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THE DEVELOPMENTAL CLINIC

PALMERSTON NORTH

1977-78

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SUMMARY

This thesis presents an exploration of the Developmental Clinic which operates in Palmerston North. The present psychologist has worked there for two years, the period of time the clinic has been administered by the Department of Education Psychological Service in this area. Little information was available about the clinic, its operation, its philosophy and its programme when she began so this study has been firstly a means of providing that information as a basic resource that clinic staff and others can refer to locally. As the clinic continues this information can be added, the thesis serving as an introduction.

Some effort has been made to evaluate the clinic informally and highlight problems that exist as well as conveying the very positive feelings clinic staff and others have towards the clinic. Already some of these problems are being considered and action taken to remedy them. Because the clinic is a very flexible and evolving organisation one action leads very quickly to another, and comments made at one point become outdated shortly afterwards.

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During the period I was writing this thesis I was assisted by local paediatricians, the visiting therapist, and the clinic staff who were prepared to give their time to consider questions posed. Their interest in the clinic is demonstrated by their efforts to change existing situations to conform with what seems a more desirable approach to the problem of handicap. Often changes occurred as a result of an interview. It is very rewarding working alongside people such as these. Particular thanks goes too to the parents who answered questions, put forward ideas and often rang several weeks later with a new thought. Their interest was very supporting.

Special thanks go to Marie Goss for typing this thesis. Her experience is invaluable.

Finally I must commend my family for their patience. As my daughter has stated, I will now be able to teach her to knit, a skill she has done without for two years while her mother has pursued other interests.

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