



Children's Week

Children's week in Victoria (Oct. 23rd — 30th) will have an international flavour this year.

Children's Week dates have been changed in order to co-incide with UNIVERSAL CHILDRENS DAY which is celebrated on 26th of October.

Organizers are hopeful that the incorporation of Universal Children's Day into Children's Week will help to draw attention to the common needs of children throughout the world.

Miss Maxine Robbins, an American Indian, has been invited to be the chief guest of Children's Week.

Miss Robbins is at present the Director of the National Social Worker Associate Program of the Indian Health Service, where she has been responsible for the design of a practical child health and welfare program for American Indian Children.

Miss Robbins is a Master in Social Work and it is anticipated that professional people working with ethnic minority groups will have the opportunity of discussing mutual interests and concerns.

Information regarding Children's Week may be obtained from the office of the Childrens Welfare Association, 25 Queens Road, Melbourne, 3004. Telephone: 26 6210.

A.W.C.H. Conference

More than 350 delegates, including representatives from 42 organizations attended the recent four day conference at the Sydney University sponsored by the Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital.

The conference was opened by Senator Peter Baume, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Health and Welfare.

The key speakers at this conference were James and Joyce Robertson from the Robertson Centre in London. The Robertsons are internationally recognised authorities on the emotional and psychological development of children up to age three.

They led the conference for the first two days of the four day conference — the third and fourth days were given over to workshop and discussion groups during which time recommendations were formulated for the final plenary session.

It is hoped that these recommendations will form the basis of future national policy for child care programs related to the 0 - 3 age group.

Proceedings of the conference will be published in due course.

Information regarding this may be obtained from the National Organizer, Mrs Doris Hart, 5 Union Street, Parramatta, 3150.



Revs. John Hensley (left) & Graeme Gregory in discussion.

Launceston Child and Family Welfare Service

A child and family welfare service has been established in Launceston under the sponsorship of the Methodist Department of Child Care of the Victorian and Tasmania Conference.

The Rev. Graeme Gregory, Director of the Methodist Department of Child Care explained that the development of the agency followed lengthy consultation with local church and welfare bodies.

Acting Director of the agency, Rev. John Hensley, said that a research project was being undertaken in conjunction with the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education and that the future direction of the agency would be dependent to a large extent on the funding of the project.

Mr. Phillip Morris of Sydney has recently been appointed Social Worker.

The agency is situated at 4 Brisbane Street, Launceston.

Senator Guilfoyle

Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, the Minister of Social Security, has offered to convene a meeting of all Federal and State Ministers with direct interests in children, namely the education, welfare, health and recreation portfolios.

It is anticipated that the meeting will be held in the next two or three months. Voluntary agencies are urged to put their views to State Ministers for presentation at the meeting.

State Ministers had reached two other significant agreements concerning children's services at last week's Social Welfare Conference. They had jointly recommended that block grants be provided for pre-school and child care programmes on the basis of 75% of salary costs for approved or agreed staff. They had also recommended to Senator Guilfoyle that the Federal Government should cease direct negotiation and funding to agencies in general, and to vacation and after school programmes in particular. Senator Guilfoyle had noted these recommendations.