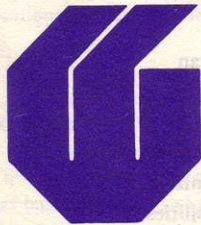


WOORINYAN

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE PENINSULA
RETARDED CITIZENS WELFARE ASSOCIATION
WELCOME YOUR INTEREST IN "WOORINYAN"



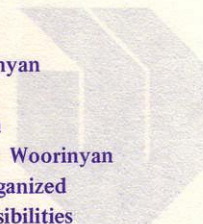
ADULT ACTIVITIES CENTRE AND WORKSHOP
FOR THE INTELLECTUALLY HANDICAPPED

SITUATED AT
No. 13, JOY STREET, FRANKSTON, 3199
Telephone (03) 781 1473

WOORINYAN

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Background to Woorinyan	1
Early Training	2
Purpose of Woorinyan	3
Citizens who come to Woorinyan	3
How Woorinyan is organized	4
Staff Aims & Responsibilities	5
Parental Responsibilities	6
Other Services	7
Students & Visitors	8



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INTRODUCTION

“The mentally retarded person has a right — to such education, training, rehabilitation and guidance as will enable him to develop his ability and maximum potential.”

From — United Nations “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”.

The major task in education for the intellectually handicapped is to foster development in social competence.

BACKGROUND TO WOORINYAN

The Peninsula Retarded Children's Welfare Association was formed in 1953. A play group was organised on a voluntary basis and held in a local Methodist Church Hall.

This operated two or three half days a week and gave Mothers an opportunity for more leisurely shopping, or to enjoy a much needed rest.

In March 1955 — with the aid of a Government Grant the present property comprising approximately two acres was purchased. A cottage on the property was renovated and converted for use as a Day Training Centre. 1957 saw the plans formulated for a new Day Training Centre, consisting of an administrative block, main hall or playroom with storerooms, kitchen and toilets. This was completed and opened in February 1960 by Dr. Cunningham Dax. Another section for the junior training groups was completed in 1966.

Cradle Club was formed in 1969. The Kindergarten and Kindergarten play areas were opened in 1971.

A new Sheltered Workshop was opened by the Hon. E.R. Meagher M.B.E. E.D. M.P. in 1972, No. 13 Joy Street having been purchased for access and car park. The building was made possible by a combined Service Clubs Building Appeal sponsored by the Lions Club of Frankston and by Capital grant subsidy provided by State Treasury through the Mental Health Authority. The building of approximately 100 squares comprises of workshop area, classroom, incoming and outgoing goods stores, bulk store, cafeteria, meeting room, toilet block and locker rooms, administrative section and indoor and outdoor activity areas.

As the result of an overwhelming vote at an Annual General Meeting:
In early 1976 — The Day Training Centre became the Special Developmental School No. 6273 under the State Education System.

The Special Developmental School buildings remain the property of Woorinyan and will be used in the development and extensions of the Adult Activity Centre, after the School is moved to its new premises supplied by the Education Department.

In 1978, the name of the Peninsula Retarded **Children's** Welfare Association was changed to the Peninsula Retarded **Citizens** Welfare Association, thus embracing help to people of all ages.

EARLY TRAINING

The School caters for up to 60 pupils from the age of 2½ to 21 years. The curriculum of the Day Training Centres and Special Developmental Schools is designed to encourage the growth of skills in self care, communication and occupation, enabling the pupils to graduate to Sheltered Activities and Workshop levels — these skills are also required to enable the child and adult to play and work satisfactorily and live happily within the family circle and later, hopefully, in the environment of a Residential.

The Special Developmental School occupies the buildings at 32 Cranbourne Road. It is supervised by a Principal with a staff of trained teachers and assistants.

THE PURPOSE OF THE WOORINYAN ADULT ACTIVITY/WORKSHOP CENTRE IS:

To provide continuity of training — firstly for the children graduating from Special Developmental Schools and secondly, other adolescent and adult intellectually handicapped people from the age of 16 years, living in the area — where the Activity/Workshop Centre can be of benefit to them.

To develop each trainee as a person, to give him or her — the opportunity to live a happy and useful life to the limit of his or her capabilities. To help each trainee to learn the basic ethical and moral values that the community holds important.

To provide every opportunity for trainees to become integrated into communal life — (it is not a permanent environment for those able to progress further).

To be managed and operated with a view to financial self sufficiency without prejudicing the personal satisfaction of the trainee.

To provide special training for self help in the likelihood of future Residential living.

CITIZENS WHO COME TO WOORINYAN ADULT ACTIVITY CENTRE

The Centre caters for intellectually handicapped citizens who have been assessed by a psychologist from the Mental Retardation Services. No person is admitted without that recommendation; all are admitted on a trial period in order to assess suitability of placement.

The Workshop area will eventually accommodate up to 60 adults, who age will range from late teens onwards. Trainees are grouped according to their individual capabilities and a wage is paid to trainees on the basis of the group occupied, detailed records of progress are kept of all trainees.

Throughout the complex a close liaison is kept between the Mental Retardation Services and the Psychology and Guidance Branch of the Education Department.

The Centre operates at present from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

HOW WOORINYAN IS ORGANISED

The Association

The Peninsula Retarded Citizens Welfare Association is registered as an incorporated body with the Hospitals & Charities Commission, is open to all persons interested in the cause of the intellectually handicapped at a subscription of \$2.00 per annum. All parents of trainees in the Centre, are urged to join the Association.

The Committee of Management

The Association elects a Committee of Management each year. It is this Committee (with the services of a paid Administrator) which administers the affairs of Woorinyan. All Committee Members, who have a wide range of interests and occupations, give their services voluntarily.

The Mental Health Division

While the Association, via its Committee of Management, is responsible for the administration of Woorinyan, quantitative factors, such as curricula, teaching methods, progress reporting and evaluation of results come under the supervision and review of the State Governments Mental Health Division. The Mental Retardation Services, part of the Division, provides advisers, psychologists, social workers and medical and dental officers, who are responsible for overall supervision of Centres within Victoria.

Staff

The affairs of the Association are co-ordinated by the Administrator — with Receptionist/Typist in the Joy Street Office.

The Workshop area is administered by the Workshop Manager with the aid of several assistants who have various qualifications other than helping trainees in their working capacity — such as craft, sports, social and everyday living — also a trained teacher for group or individual instruction in general and special subjects. Added to these are the Bus Drivers and Chaperone to watch over the passengers and a Maintenance/Gardener/Handyman to look after grounds and buildings.

Transport

The areas of pupil intake are the Cities of Frankston and Chelsea and the Shires of Mornington and Hastings. Taxis and school buses serve these areas. Transport costs are met by the State Government.

Independent travel by public transport is encouraged, and those considered capable take part in a travel training program. A fare allowance is provided towards costs.

Industry

Industrial contracts are available from several sources for packaging, assembly and reclamation work, etc.

Screen printing of Christmas cards is also carried out as well as other goods for general sale.

STAFF AIMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The teacher has a thorough understanding of her aims and objectives.

These aims are:

1. That the trainee should learn to communicate ideas. Bearing in mind that every lesson is a language lesson, the teacher provides the trainees with stimulating language at their level, which is understood by the trainee, thereby increasing their vocabulary and providing them with a means of self expression unparallel in any other form.
2. That the trainees should learn to become part of a group. The teacher aims at developing in the trainees satisfying relationships with others in their group; for the intellectually handicapped, like any other members of the community, must learn to get along with others.
3. That the trainees should learn to understand and obey the laws of society. Without reward or punishment, but through respect for others, the trainees are helped to form an adult conscience.

4. That the dignity of the trainee is respected. Trainees take part in activities and occupation at an adult level, commensurate with their capabilities.

5. That the trainees may understand the basic symbols of everyday life. Because using arithmetic or reading as an occupational tool is an unlikely achievement for the intellectually handicapped attending the Activity/Workshop Centre, the trainees are taught to recognise words and signs used in the community, to understand monetary values and telling the time, etc. to the fullest extent of their capabilities.

6. That the trainees be prepared for satisfying leisure time activities. The adolescent and adult should be able to utilize experience in art, music, physical activity, etc. as a form of self expression and a worthwhile use of leisure time.

Trainees take part in regular sporting activities, physical education and music, etc.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

To observe Centre rules.

To become a member of the Peninsula Retarded Citizens Welfare Association at the cost of \$2.00 per annum and so become eligible to vote in the election of the members of the Committee of Management.

To attend meetings, called at the Centre, and support social functions organised by various groups.

Mothers to join the Ladies Guild or other Auxiliaries, Fathers to join the Fathers & Friends Association, thereby helping this important organisation.

Parental support and co-operation is vital to the success of the aims of the Association.

STUDENTS AND VISITORS

OTHER SERVICES

Woorinyan Ladies Guild work continuously and generously to raise money to provide extra amenities for Woorinyan.

The Fathers & Friends Association has been formed primarily to raise funds towards the establishment and maintenance of the planned Residential.

Volunteers help in a variety of other ways, some with craft work, others with typing, music, kitchen duties and sports.

A Guide Company has been formed within the Centre, and is of great value to the girls.

Rovers & Rangers hold regular social evenings which are enthusiastically attended by the trainees.

Because some of the work carried out in the Workshop area varies in volume according to the time of year, we are capable of increasing our number of contracts.

If you could be of assistance in advising Industry of the work force we have available, it would be greatly appreciated.

STUDENTS AND VISITORS

We are visited by many interested persons and organisations. All through the year students from Teachers Colleges, trainee teachers from Mental Retardation Services, students of social studies and Psychology, Health Centre Sisters and groups of local school children, visit Woorinyan.

Visitors are always welcome to Woorinyan.

Anyone interested in coming to see the Centre may arrange a visit by telephoning the Administrator or Manager of "Woorinyan".

Peninsula Retarded Citizens Welfare Association,
13 Joy Street, Frankston.
Phone (03) 781-1473

or the Principal of the Special Developmental School,
32 Cranbourne Road, Frankston.
Phone (03) 783-2979.