

children who had failure to thrive and required medical treatment. It also provided short term accommodation while suitable family placements were located.

The looking after children assessment and action records system developed in the United Kingdom in 1989 was piloted by Family and Children's Services over the past two years.

The pilot showed that it provided a consistent approach to assessing and monitoring children in care and a framework for developing strategies for identified issues. Assessment and action records are being adapted and will be implemented in the next financial year.

The adolescent and child support service continued to be developed during the year. Based on a study of the needs of 'at risk' young people in Perth, together with a review of world's best practice, a new service system and description of staff roles were developed.

The new service will include a purpose built assessment and planning centre linked to a range of individual services for vulnerable young people, their families and carers.

A separate emergency accommodation service will ensure young people have safe overnight accommodation and access to appropriate services.

21 Family contact services

Maintaining family bonds is important for children who cannot live with their family. If children do not have regular contact with their families, the likelihood they will return to live with their families is severely reduced.

There was a substantial increase in the number of children in care who had contact with their family on a regular basis. Eighty (80) percent had contact

once a month or more, compared with 64 percent last year.

In 1997/98 the department established a metropolitan contact service to increase options for family contact for children in out of home care. A panel of approved service providers was selected to provide family contact workers to transport and supervise contacts between children in care and their families. The panel operated on a fee for service basis.

22 Leaving care services

Family and Children's Services recognises the importance of ensuring children and young people are supported when they move to community or independent living from out of home care or supported accommodation.

In 1997/98 the department gave increased emphasis on planning for children and young people leaving care and on providing after care support services.

Funding was allocated through SAAP for a new non government service to support the transition of young people aged 16 to 25 years from long term supported accommodation and care to community and independent living.

Young people will be given assistance to find accommodation, access budgeting and income entitlements, medical care, employment, training and educational opportunities and other services. Young people who have already left long term supported care over recent years will be able to access the service.

The West Australian Association of Young People in Care (WAAYPIC) was funded to provide support and training to young people leaving care and ensured their perspective was understood by staff and policy makers. Young people were supported in gaining employment and lifeskills. Social activities were provided to enable networking and fellowship. There are

approximately 200 young people linked with the service who are either in care or have left care.

In 1997/98 there were 29 adoption orders for step parent adoptions. Five adoption orders were granted to long term carers (relatives and non relatives).

There were eight placements for adoption of locally born children and 19 placements of children born overseas. Figure 19 shows the placement for adoption of children born overseas.

Family and Children's Services was represented on a ministerially appointed committee set up during the year to consider an application to establish a private adoption agency. The committee will make its recommendations to the Minister next year about granting a licence.

23 Drug abuse strategy coordination

Services are coordinated through the development and promotion of policy; the activities of multiple agencies are coordinated; drug abuse trends are monitored and analysed; and information is published.

Last financial year, the Minister for Family and Children's Services was appointed Minister responsible for the WA drug abuse strategy. To support the government's commitment to coordinating its response to drug abuse,

Country of origin	Number
Ethiopia	4
Hong Kong	3
India	2
Korea	7
Philippines	1
Poland	2
Total	19

Figure 19
Placement for adoption of overseas born children 1997/98



a Ministerial Council on Drug Abuse Strategy and a corresponding senior officers group were established during the year.

Coordination strategies for regions, services, education and research were implemented and the Western Australian Drug Abuse Strategy Office was set up.

24 Drug abuse treatment and prevention services

Treatment and support services are provided for youth, adults and families through non government services providing sobering up, day treatment and residential services. To address customers' drug abuse problems mainstream health, justice and welfare services are developed. Prevention services are provided through school and public education and the provision of support and coordination to local drug action groups and community based projects.

During 1997/98, 66 of the 72 initiatives outlined in the government's strategy against drug abuse were underway

including education programs, expanded health and community support services, law enforcement and community action.

A key development was the establishment of 10 new community drug service teams to provide both prevention and treatment services with particular emphasis on early intervention and support for families.

There was also an increase in the number of beds in residential rehabilitation services and increased capacity for day treatment and parent support services.

In collaboration with the Health Department and Alcohol and Drug Authority, methadone treatment was expanded through general practitioners, eliminating waiting lists for this treatment.

A draft drug management strategy was developed by the Ministry of Justice with participation from WADASO and a treatment service was started for persons remanded in custody.

The school drug education project, a joint initiative of the Catholic Education Office, Association of Independent Schools and Education Department, resulted in 280 schools undertaking professional development, an estimated 500 schools with school drug policies, the development of a new curriculum and corresponding materials for parents, and strategies to involve parents and the community.

Public education campaigns were run, first supporting parents and then focusing on specific drugs such as heroin. Parent drug education courses were expanded through non government alcohol and drug organisations.

Peer drug education initiatives to reduce harm among continuing drug users were developed in collaboration with the Health Department and Alcohol and Drug Authority.

Innovative practice development projects were developed and implemented with Family and Children's Services and the Ministry of Justice. Current best practice in vocational education and training was used to address alcohol and drug problems of customers.

A coordinated strategy to tackle heroin overdose involved ambulance and hospital emergency medical services, Health Department, alcohol and drug agencies, WA Substance Users Association, Police, Pharmacy Guild and National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse.

A statewide network of more than 40 local drug action groups was developed. They were supported by the professional services of community drug service teams and key government organisations such as Police and Family and Children's Services as well as schools.

Kuwinywardu Aboriginal Resource Unit – Carnarvon Financial Counselling Service
 Lady Gowrie Child Centre (WA) Inc – Financial Counselling Service
 Lockridge Community Group Inc – Financial Counselling Service
 Midland Information, Debt and Legal Advice Service – Midland Debt Counselling Service
 Narrogin Youth Support Committee – Financial Counselling Service
 Ngarangga Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation – Financial Counselling Service
 Northam Share and Care Inc – Northam Share and Care Financial Counselling Service
 Pilbara Social Justice Council – East Pilbara Financial Counselling Service
 Pilbara Social Justice Council – Karratha Financial Counselling Service
 Pilbara Social Justice Council – Newman Financial Counselling Service
 Pilbara Social Justice Council – Roebourne Financial Counselling Service
 Salvation Army (WA) Property Trust – Balga Financial Counselling Service
 Salvation Army (WA) Property Trust – Salvation Army Morley Citadel Corps Financial Counselling Service
 Southcare Inc – Financial Counselling Service
 St Nicholas Financial Counselling Service
 Sussex Street Community Law Service Inc – Financial Counselling Service
 Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust – Wesley Mission Fremantle WesAssist Financial Counselling Service
 Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation – Financial Counselling Service
 Wesley Mission Perth Creditcare (Sherwood Court) – Financial Counselling Service
 Wesley Mission Perth Creditcare (William Street) – Financial Counselling Service
 Wyndham Family Support Services Inc – Financial Counselling Service

Request for proposal

Derby Financial Counselling, Information and Support Service

17 Crisis response

Australian Red Cross Soup Patrol
 Bega Garnbirringu Health Service Aboriginal Corporation – Aboriginal Homeless and Fringe Dweller Support Service
 Daughters of Charity Services (WA) Ltd – Marillac Centre
 In Town Lunch Centre Inc
 Samaritan Befrienders 24 Hour Telephone Crisis Support Service
 Salvation Army (WA) Property Trust – Care Line
 St Patrick's Care Centre – Meals and Day Centre
 Wesley Mission Perth – Tranby Day Centre

Request for proposal

Support Service for Homeless People (Hedland)

Care for children

20 Child placement services

Anglican Health and Welfare Services – Anglicare Child Placement Service
 Djooraminda
 Foster Care Association of WA – Information, Advice and Support Service

Manguri
 Mercy Community Services Inc – Placement Service
 Parkerville Children's Home – Cottage Program
 Salvation Army (WA) Property Trust – Crossroads West
 Wanslea Family Services – Wanslea Placement Service
 Yorganop Child Care Aboriginal Corporation

22 Leaving care services

Parkerville Children's Home – WA Association of Young People in Care (WAAYPIC)

Request for proposal

Moving to Independence (Metropolitan)

Drug abuse services

24 Drug abuse treatment and prevention services

ACRAH
 Broome Sobering Up Centre
 Catholic Education Office
 Cyrenian House
 Daughters of Charity Services (WA)
 Derby Sobering Up Centre
 Drug Arm
 Eastern Goldfields Halfway House
 Fitzroy Crossing Sobering Up Centre
 Gascoyne/Murchison
 Goldfields (Centrecare)
 Great Southern (Palmerston)
 Halls Creek P/C Sobering Up Centre
 Holyoake Institute
 Kalgoorlie Sobering Up Centre
 Kimberley (Kimberley Northwest Mental Health Service)
 Kununurra Sobering Up Centre
 Life Education
 Midwest Alcohol Rehabilitation Service
 NERYC
 Northeast Metropolitan (Holyoake Institute)
 North Metropolitan (St John of God Community Services)
 Palmerston Association Inc
 Perth City Mission
 Perth Sobering Up Centre
 Perth Women's Centre
 Pilbara
 Port Hedland Sobering Up Centre
 Roebourne Sobering Up Centre
 Salvation Army Harry Hunter Centre
 Salvation Army Bridge Program
 Serenity Lodge
 Southeast Metropolitan (Perth City Mission)
 South Metropolitan (Palmerston)
 Southwest (Centrecare)
 St Bartholomew's House
 St Patrick's Care Centre
 Swan Emergency Accommodation
 WANADA
 Wanneroo Accommodation
 Wesley Central Mission
 Wiluna Sobering Up Centre (NAACCHAMSAC)