

Case Notes

Child Welfare Practice and Legislation Review Committee

The Child Welfare Practice and Legislation Review was established by the Minister for Community Welfare Services and the Attorney-General to review child welfare in this State. It is an independent Committee headed by Dr. Terry Carney. The other members of the Committee are Tricia Harper (deputy Chair) Tony Lawson and Ken Readwin. The major tasks of the Committee in consultation with the community, are to:

- Carry out a review of existing legislation and practice in the welfare/justice system affecting children, young people and families.
- Develop a framework of principles to guide and govern child welfare practice and legislation in Victoria in the future
- Draft new child welfare legislation particularly in relation to the Children's Court and the work of the Department of Community Welfare Services with children, young people and families.
- Make recommendations about any changes in practice or services and to indicate practical ways in which this

might be done.

- Set priorities and suggest a time-scale for the implementation of changes.

The Committee has prepared a Discussion Paper which sets out current law and practice, some practical and theoretical difficulties with present arrangements, options for reform and, wherever possible, the Committee's proposals for change.

The Discussion Paper covers a very wide range of issues including:-

- Services to help children and families.
- School Attendance.
- Child Employment.
- Child Maltreatment.
- The Children's Court.
- Police and Young Offenders.
- The Relationship between Government and Non-government Organisations.
- A Children's Charter.
- Guardianship of Children.

The Committee hopes the Discussion Paper will encourage a wide range of responses from people interested in child

welfare. The closing date for submissions is the 12th January, 1984.

During the period leading up to the 12th January, the Committee would also like the opportunity to hear your views and will arrange and make itself available for public meetings and informal discussions. If you wish to arrange such a meeting please contact our Community Consultation Officer, Lynda Donnelly.

After the 12th January, the Committee will prepare its Final Report, accompanied by draft legislation, to be presented to the Minister for Community Welfare Services and the Attorney-General in Spring 1984.

Copies of the Discussion Paper have been widely distributed and further copies can be obtained by writing to the Child Welfare Practice and Legislation Review Committee, 3rd Floor, 128 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. 3000.

Further information about the Review can be obtained by phoning Lynda Donnelly on 638 176.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE

A NATIONAL FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE ON THE THEME "CHILDREN IN SHARED CARE"

- A PLACE TO GO
- A PLACE TO GROW

WILL BE HELD FROM THE 16 - 21st SEPTEMBER, 1984, AT BRISBANE COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, Mt. GRAVATT CAMPUS.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FOSTER PARENTS, RESIDENTIAL WORKERS, CURRENT & FORMER FOSTER CHILDREN, PROFESSIONAL WORKERS ETC. ARE WELCOMED.

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