



**THE
LORNE
PAPERS**

CONVENOR'S REPORT

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The Committee of the Victorian Child Care Conference for 1977 set out to achieve a forum of information exchange. It did this by providing eight agencies with the opportunity to deliver papers on the work they had been doing and were planning to do.

The papers that were presented took in a wide range of services in the Child Care Field; from offender care to family day care to early childhood development. Each of the papers stressed new initiatives and the significance of these initiatives was the movement away from the traditional residential facilities. This movement was indicative of the dissatisfaction with the "social control" approach to welfare. From the papers delivered the trend towards "social integration" became apparent as a major theme. There was a rejection of the coercive welfare approach to conformity and isolation and an attempt to encourage a rejoining of society in a socialization process.

The papers further highlighted the necessity to know more about the social environments from which our service recipients come. These new initiatives pointed to the importance of understanding the interaction between the child and his/her environment.

Not only did the conference allow for discussion and thought on what was being done, it also allowed for information to be exchanged on what was intended. The Southern Child Care Co-operative with its intention to rationalise existing services and develop new ones was just one example.

The conference participants were provided with a positive view of the field, that as child care workers, administrators, and executives some forward development could be seen.

The atmosphere of positiveness was further encouraged by the enthusiasm and participation of people such as Harry Powell, Professor Peter Boss, and the Minister Mr Brian Dixon.

The committee believe it has achieved its aim, so much so that it has requested the Child and Family Welfare Journal to reproduce the papers in the next two editions.

The committee believe that the format of the 1977 conference should not be repeated too often. The approach of bringing people together in a sharing of information has an optimum value. Anyway as most conference participants will agree it was too exhausting.

