

CONSULTATIVE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES ON RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE 1977-2003¹

The Committee of Inquiry into Residential Child Care, which heard submissions in the second half of 1976, identified the “high level of co-operation between voluntary and statutory bodies, the recognition of the need to set standards and work towards them and that residential care be acknowledged as only one of a number of alternatives in the management of children’s care programmes” and , in addition, recommended that the “Government establish without delay a Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care [CCRCC] as an active working body.”²

The first meeting of this Committee, established by the Premier of Western Australia was held on January 28th 1977 and its inaugural Chair was Ms Beryl Grant, former Director of Ngala. The mandate of the CCRCC was provided by the Minister for Community Welfare, to whom it reported:

The objects and powers of the Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care in assisting the discharge of the functions and duties of the Director and the Department are:-

- (a) to set out clear statements of child care practice;
- (b) to advise agencies providing child care facilities on long term planning and development of programmes;
- (c) to review the activities of agencies providing child care in order to ensure the even distribution of services provided;
- (d) to monitor the current practice of child care with the current standards;
- (e) to accept submissions from agencies providing child care on matters relative to their field of operation in child care and make recommendations thereon;
- (f) to receive and review the annual report from each agency providing child care;
- (g) to review funding for recurrent grants and for projects and to make recommendations to the Minister thereon;
- (h) to appoint, employ, remove, or suspend such staff as may be necessary for the purpose of the committee;
- (i) to carry out such other incidental functions in relation to child care as the Minister may from time to time direct.

The CCRCC had an increasingly important role in coordinating the growth of professionalism in the sector through the regular exchange of information by its members, and by sponsoring industry seminars such as that hosted by Castledare in 1980 where: “Over 100 participants from a wide sphere of child care agencies attended”, with sessions including “working with the infant and young child, the adolescent,

¹ Some of the terms in this document reproduce the language used at the time the source documents were written. These are retained for historical accuracy.

² Annual Report of the Department for Community Welfare, June 30th 1977

education of children in care; the qualities needed in the caring staff and a very interesting section on the identity problems that most children in residential care must overcome.”³

Consistent with the Department’s response to the *Children in Limbo* project, and meeting its objective of setting out clear statements of child care practice, the CCRCC in 1979 recommended to member agencies that “the progress of all children in care” in the Non-Government sector “be reviewed at regular intervals.”⁴

In 1982, the CCRCC was an important contributor to the *Senate Inquiry into Children and Youth under Institutional Care*, giving a recent history of residential child care in the State and providing some significant context for practices in Western Australia. As the *Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care Submission*⁵ indicated, development of “cottage care reflects the thrust particularly evident in the past decade, to have residential care replicate as far as possible, normal family and community life, and wherever possible to retain more seriously disturbed children within the normalizing influence of a small group of better adjusted peers.” The submission also noted, though, that “single women caretakers and groups of 15-20 children were historical features which can be only very loosely aligned to a ‘family type model).” Five main trends in the direction of and attitudes toward residential substitute care were noted in the submission:

1. Increased concern for the provision of preventive programmes to ensure that only children whose needs specifically require it are admitted to residence.
2. Priority for the development of transitional and aftercare programmes for children and youth discharged from residential placement, in order to facilitate post institutional adjustment.
3. Increased focus on the special needs of Aboriginal children and their families and the cultural components of residential care.
4. Increase in the referral of teenagers for residential placement.
5. Increase in the referral of children and youth with serious adjustment problems for residential placement.

Reflecting on the history of child placement in Western Australia, the submission made some prescient observations which, to some degree, provided a ‘warning knell’ to the concept of family reunification being the ‘best’ desired solution for every child – a key prerequisite was adequate family support:

During the nineteenth century and for much of this century, child placement was the primary mode of child welfare intervention. The majority of today’s residential child care centres were

³ Report of the Interim Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care, 1980/81.

⁴ Annual Report of the Department for Community Welfare, June 30th 1979.

⁵ Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Children and Youth under Institutional Care, 1982

established in the early years of this century when the tradition of rescuing children from the destructive effects of poverty and social distress was in its prime.

Today a counterwing against this child saving philosophy is emerging, and the priority is to maintain children within their own families wherever possible. This is a desirable trend if adequate family based services exist to support the functioning of vulnerable families. Without the availability of adequate family support services however, prioritisation of own-family care can leave children without adequate protection, in a setting which may be destructive to their immediate welfare and future development.

It is not overstating the case to suggest that at its best the focus on own family care may be seen as a 'rediscovery' of the family, and the priority of sustaining family cohesion. At its worst however it can reflect a lapse in society's mandate to protect children from harm within the family; a sentimentalization of family life which underrates the damage which uncaring and seriously ill equipped caretakers can cause.

The extent to which own-family care can provide an encompassing alternative to residential care and other forms of out-of-home care placement, depends on the calibre of family support services which maybe developed. In this state at this time, very limited resources are available to this area.

The submission by the CCRCC also identified the 'types' of children who were typically in some kind of alternative, out of home care:

1. Single children in care for reasons of personal or family adjustment problems.
2. Sibling groups, usually for reasons of neglect, family breakdown.
3. Aboriginal children (either singly or in sibling groups) for reasons of personal or family adjustment problems or schooling needs.
4. Multiple placement children – children and youth who are in residential placement following a series of failed placements, particularly in foster care.
5. Normal children – who primarily require shelter care in a stable family-like setting.
6. Maladjusted children – those with serious social and emotional problems which seriously interfere with their life adjustment.
7. Private cases: Those who are in care with full parental rights continuing to be vested in the parents.
8. Wards and Children Placed Under Control. Children over whom the State exercises full or partial control.
9. Dependent children in care for welfare reasons of one form or another.
10. Offending children – for whom criminal offences are an aspect of their background.

By 1985 the key coordinating body for an integrated public/private sector residential child care service, the CCRCC was retained by the Minister to continue to assist the restructured Department when the Community Services Act was proclaimed. In 1985, the CCRCC developed guidelines for effective liaison between the Department and the Non-Government sector and a working party of the Committee developed revised budget procedures for funding private residential child care services and, as a result, a

new funding policy which “provided effective government subsidies for residential child care and authorised alternative services provision to children and families” was achieved through the CCRCC⁶.

Each year, the CCRCC and its successor bodies, reported on the major trends in the activities of its member agencies. Membership, notes and purposes of these committees from 1980 to 2003 is outlined below.

Year	Committee Membership	Notes
1980	<i>Interim Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Miss Beryl Grant (Independent Chairman) Mr F. Bell; Mr K. Singe (Government) Mr L. Smith; Mr W. Couche (WACOSS) Mrs S. Booth (Consultant Social Worker) Mrs B. Studman (Secretary)	The Interim Committee was a Ministerial Committee. The CCRCC held its meetings at Ngal-a.
1981	<i>Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Miss Beryl Grant (Independent Chairman) Mr D Semple; Mr J O’Dwyer (Government) Mr L Smith; Sr Mary Martin (Non-Government) Mrs S Booth (Consultant Social Worker) Mrs E Matson (Secretary)	The CCRCC was a Ministerial Committee. Its mandate included making funding recommendations to the Minister. Meetings continued to be held at Ngal-a.
1982	<i>Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Miss Beryl Grant (Independent Chairman) Mr G Aves; Mr J O’Dwyer (Government) Mr L Smith; Sr Mary Martin (Non-Government) Mrs S Booth (Consultant Social Worker) Mrs M Gibson (Secretary)	The CCRCC was provided with an office in the State Housing Commission building.
1983	Mr Les Smith retired from the CCRCC and Mr B Preece was appointed to represent the Non-Government sector.	
1984	Mr John O’Dwyer retired as Treasury representative on the CCRCC, and Mr Graham Short joined the Committee in his stead. <i>Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Miss Beryl Grant (Independent Chairman) Mr G Aves; Mr G Short (Government) Mr B Preece; Sr Mary Martin (Non-Government) Mrs S Booth (Consultant Social Worker) Mrs M Gordon (Secretary)	
1985	<i>Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Miss Beryl Grant (Independent Chairperson) Mr Peter Alexander; Mr Graham Short (Government) Mr Barry Preece; Sr Mary Martin Kelly (Non-Government)	

⁶ Report on the Activities of the Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care in 1986/87.

Year	Committee Membership	Notes
	<p>Ms Sue Booth (Consultant Social Worker) Mrs Maureen Gordon (Secretary)</p>	
1986	<p><i>Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Ms Sue Booth (Interim Chairperson) Mr Peter Alexander; Mr Vic Dennis (Government) Mr Barry Preece; Sr Mary Martin Kelly (Non-Government) Ms Margaret Morse, Ms Sue Booth (Executive Officer) Ms Virginia Yovich (Secretary)</p>	
1987	<p><i>Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Ms Lyla Elliot (Independent Chairperson) Mr Terry Simpson, Assistant Director General Department for Community Services; Mr Vic Dennis, Director Management and Finance Department for Community Services (Government) Mr Robert Watson, Administrator Mofflyn Child and Family Care Services; Ms Dianna Williams, Marribank Family Centre (Non-Government) Ms Margaret Morse, Ms Wendy Semple (Executive Officers) Ms Virginia Yovich (Secretary)</p>	
1988	<p><i>Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Ms Lyla Elliot (Independent Chairperson) Mr Terry Simpson, Assistant Director General Department for Community Services; Mr Vic Dennis, Director Management and Finance Department for Community Services (Government) Mr Robert Watson, Administrator Mofflyn Child and Family Care Services (Non-Government) Ms Margaret Morse, Ms Wendy Semple, Ms Jan Wright (interim) (Executive Officers) Ms Virginia Yovich (Secretary)</p>	
1989	<p><i>Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Ms Lyla Elliot (Independent Chairperson) Mr Terry Simpson, Assistant Director General Department for Community Services; Mr Vic Dennis, Director Management and Finance Department for Community Services (Government) Mr Robert Watson, Administrator Mofflyn Child and Family Care Services; Mr Bruce Dufty, President Wanslea Family Support Services Board; and an un-named member of the Catherine McAuley Family Centre Board (Non-Government) Ms Margaret Morse, Ms Wendy Semple (Executive Officers) Ms Virginia Yovich (Secretary)</p>	
1990	<p><i>Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care</i> Ms Lyla Elliot (Independent Chairperson) Mr Terry Simpson, Assistant Director General Department for Community Services; Mr Vic Dennis, Director Management and Finance Department for Community Services (Government) Mr Robert Watson, Administrator Mofflyn Child and Family Care Services; Mr Bruce Dufty, A/Director Authority for the</p>	

Year	Committee Membership	Notes
	Intellectually Handicapped North Metropolitan Region (Non-Government) Ms Margaret Morse, Ms Wendy Semple (Executive Officers) Ms Virginia Yovich (Secretary)	
1991	<i>Consultative Committee on Out of Home Care</i> Ms Dot Goodrick (Independent Chairperson) Mr Terry Simpson, Assistant Director General Department for Community Services; Mr Vic Dennis, Director Management and Finance Department for Community Services (Government) Ms Sue Ash, Lecturer TAFE; Mr Bruce Dufty, A/Director Authority for the Intellectually Handicapped North Metropolitan Region (Non-Government) Ms Margaret Morse, Ms Wendy Semple (Executive Officers) Ms Rina Tsilivis (Secretary)	
1992	<i>Consultative Committee on Out of Home Care</i> Ms Sue Ash (Independent Chairperson) Ms Barbara Gatter, Director Community Funding and Development Department for Community Services; Ms Sandy Van Soelen, Senior Programmes Officer (OHAC) Department for Community Services; Mr Paul Birchall, Manager Midland Division Department for Community Services (Government) Ms Sue Bollam, Director Djooraminda; Ms Billie Parker Manager Accommodation Services Anglicare (Non-Government) Ms Margaret Morse, Ms Wendy Semple (Executive Officers) Ms Rina Tsilivis (Secretary)	
1994	<i>Out of Home Preventative and Alternative Care Planning and Coordination Committee</i> Ms Sue Ash, Lecturer ECU, Manager Family and Children's Services (Chairperson) Ms Sandie van Soelen, Assistant Director Protection and Care Family and Children's Services; Mr Michael Hepburn, A/Director South Country Region Family and Children's Services (Government) Mr Michael Clare, Senior Lecturer Department of Social Work UWA; Mr David Roberts, Director Parkerville Children's Home (Non-Government) Ms Margaret Morse, Ms Susan Diamond (Executive Officers)	The OHPAC Planning and Coordination Committee was established by Cabinet on 12 th September 1994. The Committee was appointed by the Minister for Family and Children's Services, and Youth. The Committee had a different role and reporting relationship to its predecessors – reporting to the Director-General of the Department and providing information as required to the Minister, and with no mandate to review and recommend funding allocations to member agencies. Its role was to enhance services in the sector, and encourage cohesion amongst service deliverers.
1997	<i>Out of Home Preventative and Alternative Care Planning and Coordination Committee</i> Ms Sue Ash, Executive Director Wanslea Family Support Services (Chairperson) Ms Sandie van Soelen, A/ Director Provider Support; Mr Michael Hepburn, Manager Southern Zone Family and	

Year	Committee Membership	Notes
	Children's Services (Government) Mr Michael Clare, Senior Lecturer Department of Social Work and Social Administration UWA; Mr David Roberts, Director Parkerville Children's Home Inc. (Non-Government) Ms Susan Diamond (Executive Officer)	
1998	<i>Out of Home Preventative and Alternative Care Committee</i>	Committee formally ceased on 31 st March 1998. Membership lists for the final years of the Committee were not available at the time of writing.
1999	<i>Care for Children Advisory Committee</i> Patrick Mahoney (Independent Chairperson) Pauline Bagdonavicius, Strategy and Funding Management Family and Children's Services Nova Fariss, WACOSS; Mofflyn Harold Kimberley, Disability Services Commission Tricia Lee, WACOSS; Anglicare Francis Lynch, WACOSS, Mercy Community Services Lex McCulloch, Metropolitan Services Delivery Family and Children's Services Helen Moschini, The CREATE Foundation (formerly WAAYPIC) Trish O'Neil, Foster Care Association of WA Dawn Wallam, Secretariat National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care; Yorganop Annette Wells, Juvenile Justice, Community Offender Management Ministry of Justice	
2001	<i>Care for Children Advisory Committee</i> Patrick Mahoney (Independent Chairperson) Pauline Bagdonavicius, Executive Director Strategy and Funding Management Family and Children's Services Nova Fariss, Director Mofflyn (nominated by WACOSS) Linda Kazazi, Principal Social Worker Disability Services Commission Tricia Lee, Executive Manager Community Services Anglicare (nominated by WACOSS) Francis Lynch, Manager Family Services Mercy Community Services (nominated by WACOSS) Lex McCulloch, Executive Director Metropolitan Service Delivery Family and Children's Services Helen Moschini, Community Representative Kerry Newick, President Foster Care Gordon Cole, Aboriginal Representative, Industry Development and Service Specification Family and Children's Services Annette Wells, Director Juvenile Justice Community Offender Management Ministry of Justice	Ceased in February 2002

Year	Committee Membership	Notes
2003	<p><i>Children and Young People in Care Advisory Committee</i></p> <p>Allan Skinner (Chair), Community Representative</p> <p>Fay Alford, President Foster Care Association of WA</p> <p>Pauline Bagdonavicius, Executive Director Department for Community Development</p> <p>Debra Carson, Kinship Carer Yorganop</p> <p>Assoc. Prof. Michael Clare, Social Work and Social Policy UWA</p> <p>Leah Cole, Youth Representative</p> <p>Paul Overall, Western Australian Council of Social Services</p> <p>Glenda Kickett, Social Worker Djooraminda</p> <p>Clare McRae, Children Youth and Families Agencies Association (CYFAA)</p> <p>Lex McCulloch, Executive Director Department for Community Development</p> <p>Nadja Mischin, Faciliator CREATE Foundation</p> <p>Ramdas Sankaran, Executive Director Ethnic Communities Council of WA</p> <p>Helen Shanks, Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia</p>	<p>Commenced in July 2002 to provide “independent advice to the Director General on issues relating to children and young people who are in, at risk of entering, or leaving care. It replaced the Care for Children Advisory Committee which ended its term of office in February 2002.”⁷</p>

Department for Community Development Administrative Files consulted in the preparation of this document:

Administrative File No.	File Name
A419301	Committees - Residential Child Care Sub-Committee Closed
A419302	Committees - Residential Child Care - Sub-Committee Closed
A482801	Committees - Consultative Committee - Residential Child Care see NA0019 Closed
A482802	Committees - Consultative Committee Residential Child Care see NA0019 Closed
A482803	Committees - Consultative Committee Residential Child Care see NA0019 Closed
A482804	Committees - Consultative Committee Residential Child Care see NA0019 Closed
A612301	Committees - Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care Attendance Fees Closed
ED0277V01	OHAC - Consultative Committee on Residential Care
HD0201	Committees - Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care - OHPAC
JK0127V01	Committees - Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care - Minutes
KZ0061V01	Committees - OHPAC - Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care
KZ0061V02	Committees - OHPAC - Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care
MA0099V01	Committees Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care - Minutes Closed see JK0127
MA0099V03	Committees Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care - Minutes Closed see JK0127
MA0099V04	Committees Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care - Minutes Closed see JK0127
MA0099V05	Committees Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care - Minutes Closed see JK0127
MA0099V06	Committees Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care - Minutes Closed see JK0127

⁷ Annual Report of the Department for Community Development for the Year Ended 30th June 2003.

Administrative File No.	File Name
MA009V02	Committees Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care - Minutes Closed see JK0127
NA0019V01	Committees - Residential Child Care Consultative Committee
NA029801	Substitute Care - Residential Child Care Consultative Committee - Reports

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