

RESOLUTIONS OF CONFERENCE ON CRIPPLE CAREJune 5th 1939Resolution:

- (1) That a National Service for the Care of Cripples in South Africa is both desirable and necessary.
- (2) This Service should be the joint responsibility of the State and voluntary organisations with a subsidy provided by the State and based on the work accomplished.
- (3) That all voluntary effort be co-ordinated by the establishment of a National Council in order to correlate all the activities, and provide a responsible source of information and representation to the Government.
- (4) That a Constitution for a National Council for Cripple Care be considered before Council adjourns and thereafter submitted to the Societies invited to the Conference.
- (5) That the following be regarded as an essential basis for a complete National Service for Cripples:-
  - (a) Public education on the prevention of crippling conditions and the importance of early treatment.
  - (b) Prompt measures for the discovery and notification of congenital and all other physical defects.
  - (c) Close supervision of all Tubercular contacts.
  - (d) Early diagnosis and treatment of all physical defects and of any glandular or bone tubercular tendencies in tubercular contacts.
  - (e) Adequate facilities for hospital treatment and convalescence.
  - (f) Continuation through after care to the development of maximum capacities for both resident and non-resident cases.
  - (g) Association of mental and occupational stimulus with physical care.
  - (h) The provision of ordinary education to the full extent of each child's capacity.
  - (i) Provision of vocational guidance and the development of occupational and recreational training and provision of necessary schools, workshops and hostels in connection therewith.

Emphasis should be laid on the fact that these services should be available for adults as well as children.
  - (j) Placement in employment.
  - (k) Finding a market for all goods made by cripples not able to compete in the open labour market.

C O P Y

No. 16/7

Department of Social Welfare,  
 Koedoe Buildings,  
 P R E T O R I A

CIRCULAR NO S.W.C. 1 of 1939.

1st April, 1939.

To All Magistrates, Native Commissioners,  
 and Assistant Native Commissioners.

MAINTENANCE GRANTS UNDER SECTION 84(1) (c) OF THE  
 CHILDREN'S ACT OF 1937.

I beg to inform you that the question of making grants-in-aid for the maintenance of Native children in need of care has received further consideration and after consultation with the Native Affairs Department it has been decided that with effect from 1st April, 1939, the following procedure shall apply:

Natives in rural areas:

Having regard to the fact that under Native law, it is the natural duty of the head of the kraal or guardian-at-law to support any minor belonging to his kraal or under his care, and that the granting of maintenance by the State will probably lead to an evasion of the responsibility resting upon the Natives under their own customs, it has been decided not to make grants in the case of Native children residing in rural areas. Large sums of money are, moreover, being spent by the Government in improving the economic conditions of Natives in rural areas and it is considered that sufficient is being done in this way to enable the Natives to provide for their children.

Natives in urban areas:

Applications on behalf of Native children in urban areas should be referred to the Native Commissioner (or where there is no Native Commissioner, to the Magistrate) who will, in cases deserving of assistance, take one or other of the following steps:

- (a) Endeavour, where circumstances permit, to repatriate the child to the care of relatives living in rural areas:  
or where this is not practicable
- (b) if the mother is able to work, arrange for the child to be left, while the mother is at work, at any crèche established by a local organisation subsidised by the Department of Social Welfare: or failing (a) or (b)
- (c) grant an order for food for the child on the scale provided for indigent persons, to which milk may where necessary be added, the cost of such food to be charged to the South African Native Trust.

Cash Allowances:

The payment of cash allowances may be continued in cases in which authority has been granted prior to 1st April, 1939, and will form a charge against the vote of the Department of Social Welfare, but no such payments will be approved in future. This aspect has received careful consideration and it is felt that the payment of cash allowances to Natives residing in the towns will be an incentive to Native women to flock to the urban areas and thus aggravate a position that has already become acute.

This circular is issued with the concurrence of the Departments of Justice and Native Affairs.

G. A. C. KUSCHKE.

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