

necessary regulations under Section 2A of the Legal Aid Act 1974.

3. The introduction of ABWOR will have the effect of extending the Green Form Scheme to assistance given by a lawyer to an applicant in instituting and conducting proceedings, including representing a patient before a tribunal. ABWOR can only be given to a person who has the right to be represented before a tribunal, which under the present Rules does not include the patient when he or she is not the applicant. (Where the Minister has referred the case under Section 57 of the Mental Health Act 1959, or in the case of a restricted patient, where the Home Secretary has referred the case, the patient is considered to be the applicant.) This means that when the nearest relative is the applicant, they and not the patient, will be entitled to claim ABWOR.

Procedure

4. Before assistance of any kind may be given under the Green Form Scheme, the patient must undergo a simple assessment of resources carried out by his solicitor to ensure that he qualifies on financial grounds. In addition where ABWOR is sought the patient must obtain the approval of

the Law Society.

5. The 'Green Forms' will be available from the Law Society Legal Aid local centres. A list of Legal Aid Centres in England and Wales is at Appendix A*; the area covered by each centre is shown in Appendix B*. In addition both hospital managers and any member of staff including the social workers may obtain advice from the centres to assist those detained patients who have no access to solicitors or legal advice.

Action

6. District Health Authorities, Special Health Authorities and Boards of Governors are required to draw this circular to the attention of all staff in their hospitals working with detained mental patients. In addition DHAs are asked to ensure that this circular is brought to the attention of all private mental nursing homes registered with their Authority under the Nursing Homes Act 1975, that is mental nursing homes in which mental patients may be detained.

*Copies of Appendices A and B may be obtained from the College.

News Items

New Appointments

Following the retirement of Dr Edgar Udwin at the end of March, DR JOHN R. HAMILTON is the new Medical Director of Broadmoor Hospital. Dr Hamilton currently holds a joint appointment as Consultant Psychiatrist at Broadmoor and Senior Lecturer in Forensic Psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry.

DR ANTHONY CLARE is to take over the Chair of Psychiatry at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London following the retirement of Professor Linford Rees. DR IAN F. BROCKINGTON is now Professor of Psychiatry at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, following the retirement of Sir William Trethowan.

European Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Prize

Owing to the generosity of the Merck Foundation (Darmstadt), the European Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry is able to award a prize to a young research worker under 40 years of age. The prize (5,000 Swiss francs) will be awarded for a piece of scientific research in the field

of child and adolescent psychiatry. On this occasion the topic is: 'Depression and depressive states in children and adolescents'.

Further information can be obtained from the President of the European Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Professor W. Bettschart, Av. de la Chablère 5, 1004 Lausanne, Switzerland.

Alcohol Education and Research Fund

The Alcohol Education and Research Fund was created as a charitable foundation under the Licensing (Alcohol Education and Research) Act 1981. The Fund is available to finance projects within the United Kingdom for education and research and for novel forms of help to those with drinking problems, including offenders. The Fund is administered by the Alcohol Education and Research Council. (A list of various areas of interest for which grants will be particularly welcomed is available from the Council Secretary.) Further information may be obtained from: P. Beedle, Secretary to the AERC, Whittington House (Room 623), 19-30 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7EJ.