

How the Marjorie Mann Day Care Centre All Began

I first met Marjorie Mann when we were answering the phones at the Samaritan Telephone befriending service in the late 1960's.

We often received calls from single mothers who needed to go back into the workforce to support their child or children as there was very little help or support available at that time. Marjorie and I were concerned because of the frequent calls for help that we received.

Marjorie was a widow and she felt she could make her home in Inglewood available for child-care. I was a qualified mothercraft nurse, making it possible for us to care for babies. We began by taking six children. The youngest aged six weeks, others were between 18 months and 4 years.

So many mothers were needing help we required a larger house. I had heard that a large house in Clifton Crescent Mt Lawley, owned by the Catholic Church, had been recently vacated. I phoned Archbishop Goody and told him of our plight. He responded to our need and made the now Marjorie Mann Mt Lawley Day Care Centre available to us for a 'peppercorn rental'. The President of the Mt Lawley Rotary, Mr Stone, came to help with setting up the new Centre.

Mrs Freda Waldron, who had previously worked with Marjorie in the Perth City Child Minding Centre, joined Marjorie, myself, some paid workers and volunteers.

We were the first Day Care Centre to receive Government funding to renovate and extend the centre.

