

SUB-COMMITTEE ON CONFIDENTIALITY

It has been brought to the notice of the National Executive that considerable doubt exists amongst correctional workers as to the extent of their responsibility to disclose information given to them confidentially by offenders and ex-offenders.

At the Fifth Biennial Conference of the Council in Perth, a Resolution was passed:-

"That this Council appoint a representative sub-committee to investigate and report to the next biennial Conference of this Council upon the subject of whether or not a relationship of confidentiality exists and, if so, to what extent in the following relationships:-

parole officer and parolee
probation officer and probationer
prison chaplain and prisoner
after-care social worker and prisoner client
after-care social worker and ex-prisoner client
voluntary worker and ex-prisoner client
psychiatrist and unconvicted person on remand
psychiatrist and prisoner"

An interdisciplinary sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice McClemens has now been established. The sub-committee, with the assistance of Mrs. H.M. North, is organising a Seminar on the subject of confidentiality, which is to take place on 3rd June, 1970 at 4 p.m., at the State Office Block Theatre in Sydney. It is anticipated that at least three papers will be read at the Seminar, and that the topic will be considered from legal, professional and ethical points of view. There will also be time for discussion between those attending the Seminar. At the close of the proceedings, recommendations will be made in the light of the papers and discussion.

The sub-committee welcomes members to attend the Seminar, and those interested should contact Mrs. North at Room 3, 182 King Street, Sydney as soon as possible. The sub-committee will also receive written submissions, either before or soon after the Seminar, from anyone who wishes to express views on any aspect of Confidentiality.

The sub-committee will present a report of their findings and will make their final recommendations at the Sixth Biennial Conference of the Council in Brisbane in 1971. It is hoped that members and others interested in the work of the Council will take this opportunity of contributing to the research of the sub-committee.

Members of the above sub-committee are:

The Hon. Mr. Justice McClemens, Messrs. Hayes, McGeechan, Wilson & Lucas.