

NEW ZEALAND FREE KINDERGARTEN UNION (INCORPORATED)

BUILDING REPORT

(Precis of a report given to the 1972 Conference by Mr S. P. Bussell)

During the year the Executive has pursued with the Education Department three major aspects concerning buildings and these relate to:

1. Design of kindergartens
2. Education Boards taking over the responsibility for erection and supervision of new buildings
3. Use of redundant primary school accommodation

Progress to date under the above headings is given below.

1. Design of Kindergartens

Following on from the Committee of Inquiry's report wherein it was recommended that Education Boards take over control of architectural services and management of building contracts etc., it appeared that a pre-requisite for success of such a scheme was the provision of standard plans and specifications drawn up to a detailed Education Department brief which would, and could, be used by all Education Boards (perhaps with some amendments to suit local climatic conditions) throughout the country. Anticipating that Boards would provide the suggested services during 1973, it was hoped that accepted standard plans would be drawn up during 1972. With this end in view, the Education Department has been asked to seek architectural assistance from a particular Education Board to provide standard plans for relocatable buildings as well as conventional 'in situ' construction plans. The Department has, in fact, made the approach requested, but to date no progress has been made in the drawing up of plans etc., but willingness to do so has been indicated.

2. Education Boards taking over Planning and Supervision of Buildings

Progress in this sector has been quite good. The Education Boards Association, representing the ten Boards in the country, has advised the Education Department that the Boards will do everything possible to assist Free Kindergarten Associations with the preparation of plans, working drawings, specifications and the supervision of the erection of buildings. It is known that the Boards in general are fully committed with planning their own works for the current year, but each Board is currently being asked to advise the Department how much they can assist in the near future in:

- (a) Preparing plans, working drawings and specifications for kindergartens
- (b) Allowing other Boards to re-use such plans
- (c) Adapting, if unable to provide plans, plans provided by other Boards
- (d) Supervising construction.

It can be expected that the Boards will give favourable answers to (b), (c) and (d) above, but very few Boards would be in a position to action (a). It has already been ascertained that two of the major Boards can only assist if standard plans are available from some other source.

It is not anticipated at this stage that Associations will be prevented from employing private architects in the future if

they so wish, but whether subsidy will be available on architects' fees if the local Education Board was able to process the work at the time has not been ascertained.

3. Utilisation of Redundant Primary School Accommodation

The Director of Primary Education has advised that he sees no reason why Associations cannot utilise suitable double unit prefabricated classrooms or surplus permanent rooms at primary schools, and each case would be considered on its merits. It is envisaged that Grade 0 Kindergartens or annexes to existing kindergartens could be established in such rooms. It is known that the Play Centre movement has utilised many redundant prefabricated classrooms throughout New Zealand, particularly in the rural areas. The Education Department has approached Education Boards to ensure that they do not allow a pre-school movement to use this accommodation without prior discussion with the Department. Associations wishing to use this type of surplus primary school accommodation should approach their local education authority in the first instance.