Chairperson, 25/06/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000002670197.

²⁰⁵⁴ Visiting Committee Report, RW Harley, Chairperson, 25/06/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000002670197.

²⁰⁵⁵ Audit Report: Milton Honeyman, Internal Auditor and Peter Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (Residential) 12/09/88, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000005243986.

²⁰⁵⁶ Audit Report: Milton Honeyman, Internal Auditor and Peter Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (Residential) 12/09/88, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000005243986.

²⁰⁵⁷ Audit Report: Milton Honeyman, Internal Auditor and Peter Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (Residential) 12/09/88, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000005243986.

²⁰⁵⁸ Audit Report: Milton Honeyman, Internal Auditor and Peter Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (Residential) 12/09/88, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000005243986.

²⁰⁵⁹ Memo, illegible author, District Child Welfare Officer to Matron, Dunedin Boys' Home 17/04/45, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27220.

who were not considered to be in a physically or emotionally fit state.²⁰⁶⁰ In 1988 the Internal Audit found that there was no philosophy about the use of secure care and that it was possibly over-used as a control measure.²⁰⁶¹

Physical punishment

The District Child Welfare Officer informed Dunedin Boys' Home in 1945 that he would not delegate his authority to corporally punish a boy and that he would attend to these cases personally, but would try and prevent the use of corporal punishment by using other means of punishment.²⁰⁶²

The Acting Superintendent sent out a circular memorandum to all districts in 1946 asking for punishment returns to be completed and sent in as some had not been forwarded.²⁰⁶³

A punishment return for June and July 1956 recorded six boys receiving the strap (two or three strokes on covered buttocks) for either truancing of cheekiness after repeated warnings.²⁰⁶⁴ It was noted by the Superintendent that this was the first punishment return to be received since February 1948 and he commented, "Am I to understand there have been no punishments administered in 8½ years?"²⁰⁶⁵

Mr Manchester (designation unknown) noted in 1965 that there had been no punishment recorded on the punishment returns for three years. He doubted that this was the situation in reality. He also noted that this matter was addressed in 1956, "...when it was found that while punishment had been administered no return had been furnished for eight years."²⁰⁶⁶ Mr Manchester asked the Home to comment on whether the situation for the three years between 1962 and 1965 was correct.²⁰⁶⁷ This situation was investigated and deemed to be correct²⁰⁶⁸ and the Mr Manchester commented that this was a most commendable situation.²⁰⁶⁹

A punishment return for May 1969 showed that one resident had received six strokes of the strap to covered buttocks for picking up and smoking cigarette butts against a background of illegal smoking, chronic lying and a number of other

²⁰⁶⁰ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁶¹ Audit Report: Milton Honeyman, Internal Auditor and Peter Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (Residential) 12/09/88, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000005243986.

²⁰⁶² Memo, illegible author, District Child Welfare Officer to Matron, Dunedin Boys' Home 17/04/45, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27220.

²⁰⁶³ Memo, CE Peek, Acting Superintendent to All District Child Welfare Officers and Managers of Institutions 10/06/1946, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁶⁴ Boys' Home Dunedin Punishment Register June/July 1956, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁶⁵ Memo, CE Peek, Superintendent to DCWO Dunedin 08/08/56, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁶⁶ Extract from report of BM Manchester 17-21/05/65 & 31/05-04/06/65, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27221.

²⁰⁶⁷ Memo, BM Manchester, for Superintendent to DCWO, Dunedin 18/06/65, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁶⁸ Memo, EH Dudley, SBWO to DCWO Dunedin 08/07/65, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁶⁹ Memo, BM Manchester, for Superintendent to DCWO Dunedin on Memo, EH Dudley, SBWO to DCWO Dunedin 08/07/65, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

incidents.²⁰⁷⁰ This was said to be a bit severe for the offence and it was stated that this punishment should not become standard.²⁰⁷¹

From 1960 to 1969 the corporal punishment returns averaged fewer than three per year.²⁰⁷² In 1970, the authority to punish through corporal punishment was withdrawn by the District Child Welfare Officer.²⁰⁷³

In 1971 the Superintendent issued a memo that Corporal punishment was only to be administered by, "... the Principal, Assistant Principal, Manager, Assistant Manager, or by an experienced officer acting officially in one of these capacities... Corporal punishment of any kind by any other member of staff is expressly forbidden."²⁰⁷⁴

In 1971 a punishment return was completed by the Manager for an incident where [REDACTED] had given a resident a slap on the legs. The Manager stated that she had been advised not to reprimand children like that but although she acted out of her authority, the punishment was not considered severe in the circumstances.²⁰⁷⁵

Corporal punishment was re-introduced in 1980, "... in a limited number of cases after a period where this was not used to reinforce discipline."²⁰⁷⁶ It was used in one incident of five boys' absconding and the Principal commented that, "It is perhaps indicative of the attitudes of the boys currently coming into the Home that some queried the punishment on the grounds that they had not done anything so very wrong."²⁰⁷⁷

Drugs, alcohol, and tattoos

There is no information held on file about this apart from some information from 1980.

In 1980 tattoo removal was a regular medical request from the residents of the Home. The smaller tattoos were removed by the General Practitioner and the more extensive ones were referred to the Dunedin Public Hospital.²⁰⁷⁸

The Principal made a brief mention in his annual report for 1980 to the problem of coping with an epidemic of solvent sniffing. He stated that the staff at the Home felt,

²⁰⁷⁰ Memo, AG Ellis, Acting Manager to DCWO Dunedin 05/05/69, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁷¹ Handwritten note on file by unknown author, 27/05/69 on Memo, AG Ellis, Acting Manager to DCWO Dunedin 05/05/69, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁷² Memo, TD Kirby, DCWO to the Superintendent, 08/12/70, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁷³ Memo, TD Kirby, DCWO to the Superintendent, 08/12/70, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁷⁴ Memo, DG Reilly, for Superintendent to All DCWO's and Principals 22/04/71, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁷⁵ Memo, BP Maher, Manager to DCWO, Dunedin 01/12/71, Dunedin Boys' Home Discipline F5000000925973.

²⁰⁷⁶ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁷⁷ Memo, KJ McCullough to Director, Dunedin 12/09/80, Dunedin Boys' Home Punishment 27221.

²⁰⁷⁸ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

"... particularly helpless in dealing with this".²⁰⁷⁹ In 1981 the Principal remarked that the high incidence of solvent sniffing had almost disappeared entirely.²⁰⁸⁰

It was noted in 1980 by a residential social worker that when five boys absconded from the Home they were involved in sniffing glue.²⁰⁸¹

Smoking

There is limited information held on file regarding smoking.

Privacy Act s 29(1)(a) Affairs of another

In a report about an incident of sexual abuse in 1987, the residential social worker made the comment that it happened after the two residents had had a smoke.

There was no mention as to whether this was allowed or not.

Contact with field social workers

In 1967 it was considered that field social workers and residential social workers cooperated well in making arrangements for residents and effecting placements.²⁰⁸³

During 1979 Head office staff and other social work staff visited Dunedin Boys' Home.²⁰⁸⁴ This continued through into 1985.²⁰⁸⁵

The liaison between the Principal of the Boys' Home and the districts was between, "... their team seniors and at casework level direct between the field and residential social workers."²⁰⁸⁶ Copies of notes for files and other related information in relation to residents were supplied to their districts as was an interim report after two to four weeks of placement. Other reports were supplied if requested.²⁰⁸⁷

In 1983 with some of the proposed admissions from the Dunedin area, the residential social worker would go with the field social worker to visit the family to contract for the objectives to be achieved when admitted to the Home. The Principal commented that this worked positively and on several occasions resulted in avoiding the residential placement. He considered this a process well worth further development and possibly greater implementation.²⁰⁸⁸

²⁰⁷⁹ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁸⁰ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁸¹ Note for File, Merv English, Residential Social Worker, (undated, September 1980), Dunedin Boys' Home Drugs 27221.

²⁰⁸³ Extract from report of BM Manchester 13-17/03/67 & 17-21/04/67, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile 27221.

²⁰⁸⁴ Annual Report 1979, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

²⁰⁸⁵ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁸⁶ Memo, KJ McCullough to Director-General 22/08/83, Dunedin Boys' Home Admissions F5000002670197.

²⁰⁸⁷ Memo, KJ McCullough to Director-General 22/08/83, Dunedin Boys' Home Admissions F5000002670197.

²⁰⁸⁸ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

The 1984 inspection carried out by Mr Doolan and Mr Randall caused a considerable amount of stress to most staff who found the process uncomfortable, but the positive suggestions received were welcomed.²⁰⁸⁹

Contact with community

Negligible information relating to contact with the community prior to 1978 was found on file.

During 1973 extra night supervision was considered necessary for the safety of the residents and the community and two night staff positions were established to achieve this.²⁰⁹⁰

In 1978 several service and church groups had an interest in the Home, and the residents received a colour television due to such interest.²⁰⁹¹

In 1980 the good relationship with the Youth for Christ organisation continued with social and recreational activities at the Home.²⁰⁹² Camps and other outings for the residents were arranged through this group and other individuals.²⁰⁹³

A voluntary helper came in twice a week in 1980 to take the boys for craft work and for visits to places like museums. He wished to continue this in 1981, but on a paid basis.²⁰⁹⁴

The residents organised a disco in 1980 with the Girls' Brigade which they reciprocated.²⁰⁹⁵

In 1980 several staff met with service organisations with a view to a more enlightened approach from the community and involvement in projects established by the Boys' Home.²⁰⁹⁶

Several businesses showed an interest in the Home during 1981 and one result of this was the purchase of two B.M.X. bicycles at half price.²⁰⁹⁷

In 1981 there continued to be regular visitors to the Home including university students.²⁰⁹⁸

Dunedin Boys' Home developed a good relationship with the local Marae in 1982.²⁰⁹⁹ Contact with various sporting and recreational groups in the community was maintained and residents were included in various community projects.²¹⁰⁰

The major effort for 1984 was setting up a Hui termed Whanau Whananga (Family Learning).²¹⁰¹ This Hui was hosted at the Home for all those connected with Maatua

²⁰⁸⁹ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁹⁰ Minute Sheet, Return of Night Duty Staff, illegible author, 15/05/73, Dunedin Boys' Home Supervision F5000005243980. For more information on this, see the Staffing Organisation section.

²⁰⁹¹ Annual Report 1978, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, 27221.

²⁰⁹² Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁹³ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁹⁴ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁹⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁹⁶ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁹⁷ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁹⁸ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²⁰⁹⁹ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹⁰⁰ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

Whangai in the Dunedin catchment area. This was to overcome the stigma attached to residential placements and to work out procedures for Maatua Whangai to become more closely involved with the Boys' Home.²¹⁰²

The Boys' Home were involved in the repainting and maintenance of the local hot water swimming pool in 1985 as a special project and in return were allowed free access to the pool at any time.²¹⁰³

In 1985 the Boys' Home "adopted" the Special Class at the local primary school which involved the Home taking them for outings and having them as guests of the Home and other such related activities.²¹⁰⁴

Visiting committees

There is no information on file about Visiting Committees prior to 1980.

In 1980 the Visiting Committee was said to have maintained regular contact with the Home.²¹⁰⁵ This contact decreased in 1981 with only two visits during the year. This was attributed to the loss of the Chairman in 1980 and no reappointment to replace his position.²¹⁰⁶ The Visiting Committee was still not at complete at any time in 1982, and were not able to visit as often as hoped. But the Principal remarked that they gave great support with the release of the Human Rights Commission Report.²¹⁰⁷

A new Visiting Committee was appointed in 1983 and visited the Home at least once a month.²¹⁰⁸ They continued to visit with regularity in 1984. One complaint was made by a resident, but investigation proved it to be malicious.²¹⁰⁹

The Principal commented in 1985 that the Home was fortunate to have Visiting Committee members who took their task "so seriously". These members investigated a complaint of assault made by one resident against another.²¹¹⁰

The Visiting Committee would visit the Home regularly as a group or individually and they would make planned or impromptu visits, or at the request of a resident or the Principal.²¹¹¹

The Visiting Committee continued to visit regularly in 1986 and no concerns were raised.²¹¹²

²¹⁰¹ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹⁰² Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹⁰³ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹⁰⁴ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹⁰⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹⁰⁶ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹⁰⁷ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹⁰⁸ Annual Report 1983, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹⁰⁹ Annual Report 1984, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹¹⁰ Annual Report 1985, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹¹¹ Visiting Committee Report, RW Harley, Chairperson, 25/06/87, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports F5000002670197.

²¹¹² Visiting Committee Annual Reports 1986, Dunedin Boys' Home Profile F5000006661405.

Contact with families

Home leave was granted on a regular basis prior to discharge, especially if a boy had been in residence for a long time.²¹¹³

The Principal remarked in 1980 that, "Despite encouragement, parents seem most reluctant to visit here at the Home. It is noticeable that much better results follow when a boy's parents visit regularly and as a consequence get to know us and can better appreciate what we are attempting to do."²¹¹⁴

Preparation for discharge and after care arrangements

Home leave was granted on a regular basis as a testing situation to determine how much a resident had learnt during their stay at the Home. Special goals, such as behaviour and communication with parents, were set and the field social worker liaised with both the parents and the Institution.²¹¹⁵ When it was possible the parents were met with and the goals of the home leave discussed with them.²¹¹⁶ This meant that the boy was not treated in isolation from his family.²¹¹⁷

The Principal commented in 1980 that, "... some sort of part-time care should be looked into also as many of our clients are only at risk in certain situations or at particular times. This may be a more effective use of our facilities."²¹¹⁸

When a resident was discharged to another institution, some effort was made to ensure that the resident had a positive frame of reference.²¹¹⁹ The Principal commented that he was unsure if this was effective.²¹²⁰

In 1981 there was an increasing involvement on working with families as a unit prior to discharge.²¹²¹

The Principal was concerned in 1983 over the lack of social work support on discharge. "We have a strong feeling that many of the placements that break down occur because of the lack of follow up and support."²¹²²

²¹¹³ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹¹⁴ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹¹⁵ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹¹⁶ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹¹⁷ Annual Report 1982, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹¹⁸ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹¹⁹ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹²⁰ Annual Report 1980, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹²¹ Annual Report 1981, Dunedin Boys' Home Reports, F5000002670197.

²¹²² Memo, KJ McCullough to Director-General 22/08/83, Dunedin Boys' Home Admissions F5000002670197.

Chapter 7 Allendale Girls' Home

Physical Description

Situated in the Auckland suburb of Mount Albert in a quiet residential area not far from the shopping centre²¹²³, Allendale Girls' Home consisted of a large old house and one staff house set in spacious grounds.²¹²⁴ One former resident remembers the sweeping drive lined on one side with mandarin trees.²¹²⁵

Allendale was a district girls' home that opened in 1961.²¹²⁶ Very little information from the 1960s and 1970s was found on file. Allendale had a capacity of 25 (22 plus 3 secure beds) in 1979²¹²⁷ and 26 (23 plus 3 secure beds) in 1982 after the conversion of the sewing room into another bedroom.²¹²⁸

A new classroom was added in 1978. While this provided extra space, it made supervision of the girls more difficult and as a result it was thought that standards within the school dropped markedly.²¹²⁹ The accommodation wing was redecorated in bright colours in the late 1970s.²¹³⁰

A new gymnasium was added in 1981, providing more year-round recreation options.²¹³¹ The swimming pool came into operation in 1983 and was frequently used.²¹³² In 1984 the kitchen was remodelled over 4 months with all cooking done from one stove in the domestic science room.²¹³³

²¹²³ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹²⁴ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale file F5000002185731, p3. The staff house was at that time occupied by the Principal of Bollard.

²¹²⁵ <http://www.olfriends.co.nz>, accessed 20/10/06, Allendale Profile

²¹²⁶ Department of Education, Annual Report to Parliament 1966 Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives of New Zealand. Section E.4, Vol C-H.16 Vol II.

²¹²⁷ Department of Social Welfare (1979) *Directory of residential facilities for disturbed children in New Zealand*, DSW, Wellington.

²¹²⁸ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹²⁹ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹³⁰ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p2.

²¹³¹ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²¹³² Annual Report 1983, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²¹³³ Annual Report 1984, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

Resident profile

In 1966, the average age of girls in Allendale was 14 or 15, but sometimes girls were as young as 11 or as old as 19.²¹³⁴ The age range narrowed during the 1980s. The age range during 1980 was 10-15 years,²¹³⁵ 10-16 years in 1982,²¹³⁶ 10-13 years in 1984.²¹³⁷

Most residents were state wards, and some were picked up by the Police as missing from home or found at the waterfront. Allendale was a short- to mid-term institution after which most girls returned home. Those not returned home went on to long-stay department institutions such as Kingslea, Salisbury or Fareham House.²¹³⁸

There was an increase in admissions of over 50% between 1965 and 1966.²¹³⁹ Overcrowding put pressure to discharge girls.²¹⁴⁰ The institution could not control the inflow as many admissions came from the police.²¹⁴¹ The high number of girls requiring psychological and psychiatric examinations at this time was also noted.²¹⁴² It was also noted that the home was developing into a remand centre.²¹⁴³

A Herald article in September 1966 noted serious overcrowding issues – up to 31 girls resident at Allendale when the capacity was 15.²¹⁴⁴ The article also noted that 5 or 6 girls slept to a room. In 1967, an inspection found 26 girls in residence, with girls sleeping on mattresses on the floor, carpets were worn and facilities generally inadequate, including a lack of toilets, hand basins and beds.²¹⁴⁵ This placed great strain on staff, and led to a number of resignations in the mid-60s.²¹⁴⁶

Number of girls at Allendale for the first 5 months of 1970 ranged from 23-30. At this time there was concern that along with the increased numbers, the behaviour of the girls was increasing in its severity.²¹⁴⁷ Allendale was said to increasingly undertake a custodial and remand function.²¹⁴⁸

In 1970 a number of senior staff resigned, and in June the DCWO proposed that Allendale be closed because the resignations of the Matron and Principal were to take effect in August and the positions of Assistant Principal and Sub-Matron were vacant.²¹⁴⁹ The proposal was rejected on the grounds that it would embarrass the government, and because closure was likely to be opposed by the State Services Commission.²¹⁵⁰

²¹³⁴ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹³⁵ Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹³⁶ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹³⁷ Annual Report 1984, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²¹³⁸ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹³⁹ 'Girls' Home Frequently Crowded' *Auckland Star* 29/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹⁴⁰ Inspection Report, July/Aug 1966, Allendale Health 31417.

²¹⁴¹ Inspection Report, July/Aug 1966, Allendale Health 31417.

²¹⁴² Inspection Report, July/Aug 1966, Allendale Health 31417.

²¹⁴³ Inspection Report July/Aug 1966, Allendale Health 31417.

²¹⁴⁴ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417

²¹⁴⁵ Extract from report of Merv Hayes, May/June 1967, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹⁴⁶ File note, Girls' Home, Auckland, E Fiest, Senior Inspector, 23/8/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹⁴⁷ Memo, KJ Flint, DCWO to Superintendent 26/6/70, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹⁴⁸ Memo, KJ Flint, DCWO to Superintendent 26/6/70, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹⁴⁹ Memo, KJ Flint, DCWO to Superintendent 26/6/70, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹⁵⁰ Note from DJ Reilly, 9/7/70 on memo, KJ Flint, DCWO to Superintendent 26/6/70, Allendale Profile 31417.

The catchment area for Allendale ran from Kaitaia to Gisborne, although most girls came from the Auckland area.²¹⁵¹ By 1982 the catchment area had expanded south to Wanganui.²¹⁵² Catchment areas for admission in 1980 were from Kaitaia in the north to Hamilton and Napier in the south.²¹⁵³

Many girls' admissions were preceded by poor school attendance, leading to petty crime and loss of parental control.²¹⁵⁴

Admissions rose sharply in the early 1970s, with most coming in on police warrants or on remand.²¹⁵⁵

In 1976, the high rate of return to Allendale (well over 50%) was thought to be due to poor after-placement back up, hasty placement arrangements and the return of girls on trivial matters.²¹⁵⁶

Almost half of admissions in 1978 were state wards, with most of the remainder being made up of court remands or girls subject to police warrants. A small number of remaining admissions were section 11 (8 out of 124 for the year); social welfare warrant (6) and temporary admissions (5). In 1983, wards and temporary wards made up 75 of 91 admissions and there was a mix of mid- and short-term care, the latter often on transfer to or from other residences.²¹⁵⁷ In 1978 most girls discharged were sent home on a period of social welfare supervision, with some girls transferred to other department institutions.²¹⁵⁸

The increasing amount of difficult and disturbed girls entering Allendale was noted in respect of admissions during 1978.²¹⁵⁹ Some girls were suicidal on admission; others had a psychiatric background or were repeat absconders or truants, or had long-standing, severe behavioural problems.²¹⁶⁰ This trend continued in 1979, along with more admissions of younger disturbed girls.²¹⁶¹ Behaviour involving verbal and physical aggression reached "near riot" status at one point in 1979, a year when there were 106 admissions.²¹⁶² The numbers of girls with psychiatric problems increased at the same time that the availability of the visiting psychologist declined.²¹⁶³

Admissions to Allendale often came from Bollard Girls' Home. For example 20 out of 50 admissions came from Bollard in 1981.²¹⁶⁴ Those girls on transfer from Bollard tended to be younger, and some were considered "backward" or with "physical defect".²¹⁶⁵

The admissions policy in 1980 was to usually admit to the open wing. Girls were seen by a doctor at the earliest opportunity and were encouraged to telephone their

²¹⁵¹ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁵² Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁵³ Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁵⁴ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁵⁵ File note, Bollard and Allendale roll figures, Allendale Profile, Archives 31436.

²¹⁵⁶ Annual Report 1976, Allendale Reports 31417.

²¹⁵⁷ Annual Report 1983, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²¹⁵⁸ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁵⁹ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁶⁰ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁶¹ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁶² Admissions to DSW institutions 1979-1983, Appendix B, Allendale Profile F5000002186500.

²¹⁶³ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁶⁴ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁶⁵ Visit to Allendale 8/9/82, Allendale Secure F5000002185731.

parents.²¹⁶⁶ In addition, a small number of shelter care cases were showered in the secure wing but did not usually stay overnight.²¹⁶⁷

Over half of all admissions in 1981 were Maori.²¹⁶⁸ This trend continued in 1983 when most admissions were also state wards, with the remainder being admitted under section 11 agreements.²¹⁶⁹

Length of stay

In 1966, most girls stayed at Allendale for 3 months.²¹⁷⁰ In 1978, the majority of residents stayed for 3-6 months.²¹⁷¹ The 1980 Annual Report set a 2-3 school term stay as the ideal length to form good school and social habits.²¹⁷² In about 1980 girls stayed an average of 2-3 school terms.²¹⁷³ The Annual Report for 1981 stated that girls stayed for a minimum of one term and a maximum of three terms.²¹⁷⁴ Length of stay in 1982 went from a 1-2 term average to a 2-3 term average, which was thought to be more beneficial.²¹⁷⁵

Admission patterns showed a change by the late-70s to an increase in very short-term admissions, of less than a week, to 27% of all admissions in 1979, while those of less than 4 weeks comprised 47% of all admissions during that year.²¹⁷⁶ The mix of residents by this time included shelter care cases, guardianship cases and those awaiting transfer to long-term care.²¹⁷⁷

By 1982 the turnover of residents dropped, reverting to earlier patterns, with most being in extended care for about 3 terms.²¹⁷⁸ The average length of stay was just over 6 months in 1985.²¹⁷⁹

Programmes and care

In 1966, as well as school, instruction was given in cooking, cleaning, gardening and general household duties.²¹⁸⁰

In the mid-1960s, privileges included 3 TV nights per week, outings under supervision, a film once a week and approved visitors on Sundays. Privileges could be removed at any time.²¹⁸¹ Pocket money was distributed on a merit system.²¹⁸²

²¹⁶⁶ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p4

²¹⁶⁷ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p4.

²¹⁶⁸ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁶⁹ Annual Report 1983, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁷⁰ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹⁷¹ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731

²¹⁷² Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁷³ Mataora School description, undated, circa 1980 1/14/3, Allendale Profile F5000002388571.

²¹⁷⁴ Annual Report 1981, Allendale file F50000 Annual Report 1985, Allendale Reports

F500000238658102185731.

²¹⁷⁵ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731; Admissions to DSW institutions 1979-1983, Appendix G, Allendale Profile F5000002186500.

²¹⁷⁶ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁷⁷ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁷⁸ Visit to Allendale, 8/9/82, Allendale Secure F5000002185731.

²¹⁷⁹ Annual Report 1985, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²¹⁸⁰ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

Staff and students raised money in 1978 from the sale of handcrafts and from a concert that was used to buy a pottery kiln, TV and radio for the departmental van.²¹⁸³

In 1978, the philosophy of care was to change attitudes as opposed to changing behaviour. This was based on Dr Glasser's Reality Therapy, the application of this was considered successful, but dependent on effective one-to-one relationships between staff and residents.²¹⁸⁴ The method was also thought to serve as a useful reminder to staff not to revert to inappropriately custodial or behaviourist techniques.²¹⁸⁵ This programme of therapy was altered in 1979, to reflect a change in admissions, when a behaviour modification programme based on a token economy was introduced.²¹⁸⁶

In the early 80s it was noted that approaches to care altered with changes in Principal and other key staff.²¹⁸⁷ In 1981 there was no formalised points or privileges system, although girls progressed through a series of bedrooms to "privilege rooms".²¹⁸⁸ Work programmes were put in place for punishment.²¹⁸⁹ The cook insisted that girls did not receive pudding unless they ate their main meal.²¹⁹⁰ In 1981 there was no relief cook and so the regular cook prepared freezer meals to cover her leave absences.²¹⁹¹

A care philosophy of integrating girls back into the community was expressed in 1980.²¹⁹² This involved placing girls in community schools as soon as possible and involving them in local community activities.²¹⁹³ Girls were encouraged to spend weekends at home.²¹⁹⁴ After the first month, home visits were fortnightly during term as well as leave during school holidays and at Christmas. Several girls went on camps over the summer.²¹⁹⁵ In the early 80s, links were forged with the Whangarei District and many holiday opportunities provided in that region.²¹⁹⁶ In 1982 there was a successful camp with 15 girls from Allendale and 6 boys from Wesleydale.²¹⁹⁷

Activities included a range of out of school activities, and were based on a 3 week cycle in 1980, with the programme displayed so that the girls knew what was being planned. A 1980 Inspection Report expressed concern with the high use of feature films.²¹⁹⁸

²¹⁸¹ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹⁸² 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²¹⁸³ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁸⁴ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁸⁵ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁸⁶ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁸⁷ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p1.

²¹⁸⁸ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p8.

²¹⁸⁹ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p8.

²¹⁹⁰ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p6.

²¹⁹¹ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p6.

²¹⁹² Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁹³ Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁹⁴ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²¹⁹⁵ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²¹⁹⁶ See, for example, Annual Report 1984, Allendale Reports F5000002386581, p3.

²¹⁹⁷ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²¹⁹⁸ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p7.

Local church members visited on Monday nights in 1980, with no other formal arrangements made to attend church. Girls were given a choice whether or not to attend the Monday night programme.²¹⁹⁹

Throughout the early 1980s, there were many local trips to beaches or parks including pipi gathering and fruit picking, trips to MOTAT, movies or to go roller skating or horseriding.²²⁰⁰ In 1981, activities, both on and off the property, included Church Group, Jazzercise, Pupperty, Pan Pacific, Maori Women's Welfare League, Te Kopu Awards, Drama, Lady Mayoress Committee, Hato Petera, John Waititi Marae, Kokere Centre and Outreach.²²⁰¹

Many recreational activities were available in 1983, including the swimming pool, trampoline, table tennis, indoor basketball, handiwork, mask making, cake decorating and house.²²⁰²

Work and training

Girls at Allendale were predominately school age and therefore the focus was on education rather than work training. However, as outlined elsewhere, training in domestic tasks was given and these also formed part of the recreational programme (sewing, for example). The school component included life skills and elements of preparation for the workforce.

Resident-to-resident issues

Allegations of sexual contact between girls at Allendale appeared on the front page of the Truth newspaper in 1960, and sexual misbehaviour, including "lesbian tuition" among residents was also alleged in 1966, but no evidence of this conduct was found.²²⁰³

No other incidents were found on file.

Health and medication

In 1964, an outbreak of head lice was treated with fumigation by cyanide.²²⁰⁴

Application was made in 1964 for a part-time nursing appointment to assist the doctor with venereal disease examinations. Assistance had previously been given by a staff member with a nursing certificate but that person was shortly to leave the institution.²²⁰⁵

²¹⁹⁹ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p8.

²²⁰⁰ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²²⁰¹ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁰² Annual Report 1983, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁰³ Memo, KJ Flint DCWO to Director-General, 12/2/65, Allendale Complaints 31417.

²²⁰⁴ Memo, KJ Flint, DCWO to Superintendent 27/4/64, Allendale Health 31419.

²²⁰⁵ Mome, KJ Flint, DCWO to Superintendent, 20/11/64, Allendale Health 31419.

The DCWO in 1966, said that between 20-25% of girls at Allendale suffered from venereal disease.²²⁰⁶ The same year, in internal correspondence, the DCWO said that all girls, apart from a very few care and protection cases, were tested for venereal disease on admission.²²⁰⁷

Two female police officers were charged under the Health Act, when a girl they were escorting from Allendale to Arohata for Borstal Training on the overnight train escaped their custody. The girl had venereal disease and the officers were charged with allowing a person infected with an infectious or communicable disease into a public place. The DCWO requested a legislative amendment.²²⁰⁸

In 1967, the doctor working at Allendale requested routine internal examinations to test for venereal disease of all girls 12 and over at all institutions.²²⁰⁹ This was after the doctor found a number of girls had tested negative for venereal disease at other institutions but were in fact infected and had not been properly tested. Yet in 1981, not all girls were given swab tests for venereal disease.²²¹⁰ All girls were, however, counselled on the reasons for having the test.²²¹¹

In 1968, Auckland Hospital advised that the department purchase a small incubator for VD swabs, given the incidence of acute gonorrhoea among admissions to Allendale.²²¹²

Compulsory venereal disease tests ended at Allendale in 1978 on the appointment of a new principal.²²¹³ There was concern in 1979 about the methods used by the female doctor, who used a full examination (full gynaecological check plus VD swabs) and who charged high fees.²²¹⁴ Medical procedures were set out in a 1980 memo.²²¹⁵

Head Office policy in 1982 was for examinations with consent only, and to allow residents with VD to handle food after medical evidence that cross-infection risks were negligible.²²¹⁶ By 1981, all girls were counselled on the need for medical examinations and VD tests, but not all girls were given swab tests for VD.²²¹⁷

The Auckland Committee on Racism and Discrimination (ACORD) also alleged that girls at Auckland homes were refused tampons and were issued sanitary pads one at a time on request and had no disposal mechanisms for them.²²¹⁸ However, the local MP who visited Allendale several occasions and talked to the girls, felt that ACORD "over extends its criticism beyond credibility".²²¹⁹

²²⁰⁶ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²²⁰⁷ Teleprinter message, CW A/K to CWHO, 3/3/66, Allendale Health F5000003629234.

²²⁰⁸ KJ Flint, DCWO to Superintendent, 3/3/66, Allendale Health 31419.

²²⁰⁹ Extract from report of Merv Hayes, May/June 1967, Allendale Profile 31417, p1.

²²¹⁰ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²²¹¹ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²¹² DEM Taylor Clinical Bacteriologist to Dr MacDougall, 2.8.68. Allendale Health 31419.

²²¹³ Human Rights Commission, 1982, Report of the Human Rights Commission on representations by the Auckland Committee on Racism and Discrimination: children and young persons homes administered by the Department of Social Welfare, p18.

²²¹⁴ Memo, A Frazer to Director-General, 28/3/79, Allendale Health, Archives 31436.

²²¹⁵ Medical Procedure 1980, Allendale Health F5000002185731.

²²¹⁶ Excerpt from Head Office policy, unreferenced, Nov 1982, Allendale Health F5000002386580.

²²¹⁷ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²¹⁸ Child Abuse in Welfare Homes, Auckland Committee on Racism and Discrimination, February 1982, Allendale Health F5000002185731.

²²¹⁹ Letter, Tirikatene-Sullivan, MP to J Hough, Superintendent, Allendale 4/8/82, Allendale Complaints F5000002185731.

A 1967 inspection of Allendale Girls' Home found that the removal of shower curtains in order to ensure girls were washing themselves properly did not afford girls proper privacy.²²²⁰

The institution made use of psychiatric and psychological services although the availability of specialist assistance varied at different times. In 1980, the services of two psychologists were available and assessments were carried out on all girls.²²²¹ The psychologists also took a weekly social skills group at Allendale.²²²² Links included contact with the psychiatric ward at Auckland Hospital (Ward 12), including with a nurse who had previously worked at Kingslea.²²²³

Psychiatric hospital placement

The files suggest ongoing close links with the psychiatric ward at Auckland hospital, although there is no mention of specific discharge from Allendale to any psychiatric facility.

In 1978 it was noted that a number of girls at Allendale had a psychiatric background and that compared with earlier years, the institution was coping with a growing number of difficult and disturbed children.²²²⁴ It appears that most issues were addressed by regular onsite visits from psychologists.

Privacy Act s 29(1)(a) Affairs of another

Staffing

There was concern about the ineffective leadership of [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and the resulting loss of control over girls at Allendale. The Police had complained about this to the DCWO. The DCWO, Mr Flint had been called out when two girls barricaded themselves in a room.

A visit by an Inspector of the Auckland District Office in April and May of 1963 reported girls under 15 openly smoking. He concluded that there was an insufficient work programme for the girls; that the girls were pandered to with an over-emphasis on counselling; and that staff spent too much time in the staff room and not enough time with the girls. [REDACTED] was also singled out for removal, being described as "an extremely weak link".²²²⁵ In regard to [REDACTED] it was concluded that she was trying to apply long-stay methods to what was a short-stay institution, and that this was inappropriate.²²²⁶

There was a staffing crisis in 1970, when the Assistant Principal and Sub-Matron left and the Principal and Matron resigned. The DWCO recommended the institution be closed rather than run under-staffed.²²²⁷ This suggestion was rejected.

²²²⁰ Extract from report of Merv Hayes, May/June 1967, Allendale Reports 31417.

²²²¹ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5

²²²² Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²²²³ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²²²⁴ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²²⁵ [REDACTED]

²²²⁶ [REDACTED]

²²²⁷ Memo, KJ Flint (DCWO) to Superintendent 26/6/70, CW 6/32/- Allendale Profile 31417.

The 1978 Annual Report notes that the staff:resident ratio was lower at Allendale than at any other institution but that, apart from when staff were required to staff secure, this did not present problems.²²²⁸ In one incident, two staff were re-assigned to secure, leaving one staff member on the open side of the institution. That staff member had to care for 15 girls and was assaulted on one occasion.²²²⁹

For the last 9 months of 1978, Allendale operated at capacity.²²³⁰ In 1979, the Principal resigned, with this loss being reportedly greatly felt by the girls.²²³¹ By the end of 1979, the pressure on staff was taking its toll in increased sick leave, although the maximum number in care during that year was 24, down from 30 in previous years.²²³² The amount of sick leave taken by staff remained a problem in 1980.²²³³

By 1981 there were 17 staff plus 2 teachers.²²³⁵

In 1980, the Principal and Assistant Principal Supervised case workers (6 and 5 workers respectively). General staff meetings were held on Mondays, RSW meetings on Thursdays and SDGS had monthly meetings. Case workers met fortnightly with Supervisors and at other times when problems arose.²²³⁶ These practices, as outlined in Annual Reports, were verified by Inspections.²²³⁷ All staff were allocated responsibility for working with at least one girl; including the cook and gardener.²²³⁸ Each girl's case was reviewed monthly.²²³⁹ The girls met weekly with the Principal and Assistant Principal and this provided a useful forum for the airing of grievances.²²⁴⁰ Communication between staff and residents were mostly informal due to the small size of Allendale and a 1980 Inspection Report noted the close co-operative attitude between girls and staff and feelings of loyalty to each other and to the institution. The inspectors were impressed with the concern and care shown by staff towards the girls.²²⁴¹

Caseloads in 1981 were 1 – 4 girls per staff member.²²⁴²

Double night cover was provided from 19xx in an attempt to lessen absconding. Night staff did most of the typing for the institution as well as assisting with other tasks such as preparing vegetables.²²⁴³ Re-grading of night attendants in 1981 was unpopular with night staff, who saw it as a demotion and who were also unhappy with having to work one day shift every two weeks (known as the 15th shift). A 1981 Inspection Report noted that, as happened in other institutions, the night attendants reported sick for this day shift.²²⁴⁴

²²²⁸ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²²⁹ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²³⁰ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²³¹ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²³² Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²³³ Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²³⁵ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p1.

²²³⁶ Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²³⁷ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²³⁸ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²²³⁹ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²²⁴⁰ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p2.

²²⁴¹ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p2, 5.

²²⁴² Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁴³ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p6.

²²⁴⁴ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p6.

In the early 1980s, many existing staff had worked at Allendale for many years and the institution benefited from their experience and maturity and the stable staffing situation. Staff worked extra hours providing additional activities and programmes for the girls.²²⁴⁵

Throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s there were a number of Principals, and it was noted that "with these changes come individual variations in leadership styles, casework philosophy and administrative techniques."²²⁴⁶

By the early 1980s staff had attended training sessions at Bollard over a period of 5 weeks, for 1 ½ hours a week, as well as training session at Taranaki House. On-site training in supervision and report writing also took place.²²⁴⁷ The staff training programme was further developed in 1983.²²⁴⁸ In 1985 training sessions included courses on identity, sexual abuse and institutional racism.²²⁴⁹

The Residential Workers Manual was held at the residence but not the Social Workers Manual. Copies of relevant legislation were held, but the Public Service Regulations and State Services Act were not held. Desk files were being updated.²²⁵⁰

The position of Assistant Principal was vacant from May-July in 1981.²²⁵¹ During 1984 there were a number of staff off work with serious illness, mostly covered by relieving staff.²²⁵² 1985 was another year of staffing shortages, assisted by relief cover being available at short notice.²²⁵³

Complaints

A father complained about his daughter's treatment at Allendale in 1965. His allegations that his daughter was served 5-day old bread and that he was unable to get a proper visiting permit were both found to have substance. Publicity about these incidents appeared in the *Sunday News* of 10 October 1965. It was hoped that the validity of the complaints would be lost in any general discrediting of the father, who admitted giving his daughter 10 shillings and telling her to write to him if she had any complaints about the home. The news reporter had also received information from an un-named former staff member, who alleged that a number of practices occurred. For example: the use of cells for 3-4 days of solitary confinement; lack of privacy in showers; confiscation of pyjamas even where a girl had not been involved in absconding; compulsory one-hour afternoon rest period in silence with no reading permitted. The DCWO noted that all of these practices took place, and that each was acceptable and "deliberately and soundly based".²²⁵⁴

A mother complained in 1970 about the risk her daughter was at due to repeat absconding, alleging that the department had not discharged its obligation to care for her in allowing her to run away. The mother alleged that her daughter had become sexually active while absconding and wanted to know if the department would pay to

²²⁴⁵ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p9.

²²⁴⁶ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p1

²²⁴⁷ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p1

²²⁴⁸ Annual Report 1983, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁴⁹ Annual Report 1985, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²²⁵⁰ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p3.

²²⁵¹ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731

²²⁵² Annual Report 1984, Allendale Reports F5000002386581, p4.

²²⁵³ Annual Report 1985, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²²⁵⁴ Memo, KJ Flint, DCWO to Superintendent, 14/10/65, Allendale Complaints F5000003629234.

raise any child that was the result of her daughter becoming pregnant. She also noted the very high absconding rates at Allendale, calling them shocking and creating a great deal of worry for her when she was notified of her daughter's absence.²²⁵⁵

A [REDACTED] teacher who had taught part-time at Allendale for 7 weeks, complained about practices at Allendale after she voluntarily ceased employment. Her complaint sparked a Ministerial inquiry and covered, among other points, long periods of time in secure, the exclusion of some 14 year olds from school and bad staff attitudes.²²⁵⁶ The Director's response was that [REDACTED] worked separate to the main institution and had little appreciation of how the home was run and that she had also made a number of factually incorrect statements.²²⁵⁷

Schooling

Allendale did not start out with a school on site, although by the mid-1960s the need for one, or even for a part-time teacher, was apparent.²²⁵⁸ Without a school, girls were kept busy with domestic and household duties and it is possible that some girls attended local schools, although it was not recorded. A 1967 report noted that "there is a limit to the number of times that household duties can be carried out and there is certainly a limit to the interest and value of these tasks".²²⁵⁹

A school room as built at Allendale during 1967. By 1976 submissions were being made for another class room and teacher.²²⁶⁰ In 1978 the second class room was completed.²²⁶¹

According to a description written in about 1980, Mataora Special School had 2 full-time teachers as well as 5 part-time specialist teachers who together made up 3/5ths of a full time teacher. The age range of residents at that time was 10-14. Girls ranged from above average to normal intelligence, as well as girls classed as mildly retarded or emotionally disturbed. The normal roll consisted of between 20-25 girls and their average length of stay was 2-3 terms.

The core curriculum was taught in large groups, with recreational and vocational subjects taught in smaller groups. The school aimed to operate like other schools in the community and the same standards of behaviour and attention to work were applied. In addition, remedial work was carried out on an individual basis. The aim was to lift student's achievement levels to those that would be acceptable in mainstream classrooms.²²⁶² At the time this report was written, girls were expected to pay for damage to or loss of school equipment out of their pocket money.

The school attempted to function as a bridging institution for return to the community; offering a credible programme that progressed girls' education while offering alternative and individually-tailored education based on recognising achievement.

²²⁵⁵ Letter, [REDACTED] to Head Office, 4/10/70, Allendale Complaints 31417.

²²⁵⁶ [REDACTED] to Minister of Social Welfare, 11/4/73, Allendale Secure 31417.

²²⁵⁷ ECP Director to Director-General 18/5/73 Allendale Secure 31417.

²²⁵⁸ Inspection Report, 23/8/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²²⁵⁹ Inspection Report, Mr Hayes, May/June 1967. Allendale, Profile 31417.

²²⁶⁰ Memo, KJ Woods, Principal, to the Director, Auckland 1/9/76, Allendale Reports, 31417.

²²⁶¹ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁶² Mataora School description, undated, circa 1980 1/14/3, Allendale Profile F5000002388571.

Aspects of transition education attempted to introduce girls to work and/or unemployment issues.

Widespread behavioural problems within the school at Allendale in 1979 resulted in residential staff being placed in the classroom to maintain control.²²⁶³ By 1980, cooperation between the school and the residence was described as non-existent, but much improved liaison and a sound schooling programme were back in place by the end of that year.

All girls in the residence attended school and had detailed programmes that linked school and residential care.²²⁶⁴ In 1980, 4 girls attended "outside school" and in 1981 12 girls did so.²²⁶⁵ In 1981 close links were maintained with 9 local schools with girls placed in local schools as part of pre-discharge planning to assist integration into the community.²²⁶⁶ The Allendale school programme at this time involved a structured programme of basic school subjects in the morning, with leisure and personal skills taught in the afternoon.²²⁶⁷

As poor school attendance often prompted admission to Allendale, the school programme was integrated into care, with the self discipline required to improve achievement at school reinforced by residential staff.²²⁶⁸

The school closed in 1984 after the resignation of the Head Teacher²²⁶⁹ and reopened in 1985 when a new teacher was appointed.²²⁷⁰

Absconding

In response to high absconding rates during the early-60s, night staff were appointed at Allendale in December 1963. Although more effective at the Auckland Boys' Home, the appointment of night staff at Allendale had only a small effect on absconding rates, which were around 150 per year in 1963 and 1964.²²⁷¹ Allendale was an open institution – a reporter writing in 1966 commented that "there is virtually nothing to prevent the girls from walking down the winding drive and out of the front gate to freedom. Detainment depends a great deal on trust".²²⁷²

It was noted that girls were more likely than boys to abscond in groups.²²⁷³ For example, the entire population of 30 girls absconded in a single incident from Allendale in 1978.²²⁷⁴

A second night staff member was appointed in 1976 to again address high absconding rates.²²⁷⁵

²²⁶³ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁶⁴ Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁶⁵ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p1; Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁶⁶ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁶⁷ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p7.

²²⁶⁸ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁶⁹ Annual Report 1984, Allendale Reports F5000002386581, p4.

²²⁷⁰ Annual Report 1985, Allendale Reports F5000002386581, p3.

²²⁷¹ Memo, Absconding Record at Boys' Home and Girls' Home, KJ Flint, DCWO, to Superintendent, 16/5/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²²⁷² Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417

²²⁷³ 'Girls' Home Frequently Crowded' *Auckland Star* 29/9/66. Allendale Profile 31417.

²²⁷⁴ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

Figures supplied to Head Office showed a high number of abscondings in 1979 (66), dropping to around 20 in both 1980 and 1981, and rising again to 41 for both 1983 and 1983.²²⁷⁶

The Annual Report notes 25 abscondings in 1981, which was an increase on previous years.²²⁷⁷ The absconding pattern shifted from that of the 1980s where larger group abscondings were more common. During 1981, girls were more likely to abscond alone or in pairs. They were also more likely to ring the residence and ask to be returned. This trend, combined with further phone calls from old girls' families or neighbours, meant less involvement by the police in returning absconders.²²⁷⁸ The pattern was thought to be due to the implementation of the extended care programme, where case workers also visited the home to enlist parent support and also to provide support to parents.²²⁷⁹

A total of 15 girls absconded in 1984, most more than once. Of these, 8 abscondings took place when girls were on leave.²²⁸⁰

Secure care

Allendale was essentially an open institution, with high steel mesh fences on one side and at the back of the property being described as "a small obstacle to an active girl".²²⁸¹

However, there were three "isolation rooms" set apart from the main accommodation. These were made of concrete, with steel doors and observation panels.²²⁸² These secure rooms existed from the time Allendale opened.

The secure facilities were used to isolate "temporarily intractable" girls from the main group so that the group's training could continue. They were also used for the short-term reception of girls who were at risk of absconding.²²⁸³

In 1961, girls in secure were provided with reading material and were allowed to exercise in the afternoons under supervision with other residents. Meals were the same as those provided in the open wing. Girls bathed every morning. Details of behaviour in secure, including the use of wire tension springs from mattresses as self propelled projectiles, or to scratch obscenities on walls or glass or pick locks was given in 1961 in response to questions from the Superintendent.²²⁸⁴ At this time a complaint was made about a girl being held in secure for 3 weeks. The length of her detention was explained by Court proceedings, a delay when the girl's mother died, and the need for secure care given that she had absconded 6 times in 3 weeks.²²⁸⁵

²²⁷⁵ Memo, KJ Woods, Principal, to Director, Auckland, 1/9/76, Allendale Reports 31417.

²²⁷⁶ Analysis of Absconding 1979-83, Appendix II, Allendale Incidents, F5000002186500.

²²⁷⁷ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁷⁸ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁷⁹ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p3.

²²⁸⁰ Annual Report 1984, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²²⁸¹ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²²⁸² 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²²⁸³ Letter EC Puddick, Director to Director-General 18/5/73, Allendale Secure 31417.

²²⁸⁴ Correspondence, DCWO Auckland, Superintendent and Principal Allendale, 13/4/61 and 19.4.61 Allendale Secure 31417.

²²⁸⁵ Correspondence, DCWO Auckland, Superintendent and Principal Allendale, 13/4/61 and 19.4.61 Allendale Secure 31417.

In 1973, the Allendale Girls' Home's policy was to use secure care for the benefit of the child concerned, who needed removal from the group, in the interests of their progress. It was stated that secure was not to be used as a punishment.²²⁸⁶

Secure facilities were upgraded in 1976.²²⁸⁷

In 1978, there were no dedicated secure staff, leading to shortages when staff were deployed to secure.²²⁸⁸ However, at this time secure was only used when there was no alternative. It was also used as a short "time-out" facility²²⁸⁹ and to take temporary secure care overflows from Bollard.²²⁹⁰ During 1980, this overflow function was the main use of secure.²²⁹¹ Around this time, an inspection report found use of Allendale secure by Bollard as "occasional" with time out periods for Allendale residents of about 1 hour the predominant use.²²⁹² However, statistics supplied showed the average length of stay to be around 2 days from 1979-1983.²²⁹³

In 1980, there was still no dedicated secure staff.²²⁹⁴ In 1981, the Principal approved all secure admissions.²²⁹⁵ An inspection report found guidelines were available to all staff and records kept, although more detail could have been provided, for example of the reason for admission.²²⁹⁶

By the early 1980s, the 3 secure rooms at Allendale were described as being "dreary and cheerless with limited natural light and no view".²²⁹⁷ They were hot and stuffy in summer and cold in winter.²²⁹⁸ Girls ate in their rooms unless sufficient staff permitted communal eating. Rooms did not have toilets and at night girls had the choice of using a bucket in their room or ringing a bell for night attendants.²²⁹⁹ Exercise was provided for 2 ½ hours daily instead of the regulated minimum of 1 hour a day.²³⁰⁰ An inspection report found that record-keeping and other procedures were adequate but that upgrading would be necessary if the rooms were continued to be used so that girls would not be deprived of sensory stimulation.²³⁰¹ The unit was upgraded in 1983.²³⁰²

Secure admissions were primarily for acts of verbal or physical aggression or for abscondings.²³⁰³ The average length of stay was 2 days, 4 hours in 1982 and in 1984²³⁰⁴, rising to 2 days, 20 hours in 1985.²³⁰⁵

²²⁸⁶ Lallu, H (1979) *The use of secure units in Social Welfare Department Institutions*, unpublished Masters thesis, Victoria University of Wellington, 45.

²²⁸⁷ Annual Report 1976, Allendale Reports 31417.

²²⁸⁸ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁸⁹ Annual Report 1978, Allendale Reports F5000002185731; Lallu, H (1979) *The use of secure units in Social Welfare Department Institutions*, unpublished Masters thesis, Victoria University of Wellington.

²²⁹⁰ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁹¹ Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁹² Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p4.

²²⁹³ Analysis of Secure Care, Appendix 1, Allendale Secure, F5000002186500.

²²⁹⁴ Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²²⁹⁵ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p4.

²²⁹⁶ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p4.

²²⁹⁷ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p2.

²²⁹⁸ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p2.

²²⁹⁹ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p4: <http://www.oldfriends.co.nz>, accessed 20/10/06, Allendale Profile

²³⁰⁰ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p4.

²³⁰¹ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p2,4.

²³⁰² Annual Report 1983, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²³⁰³ See, for example, Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731; of 131 admissions, 57 for verbal or physical aggression, 36 for absconding.

A visitor's report in 1982 suggested the frequent use of secure as a short-term 'time-out' facility be reviewed. The report found high usage and suggested staff be trained in alternative methods of discipline.²³⁰⁶ The same report suggested changes including the replacement of a painted over window pane with clear glass, additional activities, communal eating and clearer recording of the use of secure as a time-out facility. It was also noted that as of 31 August 1982, toilet buckets were no longer to be left in rooms overnight. The secure unit was unheated at this time.

One persistent absconder affected by glue sniffing stayed for 21 days in secure in 1983.²³⁰⁷ During that year, a number of girls were housed in Allendale secure while alterations were undertaken at Bollard secure. Twelve girls also stayed at Allendale secure during their settling in period before transfer to Te Atatu Group Home.²³⁰⁸

By 1988, departmental policy was not to place returned absconders in secure automatically as it was often inappropriate.²³⁰⁹

Discipline

Discipline was described as firm in the mid-1960s although there is little on file about methods employed.²³¹⁰ The removal of privileges operated as a form of discipline.

National guidelines issued in 1982 required records to be kept of all disciplinary practices and noted that administrative directives were being formulated.²³¹¹

No other information relating to discipline was found on file.

Physical punishment

Apart from the evidence of a woman who was housemaster at Allendale in 1965 of a girl who was dragged by the hair to secure care²³¹² nothing was found on file about the use of physical punishment at Allendale.

No corporal punishment was administered at Allendale Girls' Home in 1981 and therefore no punishment register kept.²³¹³ Head Office national directions in November 1982 required the application of corporal punishment to be recorded.²³¹⁴

²³⁰⁴ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731. Annual Report 1984, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²³⁰⁵ Annual Report 1985, Allendale Reports F5000002386581, p3.

²³⁰⁶ Visit to Allendale, 8/9/82, Allendale Secure F5000002185731.

²³⁰⁷ Annual Report 1983, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²³⁰⁸ Annual Report 1983, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²³⁰⁹ Circular Memo 1988/106, 19/8/88, Allendale Secure F5000002388055.

²³¹⁰ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²³¹¹ BM Manchester for Director-General, November 1982, Allendale Discipline/Punishment F5000002386580.

²³¹² Auckland Committee on Racism and Discrimination (1979) *Social Welfare Children's Homes*, p 21.

²³¹³ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p3.

²³¹⁴ BM Manchester for Director-General, November 1982, Allendale Discipline/Punishment F5000002386580.

Drugs, alcohol and tattoos

Alcohol, smoking and heavy make-up were banned at Allendale in the mid-1960s.²³¹⁵

In a reported incident in March 1980, a girl was given 10mg of valium to calm her down. She was in secure when the medication was administered, and after a period of agitation she "sat on the bed and stared blankly towards the door."²³¹⁶

A 1980 Inspection Report noted that tattoos were closely watched for and dealt with immediately. Treatment from a plastic surgeon at Auckland Hospital was available.²³¹⁷ The inspection found health records well maintained. At this time the doctor visited twice weekly and dental care was well provided for.²³¹⁸

There were 8 admissions to secure at Allendale Girls' Home in 1984 for "sniffing, drugs, etc."²³¹⁹

Smoking

Girls under 15 were found to be openly smoking at Allendale in 1963.²³²⁰ Smoking was banned at Allendale in 1966.²³²¹

National policy in 1988 was to enforce the law prohibiting smoking for those under 16 and for principals to exercise their discretion in permitting smoking for 16 and 17 year olds, including any restrictions. In general smoking was to be discouraged because it was a health hazard. Where permitted it should not take place in bedrooms, be confined to small areas and be supervised. Where prohibited staff should not smoke in front of residents.²³²²

Contact with field social workers

No information was found on file in relation to contact with field social workers until 1976.

In 1976, the Principal noted that 50% of girls returned to Allendale, and commented that better links with Field Social Workers may address the issue of poor placements and inadequate follow up once a girl was in a placement.²³²³

²³¹⁵ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²³¹⁶ Letter, LA Hussey, Matron Allendale to Regional Manager, Social Work and Residential Services 29/3/80, Allendale Incidents, F5000002388571.

²³¹⁷ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p8.

²³¹⁸ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p8.

²³¹⁹ Annual Report 1984, Allendale Reports F5000002386581, p3.

²³²⁰ Report (author unknown), April/May 1963, Allendale Profile 31417.

²³²¹ 'Girls must sleep in corridors' *Herald* 30/9/66, Allendale Profile 31417.

²³²² Circular Memo 1988/106, 29/7/88, Allendale Drug Use F5000002388055.

²³²³ Memo, KJ Woods, Principal, to Director, Auckland, 1/9/76, Allendale Reports 31417.

In 1978, the Principal suggested that the larger districts appoint a liaison officer to visit or communicate weekly with Allendale.²³²⁴ Regionalisation had improved liaison by the end of 1979.²³²⁵ At Allendale, this was a positive development, although it weakened communication with Bollard, resulting in a drop in the flow of admissions from Bollard to Allendale.²³²⁶

Relations and liaison with districts was described as good in an Inspection Report of 1981, although Field Social Workers were sometimes tardy in supplying background information.²³²⁷ In 1982, links were said to be good, with two Field Social Workers attending a camp of girls from Allendale.²³²⁸

Contact with community

As well as contact with families, and with local schools, Allendale had a number of links with the local community. In 1981 groups coming into Allendale included the Mayoress Committee, Maori Women's Welfare League, a local church group and the Auckland Drama Society. On site classes in puppetry and jazzercise were also available. An off site programme also ran at a number of places including John Waititi Marae. In 1982 there were weekly sports events with Marcellin College.²³²⁹

Visiting Committee

From 1980 - 1982, there was no contact at all with the Visiting Committee.²³³⁰ Contact was re-established in mid-1983 when a new committee was appointed and began to visit regularly.²³³¹ In 1984, regular visits were made, but two of the three members resigned at the end of the year due to other commitments.²³³² In 1985, only one of the two appointments made turned up at the residence.²³³³

In 1986 and 1987 the Chairperson of the Visiting Committee visited once a month, but trouble was still experienced in getting the third member to attend.²³³⁴ The Annual Report of the Visiting Committee in 1987 expressed concern at the decision to close Allendale in 1988, and noted the hard work of staff and their concern for the welfare of girls at the Home.²³³⁵

²³²⁴ Annual Report 1978 Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²³²⁵ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²³²⁶ Annual Report 1979, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²³²⁷ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p6.

²³²⁸ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²³²⁹ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p4.

²³³⁰ Annual Report 1980, Allendale Reports F5000002185731; Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p 6; Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²³³¹ Annual Report 1983, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²³³² Annual Report 1984, Allendale Reports F5000002386581, p8.

²³³³ Annual Report 1985, Allendale Reports F5000002386581, p8.

²³³⁴ Visiting Committees, Annual Reports, 1986, Allendale Reports F5000006661405; Visiting Committees, Annual Reports, 1987, Allendale Reports F5000006661405.

²³³⁵ Report, Visiting Committee, 30/6/87, Allendale Reports, F5000006661405.

Contact with families

Girls were encouraged to spend weekends at home.²³³⁶ After the first month at Allendale, home leave was fortnightly.²³³⁷ In 1985 there was day home leave initially, followed by overnight leave 3 weeks later and weekend leave 3 weekly provided there were no problems.²³³⁸

Caseworkers incorporated home visits into their practice in 1982.²³³⁹

Preparation for discharge and after-care arrangements

The Principal noted a number of concerns with inadequate discharge arrangements in 1976, noting a high rate of returning girls and suggesting better liaison with districts, particularly in follow up care.²³⁴⁰

A pre-discharge team was formed in 1985 under the supervision of the Principal.²³⁴¹

²³³⁶ Inspection Report, circa 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731, p5.

²³³⁷ Annual Report 1981, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²³³⁸ Annual Report 1985, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

²³³⁹ Annual Report 1982, Allendale Reports F5000002185731.

²³⁴⁰ Memo, KJ Woods, Principal to Director, Auckland, 1/9/76 Allendale Reports 31417.

²³⁴¹ Annual Report 1985, Allendale Reports F5000002386581.

Chapter

8

Miramar Girls' Home

Physical Description

Miramar Girls' Home was a district home that provided short- to medium-term care and assessment for girls on remand or in need of shelter from the Lower North Island.²³⁴²

Located at 41 Camperdown Road, Miramar, Wellington in a former hotel built in 1907, Miramar was a two-storied building with "fairly spacious grounds" that included a mini-gymnasium, a small Para swimming pool²³⁴³ and a games room²³⁴⁴.

An opening date for the institution could not be found, but there is mention of a receiving home for girls in Wellington in the early-1950s.²³⁴⁵ In 1973, Miramar (then called Wellington Girls' Home)²³⁴⁶ had a capacity of 32 open beds, 4 secure and 2 semi-secure rooms.²³⁴⁷ From the early 1980s, the number of open beds increased to 36.²³⁴⁸ In common with other department institutions, except for the secure unit, the Home was "wide open with no locked doors".²³⁴⁹

The secure unit was described in a 1981 newspaper article as consisting of small "austere" grey rooms with a window, a bed, basin, toilet, piped music from an intercom system²³⁵⁰ and a blackboard in each room.²³⁵¹ The secure unit also

²³⁴² Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 6.

²³⁴³ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504. Photos of the interior and exterior of the building were provided in a pamphlet given to resident's parents. See Pamphlet Miramar Girls' Home, undated, author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²³⁴⁴ Code of Practice, A.J Morrison to the Director, Wellington 10/4/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²³⁴⁵ See, for example, Annual Report to Parliament, Department of Education, Child Welfare Division, Appendix to the Journals, 1952 – C-G vol II. This profile focuses on the period that the Home was called Miramar Girls' Home.

²³⁴⁶ Miramar was also referred to as Strathmore Girls' Home. There was another Strathmore residence located in Christchurch. See "Four walls almost send girl 'loony'" Christchurch Star 26/4/78, Miramar Secure F50000032995.

²³⁴⁷ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²³⁴⁸ Institutional Statistics 1984 Report, M.P Doolan, Director Residential Services 4/1184, Miramar Admissions F5000002186501, Appendix C.

²³⁴⁹ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²³⁵⁰ "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²³⁵¹ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

consisted of a shower, bathroom and spartanly furnished dayroom²³⁵² with easy chairs and magazines.²³⁵³

A hostel for older girls was in operation in Wellington since at least 1954,²³⁵⁴ The hostel was located on the second floor of the building in a space that was previously staff quarters.²³⁵⁵ The hostel provided 6 beds for girls working outside the Home or attending local schools.²³⁵⁶ In 1984 the hostel was closed and the facility was used as a "privilege area".²³⁵⁷

Miramar had its own two-teacher school (Aurora School) next to the main residential building²³⁵⁸ with two classrooms of "modern design".²³⁵⁹ The school was described as well maintained in 1984, and was undergoing a number of alterations including work towards a school library.²³⁶⁰

The main building was repainted and in the process of being internally decorated in 1981.²³⁶¹ Approval was given in 1982 to build an outside room in order to expand the activities programme.²³⁶² The Principal noted in 1982 that Miramar was endeavouring to set aside an "admission bedroom" for night admissions.²³⁶³

A 1983 newspaper article described the home as being "like a friendly hostel", with "no bars, no barbed wire; not even a gate across the entrance".²³⁶⁴ The reporter noted bedrooms had "a couple of neat beds and some pictures on the wall just like any girl's bedroom anywhere in New Zealand".²³⁶⁵ A 1981 article noted that some residents shared rooms.²³⁶⁶

In 1983 the Visiting Committee described Miramar differently, stating the physical environment was "oppressive" and residents did "not have enough space in both the physical and mental concept".²³⁶⁷ They noted a lack of recreation and "time out" facilities, and suggested the addition of a prefab or similar.²³⁶⁸ A new prefab was added in 1985²³⁶⁹ to provide more space and allow better supervision for evening programmes.²³⁷⁰

²³⁵² "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²³⁵³ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²³⁵⁴ Annual Report to Parliament, Department of Education, Child Welfare Division, Appendix to the Journals, 1954 – C-H12 vol II; Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8.

²³⁵⁵ D.J Manley, Assistant Principal and A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 14/5/84 Miramar Profile F5000002186500.

²³⁵⁶ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8.

²³⁵⁷ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 2.

²³⁵⁸ Code of Practice, A.J Morrison to the Director, Wellington 10/4/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²³⁵⁹ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²³⁶⁰ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 4.

²³⁶¹ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²³⁶² Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 9.

²³⁶³ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 9.

²³⁶⁴ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²³⁶⁵ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²³⁶⁶ "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²³⁶⁷ Letter from P.F Boshier, Chairman of the Visiting Committee, to V. Young, Minister of Social Welfare 23/11/83, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²³⁶⁸ Letter from P.F Boshier, Chairman of the Visiting Committee, to V. Young, Minister of Social Welfare 23/11/83, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²³⁶⁹ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²³⁷⁰ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 2.

Funding for a gymnasium complex was requested in 1983²³⁷¹ but the request was denied due to site restrictions and the "limited life" of the Girls' Home building.²³⁷² In 1983 a car and van were acquired for the Home.²³⁷³

In 1984, issues with surveillance and security on the property were raised and a number of problematic "blind spots" in the grounds were identified, in particular the rear of the secure unit which was out of sight from the main building.²³⁷⁴ An upgrade of the security, surveillance and monitoring system was approved in May 1984.²³⁷⁵

In 1986 a restructure of the Home was proposed, as the average roll was low, ranging from 20-25 girls compared to the maximum capacity of 36 beds (plus 4 secure). The floor plans of the existing facility were included in the proposal.²³⁷⁶

The number of beds was gradually reduced from January 1988²³⁷⁷ before the scheduled closure of the Home at the end of March 1989.²³⁷⁸

Resident profile

The Girls' Home provided for the reception and short-term care of 12-16 year olds who were in the custody of the Department and for whom a community living situation was impractical.²³⁷⁹

The main contributing districts were Wellington, Porirua and Lower Hutt²³⁸⁰ although girls were admitted from Wairoa, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Hastings, and Napier, and as far south as Blenheim and Nelson.²³⁸¹

In 1983 the Visiting Committee commented that a number of problems at Miramar resulted from the mix of Youth Justice and Care and Protection girls at the Home, and suggested that dividing girls according to their status would make the job of the staff easier.²³⁸²

²³⁷¹ Memo from A.J Morrison, Principal to the Director, Wellington 3/5/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²³⁷² Memo from G.A Grainger for the Director-General to the Director, Wellington 16/9/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²³⁷³ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 5.

²³⁷⁴ D.J Manley, Assistant Principal and A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 14/5/84 Miramar Profile F5000002186500. For more details see Miramar Secure section..

²³⁷⁵ Memo M.P Doolan, for the Director-General to the Director, Wellington 29/5/84, Miramar Profile F5000002186500.

²³⁷⁶ Memo from D. Waaka, Senior Residential Social Worker, Miramar Girls' Home 13/10/1986, Miramar Profile F5000006089634.

²³⁷⁷ Wellington Girls' Home 1988/89 Management Plan, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²³⁷⁸ Letter from Mr P Swain for the Assistant Director-General to Mr G McCrae 14/11/88, Miramar Reports.

²³⁷⁹ Wellington Girls' Home Role and Functions, undated, author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000002368864.

²³⁸⁰ Miramar Girls' Home admission statistics, author unknown, circa February 1979, Miramar Admissions F5000003771104.

²³⁸¹ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²³⁸² Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education file, Miramar Reports, p 6.

It was noted that at the start of 1984 the Girls' Home had been full, and social workers were concerned that Miramar was at times unable to admit young people requiring short-term institutional accommodation, and some girls between 14 and 16 years had been declined admission.²³⁸³ In response, the Principal commented some admissions had been "delayed" because the institution was full, "resisted" due to lack of planning for the admission, or "found to be totally inappropriate" due to reasons such as age, serious psychiatric conditions and involvement in serious offending.²³⁸⁴

In 1985 the Visiting Committee noted most residents were there for Care and Protection reasons, and comparatively few were in the Home because of criminal offending.²³⁸⁵

By 1986 Miramar was often operating at less than full capacity. Although Miramar had capacity for 40 residents, there were between 20 and 25 girls on the roll.²³⁸⁶

Length of stay

In 1972 the average length of stay was 35 days, with few girls staying beyond three months.²³⁸⁷ The next available figures indicate that average stay rose to 57 days in 1977²³⁸⁸ and then decreased in the late 1970s. In 1981 it was noted some girls stayed past the average 3 months due to special needs and delays in finding placements in work training programmes.²³⁸⁹

By 1982 the average length of stay had risen to just over 60 days.²³⁹⁰ This increase was attributed to the extension of programmes in which girls were placed in flatting or semi-flatting situations and continuing to be supported by the Home.²³⁹¹

The length of stay in 1984 decreased to an average of 50 days²³⁹² which was partially attributed to the closure of the Hostel.²³⁹³ Delays were experienced in discharges to long-term institutions, especially during the Christmas holidays.²³⁹⁴ In a 1984 it was noted that the Girls' Home had a consistently longer average stay

²³⁸³ Memo from J.R Cody, Social Work Advisor to Director, Wanganui and Wellington Principals, circa 18/5/84, Miramar Admissions F5000002186500.

²³⁸⁴ Memo from J.R Cody, Social Work Advisor to Director, Wanganui and Wellington Principals, circa 18/5/84, Miramar Admissions F5000002186500.

²³⁸⁵ Visiting Committee Annual Report 1985, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 5.

²³⁸⁶ Memo from D. Waaka, Senior Residential Social Worker, Miramar Girls' Home 13/10/1986, Miramar Profile F5000006089634.

²³⁸⁷ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²³⁸⁸ Miramar Girls' Home admission statistics, author unknown, circa February 1979, Miramar Admissions F5000003771104.

²³⁸⁹ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²³⁹⁰ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 7.

²³⁹¹ Memo, J.A Blair for the Director General to Director, Wellington 5/08/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646. Appendices containing figures on absconding and length of stay are missing from this report.

²³⁹² Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, Appendix C.

²³⁹³ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 3.

²³⁹⁴ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 3.

compared to other national institutions.²³⁹⁵ In 1985 the average length of stay had further decreased to 40 days.²³⁹⁶

Admissions and occupancy

Figures from 1976 to 1982 indicate that admissions gradually decreased from 244 admissions in 1976²³⁹⁷ to a low of 152 admissions in 1982²³⁹⁸. In 1985 however, 226 girls were admitted to Miramar which was considered high.²³⁹⁹ The Principal commented that the changes in the Child and Young Person's Act could "only necessitate further admissions".²⁴⁰⁰

Admissions were reduced from January 1988 in preparation for the closure of the Home.²⁴⁰¹

Occupancy figures provided from 1979 to 1985 indicate that the average daily number of occupied beds gradually increased, from 15 in 1979²⁴⁰² to a peak of 21 in 1982²⁴⁰³. Daily occupancy rates then appeared to stabilise to an average of 18 occupied beds per year.²⁴⁰⁴ Nominal roll figures were also provided and followed a similar pattern. The two figures differed slightly as the nominal roll accounted for girls on home leave, attending Aurora School from home, and those who had left the residence but continued to receive support.²⁴⁰⁵

Programmes and care

Admission procedures and policy

In 1973 it was noted that residents spent at least two weeks in the Home before being admitted to the school, during which time medical examinations and "other necessary assessments" were made, as well as basic work training.²⁴⁰⁶

According to a 1981 newspaper article, on admission girls were spoken to at length about why they were at the Girls' Home and what they could expect while living there. Rules about pocket money, clothes, and smoking were discussed, as well as the two basic rules "stay and be good".²⁴⁰⁷ Girls were also provided with an

²³⁹⁵ Institutional Statistics 1984 Report, M.P Doolan, Director Residential Services 4/1184, Miramar Admissions F5000002186501.

²³⁹⁶ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²³⁹⁷ Miramar Girls' Home admission statistics, author unknown, circa February 1979, Miramar Admissions F5000003771104.

²³⁹⁸ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Appendix A. See also Admissions to D.S.W Institutions 1976-1983, Miramar Admissions F5000002186500.

²³⁹⁹ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴⁰⁰ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴⁰¹ A Whitmore, Principal to District Directors 24/12/87, Miramar Admissions F5000005659654.

²⁴⁰² Admissions, Absondings, Nominal Roll and Occupied Beds figures for all institutions, undated, author unknown, Miramar Admissions F5000002388341.

²⁴⁰³ Admissions to DSW Institutions 1976-1983, author unknown, undated, Miramar Admissions F5000002186500.

²⁴⁰⁴ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, Appendix B.

²⁴⁰⁵ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 7. For the Department's definition of occupancy and nominal usage rates see Institutional Statistics 1984 Report, M.P Doolan, Director Residential Services 4/1184, Miramar Admissions F5000002186501.

²⁴⁰⁶ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁴⁰⁷ "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

introductory booklet setting out their rights and the rules of the institution.²⁴⁰⁸ According to a 1983 prospectus, the aim on admission was to "provide [a girl with] a warm and relaxed atmosphere which will enable her to settle into the residence" which included informing girls of who their Residential Social Worker would be, and placing each resident "under the wing of a caring peer".²⁴⁰⁹

In 1983, the Visiting Committee were concerned about Police bringing girls to the Home under "questionable authority" and with insufficient background information.²⁴¹⁰ This complaint was acted on by the Minister and the situation was noted to have improved.²⁴¹¹

A document (circa 1980s) set out the admission, liaison and discharge procedures at Miramar.²⁴¹² A 1988 memorandum further outlined procedures for planned and unplanned admissions, both of which were to involve a case conference and ongoing progress reports.²⁴¹³ There was an expectation that field social work staff would ensure that residents were adequately clothed on admission.

Programmes and casework

The institution provided a short-term readjustment programme to return girls in their care to the community or long-term care.²⁴¹⁴

According to a 1981 report, casework was under the overall control of the Assistant Principal²⁴¹⁵ and residential social workers were grouped into 3 social work teams, with formal and informal supervision periods scheduled for each team.²⁴¹⁶ Casework, recreation, social development and work experience were shared between the school and residence in a 'team approach'.²⁴¹⁷

In 1982 an objective of the Girls' Home was to provide assessment of girls' social, emotional, educational and vocational needs, to establish a treatment programme and to review programme effectiveness regularly.²⁴¹⁸ Programmes included group care and individual treatment²⁴¹⁹ and aimed to completely involve the resident.²⁴²⁰

A visiting social welfare cadet noted in 1983 that case work was taken very seriously at Miramar.²⁴²¹ Personal plans were made for each resident and discussed in case conferences with social workers, parents and the residential social worker. It was noted however, that often girls felt they had not been listened to and had little say in their future, which was partially attributed to conflict or tension in case conferences. The cadet further observed that any negative views of case work from residents

²⁴⁰⁸ Information booklet for new admissions, date and author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁴⁰⁹ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section C Objective 1, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁴¹⁰ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education file, Miramar Reports, p 5.

²⁴¹¹ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education file, Miramar Reports, p 5.

²⁴¹² Miramar Girls' Home Admission, Liaison and Discharge Procedures, undated, author unknown, Miramar Admissions F5000003771104.

²⁴¹³ L Hartley, Senior Social Worker to Assistant Director Social Services 1/11/88, Miramar Admissions F5000005659654.

²⁴¹⁴ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 1.

²⁴¹⁵ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁴¹⁶ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 27/6/84, Miramar Staffing F5000002186500.

²⁴¹⁷ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁴¹⁸ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴¹⁹ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Aims and Objectives, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁴²⁰ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Aurora School Objectives, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁴²¹ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

resulted from misunderstandings about their personal plan, which could happen when the residential social worker was away or had a heavy case load.²⁴²²

In 1987 the Principal proposed a shift from extended care to a model of short-term, time limited, task-centred care, and it was noted that casework would not be provided for short term placements.²⁴²³ The paper also set out Miramar's commitment to a bi-cultural perspective.²⁴²⁴

A 1988 memorandum set out the expected casework procedures for district staff, which included a formal case discussion taking place within 7 days of admission, and the assignment of a casework team to the resident within 24 hours. Residents were assigned a team of 4 social workers, with one assuming the primary role.²⁴²⁵

In 1987 the Principal stated that programmes aimed to "foster independence" in residents, and programmes provided for both Youth Justice and Care and Protection residents were outlined.²⁴²⁶ At this time programmes included an educational programme, sex and health education, home economics/home management, a pre-employment and work exploration programme and leisure time activities.²⁴²⁷ A cultural enrichment programme was also provided and involved a variety of cultural groups, including Taha Maori.²⁴²⁸

In 1988 it was noted that in addition to 3 programmes - cultural development and awareness, life and social skills, and work skills and experience - an educational assessment and individual teaching programme provided additional assistance to girls deficient in basic educational skills.²⁴²⁹

Girls received weekly pocket money which was paid into a personal account for them, and the amount varied according to age.²⁴³⁰ Residents had to put in a request to their residential social worker if they wished to spend their pocket money.²⁴³¹ Girls on weekend or day leave from the Home were given money for all return fares and part of their pocket money for spending.²⁴³²

Recreation

In 1973 residents took part in a number of recreational activities outside of the home, such as swimming, educational visits, local softball and netball competitions. The Home provided a trampoline, table tennis, radiogram, snooker table, go-cart, etc, and other activities included basic dress-making.²⁴³³ "Fee for service" personnel were employed to teach programmes.²⁴³⁴

²⁴²² Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

²⁴²³ Discussion paper, A Whitmore, Principal 15/6/87, Miramar Admissions F5000003771098.

²⁴²⁴ Discussion paper, A Whitmore, Principal 15/6/87, Miramar Admissions F5000003771098.

²⁴²⁵ L Hartley, Senior Social Worker to District Office social work staff 5/2/88. Miramar Admissions F5000001594224.

²⁴²⁶ Discussion paper, A Whitmore, Principal 15/6/87, Miramar Admissions, F5000003771098.

²⁴²⁷ Discussion paper, A Whitmore, Principal 15/6/87, Miramar Admissions F5000003771098.

²⁴²⁸ Discussion paper, A Whitmore, Principal 15/6/87, Miramar Admissions F5000003771098.

²⁴²⁹ L Hartley, Senior Social Worker to District Office social work staff 5/2/88. Miramar Admissions F5000001594224.

²⁴³⁰ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

²⁴³¹ Information booklet for new admissions, date and author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁴³² V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

²⁴³³ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁴³⁴ See Annual Reports 1981, 1982, 1984, 1986, Miramar Reports.

Leisure and recreation activities offered in 1981 included visits to Marae, camping, sports and cultural pursuits, swimming, hiking, listening to music, dancing, watching TV.²⁴³⁵ Girls also received training in sewing, art and craft.²⁴³⁶ In 1982 a special needs programme was approved for a resident with special needs.²⁴³⁷ In 1983 Maori classes were also offered.²⁴³⁸ Special activities such as attending courses in the community were made available "as and when the need arises."²⁴³⁹ Discos were also regularly held.²⁴⁴⁰

In 1983 a visitor remarked that the living conditions and recreational opportunities at Miramar were very good.²⁴⁴¹

An adventure camp was held in 1983²⁴⁴² and "successful" camps were held again in 1984 and 1985.²⁴⁴³ Camps were considered an important part of the programme to prepare girls to return to the community.²⁴⁴⁴ School staff also assisted at camps.²⁴⁴⁵ In 1985 the camp programme was under review due to staffing pressures.²⁴⁴⁶

Work and training

It was reported in 1981 that older residents – who had left school but did not have jobs – helped out with laundry, sewing and other chores while the younger girls went to school.²⁴⁴⁷ Residents helped in the preparation of meals²⁴⁴⁸ and other domestic tasks such as washing their clothes.²⁴⁴⁹

It appeared that work was used at times as a punishment for absconding.²⁴⁵⁰ In 1983 a visitor noted that a work programme was used in conjunction with secure care.²⁴⁵¹

According to a Principal's report in 1973, girls were occasionally given the opportunity to work outside the Home, but this was usually limited to a short trial period prior to placement.²⁴⁵²

²⁴³⁵ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴³⁶ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴³⁷ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 9.

²⁴³⁸ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

²⁴³⁹ A.J Morrison to the Director, Wellington 10/4/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁴⁴⁰ See Contact with Community section.

²⁴⁴¹ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

²⁴⁴² Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴⁴³ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 2.

²⁴⁴⁴ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴⁴⁵ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴⁴⁶ D. Waaka, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal 2/11/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁴⁴⁷ "A homestead for mind clearing", *The Dominion* 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²⁴⁴⁸ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section C-D, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁴⁴⁹ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", *Eastern Suburbs News* 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²⁴⁵⁰ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director and J.A Blair, Senior Institutions Officer, Wellington 7/12/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁴⁵¹ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

²⁴⁵² O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

A prospectus for Miramar stated one of the aims of the Home was to give clients access to basic employment knowledge, work skills and work experience in order to obtain a level of independence.²⁴⁵³

In 1981 a visiting psychologist undertook specialised group work, a feature of which was vocational training.²⁴⁵⁴ In 1982 the vocational programme was revised and three stages were identified. The first stage involved training on seeking employment and interview preparation.²⁴⁵⁵ In the second stage residents entered the work programme, and an individualised programme was created for the resident. Once in the work programme, board payments were deducted from the resident's wages, and a standard amount of pocket money was set, which was periodically reviewed. Working girls had first priority of entry into the Hostel.²⁴⁵⁶

In the third stage of the vocational programme, residents who were over 16 and from the Wellington area could move into a flatting situation, subject to the approval of the work training supervisor and field social worker. Responsibility for the resident was to be handed over from the work training supervisor to the field social worker after three weeks, at which point the resident was removed from the Miramar roll.²⁴⁵⁷

The Principal reported in 1982 that a vocation skills programme had been successful – at one stage nine girls were employed in the factory next to the residence.²⁴⁵⁸ In the same year a visitor to Miramar commented on the positive direction of vocational training.²⁴⁵⁹ According to the visitor, "the fact that many girls will not go back to school but will have to go out to find jobs with little qualification has realistically been faced".²⁴⁶⁰

A pre-employment and "work exploration programme" continued to be offered at Miramar in 1987.²⁴⁶¹

The Hostel assisted in the extension of the work training programme and aimed to provide independence for working girls.²⁴⁶² Despite the fact that the hostel was reported to have been "successful" in 1982 and 1983,²⁴⁶³ the unit was closed in 1984 due to administrative difficulties, a decrease in job opportunities and delays in placing girls in suitable accommodation.²⁴⁶⁴

²⁴⁵³ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section B Objective 5, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504

²⁴⁵⁴ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴⁵⁵ Vocational Programme memo, D. Manley, Assistant Principal to Principal 14/10/80 revised 31/7/82. Miramar Education file F5000003771104.

²⁴⁵⁶ Vocational Programme memo, D. Manley, Assistant Principal to Principal 14/10/80 revised 31/7/82. Miramar Education file F5000003771104.

²⁴⁵⁷ Vocational Programme memo, D. Manley, Assistant Principal to Principal 14/10/80 revised 31/7/82. Miramar Education file F5000003771104.

²⁴⁵⁸ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 9.

²⁴⁵⁹ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 5.

²⁴⁶⁰ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 5.

²⁴⁶¹ Discussion paper, A Whitmore, Principal 15/6/87, Miramar Admissions F5000003771098.

²⁴⁶² Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8-9.

²⁴⁶³ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8. See also Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646.

²⁴⁶⁴ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 2.

Resident-to-resident issues

No information relating to specific incidents between residents was found.

Health and medication

Medical

The Principal remarked in 1981 that medical and health were a high priority within the overall programme. Some difficulties were experienced in the dental care area because often girls leave before planned treatment was completed.²⁴⁶⁵

An information booklet given to girls on admission advised that they would have a full medical examination shortly after their arrival, to ascertain whether medical help was required.²⁴⁶⁶ It was reported in 1981 that staff suggested to older girls on admission that they visit the venereal disease clinic for a check.²⁴⁶⁷

In 1982 two doctors from the Health Department visited the Home to assist residents "in the all important task of understanding themselves".²⁴⁶⁸ In the same year, the Visiting Committee investigated medical procedures at Miramar (in response to issues highlighted in the 1982 Human Rights Commission Report) and found no reason for criticism.²⁴⁶⁹

According to a 1983 prospectus, an objective of staff was "to promote the wellbeing of each girl, by quality health care and education" and "to ensure that each resident is in general physical health and that any emotional and mental needs and stresses are provided for by professional guidance".²⁴⁷⁰

It was also noted professional dental care in the community was available and a general practitioner was on call 24 hours. Initial examinations for any physical or mental health problems were to be carried out by a GP, who could then referred residents to a specialist. The document also stated that no resident was subject to compulsory medical examination and residents were to be prepared for any examination by counselling. Prescribed medication was given out by resident medical personnel.²⁴⁷¹

It was noted in 1983 by a visiting Social Welfare cadet that the girls were well fed and encouraged to keep a high level of personal hygiene.²⁴⁷²

²⁴⁶⁵ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴⁶⁶ Information booklet for new admissions, date and author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁴⁶⁷ "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²⁴⁶⁸ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 10.

²⁴⁶⁹ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education file, Miramar Reports, p 4.

²⁴⁷⁰ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section D Objective 4, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁴⁷¹ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section D Objective 4, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁴⁷² Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

In 1985 a doctor visited the Girls' Home twice a week to ensure that residents were medically fit, and psychiatric referrals were available if needed.²⁴⁷³ In 1986, all girls on admission were medically examined by the Home's doctor, and where necessary, appointments were made to attend the women's clinic at Wellington Hospital.²⁴⁷⁴ The staff member commented that "only a small percentage" of girls admitted had venereal disease and "all medical precautions were taken".²⁴⁷⁵

In 1984 a weekly health programme was run on topics such as sex education, drugs, body care, growth and development etc.²⁴⁷⁶ A sex and health education programme was still in operation at Miramar in 1987.²⁴⁷⁷ The objective of this programme was "to provide young women with basic information about personal health, hygiene, sexual identity, sexual behaviour, and how to access a variety of health care services".²⁴⁷⁸

Psychological services/counselling

According to a 1973 memo from the Principal, a psychologist visited the home weekly but "only sees one girl" and if assessment was necessary, there "may be a delay of some weeks".²⁴⁷⁹ A doctor provided weekly psychiatric assessment and ongoing counselling if needed, and it was noted that all behaviour modification was supervised by the doctor.²⁴⁸⁰

In 1977 a Senior Social Worker emphasised the importance of providing relevant information when girls were admitted, especially those likely to be referred to a psychologist or psychiatrist.²⁴⁸¹ The memo stated that lack of information about psychological or psychiatric referrals in the past had resulted in the work of specialists at the Home being "duplicated".²⁴⁸²

The Principal reported in 1982 that a psychologist from the Education Department assisted at the school, and undertook staff training as well as clinical duties.²⁴⁸³ In the same year a visitor to Miramar confirmed that psychological assessment was available if needed.²⁴⁸⁴

The Visiting Committee noted in 1983 that while some psychological assessment was available, there was not as much as the Committee would have liked.²⁴⁸⁵ A part-time assistant psychologist was employed in 1983.²⁴⁸⁶ In 1984 a regional

²⁴⁷³ A.J Morrison to the Director, Wellington 10/4/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁴⁷⁴ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

²⁴⁷⁵ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

²⁴⁷⁶ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴⁷⁷ Discussion paper, A Whitmore, Principal 15/6/87, Miramar Admissions, F5000003771098.

²⁴⁷⁸ Discussion paper, A Whitmore, Principal 15/6/87, Miramar Admissions F5000003771098.

²⁴⁷⁹ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁴⁸⁰ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁴⁸¹ Memo R.G Letham, Senior Social Worker to Contributing Districts 23/8/77, Miramar Staffing F5000001594224.

²⁴⁸² Memo R.G Letham, Senior Social Worker to Contributing Districts 23/8/77, Miramar Staffing F5000001594224.

²⁴⁸³ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 10.

²⁴⁸⁴ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 2.

²⁴⁸⁵ P.F Boshier, Chairman of the Visiting Committee to V. Young, Minister of Social Welfare 23/11/83, Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁴⁸⁶ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 4.

psychologist was also appointed.²⁴⁸⁷ It was noted in 1985 that the educational psychologist spent one day a week at the school and the regional psychologist was regularly in attendance.²⁴⁸⁸ A counsellor was also added to the specialist staff in 1985.²⁴⁸⁹

In 1983 the Principal commented that any "disturbed children" at Miramar had received the appropriate specialised psychological or psychiatric help required. A particular case was noted in which a resident had been taken to Kimberley Hospital, although she was later considered inappropriately placed in the hospital.²⁴⁹⁰

A 1984 report from Aurora school noted that teachers were having some input into the instigation of psychological referrals, although follow-up discussion between institution staff and teachers tended to be informal and haphazard and "usually occurs over lunch".²⁴⁹¹

Psychiatric hospital placement

A former social worker working in the Wellington region during 1960s and 1970s recalled that a lot of girls were in Porirua Hospital. She believed many of the girls were from Miramar, and felt that the manager of the Home may have had a role in sending them. It was also noted that concern was expressed by CWOs regarding the type of treatment (EEGs and ECT) given there.²⁴⁹²

Staffing

Relationship between staff and residents

According to a Miramar prospectus, an aim of the institution was to encourage warm and supportive interaction between residents and staff, to create a "relaxed and homely resident environment".²⁴⁹³ It was expected that staff members be seen by residents as "mother – father figures".²⁴⁹⁴

A 1981 newspaper article quoted a resident who said "the staff are good to us. Sometimes they're too good. They let us go on outings if they trust us. Last week we went to the movies and I was the only one who came back".²⁴⁹⁵

A social welfare cadet visiting in 1982 noted that the major function of staff was to offer residents counselling, support, motivation and a "realistic view of their

²⁴⁸⁷ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 3.

²⁴⁸⁸ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁴⁸⁹ A.J Morrison to the Director, Wellington 10/4/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁴⁹⁰ A.J Morrison, Principal to Chief Medical Officer, Head Office 11/4/83, Miramar Health F5000002186504.

²⁴⁹¹ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 6.

²⁴⁹² Telephone conversation with [REDACTED] 30/6/06, Miramar Staffing.

²⁴⁹³ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Aurora School Objectives, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁴⁹⁴ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Aurora School Objectives, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁴⁹⁵ "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

situation".²⁴⁹⁶ He observed that respect had been established towards staff and their relationships with residents were generally healthy, although staff were criticised for not listening to residents enough in some cases. In a report to the Principal, the cadet also voiced concern about an inconsistency of policy across staff shifts and a lack of communication between staff, which resulted in residents becoming confused regarding the rules of the institution.²⁴⁹⁷

The 1983 Annual Report commented that staff and residents held a "successful" end-of-year dinner together, in which staff served residents in a formal setting.²⁴⁹⁸ The dinner was also held successfully in 1984.²⁴⁹⁹

Staff to resident incidents

In 1984 the Visiting Committee put forward a suggestion to extend their role into mediating complaints between residents and staff, as they believed the decisions about complaints were made at "an unnecessarily high level".²⁵⁰⁰ It appears the Committee wished to address the degree of distrust that had resulted from a past incident in which their involvement in the complaints process had had negative consequences.²⁵⁰¹ In response to the suggestion, the Principal noted that while the Committee may hear about complaints between staff and residents, the Department guidelines would be followed for all discipline matters.²⁵⁰² The District Director further noted that he was the first to deal with complaints by girls against staff members, and added that complaints by staff against girls were not frequent, and usually involved matters which were "largely part of the normal process of discipline and control within the institution".²⁵⁰³ The Director noted in the case of a staff member laying a formal complaint it may become a Police matter.²⁵⁰⁴

In February [REDACTED] a resident [REDACTED] attempted to strangle a supervisor.²⁵⁰⁵ A doctor's report noted that the staff member had subsequently suffered an anxiety state that prevented her returning to work.²⁵⁰⁶ A residential social worker requested that the resident's "deprivation" be taken into account before the staff member proceeded with any action.²⁵⁰⁷ It is unclear if legal action was taken by the staff member. The Acting Principal noted that a number of actions and communications regarding the resident and the decision to hold her in secure had preceded the incident.²⁵⁰⁸

²⁴⁹⁶ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 1.

²⁴⁹⁷ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

²⁴⁹⁸ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 4.

²⁴⁹⁹ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 2.

²⁵⁰⁰ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 11.

²⁵⁰¹ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 11.

²⁵⁰² A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 6/7/84, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 2.

²⁵⁰³ J. Lambie, District Director to Director-General 12/7/84, Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁵⁰⁴ J. Lambie, District Director to Director-General 12/7/84, Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁵⁰⁵ Report P.J O'Sullivan, Supervisor [REDACTED] Miramar Incidents F [REDACTED]

²⁵⁰⁶ T.B Cork, Visiting Medical Officer, to M. Doolan, Director of Residential Services [REDACTED], Miramar incidents F5000002186501.

²⁵⁰⁷ J. O'Kane, Relieving ARSW to D.J Manley, Acting Principal, [REDACTED] Miramar Girls' Home Incidents F5000002186501.

²⁵⁰⁸ Handwritten note from D.J Manley, Acting Principal on memo from J. O'Kane, Relieving ARSW. [REDACTED] Miramar Girls' Home Incidents F5000002186501. For more details see D.J Manley, Assistant Principal for the Principal to Director, Wellington [REDACTED] Miramar incidents F5000002186501. See also Miramar Secure section.

In March 1986, a Social Worker complained about the care of a particular resident, and the problems she and the resident had experienced in her interaction with Girls' Home staff. It was noted that for a period the resident had no residential caseworker, had insufficient clothing, and no contact had been made with field social workers. It was reported that resident, who had been in secure care a number of times, "didn't mind being in secure as she felt safer there than upstairs" in the residential area.²⁵⁰⁹ It was also claimed that the placement of the resident at the institution was "racist". The Principal commented the resident was a "major disturbance" and should have been placed at Kingslea. The resident was eventually taken out of the Home as it was believed she had become a "scapegoat".²⁵¹⁰ A memo from the District office in response to the allegations acknowledged general management problems and remarked that there appeared to be "some inconsistencies" with planning".²⁵¹¹

In 1988 a social worker expressed concern about events leading to the transferral of two residents from Miramar to Weymouth.²⁵¹² One resident absconded while at Miramar, and before being placed in the secure unit on her return, it was alleged that she had been required to strip instead of being frisked. She was later given sedatives after attempting to self-harm, and before travelling to Weymouth.²⁵¹³ According to the social worker, similar events appeared to have happened to a second resident, and the circumstances surrounding the use of sedatives and stripping were questioned.²⁵¹⁴

Management

There were five staff vacancies in 1981, and periods between appointments varied from 1-6 months.²⁵¹⁵ In 1981 the Principal remarked that staff and management at Miramar "lacked the expertise necessary to compile files and carry out clerical functions adequately".²⁵¹⁶ This appeared to be remedied by the employment of part-time clerical support in 1982.²⁵¹⁷ This position was made fulltime in 1984.²⁵¹⁸

In 1982, supervisor Miss Tucker retired after 25 years at the Girls' Home.²⁵¹⁹ The same year Miramar was criticised by a Head Office inspector for failing to follow planning procedures. The inspector was concerned about the amount of work for individual staff work in the form of planning and casework, and noted staff felt they worked in isolation and that this meant "the best interests of the child were not being met". The inspector also commented on the "incredible" lack of recorded information, and requested Department planning policy be implemented.²⁵²⁰

²⁵⁰⁹ P. Crowley, Social Worker to Director, Porirua 12/3/86, Miramar Contact F5000003771099. For more details see Miramar Staffing and Contact with Field Social Workers sections.

²⁵¹⁰ P. Crowley, Social Worker to Director, Porirua 12/3/86, Miramar Contact F5000003771099.

²⁵¹¹ Memo B. Hay, Assistant Director Social Work 1/4/86, Miramar Contact F5000003771099.

²⁵¹² K. Lyness, Social Worker to the Assistant Director, Social Services 23/2/88. Miramar Incidents F5000005659654.

²⁵¹³ K. Lyness, Social Worker to the Assistant Director, Social Services 23/2/88. Miramar Incidents F5000005659654.

²⁵¹⁴ K. Lyness, Social Worker to the Assistant Director, Social Services 23/2/88. Miramar Incidents F5000005659654.

²⁵¹⁵ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁵¹⁶ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 4.

²⁵¹⁷ Annual Reports 1982 and 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646.

²⁵¹⁸ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 1.

²⁵¹⁹ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 6.

²⁵²⁰ A.E Corcoran, for Director-General to District Directors and the Principal, Miramar Girls' Home 25/11/82, Miramar Staffing F5000003771104.

A visiting social welfare cadet in 1982 noted that procedure was dictated by the residential social workers manual, but staff had a degree of flexibility and could initiate changes to improve efficiency, which was praised by inspectors to the home.²⁵²¹ The visitor observed that staff carried out their jobs "with a realistic and positive frame of mind" for the benefit of the residents.²⁵²²

In 1983 the Visiting Committee commented on the impact of the 1982 Human Rights Commission Report on staff morale.²⁵²³ The Committee reported that the criticisms in this document were not relevant to Miramar and this was conveyed to staff.²⁵²⁴ In May 1983 the Director-General acknowledged the publicity following the Human Rights Commission and Archbishop Johnston reports six month prior. In response to these reports, the Director-General made reference to broad institutional changes that intended to ease the work of staff and improve the service.²⁵²⁵

Staffing remained stable until 1985, when the number of admissions reached a "zenith", and the Principal officially requested "a more realistic number of staff" to cope with greater numbers of residents.²⁵²⁶ According to a Code of Practice document detailing the management structure at Miramar, in 1985 the Girls' Home employed 14 residential staff, 2 night attendants and 6 domestic staff.²⁵²⁷

In 1985 staff proposed strike action over the lack of additional staffing resources. In August 1985 the Visiting Committee released a press statement linking the strain on staff to greater admission numbers and increased use of the secure unit, which had been "used to quite some extent". The Committee commented that staff themselves had not placed the welfare of girls at risk, but there was "an urgent case for the review of resources."²⁵²⁸

By the end of August 1985, the Home was facing staffing "crisis". According to the Principal, staff work loads had become "almost unbearable" due to significant increases in casework responsibilities.²⁵²⁹ Senior residential staff also noted the difficulties experienced by staff moving from a "custodial regimental approach" to a social work model.²⁵³⁰ According to staff, it had been "the norm" for some time for the staff/client supervision ratio to be 1 staff member to 20+ girls on occasions. It was requested that 2 additional residential social work staff be appointed in each shift.²⁵³¹

In September 1985, the Visiting Committee reiterated their concerns about the stress levels of Miramar staff to both the District Director²⁵³² and the Minister.²⁵³³ The Committee commented that "intolerable strain" at the Girls Home had resulted

²⁵²¹ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

²⁵²² Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar Girls' Home 17 February 1983, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 5.

²⁵²³ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education file, Miramar Reports, p 4.

²⁵²⁴ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education file, Miramar Reports, p 4.

²⁵²⁵ J.W Grant, Director-General to A. Morrison, Principal 16.5.83 Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁵²⁶ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 4.

²⁵²⁷ A.J Morrison to Director, Wellington 10/4/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁵²⁸ Press Statement by Visiting Committee, circa August 1985, Miramar Staffing F5000002186503.

²⁵²⁹ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 28/9/85, Miramar Staffing F5000002186503.

²⁵³⁰ D. Waaka, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal 2/11/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁵³¹ D. Waaka, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal 2/11/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁵³² P.F Boshier, Chairman Miramar Visiting Committee to J. Lambie, Director, Wellington 25/9/85, Miramar Staffing F5000002186503.

²⁵³³ Report from Visiting Committee, Miramar Girls' Home to Minister 31/10/85, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 4.

in resignations and staff taking recuperation leave. The Committee directly attributed this to the requirement to remand young women into secure care, which was seen to have had "increasing severity and effect on staffing resources".²⁵³⁴ No information was found regarding the outcome of the staffing issue.

Changes to casework and programmes in February 1988 divided social workers into 3 shift teams and 3 casework teams. It was noted that from 6.45am and 10pm every day, residents had someone they could approach.²⁵³⁵

In 1987 social workers in the region expressed their concern over the appointment of a male social worker into a senior practitioner position at the Girls' Home. The description of role and the appropriateness of a male working with sexually abused young women were questioned.²⁵³⁶ The Regional Director later defended the decision and informed regional staff of the appointment of another male into a senior position at the Girls' Home.²⁵³⁷

According to the 1987/1988 management plan for the closure of the Home, staff were to be systematically reduced over 6 monthly periods from January 1988 to March 1989.²⁵³⁸ In March 1988, due to industrial action staff availability was restricted to emergency work only.²⁵³⁹

Staff training

In 1981 it was noted that staff supervision, casework supervision, staff training and team meetings were carried out regularly, and all available training courses for staff had been utilised.²⁵⁴⁰ However, lack of release time for staff training was an ongoing difficulty.

In a response to a query from Head Office in 1983 regarding staff training,²⁵⁴¹ the Principal reported that in-house training sessions and team meetings were held weekly, and every effort was made for staff to attend external training courses although the time constraints and other factors made this difficult. The Principal noted that DSW courses relevant to the work at the Home were decreasing, and it was "difficult" to be included in Social Work courses.²⁵⁴² This issue was also raised by the Visiting Committee in 1984, who noted that residential social workers were "often under great time pressure" and it appeared that training had not always been "readily available".²⁵⁴³

In 1985, a senior residential staff member stated that staff training was "nonexistent" and any training that was available did "very little to enhance or provide skills

²⁵³⁴ Report from Visiting Committee, Miramar Girls' Home to Minister 31/10/85, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 4. See also J. Lambie, Director Wellington, to M. Doolan, Head Office 3/10/85, Miramar Staffing F5000005659655.

²⁵³⁵ L. Hartley, Senior Social Worker to District Office social work staff 5/2/88. Miramar Admissions F5000001594224.

²⁵³⁶ Liz Kinley, Meredith Osmond and Lynn Blake-Palmer, Senior Social Workers to Assistant Director Social Worker, Porirua 19/8/87, Miramar Staffing F5000003771100.

²⁵³⁷ R.H Wood, Regional Director 18/9/87, Miramar Staffing F5000003771098.

²⁵³⁸ Wellington Girls' Home 1988/89 Management Plan, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁵³⁹ D. Manley, Assistant Principal 4/3/88, Miramar Profile F5000006089634.

²⁵⁴⁰ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁵⁴¹ J.A Blair, for the Director General to Director, Wellington 5/08/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁵⁴² A.J Morrison, Principal to Director and J.A Blair, Senior Institutions Officer, Wellington 7/12/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646, see also Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁵⁴³ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 5.

training or social work evaluation".²⁵⁴⁴ It was noted that while a training scheme existed, it was constantly interrupted by client needs.²⁵⁴⁵

Despite time pressures, staff did sporadically attend external training courses and undertake university study.²⁵⁴⁶ The residence also continued to assist in regional training and other agencies.²⁵⁴⁷ In 1986 it was noted that Miramar had been closed for one week to facilitate a staff training workshop.²⁵⁴⁸

According to the management plan for the closure of the Girls' Home, staff retraining was scheduled to take place in 1988.²⁵⁴⁹ A bi-cultural policy was also identified in this plan, in which a member of the Maori community was to be invited to become a member of the management team. A marae visit and an interchange with staff of a Kohanga Reo were planned for early 1988.²⁵⁵⁰

Schooling

In 1973 Aurora school had 2 teachers, and a "basically remedial programme".²⁵⁵¹

In 1981, it was noted that the school programme had been hampered by the departure of the Assistant Teacher, who was relieved by 2 untrained teachers until a trained teacher was employed.²⁵⁵² An individualised programme was in operation, with close co-operation from residential social workers.²⁵⁵³

In 1982, the Principal commented that the schooling needs of the girls needed to be met in "a more positive way". A team of psychologists were used to establish a "base line" which the school could work from.²⁵⁵⁴

According to the 1983 Annual Report, the philosophy of the school was to provide a warm, supportive environment in which to effect an attitudinal change to education and to authority figures, and to enhance social interaction skills. In this report the school was described as an autonomous resource, working towards the successful placement of each student.²⁵⁵⁵ Objectives of the school included devising individual study programmes of a "nonfail character" while offering challenges and encouraging progress.²⁵⁵⁶ Another objective of the school was to provide remedial work, as well as teaching and resources relevant to entering the work force.²⁵⁵⁷

²⁵⁴⁴ D. Waaka, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal 2/11/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁵⁴⁵ D. Waaka, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal 2/11/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁵⁴⁶ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 1. See also Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5 000001615646.

²⁵⁴⁷ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 1.

²⁵⁴⁸ Visiting Committee Annual Reports 1986, Miramar Profile, F5000006661405.

²⁵⁴⁹ Wellington Girls' Home 1988/89 Management Plan, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁵⁵⁰ Wellington Girls' Home 1988/89 Management Plan, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁵⁵¹ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁵⁵² Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁵⁵³ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁵⁵⁴ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8.

²⁵⁵⁵ Annual Report 1983 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Annexure

²⁵⁵⁶ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Aurora School Objectives, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁵⁵⁷ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Aurora School Objectives, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

A new Senior Teacher was employed in 1983²⁵⁵⁸ along with an additional teacher and part-time teaching assistant.²⁵⁵⁹ The school developed a "team teaching" approach in which teachers took turns to teach a subject while the other teacher gave individual attention to students.²⁵⁶⁰ Each student was interviewed on admission to develop an individualised programme, which was considered to be effective.²⁵⁶¹ A visitor to the school noted that teachers and residential social workers made an effort to work together.²⁵⁶²

The individualised system continued in 1983 and allowed students to choose their areas of study, and learn about time management, with positive results.²⁵⁶³ In 1984 the school was divided into two classrooms and the daily routine comprised of both individual and group work.²⁵⁶⁴

Later documents also highlight the practice of individual assessment and the involvement of the student in their education.²⁵⁶⁵ Following assessment, the resident might attend Aurora school or a community school. If the resident was over 15, the school was "invited to offer a suitable programme", or she sought work experience in the community.²⁵⁶⁶

Activities offered at the school included outings, PE, school magazine, visitors from the community, cooking and elective options such as business administration, drama,²⁵⁶⁷ typing, music and art. A weekly health programme was also offered.²⁵⁶⁸

A leaving certificate was designed in 1983 to acknowledge student's achievements, and report forms were designed to record student's progress and to aid future educational placement.²⁵⁶⁹ In 1984 a comprehensive pre-employment skills programme was developed but failed to be successfully implemented due to a "lack of communication and/or understanding".²⁵⁷⁰

In 1983²⁵⁷¹ and 1984²⁵⁷², the average stay at the school was 35 days, and students ranged from form 2 to form 5. In 1983 the majority of girls leaving the school were placed in either mainstream education or long term institutions, while others went into work experience, Correspondence School, activity centres.²⁵⁷³

It was noted in 1986 that if a resident's parents were unable to afford a school uniform, it was to be provided by the Social Welfare Department.²⁵⁷⁴

²⁵⁵⁸ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁵⁵⁹ Annual Report 1983 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Annexure.

²⁵⁶⁰ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 5.

²⁵⁶¹ Annual Report 1983 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Annexure.

²⁵⁶² Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 5.

²⁵⁶³ Annual Report 1983 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Annexure.

²⁵⁶⁴ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁵⁶⁵ A.J Morrison to the Director, Wellington 10/4/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503. See also Discussion paper, A Whitmore, Principal 15/6/87, Miramar Admissions F5000003771098.

²⁵⁶⁶ A.J Morrison to the Director, Wellington 10/4/85, Miramar Profile F5000002186503.

²⁵⁶⁷ Annual Report 1983 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Annexure.

²⁵⁶⁸ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁵⁶⁹ Annual Report 1983 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Annexure. See also Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁵⁷⁰ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 4.

²⁵⁷¹ Annual Report 1983 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Annexure.

²⁵⁷² Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 1.

²⁵⁷³ Annual Report 1983 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Annexure.

²⁵⁷⁴ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

Staffing and attendance rates

In 1983, the Visiting Committee remarked that the shared administration of the school by the Department of Education and Department of Social Welfare was "not entirely satisfactory". The Department of Education was criticised for lack of regard for the "sensitive needs" of the Home, and the slow appointment of teachers to the school.²⁵⁷⁵ In a later report, the Committee recommended the school be brought under the control of the DSW as residents were seen to have "very special needs" which were partly educational and partly psychological. The Committee noted that teachers spent considerable time assisting girls in areas that fell outside their training as teachers. The Committee also recommended greater integration of the school curriculum into the Home.²⁵⁷⁶

In July 1983 an inspector recommended that the teacher-pupil ratio at Aurora School be set at 1:9; therefore 18 girls could be accommodated at that time.²⁵⁷⁷ The Principal noted that due to high numbers of eligible pupils, several residents were being denied schooling, and requested that a part time teacher be employed when the ratio was exceeded.²⁵⁷⁸ In August 1983 the Assistant Director of Social Work expressed concern regarding two residents not receiving schooling, and suggested the provision of additional teaching staff.²⁵⁷⁹ The 1983 Annual Report stated approximately 15% of residents eligible to attend school did not.²⁵⁸⁰ This trend continued in 1984.²⁵⁸¹

In 1983²⁵⁸² and 1984 these concerns were reiterated by the Visiting Committee who commented that absconding partly resulted from girls being unable to attend school.²⁵⁸³ It was noted that the pupil/teacher ratio meant some residents – including a number under 15 years – did not attend school, and spent their days "merely filling in time" and doing "menial chores around the Home", a situation they described as "unsatisfactory" and "disgraceful".²⁵⁸⁴

From 1983 to 1985 the Girls' Home and Aurora School campaigned for additional teachers. Over this time, correspondence and meetings between Miramar, the Visiting Committee, the Department of Education and Department of Social Welfare failed to resolve the issue.²⁵⁸⁵ In October 1984, Head Office outlined the reasons additional funding was refused, and remarked that the school was appropriately

²⁵⁷⁵ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education, Miramar Reports, p 5.

²⁵⁷⁶ Visiting Committee Annual Report 1985, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 6.

²⁵⁷⁷ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 29/7/83. Miramar Education F5000002186504.

²⁵⁷⁸ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 29/7/83. Miramar Education F5000002186504.

²⁵⁷⁹ P. B Dickens, Assistant Director (SW) to Director, Wellington 19/8/83. Miramar Education F5000002186504.

²⁵⁸⁰ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Appendix E.

²⁵⁸¹ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 13/6/84, Miramar Education F5000002186500.

²⁵⁸² V. Young, Minister of Social Welfare to P.F Boshier, Chairman of the Visiting Committee 20/10/83, Miramar Visiting Committee, F5000005659655.

²⁵⁸³ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 8.

²⁵⁸⁴ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 9.

²⁵⁸⁵ See A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 13/6/84, Miramar Education F5000002186500; J.A. Blair, for the Director General to the Director, Wellington, 21/2/84 Miramar Reports. F5000002186500; J.A. Blair for the Director-General to Director Wellington 12/9/84 Miramar Reports F5000002186500; B.M Manchester, for Director-General to Director, Wellington 24/8/84 and M.P Doolan for Director-General to Director, Wellington 29/6/84, Miramar Education F5000002186500; A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 29/8/84, Miramar Education F5000002186500.

staffed compared to other national institutions, and given its average occupancy rates.²⁵⁸⁶

In the third term of 1984 a teaching assistant was employed, allowing 24 additional girls to attend,²⁵⁸⁷ although the teacher to student ratio remained at 1:12 despite efforts to formalise a 1:9 ratio.²⁵⁸⁸ In 1985, the Visiting Committee noted that a "satisfactory compromise" had been reached. A ratio of 1:12 was adopted and a full time teacher aid was employed.²⁵⁸⁹ The Committee reported that while occasionally girls were "hanging around in the Home" during the day unable to attend school, the situation was much improved.²⁵⁹⁰

It was noted that the Senior Teacher was excluded (except by invitation or request) to senior staff meetings in the latter part of 1984 due to time pressures,²⁵⁹¹ although weekly meetings with senior staff were subsequently set up.²⁵⁹² The Senior Teacher expressed frustration that teachers were not sufficiently involved in case planning and case conference meetings regarding the placement of students, due to minimal teacher release time.²⁵⁹³

In 1985, the Principal commended the service of the teachers of Aurora and noted that the teachers had developed a comprehensive School Scheme.²⁵⁹⁴ Both teachers left at the end of 1985.²⁵⁹⁵ Little information about the school programme was found after 1985.

Absconding

The number of absconding incidents gradually decreased over the early 1980s from a high of 166 incidents in 1979 to a low of 68 in 1982.²⁵⁹⁶ 1984 saw an increase in abscondings²⁵⁹⁷ and a Department report the same year noted that Miramar was considered to have a high absconding rate.²⁵⁹⁸ In 1985 absconding incidents increased to a high of 196 incidents.²⁵⁹⁹

Annual Reports from the Girls' Home included detailed analyses of absconding figures.²⁶⁰⁰ According to the Principal's 1981 report, absconding rates at the institution were considered high, and this was attributed to a high number of

²⁵⁸⁶ Report to the Minister of Social Welfare from J.W Grant, Director-General 3/10/84, Miramar Education F5000002186500.

²⁵⁸⁷ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 2.

²⁵⁸⁸ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁵⁸⁹ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1985, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 3.

²⁵⁹⁰ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1985, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 3.

²⁵⁹¹ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁵⁹² Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 6.

²⁵⁹³ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 5.

²⁵⁹⁴ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁵⁹⁵ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁵⁹⁶ Admissions, Abscondings, Nominal Roll and Occupied Beds figures for all institutions, undated, author unknown, Miramar Admissions F5000002388341. See also Analysis of abscondings 1979-1983, DSW institutions, undated, author unknown. Miramar Incidents F5000002186500.

²⁵⁹⁷ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, Appendix B.

²⁵⁹⁸ Institutional Statistics 1984 Report, M.P Doolan, Director Residential Services 4/1184, Miramar Admissions F5000002186501.

²⁵⁹⁹ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁶⁰⁰ See Annual Reports from 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984. Miramar Reports F5000001615646.

admissions with a history of absconding.²⁶⁰¹ It was noted in 1981 that a third of girls who absconded did so whilst in the community, and in many cases incidents involved girls who ran away more than once.²⁶⁰²

In 1982 the Principal noted that better communication between the Home and districts, a decrease in residents inclined to run away²⁶⁰³, and the introduction of a different programme for absconders had seen a decrease in abscondings.²⁶⁰⁴ The programme involved designating a number of days "free of absconding" and girls who absconded during that period were placed on a work programme, releasing other residents from some of their daily chores.²⁶⁰⁵ An informal "contractual system" was also identified in 1982 as a means of encouraging residents not to abscond.²⁶⁰⁶

In 1983, an article in the local newspaper noted that the Home had two main rules – "be good, and stay".²⁶⁰⁷ The article reported a number of reasons for absconding including homesickness, missing a boyfriend, or fighting with other residents.²⁶⁰⁸ An earlier article noted another reason for absconding was girls under 15 wanting to smoke.²⁶⁰⁹

In 1983, the Visiting Committee asserted that abscondings were a direct consequence of unrest caused by delays in placement, and provided examples of residents who had experienced "unacceptably long" delays.²⁶¹⁰ In the Committee's 1984 report, the Department was accused of being "dilatory" in arranging transfers.²⁶¹¹ The District Director noted that delays were "a perennial problem" resulting from a number of factors.²⁶¹²

In 1984 the Visiting Committee questioned the categorisation of all absences as "abscondments", stating that the different status of residents meant that some girls were "very much influenced by others".²⁶¹³ The Committee also questioned the "tendency to place far too much attention on the statistics of and consequential discipline of absconders".²⁶¹⁴ They remarked that some girls were "true absconders" and should have been placed in secure, although noted that secure was

²⁶⁰¹ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁶⁰² Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁶⁰³ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director and J.A Blair, Senior Institutions Officer, Wellington 7/12/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁶⁰⁴ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 7.

²⁶⁰⁵ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director and J.A Blair, Senior Institutions Officer, Wellington 7/12/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁶⁰⁶ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8. For more information on the "contract system" see Miramar Secure section.

²⁶⁰⁷ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²⁶⁰⁸ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²⁶⁰⁹ "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²⁶¹⁰ P.F Boshier, Chairman of the Visiting Committee to V. Young, Minister of Social Welfare 23/11/83, Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁶¹¹ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 5.

²⁶¹² J. Lambie, District Director to Director-General 12/7/84, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655. See also response from the Principal to the District Director 6/7/84, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁶¹³ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 5. The Report noted that "abscondment" was the official term used by the Department for "an unauthorised absence from a Home and when such absence is of more than two hours duration".

²⁶¹⁴ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 5.

used "sparingly".²⁶¹⁵ In 1985 the Committee were advised that the matter was being discussed with Principals,²⁶¹⁶ although it is unclear if any changes were made as a result.

In 1986, senior staff noted that when girls absconded it was standard procedure to notify Wellington Police who distributed the information to all districts.²⁶¹⁷

Secure care

According to an undated document outlining the role and functions of the Girls' Home, one function was to "provide for the secure custody for young people and children in exceptional circumstances, where such custody is recommended by a court, or is necessary for the safe custody, control and well-being of the child or young person".²⁶¹⁸

In 1973, the Principal stated it was likely new admissions would spend the first few days in security, and the length of stay would depend on the girls' behaviour and progress.²⁶¹⁹

From 1979 to 1983 the number of secure admissions at Miramar decreased from 393 admissions in 1979 to 148 admissions in 1983. The average length of stay in secure remained around 2 days from 1979 to 1982, decreasing to 1.4 days in 1983.²⁶²⁰

According to the 1981 Annual Report "approximately 50% of all girls are admitted to the House" possibly implying that the remaining 50% were admitted to secure. It was also noted girls who remained in secure on admission were considered by social workers or Police to be likely to abscond.²⁶²¹

In a 1981 newspaper article, a resident noted that the secure unit was somewhere she could "sleep in peace". According to the article, the Principal disliked "the necessity" of the secure wing and kept its use to a minimum. The reporter noted that the secure rooms were "empty more often than they are occupied".²⁶²² A similar newspaper article published in 1983 quoted a resident saying "we have a secure block and a time-out room....that's where you go when you just come in, or when you've run away".²⁶²³

²⁶¹⁵ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 5. For responses to this issue from the District Director and Principal, see J. Lambie, District Director to Director-General 12/7/84, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655. A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 6/7/84, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁶¹⁶ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1985, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p2.

²⁶¹⁷ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints, S/92 MSD.

²⁶¹⁸ Wellington Girls' Home – Role and Functions, undated, author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000002368864.

²⁶¹⁹ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁶²⁰ Analysis of Secure Care Appendix, undated, author unknown, Miramar Secure F5000002186500.

²⁶²¹ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁶²² "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²⁶²³ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

According to 1982 guidelines "close custody" was used only for cases of "proven need for the purposes of containment, observation and treatment".²⁶²⁴ In the same year it was reported that 30% of new admissions were put into secure. A decrease in the length of time spent in secure in 1982 was attributed to staffing and the development of individualised programmes.²⁶²⁵ The Principal later clarified that no resident was "automatically admitted" into secure and there were "very strict procedures" for admitting a girl to secure.²⁶²⁶

In 1982 Girls' Home management noted that secure care was not useful in all absconding cases.²⁶²⁷ Instead a "contractual system" was used to obtain the resident's cooperation on their admission to the Home.²⁶²⁸ In response to enquiries from Head Office,²⁶²⁹ the verbal contract was explained as residents giving assurance they would "stay and be good".²⁶³⁰ This was intended to encourage residents to take responsibility for their actions.²⁶³¹ If residents refused to agree to this system, it was considered by the staff that they had chosen to "lock themselves up" and they were placed in secure.²⁶³²

In 1983 the Visiting Committee noted the "temptation" for staff to place the resident – especially if they arrived in the evening – in secure at least until the following morning to "play safe", especially if little background information had been provided by Police.²⁶³³ Visiting Committee reports noted that they checked the secure unit at Miramar regularly.²⁶³⁴ In 1984, the Committee's "close observation" of secure indicated that it was "used sparingly" to isolate girls for up to 3 days who were "in clear need of isolation".²⁶³⁵

In their March 1983 report, the Visiting Committee made reference to the Johnson Report that stated usage of the secure unit should be "absolutely minimal". While the Committee saw no problem with holding remandees in secure, they questioned the appropriateness of placing Wards of State in secure, as they were considered to be in a similar position to girls in a foster home, or in their own home.²⁶³⁶ The Committee observed that while use of secure was exercised with "great prudence" they suggested firm guidelines be set around the use of secure.²⁶³⁷ These guidelines were subsequently developed by Miramar management in April 1983.²⁶³⁸ Similar documents outlining policies around the use of secure were published in 1983²⁶³⁹ and 1984.²⁶⁴⁰ The later internal document set out rules around admission procedures, length of stay, smoking, schooling, visitors, recreation, work etc in the secure unit.²⁶⁴¹

²⁶²⁴ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 4.

²⁶²⁵ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8.

²⁶²⁶ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director and J.A Blair, Senior Institutions Officer, Wellington 7/12/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁶²⁷ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8.

²⁶²⁸ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8.

²⁶²⁹ J.A Blair, for the Director General to Director, Wellington 5/08/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁶³⁰ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 8.

²⁶³¹ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director and J.A Blair, Senior Institutions Officer, Wellington 7/12/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁶³² A.J Morrison, Principal to Director and J.A Blair, Senior Institutions Officer, Wellington 7/12/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁶³³ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education, Miramar Reports, p 5.

²⁶³⁴ Department summary of Visiting Committee Annual Reports 1986, Miramar Profile, F50000006661405.

²⁶³⁵ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 5.

²⁶³⁶ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education, Miramar Reports, p 7.

²⁶³⁷ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education, Miramar Reports, p 8.

²⁶³⁸ A.J Morrison, Principal 27/4/83, Miramar Secure F5000002186504.

²⁶³⁹ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section C Objective 4, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁶⁴⁰ Miramar Girls' Home Secure Care, author unknown, 16/1/84, Miramar Reports F5000002186500.

²⁶⁴¹ Miramar Girls' Home Secure Care, author unknown, 16/1/84, Miramar Reports F5000002186500.

According to a 1983 prospectus Miramar deplored "the use of confinement as a remedy for behaviour modification".²⁶⁴² However, a visiting social welfare cadet commented that while the secure unit was "little used", it was sometimes used as a form of punishment for securing a girl who had absconded. According to the visitor, the length of time in secure was stipulated by the senior on duty, and reviewed every 24 hours, and a work programme was used in conjunction with secure care. The visitor also remarked that the public had a negative and misinformed perception of the secure unit, which had led to misunderstanding as "proven" by newspaper reports in 1982.²⁶⁴³

In 1984 surveillance "blind spots" around the secure unit were identified. Although 2 female night staff supervised the residential sleeping area and the security wing, it was considered unsafe for staff to check outside due to the isolated nature of the grounds. A security upgrade was recommended to "further deter break-ins" (no details of any incidences given).²⁶⁴⁴ This was approved in May 1984.²⁶⁴⁵ It was also noted that Police were frequently in the area, and were notified in the event of prowlers, unwelcome guests and any suspicious vehicles.²⁶⁴⁶

In 1985, the Visiting Committee remarked that the secure unit had received "consistent use" in previous months, although the Committee clarified that this did not mean residents were "confined in the secure unit on a solitary basis for any period of time". They commented that it was not always clear whether girls had been admitted to the secure unit as punishment, or whether this had been done as a protective measure for the girls involved, other residents or staff.²⁶⁴⁷

In 1985 the Visiting Committee expressed concern regarding the legal requirement to hold remandees in secure care, as it was noted that remanding girls in secure had already strained staffing resources.²⁶⁴⁸ The Wellington Director agreed that the withdrawal of discretion from Principals to hold young people in secure facilities was an issue.²⁶⁴⁹ The Committee later raised the matter with the Minister and noted that a Miramar resident charged with property offences had been held in secure for 2-3 weeks because of "Judge's notation", while other residents appearing on serious violence charges were held in the open house.²⁶⁵⁰

In February 1986, a resident assaulted a staff member after being held in secure for 16 days. The incident was reported as an attempt by the resident to leave the secure unit.²⁶⁵¹

²⁶⁴² Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section C Objective 3, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁶⁴³ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 5.

²⁶⁴⁴ D.J Manley, Assistant Principal and A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 14/5/84 Miramar Profile F5000002186500.

²⁶⁴⁵ Memo M.P Doolan, for the Director-General to the Director, Wellington 29/5/84, Miramar Profile F5000002186500. For more information about the security issue see Physical Description section.

²⁶⁴⁶ D.J Manley, Assistant Principal and A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 14/5/84 Miramar Profile F5000002186500.

²⁶⁴⁷ Visiting Committee Annual Report 1985, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 5.

²⁶⁴⁸ Visiting Committee Report to Minister 31/10/85, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 4. For more information on staffing issues over this period see Staffing section.

²⁶⁴⁹ J. Lambie, Director Wellington, to M. Doolan, Head Office 3/10/85, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁶⁵⁰ Visiting Committee Report to Minister 31/10/85, Miramar Visiting Committee, F5000005659655, p 3.

²⁶⁵¹ J. O'Kane, Relieving ARSW to D.J Manley, Acting Principal, 13/2/86, Miramar Girls' Home Incidents F5000002186501.

Discipline

According to a Girls' Home prospectus, the general approach to discipline involved positive reinforcement, counselling and discipline appropriate to the situation. Specific objectives included not degrading, humiliating or reprimanding residents in front of their peers, encouraging residents to share their problems with staff and using praise.²⁶⁵²

Reference was made to a "time out" room in the home in a 1981 newspaper article, in which it was offered as means for preventing absconding.²⁶⁵³ Girls were offered the time out room, which had no lock, as a place to "stop and think".²⁶⁵⁴ In 1982, the use of time out was identified as the preferred method of dealing with distress or behaviour difficulties, rather than admission to secure,²⁶⁵⁵ although the Principal later noted that time out was not a substitute for secure.²⁶⁵⁶ Suggested time out activities included using the "time out room", going for a walk, having a cup of tea, jumping on the trampoline etc.²⁶⁵⁷

In a 1983 report, a visiting social welfare cadet remarked that discipline was "not always obvious but always present"²⁶⁵⁸ and generally took the form of talking to the girl and establishing a reason for her behaviour, sometimes followed by extra work as punishment.²⁶⁵⁹

In November 1986 a complaint made by a resident's parents resulted in a Ministerial inquiry.²⁶⁶⁰ A number of issues were raised in correspondence from the resident's parents (unsighted) relating to discipline policies in operation at the Girls' Home. In response, a senior staff member stated that swearing and using informal names for staff were not acceptable at Miramar, and bullying or physical abuse by residents or staff was not condoned. It was also noted that verbal arguments occurred at times, but were monitored by staff to prevent unnecessary physical confrontation, although sometimes it was "in the girl's best interest for very little staff intervention" and that "experienced staff know when it is appropriate to intervene".²⁶⁶¹ In response to the criticism regarding a lack of discipline levelled at the Girls' Home, the Principal agreed that some staff were "overly permissive" and presented as "poor role models".²⁶⁶²

²⁶⁵² Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section C Objective 3, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁶⁵³ "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²⁶⁵⁴ "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²⁶⁵⁵ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 9.

²⁶⁵⁶ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director and J.A Blair, Senior Institutions Officer, Wellington 7/12/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁶⁵⁷ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director and J.A Blair, Senior Institutions Officer, Wellington 7/12/83 Miramar Reports, F5000001615646.

²⁶⁵⁸ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 2.

²⁶⁵⁹ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

²⁶⁶⁰ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

²⁶⁶¹ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

²⁶⁶² A Whitmore, Principal to Regional Director, Lower Hutt 11/12/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

Physical Punishment

No specific reference was made to physical punishment, except for the use of extra work as punishment (see Miramar Discipline section, above).

Drugs, alcohol and tattoos

In a 1981 newspaper article the Principal stated drug and alcohol problems at Miramar were "not as bad as you'd expect" although occasionally there were incidences of "petrol sniffing or pills" by a minority of older girls.²⁶⁶³

In 1984 the Visiting Committee was concerned that that some girls who had absconded had returned "uncontrollably" under the influence of drugs and/or glue, and the behaviour of some girls towards staff was seen to be "unacceptable".²⁶⁶⁴

In June 1984, the Principal reported that there were no recorded incidents of glue sniffing/solvent abuse at the home.²⁶⁶⁵ He observed that 60% of admissions for April 1984 were known to have been involved in glue sniffing/solvent abuse, and difficulties occasionally arose when residents returned after weekend leave, and attempted to bring sniffing materials into the Home. According to the Principal, staff vigilance and custody of likely materials minimized sniffing opportunities, and staff training programmes included sessions on the topic of glue sniffing/solvent abuse.²⁶⁶⁶

Smoking

According to guidelines set out in the 1983 prospectus, smoking was allowed in clearly defined areas and at designated times for girls over 15.²⁶⁶⁷ The enforcement of this rule was observed by a social welfare cadet the same year.²⁶⁶⁸

An undated information booklet given to residents on admission stated girls over 15 "may be allowed to smoke". Those under 15 were not allowed to smoke and it was considered to be "a very serious rule".²⁶⁶⁹

²⁶⁶³ "A homestead for mind clearing", The Dominion 20/2/81, Miramar Profile F5000003771104.

²⁶⁶⁴ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 5. For Principal's response see A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 6/7/84, Miramar Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁶⁶⁵ A. Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 21/6/84, Miramar Drugs/Smoking F5000002186500.

²⁶⁶⁶ IA. Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 21/6/84, Miramar Drugs/Smoking F5000002186500.

²⁶⁶⁷ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section B Objective 3, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁶⁶⁸ Report by D.H Greenwood, Social Welfare Cadet to Principal, Miramar 17/2/83, Miramar Reports F5000002186504, p 3.

²⁶⁶⁹ Information booklet for new admissions, date and author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

In a 1986 memorandum, it was stated that under normal circumstances, staff must request written approval by parents or guardians for any child under the age of 15 years to smoke at Miramar. Smoking was regarded as a privilege, and could be revoked by senior staff as punishment if residents committed misdemeanours.²⁶⁷⁰ Girls could purchase cigarettes using their weekly pocket money.²⁶⁷¹

Contact with field social workers

In 1977 a memorandum was sent to Districts advising on the documentation that needed to be supplied to the Girls' Home when a girl was admitted. This included medical, psychological and psychiatric reports, Court reports, school reports and incident reports.²⁶⁷²

In 1981, the Principal stated that residential social workers combined with field social workers in a "team approach" to residents' casework, and it was noted social workers visited the girls as regularly as possible.²⁶⁷³ The 1981 Annual Report also commented that the residence received their first visit from Head Office, which resulted in a confidential report covering their social work activities.²⁶⁷⁴

In 1982 the Wellington District office relinquished its liaison role, and a system of direct liaison was implemented between contributing districts and the Girls' Home.²⁶⁷⁵ In 1983 a senior social worker commended the new system for reducing delays in admissions.²⁶⁷⁶

In 1983 the Principal expressed concern regarding the lack of involvement from field social workers and the difficulty of identifying the person with the "primary responsibility for casework".²⁶⁷⁷ It was noted that residential social workers were undertaking much of the casework²⁶⁷⁸ and needed to remind field social workers about a number of administrative responsibilities such as arranging family conferences.²⁶⁷⁹ The Principal remarked that girls who were readmitted often commented on the lack of contact with their social worker.²⁶⁸⁰ A response from the

²⁶⁷⁰ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints, S/92 MSD. See also A Whitmore, Principal to Regional Director, Lower Hutt 11/12/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

²⁶⁷¹ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints, S/92 MSD.

²⁶⁷² R.G Letham, Senior Social Worker to Contributing Districts 23/8/77, Miramar Admissions F5000001594224.

²⁶⁷³ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁶⁷⁴ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁶⁷⁵ Circular memo from J. Lambie, Director, Wellington to the Director, Hastings 25/8/82, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁶⁷⁶ P. Mauga, Senior Social Worker to Director, Porirua 21/2/83, Miramar Admissions F5000003771104.

²⁶⁷⁷ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 8/7/83, Miramar Contact with Field Social Workers F5000002186504.

²⁶⁷⁸ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 8/7/83, Miramar Contact with Field Social Workers F5000002186504.

²⁶⁷⁹ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁶⁸⁰ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 8/7/83, Miramar Contact with Field Social Workers F5000002186504.

Head Office noted that the difficulties had been aired with the social workers, and it was anticipated the service would be improved.²⁶⁸¹

In 1984 the Visiting Committee remarked that delays in transferring residents could in part result from time pressures on field social workers, and noted they had many comments from girls that they had "simply not seen their field social workers for a long long time".²⁶⁸² Districts were also criticised for not communicating important details about residents, for example results of court hearings or changes in status.²⁶⁸³

In 1984 field social workers expressed concern that Miramar was at times unable to admit young people needing short-term institutional accommodation. It was noted that residential social workers wished to avoid the institution being used as a "stop gap measure", which at times created difficulties for field staff.²⁶⁸⁴

In March 1986, a Social Worker complained about the lack of specialist residential care resources in the Wellington area, the standard of care for young persons, and the liaison between institutions and field social workers. The complaint involved a particular case in which the social worker alleged staff were "working against" her and her client, and problems in communication between the field social worker and residential staff were highlighted.²⁶⁸⁵

A 1986 memo from a senior staff member noted that if any resident was to take overnight leave away from the institution, it was "normal policy" to inform the field social worker.²⁶⁸⁶

Contact with community

There appeared to be a reasonable amount of contact with the community at Miramar, especially in the area of recreational and vocational activities. In 1981 the Principal remarked that community involvement was expanding in activities such as Marae visits, fund-raising and community work.²⁶⁸⁷ In 1982 it was noted that a large number of sports, social events and cultural trips continued to involve the community.²⁶⁸⁸ External trainees, cadets, nurses, police and teachers also visited the Home for training purposes.²⁶⁸⁹

The Girls' Home used recreation facilities in the community, and in 1983 the Principal requested funding for a new gymnasium complex, noting that the

²⁶⁸¹ J.A. Blair for the Director-General to Director Wellington 12/9/84. Miramar Reports F5000002186500.

²⁶⁸² Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 6.

²⁶⁸³ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁶⁸⁴ J.R. Cody, Social Work Advisor to Director, Wanganui and Wellington Principals, circa 18/5/84, Miramar Admissions F5000002186500.

²⁶⁸⁵ P. Crowley, Social Worker to Director, Porirua 12/3/86, Miramar Contact with Field Social Workers F5000003771099. For more details see Staffing – staff to resident incidents, above.

²⁶⁸⁶ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints, S/92 MSD.

²⁶⁸⁷ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁶⁸⁸ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 9.

²⁶⁸⁹ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 6.

community were keen to assist in funding a gymnasium.²⁶⁹⁰ This request was later denied.²⁶⁹¹

According to a 1983 prospectus regular socialising was provided in the form of discos within the residence and community.²⁶⁹² In 1985 several discos were held and boys from Kohitere took part.²⁶⁹³ A senior staff member remarked in 1986 that it was "normal practise" to invite Epuni Boys Home to attend the discos held at Miramar, which was considered to be "in accordance with Social Welfare policy".²⁶⁹⁴

In 1983 a fashion parade was held at the home with clothes provided by community retail outlets, with residents as models.²⁶⁹⁵ In the same year, an end-of-year concert was held for the first time in which girls performed to staff, residents, teachers and community members.²⁶⁹⁶ This was repeated successfully in 1984.²⁶⁹⁷

In 1983 Aurora School commented that contact with mainstream schools improved in 1983, and monthly meetings with Epuni Boy's Home School were set up to provide an exchange of ideas and information.²⁶⁹⁸ These meetings continued, although in a more "erratic and ill-planned" way in 1984.²⁶⁹⁹

In 1985 the Minister visited the Girls' Home, and it was noted that the programme of the visit was arranged and carried out by the girls with minimum staff intervention. The Minister also invited the girls to visit her at the Beehive.²⁷⁰⁰

In August 1987 staff invited community organisations to a hui at the Girls' Home to request their assistance in the development of community orientated, multicultural programmes at Miramar.²⁷⁰¹

Media/publicity

In September 1982 a Human Rights Commission Report was released, sparking widespread debate regarding social welfare institutions.²⁷⁰² Despite the "the media criticism" the Principal noted that the Dominion and Evening Post newspapers wrote about the Girls' Home in a positive manner. The Visiting committee also assisted the Home in a radio broadcast during the publicity surround the Human Rights Report.²⁷⁰³

In 1983 the Eastern Suburbs News featured an article on the residence.²⁷⁰⁴ It was noted in the article that the Principal had invited those involved in community affairs

²⁶⁹⁰ A.J Morrison, Principal to Director, Wellington 3/5/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²⁶⁹¹ Memo from G.A Grainger for the Director-General to the Director, Wellington 16/9/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²⁶⁹² Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section B Objective 4, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁶⁹³ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁶⁹⁴ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints, S/92 MSD.

²⁶⁹⁵ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section D Objective 3, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁶⁹⁶ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁶⁹⁷ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 2.

²⁶⁹⁸ Annual Report 1983 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, Annexure.

²⁶⁹⁹ Annual Report 1984 Aurora School Report, Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 5.

²⁷⁰⁰ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁷⁰¹ Memorandum from D Waaka, for the Principal 26/8/87, Miramar Education F5000003771098.

²⁷⁰² This report led to the Johnson Report and the passing of the Children and Young Person's Amendment Act 1982. Visiting Committee Report to Minister of Social Welfare 31/3/1983, Miramar Reports, Department of Education file.

²⁷⁰³ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 10.

²⁷⁰⁴ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 4.

to hold their liaison meeting at the Girls' Home, and were invited to look around the residence after the meeting.²⁷⁰⁵ The same year the Evening Post published residents' poems as well as an article on the school.²⁷⁰⁶

Visiting committees

An undated document summarising the guidelines for Visiting Committee members stated that the Committee was required to visit the residence at least once every three months.²⁷⁰⁷

In 1981 a new Visiting Committee was appointed.²⁷⁰⁸ The Principal commended the Committee in 1982 for their support, and remarked that the Committee met regularly as a group, attended a monthly formal meeting with the Principal, and informally visit the Girls' Home as a group or individually.²⁷⁰⁹ It was noted that the Girls' Home was "one institution where the Visiting Committee are involved in the Home and their input is very beneficial".²⁷¹⁰

In 1983 the Visiting Committee continued to meet regularly and visit the Home as a group and as well as numerous individual visits. The Chairman of the Committee also met with the Principal on several occasions. Information recorded by the Visiting Committee on their visits included the number of girls held in secure and their length of stay, the number of abscondments and the apparent reason for them and any issues raised by the Principal. At this time, the Committee commented that they had spent time "fixing boundaries" to avoid becoming too familiar with staff, so as to not compromise the interest of the residents.²⁷¹¹

In 1983 the Visiting Committee asserted that the Girls' Home "bore little resemblance to the criticisms" made in the 1982 Human Rights Commission Report and issued a statement praising the Principal and staff. In a meeting convened with staff the Committee made it clear they had no criticism of the Home, and it was thought this contributed "in some way to maintaining morale".²⁷¹² Despite this, the Committee noted general criticism in the 1982 Report, and subsequently spoke to residents about medical procedures, sanitary conditions, admission procedures, secure unit usage, discipline and race and culture.²⁷¹³

In 1983 the Principal commented that matters the Visiting Committee saw as important were "taken up with the appropriate authority". He made special mention of the Committee's efforts to emphasise the need for all residents to receive education whilst in the Home.²⁷¹⁴ In 1984 the Committee reported positively on their contact with management at Miramar, and noted at times they were involved in

²⁷⁰⁵ "The girls say Miramar home is a good place", Eastern Suburbs News 1/6/83, Miramar Profile F5000002186504.

²⁷⁰⁶ Reported in the Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 4. Actual article and published poems not included in documentation.

²⁷⁰⁷ Visiting Committee Guidelines for Members, undated, author unknown, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁷⁰⁸ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁷⁰⁹ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 7.

²⁷¹⁰ See handwritten note, author unknown, Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 7.

²⁷¹¹ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education file, Miramar Reports, p 2-3.

²⁷¹² Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education file, Miramar Reports, p 4.

²⁷¹³ Visiting Committee Annual Report to March 1983, Dept of Education file, Miramar Reports, p 5.

²⁷¹⁴ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

discussions regarding admissions and secure care. The report added that "most times" agreement was reached.²⁷¹⁵

In 1983 the Visiting Committee had a policy that each new admission would be contacted by a Committee member²⁷¹⁶ and were given a weekly list of new residents by the Home. Given the short-term nature of the Home, the Committee attempted to make contact with as many residents as possible, although the time commitments of Committee members made this difficult.²⁷¹⁷ In 1984 it was noted that the roster served more as a weekly guide to movements at the Home (including abscondings) and acted as a way of keeping up weekly contact without having to visit.²⁷¹⁸

The Committee felt there should be a document setting out the rights of residents and providing information on the role of the Visiting Committee.²⁷¹⁹ While it was noted that a large information card was present in the foyer of the Home, few residents (except for those contacted by Committee members) knew about the Committee.²⁷²⁰ This was an ongoing issue and despite repeatedly requesting the Department to produce such a handout²⁷²¹, in 1985 material had still not been produced.²⁷²²

In 1984 the Visiting Committee continued to visit the Home regularly, although visits by individual Committee members were seen to be more effective than group visits.²⁷²³ The Committee later asserted that they concentrated on the idea of "overall care" rather than "looking at physical day to day conditions in the institution" which could only be undertaken in "a relatively superficial fashion".²⁷²⁴ During this time the Visiting Committee was reduced to two people²⁷²⁵ although according to the Principal this did not curtail the involvement of the remaining two members.²⁷²⁶

In 1985 the Visiting Committee were reappointed until the "new arrangements" were brought into force.²⁷²⁷ The Principal remarked that the Committee were "most helpful".²⁷²⁸ In 1985 the Committee again met regularly and made regular formal and individual visits to the Home.²⁷²⁹

²⁷¹⁵ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 3-4.

²⁷¹⁶ V. Young, Minister of Social Welfare to P.F Boshier, Chairman of the Visiting Committee 20/10/83, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee, F5000005659655.

²⁷¹⁷ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 4. See also letter from P.F Boshier, Chairman of the Visiting Committee, to V. Young, Minister of Social Welfare 23/11/83, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁷¹⁸ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 4.

²⁷¹⁹ V. Young, Minister of Social Welfare to P.F Boshier, Chairman of the Visiting Committee 20/10/83, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee, F5000005659655.

²⁷²⁰ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 7.

²⁷²¹ P.F Boshier to the Principal, Miramar Girls' Home 27/11/85, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁷²² Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1985, Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

²⁷²³ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1984, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 1.

²⁷²⁴ Visiting Committee Annual Report 1985, Visiting Committee F5000005659655, p 7.

²⁷²⁵ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 2. See also Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1985, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee, F5000005659655.

²⁷²⁶ Annual Report 1984 Miramar Reports F5000002186503, p 2.

²⁷²⁷ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3. See also D. Hutchinson, for Director-General to Director, Wellington 19/12/85 Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee, F5000005659655.

²⁷²⁸ Annual Report 1985 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁷²⁹ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1985, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee, F5000005659655.

In 1986 it was reported that the Visiting Committee's activities included checking the secure unit regularly. It appears the role of the Committee at this time had shifted to responding to difficulties rather than conducting formalised visits.²⁷³⁰

No report was received from the Committee in 1987.²⁷³¹

Contact with families

According to a 1983 prospectus, an objective of staff at Miramar was to "maintain and improve a girl's contact with her family and significant others".²⁷³² The prospectus stated that girls were to be allowed to make and receive telephone calls from family, and by prearranged discussions with the social worker in the case of friends/relatives.²⁷³³

A 1973 memorandum advised that visits to Miramar were restricted to immediate family, and where possible, limited to an hour and a half on Sunday nights, although alternative arrangements could be made. It was noted that families from outlying districts could visit "when it suits" as long as the Girls' Home was forewarned, and families would "probably be allowed to take their daughter out for the day". Only under exceptional circumstances would non-family members be allowed to visit.²⁷³⁴ According to the 1981 Annual Report, visitors were "as frequent as can be arranged".²⁷³⁵ A 1983 prospectus stated that visits from parents, family and approved relatives or friends were welcome, although presents of money or cigarettes were not acceptable.²⁷³⁶ A booklet given to new admissions informed them that it was usual for the Police or the DSW to notify their parents or guardians that they had arrived at the Home.²⁷³⁷

Girls from outlying districts could return home for a visit only after spending 6-8 weeks at Miramar. Visits home were dependent on the girl's behaviour, and their ability to travel alone. It was noted that the girls should have the chance to see their social worker while visiting their home.²⁷³⁸

Information given to girls on arrival at the Home encouraged residents to write letters to their parents and residents were able to receive letters from their parents/guardians or friends.²⁷³⁹ A 1983 prospectus stipulated that mail was to be opened by the client themselves, or under supervision if staff suspected contraband. Mail was to be screened if staff had been advised that the person sending mail could have detrimental effect on the resident.²⁷⁴⁰

In 1986 a resident's parents complained about the care of their daughter, and the lack of information they received from her caseworker at Miramar.²⁷⁴¹ In a response

²⁷³⁰ Visiting Committee Annual Reports 1986, Miramar Profile, F5000006661405.

²⁷³¹ Visiting Committee Annual Reports 1987, Miramar Profile, F5000006661404.

²⁷³² Miramar Prospectus 1983, Section A, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁷³³ Miramar Prospectus 1983, Section B Objective 3, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁷³⁴ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁷³⁵ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁷³⁶ Miramar Prospectus 1983, Section B Objective 3, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁷³⁷ Information booklet for new admissions, date and author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁷³⁸ O.T Ryan, Principal memo to contributing districts 12/7/73, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁷³⁹ Information booklet for new admissions, date and author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁷⁴⁰ Miramar Prospectus 1983, Section B Objective 3, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

²⁷⁴¹ A Whitmore, Principal to Regional Director, Lower Hutt 11/12/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

to the complaint, senior staff noted that it was Miramar policy for residential social workers to approach the parent or guardian of new admissions to see if contact could be maintained.²⁷⁴² It was also noted that while it was not policy to take a girl to her home or home of relations while on an outing, it may happen if the girl is near her home and requests to staff to visit.²⁷⁴³

Family conferences

According to the 1981 Annual Report family conferences had become a feature at the Girls' Home.²⁷⁴⁴ In 1982 family conferences were noted to have enhanced casework and provided an opportunity to speak with all parties concerned. When convenient, residential social workers were involved in the conferences²⁷⁴⁵ and at times teachers also contributed.²⁷⁴⁶

In 1983 the Principal commented on the difficulty of getting social workers to arrange family conferences, and proposed that a specific day be set aside for family conferences, in order to assist staff and residential social workers who sometimes had to attend conferences in their own time. It was also noted that in some cases, the caseworker and resident travelled to their home district to attend a family conference.²⁷⁴⁷

A 1988 memorandum set out casework policies at the Girls' Home, and mentioned that staff at Miramar believed most of the residents were "acting out their family's distress". According to this memo, residential staff therefore preferred to work with the resident's whole family, which also necessitated a close liaison with the district social workers.²⁷⁴⁸

Preparation for discharge and after care arrangements

An updated information booklet given to girls on their arrival explained the possible places they may be placed on discharge, such as a foster home, family home, boarding, a flat, Weymouth, Kingslea, a group home, or a borstal.²⁷⁴⁹ According to 1979 statistics, placements for residents ranged from long-term care to boarding schools to reception centres or returning home.²⁷⁵⁰

According to a 1983 prospectus, the objective for discharge was to "steer our clients towards security, independence and maturity" by a team work approach involving family, the social worker, the school, professional aid and community resources.²⁷⁵¹ In 1981 pre-placement programmes included "programming girls" on home leave,

²⁷⁴² V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

²⁷⁴³ V Whittaker, Senior Residential Social Worker to Principal and Assistant Principal 20/11/86, Miramar Complaints S/92 MSD.

²⁷⁴⁴ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁷⁴⁵ Annual Report 1982 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 7.

²⁷⁴⁶ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 2.

²⁷⁴⁷ Annual Report 1983 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁷⁴⁸ L Hartley, Senior Social Worker to District Office social work staff 5/2/88. Miramar Admissions F5000001594224.

²⁷⁴⁹ Information booklet for new admissions, date and author unknown, Miramar Profile F5000001594224.

²⁷⁵⁰ Miramar Girls' Home admission statistics, author unknown, Feb 1979, Miramar Admissions F5000003771104

²⁷⁵¹ Miramar Prospectus 1983 Section C Objective 2, author unknown, Miramar Reports F5000002186504.

outings with relations or friends, and preparing girls for placement.²⁷⁵² Extended supervision – often in the form of extended work programmes – were offered to girls who had left the institution before passing them over completely to the field social worker.²⁷⁵³

A document outlining the admission, liaison and discharge procedures (circa 1980's) stated that discharges were to be arranged between the Principal or Assistant Principal and the liaison person in the contributing district.²⁷⁵⁴

After a 1983 meeting between Head Office, District staff and Girls' Home staff to discuss delays in transfers and areas of responsibility after discharge, it was decided that field social workers would continue to take responsibility for the girl upon discharge, although residential social workers could provide assistance.²⁷⁵⁵ However, in April 1983 the role of residential social workers was again questioned after a particular case in which an ex-resident continued to receive support from a RSW but was not assigned a district case worker. Concern was expressed over the lack of documentation and planning in this case.²⁷⁵⁶ While it was noted that ongoing contact with RSW's could be beneficial and Girls' Home staff were commended for their level of commitment, it was stated the responsibility for non-residents lay with the district social worker.²⁷⁵⁷

The issue was again raised by the Visiting Committee in October 1983, who commented that delays in transferring girls to other institutions added to management problems at Miramar.²⁷⁵⁸ It appears this issue remained unresolved.²⁷⁵⁹

²⁷⁵² Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁷⁵³ Annual Report 1981 Miramar Reports F5000001615646, p 3.

²⁷⁵⁴ Miramar Girls' Home Admission, Liaison and Discharge Procedures, undated, author unknown, Miramar Admissions F5000003771104.

²⁷⁵⁵ Meeting Minutes of 21/3/83, M.C Ashdown, Secretary, Miramar Contact F5000002186504.

²⁷⁵⁶ P.B Dickens, Assistant Director Social Work to Director, Wellington 19/4/83, Miramar Contact F5000002186504.

²⁷⁵⁷ P.B Dickens, Assistant Director Social Work to Director, Wellington 19/4/83, Miramar Contact F5000002186504.

²⁷⁵⁸ V. Young, Minister of Social Welfare to P.F Boshier, Chairman of the Visiting Committee 20/10/83, Miramar Girls' Home Visiting Committee, F5000005659655.

²⁷⁵⁹ Visiting Committee Annual Report June 1985, Visiting Committee F5000005659655.

