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BRIEF FOR THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER

RE VISIT TO JOHN OXLEY YOUTH CENTRE

THURSDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 1989

Area of Service:

John Oxley Youth Centre is a detention facility for young offenders. The Centre's aim is to assist young residents to realise their potential and provide them with an opportunity to lead law abiding lifestyles after their release.

John Oxley Youth Centre opened on 17th February, 1987 with children coming from Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre. The Centre is of modern construction with an abundance of glass which creates an air of openness. The setting was designed to allow residents greater freedom and responsibility within a secure facility.

The Centre has a number of professional and youth work staff who provide multi-faceted programs designed to promote responsible behaviours in residents.

The Centre's features are:

- . The Centre has three accommodation wings. Each wing houses 10 residents and has seven separate sleeping units. The remaining bedroom sleeps three people. The wings have separate dining and kitchenette areas enabling each wing to be self-contained. This allows young people to accept responsibility towards their living area.
- . A mechanic's workshop
- . A multi-purpose recreation area is available during evenings and wet weather.
- . A large open class teaching area with additional adjacent areas.
- . A large oval
- . A swimming pool
- . The Centre has a dual purpose basketball and tennis court.

Managers:

Mr Peter Coyne
Manager

Ms Anne Dutney
Deputy Manager

Staff Establishment:

The total staff establishment is 55 staff made up of the following:

Domestic	2
Yard	1
Housekeeper	1
Youth Worker (Cooks)	2
Youth Worker (Practical Training)	2

Youth Worker (Residential)	28
Senior Youth Worker	4
Principal Youth Worker	3
Teacher	3
Family Services Officer	1
Senior Family Services Adviser	1
Psychologist	1
Sister	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Administration Officer	1
Clerk	1
Deputy Manager	1
Manager	1

Services Provided:

Physical needs of resident children are provided, e.g. accommodation, food, clothing, etc.

Individual educational services are available.

Medical, social work and psychological services are provided.

An individual needs analysis and "goal" oriented programs are provided by youth work and professional staff.

Liaison with families, community groups, other Government departments and area offices occurs.

Description of Clients:

Generally -

- . Children committed to the care and control of the Director-General for offences by a court. The Centre cares for boys between the ages of 10 and 15 years, and girls between the ages of 10 and 17 years.
- . Girls on remand for offences.

Occasionally -

- . The Centre takes older boys who are not suitable for Westbrook Youth Centre.
- . The Centre takes boys on remand for offences who cannot be catered for at Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre.
- . Girls subject to care and control applications.
- . Boys committed to care and control by applications.

Current Significant Issues:

Several unions representing staff have raised with the Honourable the Minister issues involving:

- . personal safety of staff;
- . the adequacy of staffing;
- . the physical structure of the Centre and its amenities;
- . staff training;
- . the role of the Centre (now taking highly disturbed children and those on remand).

The Queensland State Service Union has also made representations on behalf of several staff who have claimed that management has discriminated against them.

The Director-General is initiating a process for independent investigation of these concerns.