

The Armidale Community Service

The results of the survey, undertaken by the new organisation, the Armidale Community Service, to investigate the needs of the district were discussed at the committee meeting held in the Council Chambers. The Mayor, Ald. Lloyd Piddington, attended the meeting which was chaired by Mrs. Peter Dangar.

The survey figures showed that at present 30 people were eligible for meals on wheels, seven for emergency housekeeping and five for domiciliary nursing.

Regarding the emergency housekeeping service, Mrs. Dangar pointed out the wide scope of the organization and proposed that a sub-committee be formed to deal with this particular need. Mrs. Ellis told the meeting

that this aspect of community service was of special interest to the Inter-Church Women's Organization which she represented and asked that there be a stay of proceedings until the New Year when these members would be willing to help organize this particular field of service.

Mrs. Butland, on behalf of the Graduate Nurses, told the meeting that the proposal for a domiciliary nursing service in Armidale was still awaiting confirmation from Sydney but that once sanction had been obtained, then the Graduate Nurses would be able to cope with this service for the city.

HOSPITAL BOARD PREPARED TO HELP

Preliminary investigations for a meals on wheels service were then discussed. Matron O'Hare reported that the Hospital Board were in sympathy with the scheme and wished to co-operate where possible, providing the numbers requiring such a service did not put too great a strain on the hospital kitchen facilities. About 10 to 15 meals were feasible but as yet no details had been officially discussed for the Board had not received formal notification. Once such a letter had been received, the Board would go ahead and decide ways and means of aiding the scheme.

The Secretary, Mrs. J. R. Richardson, reported on the kitchens she had inspected. According to these investigations the only ones suitable, at present, for consideration were:

- The Police Boys' Club where the kitchen was due to be renovated in about seven months. A new kitchen was to be built with refrigeration. A nominal rent suggested could possibly be waived.

- The Town Hall, although not always available had been offered free of charge

- Space of 6 ft. x 3 ft. had been offered in the cool room of the Bowling Club.

These generous offers were appreciated by the meeting as it was the general feeling of the meeting that a home-style meal cooked by the

service was the ultimate aim. To achieve this a kitchen would have to be set up with all the necessary facilities and a band of workers found to do the cooking. Until such time as this could be realized, the meeting felt that a start must be made and this could be done by accepting the kind offer of help from the Matron and Hospital Board. Even if only a few could be catered for in this way, at least it would be a beginning.

Mrs. S. Pike, representing the C.W.A., warned the meeting that there could be difficulties obtaining enough volunteers to do the cooking. Finding drivers would be no problem. Mrs. Richardson said there were already 65 names down for drivers and there were plenty of others who were willing to help. Mrs. Butland pointed out how this service could work in with the nursing service for the drivers could report back to the executive on people who were in need of home nursing.

AT OTHER CENTRES

The meeting was told how other centres worked. In Tamworth three voluntary cooks a day worked under the guidance of a paid supervisor. At Inverell, the cook is paid and does the buying and organizes the meals while voluntary workers help her each day.

It was suggested that other institutions be approached to see if these could co-operate in providing additional meals until a decision was made about a kitchen. It was decided that there must be a person who would be present every day to co-ordinate menus with donated food if it were eventually decided to cook meals. Containers would have to be purchased.

CONSTITUTION

The executive planned to send draft copies of the constitution to all committee members by Christmas for their perusal before the next meeting on January 19. Members, representing organizations can find other interested people to take their place whenever they are unable to attend meetings.

Mrs. Dangar suggested

that a second vice-chairman be appointed in the New Year.

The treasurer reported some funds now in the bank, through donations and the garden party held at Mrs. Mulligan's property at Gara. The meeting was most appreciative of this kindness. Mrs. Dangar proposed that to spare the public too many demands, an intensive fund raising campaign be organised, possibly in April for one week with the aid of Apex and other Service Clubs.