

THE SECRETARY:MULWALA HOSTEL - STAFFING.

Approval was recently given for the transfer and re-erection at Canberra of the War Workers' Hostel at Mulwala at an estimated cost, including furniture and furnishings, of £82,571.

2. The building, which consists of six detached sleeping pavilions (excluding staff quarters), with a central kitchen, dining room and recreation room, will have single room accommodation for approximately 150 guests.
3. It has been the practice of this Department to appoint a Manageress and Assistant Manageress to control boarding houses of this character, and there are five establishments at present conducted by the Department, each in charge of a Manageress and Assistant Manageress. These officers are appointed under Public Service conditions in regard to rates of pay, holiday and sick leave, etc.
4. The salaries of the Manageresses and Assistant Manageresses vary in accordance with the class of accommodation provided, and the number of guests accommodated. The Manageress and Assistant Manageress of the Acton Guest House, which is a comparable establishment, receive £7/14/3 and £6/14/3 per week respectively. A deduction of 27/- per week is made for board and lodging.
5. Whilst the employment of female officers to control establishments which accommodate female guests is essential, it is considered that where mixed sexes are housed, an experienced Manager would be more capable generally, particularly in regard to the control of male cooks and staff.
6. It is therefore suggested that a Manager and Assistant Manager be appointed to this establishment, and also to the Acton Guest House. The services of the present Manageress at this latter establishment are not entirely satisfactory.
7. The salaries paid by the Department of Works and Housing to the Manager and Assistant Manager of the Riverside and Eastlake Hostels are £526 and £438 per annum respectively, including free board and lodging. These establishments have accommodation for a much greater number than either the Acton Guest House or the new Mulwala establishment, and salaries at the ranges quoted would, in my opinion, be justified.
8. A comparable wage, which, it is considered, would be paid to officers with the necessary experience, would be £520 and £438 per annum, less a deduction of 27/- per week for board and lodging.
9. It is recommended the approval of the Public Service Board be sought for the engagement at the Acton Guest House and the new Mulwala establishment of male employees at the salaries

*The Minister*

*AW*

(A.W. EDWARDS)