

social welfare
residential care

1950–1994

VOLUME III
A SELECTION OF BOYS' AND GIRLS' HOMES



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Outline

This volume of the report (Volume III) contains the district institutions – those boys' and girls' homes selected for profiling. The material from this volume can be cross-checked against the national policies and practices information in Volume I. The boys' homes are presented first, in geographic order, from north to south. These are followed by the girls' homes. The order of the residences profiled in this volume, is, therefore:

1. Owairaka Boys' Home
2. Wesleydale Boys' Home
3. Hamilton Boys' Home
4. Epuni Boys' Home
5. Christchurch Boys' Home
6. Dunedin Boys' Home
7. Allendale Girls' Home
8. Miramar Girls' Home

Volume II of this report profiles national institutions. Please see volume II for profiles of:

1. Holdsworth
2. Kohitere
3. Hokio
4. Campbell Park
5. Weymouth
6. Fareham House
7. Kingslea

Volume I contains national and other contextual information including the methodology adopted for this report.

Owairaka Boys' Home

Physical description

In 1958, Owairaka was one of two Child Welfare Division residences in Mt Albert, Auckland and one of 6 short-term institutions throughout New Zealand, functioning as a short-term assessment centre.¹

In 1958, Owairaka had a capacity of 40 beds, and often had 35-40 boys in residence at any one time.² Each boy had his own room.³ In 1979 Owairaka had 44 open unit beds and a further 18 secure care beds.⁴ In 1980, there were 44 boys in the residence at the time of an Inspection.⁵ By 1990 Owairaka was smaller, with a capacity of 29 open unit beds and 18 secure care beds.

In 1976 Owairaka had single bedrooms, a recreation room, table tennis room, games hall, hobby workshop, gymnasium, colour TV, pool tables, football fields, softball diamond and gardens.⁶

The school was gutted by fire in 1979 after it was set alight by returning absconders.⁷ Refurbishments to Owairaka were carried out in 1980 and 1981 and included a new visiting area and interview facility.⁸ By 1982 Owairaka had a purpose-built reception area, avoiding the need to admit all boys through the secure unit.

A swimming pool was added in 1982 and used during the summer months.⁹ It was planned to cover over and heat the pool during 1985.¹⁰

In 1984, staff suggested a number of changes, including a new name. However, the name change was rejected and in 1986 the name of the institution was changed to Owairaka Centre (Youth Remand and Assessment).¹¹

The gym was re-sited over the first half of 1985, causing disruption to the onsite programme.¹² In 1985, a 17-bed intermediate secure area was planned.¹³ In 1986, the Centre Wing was out of operation.¹⁴

¹ The other being Allendale for younger care and protection cases and delinquent girls.

² Life in the Auckland Boys' Home' *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

³ Life in the Auckland Boys' Home' *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

⁴ Directory of residential facilities for disturbed children in New Zealand (1979) Department of Social Welfare, Wellington, National Information folder, National Overview.

⁵ Inspection Report, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports, F5000002185732, para 1.

⁶ *You and Owairaka*, 1976, Owairaka Profile F5000002388449.

⁷ Annual Report 1979, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

⁸ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p5.

⁹ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁰ Annual Report 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹¹ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹² Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹³ Circular Memorandum 1985/76, 29/4/85, Owairaka Profile, F50000023688641.

Resident profile

Owairaka was a short-term facility for boys aged 14 - 17, often those on warrants or on remand from the court.¹⁵ In addition, Owairaka housed some state wards awaiting placement. In December 1971 the lack of foster or National Institution placements for many of these boys created problems in delayed discharge and put pressure on beds at Owairaka.¹⁶ As a result, it was anticipated that boys referred by the courts would need to be placed in Mount Eden Prison over the Christmas period.¹⁷

The short-term remand/classification function of Owairaka meant that admission rates were high, for example, 628 during 1978 rising to 693 in 1980.¹⁸ A sharp increase in admissions was sustained from 1984-1986 when just over 1000 boys were admitted each year. Rates of readmission were also high – for example 43% (286 of 666 admissions) in 1979.¹⁹

By 1976, the growing numbers of boys returning to Owairaka with histories of previous Justice Department involvement was creating problems. This group formed about one-third of all admissions.²⁰ The situation had arisen because of the trend to admit boys to national institutions earlier and for shorter periods. This meant that re-offending was dealt with by the youth justice system and not by the adult court system.²¹ In 1976, the secure unit held at one time, a boy on a charge of murder, another of attempted murder, a boy with a long history of dramatic Police chases and another with a history of using a knife as an offensive weapon.²² The effect of these boys mixing with boys in need of care was said to be undesirable.

Concern was also expressed in 1978 about the number of older and more sophisticated residents. A number of these boys had already been to detention centres or borstals (approximately 12% of admissions) and had an unsettling effect on the institution, both on "less sophisticated Social Welfare type of cases" and through the extra demands placed on the secure unit.²³ Numbers of readmissions for this group were also high.

As well as this older group, some 13 year olds were admitted, either by the police or by social workers. Some of these younger boys had proven to be beyond the resources of Wesleydale. Mr Ricketts, as Principal of Owairaka, always admitted these younger boys to the open unit, refusing to admit them to secure.²⁴

¹⁴ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹⁵ 'Life in the Auckland Boys' Home' *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

¹⁶ A Ricketts, Manager Owairaka to A/DCWO Auckland 20/12/71, Owairaka Profile 19349.

¹⁷ Memo, AL Rounthwaite, A/DCWO, CW 6/40/- Owairaka Profile 19349.

¹⁸ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732; Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁹ Annual Report 1979, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁰ Memo, SJ Stanton, Assistant Director (Social Work) to Director-General 2/11/76 Owairaka Profile F5000002388339.

²¹ Memo, SJ Stanton, Assistant Director (Social Work) to Director General 2/11/76 Owairaka Profile F5000002388339.

²² A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 19/5/76, Owairaka Secure F5000002185732.

²³ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁴ Annual Report 1979, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

In 1985, there was an increase of 60% in older boys (including some 17-19 year olds), with mature boys said to use "stand-over tactics" over younger boys in the secure unit.²⁵

Boys predominately came from North Auckland and Auckland and each boy was individually assessed on admission. In 1978, 74% (463 out of 628 admissions) were boys of Maori descent.²⁶ Sixty-one percent of admissions were boys of Maori descent in 1982, and 64% in 1985.²⁷

The quick turnover experienced at Owairaka, and the inability of the institution to refuse admissions, meant that movements had to be carefully managed to ensure beds were always available.²⁸ Some pre-planning for admissions began in 1981.²⁹

Gang affiliated residents created problems in the early 1980s – in particular, fighting between members of rival gangs.³⁰ Conflict also resulted in attacks on staff and in boys absconding due to threats from members of other gangs.³¹ Team games were harder to organise because of the strong gang affiliation.³² Gang affiliated boys tended to use displays of aggression, thefts and burglaries as status symbols. Boys also spent a great deal of their free time at Owairaka in gang-related activity, such as drawing insignia and corresponding with gang members.³³

A 1985 newspaper article stated that up to 100 boys a year committed offences so that they could return to Owairaka. The Principal was quoted as saying "some boys are in here 10 times a year for the same offences".³⁴

Mixed functions

As the Manager noted in 1967; "The mixed function of the Home creates major difficulties. The Home is required to absorb a large number of cases on warrant and remand as well as cases where short term training and residence is required before placement. The result is that neither aspect of the work can be undertaken with success."³⁵ The predominance of remand centre functions was noted by an inspection report in 1967.³⁶

By the early 1970s, the primarily remand nature of Owairaka was still evident, as was the negative impact of this on programmes offered. The Principal described the use of, and admissions at Owairaka in the early 70s as "unwieldy".³⁷ By 1972, the institution had begun to attract adverse publicity about the age-mix of residents and

²⁵ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁶ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁷ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990; Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁸ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁹ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁰ Letter, A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Regional Manager, Auckland 28/3/80. Owairaka Profile F5000002388339.

³¹ CS Howie, Senior RSW, 14/4/81, Owairaka Profile F5000002185732.

³² CS Howie, Senior RSW, 14/4/81, Owairaka Profile F5000002185732.

³³ D Tucker, Senior RSW, Secure unit notes for committee on gangs, 14/4/81, Owairaka Profile F5000002185732.

³⁴ "Youths offend to return home" *Central Leader*, 20/8/85 Owairaka Profile F5000002388340.

³⁵ Memo, A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to KJ Flint DCWO Auckland 20/3/67 Owairaka Profile 19349.

³⁶ Hayes, Inspection Report May/June 1967, Owairaka Profile 19532.

³⁷ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre", 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577, p3.

the use of secure, with an article appearing in the Auckland Star.³⁸ By 1974, the department was promising that a maximum security remand centre would be purpose-built in Mt Roskill. Owairaka was to manage temporarily until it was built.³⁹ In 1976 it was noted that the secure unit operated more like that of the Prison Service, due to the number of serious offenders in care.⁴⁰

However, while plans progressed for the building of a new maximum security remand centre, attitudes in the community and in the department changed and there was a new focus on keeping children in the community, and so plans for Mt Roskill were shelved. The short-term remand focus of Owairaka remained and what began as temporary cover became a long-term proposition. The institution continued to operate under pressure, always anticipating a drop in numbers when in fact admissions continued to rise.⁴¹ This occurred despite a firm policy of resisting admissions by staff and the focus on placements in the community.

The short-term nature of the institution affected the type of programme offered and created a dual, sometimes conflicting role for residential social workers, as social workers and as custodians.⁴² As most admissions came from the courts, Owairaka had little control over the rate or timing of admissions. Each admission or discharge took staff away from other duties.⁴³

Admissions rose sharply in 1983 - a rise of 45% in admissions was experienced - from 663 in 1982 to 965 in 1983.⁴⁴ Admissions continued to rise in 1984, totalling 1019 that year despite the opening of the Cornwall Park Reception Centre and the extra screening of admissions that this involved.⁴⁵ At the same time, judges were reluctant to refer young people to adult jails, preferring to use Owairaka and this impacted on pressures on the secure unit.⁴⁶

During the mid-80s there was discussion about the role of Owairaka. In 1985, the Principal noted the specialised function of Owairaka and the effect of this on what programmes could be delivered. He also noted that despite this, the Department held conventional expectations of the institution in terms of resources, programmes and goals.⁴⁷ The institution was expected to fulfil the role of a Boys' Home when it operated as a remand centre. Despite a range of moves to keep boys in the community and to find alternative placements, admissions to Owairaka continued to rise. Police admissions were made easier with the introduction of section 43 Children and Young Persons Act.⁴⁸

The Cornwall Park Reception Centre was opened in 1982, and its role was to screen cases before admission to Owairaka; diverting appropriate cases to other

³⁸ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre", 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577, p4.

³⁹ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre", 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577, p4, 5.

⁴⁰ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 19/5/76, Owairaka Secure F5000002185732.

⁴¹ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre", 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577.p6.

⁴² Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁴³ Inspection Report, MR Hayes, May/June 1967, Owairaka Profile 19532.

⁴⁴ Annual Report 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁴⁵ Quarterly Report, Jan-March 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577.

⁴⁶ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340, with reference to the Wallace report.

⁴⁷ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre", 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577.

⁴⁸ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre" 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577 p7.

placements.⁴⁹ However, it did not lead to a drop in Owairaka admissions, which instead rose rapidly.⁵⁰

By 1985, Owairaka operated almost exclusively for police referrals, especially as the courts were reluctant to admit children and young people to adult jails.⁵¹ The focus on community placement meant that Owairaka staff spent a lot of time trying to make arrangements other than admission to the residence, and becoming actively involved in these alternative arrangements.⁵² Even those boys on Secure Orders from the Courts or those posing serious risk to the community needed to be assessed for community placement. A backlash to the emphasis on community placement was noted in 1986, where many districts preferred a stay at Owairaka to placement in the community.⁵³

Admissions rose again in 1985 to 1090, with 71% staying one week or less.⁵⁴ Older boys were admitted in increasing numbers; many through the impact of the Criminal Justice Act 1985.

A close relationship developed during 1985 between Owairaka and the local police station at Avondale. In particular, two young policemen, one Maori, one Pacific Island, spent time at the residence, becoming involved in discussion programmes and recreation, and breaking down often hostile view that boys had of the Police.⁵⁵

Total admissions in 1986 were 1022, a decline of 68 from the previous year.⁵⁶ The function of Owairaka changed in the mid- to late-1980s as Kohitere and Hokio began to take less responsibility for boys from the Auckland region and more boys that would have formerly gone to these other institutions were instead admitted to Owairaka.⁵⁷

In 1990, approximately one-third of admissions were care and protection admissions and therefore were inappropriate. In particular their admission to secure was highlighted as most inappropriate.⁵⁸ Staff did not appear to operate an admissions policy and the police did not have alternatives to Owairaka.⁵⁹

The average occupancy for March 1990 ranged between 10-29 boys.⁶⁰

⁴⁹ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre" 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577 p7.

⁵⁰ Quarterly Report July-September 1984, 1/10/84, Owairaka Reports, F5000002388340; A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre" 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577 p8.

⁵¹ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre", 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577 p 10.

See also, Circular Memorandum 1985/76, 29/4/85, Owairaka Profile, F50000023688641.

⁵² Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁵³ Quarterly Report 28/4/86, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

⁵⁴ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁵⁵ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁵⁶ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

⁵⁷ Audit Report, March 1988, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One; Audit Report, March 1989, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

⁵⁸ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

⁵⁹ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

⁶⁰ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

Length of stay

Rapid turnover leading to instability within Owairaka was noted in 1959 in the context of lack of adequate numbers of staff. New admissions and older boys did not attend school, leading to large numbers of boys home all day, sometimes in the care of inexperienced staff.⁶¹

An examination of discharge patterns during 1966 revealed that most boys sent home after only a short stay at Owairaka (i.e. one quarter less than a week and three quarters less than a month) were discharged due to pressure on beds from admissions. Some of these boys were later readmitted.⁶² The pressure on beds created by rising numbers of admissions often meant that discharges were based on expediency rather than on the needs of boys.⁶³

In 1979, 60% (402 out of 666) of boys were in Owairaka for 2 weeks or less. The 1981 Annual Report noted that the very short period of stay adversely impacted on any ability of the institution to offer rehabilitative programmes, and also raised the question of whether admissions were appropriate in the first place.⁶⁴ In 1980, 63% of boys stayed for up to 2 weeks.⁶⁵

In 1982, there was a shift in emphasis away from short-stay remand cases, after the issuing of the Human Rights Commission, Johnston and New Horizons reports. Admission rates dropped in the last quarter of 1982, and this was thought to be as a result of new policies.⁶⁶

Half of admissions in 1983 were boys with previous Owairaka admissions. Those staying under one week also accounted for 50% of admissions. The continuing high rate of re-admissions in 1984 was thought to be due to a failure of community resources for boys placed out of Owairaka.⁶⁷

In 1984, total admissions were 1019, with almost 70% staying less than a week.⁶⁸

By 1985, the short-stay nature of Owairaka was cemented, with most boys staying 3-10 days before being placed elsewhere.⁶⁹

Programmes and care

Described as an unusual feature of the programme in place since 1952, boys were required to lie on their beds for an hour every afternoon after school. Many slept during this time.⁷⁰

⁶¹ M Lyons, DWCO to Superintendent 16/12/59, Owairaka Staff 19532.

⁶² Memo, A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to KJ Flint DCWO Auckland 20/3/67, Owairaka Profile 19349.

⁶³ Memo, A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to KJ Flint DCWO Auckland 20/3/67, Owairaka Profile 19349.

⁶⁴ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p1.

⁶⁵ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁶⁶ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁶⁷ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

⁶⁸ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

⁶⁹ Youths offend to return home. *Central Leader*, 20/8/85, Owairaka Profile F5000002388340..

⁷⁰ "Life in the Auckland Boys' Home" *Auckland Star*, 27.9.58, Owairaka Profile 19352. This practice was also employed at other institutions, including at Epuni.

Rest therapy came under challenge from Head Office in 1972 and 1973. Events at Epuni in 1972 had led to an order from Head Office that rest periods in that institution should cease. A number of letters were written to the Owairaka Principal in late 1972 in support of rest periods from people including the Principal of Mt Albert Grammar School, the Owairaka Visiting Psychologist, the Owairaka Head Teacher and the head of the Education Department at Auckland University.⁷¹ The correspondence suggests that institutions were being asked to run uniform programmes. The letters noted the benefit of physical rest on a boys' emotional recovery given the often unsettled recent past of residents.

In January 1973, the Director-General ordered that rest periods were to be discontinued in all institutions.⁷² He noted his disagreement with Mr Rickett's theories in regard to rest, stating that it was not valid to argue that because children slept during the rest period that they therefore required bed rest. Rest was only allowed for new admissions or in individual cases. Confinement to rooms was permitted for up to 45 minutes as long as children did not lie on their beds.

However, despite this instruction, the practice still occurred at Owairaka in 1980, where "rest therapy" was an hour and a half and boys were allowed to read but many slept.⁷³

In 1958, boys spent 3-4 weeks at the boys' home before going to school in the community.⁷⁴ At school, they tended to eat lunch together, but were described as generally being accepted by the other boys.⁷⁵ As well as attending school, boys worked in the kitchen and in the grounds.⁷⁶

In the 1950s, after school activities included hockey, rugby, basketball, quiz evenings and films.⁷⁷ Owairaka ran a camp in the school holidays.⁷⁸

In 1972, after adverse publicity, programmes were curtailed. Camps were discontinued as were Owairaka sports teams playing local tournaments.⁷⁹

Movies were shown on Saturday and Sunday evenings in 1976, when boys could spend their pocket money at the tuck-shop.⁸⁰ In 1976 Owairaka had a recreation room, table tennis room, games hall, hobby workshop, gymnasium, colour TV, pool tables, football fields, softball diamond and gardens.⁸¹ Other activities included archery, weightlifting, trampoline, darts, trips to the beach, bush walking and other outings.⁸²

⁷¹ Various correspondence to A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, December 1972, Owairaka Health 19352.

One writer describes the programme as being in place from about 1949; PL Painter, Senior Psychologist, Department of Education to A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, 5/12/72, Owairaka Health, 19352.

⁷² DG Reilly for Director-General to The Director, Auckland 8/1/73, Owairaka Health 19352.

⁷³ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 15.

⁷⁴ "Life in the Auckland Boys' Home" *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

⁷⁵ "Life in the Auckland Boys' Home" *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

⁷⁶ "Life in the Auckland Boys' Home" *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

⁷⁷ "Life in the Auckland Boys' Home" *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

⁷⁸ "Life in the Auckland Boys' Home" *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

⁷⁹ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre", 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577, p4.

⁸⁰ *You and Owairaka*, 1976, Owairaka Profile F5000002388449.

⁸¹ *You and Owairaka*, 1976, Owairaka Profile F5000002388449.

⁸² *You and Owairaka*, 1976, Owairaka Profile F5000002388449.

In 1978, the programme included individual and group activities. Work and recreational facilities were provided.⁸³ Conducted outings and special weekend leave privileges were also part of the Owairaka programme at this time.⁸⁴

In 1979, it proved difficult to retain specialist part-timers, such as gym trainers and Māori culture specialists.⁸⁵

In answer to questions raised in parliament, it was admitted that an R18 feature film (The Deerhunter) was shown to residents on 8 November 1980.⁸⁶

In 1980 physical education specialists took groups on weekday mornings and from 8.30-5pm on weekends.⁸⁷ By 1982 this had been extended to Sunday evening as well.⁸⁸

By 1981, available activities included pool, table tennis, gym work, weight lifting, indoor basketball, softball, soccer and rugby.

During the summer of 1981, the School for the Deaf offered Owairaka the use of their swimming pool, and this was a popular activity.⁸⁹ Owairaka got its own pool in 1982 and the pool was close enough to secure to be used as an activity in that unit.⁹⁰ The pool was to be heated and covered in 1985. While this had not been completed by the end of 1986, there is nothing on file to note whether this work was in fact undertaken.

A confidence course was also under construction at the end of 1982.⁹¹

Boys went on a 5 day camp at Poutu in November 1982 that was considered successful.⁹²

On admission, boys' clothing was stored, unwashed and boys were given institution jeans and sweatshirts. It was not possible to launder personal clothing due to the large number of admissions.⁹³

In 1980, Inspectors found the meals at Owairaka of a high standard and boys were allowed to choose how much they wanted to eat. Boys sat at tables and one senior boy was appointed monitor. Staff sat together at a separate table. The report noted that mealtimes were "unhurried, quiet and relaxed".⁹⁴ Boys worked in the kitchen, but the rapid turnover meant that it was difficult to get them to work constructively.⁹⁵

⁸³ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

⁸⁴ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

⁸⁵ Annual Report 1979, Owairaka Reports, F5000002185732.

⁸⁶ Johnston to Regional Director 28/11/80, Owairaka Discipline/Punishment F5000002185732.

⁸⁷ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁸⁸ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

⁸⁹ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁹⁰ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁹¹ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

⁹² Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁹³ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

⁹⁴ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁹⁵ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

⁹⁶ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

⁹⁷ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 10.

⁹⁸ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 17.

⁹⁹ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 17.

The 1980 Inspection Report noted that one of the two Ford Transit vans owned by Owairaka had the general appearance of a "deteriorating rust heap", with numerous rust holes and marks.⁹⁶

Owairaka had a unique pocket money system due to the short-stay of residents and this system had been approved by Head Office.⁹⁷ However, audits in the late 1980s began to criticise this system, especially the lack of any pocket-money system at all for boys in secure or those in the Centre Unit.⁹⁸

The 1980 Inspectors found that mail opening processes and allowing uncensored mail in and out of Owairaka failed to comply with standard procedure.⁹⁹

Short-stays affected programme development in 1982 but plans were underway to develop the recreational, school and vocational programmes, including the purchase of a video camera for job interview training and personal skills development.¹⁰⁰ In the event, a staff member supplied their own camera until one was later purchased.¹⁰¹

The 1982 Annual Report notes the impact of the Human Rights Commission, Johnston and New Horizons reports on the institution; namely a change away from short-stays to a more focussed intervention, and also tighter admission processes with remand cases to be diverted away from Owairaka. The support of Regional and Head Office staff was also appreciated.¹⁰² A number of changes in direction were experienced over the next few years.¹⁰³

The Planning for Children in Care Scheme was introduced in 1982.¹⁰⁴ The lack of work experience was noted in a 1983 inspection.¹⁰⁵

The 1983 Annual Report stated that the philosophy and aim of Owairaka was to "provide a caring and semi-custodial type of environment for those boys awaiting Court appearances, or for other matters. The Staff endeavour to do this by assisting them to present themselves well at Court, enable then access to family, friends and professional assistance, and by giving them personal support."¹⁰⁶

A Cultural Involvement Officer ran a number of on-site and off-site programmes in 1983 and 1984, including bone carving, haka and flax work.¹⁰⁷ A number of day trips and picnics were also held that year.¹⁰⁸ More attention was given to a varied programme in 1984, including sports, recreation and outings.¹⁰⁹

A bicultural emphasis was said to have been developed by 1985, with the Cultural Involvement Officer noting that most boys had had little prior involvement with marae

⁹⁶ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 21.

⁹⁷ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 24.

⁹⁸ Audit Report, March 1989, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

⁹⁹ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 24.

¹⁰⁰ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁰¹ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁰² Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁰³ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹⁰⁴ Inspection Report, 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

¹⁰⁵ Inspection Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002388449.

¹⁰⁶ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990. This philosophy was restated in a number of later reports.

¹⁰⁷ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990: Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹⁰⁸ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁰⁹ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

or Māori or Pacific Island culture.¹¹⁰ A number of marae visits took place in 1985 and the te reo Māori and haka classes were particularly popular.¹¹¹

Weightlifting and jogging were part of the school programme in 1984.¹¹² A 20 seat bus was also purchased in 1984, allowing more off-site programming.¹¹³ Off site activities were used extensively in 1985 while the gym was out of action while it was moved.¹¹⁴ The off-site programme was the main direction of programme development in 1985.¹¹⁵

A 1987 Audit found the vocational activities fell short of the regulated requirements although the boys were well provided for in terms of leisure and recreation activities. Educational activities for those not attending school also fell short of requirements.¹¹⁶ These issues were raised again by a March 1988 audit.¹¹⁷

The 1987 audit also criticised the management of pocket money and the “anachronistic” smoking rules.¹¹⁸ The pocket money rules were also criticised in a March 1988 audit. Cigarettes and sweets were handed out and paid for by the Department.¹¹⁹

A 1988 Audit found the programme very basic with a lot of use of physical activity, outings and videos. Auditors were concerned that the short term remand nature of the institution was used as an excuse not to develop programmes.¹²⁰

A Te Whanau Owairaka outreach programme was set up in 1988 and met with enthusiasm by those staff involved, but with jealousy by other staff because of the resources and emphasis given to the programme. An Audit found the programme to have a well-developed philosophy and set of objectives that had the potential to impact positively on other aspects of Owairaka.¹²¹ The programme ceased after the introduction of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989.¹²²

In 1990 canteen accounts were operated for the pocket-money system for residences where sweets and cigarettes were available at cost price.¹²³

The booklet “Your Rights While You Are In Owairaka” had been produced but was not in use in 1990.¹²⁴

In 1990, the standard of personal cleanliness was found lacking by auditors, with clothes not washed daily and some boys sleeping in their clothes. A higher standard of housekeeping was also called for in terms of bedding.¹²⁵ Privacy had also been breached by washing all the curtains at the same time and not putting them back

¹¹⁰ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹¹¹ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹¹² Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹¹³ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹¹⁴ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹¹⁵ Quarterly Report 1/10/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹¹⁶ Audit Report, 20.7.86, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹¹⁷ Audit Report, March 1988, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹¹⁸ Audit Report, 20.7.86, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹¹⁹ Audit Report, March 1988, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹²⁰ Audit Report, March 1988, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹²¹ Audit Report, March 1988, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹²² Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹²³ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹²⁴ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹²⁵ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

up.¹²⁶ There were no home skills programmes in 1990 and no boys helped in the kitchen. Staff set the tables.¹²⁷

Work and training

In October 1959, as part of discussions about the need for an on-site school at Owairaka, it was noted that one boy was currently at work.¹²⁸

In 1980, the Principal commented that any work training or work experience programme was impractical in the high-turnover environment of Owairaka, although some work of this nature was attempted in the Activity Centre (i.e. the school).¹²⁹ Vocational work was similarly difficult due to turnover although attempts were made when working with boys on their duties and personal routines as well as during sports activities.¹³⁰

There were plans in 1982 to purchase a video camera for job interview training and personal skills development.¹³¹ In the event, a staff member supplied their own camera until one was later purchased.¹³²

In 1980, Inspectors commented that the garden had virtually disappeared as the boys had become less involved in work training.¹³³ Pressures brought about in the 1980s as admissions rose and stays shortened made programme development difficult.¹³⁴

A number of discussion groups were held for 20 minutes before breakfast in 1985, covering topics such as flatting, looking for work, self awareness and current affairs.¹³⁵ In general, vocational training was not possible that year due to fast turnover, with most work of this nature being done through the Activity Centre.¹³⁶

Resident-to-resident issues

Very little appears on file in regard to issues between residents, apart from issues mentioned in resident profile, above, for example the mix of older and younger boys and gang affiliation issues.

An alleged incident of bullying and indecent assault by 3 boys against another resident was investigated in [REDACTED]

¹²⁶ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹²⁷ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹²⁸ M Lyons, DCWO to District Superintendent Education, 23/10/59. Owairaka Education 19532.

¹²⁹ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹³⁰ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹³¹ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹³² Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹³³ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 18.3.

¹³⁴ See for example, Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹³⁵ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹³⁶ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

in a boarding-school manner. The Senior RSW was not sure of the complainant's story given his history and that he had subsequently twice requested to sleep in the senior wing where the perpetrators slept.¹³⁷

Health and medication

Psychological care

In 1958, psychological assessments were carried out on most boys by a visiting Education Department psychologist who attended the institution once a week. Personality and intelligence tests were undertaken. The psychologist advised on discharge and after care.¹³⁸

In 1980 Psychological Services saw boys on request, usually within a week of the request being made.¹³⁹ In 1981, a contracted person offered 5 hours a week of counselling services and weekly assistance was also provided by Psychological Services.¹⁴⁰

A local GP attended Owairaka on weekday mornings to check admissions and attend to other referrals.¹⁴¹ The same GP attended for many years through the 1980s.

The GP attending Owairaka told the Inspectors he saw no major health problems and few drug-related problems. However, the sniffing of petrol and other substances was common at this time and boys were counselled by the doctor about their dangers. At this time there was no qualified nurse on staff but two women had been nurse aides.¹⁴²

A 1980 Inspection found that adequate records were kept of medical treatment and any medication administered.¹⁴³ At this time, the institution had little faith in the local psychiatric service and made few referrals, however, more reliance was placed on psychological services. The visiting psychologist sometimes set up ongoing counselling for boys and their families but he was mostly kept busy doing Court assessments or assessments for long-term training.¹⁴⁴

Sister Rose attended at Owairaka for many years, providing valuable counselling and pastoral care. Sister Rose left in 1986.¹⁴⁵ During 1986 there were problems and staff changes within Psychological Services.¹⁴⁶

¹³⁷ A Ricketts Principal Owairaka to Regional Director of Residential Services, 6/12/84 and statements from staff and boys, Owairaka Incidents, F5000002388340.

¹³⁸ "Life in the Auckland Boys' Home" *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

¹³⁹ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁴⁰ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p4.

¹⁴¹ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990. Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹⁴² Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 14.

¹⁴³ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 6.9.

¹⁴⁴ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. paras 12, 13.

¹⁴⁵ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹⁴⁶ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

Psychiatric hospital placement

Nothing was found on file in relation to any resident of Owairaka being placed in a psychiatric hospital.

Staffing

In 1958, Owairaka had a staff of 6 women and 4 men.¹⁴⁷ In 1959, the Manager Mr Ricketts made repeated requests for extra staff, noting that the physical demands placed on male staff required to care for 41 boys on their own were excessive, with staff "so tired that we cannot do our duty properly".¹⁴⁸

Staff were also unable to take any days off, due to the shortages and to other staff taking overdue leave. Consequently the Manager reported that the training and supervision of the boys was seriously affected and that the boys could not be adequately controlled or catered for.¹⁴⁹

By December 1958 the situation had become urgent, with staff unable to make routine checks at night and reference made to a boy who had instigated sex practices at Owairaka that had remained undetected for longer than they would have if staffing had been adequate.¹⁵⁰

In 1967, an Inspection Report noted that often only one staff member was on duty to attend to boys, as a three-man timetable existed, with the duty manager attending to housemaster and managerial responsibilities and a second staff member attending to admissions and discharges.¹⁵¹

The Director-General of Education supported an increase in residential staff in order to provide double night cover in secure in 1970, noting that the Public Service Association had become involved after a number of attacks on staff.¹⁵²

In 1978 a letter to the Minister of Social Welfare, the Auckland Committee on Racism and Discrimination listed 15 permanent staff and claimed that 8 had service backgrounds (i.e. army, navy or air force) and claimed that the institution advertised for people with such backgrounds.¹⁵³ A 1980 memorandum in regard to problems created by gang affiliations among residents led to the suggestion that staff selected to work in Owairaka's secure unit "should of necessity be male, mature, well built, physically fit with ability in the art of self defence".¹⁵⁴

Staff training was increased in 1980.¹⁵⁵ All staff had a case work load. Senior Residential Social Workers and Residential Social Workers kept contact with Social

¹⁴⁷ "Life in the Auckland Boys' Home" *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile, 19352..

¹⁴⁸ A Ricketts, Manager Owairaka to DCWO Auckland, 29/6/59, Owairaka Staffing 19352.

¹⁴⁹ A Ricketts, Manager Owairaka to DCWO Auckland, 2/11/59, Owairaka Staffing 19352.

¹⁵⁰ M Lyons, DCWO to Superintendent, 16/12/59, Owairaka Staffing 19532.

¹⁵¹ Hayes, Inspection Report May/June 1967, Owairaka Profile 19532.

¹⁵² JT Ferguson for Director-General Education, to Mr Ball, 22/12/70, Owairaka Staffing 19352.

¹⁵³ ORW Sutherland for ACORD to Minister of Social Welfare 17/4/78, Owairaka Incidents 32995.

¹⁵⁴ I Johnston, Assistant Director (Regional Residential Services) to the Director-General, 14/4/80, Owairaka Profile, F5000002388339.

¹⁵⁵ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

Workers, volunteers and parents.¹⁵⁶ Copies of the Residential Social Worker Manuals, Public Service Manuals, State Services Act and Regulations were available to staff, however the Social Workers Manual was not available and there were no job or desk files.¹⁵⁷ Although all staff were encouraged to take the RCA course, only one staff member did so in 1980.¹⁵⁸

In 1980 Senior RSWs met with the Principal each Monday and each Senior met with his shift once a week for meetings and staff training. The Domestic Supervisor and staff meet once a week.¹⁵⁹

A 1980 Inspection report found no staff vacancies and double night cover in place. A suggestion was made that night checks be made on a more infrequent basis. Very few staff at this time had formal training or qualifications beyond two or three years at secondary school.¹⁶⁰ Induction Assistant Residential Social Workers attended Owairaka on training placements, in a "shadow roster" system.¹⁶¹ These Assistant RSWs told the Inspectors they felt they could be more involved in report writing or decision-making as they worked closely with the boys.¹⁶²

In 1981, a manual was produced for in-house use, giving basic rules for each area within the institution.¹⁶³ Staff were restructured during this time also.¹⁶⁴

In 1981 a complaint was received in regard to female staff supervising the showering of boys.¹⁶⁵ The complaint related to 1977 or 1978 and the Principal advised that female Assistant RSWs did supervise such tasks, but that equal opportunity requirements of the State Services Commission required appointment of male and female staff on an equal basis. The policy was marked for review.¹⁶⁶

In April 1982, the Assistant Principal was released from his roster duties and instead worked on staff meetings and staff training.¹⁶⁷ Regular staff meetings were held of shift teams and other staff groups, with a general staff meeting held once a month.¹⁶⁸

Three RSWs obtained the RCA certificate in 1982, and a one day seminar was held at the end of the year about implementing the new policies based on recently published reports.¹⁶⁹ By 1985, a second Assistant Principal was in place and this position was also not rostered. There was some criticism of this by Head Office, noting that the appropriate roles of senior staff represented a difference in management style between Head Office and the Principal.¹⁷⁰ Later, in 1985, the

¹⁵⁶ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁵⁷ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 22.

¹⁵⁸ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁵⁹ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁶⁰ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

¹⁶¹ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

¹⁶² Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 8.2.

¹⁶³ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p4.

¹⁶⁴ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁶⁵ J Gilchrist to Director-General 7/7/81 Owairaka Complaints F5000002388449.

¹⁶⁶ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, to Regional Director 3/8/81 Owairaka Complaints F5000002388449.

¹⁶⁷ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

¹⁶⁸ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁶⁹ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

¹⁶⁸ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁶⁹ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

¹⁶⁹ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁷⁰ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre", 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577, handwritten note at p 15.

view that Owairaka considered itself a unique institution and one that should therefore not have to always comply with Departmental policy was re-iterated.¹⁷¹

The work of the Assistant Principal in preparing a Modular Information Manual covering areas including induction, job descriptions and relevant Manuals and Acts was praised by Inspectors in 1982.¹⁷² The Inspectors noted that most supervision was done on the job and that many supervisory staff had limited training and experience in supervision.¹⁷³

The 1982 Inspectors noted the positive approach of the Principal and his appreciation of the need to delegate responsibility so that other staff could extend themselves and grow in the job. The healthy atmosphere and tone of the residence at this time was also noted.¹⁷⁴

By 1983 discussions were underway about a new role for Owairaka. The Principal saw tensions in the need to prevent absconding and increase secure beds while promoting social work and rehabilitation functions.¹⁷⁵ Owairaka had about 80% of admissions under police warrant whereas most other institutions had about 20% - this was said to give rise to unique issues for this Home. In early 1983, however, the Regional Office indicated that the re-defined role for Owairaka would be for remand classification, and staff responded to this in May 1983.¹⁷⁶

The Human Rights Commission Report released in 1982 had an impact on the institution.¹⁷⁷ The report was critical of admission procedures, use of secure, and what it referred to as the "nodding system" where staff allegedly gave commands to boys by a series of nods so that exchanges were conducted in silence. A 1983 Inspection Report indicates awareness of these tensions.¹⁷⁸

The 1983 Inspection Report found the new reception centre working well. There were issues in staff not being able to take their half hour breaks.¹⁷⁹ According to the Annual Report, staff training and qualifications were consolidated in 1983 when job profiles were also revised.¹⁸⁰ Staff expressed a need for access to legal advice and guidance.¹⁸¹

In 1984, the principal noted problems with the number of temporary staff, which he thought would be helped by the appointment of 2 permanent relievers.¹⁸² In 1985, the high proportion of senior staff to other staff was noted, and was said to be a result of the specialised remand function of the institution.¹⁸³

¹⁷¹ M Doolan, Director Regional Residential Services, to Director-General 5/6/85, Owairaka Secure, F5000002386577.

¹⁷² Inspection Report, 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

¹⁷³ Inspection Report, 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

¹⁷⁴ Inspection Report, 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

¹⁷⁵ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Director of Residential Services Auckland, undated 1983, Owairaka Reports, F5000002388449.

¹⁷⁶ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁷⁷ Human Rights Commission, 1982, Report of the Human Rights Commission on representations by ACORD on Children and Young Person's Homes administered by the Department of Social Welfare, HRC.

¹⁷⁸ Inspection Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002388449.

¹⁷⁹ Inspection Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002388449.

¹⁸⁰ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁸¹ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁸² Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹⁸³ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka, "Summaries of the implications associated with the up-dating of the role and requirements of Owairaka as a remand centre", 2/2/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002386577 p14.

In 1984, staff suggested a number of changes. These included a new name "The Auckland Remand and Classification Centre" to reflect the two main roles of remand and also finding appropriate placements for boys.¹⁸⁴ The philosophy was stated as:¹⁸⁵

"The Auckland Remand and Classification Centre provides a necessary facility for those young persons whose behaviour and attitudes are delinquent or disturbed and they lack sufficient "inner control" to be cared for in normal conditions. Their experience in this Centre should be one in which their basic needs are met by sound application of social work principles and departmental regulations within a structured setting."

However, this suggestion for a new name was rejected and in 1986 the name of the institution was changed to Owairaka Centre (Youth Remand and Assessment).¹⁸⁶

The publication of the "Q" section of the Social Worker's Manual in 1985 was said to provide the basic instruction to staff and it was used as a practical as well as philosophical guide.¹⁸⁷

An additional Assistant Principal position was created in 1985 to manage the secure and intermediate secure programmes. The position was filled by Mr Waetford on transfer by Wesleydale Boys' Home.¹⁸⁸

The promulgation of the Regulations in 1986 posed few problems, other than those due to a lack of resources.¹⁸⁹ That year, a Whanau committee was established by staff.¹⁹⁰

██████████ was the Principal of Owairaka from ██████████ to ██████████. An audit report under the ██████████ Regulations was critical of aspects of ██████████ management style. It was noted in ██████████ that at various times during his leadership Owairaka had been under intense criticism and that this had led to a "siege mentality, with accent on safety and non-risk taking".¹⁹¹ It was also noted that "the programme and the staff team have lacked clear, cohesive, visionary leadership for a period".¹⁹²

A ██████████ Audit found that despite the Regulations and a number of reports, many staff were uncertain about what they were actually permitted to do.¹⁹³ The reports and regulations and changes to departmental policies led to anxiety and unsettledness among staff in ██████████.¹⁹⁴ At this time there were also a number of staff vacancies, including the resignation of the recently-appointed principal and a perceived over-use of wage workers.¹⁹⁵

In 1989, the audit team found that internal controls needed reviewing and formal monitoring systems should be set up for all aspects of the operation. Staff training

¹⁸⁴ Notes and recommendations re development at Owairaka Boys' Home, 22/11/84, Owairaka Profile, F5000002388340.

¹⁸⁵ Notes and recommendations re development at Owairaka Boys' Home, 22/11/84, F5000002388340.

¹⁸⁶ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹⁸⁷ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

¹⁸⁸ Circular Memorandum 1985/76, 29/4/85, Owairaka Profile, F50000023688641.

¹⁸⁹ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

¹⁹⁰ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

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needs also needed addressing but the more positive attitude of staff since the 1988 audit was noted.¹⁹⁶

Fewer staff meetings were held in 1990 compared to 1989. Internal memoranda appeared available to all RSWs. The Centre Unit changed its role depending on who was on duty, from a closed or semi-closed to an open unit.¹⁹⁷

Schooling

There was discussion in 1959 about the need for a school at Owairaka given that up to 20 of the 42 boys in residence were considered unsuitable to attend local schools. The need for further investigation and the need to guard against 'empire building' was noted.¹⁹⁸ Later that year the District Child Welfare Officer noted a number of limitations existed with local schools in terms of the suitability of their programmes and distance from Owairaka. In addition, the large number of boys considered unsuitable for local schools created problems within the institution as they had "rather too little constructive work to do".¹⁹⁹ After one week in residence, communication occurred with the Education Inspectorate in regard to any boy not at school.

An Inspection Report in May/June 1967 noted that the new school building had arrived and should be operational within weeks.²⁰⁰ The school, called the Activity Centre, was situated down the end of the playing fields. In mid-1967 the teacher was frequently absent due to illness, and one of the residential staff took over the running of the school in his absence. The Inspector noted that this was unsatisfactory.

Schooling was provided at the Activity Centre in 1976, although it was not used by boys on very short stays.²⁰¹

The school was gutted by fire in 1979 after it was set alight by returning absconders.²⁰² Prefabricated classrooms replaced the existing buildings and redecorations were done. Both teachers appeared reluctant to take in pupils and both transferred. The school was closed for most of 1979.²⁰³ By the end of 1979, permanent Post-Primary level appointments had not been made and the school was to start the year with a temporary teacher.²⁰⁴ However, an Inspection Report noted that it was closed for part of 1980.²⁰⁵

The new Head Teacher in 1980 noted the inappropriateness of attempting to run the Activity Centre like a conventional school. Close liaison with residential staff was evident, with boys regularly showing their work to "masters".²⁰⁶ All boys of school age, plus any older boy who wanted to, attended the school and during 1980 only

¹⁹⁶ Audit Report, March 1989, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹⁹⁷ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

¹⁹⁸ Extract from notes of a Superintendent's meeting, 10/7/59, Owairaka Education 19352.

¹⁹⁹ M Lyons, DCWO to District Superintendent Education, 23/10/59, Owairaka Education 19532.

²⁰⁰ Hayes, Inspection Report May/June 1967, Owairaka Profile 19532.

²⁰¹ *You and Owairaka*, 1976, Owairaka Profile F5000002388449.

²⁰² Annual Report 1979, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁰³ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990; Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 9.

²⁰⁴ Annual Report 1979, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁰⁵ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 9.

²⁰⁶ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

one boy was sent out of school for unmanageable behaviour.²⁰⁷ The Principal was asked to provide follow up comment and noted that "it has always been our policy and intention that the boys of school age were to attend the school and numbers are then made up of those past the school age wishing to attend".²⁰⁸ Problems determining who was school age (i.e. who was 15 or under) and problems with sudden influxes of new boys were noted and systems had been put in place to ensure boys attended school as soon as possible. It was also noted that a teacher position was currently vacant and that this was not unusual.²⁰⁹

An Inspection Report in 1980 found 12-14 boys in school at the time of their visit and noted that the Secondary School Inspector had wanted this number doubled to accommodate some of the over 15-year old boys.²¹⁰

A temporary teacher was appointed in term 3 of 1981 to ensure educational programmes were available to boys in secure.²¹¹ Adequate school cover in secure was still an issue at the end of 1982.²¹² In 1983, a new part-time position focused on individual remedial work, including preparation for taking the driver's licence test.²¹³

1982 was a settled year in the school but there were ongoing concerns about how to provide a useful programme in a short-stay institution.²¹⁴ As well as informal meeting between school staff and RSWs, a formal fortnightly meeting was added.²¹⁵

The Head Teacher was instructed by the Senior Inspector at the Education Department not to accept children aged 10, 11, 12 or 13 into Owairaka school. The Principal was concerned that this meant 8 children currently in the residence could not attend school, given the Human Rights Commission and Johnston Reports.²¹⁶ Concern was also expressed at this time and again at the end of March about the lack of education in the secure unit.²¹⁷

Relations between school and residence appeared good, with the Principal noting in 1984 that it would be difficult to improve on them. Extended facilities for staff breaks also improved relations between the groups of staff because they could have tea breaks together.²¹⁸

In 1985, about 250 of the 600 boys admitted each year attended the Activity Centre.²¹⁹ Rapid turnover and short-stay meant individually-tailored programmes with subjects relevant to the boys' lives.²²⁰ Given that most boys at Owairaka had a history of school problems, the philosophy of the Activity Centre was to avoid the

²⁰⁷ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁰⁸ A Ricketts, Principal to Regional Director, 26/6/81, Owairaka Education F5000002381990.

²⁰⁹ A Ricketts, Principal to Regional Director, 26/6/81, Owairaka Education F5000002381990.

²¹⁰ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732 para 9.

²¹¹ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p3.

²¹² Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²¹² Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990; DT Read, Head Teacher to A Ricketts Principal 2/11/82, Owairaka Education F5000002389200.

²¹³ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²¹⁴ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²¹⁴ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²¹⁵ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²¹⁵ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²¹⁶ A Ricketts, Principal to Regional Director, 18/3/83, Owairaka Education, F5000002389200.

²¹⁷ A Ricketts, Principal to Regional Director, 28/3/83, Owairaka Education, F5000002389200.

²¹⁸ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²¹⁹ "Youths offend to return home" *Central Leader*, 20/8/85, Owairaka Profile F5000002388340.

²²⁰ "Youths offend to return home" *Central Leader*, 20/8/85, Owairaka Profile F5000002388340.

type of teacher/pupil relationship found in secondary schools, as well as avoiding punishment/reward systems and the marking of work.²²¹ The number of boys attending on any given day was about 10, with an increase in older boys in 1985.²²² As stay at Owairaka shortened further, the moral of the teaching staff was affected. Staff felt that they would just be starting to make progress with a boy when he would have to leave Owairaka.²²³

A day school was piloted in 1986 with one ex-resident who was living at a local family home attending at Owairaka to do Correspondence School lessons.²²⁴

A 1989 audit found the school programme needed to be better integrated with the programme in the residence. At that time between 6-15 boys attended, with attendance of over 15 year olds irregular.²²⁵ The school programme consisted of SRA reading laboratories and one-off lessons on social awareness life skills and health issues. The Audit team thought that maths and further reading programmes should be developed.²²⁶ Activities such as wood carving, weightlifting and computer time were used as rewards.²²⁷

A 1990 audit found a well-equipped school with enthusiastic teachers and moves to run programmes such as music and carving in after school hours.²²⁸

Absconding

Frequent abscondings appear to be an enduring feature of Owairaka, although from what was available on file, there is little mention of the issue before the mid-70s. In 1977, it was noted that doubling up of boys in secure rooms allowed them to discuss plans to abscond.²²⁹

There were 225 abscondings in 1979 and 172 in 1980.²³⁰ Most absconders in 1980 were returned by the Police.²³¹ Absconders were re-admitted to the secure unit.

There were 300 abscondings during 1981, with a core of 73 repeat absconders running away up to 8 times each.²³² During 1982, there were 282 abscondings.²³³ Although there was a steep rise in admissions in 1983, the absconding rate per admissions went down, although a total of 366 abscondings were recorded.²³⁴

²²¹ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p3.

²²² Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²²³ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²²⁴ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²²⁵ Audit Report, March 1989, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

²²⁶ Audit Report, March 1989, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

²²⁷ Audit Report, March 1989, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

²²⁸ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

²²⁹ SJ Stanton, Acting Director Owairaka to Director-General, 12/5/77, Owairaka Secure, F5000002388339.

²³⁰ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²³¹ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²³² Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p2

²³³ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²³⁴ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

In 1984 it was noted that the absconding rate impacted unfavourably on the total Owairaka programme.²³⁵ In 1985, absconding was described as being a continuing major concern.²³⁶

Of 1022 admissions in 1986, there were 449 abscondings.²³⁷

Secure care

In 1958, the institution had one secure room, which was a normal bedroom, but with a steel door and windows. The room was lockable and was locked at night.²³⁸

Approval was sought for modifications to the secure unit in 1969.²³⁹ In 1970 it was noted that the secure unit theoretically had room for 6 boys, but that it was frequently overcrowded.²⁴⁰

Apart from an average stay of 3 days in secure in 1980, mentioned below, there is almost no data on file about how long boys stayed in the secure unit.

A request for additional staff to provide double night cover in secure was supported by the Director-General of Education in 1970. The correspondence noted that secure was "always overcrowded" and the institution affected by high rates of admission beyond the control of staff.²⁴¹ The Principal was often called to secure in the night to deal with disturbances.²⁴²

The modifications to secure took place sometime between 1970 and 1977. After the modifications there were 9 rooms, each with 2 built-in bunks.²⁴³ The modifications were achieved by deleting the existing dining room and work room (this later led to complaints about boys eating in their rooms – a dining room was added in 1982). The modifications were done as a short-term measure while the Mt Roskill remand centre was being built (this facility never eventuated).²⁴⁴

The lack of night staff in secure was said to create potential liability for the department in 1976.²⁴⁵ During 1975 and 1976 there were a number of concerns about a lack of staff cover and the increasingly older, more sophisticated and violent secure residents. Three or four boys a month were proving particularly disturbing and a number of attacks on staff were recorded. The Principal wrote outlining his concerns about restraining violent behaviour given the adoption of a policy for staff

²³⁵ BM Manchester for Director-General to Regional Director Auckland, 17/8/84, Owairaka Secure F5000002388449.

²³⁶ Circular Memorandum 1985/76, 29/4/85, Owairaka Profile, F50000023688641.

²³⁷ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²³⁸ 'Life in the Auckland Boys' Home' *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile, 19352.

²³⁹ KJ Flint, DWCO to Superintendent 28/2/69, Owairaka Secure F5000002388320.

²⁴⁰ J Ferguson for Director-General Education to Mr Ball, 22/12/70, Owairaka Staffing, 19352.

²⁴¹ J Ferguson for Director-General Education to Mr Ball, 22/12/70, Owairaka Staffing, 19352.

²⁴² A Ricketts, Principal, Owairaka to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 25/8/77 Owairaka Secure F5000002388339.

²⁴³ Memo, SJ Stanton, Assistant Director (Social Work) to Director-General 7/12/77, Owairaka Secure F5000002388339.

²⁴⁴ A Ricketts, Principal to Director, Residential Services, undated 1983, Owairaka Reports, F5000002388449.

²⁴⁵ Memo, SJ Stanton, Assistant Director (Social Work) to Director-General 2/11/76, Owairaka Profile F5000002388339.

not to use any kind of physical force except in self-defence.²⁴⁶ Little help was found in the Courts, with judges refusing to remand to adult jails or from Police, when called to assist with violent behaviour in secure.²⁴⁷

An incident report in 1975 responds to a group absconding out of the bathroom window in the secure unit, using a fitting stolen from the bathroom and carried back to a bedroom in a towel. The report notes problems with youths from the community climbing onto the roof of the secure unit at night and talking to residents. Plans by outsiders and former residents to attack night staff for keys and release boys from secure were detected. The intercom system was used at random intervals during the night as well as hourly visits as there was no dedicated night staff in secure.²⁴⁸ A further request for night cover in secure was made in 1976, noting 3 recent dangerous incidents. Boys were frequently caught trying to loosen fixtures to attempt escape.²⁴⁹ In one incident 3 young men absconded, returned with a shot gun and were found by Police lying in wait for the night staff to come on duty. In the ensuing chase, the gun was fired twice, once at the Police car.²⁵⁰

The appointment of 3 Assistant Housemasters in secure at night sometime between June and August 1977 was reported to be most effective, with the unit more settled.²⁵¹

Detailed instructions for the operation of the secure unit were issued by the Principal in February 1977.²⁵² Staff were requested to give directions to inmates in a manner that commanded respect, with no unnecessary shouting of orders. Staff were also to model good behaviour at all times. Boys had to stand whenever a door was opened (except when they were in bed at night) and address staff members as "Sir". Admission procedures, including showering, delousing and clothing searches were set out. Rooms were searched every day at 4pm. The booklet "You and Owairaka" was to be issued to each boy and retrieved after he had read it. Boys on duty were referred to in these instructions as "chore boys" and had to do dishes and cleaning, including daily sweeping of the exercise yard. Each boy had to clean his room, including the toilet, daily. Showers were twice daily after the morning and evening physical training (PT). PT was held for 15 minutes in the morning, 25 minutes in the afternoon with a third session (running only) at 6.30pm. Any boy unduly distressed or tired was to be excused from PT and returned to his room. Parents were allowed to visit daily – smoking was not permitted and food could not be accepted by visitors. Good behaviour was rewarded by participation in activities in the Recreation Room.²⁵³ These instructions appeared to still be in place, unaltered, in 1982.²⁵⁴

In 1977, the Principal advised the Director-General that it would be impractical to comply with the policy to notify the Director-General every time that more than one boy occupied a secure room, due to the frequency with which doubling up took place.²⁵⁵

²⁴⁶ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Director, Auckland, 8/9/76, Owairaka Secure F5000002388339.

²⁴⁷ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Director, Auckland, 8/9/76, Owairaka Secure F5000002388339.

²⁴⁸ A Ricketts, Principal to Director-General 11/12/75, Owairaka Secure 19352.

²⁴⁹ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 19/5/76, Owairaka Secure F5000002185732.

²⁵⁰ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 11/5/77 Owairaka Secure F5000002388339.

²⁵¹ A Ricketts, Principal, Owairaka to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 25/8/77, Owairaka Secure F5000002388339.

²⁵² Owairaka Boys' Home Secure Unit Instructions, February 1977, Owairaka Secure, 32995.

²⁵³ Owairaka Boys' Home Secure Unit Instructions, February 1977, Owairaka Secure, 32995.

²⁵⁴ Excerpt from Owairaka Boys' Home Secure Unit Instructions, 1982, Owairaka Secure F500002388339.

²⁵⁵ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Director-General, 7/12/77, Owairaka Secure F5000002388339.

In 1979, the secure care facility was described as "inadequate for the work expected of it".²⁵⁶ There was concern that boys were required to eat in their rooms (the rooms also contained a toilet) but it was considered too dangerous to allow boys to have meals outside of their rooms, especially given the overcrowded conditions.²⁵⁷

Boys were admitted through secure, although some did not formally enter the unit, rather they were initially processed in the reception area that formed part of secure.²⁵⁸ The practice was a result of the physical layout rather than from a policy to admit through secure. This layout was criticised in 1980. A shower curtain was erected just outside the duty room to offer some privacy when boys were required to strip off, but they then had to be escorted from there to the shower.²⁵⁹

In 1980, about one-third of admissions spent a night in secure.²⁶⁰ Forty percent of these remained in secure immediately after admission for a variety of reasons including previous absconding, unsettled behaviour or because they were in transit to other institutions or had been admitted during the night.²⁶¹ All admissions and discharges were approved by either the Principal or Assistant Principal and reviews were conducted twice daily.²⁶² The Principal and Assistant Principal made regular visits and provided close oversight of the secure unit.²⁶³

The 1980 Inspection found that a comprehensive yet semi-formal programme operated in secure and boys spent a reasonable amount of time out of their cubicles.²⁶⁴

In 1981, an incident report on a staff member being punched by a boy in secure resulting in the need to remove his spleen, considered that the staff member may have avoided the incident by more skilful intervention. The former "military discipline" that existed at Owairaka was noted. Another staff member reported that he had had no further trouble from the boy who punched the staff member after he had "manhandled" the boy without damage to anyone.²⁶⁵

In 1981, 273 boys out of a total of 685 admissions were admitted to secure at some point in their stay.²⁶⁶ In 1981, a part-time teacher ensured an educational programme was offered in secure and remained with the boys to supervise their work.²⁶⁷ However, the programme was suspended when staff could not be retained.²⁶⁸

By 1980, a dedicated team of staff worked in secure, tending only to work in that part of the institution. While this allowed for specialisation, an Inspection Report noted the need for staff to be sometimes rostered in the open unit, especially so as to not become too custodial in their outlook.²⁶⁹ That report also noted the need for irregular rather than regular night checks throughout the institution to improve effectiveness.

²⁵⁶ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁵⁷ A Ricketts, Principal Owairaka to Regional Manager, 10/4/79, Owairaka Secure, F5000002388339.

²⁵⁸ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁵⁹ Extract from Mr Grainger's notes, Owairaka Admissions, F5000002388339.

²⁶⁰ Inspection Report, 1980, Owairaka Reports, F5000002185732, para 4.1.

²⁶¹ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁶² Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁶³ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁶⁴ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁶⁵ SJ Stanton for Regional Director to Director-General 8/9/81 Owairaka Secure F5000002388449.

²⁶⁶ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p2.

²⁶⁷ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁶⁸ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 6.7.

²⁶⁹ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

At this time, supervision in secure was adequate, with the Principal and Assistance Principal reviewing all cases for possible discharge from secure twice daily.²⁷⁰ The Inspection Report noted that boys in secure were only very rarely involved in day work and that only basic cleaning duties and routines were carried out, in line with Owairaka's general policy not to run extensive day work training or jobs for boys.²⁷¹

A major upgrade of secure took place in 1982, with a dining room and covered courtyard added, as well as a new reception area. The reception area contained interview rooms, visiting rooms, showers and garden area, and was used for admissions instead of secure.²⁷² Head Office instructions concerning time spent in secure and the level of approvals required were incorporated into secure procedures.²⁷³

An Inspection Visit in September 1982 found the noise of the renovations deafening but inspectors were generally satisfied with the secure unit. In response to criticism about boys eating in their rooms, dining was provided in an outdoor courtyard, weather permitting. The recreation area was extensively used. Returned absconders made up about 50% of secure admissions and the average stay was about 3 days. Staff shortages were sometimes experienced.²⁷⁴

The average length of stay in secure declined from 4 days in 1979 to 3 days in 1983.²⁷⁵

By 1983, 50% of boys were admitted directly to secure, many being returned absconders.²⁷⁶ During 1983, there were 5 incidents of residents assaulting staff, with staff off work for a number of weeks as a result of their injuries.²⁷⁷ Although secure could accommodate 18 boys, numbers were often limited to 9 in order to be able to provide adequate supervision.²⁷⁸ Concern was raised about the mixing of older and younger children in secure.²⁷⁹ A Senior RSW wrote to the Principal asking for written criteria for admission to secure because of discrepancies in admissions and in how long boys remained in the unit.²⁸⁰ The same SRSW wrote to the Principal again in mid-1977 concerned that the secure unit was becoming more and more like a prison, and that it disadvantaged some boys held there. He noted that boys were sometimes let out of their rooms even though this compromised staff safety, because boys viewed being locked up as punishment. Further, a number of boys were young and emotionally disturbed and were in Owairaka because of difficulty in placing them, rather than because of any offending on their part.²⁸¹ Correspondence from the Principal outlines a number of concerns including overcrowding and mixing of inmates, and also seeks clear guidelines from Head Office, given the role confusion between social work and custodial duties.²⁸²

²⁷⁰ Inspection Report, A Peek, J Blair, A Rongo Raea, 1980, Owairaka Reports, F5000002185732, para 6.2.

²⁷¹ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 6.8.

²⁷² Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁷³ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁷⁴ Inspection Report, 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

²⁷⁵ Secure Statistics 1979-1983, Boys Regional Institutions, Owairaka Secure F5000002186500.

²⁷⁶ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁷⁷ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁷⁸ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁷⁹ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁸⁰ L Thompson SBSW to Principal Owairaka, 25/3/83 Owairaka Secure F5000002388339.

²⁸¹ L Thompson, SRSW to A Ricketts Principal Owairaka, 14/7/83 Owairaka Secure, F5000002388339.

²⁸² A Ricketts, Principal to Director of Residential Services, Auckland, May 1983, Owairaka Secure F5000002388449; Annual Report 1983 Owairaka Reports F5000002388449.

A new reception area built in 1983 improved matters and allowed for admission into the reception unit rather than directly into secure.²⁸³ This addressed an area of concern from the Human Rights Commission Report.

The trends and concerns of the early 1980s were still apparent in 1984.²⁸⁴ Toilet covers were removed from secure in 1984 after a number of incidents where they were used to break windows.²⁸⁵

High numbers of boys in secure was of concern in 1984 and were in part due to remands into secure by Judges.²⁸⁶ Disturbances caused by mixed age groups and overcrowding, including attacks on staff, led to a limit of 9 boys in secure.²⁸⁷ Incidences of extreme pressure placed on Owairaka secure due to intakes from Wesleydale were noted in August 1984, when it was also accepted that boys needed to be confined to their rooms at times to allow the unit's safe operation.²⁸⁸

In 1985, about 50% of admissions were held in secure, most of them for less than 24 hours, but a small number for longer periods (one boy being in secure for 108 days that year).²⁸⁹ Overcrowding was a problem in 1985, as was stand-over tactics by older boys and a lack of ventilation in the summer months.²⁹⁰ Courts were ordering boys to secure care at this time, and there was a lack of clarity at times between the roles of the Probation Office and the Department.²⁹¹ Boys admitted under Secure Orders for sexual offences tended to stay in secure for long periods, adding to overcrowding issues.²⁹² An incident of one of these boys being intimidated appears in 1986.²⁹³ There was again concern about a number of young admissions.²⁹⁴

A full report on numbers and trends under secure care court orders was supplied to Head Office in April 1985. Once the decision was made not to admit boys to Mt Eden prison, admissions to Owairaka secure rose by 84%, with an increase in secure custody orders of 150%.²⁹⁵ Numbers of 16 and 17 year-old admissions also rose as did cases attending either the District or High Court. There was also thought to be a correlation between overcrowding in the unit and the number of disturbances and attacks on staff.²⁹⁶ A medium-secure unit of 17 beds was planned.²⁹⁷

The rise in remands from the Courts and the effect of older, more sophisticated young offenders on the institution included more incidents of intimidation by visitors, the smuggling in of marijuana, an increase of assaults on staff and a more belligerent attitude of boys towards staff.²⁹⁸ The sharp increase in admissions

²⁸³ Inspection Report 20/8/83 Owairaka Reports F5000002388449.

²⁸⁴ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²⁸⁵ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²⁸⁶ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²⁸⁷ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²⁸⁸ BM Manchester for Director-General to Regional Director Auckland, 17/8/84, Owairaka Secure F5000002388449.

²⁸⁹ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁹⁰ Quarterly Report 1/10/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²⁹¹ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

²⁹² Quarterly Report 1/10/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²⁹³ Quarterly Report 23/4/86, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²⁹⁴ Quarterly Report 4/7/85, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

²⁹⁵ Comparison of figures for last quarter 1984 and first quarter 1985, Response to Head Office Memorandum of 29/3/85: Owairaka Secure Unit, to Regional Director 12/4/85, Owairaka Secure F5000002386577.

²⁹⁶ Response to Head Office Memorandum of 29/3/85: Owairaka Secure Unit, to Regional Director 12/4/85, Owairaka Secure F5000002386577.

²⁹⁷ Circular Memorandum 1985/76, 29/4/85, Owairaka Profile, F50000023688641.

²⁹⁸ G Comber, Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 13/5/85 Owairaka Secure F5000002386577.

following the decision not to admit youths to Mt Eden led to concerns that the development plans for Owairaka may have become inadequate.²⁹⁹ The Director of Regional Residential Services stated "clearly the unit has operated under severe pressure and been forced to take too many risks".³⁰⁰ The subsequent Director of Regional Residential Services acknowledged that the statistics provided appeared to substantiate the claims of the Principal for additional secure beds.³⁰¹ He also noted the embarrassment and shame experienced by boys sharing secure rooms having to toilet in front of their roommate.³⁰²

The secure unit was less crowded in 1986. Clarification of the legal position meant that the Principal was back in charge of secure admissions, and not judges by way of Secure Orders, and so bed numbers were better able to be managed.³⁰³

A 1988 Audit found personal privacy breached by rooms in secure that had two beds and a toilet and no screens.³⁰⁴ Double bunking, or putting two boys in a secure room, was a concern of an audit a year later, when concerns were also raised about the low quality of the secure programme.³⁰⁵ This theme was picked up in the 1989 Audit which found the programme focussed mainly on physical recreation and up to 10 videos a week, with a lack of any vocational training or programmes on issues such as relationships, social skills or effective communication.³⁰⁶

The position in regard to searches was clarified in March 1986 by Head Office. Strip searches involving a visual scan but no physical touching were permitted only in the case of admissions to secure. Body searches could be conducted by the Boys' Home doctor.³⁰⁷

Boys under 15 in secure attended the school programme in 1990.³⁰⁸

Discipline

In 1958, a system of privileges operated.³⁰⁹ Group punishments were common, where a group of boys would lose privileges because of the bad behaviour of one boy. This was described as being usually effective in stopping the behaviour.³¹⁰

Methods of controlling behaviour at Owairaka were affected by the short-stay, high turnover nature of the institution, making methods like behaviour modification less suitable. In 1980, Inspectors found that although secure was occasionally used to control behaviour, it was not used as a threat. The Inspectors also found that the

²⁹⁹ G Comber, Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 13/5/85 Owairaka Secure F5000002386577.

³⁰⁰ G Comber, Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 13/5/85 Owairaka Secure F5000002386577.

³⁰¹ M Doolan, Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 5/6/85 Owairaka Secure F5000002386577.

³⁰² M Doolan, Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 5/6/85 Owairaka Secure F5000002386577.

³⁰³ Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

³⁰⁴ Audit report, March 1988, Owairaka reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

³⁰⁵ Audit Report, March 1989, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

³⁰⁶ Audit Report, March 1989, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

³⁰⁷ Director-General to Regional Director 13/3/86, Owairaka Admissions F5000002388340.

³⁰⁸ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

³⁰⁹ 'Life in the Auckland Boys' Home' *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

³¹⁰ 'Life in the Auckland Boys' Home' *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19352.

boys were largely left to control their own behaviour within very broad boundaries, that relationships between the boys and staff were good, and that boys showed respect for staff.³¹¹ Home leave was not removed unless a very serious incident occurred.³¹² In conclusion the Inspection found an efficiently run institution where staff maintained “quiet control”, although it was noted staff pressures existed in the open wing.³¹³

Physical punishment

“In the odd case we use a whack on the bottom”, the Manager was quoted by the media as saying in 1958.³¹⁴

Problems in 1975 with noise at night in the secure unit were dealt with by corporal punishment.³¹⁵

An attendant in secure admitted to twice making a boy touch his toes while he hit the boys’ buttocks with a sandshoe. The attendant was severely reprimanded for this action. The boy subsequently made a complaint to the Auckland Committee On Racism and Discrimination (ACORD).³¹⁶

Another boy alleged use of physical training as punishment at Owairaka in 1978. He claimed being forced to run around an asphalt triangle until he got blisters, being made to run and do push-ups until he couldn’t do any more and being kicked and punched by staff.³¹⁷

Several newspaper articles appeared about the confinement of a 13 year old (thought to be 14) to secure in 1978. He alleged he was made to do physical training barefoot, was only issued with a t-shirt and shorts (and no underwear) and witnessed a boy get beaten for refused to do physical training. He also alleged being locked up for 23 hours a day. In response the Institution said that the boy had given his age as 14, that the boy would have been excused from physical training if he had asked, and that although underpants were issued on request, most boys preferred not to wear them on account of the heat.³¹⁸

Another 1978 article involved a former inmate claiming that “Owairaka was the worst of any institutions I saw”. The boy alleged that he was made to run barefoot on a rough field in all weather. He also claimed that physical training was used as a group punishment and that boys were sometimes exercised until they vomited – in which case they had to clean up their vomit and continue exercising.³¹⁹

The NZ Herald ran an article in April 1978 where a former staff member alleged events in secure including a boy being pulled from his bed by the hair; a boy dumped on the concrete floor for refusing to exercise; boys made to run for 2 hours for talking; and boys kicked for not doing press-ups properly. Another former staff

³¹¹ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys’ Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 7.

³¹² Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys’ Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 7.

³¹³ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys’ Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 25.

³¹⁴ “Life in the Auckland Boys’ Home” *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58 Owairaka Profile 19352.

³¹⁵ A Ricketts, Principal to Director-General 11/12/75, Owairaka Secure 19352.

³¹⁶ KJ Flint, Director Owairaka to Director-General 21/4/78, Owairaka Incidents 32995.

³¹⁷ “Boy recalls ordeal on remand at Owairaka” *Evening Post* 26/4/78, Owairaka Incidents 32995.

³¹⁸ “Boy Detainee Said He Was 14” *NZ Herald* 11/4/78 Owairaka Incidents 32995.

³¹⁹ “Bad memories of 13 years as a State ward” *Hawkes’ Bay Herald-Tribune* 27/4/78, Owairaka Incidents 32955.

member quoted in the article said that he had never seen an incident of staff assaulting residents.³²⁰

The ACORD inquiry followed, and recorded allegations from a number of former residents about excessive PT and staff violence during the 1950s, 60s and 70s.³²¹ ACORD complained to the Human Rights Commission who reported in 1982.³²²

Although not alleging physical force, a 1980 Inspection Report noted a pleasing change to the physical education programme in the secure unit, because recreation had been previously run on "a very formal and perhaps even a rigorous basis".³²³

A 1980 Inspection found that the punishment register was closed when younger boys moved out on the opening of Wesleydale. The strap was transferred to Wesleydale and strapping was not thought appropriate for the older Owairaka boys.³²⁴

Drugs, alcohol and tattoos

A camp for 8 boys who admitted a history of solvent abuse was held in 1984.³²⁵ The visiting doctor at that time also had a particular interest in treating cases of solvent abuse.³²⁶

Glue sniffing and alcohol abuse were growing concerns in 1985, with boys returning hung-over from home leave.³²⁷

Smoking

In 1976, smoking under supervision was permitted several times a day for boys over 15. A booklet distributed to all boys on admission pointed out that smoking could be injurious to one's health and that it was a crime for anyone under 15 to smoke.³²⁸

In 1980, Inspectors found that the policy was that no boys were allowed to smoke in secure, and staff smoked in a small room off the duty room, out of sight of the boys.³²⁹ In the open institution, boys over 15 were allowed to smoke at set times and cigarettes were issued by staff.³³⁰

In 1990, cigarettes were available at cost price from the canteen.³³¹

³²⁰ "Violence at home true, say ex-staff" *NZ Herald*, 13/4/78, Owairaka Incidents 32995.

³²¹ ACORD, 1978, Social Welfare Children's Homes: report on an inquiry held on June 11 1978, ACORD, Auckland.

³²² Human Rights Commission, 1982, Report of the Human Rights Commission on representations by ACORD on Children and Young Person's Homes administered by the Department of Social Welfare, HRC.

³²³ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 6.5

³²⁴ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 23.

³²⁵ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

³²⁶ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

³²⁷ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³²⁸ *You and Owairaka*, 1976, Owairaka Profile F5000002388449.

³²⁹ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 6.8

³³⁰ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732. para 16.

³³¹ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports, ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

Contact with Field Social Workers

During 1979, closer links with Districts were said to result in more selective admissions. Residential Social Workers were also gradually moving into a more integrated role with community social workers and the community.³³²

A 1980 Inspection Report found a lack of case material in over half of all admission files and problems with delays in getting information.³³³ A 1982 Inspection found relations generally good, with regular liaison and only a few districts requiring constant reminders.³³⁴

The success of the home leave programme was said to be due, in part, to cooperation with field staff.³³⁵

District and field staff became less involved in the mid-80s as the role of various justice agencies increased in accord with the growing remand function of the institution.³³⁶

A 1987 Audit found Owairaka very poorly served by field colleagues, especially in the lack of information provided about admissions.³³⁷ Information flow was still concerning the 1989 Audit team, with information also needing to go out to Field Social Workers about Court appearances.³³⁸ However, in April 1989, Field Social Workers commented favourably about the co-operative attitude of Owairaka staff to staff in the field.³³⁹

In 1990, feedback from Field Social Workers and Youth Justice Co-ordinators was minimal and Family Group Conferences had not had any impact on residential programmes.³⁴⁰

Contact with community

In the late 1970s groups from the community used the Owairaka gymnasium for indoor basketball but this had ceased by 1980.³⁴¹

Community groups visiting Owairaka in the early 1980s included the Rotaract Club, the St Vincent de Paul Society and the Youth Guidance Service.

The Rotaract club provided for the recreation room to be fully carpeted in 1979.³⁴²

³³² Annual Report 1979, Owairaka Reports, F5000002185732

³³³ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 24.

³³⁴ Inspection Report, 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

³³⁵ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

³³⁶ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³³⁷ Audit Report, 20/7/86, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

³³⁸ Audit Report, March 1989, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One

³³⁹ Assistant Director (Social Services) to Assistant Director-General, Northern Region, 14/4/89, Owairaka Profile F5000002185665.

³⁴⁰ Audit Report, March 1990, Owairaka Reports ADM 21-6-208 Part One.

³⁴¹ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 18.2.

³⁴² Annual Report 1979, Owairaka Reports, F5000002185732

Visiting committee

The booklet "You and Owairaka", first issued in 1976, mentioned the availability of the Visiting Committee. The names, addresses and phone numbers of the Committee were posted on notices throughout the residence.³⁴³

In 1980 only one committee member visited quarterly. An Inspection report found relationships good between the institution and the committee and that there was a lot of praise for the work being done at Owairaka.³⁴⁴

A new visiting committee visited occasionally during 1981.³⁴⁵ Staff viewed the committee as "a useful safeguard against uninformed comment".³⁴⁶ Information about the committee was displayed throughout Owairaka.³⁴⁷ Visits by the committee were also occasional in 1982 with Inspectors noting a lack of interest by the committee in the institution.³⁴⁸ In 1983 a newly appointed committee made 5 visits between May-December.³⁴⁹ The visiting committee was active in 1984.³⁵⁰

In 1985, only the chairperson visited regularly and it was noted that more use could have been made of the Māori members on the committee if these members had been more available to visit.³⁵¹ In the 1986 Annual Report, the chairperson was described as a strong influence on the affairs of the institution.³⁵² This report was delivered late, and no report was received in 1987.³⁵³

Contact with families

Contact with families was encouraged in 1958, with boys being allowed to go home approximately every 3 weeks.³⁵⁴ By 1976, daily visits from parents (and other people by special arrangement) were permitted and weekend leave was considered.³⁵⁵

In 1979, more use was made of parent contact and in allowing frequent home visits which also gave an opportunity for assessment of the home situation.³⁵⁶

³⁴³ You and Owairaka, Owairaka Profile, F5000002388449.

³⁴⁴ Inspection Report, Owairaka Boys' Home, circa 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732, para 11

³⁴⁵ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁴⁶ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁴⁷ Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p6.

³⁴⁸ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

³⁴⁹ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990; Inspection Report, 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

³⁴⁹ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁵⁰ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

³⁵¹ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁵² Annual Report 1986, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

³⁵³ Visiting Committee, Annual Reports, 1986, Owairaka Reports, F5000006661405; Visiting Committee, Annual Reports, 1987, Owairaka Reports, F5000006661404.

³⁵⁴ "Life in the Auckland Boys' Home" *Auckland Star*, 27/9/58, Owairaka Profile 19532.

³⁵⁵ *You and Owairaka*, 1976, Owairaka Profile F5000002388449.

³⁵⁶ Annual Report 1979, Owairaka Reports, F5000002185732

The home leave programme ran successfully in 1980 and 1981.³⁵⁷ Frequent leave aimed to keep the family unit in contact and appeared to reduce absconding.³⁵⁸ In 1980, the new visiting area allowed more flexibility in the times families could visit.³⁵⁹ Home leave was still popular and successful in 1982 and in 1983.³⁶⁰

Restrictions placed on home leave in October 1984, that is, it was not permitted for those boys appearing in the District Court on serious charges, created unsettled behaviour among boys who were not allowed to go home.³⁶¹ The Social Workers Manual clarified in 1985 that home leave was to be offered wherever a legal impediment did not exist, and that remand from court or containment in secure might prevent the arrangement of home leave.³⁶² It was also noted that many Field Social Workers used home leave to bring the family unit together.³⁶³

Preparation for discharge and after care arrangements

Pre- discharge planning was difficult given the rapid turnover at Owairaka, but in 1980 the social worker developed a plan and placement in conjunction with the resident and family.³⁶⁴

Further attention was given to pre-discharge planning in 1982 with a shift to a rehabilitative focus and this required a more detailed knowledge of cases.³⁶⁵ Difficulties in developing planning further due to increased admissions were acknowledged in 1983.³⁶⁶ Similar factors were evident in 1985; the Liaison and Placement Officer was responsible for pre-discharge planning, but short-stay at Owairaka limited its effectiveness.³⁶⁷

³⁵⁷ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990; Annual Report 1981, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990, p5.

³⁵⁸ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁵⁹ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁶⁰ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

³⁶⁰ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990; Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁶¹ Annual Report, 1984, Owairaka Reports F5000002388340.

³⁶² Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁶³ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁶⁴ Annual Report 1980, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁶⁵ Annual Report 1978, Owairaka Reports F5000002185732.

³⁶⁵ Annual Report 1982, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁶⁶ Annual Report, 1983, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

³⁶⁷ Annual Report 1985, Owairaka Reports F5000002381990.

Chapter 2

Wesleydale Boys' Home

Physical description

Wesleydale Boys' Home was situated at 20 Radnor Road in Mt Roskill, Auckland. It was originally built in 1955 for the Methodist Children's Home and Orphanage with capacity for 63 children. In 1975, the Department of Social Welfare signed a five-year lease with the Auckland Methodist Central Mission.³⁶⁸ The establishment of Wesleydale was approved on 16 February 1976 for a maximum of 24 boys using only one of the two wings (or dormitory blocks) originally commissioned for the Methodist Children's Home.³⁶⁹ Wesleydale Boys' Home, an open institution which contained no secure facilities, was officially opened on 9 February 1976.³⁷⁰ It was designed to take some of the pressure off Owairaka by providing a separate facility for younger boys.³⁷¹

There was no gymnasium at Wesleydale.³⁷² There were initially no classrooms, so two of the Home's recreation rooms were used for schooling.³⁷³ In early July 1976 three classrooms were completed at Wesleydale.³⁷⁴

Recommendation was made by a Senior Social Worker in May 1976 to utilise the second wing at Wesleydale due to the rising number of admissions.³⁷⁵ It was commented on again by T Ball (position not recorded) in mid 1977 that there was need for additional accommodation at Wesleydale because of the higher number of boys in residence than had been expected. The opening of the unused wing in Wesleydale was mentioned and it was noted that "at the time this home was established it was felt that sooner or later the demands on us would necessitate this wing being opened up."³⁷⁶ It was felt that this consideration was urgent and that upstairs staffing accommodation be looked into as well as that was rarely in use.³⁷⁷ The creation of a secure unit was also considered due to Owairaka being "fully committed" and the possibility of increased capacity.³⁷⁸

³⁶⁸ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

³⁶⁹ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

³⁷⁰ Annual Report 1978, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁷¹ Memo, T Flynn, Housemaster & T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 21/11/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁷² Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁷³ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁷⁴ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁷⁵ Memo, LTJ Pycroft, Senior Social Worker to Assistant Director (Social Work) Auckland, 21/05/76, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

³⁷⁶ Report, T Ball, 03/06/77, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

³⁷⁷ Report, T Ball, 03/06/77, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

³⁷⁸ Report, T Ball, 03/06/77, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

In November 1977, due to the increasing number of admissions to Wesleydale, it was evident that a full size gymnasium, along with a minibus would be needed to assist with a comprehensive programme for the residents.³⁷⁹ This was fulfilled in 1978 when a small gymnasium was erected and a minibus was also acquired for the institution.³⁸⁰

Overcrowding in the first two years meant that the recreation room was being used as a bedroom. This limited the use of recreation programmes.³⁸¹ These cramped conditions also made it difficult for the boys to move around and be supervised by staff which led to frayed tempers, formulation of absconding plans and increased tension on staff.³⁸² The Principal recommended that the east wing that was not in use be utilised to bring the maximum capacity up to 40 and that staffing should be increased accordingly.³⁸³

The medical adviser for Wesleydale also held concern over the use of the recreation room as a dormitory and recommended that alternative sleeping arrangements be made. The reasons for this concern were given as the lack of privacy, possible overcrowding of the washing and lavatory facilities, the unsuitability of certain boys for communal sleeping arrangements, along with the diminished use of the recreation room.³⁸⁴

At the end of 1979 painting of the administration block and the boys' sleeping quarters had begun.³⁸⁵ This was finished in 1980 and pin-up boards were added to the boys' bedrooms.³⁸⁶ Future improvements that were wanted were carpeting of certain areas, fixing the tennis court, interior and exterior painting, installation of a new hot water and heating system and the addition of a school woodwork room and a swimming pool.³⁸⁷

In 1980 the lease for Wesleydale was renewed for a further six years.³⁸⁸

By the end of 1981 some of the interior painting was completed and the new hot water system had been installed. The improvements sought in 1980 were still wanted along with a hot water supply to the school toilet block, an upgrade in the laundry area and the senior wing boys shower block.³⁸⁹

In 1982 carpet was laid in the areas requested, the hot water supply to the school toilet block was completed and the upgrading of the senior boys shower block was finished.³⁹⁰ The work to be started in 1983 was the painting of the exterior buildings, fixing the tennis court and the laying of the swimming pool.³⁹¹

The swimming pool was completed in 1983 along with the improvements to the tennis court.³⁹² More carpeting, painting of exterior buildings, upgrade in central

³⁷⁹ Memo, T Flynn, Housemaster & T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 21/11/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁸⁰ Annual Report 1978, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁸¹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁸² Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 1979, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

³⁸³ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 1979, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

³⁸⁴ Letter, Dr ET Gilbert, Medical Advisor Wesleydale to T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale, 5/12/78, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

³⁸⁵ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁸⁶ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

³⁸⁷ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

³⁸⁸ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

³⁸⁹ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

³⁹⁰ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

³⁹¹ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

³⁹² Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

heating, larger gymnasium and other smaller work was still in the pipeline for 1984.³⁹³

In 1984 the Methodists indicated that they wished to sell the Wesleydale property due to motorway and railway development planned for the end of the 1980s.³⁹⁴ In a meeting to discuss the reorganisation of residential services in Auckland it was agreed that Wesleydale should be phased out by developing alternative care programmes within the community for this younger age group by using Weymouth instead.³⁹⁵ It was announced that the lease would not be renewed in September 1986 and because of this no major additions or alterations were envisaged for the next two years.³⁹⁶

The closure of the Home and the transfer of a short term care and assessment unit for boys of the Wesleydale age group to Weymouth was set for 23 August 1985.³⁹⁷ There is no specific mention on file of when Wesleydale actually closed.

Resident profile

Prior to the opening of Wesleydale Boys' Home in 1976, it was established by the department that the Home was to take all boys that were classed as children under the Children and Young Persons Act 1974, i.e. 10-13 year olds.³⁹⁸ The Home was to provide for those on warrant and remand from the court, as well as medium-term treatment cases.³⁹⁹ Although the intended age range was 10 – 13 years, there was to be some flexibility. "For example a difficult 8 year old or a 15 year old care and protection case could be better placed at Wesleydale. Similarly a difficult 12 year old might be better at Owairaka Boys Home."⁴⁰⁰

As for all Auckland district institutions, admissions extended across the North Island at Mercer in the south and from all points north to Kaitiaki.⁴⁰¹

The admissions total was expected to be between 160-200 boys per annum.⁴⁰² The maximum number of boys at any given time was set at 24 boys.⁴⁰³ This was still the maximum in March 1977, although there was bedding for 40.⁴⁰⁴

During the first twelve months that Wesleydale was open, exactly 200 boys passed through the Home.⁴⁰⁵ Of these admissions, just over 50% were admissions from the

³⁹³ Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

³⁹⁴ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

³⁹⁵ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

³⁹⁶ Quarterly Management Report, 2/07/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

³⁹⁷ Memo, GT Comber, Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 5/08/85, Wesleydale Profile 33555; Circular Memorandum 1985/76, 29/04/86, Wesleydale Profile F5000002368864.

³⁹⁸ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

³⁹⁹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁰⁰ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁰¹ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁰² Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁰³ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁰⁴ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

Police Department.⁴⁰⁶ The average number of boys in the home during the year was 28.⁴⁰⁷ During this first year Wesleydale was never below its official maximum capacity of 24 boys and this overcrowding presented difficulties with bedding, as the recreation room had to be used.

Thirteen year old boys were admitted to Owairaka in mid-1976 if Wesleydale was at full capacity in order to keep the numbers down to 24 boys.⁴⁰⁸

In mid-1976 Mr Reilly (position not recorded) was concerned over the lack of control over admissions and the high number of remands in custody following a court appearance and requested that an investigation be done and contact with the police made in relation to this.⁴⁰⁹ There was no mention on the files of this being followed up.

From 1977 to 1982 there were increasing numbers of admissions. In 1977 there were 214 admissions to the Home compared with 313 in 1982.⁴¹⁰ Admissions decreased in 1983 to 289, but this figure would have exceeded that of 1982 as there was a period in March where boys who would normally be admitted to Wesleydale were instead admitted to Owairaka. This was organised by the Regional Director in order to try and keep Wesleydale's numbers at 24. It was a fleeting measure as Owairaka then came under pressure from these admissions.⁴¹¹ In 1984 the number of admissions to Wesleydale for the year dropped slightly again to 277 boys.⁴¹²

The pressure of high numbers of admissions made it difficult for staff to cope when the staffing was established to care for only 24 boys.⁴¹³ In 1979 Wesleydale's role was described as "remand classification with a fast turnover of residents."⁴¹⁴ This fast turnover coupled with the readmission rate was a cause of concern. It placed a strain on resources, particularly staffing.⁴¹⁵ This high turnover was still considered to be a problem in 1983.⁴¹⁶

Readmission rates also increased each year from when they began being recorded in 1979. The readmission rates ranged from 93 to 153 readmissions per annum from 1979 to 1983.⁴¹⁷ In 1982 nearly 50% of admissions were readmissions to the Home.⁴¹⁸ One boy was readmitted to Wesleydale nine times in 1983.⁴¹⁹

The predominant ethnic background of boys in the institution was Maori which accounted for 56-65% of admissions. The percentage of Pacific Island and

⁴⁰⁵ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁰⁶ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁰⁷ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁰⁸ Memo, SJ Stanton, Assistant Director (Social Work) to Director General, 21/05/76, Wesleydale Admissions F5000002388339.

⁴⁰⁹ Memo, DG Reilly to Mr Scott, 14/06/76, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁴¹⁰ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴¹¹ Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴¹² Memo, unknown author to Director General, 4/11/85, Wesleydale Admissions F5000002186501.

⁴¹³ Annual Report 1978, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴¹⁴ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴¹⁵ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴¹⁶ Staff in Confidence Memo, from GT Comber, Director (Regional Residential Services) to Regional Director 24/08/83, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁴¹⁷ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴¹⁸ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴¹⁹ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

European residents was similar to each other, making up just less than half of the institution's population for the years recorded.⁴²⁰

Though the age range in 1979 was 10-14 years, several boys under 10 were admitted due to difficult behaviour either in the Reception Centre or the community.⁴²¹ Other boys who had been in Wesleydale when reaching 14 years were allowed to stay until their placement date.⁴²² This was a consistent theme until 1984 with the age on admission ranging from 7 to 15 years but with the majority of boys being aged either 12 or 13 years.⁴²³

The aims of Wesleydale in 1980 were recognised as being "to provide the best short-term care and assessment for those in residence with the facilities and staffing available".⁴²⁴ This short-term remand and assessment role of Wesleydale continued through the 1980s. It was acknowledged in 1982 by the Principal that the Human Rights Report followed by the Johnston Report caused some additional strain to the already overcrowded institution and, "... that there will be some changes in admission intake and the role and function of the Home."⁴²⁵

In 1983/1984 the Principal, Mr Waetford, considered that the role of Wesleydale was a difficult one considering the brief stay of many of the residents, the overcrowding of the institution and the mixed status of residents (care and protection along with youth justice).⁴²⁶ Also related to this were "the difficulties in caring for these children who in many cases are completely beyond the control of community resources and of the facilities at Wesleydale."⁴²⁷ It was also mentioned that the management of the boys within the home was becoming more difficult resulting in more transfers to Owairaka and more abscondings.⁴²⁸ Because of this Mr Waetford hoped that 1984 would bring about the determination of the true role of Wesleydale and said that "it is our intention to continue to provide the service of remand and assessment as in previous years."⁴²⁹

Mr Waetford noted in 1980 that there were "a number of difficult and disturbed youngsters who had some association with gangs and were not afraid to use violence."⁴³⁰ In 1983 this difficulty was again recognised in relation to the containment of the most difficult boys awaiting placement in National Institutions.⁴³¹ This theme was further presented in 1984 which was considered to be the most difficult year in terms of the challenging nature of the children admitted.⁴³² A review of Wesleydale over a seven month period in 1984 found that there was an increasing trend towards more aggressive behaviour with comments by social workers and others that they were often being threatened with a weapon, and that most of the admitted boys had problems with school and resorted to truancy.⁴³³ This difficult and violent behaviour was thought to be often connected to their association with solvent

⁴²⁰ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555; Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴²¹ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴²² Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴²³ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555; Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴²⁴ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴²⁵ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴²⁶ Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴²⁷ Quarterly Management Report 2/07/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴²⁸ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴²⁹ Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴³⁰ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴³¹ Staff in Confidence Memo, from GT Comber, Director (Regional Residential Services) to Regional Director 24/08/83, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁴³² Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴³³ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

abuse.⁴³⁴ The head teacher also commented on the increasing difficulty of the children due to misuse of solvents and drugs, truancy from schools, and the high numbers of Polynesian children who were becoming emotionally disturbed.⁴³⁵

In 1985 it was noticed that the numbers of admissions had decreased significantly. The reasons for this were unknown, but it was thought that some contributing factors were that the more difficult boys were being admitted to Owairaka,, that there was a lack of confidence (especially from the Police) in the support Wesleydale presented, the placements made by the Community Care Unit and the use of alternative placements by districts.⁴³⁶

Length of stay

Wesleydale Boys' Home had two functions – to cater for medium term treatment cases (approximately two months) and short-term warrant and remand cases (often a few days).⁴³⁷ During the first year Wesleydale was operating, the average length of stay was 5.5 weeks showing it was catering predominantly for short term cases.⁴³⁸

The maximum capacity of 24 was exceeded nearly every day for the first three years that Wesleydale was open.⁴³⁹ At one stage in 1978 the number of boys in residence at Wesleydale was 36, which was 12 over the official maximum capacity.⁴⁴⁰

There was no control over police admissions to Wesleydale⁴⁴¹ and these accounted for a large number of admissions. In 1982 police admissions accounted for 56 percent of all admissions to Wesleydale.⁴⁴²

From 1979 – 1984 it manifested that length of stay was decreasing – that a growing number of residents were staying in Wesleydale for less than one week.⁴⁴³ In 1981 the decreasing length of stay was said to be consistent with that of other Auckland institutions.⁴⁴⁴ "All institutions are doing their best to monitor this situation by questioning any admission that they consider doubtful right at the admission time."⁴⁴⁵ The Police were also trying to limit short-term admissions to the Auckland institutions.⁴⁴⁶

⁴³⁴ Quarterly Management Report 18/10/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴³⁵ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴³⁶ Memo, GT Comber, Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 25/06/85, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁴³⁷ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴³⁸ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴³⁹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Regional Manager, Auckland 26/02/79, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁴⁰ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Regional Manager, Auckland 26/02/79, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁴¹ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁴² Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁴³ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴⁴⁴ Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

⁴⁴⁵ Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

⁴⁴⁶ Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

In 1979 26% of boys were in Wesleydale for less than 7 days compared with 40% in 1984.⁴⁴⁷ About one third of residents per annum stayed between 8 days and one month over this five year period.⁴⁴⁸ The length of stay remained similar again for boys in residence between one and two months with the average being 16% per annum.⁴⁴⁹ The average over these five years for boys staying longer than two months was 18% per annum.⁴⁵⁰ The decreasing length of stay was further shown by the averaged length of stay being 42.6 days in 1976 compared with 23.9 days in 1984.⁴⁵¹ It was noted that there was "conflicting opinion as to the desirability or otherwise of boys this age spending a short time in a Boys Home."⁴⁵²

There was an increasing length of stay for some residents at Wesleydale. For example, there were a number of boys in residence for over twelve months which was attributed to the lack of community or institutional placements available.⁴⁵³ The effect of this was that behaviour patterns for these boys deteriorated.⁴⁵⁴ A suggestion was made by senior Wesleydale staff that a Family Home near Wesleydale should be considered.⁴⁵⁵

In 1978 the increasing length of stay was examined, focussing on residents staying longer than five months in Wesleydale. It was observed that this was partly due to the lengthy delay in admissions to Hokio and Campbell Park; other reasons were not given.⁴⁵⁶ It was considered that there was little that could be done in relation to Hokio consistently being at full capacity.⁴⁵⁷

Discharged residents went to a variety of placements. In 1980, 56% of residents returned home upon discharge from Wesleydale, 20% were placed in other district or national institutions and the remaining discharges went to voluntary institutions or family/foster placements.⁴⁵⁸ The placements at home decreased throughout the remaining years when in 1984 only 33% of residents were returned home.⁴⁵⁹ The placements in district and national institutions continued to remain similar to that of 1980 but more residents were placed in foster/family homes or in voluntary institutions.⁴⁶⁰

⁴⁴⁷ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴⁴⁸ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴⁴⁹ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴⁵⁰ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴⁵¹ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555; Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁵² Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴⁵³ Memo, T Flynn, Housemaster & T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 21/11/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁵⁴ Memo, T Flynn, Housemaster & T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 21/11/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁵⁵ Memo, T Flynn, Housemaster & T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 21/11/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁵⁶ Report, T Ball, 04/05/78, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁴⁵⁷ Report, T Ball, 04/05/78, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁴⁵⁸ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁵⁹ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556;

Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556;

⁴⁶⁰ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556;

Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556;

Programmes and care

A programme for Wesleydale had been developed by 1977 to cater for the social, educational and recreational needs of the boys.⁴⁶¹ As there were initially no classrooms, two of the Wesleydale recreation rooms were used for schooling.⁴⁶² In 1977 an Arts and Crafts Instructor began working six hours per week and many of the boys' parents complimented their sons' completed Maori carvings.⁴⁶³

Mr Ball (position not recorded) visited the Home in 1977 and was impressed with the staff and the warm atmosphere of Wesleydale which he considered to have "limited facilities in many ways compared to many other of our institutions".⁴⁶⁴

In 1978 two fee for service instructors were employed for woodwork and for physical education and employment of a third instructor to commence arts and crafts was in progress.⁴⁶⁵ These were included in the programme, along with individual and group activities, that were to cater for the social, educational and recreational needs of the boys.⁴⁶⁶ The programme also included outings and sporting activities with organised sport being an important part of the programme that had begun during the first year Wesleydale was open.⁴⁶⁷ Weekend/home leave was also part of the programme and was given to those boys who qualified (after having been there three to four weeks) when approved by Wesleydale and their field social worker.⁴⁶⁸ Most long-term boys were allowed leave during the school holidays.⁴⁶⁹ A holiday programme was also implemented for the school holidays and the Kohitere bus was available for trips out.⁴⁷⁰

In 1979, the school focused on academic work in the mornings and cultural work in the afternoons which included activities such as music, carving, art and Maoritanga.⁴⁷¹ A points system was in operation which aimed at stressing the positive and a reward was given when a pre-determined target was reached.⁴⁷²

While most children attended school on site at Wesleydale, new admissions spent a day or two becoming familiar with the Home and routines before they attended school.⁴⁷³ Both returned absconders and new admissions assisted in chores around the home before either starting or returning to school.⁴⁷⁴

⁴⁶¹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁶² Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁶³ Memo, T Flynn, Housemaster & T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 21/11/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁶⁴ Report, T Ball, 03/06/77, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁴⁶⁵ Annual Report 1978, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁶⁶ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁶⁷ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557; Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁶⁸ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557; Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁶⁹ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁷⁰ Memo, T Waetford, Principal, Wesleydale to Regional Manager, Auckland, 06/06/79, Wesleydale Education 33557.

⁴⁷¹ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557. Please note that the details of the points system can be found in the School Report of 1980.

⁴⁷² Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁴⁷³ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁷⁴ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

Due to Regionalisation in 1979, residential social workers became more involved in the case work plan for children in care.⁴⁷⁵

Rural placements became part of the programme in 1980 for some of the residents during the holidays and continued until 1984.⁴⁷⁶ These placements were organised for city children to have rural experience during the August and Christmas holidays.⁴⁷⁷ In 1981 weekend beach and bush trips along with educational outings were organised.⁴⁷⁸

It was noted in 1980 by the Principal that the boys – especially the younger ones – related better to the women staff “so whilst working alongside the women [in domestic tasks] they chatted more freely and a lot is learnt of their inner feelings.”⁴⁷⁹

A report from an ex-staff member of the school in 1979 was critical about the operation of the Home and stated that it only operated in a limited capacity towards the functions of the institution as provided in the Residential Social Workers Manual such as preparing residents for return to the community.⁴⁸⁰ The school programme was said to be positive and operating on a rewards system and was not complimented by the Home environment where punishment was used as the predominant method of control. This was illustrated by control techniques focusing on the negative, for example “if you don’t do this then you’ll miss out on whatever”.⁴⁸¹ Threats and confrontations were said to occur as well as the threat of violence from “man to child”, aggressive restraint tactics and corporal punishment.⁴⁸² The routines of the Home were considered to be paramilitary and noise was not tolerated. The use of the one and a half hour rest period each day was also questioned.⁴⁸³ “The smooth running of Wesleydale appears to relate to the precision of routines and staff and not the welfare and happiness of the boys.”⁴⁸⁴ The response to these concerns was that no further action was required. [REDACTED] Regional Manager, Social Work and Residential Services stated that, [REDACTED] has not been objective in his report. It is clear that he has adopted a stance and then written the report to justify his views.⁴⁸⁵

In 1981 it was felt that the programme operating at Wesleydale needed to be “revamped” from the traditional programme to something modern so the boys would become more involved and content with the programme.⁴⁸⁶

In 1981 it was recognised that the overcrowding affected the standard of care and that a closer watch was needed to ensure this was not happening. It was accepted that there was no control over police admissions and that when overcrowding became a problem, cases were moved in an attempt to reduce numbers to allow staff to work effectively for the care of children.⁴⁸⁷

⁴⁷⁵ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁷⁶ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁷⁷ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁷⁸ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁷⁹ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁸⁰ Report [REDACTED] ex teacher, Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁴⁸¹ Report [REDACTED] ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁴⁸² Report [REDACTED] ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁴⁸³ Report [REDACTED] ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁴⁸⁴ Report [REDACTED] ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁴⁸⁵ Memo, [REDACTED], Regional Manager Social Work & Residential Services to Director General, [REDACTED] Wesleydale Profile [REDACTED].

⁴⁸⁶ Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

⁴⁸⁷ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

Due to the high admission and discharge rates, only tramps and camps were organised as part of the programme in 1982 as well as the rural placement.⁴⁸⁸ There was a full recreational programme operating for indoor and outdoor sports.⁴⁸⁹ Camps were run at Weymouth and Poutu and were said to be beneficial as part of the overall programme.⁴⁹⁰

In 1983 the Director-General commented that "Longer term I believe that the programmes for Wesleydale should be under scrutiny and review to see whether alternatives are not possible for many of the boys who are in Wesleydale."⁴⁹¹

A joint Home/School programme was implemented in 1984 after trials in 1983 on the basis of some of the recommendations made by the Doolan-Rolfe Report. The increase in the residential staff allowed the Home to assist in the school programme on some afternoons.⁴⁹²

An instructor in Personal Development Skills became involved in the programme in 1984.⁴⁹³

The full recreational programme was still operating in 1984 involving all indoor and outdoor sports including swimming in the summer with the addition of the swimming pool.⁴⁹⁴

A new programme was established in July 1984 that had staff working in teams and then working with smaller numbers of boys to enable more individual attention.⁴⁹⁵ This made for "better casework and closer involvement for residential staff at all levels".⁴⁹⁶ This also meant that a wider range of activities and hobbies were available.⁴⁹⁷

Work and training

New admissions to the Home as well as returned absconders assisted with the domestic staff in chores around the Home.⁴⁹⁸ Due to the gardener position being disestablished in 1981, both staff and boys helped tend to the garden.⁴⁹⁹

In the Home the boys helped out with domestic work and other daily operating activities.⁵⁰⁰

There was less focus in the annual reports on work and training because of the younger age group.

⁴⁸⁸ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁸⁹ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁹⁰ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁹¹ Memo, JW Grant, Director-General to Mr Manchester, 13/06/83, Wesleydale Staffing 33555.

⁴⁹² Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁹³ Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁹⁴ Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁹⁵ Quarterly Management Report 18/10/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁴⁹⁶ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁹⁷ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁹⁸ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁴⁹⁹ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁰⁰ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

Resident-to-resident issues

It was commented by a former staff member that the incidents of violence from staff to boys, i.e. the strappings, "... illustrate the effects of violence been (sic) met with violence, as the boys revert to physical dominance and aggression over one another (fists)."⁵⁰¹

Boy who absconded were said to have been made to put on boxing gloves against "selected" opponents.⁵⁰²

Health and medication

It was noted in 1977 that there was no regular psychological testing at Wesleydale.⁵⁰³

In 1980 a psychologist, from Mt Albert Psychological Services, was assigned one day a week for psychological assessments and was also available for case conferences when needed. The psychiatric service was considered to be not as prompt as the psychological service⁵⁰⁴ but referrals to the psychiatric service were made by the Medical Adviser when necessary.⁵⁰⁵

The Medical Adviser visited Wesleydale almost daily and was available for urgent calls.⁵⁰⁶

Sister Rose was employed in 1981 as a counsellor to give personal assistance to individual residents. "She is readily accepted by all boys and the warmth that she exudes presents a calm throughout the Home."⁵⁰⁷

Psychiatric hospital placement

There was no mention of psychiatric hospital placements within the Wesleydale files.

Staffing

Staff Organisation

Staffing levels at the opening of Wesleydale in 1976 were 22 with three of these positions as vacancies which were later transferred to other regional uses.⁵⁰⁸ These

⁵⁰¹ Report, Gary J Anstis, ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵⁰² Report, Gary J Anstis, ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵⁰³ Report, T Ball, 03/06/77, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵⁰⁴ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁰⁵ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁰⁶ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁰⁷ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

included the position of a relieving housemaster and two matron's assistants.⁵⁰⁹ It was considered in 1977 that with the rising numbers of residents this reassignment of positions should be reviewed.⁵¹⁰

The pressure of increasing admissions and the number of boys in residence consistently being over the maximum capacity put pressures on staff and in 1978 the main concern was the need for extra staff to help cope with this situation.⁵¹¹

The lack of a secure unit to deal with persistent absconders meant that one staff member was taken off the duty team to closely supervise these residents when necessary.⁵¹² Due to the often overcrowded institution, this placed strain on the other two staff left to deal with the remaining residents (possibly numbering up to 30) as well as admitting and discharging boys and other duties.⁵¹³ Recommendation was made by the Principal in 1979 to utilise the east wing to bring bedding up to 40 and increase the staffing levels by establishing positions for two senior residential social workers, one assistant residential social worker and two matron's assistants.⁵¹⁴

The need for better staffing at a senior level was again recognised at the end of 1979.⁵¹⁵ The Principal made submissions for extra staff and considered this to be of extreme importance as the Assistant Principal position was vacant and there were no senior staff below this level.⁵¹⁶

In 1980 there was a total of 19 staff at Wesleydale.⁵¹⁷ The three residential social workers had their caseloads divided into three catchment areas to share with their assistant residential social worker.⁵¹⁸

Staff totalled 19 in 1981.⁵¹⁹ The Instructor Gardener's position was disestablished and was replaced by a Senior Residential Social Worker.

In 1982 authority was given for the employment of a clerk which brought staffing levels up to 20.⁵²⁰ The introduction of a full-time clerk decreased some of the work previously undertaken by residential social workers enabling them to work more closely with the residents.⁵²¹

Staffing levels increased to 24 in 1983 with the appointment of three additional assistant residential social workers and one senior residential social worker. This allowed for better staff cover "particularly with the senior staff roster where there were quite a number of shifts where there was no senior staff member on duty. This had been the case since 1976 and with it finally rectified, every shift now has a senior staff member."⁵²² This meant that there were three staff teams headed by a senior staff member (either a senior residential social worker or the assistant

⁵⁰⁸ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁵⁰⁹ Report, T Ball, 03/06/77, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵¹⁰ Report, T Ball, 03/06/77, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵¹¹ Annual Report 1978, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵¹² Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director, Auckland, 1979, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵¹³ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director, Auckland, 1979, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵¹⁴ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director, Auckland, 1979, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵¹⁵ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵¹⁶ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director, Auckland, 1979, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵¹⁷ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵¹⁸ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵¹⁹ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵²⁰ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵²¹ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵²² Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

principal) who were responsible for their own caseload. They worked with field social workers and a teacher in case planning.⁵²³

It was noted in a report on Wesleydale that submissions for increased staffing levels were all declined up until 1983 even though Wesleydale was operating more than half the time over the maximum capacity of 24 boys.⁵²⁴ It was mentioned that various notes on the file comment that because there was no secure unit, the need for more staff was not thought necessary.⁵²⁵ Staff acknowledged their lack of skills and strategies to cope effectively with the continuing problem of containing the most difficult boys who were awaiting placement in national institutions. Assistance was sought in this area without success.⁵²⁶ The advent of the increase in staff coverage in 1983 meant that the three senior officers endeavoured to keep up with the formal supervision sessions with the assistant and residential social workers as outlined by Head Office in June 1984.⁵²⁷

An additional Senior Residential Social Worker was appointed in 1984 but was later cancelled and transferred to the Weymouth Boys' Remand Unit.⁵²⁸

Staff were assured in 1984 that although the lease for Wesleydale would not be renewed in September 1986, staffing levels would be maintained through to 1986 in order to maintain high standards of care for the children.⁵²⁹ The staffing level in 1984 was 24 staff plus three teachers.⁵³⁰

Staff Training and Supervision

The majority of staff employed at Wesleydale were new to residential work, so prior to Wesleydale opening, two days were spent in training sessions with these staff to cover the basic principles of residential social work.⁵³¹ Staff attended weekly meetings, were able to visit other institutions and some District Office staff came to the Home to speak about administrative matters.⁵³² Seven of the staff attended a Residential Care Association course in 1976.⁵³³ Staff training continued through to 1983 with staff undertaking in-service courses at the Residential Staff Training Service and attending other relevant courses.⁵³⁴ This continued training, coupled with the introduction of the Planning for Children in Care Scheme in 1981 was said to have increased the standard of care given.⁵³⁵

In 1980, the second year of Regionalisation, individual cases were being reviewed in a weekly staff meeting consisting of a senior staff member, residential social workers

⁵²³ Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵²⁴ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁵²⁵ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁵²⁶ Staff in Confidence Memo, from GT Comber, Director (Regional Residential Services) to Regional Director 24/08/83, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵²⁷ Quarterly Management Report 2/07/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁵²⁸ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵²⁹ Quarterly Management Report 2/07/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁵³⁰ Report from JW Grant, Director General to the Minister of Social Welfare 1984, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵³¹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵³² Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵³³ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵³⁴ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵³⁵ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

and the Boys Home Head Teacher.⁵³⁶ These weekly meetings held between the Home and the school staff were considered to be valuable.⁵³⁷

It was recognised in 1980 that pressures from high numbers of admissions did not provide for good residential social work practice and that staff training was important and as many staff as possible were urged to attend the in-service training courses and other available relevant courses.⁵³⁸

In 1980 full staff meetings were held weekly and residential social workers met with the Principal and Assistant Principal in a separate weekly meeting.⁵³⁹ The Senior Residential Social Worker appointed in 1981 attended the weekly staff meetings as well as the senior staff meeting held separately.⁵⁴⁰

In 1981 emphasis was placed on improving the standard of residential care through the training of staff. Residential social work staff attended in-service course and other relevant courses to help achieve this focus.⁵⁴¹ The Principal's delegation of casework to residential staff in 1981 allowed those staff to become more involved in working with the residents and the staff became more professional in their work.⁵⁴²

In addition to the full staff meeting and the senior residential staff meeting, the Assistant Principal and Senior Residential Social Worker held supervision sessions with residential social workers.⁵⁴³

Local courses were continued in 1984, but the R.S.T.S courses could not be scheduled due to the modular training for the senior staff.⁵⁴⁴

Staffing Concerns

The residential staff at Wesleydale in 1979 revealed their concerns about the relations between the Home and the school – specifically [REDACTED] – to reinforce the concerns held by the Principal. The concerns were focussed on the apparent efforts of [REDACTED] to undermine the authority of the staff at the Home.⁵⁴⁵

An incident occurred on a school outing to a Marae when the woman who had taken the boys on this outing began criticising the residential social work staff and in particular the Principal. The criticisms were not fully outlined but mentioned that the Principal “was not interested in the boys finding their cultural identity and the use of ‘red tape’.”⁵⁴⁶

In 1980 concern was held by an ex-staff member in relation to the turnover of staff and the effect this had on the Home and the residents.⁵⁴⁷ The calibre of the staff was also questioned focussing on lack of suitability, training and qualifications.⁵⁴⁸

⁵³⁶ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵³⁷ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵³⁸ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵³⁹ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁴⁰ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁴¹ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁴² Handwritten note by unknown author 03/08/81 on the Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

⁵⁴³ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁴⁴ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁴⁵ Memo, Residential Staff, Wesleydale to Regional Manager, Auckland, 02/07/79, Wesleydale Complaints 31436.

⁵⁴⁶ Memo, Kathy Baker, ARSW, Wesleydale to unknown recipient, 9/07/80, Wesleydale Complaints 33557.

⁵⁴⁷ Report, Gary J Anstis, ex teacher, Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

There was concern in relation to the Principal, [REDACTED] and his possible inability to critically analyse the programmes he implemented at Wesleydale to develop "a more mellow and sensible approach to the boys."⁵⁴⁹

In June 1983 the Director-General was concerned about Wesleydale and the staffing situation. "The Home situation is a sorry state of affairs and I believe that it reflects poorly on the management leadership of this Home."⁵⁵⁰ The Director-General thought that [REDACTED] should be transferred to the position of Assistant Principal within the Auckland area.⁵⁵¹ Due to the leadership at Wesleydale being considered "flat", two senior social work staff members made regular visits to Wesleydale to help the Principal "lift his performance."⁵⁵²

A visit was made to Wesleydale by the Director, Residential Services in 1983 in response to the concerns in relation to staffing. The Principal and staff were thought to be intimidated by the urgent demands of some districts and were encouraged to be more assertive in relation to demands for planning and associated needs.⁵⁵³ It was felt that there was often a lack of information and proposals for new admissions which compounded the uncertainty of the role of the staff.⁵⁵⁴

Reservations were still held in relation to the overall management strength at Wesleydale. The top management was considered to be inadequate and the basic grade strength was not properly utilised because of this.⁵⁵⁵ There was concern at the possibility of the Principal being transferred as it was acknowledged that this task was becoming more difficult and there was no one adequate to fill it.⁵⁵⁶ In order to combat these problems, additional staffing was to be provided to give assistance and a consultant utilised to help address the issues and improve management skills.⁵⁵⁷

There was concern in [REDACTED] over possible criticism by the High Court in relation to an ex-staff member from Wesleydale. [REDACTED] was employed by the Principal of Wesleydale as a relieving night attendant (the date of this appointment is not stipulated). Mr [REDACTED] transferred to Weymouth when Wesleydale closed. His position at Weymouth was terminated when he was arrested for sodomy on a former resident in his off-duty hours. It transpired that Mr [REDACTED] also had a previous conviction for sodomy which he did not disclose on his application form and the Principal cannot remember whether he was questioned about this when employed at Wesleydale.⁵⁵⁸

⁵⁴⁸ Report, Gary J Anstis, ex teacher, Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵⁴⁹ Note for file by unknown author, [REDACTED], Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

⁵⁵⁰ Memo, JW Grant, Director-General to Mr Manchester, 13/06/83, Wesleydale Staffing 33555.

⁵⁵¹ Memo, JW Grant, Director-General to Mr Manchester, 13/06/83, Wesleydale Staffing 33555.

⁵⁵² Memo, from unknown author to unknown recipient, 12/08/83, Wesleydale Discipline 33555.

⁵⁵³ Staff in Confidence Memo, from GT Comber, Director (Regional Residential Services) to Regional Director 24/08/83, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁵⁴ Staff in Confidence Memo, from GT Comber, Director (Regional Residential Services) to Regional Director 24/08/83, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁵⁵ Staff in Confidence Memo, from GT Comber, Director (Regional Residential Services) to Regional Director 24/08/83, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁵⁶ Staff in Confidence Memo, from GT Comber, Director (Regional Residential Services) to Regional Director 24/08/83, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁵⁷ Staff in Confidence Memo, from GT Comber, Director (Regional Residential Services) to Regional Director 24/08/83, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁵⁸ Memo, unknown author to unknown recipient in relation to Possible Criticism by High Court – Auckland, [REDACTED], Wesleydale Complaints F5000006020995.

Schooling

There were no classrooms when Wesleydale was opened so two of the Home's recreation rooms were used for schooling. Two teachers were employed at this time.⁵⁵⁹ Schooling was provided for all residents.⁵⁶⁰

In early July 1976 three classrooms for Wesleydale were completed. Four months later approval was given for the appointment of a third teacher and in early February 1977 this appointment was filled.⁵⁶¹

In 1978 a head teacher was appointed and his programme focused on teaching at appropriate levels and the Principal commented that a remarkable response from the children was received.⁵⁶²

The school programme in 1979 was "designed to improve the boys' self-concepts and improve their attitudes toward schooling and society in general. Also included are social development and co-operation with fellow students and staff."⁵⁶³ One teacher left at the beginning of this year, and rather than replace him, it was decided to employ part-time staff (not necessarily teachers) to allow for greater diversity in the school programme with a formal academic morning in small groups⁵⁶⁴ and an informal cultural afternoon.⁵⁶⁵ This variety led to children who previously had an aversion to school wanting to participate in the programme.⁵⁶⁶

The Assistant Director said in 1980 that because of the age group admitted to Wesleydale and the fact that most will need to continue schooling after leaving the Home, the emphasis should be on formal schooling and that "it will be necessary to modify the teaching programme and even introduce three full time teachers."⁵⁶⁷

The school setting changed in 1980 to replicate a normal school setting of full desks with everyone in the one room.⁵⁶⁸ The school programme remained the same with academic subjects in the morning followed by manual or more recreational activities in the afternoon. These recreational activities such as carving, cooking and Maoritanga were designed to provide the boys with a wide range of skills.⁵⁶⁹ Two women from the community developed a Maori studies programme in 1980 which focused not only on traditional formal behaviour, but also cultural harmony.⁵⁷⁰

The school used the same methods as the Home, such as positive reinforcement for good behaviour and withdrawal of privileges for negative behaviour. A points system

⁵⁵⁹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁶⁰ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁶¹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁶² Annual Report 1978, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁶³ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁶⁴ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁶⁵ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁶⁶ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁶⁷ Memo, I Johnson, Assistant Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 21/05/80, Wesleydale Education 33557.

⁵⁶⁸ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁶⁹ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁷⁰ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

was also used in the school.⁵⁷¹ Social development was emphasised and most boys showed improvement when they left Wesleydale.⁵⁷²

In 1980 it was affirmed that most boys were in school but noted that those who were new admissions or who had been returned from absconding were not at school.⁵⁷³

It was mentioned in 1980 that there was conflict between the staff in the institution and in the school. The residential social work staff had petitioned for the head teacher to be removed.⁵⁷⁴ The head teacher was on a course for 1980 and the situation vastly improved.⁵⁷⁵ It was said that the relationship between the school and the Home was good apart from this teacher.⁵⁷⁶

Concern about the relationship between the Home and school staff continued into 1981 as they were not considered to be "as open and harmonious as could be desired."⁵⁷⁷ The school appeared to feel isolated due to lack of consultation and opportunity to contribute to specific cases.⁵⁷⁸

The Principal stated at the end of 1981 that the school was running more efficiently than previously and that the problems of the previous years had been due to the succession of relieving teachers – some who were unable to cope with the demands of the boys.⁵⁷⁹ School and Home cooperation had increased with some of the school programmes continuing on at the Home after school hours. The programme was believed to be sensible as was use of staff.⁵⁸⁰ Relationships between teachers and pupils were considered to be good with the boys following instructions readily and showing neither signs of resistance nor a poor attitude towards the teachers.⁵⁸¹

In 1981 the head teacher described the school programme as more than remedial – aimed at providing individual children with a programme of work to improve many facets of their life such as their attitude to schooling, self-concept and attainment levels.⁵⁸²

The school reports for 1982 and 1983 were said to be attached to the annual report, but were missing from the files. The school report for 1984 stated that the average weekly attendance was 18 pupils for term one, 23 in term two and 9-16 in term three.⁵⁸³ The head teacher commented that "it was a very puzzling year for us, the high numbers of the difficult children of term II indicated high numbers in the future so term III was a surprise especially with the increase in numbers of street kids and school truants."⁵⁸⁴

⁵⁷¹ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556. Please note that details of the points system can be found in the School Report of 1980.

⁵⁷² Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁷³ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁷⁴ Memo, I Johnson, Assistant Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 21/05/80, Wesleydale Education 33557.

⁵⁷⁵ Memo, I Johnson, Assistant Director Regional Residential Services to Director-General, 21/05/80, Wesleydale Education 33557.

⁵⁷⁶ Excerpt from document (possibly by NG Stevens) titled Visits to Institutions, 4-7/08/80, Wesleydale Education 33557.

⁵⁷⁷ Report on Wesleydale Boys Home by TV Thomas, ISSE, 7/07/81, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁷⁸ Report on Wesleydale Boys Home by TV Thomas, ISSE, 7/07/81, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁷⁹ Report on Wesleydale Boys Home by TV Thomas, ISSE, 7/07/81, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁸⁰ Report on Wesleydale Boys Home by TV Thomas, ISSE, 7/07/81, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁸¹ Report on Wesleydale Boys Home by TV Thomas, ISSE, 7/07/81, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁵⁸² Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁸³ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁸⁴ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

The school programme remained basically the same in 1984 setting out to provide a climate in which children who were out of touch with school would feel safe to begin again.⁵⁸⁵

Submissions were made in 1984 for the introduction of computer education and computer recreation to Wesleydale for the residents.⁵⁸⁶

Absconding

Observation of the data for absconding highlights that there are discrepancies between different reports and statistics as to the number of abscondings each year. The reasons for these discrepancies may be attributed to different methods of collating or submitting the information, for example whether the number of incidents of abscondings was recorded compared with the number of boys who absconded.⁵⁸⁷ Wesleydale had the highest degree of discrepancy of all the institutions. The following section uses figures from the Annual Reports.

Absconding incidents ranged from 46 in 1976 to 85 in 1981. It was noted that it was well known that serial absconders were, "...responsible for taking a good number of other boys with [them]."⁵⁸⁸ In 1976 some possible reasons for the number of absconding incidents were that the staff were new to residential work and were trying to "find their feet", the fact that abscondings happened at most institutions and were possibly more frequent at open institutions.⁵⁸⁹

Persistent absconders were a constant theme at Wesleydale, as was the transfer of persistent absconders to Owairaka Boys' Home due to there being no secure facilities at Wesleydale.⁵⁹⁰

There was a supposed decrease in the number of absconding incidents in 1977.⁵⁹¹ This was said to be possibly attributed to the increase in experience and confidence in the staff new to residential work.⁵⁹²

The Principal commented in 1979 that the lack of a secure unit meant that a staff member was taken out of the duty team to closely supervise persistent absconders when the need arose.⁵⁹³

In 1980 absconding incidents had increased to 81 with persistent absconders being transferred to Owairaka a continuing feature.⁵⁹⁴ This was in accordance with the

⁵⁸⁵ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁸⁶ Memo, Dave Theobald, Assistant Residential Social Worker Wesleydale to Regional Director, Auckland, 26/03/84, Wesleydale Education 33555.

⁵⁸⁷ Annual Reports 1979-1983, Wesleydale Reports 33557, 33556; Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁵⁸⁸ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁸⁹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁹⁰ Annual Report 1978, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁹¹ Memo, T Flynn, Housemaster & T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 21/11/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557; Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland 1979, Wesleydale Profile 33557. It is only a supposed decrease as different figures for 1977 are recorded in a number of reports.

⁵⁹² Memo, T Flynn, Housemaster & T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 21/11/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁵⁹³ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland 1979, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

Police attitude who wanted some of the persistent and difficult absconders locked in secure facilities.⁵⁹⁵ In 1981 the police attitude was said to have become more satisfactory but they expressed a "harsh manner" on some occasions.⁵⁹⁶

The Principal was very concerned about the high number of abscondings in 1980 and the unsettling affect it had on the Home. He attributed the abscondings to 75% of the residents being at Wesleydale for less than three weeks and that many abscondings were initiated by boys awaiting placement in National Institutions. The Principal requested that, to achieve the desired stability in the Home, these boys be transferred to the National Institutions as soon as possible rather than waiting for the normal admission time at the beginning of the school term.⁵⁹⁷

During 1980 the Principal also noted that "a good number of abscondings during the year stemmed from a number of difficult and disturbed youngsters who had some association with gangs and were not afraid to use violence."⁵⁹⁸ There were also some car conversions by absconders in 1980.⁵⁹⁹

This high level of absconding continued in 1981 with 85 incidents of absconding. The majority of the absconding involved only a small percentage of the total boys admitted for the year. The staff at Wesleydale attempted to keep absconding numbers down "by both an awareness during supervision times and also by trying to make the programme operating more appealing and interesting to the boys."⁶⁰⁰

In 1982 there was a major increase in absconding with 162 incidents being reported during the year.⁶⁰¹ This sharply increased again in 1983 with the number of abscondings rising to 250.⁶⁰² The absconding rate dropped again in 1984 to 164 incidents.⁶⁰³

An examination of the absconding incidents showed that the majority of absconders were State Wards awaiting placement in a National Institution.⁶⁰⁴ It was felt that if their placement was accelerated it would eliminate the major problems and it was also considered that there was merit in "sending unsettled youngsters away from their home district for a period."⁶⁰⁵ On this basis a proposal was made to utilise the spare space at Wesleydale and Hamilton Boys' Home so that boys who needed settling out of their own home area could go to somewhere close.⁶⁰⁶ This proposal was to be considered and examined in greater detail, but there is nothing on file to indicate whether it was effected.⁶⁰⁷ Another reason given for the high absconding rate in 1984 was the minimal staff coverage that had always existed.⁶⁰⁸

⁵⁹⁴ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁹⁵ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁹⁶ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁹⁷ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Regional Manager, Auckland, 29/07/80, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁵⁹⁸ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁵⁹⁹ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁰⁰ Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

⁶⁰¹ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁰² Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁰³ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁰⁴ Memo, RJ Wilson, Regional Director to Director-General, 27/08/82, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁶⁰⁵ Memo, RJ Wilson, Regional Director to Director-General, 27/08/82, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁶⁰⁶ Memo, RJ Wilson, Regional Director to Director-General, 27/08/82, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁶⁰⁷ Memo, B Manchester to JH Lucas, 9/9/82, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁶⁰⁸ Minutes of Special Director-General's Meeting 26/03/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

Secure care

No secure facilities were available at Wesleydale.⁶⁰⁹ If secure care was needed, residents were transferred to Owairaka.⁶¹⁰

Discipline

The head teacher did not use corporal punishment but would seek the Principal's assistance if there was serious misbehaviour. The Principal would decide whether corporal punishment was necessary or whether the boys should be withheld from the school.⁶¹¹ Boys with negative attitudes or difficult behaviour would be withdrawn from the school so the school was as "free as often as practicable from these difficult cases."⁶¹²

In 1981 a points system was used in school situation to regulate boy's behaviour and self discipline was promoted.⁶¹³ The head teacher found that there was "no place for corporal punishment or any other form of punishment that makes a child lose face or 'mana'."⁶¹⁴

Persistent absconders were punished by deprivation of privileges or corporal punishment and some were transferred to Owairaka.⁶¹⁵

Returned absconders had to assist with chores until their attitude was considered to be settled and they were able to return to school.⁶¹⁶

Physical punishment

An ex-staff member had concern about the use of physical punishment around 1979. It was said that aggressive tactics were used to restrain residents which at times verged on the offensive.⁶¹⁷ "The staff are not legally permitted to touch the boys yet the senior staff are allowed to enforce corporal punishment – usually in the form of a leather strap."⁶¹⁸ It was said to be generally administered to the buttocks, but in some occasions bruising had formed on the arms and torso. One boy was said to have had bruising on his buttocks for a week. Strappings were also said to take

⁶⁰⁹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁶¹⁰ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶¹¹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Regional Manager, Auckland, 6/06/79, Wesleydale Discipline 33557.

⁶¹² Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Regional Manager, Auckland, 6/06/79, Wesleydale Discipline 33557.

⁶¹³ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶¹⁴ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶¹⁵ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Regional Manager, Auckland, 6/06/79, Wesleydale Discipline 33557.

⁶¹⁶ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶¹⁷ Report, Gary J Anstis, ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁶¹⁸ Report, Gary J Anstis, ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

place in front of other boys to make an example out of them. Another staff member was often requested to be present as a precaution against refusal of the strappings and "in isolated cases staff have been asked to hold boys refusing punishment".⁶¹⁹

The ex-staff member further commented that a form of punishment for returned absconders was the resident being "made to put boxing gloves on against 'selected' opponents. Blood has been drawn in some instances."⁶²⁰ This was confirmed to have happened on two occasions and then was stopped.⁶²¹

It was recommended by the Regional Manager, Social Work and Residential Services that no further action be taken in relation to these complaints by the former staff member.⁶²²

By 1980 Wesleydale was the only institution to still use corporal punishment and this was said to be due to the age of the boys in residence and because there were no secure facilities.⁶²³ Sixty-three boys received corporal punishment in the twelve months from November 1980 to November 1981 for misdemeanours such as "absconding or aggressive and defiant conduct".⁶²⁴

The corporal punishment register showed a decrease in the number of strappings in 1981.⁶²⁵ "The Principal now realises that little is really achieved in the use of corporal punishment and he is now looking at other more suitable ways of maintaining reasonable discipline and levels of behaviour."⁶²⁶

In 1981 discipline at Wesleydale was considered to be too regimented, almost military and the cause of many of the problems in the Institution.⁶²⁷ An example was that returned absconders were placed on P.T. supervision sessions for three days which included numerous P.T. sessions during the day and night, and being placed "on the line".⁶²⁸ This was not elaborated on.

It was noted in 1983 that "the staff at Wesleydale had an inappropriate appreciation of the role of physical force in the institution."⁶²⁹ There was no further information available about this.

In response to a letter from a local resident, the Minister of Social welfare stated in 1984 that there "is no total prohibition against physical contact in residential work, as it is recognised that a degree of physical restraint is necessary on some occasions."⁶³⁰

⁶¹⁹ Report, Gary J Anstis, ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁶²⁰ Report, Gary J Anstis, ex teacher Wesleydale, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁶²¹ Report, Gary J Anstis, ex teacher Wesleydale, Note in margin, unknown author, undated circa 1980, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁶²² Memo, SJ Stanton, Regional Manager Social Work & Residential Services to Director General, 08/06/79, Wesleydale Profile 33557.

⁶²³ Memo, I Johnson, Assistant Director to Regional Director, 28/11/80, Wesleydale Discipline F5000002185732.

⁶²⁴ Memo, I Johnson, Assistant Director to Regional Director, 28/11/80, Wesleydale Discipline F5000002185732.

⁶²⁵ Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556. Please note that we have no copy or other reference to the corporal punishment register on our files.

⁶²⁶ Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

⁶²⁷ Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

⁶²⁸ Note for file by unknown author, 29/07/81, Wesleydale Discipline 33556.

⁶²⁹ Memo, unknown author to unknown recipient, 12/08/83, Wesleydale Discipline 33555.

⁶³⁰ Letter, Ann Hercus, Minister of Social Welfare to Jack Elder, MP, 29/10/84, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

Drugs, alcohol, and tattoos

Concern was expressed in 1984 about the difficult and violent behaviour of boys admitted to the Home often being related to solvent abuse and that "the habit is so strong with some boys, that they abscond back to the 'streets' to partake of the practice."⁶³¹ It was considered that this behaviour was a direct result of glue sniffing.⁶³²

The head teacher felt that 1984 was the most difficult of years due to the constant misuse of solvents and drugs among other things.⁶³³

Smoking

The Minister of Social Welfare remarked in reply to concerns of a constituent that staff do issue cigarettes to young people that are allowed to smoke, and that these are purchased from pocket money earned by the young person.⁶³⁴

Contact with field social workers

Wesleydale benefited from the introduction of Regionalisation during 1979.⁶³⁵ This continued into 1980 with residential social workers becoming more involved and experienced in dealing with their caseloads.⁶³⁶ Contact with field social workers happened before admission and allowed for residential social workers to help formulate plans for the placement of children.⁶³⁷

Concern was held over the lack of information and proposals received by residential social workers from the districts in 1983 and the uncertainty this caused the residential staff.⁶³⁸

Contact with community

In October 1976, an Open Day was held at Wesleydale to serve as an introduction of Wesleydale to the neighbours.⁶³⁹ That year several outside clubs played rugby against Wesleydale teams on the grounds of the Home.⁶⁴⁰

⁶³¹ Quarterly Management Report 18/10/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁶³² Quarterly Management Report 18/10/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁶³³ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶³⁴ Letter, Ann Hercus, Minister of Social Welfare to Jack Elder, MP, 29/10/84, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁶³⁵ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁶³⁶ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶³⁷ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶³⁸ Staff in Confidence Memo, from GT Comber, Director (Regional Residential Services) to Regional Director 24/08/83, Wesleydale Profile 33555, further discussed in staffing, above.

⁶³⁹ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

During 1977, the lack of transport for the Home meant that community involvement was minimal.⁶⁴¹

In 1980 the Lions and Rotary were involved at times in taking the residents on outings. Youth Guidance and a Department of Maori Affairs Community Adviser were also involved in taking some of the boys on camps.⁶⁴²

These outings continued in 1981 coupled with educational outings. Different organisations such as the Police and St John's Ambulance visited the Home for informed talks.⁶⁴³

In 1982 youth and Church groups visited the Home to play sports, Youth Guidance personnel came weekly, and Service clubs also took boys to concerts or on day outings.⁶⁴⁴ This kind of involvement continued into 1983.⁶⁴⁵ Community involvement in 1984 continued but with more visits being made outside the Home than community members visiting the Home.⁶⁴⁶

A member of the public was concerned about the changes that were made in relation to the closure of Wesleydale. It was said that there were both good and poor changes evidenced by internal staff problems and lower staff morale as well as discipline being considered a "dirty word."⁶⁴⁷ This was not addressed in any detail in the reply by the Minister of Social Welfare apart from the comment that "stresses and pressures inherent in work with troubled or troublesome children can and do affect any of these at any time."⁶⁴⁸

Visiting committees

The Auckland Visiting Committee was formed in July of 1978 with Mr D Wilson J.P. appointed to oversee Wesleydale.⁶⁴⁹

It was mentioned by the Principal in 1980 that one of the visitors to the home was the Visiting Committee Member who visited "as often as he is able and is supportive of the Home's programme."⁶⁵⁰

In 1982 the Visiting Committee members were said to have come to Wesleydale occasionally.⁶⁵¹

In 1983 the Visiting Committee members increased to 3 and they visited a number of times.⁶⁵²

⁶⁴⁰ Memo, T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director (Social Work) Auckland, 8/03/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁶⁴¹ Memo, T Flynn, Housemaster & T Waetford, Principal Wesleydale to Director Auckland, 21/11/77, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁶⁴² Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁴³ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁴⁴ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁴⁵ Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁴⁶ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁴⁷ Letter, unknown constituent to Jack Elder, MP, 1984, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁶⁴⁸ Letter, Ann Hercus, Minister of Social Welfare to Jack Elder, MP, 29/10/84, Wesleydale Profile 33555.

⁶⁴⁹ Annual Report 1978, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁶⁵⁰ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁵¹ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁵² Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

The Visiting Committee visits were regular in 1984 with individual and collective visits.⁶⁵³ From August to October the Committee visited five times.⁶⁵⁴

Visits continued to be regular in 1984 and at the request of staff there were some surprise visits.⁶⁵⁵

There were no Visiting Committee Reports on the Wesleydale files.

Contact with families

The programme used at Wesleydale included weekend leave for the children and most long-term boys were allowed leave during the school holidays.⁶⁵⁶ Weekend leave was granted once a boy had been in the Home for 3-4 weeks and was continued "if it can be seen as positive towards eventual return home."⁶⁵⁷ As most of the admissions were from surrounding districts, the families of residents were also able to visit Wesleydale.⁶⁵⁸

In 1981 the Principal observed a developing trend of increased numbers of boys going on weekend leave and holiday placements.⁶⁵⁹ Home leave continued to be offered and was not often abused.⁶⁶⁰

Some parents would come and collect their children for church or sporting activities during the weekend.⁶⁶¹

Preparation for discharge and after care arrangements

The introduction of Regionalisation in 1979 allowed for closer examination of children needing residential care, and allowed for appropriate post-residential placement plans to be followed through.⁶⁶²

In 1980 it was recognised that there was some uncertainty around case plans for new admissions.⁶⁶³ Residential staff were often unsure as to whether a particular boy would be returned to Wesleydale or home. It was only when they were returned to Wesleydale that a residential social worker in collaboration with the field social worker could prepare a plan working towards discharge.⁶⁶⁴ This uncertainty continued right through to 1984.⁶⁶⁵

⁶⁵³ Quarterly Management Report 2/07/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁶⁵⁴ Quarterly Management Report 18/10/84, Wesleydale Reports 33555.

⁶⁵⁵ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁵⁶ Annual Report 1979, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁶⁵⁷ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁵⁸ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁵⁹ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁶⁰ Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁶¹ Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁶² Annual Report 1978, Wesleydale Reports 33557.

⁶⁶³ Annual Report 1980, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁶⁴ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

⁶⁶⁵ Annual Report 1981, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1982, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1983, Wesleydale Reports 33556; Annual Report 1984, Wesleydale Reports 33556.

Chapter
3

Hamilton Boys' Home

Physical description

Hamilton Boys' Home was located two miles from Hamilton at 67 Mount View Road, Hamilton.⁶⁶⁶ It was opened in early 1959.⁶⁶⁷ There is no more information on this subject in the Hamilton Boys' Home files until 1978.

In 1978 staff and boys completed exterior repainting and repapered one dormitory.⁶⁶⁸ Stage two of the re-roofing programme was done.⁶⁶⁹ The earning fund of the residents accumulated until there was enough to purchase a swimming pool.⁶⁷⁰ There is no more information to specify what an earning fund is.

Re-roofing over the three dormitories and sewing room was completed in 1979, leaving just the games area to be finished.⁶⁷¹ An exercise area was planned to be attached to the secure unit.⁶⁷² Staff and boys continued with the redecoration project.⁶⁷³

The senior wing facilities were revamped in 1980 to create a semi-secure unit for the Home.⁶⁷⁴ A secure exercise area was also added in 1980 and the games/recreation area was re-roofed.⁶⁷⁵ By 1981 Hamilton Boys' Home had a bed capacity of 40 in the open institution, 5 in the semi-secure unit and 4 in the secure unit.⁶⁷⁶

A proposal was presented in 1980 to convert the redundant staff wing into a, "... long term training unit for younger boys to cater for Holdsworth/Hokio age boys catering for their needs closer to district..."⁶⁷⁷ This proposal was still sought in 1981.⁶⁷⁸

In 1981 it was recognised that after 22 years, the Institution needed to be redecorated.⁶⁷⁹

⁶⁶⁶ Unknown author "Accent on Colour and Quality at the Melville Boys' Home", *NZ Free Lance*, 11/03/59, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile 31571; Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁶⁷ Memo, AL Rounthwaite DCWO to Superintendent, 8/1/59, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile 31571.

⁶⁶⁸ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁶⁶⁹ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁶⁷⁰ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁶⁷¹ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁶⁷² Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁶⁷³ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁶⁷⁴ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁷⁵ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁷⁶ Inspection Questionnaire – District & National Institutions 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773705.

⁶⁷⁷ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁷⁸ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁷⁹ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

In 1983 there were some delays with the redecoration programme.⁶⁸⁰ The refurbishing of the superfluous staff wing for use as a long term hostel was almost finished by the end of that year and the renovation of the secure unit had begun.⁶⁸¹ The heating and hot water system was in need of modification.⁶⁸²

In 1984 the extended care unit was finished as was the refurbishing of the secure care unit.⁶⁸³

There was a need for upgrades in the office and staffing facilities due to the increase in staffing in 1984.⁶⁸⁴ School classrooms also needed developments due to the submission for more teachers and also to cater for manual training.⁶⁸⁵ The Principal stated that the need for a swimming pool was becoming more important in 1984, although a pool was purchased in 1978.

In 1985 criticisms were made about the recreational areas being so close to the accommodation blocks. For example, the football field was short and the goal line was within five metres of buildings and any construction of the administration block would mean removal of the tennis court.⁶⁸⁶ The décor and fittings of the Home were considered to be of lower standard compared to Hamilton Girls' Home.⁶⁸⁷

Interior decoration was nearly complete by the end of 1985 but the need for better staffing facilities was still a problem.⁶⁸⁸ The Wesleydale swimming pool was transferred to Hamilton Boys' Home.⁶⁸⁹

There were thirty beds in the Home in 1988 and during the time of the audit the roll numbers were in the high twenties.⁶⁹⁰

Resident profile

The Hamilton Boys' Home was a regional institution established to cater for the reception and short-term care of boys aged 12-16 who were in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare but where a community placement was not practical.⁶⁹¹ The Boys' Home function was also to cater for the extended care and treatment of a small number of boys aged between 12 and 14.⁶⁹²

⁶⁸⁰ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁸¹ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁸² Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁸³ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁸⁴ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁸⁵ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁸⁶ Letter, E Te Moananui, Director Review of Residential Services to Director General, 15/02/85, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773615.

⁶⁸⁷ Letter, E Te Moananui, Director Review of Residential Services to Director General, 15/02/85, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773615.

⁶⁸⁸ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁸⁹ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁹⁰ Institution Internal Audit Report, P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (residential), 31/05/88, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁶⁹¹ Hamilton Boys' Home Role and Functions, undated, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000002368864.

⁶⁹² Hamilton Boys' Home Role and Functions, undated, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000002368864.

The catchment area for Hamilton Boys' Home extended north to Huntly and Coromandel, west to Raglan, Kawhia and New Plymouth, south to Taumaranui and Turangi and east to Gisborne.⁶⁹³

The Principal, along with the relevant district liaison officer, was responsible for approving admissions to Hamilton Boys' Home.⁶⁹⁴

There are no admission statistics for the years preceding 1978. The number of admissions from 1978 to 1985 ranged from 367 to 487.⁶⁹⁵ The lowest was in 1983 due to admission criteria changing to focus on more serious offending.⁶⁹⁶ The number of admissions increased sharply in 1984 to 429 and again in 1985 to 487 admissions.⁶⁹⁷

From 1980 to 1982 just less than fifty percent of admissions were remand cases. This dropped to 40 percent in 1983 and 1984 but increased to 51 percent in 1985.⁶⁹⁸ The number of state wards admitted to Hamilton Boys' Home ranged from 26 to 33 percent from 1980-1984. This dropped to 16% in 1985.⁶⁹⁹ From 1980-1985 there was a trend of a decreasing number of residents being admitted on a police warrant, shown by 14 percent in 1980 compared with six percent in 1985.⁷⁰⁰

Approximately 15 percent of the residents at Hamilton Boys' Home were Pakeha, and the rest were predominantly Maori.⁷⁰¹

In 1978 the numbers in residence were consistently above the available bed numbers.⁷⁰² There was an increase in readmissions to the Home and there was, "... a marked increase in the physical violent, property damage types of offending."⁷⁰³ Some boys with gang affiliations were admitted to Hamilton Boys' Home and there was concern over the violent attitude of these admissions. A number of potentially dangerous situations had occurred in the Institution because of the violent nature of these residents.⁷⁰⁴ There was also an increase in the "racial undercurrent" and it was thought that the percentage of non-Maori admissions had decreased.⁷⁰⁵

It was noted in 1978 that the use of institutions as "holding pens" had grown considerably from preceding years and needed to be carefully monitored. It was felt that when sufficient information was gained which highlighted this use of institutions, the matter should be taken up with police to seek their cooperation and also directives issued to Social Welfare staff.⁷⁰⁶

⁶⁹³ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁹⁴ Inspection Questionnaire – District & National Institutions 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773705.

⁶⁹⁵ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571- Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁹⁶ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁹⁷ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616; Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁹⁸ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616; Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁶⁹⁹ Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616; Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁰⁰ Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616; Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁰¹ Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616; Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616

⁷⁰² Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁷⁰³ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁷⁰⁴ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁷⁰⁵ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁷⁰⁶ Handwritten comment on Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

In 1979 the types of offences for which boys were admitted was similar to that of previous years with racism, violence and more sophisticated types of offences becoming increasingly present at the Home.⁷⁰⁷ This became more prevalent in 1980 with a noticeable increase in violent offences against persons and property which were often gang-related.⁷⁰⁸ This meant that on admission boys were more anti-authority and some boys stayed in the community to avoid associating with current residents.⁷⁰⁹

It was observed in 1979 that there were an increasing number of Maori boys admitted to Hamilton Boys' Home who were classified as disturbed children when previously the majority of disturbed children residents were European.⁷¹⁰

The Principal commented in 1980 that the goals and aims of the institution had developed but not changed and were essentially determined by the types and pressures of admissions. The Home was increasingly becoming a remand and classification centre but the staff were still able to retain most aspects of short-term training.⁷¹¹ There was a change to direct liaison between contributing districts and the Boys' Home in 1980 from previously having a local liaison officer who dealt with admissions. This change meant there was, "... a significant reduction in the briefer admissions with the advent of direct liaison."⁷¹²

There was a decrease in the number of gang offences in 1981, but the types of offending had not changed.⁷¹³ The anti-authority nature of some inmates continued and was further experienced by the impact of the Rastapharian religion.⁷¹⁴

The trend of admissions for crimes against persons and property continued into 1982.⁷¹⁵ The Principal remarked that a large number of state wards were re-offending and being admitted to the Home and that they showed little remorse for their actions as the court would do little but admonish and return them to care.⁷¹⁶

The following quote from the 1985 Annual Report sets out the key issues for this year: "1985 presented considerable change. The effect of 'Judge Wallace's report' from 1984 started to have impact on this institution from the beginning of the year. The statistical figures show that District Court judges were following the spirit and intention of the report, sending more of the older offending children into our custody. There was, however, a dramatic change from the first of October when all, including those more hardened youngsters, came into our care as a direct result of the Criminal Justice Act. The remainder of the year was an adjustment period for both boys and staff. In retrospect, although the numbers in that age group had doubled, the number of young persons presenting serious difficulty and having disproportionate influence on the group, was in fact not very high at any one time. Those few particularly difficult 'ex-system' boys had severe detrimental effect on the other inmates and caused considerable stress on the staff."⁷¹⁷

⁷⁰⁷ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁷⁰⁸ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁰⁹ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷¹⁰ Report on Emotionally Disturbed Children and Young People in National and Local Institutions, JR Lee, Senior Residential Social Worker, 06/03/79, Hamilton Boys' Home F5000005773723.

⁷¹¹ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷¹² Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷¹³ Inspection Questionnaire – District & National Institutions 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773705.

⁷¹⁴ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷¹⁵ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷¹⁶ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷¹⁷ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

There was a reduction in acceptance of the authority of the Home, an increase in abscondings and some incidents of staff assaults because of the older age group admitted.⁷¹⁸ This older age group was illustrated by the increase of 16 year old boys to 96 in 1985 compared with 45 in 1984.⁷¹⁹

In 1985 there was a shift to boys wearing their own clothes in the institution.⁷²⁰

In 1988 it was stated that Hamilton Boys' Home was a short term remand centre for boys aged 13-17 years.⁷²¹

Length of stay

There is no information on length of stay before 1978.

In 1978 the increase in numbers of admissions did not reduce the length of stay which was averaging slightly less than four weeks.⁷²² The Principal remarked that, "... contributing districts will have to accept that remand periods of three months do not fit in with either the pressures on beds or with the programme cycles."⁷²³

From 1980 to 1985 the number of residents discharged to the community ranged from 63 to 75 percent. The number of residents discharged to a National Institution for this period ranged from 9 to 10 percent with a decrease to six percent in 1985.⁷²⁴

It was hoped in 1983 that a longer settlement period could be offered to some of the residents due to the decrease in admissions because of the change in admission criteria.⁷²⁵

The highest number of admissions in 1985 decreased the length of stay of boys at the home.⁷²⁶ This decrease was caused by the number of boys remanded to the Home for 2-3 weeks for probation reports or sentencing.⁷²⁷

Programmes and care

There is little information on the files available about the type of programmes offered in the home prior to 1980 other than the following references from 1959 and 1979.

The senior housemaster in 1959 followed what he had seen in the Auckland Homes and implemented a compulsory rest period in the afternoons which lead to trouble in

⁷¹⁸ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷¹⁹ Memo, CC Chibnall, Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Director, Hamilton, 16/01/86, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773705.

⁷²⁰ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷²¹ Institution Internal Audit Report, P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (residential), 31/05/88, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁷²² Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁷²³ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁷²⁴ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616; Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷²⁵ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷²⁶ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷²⁷ Memo, CC Chibnall, Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Director, Hamilton, 16/01/86, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773705.

the dormitories at night.⁷²⁸ The practice was criticised by an Inspector in 1959 who thought that the extra rest needed to be balanced by more physical activity at other times of the day.⁷²⁹

In 1979 in a report on emotionally disturbed children, it was noted that some of the children classified under this heading were able to adapt and normalise, "once exposed to our consistent, structured, warm but no-nonsense institutional environment, demonstrating that they actually have no real or deep emotional disturbance."⁷³⁰ No specific facilities existed for those children with a real emotional disturbance but the "institutional society" of Hamilton Boys' Home provided an environment that was conducive to rehabilitation of those residents.⁷³¹

Recreational activity, including indoor and outdoor sports, was a major part of the programme as it allowed, "...quick and effective contact with the boys and often good case work is made easier because of this, particularly as staff are encouraged to participate."⁷³² While it was commented that staff participation might be potentially dangerous it was, "... often the start of respectful attitudes and relationships."⁷³³ Camps and outings were part of the programme and usually took place in the holidays.⁷³⁴ "Free play" was also part of the recreation programme.⁷³⁵

It was felt that although contact with the residents was brief and the Home did not attempt a "remodelling or reconditioning" service, the hope was to "re-establish positive attitudes, supply alternatives, create respect and understanding of authority and develop skills sufficiently for survival in the community with adequate continuing care from other agencies."⁷³⁶

C.A.A. personnel were not part of the programme at Hamilton Boys' Home in 1980.⁷³⁷ It was noted by the Principal that when Head Office were asked about the possible introduction of an Arts & Crafts instructor, no reply was received.⁷³⁸ Proposals for C.A.A workers were intended to be made in 1981.⁷³⁹

Two C.A.A staff were employed as part of the programme in 1981 – one was a mechanical instructor and the other a physical education instructor who took wrestling for four hours during the week. In 1983 a pottery and craft instructor was employed as well as a trampolining instructor for one term.⁷⁴⁰ The pottery instructor continued in 1985 and some other instructors were employed for short periods of time for activities such as macramé and jazzercise.⁷⁴¹

In response to an inspectors question, "What programmes are arranged during the day to cater for ... those not attending school (other than domestic activities)?" the reply was given that, "Schooling for boys not attending school is not offered either

⁷²⁸ Extract from Report of unknown author, 16-24/03/59, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile 31571.

⁷²⁹ Extract from Report of unknown author, 16-24/03/59, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile 31571.

⁷³⁰ Report on Emotionally Disturbed Children and Young People in National and Local Institutions, JR Lee, Senior Residential Social Worker, 06/03/79, Hamilton Boys' Home F5000005773616.

⁷³¹ Report on Emotionally Disturbed Children and Young People in National and Local Institutions, JR Lee, Senior Residential Social Worker, 06/03/79, Hamilton Boys' Home F5000005773616. For more detail about emotionally disturbed children, see the report.

⁷³² Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷³³ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷³⁴ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷³⁵ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷³⁶ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷³⁷ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷³⁸ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷³⁹ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁴⁰ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁴¹ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

they are not steady enough for schooling or consider themselves beyond it.⁷⁴² The response when asked to give details of regular programmes and activities for residents outside of school hours was that, "This is a major structure of our overall programme & to detail it is not practicable here but our therapy and our case work is very much based on the activities programme which varies to meet the needs of the boys through various types of sporting and games activities to quieter arts and crafts activities."⁷⁴³

The rise in the number of admissions in 1981 meant that the programme was heavily focussed on containment, although a therapeutic atmosphere continued because of programme activity and good casework.⁷⁴⁴

The staff were aware of the need for quick and accurate assessments for residents and in 1981 the Principal stated that they were developing a system to fully assess and identify needs of residents quickly to ensure that the full potential of the brief stay is reached.⁷⁴⁵

In 1982 the "Care Profile" pilot was introduced and the "School Assessment" system was about to be used as was the starting of the "Pre-vocation Vocational" instrument.⁷⁴⁶

Boys in residence at the Home over one month qualified for the 'Care Profile' but some residents qualified on the basis of the degree to which they needed various aspects of care.⁷⁴⁷ Residents destined for long-term institutions also had a Profile completed. If a resident was programmed for a Profile, the staff examined the resident's behaviour closely and the casework team gathered information from all files and reports available. The teams then used this information and their own observations to decide on a suitable intervention strategy.⁷⁴⁸ The Care Profile report was then brought to staff meetings for discussion and was also checked by the review committee.⁷⁴⁹

A Report on the value of the Care Profiles found that there was no uniform procedure followed by social workers when using them and that the information was only acted on when considered relevant. It was also found that there were some delays in Care Profiles being received by social workers and other caregivers and that this diminished the potential of the Care Profiles. Overall they were thought to be, "... making important practical contributions to raising the standard of professional assessment in institutions by providing a practical and relevant vehicle for social work training."⁷⁵⁰

The development of a long-term facility for Hamilton Boys' Home was proposed in 1983. It was proposed to renovate the existing staff wing to develop a five bed unit which would be self-contained.⁷⁵¹ The programme for the long-term unit was envisaged to begin with an introductory period in the Boys Home short-term programme and enrolment at the Boys' Home school. When the resident was

⁷⁴² Inspection Questionnaire – District & National Institutions 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773705.

⁷⁴³ Inspection Questionnaire – District & National Institutions 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773705.

⁷⁴⁴ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁴⁵ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁴⁶ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁴⁷ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁴⁸ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁴⁹ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁵⁰ Unnamed Report, SM Baker 18.09.84, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773707.

⁷⁵¹ Memo, C Chibnall, Principal Hamilton Boys' Home to Director General, Wellington, 05/05/83, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773615

transferred to the long-term unit they would transfer to Melville Intermediate or High School when considered stable. Home leave would be regular and the residents would be encouraged to have appropriate visitors from outside the family.⁷⁵² The case work would be under the direct supervision of the Assistant Principal and the three residential social workers would develop a programme that focussed on long-term care and behavioural development in the school and community. Those in the unit would have limited contact with residents in the short term institution⁷⁵³

The extended care (or long-term) unit came into full operation in 1984 which aimed, "... to meet the needs of boys who would normally be considered for Hokio Beach School, but who in a mildly structured environment are able to sustain continued community involvement covering school, sport, leisure and after school employment."⁷⁵⁴ It was called Mt View Hostel and one of the main aims was to work closely with family and social workers with regular home contact being encouraged.⁷⁵⁵ Seven boys were placed in this hostel during 1984 but four were withdrawn. The admission criterion was redefined because of this and the Principal was confident that future admissions would benefit more from the programme.⁷⁵⁶

The Principal was responsible for the casework management for all residents in the extended care unit and the admitting district was responsible for initiating the planning and review procedures in liaison with the Principal.⁷⁵⁷

The increase in staffing changes meant that a "truer case work approach" was developed in 1984 which made staff, "...more conscious of the pressures of the custodial needs of a large number of admissions coming in for short periods."⁷⁵⁸

In 1985, the increase in admissions and consequent shorter length of stay meant that there was difficulty in developing individual programmes for residents and the focus turned to containment.⁷⁵⁹ The change in resident profile meant that the focus of the programme was more custodial rather than social work-based.⁷⁶⁰

The lack of craft work facilities, especially in the cultural area was highlighted in 1985 and it was hoped that the request for extra class rooms would free space for these activities.⁷⁶¹

In 1985 the "rest period", a quiet time when boys had to be in their room, was still used in the home.⁷⁶² The Principal considered it to be a most valuable activity as it allowed for the residents to relax without group pressure and allowed residential staff to have individual contact with the residents in a relaxed setting.⁷⁶³ JA Blair (for the Director-General) requested that the Director, Hamilton discuss rest periods with the

⁷⁵² Memo, C Chibnall, Principal Hamilton Boys' Home to Director General, Wellington, 05/05/83, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773615.

⁷⁵³ Memo, C Chibnall, Principal Hamilton Boys' Home to Director General, Wellington, 05/05/83, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773615.

⁷⁵⁴ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁵⁵ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁵⁶ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁵⁷ Memo, BM Manchester, Acting Director-General to Director, Hamilton, 30/05/84, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773615.

⁷⁵⁸ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁵⁹ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁶⁰ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁶¹ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁶² Memo, C Chibnall, Principal Hamilton Boys' Home to Director, Hamilton, 08/11/85, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773615.

⁷⁶³ Memo, C Chibnall, Principal Hamilton Boys' Home to Director, Hamilton, 08/11/85, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773615.

Principal as they were contrary to Departmental practice.⁷⁶⁴ The Principal responded that the Social Work Manual discussed the need for extra sleep and that he believed compulsory rest for young people could be of, "... enormous therapeutic value to disturbed youngster..." and that the requirement in the manual was too restrictive in relation to younger children in residential care.⁷⁶⁵

In 1987 an Audit was completed on Hamilton Boys' Home to see how well staff knew and understood the Children and Young Persons (Residential Care) Regulations 1986.⁷⁶⁶ The residents in the Home had positive attitudes about the changes brought about by the Regulations, such as greater access to telephones and being allowed to wear their own clothes.⁷⁶⁷ The residents showed they were well inducted to the Home and used the comic "The Home" as a way of getting to know the regulations.⁷⁶⁸ It was noted again that the compulsory rest periods identified in the audit were contrary to the spirit of the regulations.⁷⁶⁹

The 1988 audit report stated that residents attended school or did horticulture and garden work.⁷⁷⁰ It was noted that good programmes were provided by the teachers and the gardener with some help from residential staff.⁷⁷¹

Work and training

There was no information in the files viewed for this project on work and training for the years prior to 1980.

In 1980, work training concentrated on the basic fundamentals for every day living. The residents carried out routine repairs around the Home and during the school holidays participated in activities like paper-hanging and painting. They also participated in the upkeep of the grounds including the gardens and lawns.⁷⁷²

Industrial outwork was also a sporadic part of the programme in 1980.⁷⁷³ The industrial work continued, often at short notice and had its rewards in increased pocket money on discharge.⁷⁷⁴ Industrial outwork decreased in 1982 and was predicted to remain so due to the unemployment rates in the community.⁷⁷⁵ Work experience was not offered because of the short-term nature of the home and the

⁷⁶⁴ Memo, JA Blair, for Director-General to Director, Hamilton, 31/10/85, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773615.

⁷⁶⁵ Memo, C Chibnall, Principal Hamilton Boys' Home to Director, Hamilton, 08/11/85, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile F5000005773615.

⁷⁶⁶ Audit Report: P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor 12/11/87, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁷⁶⁷ Audit Report: P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor 12/11/87, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁷⁶⁸ Audit Report: P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor 12/11/87, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁷⁶⁹ Audit Report: P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor 12/11/87, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁷⁷⁰ Institution Internal Audit Report, P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (residential), 31/05/88, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁷⁷¹ Institution Internal Audit Report, P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (residential), 31/05/88, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁷⁷² Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁷³ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁷⁴ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁷⁵ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

instability of the residents, but there was a general orientation towards work experience for the fifteen year olds in the school.⁷⁷⁶

In 1980, the Principal stated that, "Vocational training other than internal work areas does not apply in our type of Regional Institution."⁷⁷⁷ Though vocational training was not available,⁷⁷⁸ the school unit tried to make residents aware of vocational possibilities.⁷⁷⁸ At the end of 1982 a Vocational Needs Profile was being developed as part of the new assessment system in the Home.⁷⁷⁹

In 1983 the area of work training was said to be developing as much as it could within the limits of a short-term institution.⁷⁸⁰

In 1984 there was more emphasis on providing pre-vocational tuition and work experience. Because a large number of boys aged between 15 and 16 years were admitted to the school, a unit was offered on job interview techniques for these residents.⁷⁸¹ The long-term unit encouraged after school employment and gardening and household work continued as part of work training.⁷⁸²

In 1984 a large number of boys aged between 15 and 16 years were admitted to the school so a unit was offered on job interview techniques for these residents.⁷⁸³

In 1985 the institution continued to provide horticulture work training, but the gardening instructor left and due to difficulties in finding a suitable replacement, it was felt this position would not be filled until well into 1986.⁷⁸⁴

The audit report in 1987 found that the garden and horticulture work skills programme was excellent.⁷⁸⁵

Resident-to-resident issues

No information was found on file pertaining to resident-to-resident issues prior to 1980.

It was commented in 1980 that social workers were, "... thinking twice before exposing the gentler offenders to the 'heavier' inmates now in residence."⁷⁸⁶

In 1985 with the increase in older and more sophisticated residents, the extended care unit's use was changed and it was intended to put some of the younger residents there who were likely to be more vulnerable to the these older residents.⁷⁸⁷

⁷⁷⁶ Inspection Questionnaire – District & National Institutions 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773705.

⁷⁷⁷ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁷⁸ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁷⁹ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁸⁰ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁸¹ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁸² Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁸³ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁸⁴ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁸⁵ Audit Report: P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor 12/11/87, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁷⁸⁶ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁸⁷ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

Health and medication

No information pre-dating 1980 was found in relation to health issues.

In 1980, when boys were admitted to Hamilton Boys' Home they were checked by staff for physical deformities, surface scars, boils and scabies amongst other things.⁷⁸⁸ The admissions were given a thorough check by the visiting GP who came three times a week.⁷⁸⁹

In 1980 the Department of Education Psychologist visited the home for a half day each week giving enough time to see two boys.⁷⁹⁰ This was said to be superficial in 1981 because it meant that only approximately 20% of boys were being screened.⁷⁹¹

Psychiatric help was more difficult to get at this time, but the Psychotherapist was able to offer much valuable help.⁷⁹²

The involvement of the Psychologist in the introduction of the 'Care Profile' in 1982 resulted in more contact with the psychological service. Though there was more contact with this service, the psychologist limited the number of boys screened because he believed that the 'Care Profile' assessment was more thorough in the areas he normally examined.⁷⁹³

In 1984 it was commented that all residents had a full medical examination within 24 hours of admission and other dental and medical matters were soon followed up.⁷⁹⁴

In 1985 the Family Planning Association gave specialist instruction in sexual development.⁷⁹⁵

In 1985 it was said that boys were, "... encouraged to have their full medical examination on admission."⁷⁹⁶

Psychiatric hospital placement

There is no mention of psychiatric hospital placements within the Hamilton Boys' Home files.

Staffing

There is limited information on the files about staffing before 1978.

⁷⁸⁸ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁸⁹ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁹⁰ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁹¹ Inspection Questionnaire – District & National Institutions 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773705.

⁷⁹² Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁹³ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁹⁴ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁹⁵ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁷⁹⁶ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

Organisation

In 1959 it was noted that the DCWO arranged for fortnightly staff meetings to be attended by the Senior staff of the Receiving Home, Miss Cunningham (unknown designation) and those members of the Boys' home staff who were available.⁷⁹⁷

The District Child Welfare Officer did not consider that the appointment of night staff was necessary in 1965.⁷⁹⁸

1978 was considered a difficult year for Hamilton Boys' Home due to staffing numbers being maintained only by the use of temporary personnel.⁷⁹⁹ The Assistant Principal's position was vacant for six months and a housemaster position was vacant for eight months.⁸⁰⁰ There were also pressures on staff in relation to the number of residents being regularly in excess of the bed numbers available.⁸⁰¹ The minimum supervision coverage was increased from three to four by the employment of an extra temporary worker.⁸⁰² This extra coverage made for considerable gains in the programme and for personal contact between staff and residents as well as an increase in the safety and security levels for staff.⁸⁰³

There were also increasing numbers of violent and gang-affiliated admissions, and an increase in the "racial undercurrent" which also placed pressures on staff in 1978. The Principal, Mr Chibnall, believed, "that it will only be a matter of time before the numerical weakness of our staff coverage, at times such as weekends, will fail to prevent violence towards either staff or other inmates."⁸⁰⁴

The considerable pressure the Boys' Home was under due to staffing levels and the inability to prevent admissions to the Home was recognised by Mr Ball (position not recorded). It was recommended that the request for extra staff be approved by employing three special scheme workers as a temporary measure.⁸⁰⁵

Even with the problems around staffing levels, staff calibre was considered to be high which enabled them to deal with, "... heavy loadings, vacancies and increasingly disturbed children, and still maintain[ing] a therapeutic atmosphere."⁸⁰⁶

Temporary staff were again used to maintain staffing levels in 1979 due to a number of vacancies, changes in staff and the Assistant Principal being away on sick leave for a long period.⁸⁰⁷ The Principal reported that throughout this situation, standards and services were maintained.⁸⁰⁸

The staff and service levels maintained in 1979 were at a basic level because the ratio of staff to residents precluded a lot of one to one contact or small group work.⁸⁰⁹ This lack of staff was emphasised further with the addition of a semi-secure unit, because it required more staff attention which resulted in supervision pressures in

⁷⁹⁷ Extract from Report of unknown author, 16-24/03/59, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile 31571.

⁷⁹⁸ Memo, AL Rounthwaite, DCWO to Superintendent, 01/11/65, Hamilton Boys' Home Staffing 31571. The file is not clear about whether this would introduce night staff for the first time, or create additional night staff positions.

⁷⁹⁹ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸⁰⁰ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸⁰¹ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸⁰² Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸⁰³ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸⁰⁴ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸⁰⁵ Memo, T Ball to unknown recipient, 07/03/78, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile 31571.

⁸⁰⁶ Annual Report 1978, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸⁰⁷ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸⁰⁸ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸⁰⁹ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

the main group.⁸¹⁰ "... The closer opportunities presented by having inmates in the semi-secure unit are often lost through not having staff available at the critical times."⁸¹¹

In the 1979 Annual Report, the Principal noted that the minimum number of three supervisory staff per shift was dangerous, especially on weekends, even though the, "... high standards of staff sensitivity and awareness with close and vigilant supervision" prevented anti staff incidents developing.⁸¹² The Principal believed that, "an increase of staff is necessary for the improved and intensive therapeutic care required for the type of children being admitted."⁸¹³ Staff morale was believed to be high with an increasingly professional approach developing within the programme, notwithstanding the staffing difficulties.⁸¹⁴

Staff vacancies continued to be filled by relievers in 1980.⁸¹⁵ The minimum coverage was still in issue with only three professional staff covering all aspects of the programme, including secure and semi-secure. This meant that staff were often stretched to dangerous levels.⁸¹⁶ The request for an additional staff member for each of the three shifts was considered urgent. It was also felt that senior staff availability would be improved if a Clerical Assistant was employed because this work was being done by senior staff.⁸¹⁷

The introduction of a clerical assistant in 1981 along with part-time staff for evening and weekend work made a, "... dramatic difference in the programme safety levels, overall coverage and quality of work."⁸¹⁸ Residential social workers became responsible for admission and the secure areas rather than the less experienced assistant residential social workers being responsible.⁸¹⁹

C.A.A. personnel were not part of the programme at Hamilton Boys' Home.⁸²⁰ It was noted by the Principal that when Head Office were asked about the possible introduction of an Arts & Crafts instructor, no reply was received.⁸²¹ Proposals for C.A.A workers were intended to be made in 1981.⁸²²

Two C.A.A staff were part of the programme in 1981 – one was a mechanical instructor and the other a physical education instructor who took wrestling for four hours during the week. In 1983 a pottery and craft instructor was employed as well as a trampolining instructor for one term.⁸²³ The Pottery and mechanic instructors continued in 1984.⁸²⁴ The pottery instructor continued in 1985 and some other instructors were employed for short periods of time for things like macramé and jassercise.⁸²⁵ The change in admissions to older, more sophisticated boys caused stress on staff by, "the changes in their work, the pressures of the numbers and types of boys' being admitted, staff inability to carry out their perceived social

⁸¹⁰ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸¹¹ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸¹² Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸¹³ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸¹⁴ Annual Report 1979, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports 31571.

⁸¹⁵ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸¹⁶ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸¹⁷ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸¹⁸ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸¹⁹ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸²⁰ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸²¹ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸²² Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸²³ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸²⁴ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸²⁵ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

work/assessment roles to the depth they would like and the physical risks they feel are presenting."⁸²⁶

In 1982 the Principal was away on sick leave or was involved with other committees which meant Mr Flynn, the Assistant Principal had considerable responsibility for the Home.⁸²⁷ Chad Chibnall, Principal Hamilton Boys' Home, presented a paper on his visits and impressions while representing the Residential Care Association at the 10th Congress of the International Association of Workers for mal-adjusted children in Copenhagen.⁸²⁸

In 1982 three additional staff were employed to provide staff cover to the secure unit where a boy awaiting a murder trial was being contained.⁸²⁹ The Principal commented that this temporary staff coverage highlighted the difficulty in justifying the use of a secure unit without constant staff coverage.⁸³⁰ When the boy was acquitted of murder, the secure coverage was taken away. The Principal remarked that the lack of cover was a long-standing issue about which promises had been made but never fulfilled. He believed "that supervisory staff could not be expected to carry the responsibility of having to leave boys locked in a secure unit without staff coverage."⁸³¹ When it was realised in 1983 that the boy acquitted of murder would be remaining in the secure unit for at least another six months (reasons unknown), one staff member was reinstated to cover secure care. With this staff member, "... and by making an additional two staff available a programme for 5 boys ... can be implemented. This is in line with our objective of working with children in care in their home communities..."⁸³²

In 1983 a number of staff were placed in acting positions due to staff changes and transfers within, and to other institutions. The Principal mentioned that this did not affect the quality of work.⁸³³ The main need for staffing at the end of this year was to have the Assistant Principal taken off roster enabling him to facilitate better casework supervision and planning.⁸³⁴

There was a high turnover of staff in 1984 but this did not affect the service delivered to the community and the residents.⁸³⁵ Six new positions were established which allowed for the secure unit to be permanently staffed along with the long-term care unit.⁸³⁶ One position was created to cover the gap made by taking the Assistant Principal off the roster which was said by the Principal to enhance the quality of service provided.⁸³⁷ With the increase in staff it was decided to put the residential social workers on a two month rotation of the three units; open, secure and extended care to provide experience in each situation.⁸³⁸

⁸²⁶ Memo, CC Chibnall, Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Director, Hamilton, 12/12/85, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile, F5000005773615.

⁸²⁷ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸²⁸ Residential Care Association Inc Report, Chad Chibnall, June 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773615.

⁸²⁹ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸³⁰ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸³¹ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸³² Report, BM Manchester, Acting Director-General to the Acting Minister of Social Welfare, 14/06/83, Hamilton Boys' Home Staffing F5000005773615.

⁸³³ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸³⁴ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸³⁵ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸³⁶ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸³⁷ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸³⁸ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

There were limited staffing changes in 1985 which was attributed to the stabilising of the new positions created the previous year.⁸³⁹ Relievers were brought in during the holiday period so that more than one person was on each shift.⁸⁴⁰

The Principal, Mr Chibnall, retired in 1988 and the Assistant Principal acted in this position.⁸⁴¹

Training/Supervision

A casework team comprised of the Assistant Principal or a senior residential social worker, a residential social worker and an assistant residential social worker. The work of the residential and assistant residential social workers was overseen by their team leader whose responsibilities included casework supervision, programme responsibility and staff training.⁸⁴²

A full staff meeting was held weekly, as was a training meeting between the assistant residential social workers and the Assistant Principal.⁸⁴³ Senior staff also met once a week to discuss policy and programmes.⁸⁴⁴

All relevant files and manuals were available to staff which ensured that a high level of knowledge was maintained by staff.⁸⁴⁵

Staff training continued in 1980 with staff attending internal and external courses.⁸⁴⁶ This training continued in 1981 with staff also attending courses at the Residential Staff Training Service.⁸⁴⁷

In 1984 there was limited opportunity for in-service training courses, but internal staff training was developed during the year and mainly carried out by the senior residential social workers.⁸⁴⁸

The increase in staff in 1984 meant that the three senior residential social workers were responsible for the full supervision of their casework teams. Individual formal supervision meetings were held every three weeks and a case work meeting was held once a week. The weekly staff meetings continued as in previous years.⁸⁴⁹

Staff training continued in 1985 with an emphasis on modular training for the recently appointed assistant residential social workers.⁸⁵⁰

In 1987 the Audit report found that there was a need for an annual staff training programme for all staff, "... on the Children and Young Persons regulations, practice implications and their roles and responsibilities under the regulations."⁸⁵¹

The Audit report in 1988 recommended, "... that a Residential Social Work model be adopted to help staff translate Philosophy to effective practice."⁸⁵² The need for

⁸³⁹ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁴⁰ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁴¹ Institution Internal Audit Report, P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (residential), 31/05/88, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁸⁴² Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁴³ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁴⁴ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁴⁵ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁴⁶ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁴⁷ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁴⁸ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁴⁹ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁵⁰ Annual Report 1985, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁵¹ Audit Report: P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor 12/11/87, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

monitoring staff supervision was realised as well as the need for developing internal staff training.⁸⁵³

Concern

It was stated by an unknown author that the Boys' Home was not functioning too well in 1959 because none of the staff had experience in a Child Welfare Institution.⁸⁵⁴ "Control of boys, grouping, discipline and use of the remand room were present problems which one would expect to find and were causing concern."⁸⁵⁵ The senior housemaster was not experienced in group work and was considered to be "surprisingly fearful" because the personality of the residents was new to him.⁸⁵⁶ There is no response to this concern recorded on file.

A newspaper clipping in 1967 reported that Mr Hardy S.M. was concerned about the lack of supervision in the Home and that residents were absconding too frequently.⁸⁵⁷ There was no response on file to this concern.

In 1986 after two residents absconded from the semi-secure unit it became evident that half-hour nightly checks by the staff member in charge had not occurred. The impression gained by the Assistant Principal was that it was because this staff member was afraid to enter the semi-secure and secure units when residents were in there, especially when they were older and bigger residents.⁸⁵⁸ The Assistant Principal considered that there were two problems that needed attention. The first was how to ensure that staff were completing their job properly and the second was how to help them cope with the perceived threat they felt under.⁸⁵⁹ An enquiry by the Principal revealed that other night staff were becoming increasingly nervous about entering the semi-secure unit when a number of boys' were in residence there. This was because the boys were not locked into their individual rooms and there was potential for these boys to form a group to overpower a staff member.⁸⁶⁰ The night staff were instructed by the Principal that both staff were to be present when checks of these units were made if there was more than one resident in secure.⁸⁶¹

Schooling

No information on the school programme was found until 1978

⁸⁵² Institution Internal Audit Report, P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (residential), 31/05/88, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁸⁵³ Institution Internal Audit Report, P Aiono, Senior Internal Auditor (residential), 31/05/88, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports ADM 21-6-220 Part one.

⁸⁵⁴ Extract from Report of unknown author, 16-24/03/59, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile 31571.

⁸⁵⁵ Extract from Report of unknown author, 16-24/03/59, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile 31571.

⁸⁵⁶ Extract from Report of unknown author, 16-24/03/59, Hamilton Boys' Home Profile 31571.

⁸⁵⁷ Unknown author, "Supervision at Home slated as 'inadequate'", *Waikato Times* 28/04/67, Hamilton Boys' Home Staffing 31571.

⁸⁵⁸ Memo, DS Horsefield, Assistant Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home, 17/06/86, Hamilton Boys' Home Secure F5000005773615.

⁸⁵⁹ Memo, DS Horsefield, Assistant Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home, 17/06/86, Hamilton Boys' Home Secure F5000005773615.

⁸⁶⁰ Memo, CC Chibnall, Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Acting Director, Hamilton, 24/06/89, Hamilton Boys' Home Secure F5000005773615.

⁸⁶¹ Memo, CC Chibnall, Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Acting Director, Hamilton, 24/06/89, Hamilton Boys' Home Secure F5000005773615.

By 1981, the general objective of the Home was to get all children into the school setting which was situated on the premises, regardless of their age and even if it was only on a part-time basis.⁸⁶² In 1980, no residents were attending school outside the Home or taking correspondence.⁸⁶³

The focus of the school was on allowing the residents to achieve success in order to fulfil a more "positive self concept". This was done by including a strong sports focus to the school rather than having a completely academic programme.⁸⁶⁴

The number of residents attending school increased over the period 1978-1980 with 180 pupils taught in 1978 and 215 taught in 1980. This increase in school attendance put pressure on the three teachers and the one teacher aide.⁸⁶⁵ Additional teacher aid hours were allocated to expand the individual use of the remedial reading programme.⁸⁶⁶

The school programme in 1980 focussed on rewarding a boy for what he could do well in order to build on personal strength.⁸⁶⁷ Sporting participation was encouraged, including boxing and gymnastics as well as team games.⁸⁶⁸ "A successful aspect of our school programme focuses on teacher-organised and run gym sessions. Where possible the teachers do all of the 'tasks' or activities they expect the boys to do – this is done to eliminate double standards which all too often prevail."⁸⁶⁹

A main objective of the school was to provide a current assessment of the academic and social progress of a boy to the Principal, but it was noted that the short stay of some of the boys hindered this.⁸⁷⁰ The curriculum was designed to meet each boy's individual needs and the school focussed on relevance and interest values in its programmes. This allowed drivers licence, fire arms safety, drug education and other practical lessons to be taught.⁸⁷¹ The academic aspect of schooling was initially structured and supervised and then could be liberalised once "basic listening and common courtesy skills" were established.⁸⁷²

The relationship between the school unit and the Institution was regarded by the Head teacher as being positive and constructive.⁸⁷³ In 1981 the Principal recorded that, "... we believe we are singularly fortunate in the schooling we have available from the Head Teacher, Mr Burke, and his staff. The care concern and thoroughness they display make their service something the boys seek and enjoy."⁸⁷⁴ The school and the Home staff met fortnightly and there were regular informal meetings to ensure that there were consistent policies between the Home and the school.⁸⁷⁵

⁸⁶² Inspection Questionnaire – District & National Institutions 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773705.

⁸⁶³ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁶⁴ Memo, CC Chibnall, Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Acting Director, Hamilton, 08/12/81, Hamilton Boys' Home Education F5000005773615.

⁸⁶⁵ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁶⁶ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁶⁷ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁶⁸ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁶⁹ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁷⁰ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁷¹ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁷² Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁷³ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁷⁴ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁷⁵ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

It was felt that the wide catchment area of admission often meant that there was limited information relating to boys academic and social progress prior to their admission⁸⁷⁶

There was concern over the attitude of the boys who entered the school unit as often these boys saw little value in continuing to attend school and showed apprehension and resentment towards the teaching staff.⁸⁷⁷ It was noted in 1981 that there was a consistent level of under-achievement in the residents at the Boys' Home.⁸⁷⁸

The average number of boys in each class in 1981 was approximately 10.⁸⁷⁹ The Head Teacher noted that although there were three teachers and a part-time teacher aide, there was sometimes a need for extra staff due to excessive resident numbers.⁸⁸⁰ The number of boys in the school increased in 1982,⁸⁸¹ but dropped in 1983 because of the decrease in admissions to the Home. This allowed for, "... more individualised programming and remedial work..."⁸⁸² There was concern in 1984 over the pressure of increased class numbers and submissions were made for extra staff and facilities.⁸⁸³

It was felt by the Principal and Head Teacher that there should be greater flexibility in relief time for teachers to enable them to meet with others in community school setting in order to gain knowledge about reintegration of residents to community schools.⁸⁸⁴ It was also felt that the teacher-to-student ratio should be examined as they were considered to be too high.⁸⁸⁵

In 1983 horticulture was added to the school programme to operate in conjunction with the institution's gardening programme.⁸⁸⁶

The Head Teacher commented in 1983 that the Care Profile and School Skills assessment meant that residential social workers were coming into the school to observe the behaviour of the residents and view their work. "It is gratifying to see this interaction taking place."⁸⁸⁷ The Teachers' Guide and Handbook became available to the school in 1983 and was considered by the Head Teacher to be a major achievement.⁸⁸⁸

The school unit took approximately 90% of admissions in 1984 and two boys in the long-term unit attended Melville High School in 1984.⁸⁸⁹

The Head Teacher commented that, "The 1984 school year was more difficult than most of the past 9 years our staff has been together in this school setting."⁸⁹⁰ This

⁸⁷⁶ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁷⁷ Annual Report 1980, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁷⁸ Memo, CC Chibnall, Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Acting Director, Hamilton, 08/12/81, Hamilton Boys' Home Education F5000005773615.

⁸⁷⁹ Inspection Questionnaire – District & National Institutions 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773705.

⁸⁸⁰ Annual Report 1981, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁸¹ Annual Report 1982, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁸² Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁸³ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁸⁴ Memo, CC Chibnall, Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Acting Director, Hamilton, 08/12/81, Hamilton Boys' Home Education F5000005773615.

⁸⁸⁵ Memo, CC Chibnall, Principal, Hamilton Boys' Home to Acting Director, Hamilton, 08/12/81, Hamilton Boys' Home Education F5000005773615.

⁸⁸⁶ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁸⁷ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁸⁸ Annual Report 1983, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁸⁹ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.

⁸⁹⁰ Annual Report 1984, Hamilton Boys' Home Reports F5000005773616.