

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

While it is not really possible to carry topical news in a quarterly Journal, there are events that occur from time to time that can appropriately be included in a news section.

If you think something you know about deserves a mention, please let us know about it — it will help to make this section more interesting and useful.

Forward your contribution to:

The Editor,
Australian Child & Family
Welfare
25 Queens Road,
Melbourne, 3004.

CHILD CARE ENQUIRY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Premier of Western Australia recently announced the terms of reference for a committee of inquiry into the financial situation and the role of child care agencies in the State.

The Inquiry will be headed by Matron B. Grant of Ngal-a and will include Mr L. E. Smith, Director of the Methodist Children's Homes, Father B. Hickey, Director of Catholic Family Welfare, Mr C. Adams Assistant under Treasurer and Mr F. Bell Assistant Director of Institutions of the Community Welfare Department.

The Premier said that the government was interested in the future role of religious organisations providing child care facilities including those facilities which cater for children on a daily basis.

It was intended that the committee would examine and make recommendations on:

- * Appropriate areas of responsibility of child care organisations and the scope and involvement of such groups.
- * The standards that should be expected of them and whether more supervision should be imposed.

- * The impact of day attendance on residential care.
- * Financial problems and funds needed for efficient operation.
- * The extent of government financial and other aid and the way it should be assessed.
- * The possibility of increasing funds from other sources.
- * The general problems of the institutions.

It is expected that the committee will meet towards the end of April, no indication regarding the timing of the report to State Parliament has been provided.

Sir Charles Court said that the Government was becoming increasingly anxious about the plight of the state's institutions and for this reason interim grants totalling \$147,000 were made to nine voluntary agencies recently.

Sir Charles said that he had written to Mr Frazer requesting further financial assistance as the state's resources were stretched to the limit.

A committee of enquiry with similar terms of reference has been meeting in Victoria and will be reporting to the Premier in the next few months.

DR. FANSHEL TO VISIT N.S.W. AND QUEENSLAND.

Dr David Fanshel, the Professor of Social Work at the Columbia University in New York will make brief visits to Brisbane and Sydney during his three week stay in Australia late in July. He will be accompanied by Mrs Fanshel.

Dr Fanshel has been invited to give lectures in the school of social work at the University of Brisbane and will be visiting Sydney at the invitation of the Burnside Children's Homes.

Dr Fanshel will be in Australia at the invitation of the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria. He will lead the Annual Child Care Conference at Lorne which will be centred around the theme, "All Care and no responsibility"

He will deliver the Keith Matheson Memorial lecture at the conference on the topic, "Program Evaluation and the Planning Process". A later paper he is to give is entitled "Who really speaks for the child" and will canvas the issue



Dr. Fanshel

of accountability in child welfare service delivery. The conference is to be chaired by the former member for Henty in the Legislative Assembly, Mrs Joan Child.

Dr Fanshel will also lead a one day seminar on Foster care at Geelong following the conference prior to leaving for Sydney. He will also speak at the annual Child Care Dinner in Geelong following the seminar.

During the last week of his stay in Australia Dr Fanshel will be the Association's guest for the celebrations during Children's Week in Victoria. During the week Dr Fanshel will visit the three universities in Melbourne and the Preston Institute of Technology. He will also conduct three seminars at Monash university for professional staff in child care.



**Child for adoption?
World Vision Clinic Bangladesh.
Photo: Graham Gregory**

INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION

— A NATIONAL BODY?

Graham Gregory

To further meet the needs of all parties to intercountry adoption, a proposal was brought to the Conference by two Victorian organizations involved in intercountry adoption — The Australian Society for Intercountry Aid (Children) (ASIAC), Victorian Branch, and the Child Care Service.

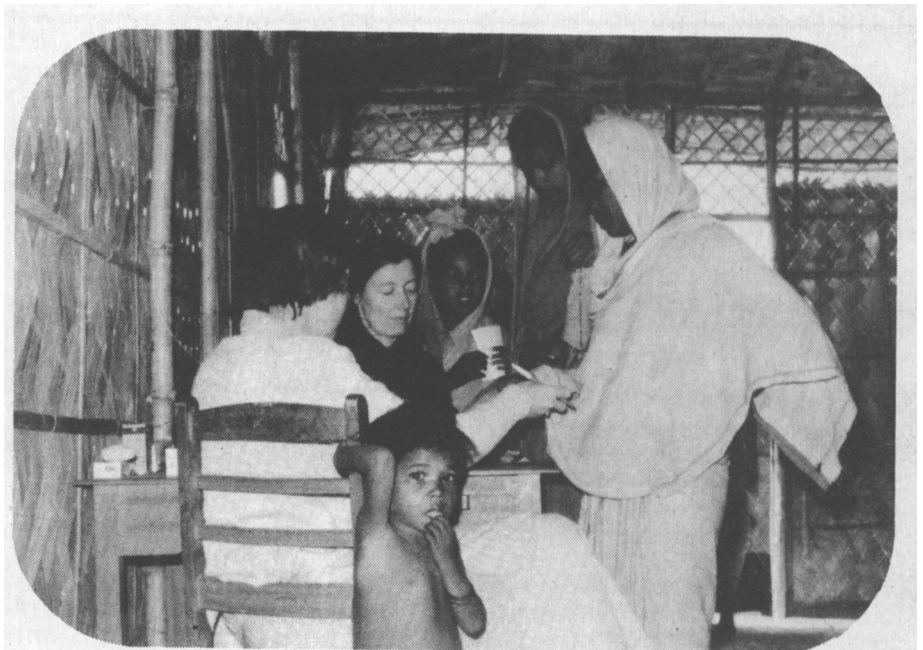
Mr Gregory called for the formation of a national placement co-ordinating organization, to facilitate the adoption placement of children from overseas with improved intercountry adoptive families in Australia.

In discussing the proposal Mr Gregory said:

“It is suggested that this organization will not deal directly with adoptive parents unless requested or authorized by the

relevant State adoption agency to do so. It will act on behalf of State adoption agencies and/or approved adoptive parents as requested, in a co-ordinated approach to adoption authorities in the Phillipines, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other countries from which children are placed for adoption in Australia.

“The organization would transmit requests for the placement of a child for a family together with all necessary documents and fees to the relevant overseas authority. The organization would receive placement information from the overseas authority or the organization representative, and transmit such information to the state adoption agency and/or the prospective adoptive parents, as requested. The organization would make any other arrangements necessary for the placement of the child including the escorting of the child to Australia, introduction of the child and the adoptive parents (in conjunction with the State adoptive agency), the transfer to the state adoption agency and/or the adop-



tive parents of any documents available in relation to the child, and the transmission of periodic reports by the state adoption agency on the progress of the placement to the overseas authority.

“Where appropriate, the organization would establish facilities for adoption purposes in overseas countries, and appoint and authorize employees or volunteers to act on its behalf in the countries concerned.

“The national placement coordinating organization could be sponsored by the Child Care Service, ASIA (C), any state adoption agency wishing to participate, and recognized organizations with an involvement in intercountry adoption. If such adoption agencies or organizations did not wish to sponsor the national organization, they could elect to use its services as participating or affiliated agencies without participation in management.

“The organization should be constituted legally and be managed by a committee representative of the sponsoring bodies.

“The management committee of the organization would be responsible for establishing adequate administrative procedures, and ASIA (C) and the Child Care Service offer facilities for this. It is possible that the administration could be handled by staff of the Child Care Service in conjunction with some regular voluntary staff from ASIA (C).

“Financing of the organization’s activities would be mainly through the contributions made by adoptive parents, with the possibility of supplementary financing through sponsoring or participating organizations.

“The organization would seek recognition from State adoption authorities and the Commonwealth Government. Such recognition would not need to imply that the organization had an exclusive responsibility for intercountry adoption activity, but rather that it was **one** authorized body in the field.

“The organization would seek to enter into agreements with adoption authorities in Australia and overseas for the purpose of facilitating intercountry adoption.”

ANGLICANS APPRAISE

Anglicans in the diocese of Melbourne have begun an evaluation of their social service programmes. In the light of new developments in welfare policy the diocese of Melbourne has called for a review of its social welfare activities.

A Review Steering Committee has been formed and the Rev. L. E. Rielly lecturer in Social Work at the Queensland University has been engaged as the consultant.

The review Projects officer is Mrs C. Smith of Camberwell who is undertaking a survey of existing

Anglican Agencies and is consulting with parishes throughout the diocese.

It is expected that a report and recommendations will be presented to the Synod in October 1976.

It is anticipated that it will produce guidelines for the future development and delivery of Anglican Welfare Services.

Information regarding the Review may be obtained from the Secretary the Rev. I. G. Ellis C/- St Johns Homes for Boys and Girls, 18 Balwyn Road, Canterbury.



“ALL CARE, AND NO RESPONSIBILITY”

FRIDAY 23RD
TO SUNDAY
25TH, JULY

ANNUAL CHILD CARE CONFERENCE 1976 (VIC)

THEME: “ALL CARE AND NO RESPONSIBILITY”

Sessions for the conference will focus on the terms of reference currently being investigated by the Committee of Enquiry into Child Care Services in Victoria. Particular attention will be given to the role of the Children’s Home in family welfare services and the development of alternatives to residential care.

VENUE: ERSKINE HOUSE LORNE, VIC

COSTS:

Full Participation — \$48.00
(includes accommodation and all meals)
Day attendance — \$12.00
(includes lunch & dinner)

SPEAKER: DR. DAVID FANSHEL
Professor, Columbia University School of Social Work Dr. Fanshel will chair the conference debate and deliver the Dr. Keith Mathieson Memorial Lecture.

REGISTRATION: Details on conference registration may be obtained from —

The Administrative Secretary,
Children’s Welfare Association of Victoria
25 Queens Road, Melbourne, 3004

INTERSTATE VISITORS
WELCOME!