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Social Worker: *Sr. Veronica B.Soc.S., Irish Sisters of Charity*

✣ **IRISH** ✣
WELFARE
BUREAU

HAMMERSMITH

ANNUAL REPORT

NOVEMBER

1972

OCTOBER

1973

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SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT

An examination of this years statistics show that of 618 new cases dealt with 369 were in the greater London area. This figure does not include 60 carried forward from /1/72 and 72 carried forward from 72/73. Of the latter, continued support is given to 40 clients. The London borough of Hammersmith continues to be our main catchment area, but, as will be noted from the source of referral tables, we have spread our nets to the adjoining boroughs. We are finding that an increasing number of young people who have recently left home to come to London, are referred to us by Centrepoint. We are able to assist with a very large percentage of these in obtaining employment and 'digs' for them, thus enabling them to overcome their loneliness and fear of drifting. There has been a significant rise in the number of self-referred clients and also those referred by friends and local clergy.

Taking these two facts into account it would appear that we are now well established locally. Much of the help given has been of a preventive nature, especially family crises which did not reach local authority notice. We still continue to co-operate with the social workers of the Hammersmith area and other local agencies.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of families dealt with. Financial assistance was given to clear or lessen electricity and gas bills, rent arrears, holidays and repatriation.

The accommodation problem increases from year to year, though we have had some success with the 20-30 age group. In the cases of families there was little we could do except offer advice and put clients in touch with housing agencies. In many cases however, we have been able to help with furniture, bedding, linen and other household goods. Much of this entailed collecting and delivering the various articles.

Domiciliary visits were made to families, unsupported mothers and the elderly, also follow up visits to clients from hospital and prison.

INTERNATIONALITY The number of clients of nationality other than Irish presents an interesting picture. Callers came from the four corners of the globe.

The overall conclusion is that the Bureau is becoming a focal point in the area where we try to give help, counsel and advice to the best of our ability. We hope that those who come with their varied problems have had them alleviated even though sometimes only to a small degree.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Sr. Veronica.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

In acknowledging the progress made during the past twelve months I would like to thank sincerely everyone who in anyway put their shoulder to the plough for the cause of the Bureau. To equate the measure of support one has only to recognise how our resources withstood the pressures of increased demand. Once again our main source of income was dances, prize bingo, jumble sales, raffles and various other ways. The Hammersmith Council kindly recognized our wider commitments and increased our grant to £700.

ACCOMMODATION

One step further was taken towards setting up a small unit to cater for single men. We expect to make final plans early in 1974. I feel a special word of thanks is deserving to Sr. Rosario and her Ladies Sodality in Midleton, Co. Cork, who raised £1,200 towards this project, not forgetting the 6th Standard class, Presentation Convent who continue to send regular donations towards housing the homeless.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

The success of an appeal to send one deserving family on holiday resulted in a number benefitting from it. The overall satisfaction from this venture will no doubt stimulate interest and ensure a bigger number of families being supported in full or part for holidays during the coming year.

STATUTORY & VOLUNTARY

Simple Analysis of Referrals

To fulfill our aims we need the support and help of many organizations with Statutory and Voluntary Staffs. On behalf of the staff at the Bureau may I in conclusion thank you all for your co-operation. I look forward to a strengthening of this team spirit during the coming year.

<u>Type of Problem</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Types of Problem</u>	<u>No.</u>
Marital	27	Marital	27
Brian Lawlor O.S.A. Director.	10	Brian Lawlor O.S.A. Director.	10
Emotional & Mental	25	Emotional & Mental	25
Ex-offenders	15	Ex-offenders	15
Alcoholic	10	Alcoholic	10
Pregnant & unmarried	14	Pregnant & unmarried	14
Repatriation	20	Repatriation	20
Females	341	Females	341
Nationalities other than Eire & N. I.	178	Nationalities other than Eire & N. I.	178
Continued from previous years:			
72	60		
75	72		
Hospital visits	41	Hospital visits	41
Continued supportive visits	21	Continued supportive visits	21

Simple Analysis of Referrals

Age Groups	0-16	17-19	20-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-60+
	118	64	130	80	103	58	76
Not known	95						
Overall Total	618						

<u>Types of Problem</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Types of Problem</u>	<u>No.</u>
New arrivals from Ireland	85	Marital	27
Financial	183	General Welfare	10
Accommodation	268	Emotional & Mental	25
Employment	62	Ex-offenders	15
Information	35	Alcoholic	10
Advice	28	Pregnant & un-married	14
Material	36	Repatriation	20
Personal	63		
Males	330	Females	341
Families	60	Nationalities other than Eire & N. I.	178
Cases continued from previous years.			
1971/72	60		
1972/73	72		
Domiciliary visits	208	Hospital visits	41
Prison visits	35	Continued supportive visits	40

SOURCES OF REFERRALS

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH

	No. of Referrals	County	No. of Referrals
Personal application	92		
Clergy	73		
L. B. H.	42		
'Friend'	30		
M. S. W.	10		
Health Visitors	2		
C. A. B.	2		

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GREATER LONDON BOROUGHES

Hammersmith	251
Kensington & Chelsea	23
Wandsworth	20
Hounslow	17
City of Westminster	17
Richmond	11
Brent	10
Camden	10
Hackney	7
Ealing	1
Haringay	1
Lewisham	1
Total	369

COUNTIES OF IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

1972-1973

County	No. of Referrals	County	No. of Referrals
Antrim	4	Leitrim	3
Armagh	1	Limerick	20
Carlow	5	Longford	2
Cavan	4	Louth	4
Clare	14	Mayo	15
Cork	54	Meath	3
Derry	5	Monaghan	2
Donegal	3	Offaly	1
Down	38	Roscommon	3
Dublin	90	Sligo	6
Fermanagh	1	Tipperary	20
Galway	16	Tyrone	7
Kerry	21	Waterford	10
Kildare	1	Westmeath	1
Kilkenny	2	Wexford	8
Laois	1	Wicklow	1

OTHER NATIONALITIES

Country	No. of Referrals
Africa	4
Australia	2
Ceylon	3
England	110
Finland	1
France	4
Germany	1
Guernsey	1
Hungary	1
India	2
Italy	6
Malaya	1
Malta	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Scotland	18
South America	1
Spain	6
Switzerland	1
U.S.A.	4
Wales	2
West Indies	3
Not known	4

AIMS

The aims of the Bureau are briefly to try to prevent Irish Immigrants from becoming Social problems by helping them in the initial stages. It will, therefore, concentrate on the Welfare angle of the problem.

The Bureau will try to accomplish its aims by using the following means:

- 1) Directing Irish Immigrants to the relevant community services.
- 2) When these are not available for their particular need, to supply this want to the best of its ability.
- 3) Helping to find suitable employment and accommodation.
- 4) Giving information about social activities.
- 5) Helping with repatriation.
- 6) As a caring agency regardless of race, creed, class or colour.