

Good British stock

Child and youth
migration to Australia



This guide is number 11 in the series of Research Guides published by the National Archives of Australia.

Between 1901 and 1983, thousands of unaccompanied young people, mainly from Britain, came or were sent to Australia as permanent settlers. For some it was a fresh start and relief from grinding poverty; for others it was a heartbreaking wrench from family. Records in the collection of the National Archives of Australia are a rich source of information about the processes of government decision-making and administrative practice on child migration, as well as the service organisations and churches that sponsored the children and provided for their education, placement and after-care.

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Guides include the material known to be relevant to their subject area but they are not necessarily a complete or definitive guide to all relevant material in the collection.

Records cited here which were less than thirty years old at the time of the guide's preparation are included for the sake of completeness but will usually be available for public access only when they reach thirty years of age. Some records or portions of records in this guide were not available for public access at the time of preparation because of the need to protect personal information. Check the National Archives RecordSearch database to see whether these restrictions still apply. Reference staff can advise you how to appeal against any restrictions.

The National Archives reviews its collection to confirm the value of records for research, evidential and other purposes or to identify, in consultation with agencies, records for destruction. At the time of publication all the records described in this guide were present in the Archives collection. However, it is possible that some of the records may be destroyed if they are reviewed and considered not to be of enduring value. If this occurs the guide will be revised accordingly.

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Introduction

The National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia ensures that full and accurate records documenting Commonwealth Government activities are created and kept. From this massive body of information, the Archives selects, cares for and makes available to all those records of continuing value. This collection constitutes the archives of the Commonwealth Government – a vast and rich resource for the study of Australian history, Australian society and the Australian people.

The collection spans almost 200 years of Australian history. The main focus of the collection is material which documents Federal Government activities since Federation in 1901. There are also significant holdings of nineteenth-century records which relate to functions transferred by the colonies to the Commonwealth Government at the time of Federation and subsequently. The records described in this guide are a small but significant part of the collection.

Access to the National Archives collection is provided free of charge in public reading rooms located in each capital city. Researchers are assisted by specialist reference staff and are provided with reference tools to help them identify and use the records in the collection. These reference tools include the RecordSearch and PhotoSearch databases, guides, publications and fact sheets. Researchers unable to visit a reading room may seek information and help by telephone, mail, facsimile or email.

RecordSearch and PhotoSearch provide information about agencies, persons and series as well as descriptions of over two million individual records. They are available for online searching in reading rooms located in all offices of the National Archives, at the Australian War Memorial and on the National Archives website.

The National Archives website provides more information about the Archives, its collection and the services it offers. A visit to the site will help you determine whether the Archives holds records relevant to your research. Fact sheets on various topics are also available on the Archives website.

Child and youth migration

Child and youth migrants to Australia, while numbered in their thousands, always formed a modest percentage of the overall migrant intake, but they were always treated – in the bureaucracy and by the media – as special. There was something heart-warming in the vision of desperately underprivileged British children leaving behind the cold northern slums of the Old World to seek a new and better life in the sun-drenched dominions, and there was something uplifting in watching the arrival of what was perceived to be the cream of Britain's youth leaving the security



Child migrants at Dr Barnardo's Farm School at Mowbray Park, Picton, NSW, 1948 (top), and at the Fairbridge Farm School at Molong, NSW, 1954 (bottom).

NAA: A1200, L10434; A1200, L17156

of hearth and home to further their prospects in a distant land and to guard and extend the empire by settling the imperial frontier. They were the bricks of empire.

Child migrants were apparently-abandoned, illegitimate, poverty-stricken youngsters of primary school age, usually in care in the United Kingdom before their despatch to Australia. After their arrival, such youngsters were placed in care for further training before placement in employment.

Youth migrants, on the other hand, were post-primary school age young people, fifteen to nineteen years old, who came from ordinary family backgrounds and made their own decisions to come to the Antipodes, often to work in rural areas. Thousands of children and young people were involved. Australia needed settlers for the land, farm labourers and domestic servants, and youthful immigrants were ideal for both gender-guided roles. The various states and the Commonwealth Government were all involved in encouraging immigration, as were many non-government organisations. The critical legislation under which national governments controlled juvenile migration were the British Custody of Children Act 1891 which permitted the voluntary organisations to 'dispose of' the children in their care by emigration; the Empire Settlement Act 1922, which permitted the British Government to channel funds to non-government organisations in support of their migration work; and the Australian Immigration (Guardianship of Children Act) 1946 which gave the Minister for Immigration legal control over unaccompanied minors until they came of age.

The children were brought to Australia from their home countries under various migration schemes which commenced with the sponsoring of farm boys to New South Wales by the Dreadnought Trust in 1911. Most were brought from the British Isles, with some groups – all boys – from Malta after World War II. During the war, Polish Jewish children also arrived. Many children, separated from their parents and familiar surroundings, suffered from the disruption and dislocation, and this part of a family history can be a distressing one to uncover.

The migration schemes, while supported by Government in principle, were managed and administered by charitable bodies and the mainline churches. They include the Big Brother Movement, the Children's Farm School Immigration Society of Western Australia (Fairbridge), Dr Barnardo's Homes and the Overseas Children's Scheme which operated during World War II. Essentially governments provided the ground rules, gave some financial support and monitored their activities. It was the voluntary associations that did most of the day-to-day work with juvenile migrants. Consequently, the records held by the National Archives, as well as dealing with the policy issues, deal extensively with relations between the Commonwealth Government and the church and private organisations, and the various schemes they administered.

A topic which has been aired frequently in the media over recent years is that of child abuse in certain Australian orphanages during the child migration era. There is little mention of such incidents in the records described in this guide, not through any attempt to conceal or avoid discussing them, but rather because the records in the collection of the National Archives do not mention such allegations or incidents, and since they are not discussed in the records themselves they are not

covered by the guide. The only major sexual abuse scandal involving child migrants which became public during the period covered by the guide occurred at Picton in 1958, and since the Barnardo's authorities dealt effectively with the problem at the time, the issue has not resurfaced during recent years.

About this guide

The guide deals with the subject of child and youth migration in four chapters. The first two chapters provide an introduction to Australian immigration policy in general and child migration policy in particular. Chapter 3, which constitutes the main body of the guide, gives a detailed description of the main policy records, and records relating to the service organisations and churches who sponsored the children, provided for their education and placement, and arranged their after-care. Chapter 4 outlines records held by the National Archives that are relevant for genealogical research related to child migration.

The appendixes include information about the organisations and individuals involved in juvenile migration, and about the record holdings of other archives and libraries. In addition, there is information about organisations which assist former child migrants to find family members, and suggestions for areas where further research is needed into juvenile migration to Australia.

In view of the sheer volume of records held by the National Archives relating specifically to the immigration of unaccompanied minors, it has not been possible to describe all the relevant records at item level. Rather, the guide aims to provide an indication of fruitful areas of research, with a description of key files under appropriate subject areas in order to illustrate the range, nature and richness of the collection. The selection of records described has been made as a result of extensive use of the records by the author.

A note for genealogists

Most of the records described in this guide relate to policy and administration. Personal references and lists of names, addresses, family members, arrivals and departures, occur only occasionally among the policy material. Nevertheless, some of the records are important sources for genealogical research and Chapter 4 deals solely with records and other information that is relevant to those undertaking family history research.

A number of the policy files described in Chapter 3 contain lists of names of individual child or youth migrants, among what is otherwise essentially policy or administrative material. A list of these files is included in Chapter 4.

Description of the records

To fully understand a record it is often helpful to know certain things about it in addition to its contents. For example, it helps to know who created the record, when it was created and what other records exist that deal with the same general subject or issue. This information provides the context of the record, which helps

researchers to interpret what the record is really about, determine its relevance, and decide how accurate or complete it might be. The National Archives documents this contextual information for each record in the collection using the Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) System.

Under the CRS System records are described and controlled as series. A series is made up of items, which are the individual files, volumes, maps, cards, diaries, etc that were received into custody by the Archives from the creating department, agency, or individual. Series usually consist of many items, but can occasionally consist of just a few or even a single item.

When the Archives registers a series it gives it a series number and describes the creating agency, the subject matter of the series, its date range, the format of the individual items making up the series, their quantity (expressed in shelf metres), where they are held and details of related series. Sometimes series are registered by the Archives even though they are still in the custody of the creating department or agency. The explanatory table on the next page sets out the manner in which the records are described throughout the guide.

Individual files can be located electronically by file number or by keyword-in-title searches using RecordSearch, which is available in all reading rooms and on the Archives website.

❶	FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1976–	A6006
❷	Recorded by: 1976-81: Australian Archives, Central Office (CA 1720) 1981-94: Australian Archives, ACT Regional Office (CA 3196)	
❸	Canberra	9.18 metres
❹	This series contains copies of Cabinet papers dating back to 1901.	
❺	Fairbridge Farm School Western Australia, 1930	A6006, 1930/04/08
❻	'This describes the main contents of an item. Note that it does not describe every document on the file'.	

Key

- ❶ This is the **series title** and the date range of the records that make up the series. The **series number** is shown on the right-hand side.
- ❷ This is the **person** or **government agency that created the series**. It also shows the date range during which each series was created or recorded. This date range does not necessarily correspond to the contents date range of the records which appears in the series title. The CP (Commonwealth person) and the CA (Commonwealth agency) numbers are a unique identifier allocated by the National Archives to each person or agency. These numbers can be used to retrieve more information about the person or

agency, and the records they created, from the National Archives' online database, RecordSearch.

- ③ This is the **total volume of records** in the series and the **location** where the series is held. If copies of records are held in other locations, this is indicated here.
- ④ This is a brief **description of the series**.
- ⑤ This is **the title given to the item by the person or agency** that created it. The dates of the earliest and latest document on the file are shown. The **item's identifying number** appears on the right-hand side. This number must be quoted when requesting a copy of the record or access to it.
- ⑥ This **describes the main contents of an item**. Note that it does not describe every document on the file.

Access to the records

Researchers are welcome to visit the National Archives reading rooms and examine the records described in this guide. Before you visit, please make sure that the record is held by the reading room you plan to visit. There is no equivalent of the inter-library loan system for archives. To safeguard the records, they are not moved between the Archives offices and to see the records you will need to visit the reading room in the city shown as the location of the records.

In addition, given that the reading rooms of some of the Archives offices are separate from the main repository area, it may also be beneficial to pre-order any material you wish to see to ensure that it is ready upon your arrival. The turnaround time for the issue of records in each reading room is given in Fact Sheet 20 (Standards of Service). To pre-order records please telephone, write to or email the reading room listed as holding them. Contact details of all offices of the National Archives are given in Fact Sheet 1.

If you cannot visit a reading room you may arrange for a representative to do so on your behalf (see Fact Sheets 40–45, Research Agents), or alternatively you may wish to obtain a photocopy of the record. To obtain a copy you may telephone, write to or email the relevant reading room. Staff are happy to give photocopy quotes for specific items. Please be sure you have the specific series and item numbers for the records you wish to have copied. Copy charges are set out in Fact Sheet 51.

Citing the records

The correct citation of archival records is important both when requesting them from the Archives and when referring to them in written or published works. The correct method of citation will not only help staff of the Archives to more readily locate the records you are seeking, but will also help other researchers to find the material you have used if they wish to examine it for themselves.

The correct form of citation for records held by the National Archives is expressed as follows: the name *National Archives of Australia* followed by a colon, the series number followed by a comma, and then the item number. An example is:

National Archives of Australia: A457, X400/5

The name *National Archives of Australia* may be abbreviated to *NAA* provided the full name has been used in the first citation.

Where to obtain more information

If you are unsure about how to request access to any of the records described in this guide, or if you have any other questions, request a copy of our booklet *Getting Started*, or access it on our website. Alternatively, contact the reading room in your State or Territory by mail, telephone, facsimile or email. The contact numbers and addresses for Australian archival institutions are given in Fact Sheets 1 and 2.

1 Australian Immigration Policy

Child and youth migration was always a small but key component of general immigration to Australia – vital because it was seen, among other considerations, as preserving the British identity of the Australian community. However, since juvenile immigration was a minority component within a larger movement, it may be helpful to describe the main outlines of Australian immigration policy over the years since the arrival of the first convict settlers.

When transportation of convicts to the Australian colonies ended, the colonies had to attract free settlers. Gold provided a lure in the 1850s to bring vigorous free immigrants to New South Wales and Victoria, but overall the colonies had to compete for migrants despite the tide of emigration from the British Isles and Western Europe during the nineteenth century. North America was closer for intending emigrants; the United States a rich and flourishing republic, while Canada preserved strong British links for those more attached to the imperial connection.

In this competitive world of migration the Australian colonies required the incentive of free passages and land grants. There were so many potential immigrants with insufficient income to support themselves and their families, much less afford the passage money to the dominions. This was recognised by the 1820s even while transportation was at its height and before the lure of gold discoveries in easily-accessible places. In 1831, Lord Goderich, Minister for the Colonies, acting on ideas which had been percolating for some time through official circles, introduced the principle that colonial land be sold by auction, and that up to one-half of the land fund created was to be used to pay the passages of intending British emigrants.

The monies were managed by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners from 1840 until 1876. The British Government gave evidence of a new interest in the former year by reducing the charge of an assisted passage to Australia from £30 to £18, and by advancing £10,000 on the security of future land sales to assist emigration. Alongside this policy of assisted immigration, the Government encouraged the so-called 'bounty system' by which free settlers already established in the colonies paid for the passages of relatives and friends to come to Australia. Chain migration and assisted passage became fundamentals of Australian immigration policy.

With the granting of internal self-government in the 1850s, each colony administered its own immigration policies, and while Federation in 1901 gave the Commonwealth ultimate responsibility, each state jealously guarded its *de facto* control of this area of government for many years. In fact, there was little assisted immigration into Australia between the Depression of the 1890s and the return of relative prosperity fifteen years later. Passage assistance was resumed in 1906, and at the Premiers Conference in that year it was agreed that the Commonwealth should sponsor appropriate advertising in the British Isles.

In the event, over the 40 years 1901–40, almost 600 000 immigrants arrived in Australia and no fewer than 471 400 were assisted. In 1912, the Premiers Conference agreed on uniform maximum assistance – £6 for an adult, half the minimum fare. One year later, the Federal Government commenced the advertising campaign in Britain which had been recommended seven years previously to attract migrants. It worked through cinema, press, lectures and posters. A new film unit prepared the material. Migration boomed: 92 000 migrants arrived in 1912, and many more in the two subsequent years before the outbreak of war. It was in this euphoria that the Dreadnought Scheme was initiated in 1911 to bring young British teenagers to New South Wales to work on the land and Kingsley Fairbridge established his first farm school near Pinjarra in Western Australia in 1913.

This was the era of the 'white Australia' policy. The immigrants accepted were all of European origin, overwhelmingly from the British Isles. Federation in 1901 was soon followed by the passage of two Acts, the *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* and the *Pacific Islands Labourers Act 1901*, which prohibited non-white immigration to Australia for more than 60 years. The *Contract Immigrants Act* was passed in 1905. The encouragement of immigration was selective, driven by economic and political considerations, and based on a firmly established racial hierarchy.

The short-lived immigration boom for the years 1910–13 was interrupted by the outbreak of war in August 1914. This virtually suspended all immigration until shipping once again became available in 1919. The war period, however, served to reinforce previously-held views on the size, composition and distribution of Australia's future population: that it should be predominantly British, that non-Europeans should be denied entry, and that immigrants should be directed to rural rather than urban areas. The war also strengthened British and imperial ties and led to plans to redistribute the population of the Empire through a variety of immigration and development projects after the war.¹

During the 1920s, there were new immigration agreements between State and Commonwealth governments within Australia, between the British and Australian governments and between government and non-government organisations. The Commonwealth assumed the selection, medical examination and transport of prospective immigrants; the states requisitioned the numbers and categories they wanted, and arranged settlement and after-care. The Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme of 1921 formalised these arrangements and the *Empire Settlement Act 1922* was a landmark in the history of Australian immigration, especially for its encouragement of child and youth migration. The key clauses read as follows:

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty

- It shall be lawful for the Secretary of State in association with the government of any part of His Majesty's Dominions or with public authorities or public or private organisations either in the United Kingdom or in any part of such Dominions to formulate and co-operate in

¹ In this chapter the author has gratefully drawn upon the work of Dr Michele Langfield, *More People Imperative: Immigration to Australia, 1901–39*, National Archives of Australia, Research Guide No. 7, February 1999.

carrying out agreed schemes for affording joint assistance to suitable persons in the United Kingdom who intend to settle in any part of His Majesty's Overseas Dominions.

- An agreed scheme under this Act may be either:
 - a development or a land settlement scheme; or
 - a scheme for facilitating settlement in, or migration to, any part of His Majesty's Overseas Dominions by assistance with passages, initial allowances, training or otherwise.

Under the Empire Settlement Act an annual expenditure ceiling was set at £1.5 million in 1922 and £3 million for each of the fourteen years thereafter. Treasury was to approve all schemes and the maximum British contribution in any instance was half. In 1925, the £34 million agreement provided British loan funds for Australian development and the following year the Development and Migration Commission was established. Approximately 221 000 new settlers received passage assistance to Australia between 1921 and 1929, the majority going to New South Wales and Victoria. Many also went to Western Australia. Another 100 000 immigrants arrived under their own auspices.

While on the one hand, schemes were developed to encourage British migration within the empire and land settlement, on the other, there was an extension of Australia's restrictive legislation – originally directed at Asians and Pacific Islanders – to include certain European nationalities. The proportion of British to other European arrivals in the 1920s was approximately four to one. In 1920, the *Enemy Aliens Act* prohibited the entry of Australia's former enemies for five years, and there were restrictions on southern and eastern Europeans entering Australia in large numbers.

With the economic downturn of the late 1920s, migration slowed and many former British migrants returned to the United Kingdom. As depression deepened and unemployment grew, Government assistance to immigrants ended in 1930, except for a few special cases. Child migrants continued to arrive for the Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra, Western Australia and for the Barnardo's Mowbray Park establishment at Picton, south of Sydney. Immigration to Australia virtually came to an end for the next seven years; more people left the continent than arrived.

Over the mid-1930s there was a slight improvement in economic conditions, and assisted immigration was revived in 1938. However, there had been a re-evaluation of policy after the heady optimism of the 1920s. Assistance schemes were resumed on a much smaller scale than previously. There was no requirement to work on the land. On the other hand, some were concerned at the slow growth of the Australian population which was only seven million in 1939. Birth rates during the Depression decade remained low. Although the British seemed unwilling to come to Australia in large numbers, Government immigration policies remained conservative and British-oriented.

This was the situation when war broke out in September 1939 and as in 1914, immigration largely ceased for the duration. The war galvanised Australian leaders into a new immigration policy which would greatly strengthen Australia's capacity to defend itself. The first phase of the war, from the German invasion of Poland until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 – a period of well

over two years – generated some patriotic sentiment as Australian troops soldiered in Egypt, North Africa and the Middle East. However, at home it was still war at a distance: business, politics and social life continued much as usual. Australian insularity and complacency were abruptly shattered, however, by Japan's entry into the war, and still more by the fall of Singapore in mid-February 1942.

Few Australians, either in government or among private citizens, were prepared for such a disaster. The Japanese advance was swift and devastating – the bombing of Darwin and northern Australian towns, the war in Papua New Guinea, and the threat of invasion – all created a sense of crisis, even panic. There were other factors involved, but essentially out of the crisis of 1942, the new immigration policy was born. 'Populate or perish' was the slogan; mass immigration was the plan. This policy had essentially bipartisan support in Parliament, and wide community acceptance.

However, the mass immigration policy was developed for over twenty years within the ambit of 'white Australia' which was considered sacrosanct. British migrants were still preferred but it was realised that sufficient newcomers would not be available from the British Isles so other Europeans would have to be sought. The result was that while in the first 40 years of Federation Australia's population increased from three-and-a-half million to seven million people; in the 50 years after 1947, the population reached 18 million, much of this by immigration rather than natural increase.

2 Child migration: An overview and timeline

In the heyday of British imperialism, Father N Waugh, Director of the Archdiocese of Westminster 'Crusade of Rescue' waxed lyrical when he thought of the child migration work of the society:

A double service is rendered to religion, humanity and civilisation, in carrying off the children of distress to the open lands beyond the sea, to live in the open, to work with nature, to wrestle with forest, field and stream, to forget the fetid city slums, to think and strive and pray in the open, to grow strong and self-reliant, to be the guardians of the outpost of civilisation, religion and new endeavour... every child a pioneer of the Empire.²

In his rich hyperbole Waugh expressed the commonplace notions surrounding contemporary child migration. He was probably unaware of the grim origins of this three-hundred-year-old policy of despatching unaccompanied children – abandoned, illegitimate, poverty-stricken and delinquent children – from the mean slums of British cities to cultivate and populate the wide-open spaces of the Empire. Moreover, Waugh and other child migration enthusiasts were long deceased before the controversy erupted over the last phase of child migration – the despatch of some 3 200 children from Great Britain and Malta to Australia after World War II.³

Child migration had a long and chequered history surrounded with controversy and marred by scandal. It was, actually, never a single policy pursued continuously: rather it was a complex tangle of competing private schemes, government initiatives, charismatic personalities, muddled priorities and confused agendas. It was critically affected by the economic, political and social pressures of particular times.

The first 100 children – 'vagrants' – were despatched from the London area to Virginia in the Americas in 1618, their passage arranged by the City Fathers, while the last nine children were flown to Australia in 1967 under the auspices of Barnardo's. It follows that the origins of child migration were linked to Britain's acquisition of an empire in North America during the early seventeenth century. In the wild, untamed, thinly-populated continent, there was an insatiable demand for men and women to populate and exploit the new territories. The demand was so great, and the perils of the sea journey and the initial pioneering so desperate, that those whom it was convenient for England to send abroad – the convicted felons, the parish poor and abandoned children were considered suitable and many were despatched.

² N Waugh, *These my little ones...*, Sands & Co., London, 1911, p. 131.

³ The notion that 10 000 child migrants were sent to Australia after World War II, or 'many thousands' is inaccurate, if often repeated and widely believed.

It was in January 1615 that the Privy Council issued a warrant to exile certain convicted felons to the New England colonies and four years later that these provisions were confirmed and extended by a further order from the Council.⁴ Child migration was commenced – in 1618 – in this context as state officials cast around for other sources of labour in the colonies. Later in that year, the Virginia Company requested a second consignment of 'vagrant' children (ie street kids) and the City Fathers cooperated in procuring them – by having the constables arrest vagrant children and place them in the Bridewell or gaol until ships were ready for their departure.⁵ However, many of the children did not wish to go and under challenge it became clear that the first group had been despatched illegally. The City made urgent representation to the Privy Council and on 31 January 1620 the Council gave its approval to despatch the 'recalcitrant' children:

We are informed that the City of London, by Act of Common Council, have appointed one hundred children out of the Multitudes that swarm in that place, to be sent to Virginia, there to be bound apprentice... there are, among their number divers (children) unwilling to be carried thither, and that the City want authority to deliver, and the Virginia Company to receive and carry these persons against their will. We authorise and require the City to take charge of that service to transport to Virginia all and every of the aforesaid children.⁶

This ordinance marked the legal beginning of child migration. The consent of the children or their parents was not an issue, although it is clear that many of the young people were runaways and abandoned children, beyond the interest or control of surviving parents or guardians.⁷

It was likely to follow that where there was a commercial need, ie, the desperate labour shortage in the colonies, then private enterprise was likely to follow the clear, unambiguous lead taken by the state authorities. There opened a ready cash market for any able-bodied man, woman or child who could be persuaded, fooled, forced or 'spirited' to the new colonies. In a word 'spiriting' was kidnapping, and for the next 150 years child migration operated on three levels: some children were sent to the North American or West Indian colonies by various Poor Law authorities and government bodies who worked within the 1620 ordinance of the Privy Council; a few were escorted by religious philanthropists; and the majority were kidnapped or 'spirited' from towns close to the ports for despatch to and sale in the colonies. There the children's labour was purchased by planters and other farmers until the child reached majority, a procedure given a thin veneer of legality by the signing of indentures.⁸

⁴ Acts of the Privy Council of James I, Vol. 2, London, 1925, p. 23; Acts of the Privy Council of James I, Vol. 5, London, 1930, p. 53.

⁵ P W Coldham, 'The spiriting of London children to Virginia, 1648–1685', *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 83, No. 3, July 1975, p. 280.

⁶ *op. cit.*, pp. 118–9.

⁷ B M Coldrey, *A Thriving and Ugly Trade: The First Phase of Child Migration, 1617–1757*, Tamanaraik Press, Melbourne, 1995.

⁸ Some parents sold their children for service in the colonies, an extension of parental authority which was legal at the time.

The traffic in children being 'spirited' to the Americas increased during the civil wars of the 1640s, and the Puritan-dominated parliament on 9 May 1645 passed a strongly-worded ordinance against the practice.⁹ Ships were to be searched by justices of the peace where there was reason to believe they held kidnapped children. However, there is evidence that this measure did little to inhibit the trade which ended only with the independence of the American colonies. The 'Flying Post' allegations of 1698 and the kidnapping of 500 boys in and around Aberdeen in the 1740s provide evidence for this.¹⁰ By the following decade, Europe was plunged into a quarter century of warfare precipitated by the French revolution and the career of Napoleon Bonaparte. Abandoned children became the flotsam and jetsam of the war, and many who came to the notice of the penal system were transported to the Australian colonies, where about a quarter of the convicts were under eighteen years of age.

Kidnapping to philanthropy

By 1815 and the return of peace in Europe, the United Kingdom began to experience enormous and unprecedented social change accompanied by a population explosion which doubled England's people during the first half of the century. The result was a predominantly youthful society. Those under the age of fourteen constituted at least one-third of the total population, and for most of the period, nearly forty per cent. Moreover, it was an urban presence; it was the towns and cities which were growing at an extraordinary rate.

Social tensions increased emigration from the British Isles and some philanthropists wished to use emigration to relieve the plight of destitute and abandoned children. As early as 1645 the Corporation for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England had promoted child migration, but its venture led to bitterness and recrimination and a second scheme in 1651 had to be abandoned. The first nineteenth-century religiously-inspired initiative was the Children's Friend Society, founded by Captain Edward Brenton, a retired naval officer, in 1830.¹¹ Brenton had observed the destitute who lived on the periphery of London's criminal underworld and realised that for many, a criminal lifestyle was simply a way of coping with extreme poverty and was an existence without prospects for a healthy, productive and law-abiding life. The solution was emigration.

'Prospects' was at the heart of the rationale for child migration. Many child carers, such as Brenton, for well over another century felt that poor, abandoned (and often illegitimate) children, already in parish care or private orphanages, would have better futures in the colonies. With the slogan 'The Bible and spade for the boy; the Bible, broom and needle for the girl', Brenton opened an agricultural school for twenty boys between ten and fifteen years of age at West Ham in Essex, later relocated to Hackney Wick. At first he received widespread support from

⁹ C H Firth and R S Rait (eds), *Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum*, Vol. 1, London, 1911, p. 98.

¹⁰ *Flying Post*, 1 September 1698, in D P Nicholson, 'The genealogical value of early English newspapers', *Genealogical Magazine*, Vol. 17, No. 3, August 1983, p. 71.

¹¹ E Hadley, 'Natives in a strange land: The philanthropic discourse of juvenile emigration in mid-nineteenth century England', *Victorian Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 3, Spring 1990, p. 411ff. See also: E Bradlow, 'The Children's Friend Society at the Cape of Good Hope', *Victorian Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 2, Winter 1984, p. 155ff.

prominent citizens and the press and for a few years the Children's Friend Society flourished. A refuge for girls was established at Chiswick in 1834.

After a period of training in his homes, Brenton arranged the emigration of the children – some 700 of them – over the next few years, to the Cape Colony in the main, though some children were sent to Upper Canada in 1835 and placed in private homes by a committee of the Toronto City Council.¹² However, after this promising start, calamity struck the Children's Friend Society: there were allegations of 'slavery', exploitation and harsh punishments of the young emigrants at the Cape. The bad publicity led to a public enquiry at the Cape. After Brenton died suddenly in 1839, the Children's Friend Society lingered for only three more years. Support evaporated and no more children were sent.

As with later child migration advocates – from Maria Rye through Thomas Barnardo and Kingsley Fairbridge – Brenton had failed to realise the irrational in human life and the dark side of human nature. He and other middle-class reformers did not understand the dynamics of urban working-class life. They saw children abandoned in filth and squalor, mired in desperate poverty, abused by parents, relatives, guardians and employers, and were surprised when some youngsters clung tenaciously to their past attachments when often the objects of their devotion appeared so unworthy. It was a common situation.

Edward Brenton was the first nineteenth-century philanthropist to undertake child migration on a large scale and his pioneering work encountered the difficulties, misunderstandings and failures which were to bedevil other such drastic attempts at social engineering. Child migration schemes – from Thomas Barnardo's to the Catholic emigration to the Western Australian orphanages of the Christian Brothers after World War II – were often awash with controversy. There was widespread suspicion that shadier agendas lurked behind the facade of charitable impulses.¹³

After the demise of the Children's Friend Society, child migration remained small-scale for thirty years. In 1849, the Ragged School Movement, whose President was Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, received a grant of £3,000 to send 150 children to New South Wales. After this initiative, the Ragged Schools continued child emigration in a small way with their private resources until this aspect of their work was subsumed by the massive increase in child emigration after 1869 led by evangelical Christians Annie Macpherson, Maria Rye, Thomas Barnardo, William Booth and John Middlemore.¹⁴

Meanwhile, in 1850, an Act of Parliament permitted the Poor Law Guardians to fund the emigration of any child in their care subject to permission of the Poor Law Board. In addition, the permission of any surviving parent was to be sought where this was possible. When this was not practicable, it was necessary to procure the

¹² P T Rooke and R L Schnell, *Discarding the Asylum: From Child Rescue to the Welfare State in English Canada, 1800–1950*, University Press of America, 1983, p. 185.

¹³ *op. cit.*, p. 135.

¹⁴ I Pinchbeck and M Hewitt, *Children in English Society*, Vol. 2: From the Eighteenth Century to the Children Act, 1948, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1973, p. 5.

child's agreement to his emigration, given before two justices of the peace in a magistrates court. In 1891, the *Custody of Children Act* gave the 'rescue societies' a legal framework within which to operate. Before this modern child migration had operated in a grey area.

Child migration peaks

Child migration peaked from the 1870s until the start of World War I. The 1920s emigration to Canada and Australia was small-scale by comparison, and the post-World War II child migration to Australia was minuscule. Some 80 000 children were emigrated to Canada before 1914; and only some 3,500–4,000 child migrants were sent to Australia after 1945.¹⁵ Moreover, throughout the whole period – almost 100 years – the numbers of children emigrated were only a small fraction of the numbers of children in care throughout the United Kingdom.

The large increase in child migration after 1870 was triggered by desperate economic conditions over the previous few years: the social havoc caused by the 1866 cholera epidemic, the bad harvest of 1867 and widespread unemployment during a cyclic downturn in the economy. It was during this period that Annie Macpherson, Thomas Barnardo and William Booth commenced their work among the poorest and most destitute in the East End of London. To all of them, and many other religious workers, emigration seemed the one certain way for the desperately poor to better themselves.¹⁶

However, as well as the specific factors which led these people, and others such as William Quarrier (Orphan Homes of Scotland, Bridge of Weir, Glasgow), Robert Rudolf (Church of England 'Waifs and Strays Society') and Father Richard Seddon of the Catholic 'Crusade of Rescue', to favour emigration for their charges, there was a general climate of ideas which encouraged the sending of the children. The British Empire was reaching the peak of its expansion. This and industrial supremacy was exhilarating for some. On the other hand, amidst the rapid industrial expansion, there was for others a romantic longing for the simpler verities of rural life; a horror of the festering slums of the great cities; and a conviction that children of the lowest social class were better separated from their unworthy parents.

At higher levels of government and among some humanitarians was the realisation that emigration was a 'safety-valve' to tide over economic desperation in the British Isles, and to stave off revolution. Respectable middle-class society seemed threatened. Father Waugh wrote of 'the verminous ill-fed hordes pressing closer', while Samuel Smith, MP for Liverpool, believed that 'the seething mass of human misery will shake the social fabric' unless something was done to ease social tensions. Smith supported Barnardo's Homes generously, but revolution was on his mind, not religion.¹⁷

¹⁵ G Wagner, *Children of the Empire*, Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1982.

¹⁶ *op. cit.*, p. 47.

¹⁷ H Hendrick, *Child Welfare in England, 1872–1989*, Routledge, London, 1994, p. 81.

Opposition to the policy

However, while 80 000 children were sent in this enthusiasm for child migration before 1914, these were only a small fraction of the children in the care of voluntary societies, the Poor Law Unions, or the industrial schools and reformatories of the criminal justice systems. Why were so few children sent? On the one hand, many inspectors and senior civil servants were proud of the British institutions they served, and they opposed child emigration because parental rights and children's desires were often ignored. They disliked the rough-and-ready manner in which many of the private agencies operated. They suspected their motives and their charismatic styles of leadership which were likely to lead to scandals. Moreover, the civil servants knew that inspection and supervision of the children placed with Canadian farmers was casual at best and often completely lacking.

There were in addition other levels of opposition to child migration: many, if not most, Boards of Guardians were reluctant to see the children emigrated, since they argued, on principle, they could not fulfil their statutory responsibilities when the children left Great Britain. Moreover, they feared that only the fittest children would be sent, and they would be left caring for the remainder. Also, the emigration of the children from the workhouses, industrial schools or reformatories emigrated the jobs of the staff of these places. In the end, most of the children emigrated were sent by the private agencies, despite this opposition.

The Farm School movement and Australia

Child and youth migration to the Australian states came towards the end of a long experience with the policy elsewhere, although many of the early convicts could be seen as child migrants. In the early twentieth century, new migration enthusiasts involved themselves in the work, stressing that children should be trained in colonial homes before they were placed with colonial farmers. With this in mind, Mrs Elinor Close arranged the emigration of children to Nova Scotia and Thomas Sedgwick escorted parties of youths to New Zealand. However, the dominating personality of this phase was Kingsley Fairbridge, who was offered land at Pinjarra, south of Perth, by the Western Australian Government in 1911 to pioneer his farm school initiative. After an epic struggle Fairbridge and his supporters established this venture securely and other farm schools were founded over time at Molong, near Orange in New South Wales, and at Glenmore, near Bacchus Marsh in Victoria. This latter was the Lady Northcote Farm School founded in 1937.

With the outbreak of World War I, migration from the British Isles was suspended, and when it recommenced in 1920, the numbers of children sent were never on the same scale.¹⁸ By 1920, powerful interest groups in Canada opposed the entry of unaccompanied juveniles and throughout the following decade child migration to Canada diminished. The Great Depression finally terminated their entry; no further juvenile emigrants were placed in Canada after 1932. However, as that dominion barred the entry of unaccompanied juveniles, the voluntary societies focused their

¹⁸ This analysis has been prepared by Professor Emeritus R A Parker, Dartington Social Research Centre, Totnes, Devon.

attention increasingly on Australia where, in the buoyant 1920s, governments favoured their entry. Barnardo's Homes sent children to New South Wales in 1923 and handled 872 during the decade; Fairbridge continued its work and 918 children arrived in Western Australia during this period. Meanwhile, in 1920, by an agreement with the states, the Commonwealth undertook the responsibility of recruiting, medically examining and transporting assisted immigrants, ie of all overseas activities, while the states agreed to requisition for the numbers and classes of migrants they required, and to provide for their reception, employment and after-care. Until 1946, the State governments were more responsible for supervision. It should be mentioned that there were many more youth migrants brought to Australia than child migrants: some 4 500 young men came to New South Wales under the Dreadnought Scheme before World War II and some 12 500 emigrated with the Big Brother Movement from 1925 to 1983. The focus on child migration in this introduction is because of the contemporary controversy surrounding the phenomenon.

The emigration work of the voluntary agencies was assisted in 1923 when so-called 'collective nomination' was widely extended, due largely to the efforts of Major C W Bavin, Migration Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, who toured the dominions in 1922 and 1923, interesting societies in overseas settlement. Previously, state-assisted migration had been conducted mainly under two systems, requisition and individual nomination. Under the former, the dominion government estimated the numbers and classes of immigrants required and requisitioned for them through their separate migration representatives in Britain. The migrants were selected and sent at assisted passage rates, and on arrival overseas were placed in employment by the immigration authorities. This class of migrant was referred to as 'selected'.

Under the second system, individuals in the dominions, through the state immigration departments, might nominate relatives or friends in Britain as potential immigrants. If these nominees passed the required tests, they were granted assisted passages, and their nominators assumed the responsibility of placing them in employment, or of maintaining them until they were settled.

The aim of collective nomination was to extend this privilege to voluntary societies, and to allow them to nominate not only individuals but groups, not necessarily by name, but by numbers and classes of settlers they considered they were able to place in employment. This system was especially applicable to Commonwealth-wide societies such as the churches, the YMCA, Fairbridge, Barnardo's Homes and the Boy Scout Association. Branches in the dominions had first-hand knowledge of local opportunities for young settlers; branches in England were in touch with deserving and needy young people likely to have new opportunities by migration. Young British people – even children and teenagers – were considered ideal immigrants. They were more readily trained and more adaptable to the new conditions and they had their whole working lives before them. The romantic and humanitarian aspect of bringing youth to Australia spread a warm inner glow.

During the 1920s, both the Dreadnought Trust and the Big Brother Movement – the latter founded by Sir Richard Linton in 1924 – encouraged the migration of young men, fifteen to nineteen years of age, for farm work, as did the Salvation

Army. All these bodies were non-denominational or Protestant. By contrast, Roman Catholic child migration to Canada was only ten per cent of the total before World War I, but was to become more significant during its last phase. There was no Catholic child migration to Australia during the 1920s, though Catholic leaders in Western Australia were anxious to initiate a scheme centred on the Christian Brothers institutions in that state. The Brothers were a lay order within the church, heavily involved in education in Australia. However, enthusiastic planning and detailed discussions foundered on the unwillingness of the Commonwealth Government to approve a subsidy and the unwillingness of the English Catholic carers to send their children to the Antipodes when they had long-standing and successful arrangements over fifty years to send children to Canada.

The last phase

The Depression terminated almost all migration to Australia until 1937. However, the long-delayed plans to emigrate some English Catholic children to Western Australia reached fruition in 1938–39 when some 114 boys pioneered the Tardun scheme on a vast property near Geraldton. In 1937, Fairbridge, Barnardo's Homes and other migration agencies recommenced their work. New farm schools were established at Molong, near Orange in New South Wales and at Glenmore in Victoria. However, with World War II, and in the wake of Japanese aggression in the Pacific, the whole migration scene changed in Australia. The Government encouraged a new enthusiasm for a comprehensive immigration policy after the ending of hostilities. Child migration was, at first, considered a major part of this new immigration policy, but it was not to be.

In 1947, nearly 500 child migrants were brought to Australia, most of them under Catholic auspices and most to Western Australia. Thereafter, Fairbridge and Barnardo's Homes and many other bodies brought in some children but numbers remained small and diminished with the years. On the other hand, youth migration under Big Brother auspices boomed and over the next twenty years, this association sponsored up to five hundred young men each year to settle in Australia.

In 1950, some Maltese child migrants – all boys – were placed in Christian Brothers orphanages in Western Australia. During the next decade some 280 boys arrived under this scheme. Meanwhile, British officials and missions came to Australia to investigate child migration: John Moss in 1952 and a larger Home Office team in 1956. Moss tended to favour sending British children to Australia, but four years later the Fact-Finding Mission was much more sceptical of its benefits. Almost immediately, the British Catholic 'Rescue Societies' terminated all plans to place their children in Australia. Other societies sent a few children each year until 1967 but essentially, child migration was over.

Times had changed and the social conditions and attitudes in the United Kingdom which had led to many children being sent abroad were disappearing. Grinding poverty was being reduced and the social services of the welfare state were being extended. The social slur which illegitimacy had cast over mother and child was waning. In the event, only some 3,500–4,000 child migrants came to Australia after World War II, although some thousands of young adults were brought out by

the Big Brother Movement, the Boy Scout Association, the Young Catholic Workers Movement and other similar agencies. Child migration ended because the policy did not correspond with the new social realities which existed after World War II. Changing times rendered it almost inevitable that there would be controversy over the last phase of the policy and there was.

In 1987, the Child Migrant Trust, founded by Margaret Humphreys and based in Nottingham (UK), commenced to publicise child emigration and to work actively to reunite former child migrants with their surviving parents and other relatives. The work of the Trust encouraged both popular and academic interest in the subject. Two British writers, Philip Bean and Joy Melville, published *Lost Children of the Empire* which brought knowledge of this phase of English child care policy to a wider audience, especially when the book's findings were dramatised in a television documentary. In 1992, the ABC and BBC co-sponsored a television mini-series, *The Leaving of Liverpool*, which has been shown twice in Australia and once in the United Kingdom since that time.

In 1998, a British Parliamentary delegation visited Australia to enquire into child migration and meet former child migrants. It was led by David Hinchliffe, MP, and came under the auspices of the Health Committee of the House of Commons. Its arrival was accompanied by widespread publicity. Its report, findings and recommendations may prove to be the last act in assessing a policy which commenced nearly 400 years ago.

A child migration timeline

1607

First permanent English settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, on the north American coast.

1615

Labour shortage. The Privy Council sanctions the transportation of convicted felons to Virginia and the West Indian island colonies such as Bermuda.

1617

London Common Council and the Virginia Company consider sending 'vagrant' children (street kids) to Virginia.

1619

First 100 vagrant children rounded up and despatched to Virginia; venture declared a success; second group planned.

1620

(January) Opposition to child migration; first group sent illegally, but 31 January the Privy Council authorises child migration. Second 100 children sent to America.

1622

Indian massacre of 350 settlers in Virginia in the wake of which another 100 vagrant children were sent among the reinforcements.

1645

Corporation for the Propagation of the Gospel in New England arranges the emigration of some 200 poor children (not, however 'vagrants') to North American colonies. The children were escorted to the colonies by members of the society. 'Spiriting' (ie kidnapping) children for work in Americas had grown to meet the perennial labour shortage in the colonies. Bristol the main port of emigration. Parliament passes an ordinance to make spiriting a felony.

1664

An office was created, under Roger Whitely, to register intended emigrants leaving British ports for the Americas. Spiriting continues; registering not a success.

1682

Privy Council creates another department to register young persons leaving for the colonies to counter the activities of unscrupulous emigration agents and 'spirits'.

1698

(September) *Flying Post* newspaper reporter claims he observed 'about 200' kidnapped boys held on a ship in the Thames awaiting departure for the colonies.

1740s

Aberdeen (Scotland) and environs saw some 500 young people kidnapped for the colonies.

1756

Marine Society founded by Jonas Hanway and Sir John Fielding to train 'boys from 12 to 16' found roaming the streets for service in the Royal Navy.

1757

The Extraordinary Adventures of Peter Williamson exposes kidnapping of children in Scotland for service in the Americas. The book led to a celebrated civil action against certain Aberdeen businessmen and magistrates for complicity in the traffic.

1783

American War of Independence confirms the Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen seaboard colonies in North America; end of adult convict transportation to the American colonies.

1788

New South Wales established as a penal colony; many of the convicts transported were under eighteen years of age.

1789–1815

French revolutionary wars; Napoleon Bonaparte. The wars involved many thousands of young men who would formerly have gone – freely or otherwise – to the North American colonies.

1830

Captain E P Brenton founded the Children's Friend Society whose policy was reformation plus emigration for outcast youth. In the 1830s the Children's Friend Society despatched some 700–800 boys as child migrants to the Cape Colony with a few children going to Toronto in Upper Canada (Ontario).

1838

Parkhurst prison established on the Isle of Wight where convicted boys under sixteen years of age passed some of their sentence before (possible) emigration to a British colony. Some Parkhurst boys went to New Zealand; others to Western Australia.

1844

Ragged School Movement founded with Earl of Shaftesbury as President.

1849

Ragged Schools received a grant of fifteen hundred pounds to send 150 children to New South Wales.

1850

Parliament allowed the Poor Law Guardians with the consent of the Poor Law Board to fund the emigration of any child in their care.

1849–51

St. Pancras Poor Law Guardians emigrated small numbers of children to the British colonies in the West Indies.

1853

In New York, the Congregational Minister, Rev. C L Brace, founded the Children's Aid Society.

1854

The Children's Aid Society sent its first group of 'orphans' from New York – by train – to be adopted or indentured to farming families in the middle west states of Iowa, Michigan, Kansas and Ohio. Between 1854 and 1930 the Children's Aid Society and the New York Foundling Hospital sent between 150 000 and 200 000 children on the 'Orphan Trains' to the western farming states.

1869

Scottish-born evangelist, Annie Macpherson, opened her Home of Industry at Spitalfield in the desperately deprived East End of London. The more famous Thomas Barnardo also commenced his work for the poor in London.

1870

Macpherson escorted her first party of one hundred children to Ontario, Canada. Rev. Charles Brace of 'Orphan Train' fame was, in part, her inspiration. Her centre in Ontario was at Belleville; her receiving home's name was 'Marchmont'. Father Nugent of Liverpool pioneered Catholic child migration to Canada.

1872

Macpherson opened two additional Canadian receiving homes at Galt in Ontario and Knowlton in Quebec. She arranged emigration parties from Barnardo's, the Orphan Homes of Scotland (Quarrier) and the Smyly homes of Dublin as well as from her own London 'Home of Industry'.

1875

Senior Poor Law Inspector, John Doyle, reported unfavourably on some aspects of child migration to Canada, especially that arranged by Maria Rye. The result was that fewer workhouse, industrial school and reformatory children were sent as child migrants; most young emigrants came from private care facilities.

1881

Dr Barnardo embraced child migration wholeheartedly – he was already the dominant child care personality of the age – his organisation sponsored 20 000 children to Canada by 1930.

1888

William Quarrier, founder of the Orphan Homes of Scotland, Bridge of Weir, near Glasgow, started his own Canadian receiving home called 'Fairknowe' at Brockville, Ontario.

1891

The Custody of Children Act (so called 'Barnardo's Act') legalised the work of the private emigration societies where previously they had acted in a legal grey area.

1899

Catholic child migration was centralised through the Archdiocese of Westminster 'Crusade of Rescue'. Its leaders in London included Fathers Richard Seddon and Archibald Douglas and in Birmingham, Father John Hudson.

1901

Australian colonies federated as the Commonwealth of Australia. Immigration Restriction Act enshrines the principle of a 'white Australia'. The *Pacific Island Labourers Act* was passed under which all Pacific Islanders on contract in the colonies were to be returned to their places of origin by 1906.

1903

The tone of child migration rhetoric was becoming less religious and more imperial. A new departure came when Mrs Elinor Close advocated the training of workhouse children in Canadian farm schools *before* their placement with Canadian farmers. No support from Poor Law Board, but some private assistance. Training farm established in Nova Scotia.

1911

Kingsley Fairbridge popularised the farm school movement with the support of an Oxford-based committee and an offer of land near Perth by the Western Australian Government. The Dreadnought Trust – with Government assistance – subsidised youth migration to Australia, mainly to New South Wales. The youths were intended for farm work after an initial three-months training at the Scheyville centre near Windsor.

1912

Thomas Sedgwick popularised the benefits of youth migration to Australia or New Zealand for farm work. Youths sent were often around 15–19 years of age; child migrants were under fourteen years of age. Sedgwick's first party of 50 youths selected from London and Liverpool was sent to New Zealand.

1913

The first home sponsored by the Child Emigration Society of Oxford was established at Pinjarra, some forty kilometres south-east of Perth by Kingsley and Ruby Fairbridge. The first few years were an epic struggle for survival.

1914

First World War ended all emigration from Great Britain.

1920

The British care societies recommenced sending children to Canada, but their efforts were on a smaller scale than before.

1921

The Joint Commonwealth and States Scheme allowed for new cooperation in the field of immigration between Federal and State governments in Australia. The Commonwealth took responsibility for recruiting, medical examination and transport of immigrants to Australia, while the states advised the Commonwealth on the number and type of immigrants required and arranged reception, employment and after-care. Directors of Immigration were appointed both in Australia and London.

1923

The Empire Settlement Act provided monies for the British Government to assist emigration, including child and youth migration. The first Barnardo's child migrants arrived in New South Wales. Kingsley Fairbridge received substantial assistance from the Overseas Settlement Board in London to place his farm school at Pinjarra on a permanent footing.

1924

Kingsley Fairbridge died but the farm school movement was accepted as a superior approach to child migration as a result of his work. Sir Richard Linton founded the Big Brother Movement in Sydney to encourage youth migration on a large scale.

1926

Catholic leaders in Perth plan for a farm school at Tardun, west of Geraldton, as an extension of Clontarf Orphanage, and staffed by the Christian Brothers.

1930

In the wake of the Great Depression, child migration to Canada ended, except to the Fairbridge Farm School in British Columbia, which was established later. Most immigration to Australia was severely curtailed although Fairbridge was permitted to bring children to its Pinjarra farm school and Barnardo's to continue with its work at Mowbray Park, Picton, NSW.

1937

New farm schools on Fairbridge principles were established at Molong, near Orange, New South Wales and at Bacchus March near Melbourne. This latter was the Lady Northcote Farm School. Renewal of the *Empire Settlement Act* for a further fifteen years.

1938–1939

The first 114 child migrants under Catholic auspices arrived in Western Australia as part of the Tardun scheme. This was part of a partial renewal of assistance schemes by the Commonwealth Government.

1939

The outbreak of war in Europe in 1939 led to the suspension of child and youth migration schemes.

1940

There was fear of a German invasion in Britain and the Children's Overseas Reception Board arranged to send 577 children to Australia for the duration before the risk of submarine attack rendered the scheme unworkable.

1941

The fear of Japanese invasion led the Government to plan for large-scale immigration after the war. Child and youth migration was to be a major part of this effort.

1944

The Curtis Committee Report in the UK heralded a different thrust in child care principles.

1945

War ended. For two years no ships available to bring migrants to Australia. Meanwhile, social change meant that few British children were available for child migration. Youth migration to Australia was much more popular. However, the Dreadnought Scheme did not survive the war.

1947

First post-World War II child migrants arrive in Australia. The majority were placed in Western Australian institutions and about one-half now came under Catholic auspices. Big Brother Movement, NSW and Tasmania, renewed its youth migration to Australia and during the 1950s brought some 400 young men per year, fifteen to eighteen years of age, to Australia. Overall, some 12 500 teenagers came to Australia under this scheme since its inception in 1925.

1950

Maltese child migrants – all boys – arrived in Australia for the first time. All were placed in the Christian Brothers institutions in Western Australia. Eventually about 280 Maltese child migrants came to Australia.

1952

John Moss, retired Home Office Inspector, and member of the Curtis Committee, toured Australian child care institutions. In general, Moss remained sympathetic to child migration for certain deprived British children.

1956

Home Office Fact-Finding Committee visited Australia to study Australian institutions taking child migrants as the Commonwealth Settlement Act was due for renewal the following year. Committee's secret report to the Home Office was very critical of some Australian institutions and cold to the whole idea of child emigration. British Catholic care institutions terminated all plans to send further children to Australia.

1957

The Commonwealth Settlement Act was renewed by the British Parliament but few child migrants arrived in Australia, although small numbers arrived under Barnardo's and Fairbridge auspices. In all, some 3,500–4,000 child migrants came to Australia after World War II.

1967

The last nine child migrants came to Australia by air with the Barnardo's organisation.

1973

The new Labor Government ended preference for British migrants in Australia's immigration.

1983

Big Brother Movement ceases to sponsor youth migrants to Australia.

1986

Nottingham social worker, Margaret Humphreys, received her first request from a former child migrant for assistance in finding her relatives and commenced her efforts to reunite former child migrants with their families. This initiative led to the formation of the Child Migrant Trust (CMT) with some financial support from the Nottingham City Council, together with the British and Australian Governments over time.

1987

Margaret Humphreys' research visits to Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. In both Western Australia and the United Kingdom the child migration controversy commenced in the media with a series of major articles in *The Observer*. In Perth, Western Australia, the Child Migrant Friendship Society was founded as a support group for former child migrants.

1988

Research visits to Canada and Zimbabwe by Margaret Humphreys.

1989

Philip Bean and Joy Melville publish *Lost Children of the Empire* which was soon afterwards filmed and distributed as a television documentary. Both publicised child migration widely and encouraged popular and academic interest in the subject. Thousands of calls received on help lines following the screening of this documentary.

1990

Child Migrant Trust receives a three-year grant from the Australian Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

1991

Child Migrant Trust opens an office in Melbourne, Victoria and appoints qualified and experienced social worker.

1992

The ABC and BBC co-produced a mini-series, *The Leaving of Liverpool*, which explored the child migration phenomenon. In Perth, the VOICES organisation was established to press for compensation for former residents of Christian Brothers Boys homes in Western Australia.

1993

In July, *The Leaving of Liverpool* was shown in the UK by the BBC. Nottinghamshire County Council provided free telephone help lines staffed by the CMT for two evenings. Computer monitoring revealed that over 10 000 calls were made. The Christian Brothers published nationwide a public apology in regard to physical and sexual abuses committed in their Western Australian homes and provided a counselling service and travel assistance to some former child migrants to visit the UK.

1994

CMT Director's book *Empty Cradles* was launched at a function at the House of Commons in London.

1995

Following the CMT's submission, citizenship fees were waived for former child migrants, thus effectively recognising their unique position in Australian society, as well as the expertise of the Trust in verifying the bona fides of former child migrants seeking Australian citizenship. The Trust opens an office in Perth, Western Australia.

1996

The civil action sponsored by the VOICES organisation was settled out of court with \$3.5 million distributed among some 250 former students, many of whom were former child migrants. A Western Australian parliamentary committee investigated child migration. Over the next three years, the Christian Brothers produced a raft of measures to meet the needs of former child migrants which included: funding for a project to produce a computerised index to records of former child migrants who came to Australia under the auspices of the Catholic Church; and commissioning a survey of accommodation needs among former residents of Christian Brothers homes.

1997

The United Kingdom Health Committee announced an inquiry into the welfare of British former child migrants, after ten years of campaigning by the Child Migrant Trust.

1998

A UK Parliamentary Committee on Child Migration visited Australia to investigate this former aspect of British social policy. Its report, issued in August, was critical of child migration policy in general and of the treatment many former child migrants experienced in Australia, especially in certain Catholic homes in Western Australia and Queensland. The Western Australian Legislative Assembly passed a motion on 13 August apologising to former child migrants for any abuses they suffered in the state's institutions during their childhood.

3 Guide to the records

Child migration policy

There was little organised juvenile migration to Australia before World War I except for the Child Emigration Society (Fairbridge) in Western Australia from 1913 and the Dreadnought Trust in New South Wales from 1911. Both of these developments were essentially ad hoc initiatives – state-based, when immigration remained in practice a state responsibility – without any sense of response to an overall official policy. The work of the Fairbridge Society and the Dreadnought Trust are considered in some detail later in this guide.

The outbreak of war in 1914 rapidly brought immigration to a halt for the duration, but the experiments with juvenile migration touched a responsive chord with many in the Australian community. Humanitarian, economic and imperial concerns were all evident, as when Arthur Goldie, General Secretary of the Millions Club, wrote to Prime Minister Andrew Fisher on 1 February 1915:

Boys are at present scarce in NSW industries... Large numbers can now be obtained in England and their economic value to the importing State is greater than that of adults because they have a longer life expectation and are much more readily absorbable¹⁹

These ideas were percolating through those groups in the community – both in the United Kingdom and Australia – who were interested in immigration. In 1920 all forms of migration resumed and special provision was made for young people by almost every state. Special features of child and youth immigration were established: it was – in overall migration terms – small-scale but important, because for some sections of the rural community 'boy labour' was inexpensive and exploitable, and because the arriving young people did not compete in adult or urban labour markets for some years.

Juvenile migration was popular with the broad Australian community when adult migration was not. It generated the 'feel-good' factor. Unemployment was high in the 1920s and adult migrants were competitors for scarce jobs. Many working class people and the Labor Party were cool towards, or opposed outright, to immigration. However, it was harder to be opposed to the arrival of deprived youngsters brought by Fairbridge or Barnardo's, and equally difficult to be bitter towards young men brought by the Dreadnought Trust or the Big Brother Movement or the churches, intended for rural work at low wages which few Australians wanted.

There is something here of the positive and acceptable side to juvenile immigration. However, during the 1920s, some of the dilemmas associated with the policy also became evident and remained as long as unaccompanied young

¹⁹ NAA: A2, 1915/1803, Immigration – Proposals by the Millions Club.

people were brought to Australia. These were the 'standards' debate and the after-care problem. In general, Australian officials and care workers stressed the fine qualities they expected of the arriving young people. Permission to settle in Australia was a privilege. On the other hand, the British stressed 'after-care', that such young migrants required support before they became established in a new country. This meant resources which Australian governments were slow to advance. Over the years, these dilemmas were never solved to general satisfaction.

Behind the tensions over standards and after-care lay various immigration myths: one of the most enduring being that Australia was irresistibly popular with the British public as an immigration option and, indeed with foreigners in general. In fact, Australia had to compete for migrants with the United States and Canada, and had therefore, to offer incentives to persuade immigrants to venture so far from home. There was a further myth – that men and women of all classes responded to the romantic dream of immigration. In fact, the main motive for migration was economic; the established middle classes or their offspring rarely migrated. Migration was, in the words of one eminent Australian historian, 'the last desperate throw' for the marginalised, the long-term unemployed, those without prospects at home.²⁰

In 1930, as the Depression deepened, almost all immigration to Australia ceased, and many former migrants left and returned home. Youth migration under the Dreadnought Trust and the Big Brother Movement was curtailed. However, Fairbridge was permitted to continue its work bringing children to its Western Australian farm school at Pinjarra and Barnardo's Homes to its property at Mowbray Park, Picton, south of Sydney. There was almost complete cessation of immigration for the next seven years, and when it recommenced on a small scale, juvenile migration was stressed as the most politically-acceptable form of immigration.

By the mid-1930s, the United Australia Party Government, led by Prime Minister Joseph Lyons, was anxious to recommence assisted migration from Britain. However, the states were cool, unemployment remained high, immigration was unpopular with many and the trade unions and Labor Party were opposed. However, there was more support for juvenile immigration and an Inter-Departmental Committee in Britain about this time exploring the renewal of the Empire Settlement Act favoured this specialised form of emigration in its report which stated, 'Further farm schools on Fairbridge lines should be encouraged and the United Kingdom Government should be prepared to make a contribution.'²¹ The United Kingdom High Commissioner in Canberra supported this option and wrote:

It is my purely personal opinion that further farm schools on Fairbridge lines would have the bulk of public opinion in Australia behind them; moreover, I think it not

²⁰ M Roe, *Australia, Britain and Migration, 1915-1940: A Study of Desperate Hopes*, Cambridge University Press, 1995, p. 181.

²¹ Public Record Office, Kew: DO 57/189.

unlikely that the development of such schools in advance of renewal of a general scheme of migration would be acceptable to Australia.²²

It was following the 1937 Federal election that juvenile immigration under the Big Brother Movement and Dreadnought Trust recommenced; and more farm schools were constructed and subsidised. Fairbridge opened its facility at Molong, near Orange, NSW; the Lady Northcote Trust established a similar farm school at Glenmore, near Bacchus Marsh, Victoria; and the Christian Brothers brought their first group of child migrants to the Tardun scheme at a property west of Geraldton. Two years later, the outbreak of war terminated migration for the duration, with the exception of the 1940 Overseas Children Scheme under which some 550 British children were brought to Australia as a consequence of the threatened German invasion.

The story has been told already how World War II and the fear of Japanese invasion had a dramatic effect on Australian immigration policy. As the invasion scare receded by 1943, the Government began to develop its new immigration plans. However, Labor was in power, memories of the Depression were etched in members' minds and a large scheme of child migration seemed the ideal spearhead for postwar mass immigration with its slogan 'Populate or Perish'. A second slogan was coined, 'The child the best migrant'. On 19 October 1943, Dr H C Coombs, Director-General of Postwar Reconstruction, wrote in a memo: 'The Minister thinks we should plan for immigration of large numbers of children after the cessation of hostilities.'²³ This possibility was explored by a Sub-Committee on Child Migration within the Inter-Departmental Committee on Immigration Policy and out of these deliberations the plan was evolved to take in 50 000 'war orphans' during the first three years after the end of the war. This became Government policy.

When he made his first major statement on immigration policy in the House of Representatives on 2 August 1945, the Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, referred to the Government's plan to bring 50 000 orphans to Australia during the first three years of peace. In fact – and ironically – this program of child migration was the most specific immigration program to emerge from the war years.

It was not to be. The Government, at this stage, was out of touch with reality over the war orphan situation in Europe. Such numbers were not available; most countries refused to consider sending war orphans to Australia. In Britain, the Minister for Pensions forbade their emigration. In the event, in 1947, the long-standing child migration agencies – Fairbridge, Barnardo's, and various organisations within the Catholic Church among them – recommenced sending certain deprived and apparently-abandoned children to Australia, some 3,200–3,500 between 1947 and the cessation of child migration in 1967. Some 280–300 Maltese children migrated under a different but related scheme.

²² Public Record Office, Kew: Whiskard to Dominions Office, 16 September 1936, DO114/74.

²³ NAA: A461, A349/1/7 Part 1, Immigration – Child Migration – General.

Meanwhile, youth migration flourished for twenty-five years. The Big Brother Movement arranged the migration of some 500 young men per year after 1947, and the YMCA, Boy Scout Association and various churches arranged for similar older youth to come under their auspices. However, the Dreadnought Trust did not revive its immigration activities after the war.

But times had changed. The social conditions and official mindset which had supported child and youth migration were transformed – beyond recognition – by the 1950s. Juvenile immigration was becoming anachronistic. What had seemed generous philanthropy at one time, was to appear abusive practice in a later age. However, juvenile emigration was long over before the controversy over the practice commenced during the late 1980s.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38

A1

Recorded by:

1903–16: Department of External Affairs [I] (CA 7)

1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

1928–32: Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)

1932–38: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Canberra 337.14 metres

**Child Migration from the United Kingdom, 1912–14 [36 pages]
1914/5736**

A1,

T E Sedgwick was a British social worker, an enthusiast for youth migration. In 1910 he accompanied 50 young men taken from London and Liverpool and settled them on farms in New Zealand. He wanted to extend his plans to Australia. This file relates to Sedgwick's enquiry to the Australian High Commissioner in London on the eligibility for migration of British boys from reformatories, industrial schools, voluntary child care and orphanages. It contains also a 1912 Royal Colonial Institute Report on Child Emigration to Australia and New Zealand. There is a report by Sedgwick on his first year's experience of the pioneer experiment in New Zealand 'Town Lads on Colonial Farms'. Press cuttings on 'Sedgwick' boys, Fairbridge and the farm school movement generally are included, and there is information on a scheme to introduce apprentice farmers to South Australia. This was the brainchild of F W Young, MP in 1913. Sedgwick's writings reveal the classic attitudes of the youth migration enthusiasts: 'prospects negligible' (in UK); 'the hordes of wasted boy-life'; 'the wide open spaces' in the Dominions. However, Sedgwick's report 'Town Lads on Colonial Farms' has a tough practical tone, eg 'only a few (youths) over eighteen should be accepted'; 'boys who had spent prior time in a disciplined youth movement did well'; 'absconding should be an indictable offence'; 'training farms in England should test applicants'. After World War I, Sedgwick was to make repeated trips to Australia as a welfare officer on ships bringing young immigrants.

**Oversea Settlement, Empire Settlement Act, 1926–30 [c.200 pages]
1932/7770**

A1,

The first item is an agreement under the ESA between the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and the Church Army. There are similar agreements included in the file with Barnardo's; the 'Fellowship of the British Empire Exhibition'; 'Mr Fegan's Homes'; the Church of England Incorporated Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays; the YMCA; the Salvation Army; the Hull and District Migration Committee; the Oxfordshire Migration Committee; the Child Emigration Society; the National Association of Boys Clubs; the Church of Scotland Committee for Social Work; and many others.

Child Migration from Malta, 1935–37

A1, 1937/10182

Child Migration within the Empire, 1930 [8 pages] A1, 1932/7707

This contains correspondence during 1930 between the Department of Labour and Industry (NSW) and Dr Barnardo's Homes with statistics on the numbers of boys and girls received, the extent and nature of training and degree of success of particular children. These particulars were for use at the forthcoming Imperial Conference. Barnardo's – concerned during the 1920s mainly with youth migration – had brought 633 boys and 342 girls to NSW during the decade. There is a general discussion of their assimilation into the community together with examples of 'successes' and 'failures'. At this stage, only two boys and four girls had returned to Britain.

British Settlers Welfare Committee New South Wales, Financial Statements and Reports, 1931–34 A1, 1934/1717**File No 1. British Settlers Welfare Committee NSW, General File, 1929–32 A1, 1934/1439****British Settlers Welfare Committee. Question of subsidy by Commonwealth Government, 1934–36 A1, 1937/7110****British Settlers Welfare Committee, New South Wales, 1933–36 A1, 1936/1580****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34 A458**

Recorded by:

1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 49.77 metres

Immigration Encouragement. Main policy file, 1919–24 A458, G154/7 part 1

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50 A461

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Immigration, Control by the States. Prime Minister's Department, 1929–30 [21 pages] A461, C349/1/1

This contains letters from Canon D J Garland of the Church of England Immigration Council, expressing his concerns to the Government about the suspension of assisted immigration especially where it concerned juvenile farm apprentices for Queensland, of whom 3 563 boys had come to the state since before World War I; the program 'an unqualified success'. As Australia was in economic recession, the Government was unsympathetic. Senator G C Daly minuted: 'Unnecessary to pursue the matter further' – 7 February 1930.

Child Migration – General, Part 1, 1937–44 [145 pages] A461, A349/1/7 part 1

There is information from both before and after World War II included in this file. In 1937 Prime Minister Lyons announced the reintroduction of assisted migration in a speech, 28 September 1937, in which he stressed the drop in the birth rate during the Depression, therefore 'the Government can no longer delay... the states are procrastinating. There are two forms of assisted migration that have been

outstanding in their success: (1) assistance by the payment of part of the passage money to British people nominated by their friends or relatives in Australia, and (2) child migration by such schemes as the Fairbridge Farm School'. Most of the material concerns the new immigration policy. There are proposals for the migration of war orphans, including refugee and displaced children from Europe after conclusion of hostilities. The Commonwealth Government worked in association with the Inter-Governmental Committee, UNRRA and the British Orphans Adoption Society. The file also contains correspondence with the Australian Jewish Welfare Society regarding the immigration and adoption of refugee children before the war and a proposal by the Marsden Home for Boys, Kallangur, to bring boys from England to Queensland. Various press cuttings and letters reveal both official and unofficial attitudes to child migration. The following four files, described in more detail in their respective sections of this guide, are closely related: Lady Northcote Bequest A461, B349/1/7; Fairbridge Farm School A461, C349/1/7; Barnardo Boys A461, H349/1/7; and Catholic Institutions in Western Australia A461, M349/1/7.

Child Migration – General, 1944–50 [156 pages] A461, A349/1/7 part 2

This concerns various approaches by sundry associations and individuals to the Government in the wake of its announcement of a new, much more vigorous immigration policy, after the conclusion of hostilities. The British Orphans Adoption Society wrote to Prime Minister John Curtin, 8 September 1944, offering its services in arranging placements for British war orphans. Curtin granted their leaders an interview, on which there are notes here. Mr L S Amery, British Minister at the India Office, urged more schools on the Fairbridge model, and advised that they take a number of abandoned German orphans. There is a range of newspaper cuttings which illustrate the ferment which the new immigration policy stirred in the community. While this is not a policy-making file, Government attitudes had hardened against legal adoption for overseas children brought to Australia, frustrating the plans of the British Orphans Adoption Society. Adoption presented legal problems in the confusion and dislocation caused by six years of warfare.

British Settlers Welfare Committee – NSW, 1921–36 A461, D349/1/11

**Immigration Agreements under the Empire Settlement Act, Part 2, 1931–41
[c.200 pages] A461, B349/1/3 Part 2**

The file contains copies of agreements between the British Government and certain voluntary societies under the Empire Settlement Act, for example, the Fairbridge Farm School Society, Molong, New South Wales and the Salvation Army.

**Health of Migrant Children (Undated statement by the Minister for Immigration,
Mr A A Calwell, re the death of 12 European migrant children), 1946–47
[6 pages] A461, P349/1/7**

This contains an undated statement by the Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, after 12 young children had died at the Bonegilla Camp near Albury, NSW in 1947. These children were not 'child migrants' as the term is used as they arrived with at least one parent. However, the deaths illustrate the condition in which some young people had survived the war. Calwell said, inter alia: 'The deaths of 12 European children at Albury, some of them from malnutrition, is a tragic reminder of the conditions of privation in which children are still forced to live in war-devastated Europe. Their condition of malnutrition was too far advanced... they arrived from Poland and the Baltic states via Camp Capua near Naples'. An official wrote on the file: 'I suggest the remains be cremated. There is no need to put them in the morgue'.

**MENZIES AND HOLT MINISTRIES – CABINET FILES 'C' SERIES, 1948–85
A4940**

Recorded by:

1958–67: Cabinet Secretariat [I] (CA 3)

Canberra 77 metres

Increased maintenance payments in respect of child migrants sponsored by approved voluntary organisations, 1954–55 A4940, C1092**RECORDS RELATING TO THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1937****CP4/2**

Recorded by:

1911–71: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 1.08 metres

**Migration 1. Policy of the United Kingdom Government. 2. Policy of the Commonwealth Government – statement by Minister for the Interior. 3. Development and Migration (a) Scheme of the Honourable B S B Stevens (b) Statement by the Minister for Development. 4. Review of past schemes (a) £34,000,000 Agreement (b) Farm Schools. (c) Assisted Passages. 5. Absorptive Capacity of Australia. 6. Report of Inter-Departmental Committee. 7. Big Brother Movement. Records relating to the Imperial Conference, 1937
CP4/2, bundle 3/57****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1921–23****A457**

Recorded by:

1911–71: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 18.27 metres

Immigration Encouragement. Particular Classes – Burnside Boys, 1922 [2 pages] A457, Z400/5

This contains a cablegram to the Prime Minister from the High Commissioner's Office relating to a paragraph in *The Times* about the destruction by rebels in Ireland of an orphanage and asking someone to take the 33 boys it contained. Sir James Burns had offered to take them to the Burnside Homes in Australia provided they passed medical and other requirements. The Prime Minister's reply stressed that none could be sent unless arranged under the existing agreement.

Loans – Irrecoverable on account of migrants who have defaulted in repayments, 1923 [10 pages] A457, Z400/6

This file concerns loans made to assisted immigrants, domestic servants and Dreadnought Boys under the Assisted Immigration Deferred Payments Scheme and the question of writing off those thought irrecoverable. The file is of particular interest in relation to the individual case information.

Immigration Encouragement, Particular Classes – Baby Immigration, 1922–23 [54 pages] A457, X400/5

This concerns a proposal addressed to Dame Mary Hughes by Mrs Joice Nankivill of the Lyceum Club, Piccadilly, on the question of child emigration to Australia – dealing particularly with the adoption of 'war babies'. The matter was referred to the states and the replies were in the main unfavourable. There are articles from the Sydney Morning Herald in August 1922 and a letter to the Prime Minister by Mrs

E M Irvine concerned with the adoption by Australian women of British infants then under the care of the National Children's Adoption Association. The matter was again referred to the states and an attempt made to test public opinion. The response was again unfavourable stressing costs and difficulties; some premiers were opposed to the proposal on principle.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL PASSPORTS), 1939–70**A659****Recorded by:****1939: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)****1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)****Canberra 101.25 metres****Agreements Empire Settlement Act, 1929–40 [120 pages] A659, 1945/1/511**

The file has copies of a number of agreements between the British Government and private agencies arranging child and youth migration under the Empire Settlement Act mainly during the 1920s; for example, with the Kent Association for Empire Settlement, 30 April 1929 'in a scheme for providing passage assistance, outfits and incidental expenses for certain migrants who proceed overseas under the auspices of the Association'. There are copies of agreements with the Dreadnought Trust, the Child Emigration Society (Fairbridge), Barnardo's, the Northcote Trust and the 'Fellowship of the British Empire Exhibition College in Australia'.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1943–44**A989****Recorded by:****1943–44: Department of External Affairs (CA 18)****Canberra 30.6 metres****Child Migration, 1944 [123 pages] A989, 1944/43/554/2/5**

This concerns the Interim Report on the Sub-Committee, Child Migration, of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy, c. January 1944 and correspondence surrounding the release of the report. The Interim Report contained the following reflections:

Child migration was given special consideration ... Where are the children to be obtained? The answers must be, as they always have been, institutions and poor families.

There is the realisation that any available European children might not meet Australia's stringent medical requirements. There is a copy of the detailed Committee Report here, undated. There is also an interesting 'Memorandum Prepared in the Dominions Office, London for the information of the Sub-Committee on Child and Juvenile Migration', dated 31 March 1944. This quoted the Secretary of the Fairbridge Society (UK) as advising:

There is little prospect of Australia attracting child migrants in any great number... there may during the next few years be an increased number of applications on behalf of illegitimate children, but orphaned children can probably be cared for by the persons who are entrusted with the pension awards for the children.

There are details of the Commonwealth's eventually abortive scheme to bring 51 000 child migrants to Australia. This material is available in many other places.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1945**A1066****Recorded by:****Department of External Affairs (CA 16)****Canberra 31.23 metres****UNRRA – Australian Council for UNRRA – ACTU and Child Migration Policy, 1945–46 [14 pages] A1066, ER45/6/8/7/7**

There is a copy of 'Immigration – Government Policy' – Ministerial Statement by Hon A A Calwell, 2 August 1945 – published as a booklet. On 24 July, an Immigration Department officer, minuted for Calwell his views on UNRRA:

I have been giving consideration to the future activities of the Australian Council for UNRRA which is a Council of some 40 voluntary organisations which was created last year to co-ordinate voluntary activity by Australians in the field of overseas relief and I think we should involve the Council in support of child migration... it should not be allowed to disintegrate through having nothing to do... the Chairman is the Minister for External Affairs.

There is no evidence from this file what the Government decided on the issue.

Child Migration to Australia, 1944–45 [30 pages] A1066, G45/1/25

There is a news cutting on the Commonwealth Government's plan to take 51 000 child migrants soon after the war ended. There are also detailed 'Notes taken at a Conference of Commonwealth and State officials held at the Department of the Interior, Canberra on Tuesday, 9 January 1945'. Polish child migration had been broached, but in a note from Heydon to Peters, c. 6 March 1945, the former said that 'he believed the issue was dead until the matter of the future of the Polish Government was clarified'.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50**A434****Recorded by:****1939: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)****1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)****1945–50: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 12.45 metres****Polish Jewish Relief Fund: Migration of Children, 1937–42 A434, 1941/3/1039**

This file contains photographs and reports on many individual Jewish child migrants.

Survey of State Organisations to deal with Youth Migration, 1946–49 [4 pages] A434, 1949/3/25955

The principal folio is a letter from E M Hanlon, Queensland Premier, to Prime Minister J B Chifley, 25 September 1946. Hanlon recalls that the Premier's Conference, held recently, agreed to take a survey of the capacity of each organisation in each state to deal with youth migration. There is no such organisation in Queensland, the equivalent of the Big Brother Movement. Thus, for the time being, the State Migration Authority will exercise control over youth migration in Queensland and deal with individual applications for farm learners in association with the Child Welfare Department in Brisbane and the New Settlers League. At the subsequent Premier's Conference, 15 January 1947 the whole plan for a survey was abandoned, in view of the acute housing shortage in Australia, and the effects of conscription in the UK – 'the effects of this scheme on the migration of youths is as yet obscure' the premiers averred.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1926–30**CP211/2****Recorded by:****1926–30: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)****Canberra 23.94 metres****Voluntary Organisation Report by Mr T H Garrett on the activities of Voluntary Organisations in Migration to Australia. Fairbridge Farm, Salvation Army, Returned Soldiers League and Welfare Societies in Various States, 1926–30
CP211/2, bundle 98/NN****CORRESPONDENCE FILES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MISSION, WEST BERLIN,
1945–56****A9306****Recorded by:****1945–56: Australian Military Mission to Allied Control Council for Germany and Austria (West Berlin) (CA 8069)****Canberra 2.9 metres****Lutheran Church South Australia. Adoption of German Orphans, 1948–51
[c.200 pages] A9306, 352/4**

A representative of the International Society of Quakers made an enquiry to the Australian Mission in Bonn soon after the war regarding the adoption of German orphans in Australia. This led the mission to request relevant Adoption of Children Acts from each state in the Commonwealth and advise 'In such matters as this in Australia, the states alone are competent'. Long delays followed while copies of the Acts were sent from Australia. These are included. Meanwhile, Department of External Affairs made enquiries to the Australian Military Mission in Berlin and was advised: 'very few German orphans are available who are not properly cared for'. In November 1948, the Immigration Department advised that Australia was willing to admit German orphans in principle but in practice nothing came of the proposal.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953–**A446****Recorded by:****1953–74: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****1974–75: Department of Labor and Immigration (CA 1775)****1975–87: Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I] (CA 1955)****Canberra 3346.4 metres****Child Migration. General policy, Part 1, 1943–45 [c.300 pages] A446,
1960/66716**

This is a first of seven comprehensive files which give an exhaustive overview of child migration policy from the perspective of the Immigration Department. There are many newspaper cuttings announcing and commenting on the Australian Government's new immigration policy, especially the proposal to bring 50 000 'war orphans' to Australia immediately after the cessation of hostilities. See: 'Jane' 'Matters of Opinion', Herald (Melbourne), 1 November 1943, 'Should not the choice be left to them (the children) until they are old enough to choose?' This was an atypical view at the time. There was mention of the successful integration of 20 Jewish children from Germany and Austria 'brought by the AJWS just before the outbreak of war' and placed in a house in Balwyn (Argus, Melbourne, 3 November 1943). Most commentators heartily approved the Government's plans for 17 000 children ('34 shiploads of children') per year for three years. Interestingly, in view of

the discussions over the next three years, a Daily Telegraph columnist wrote, 10 January 1945:

I talked about child migration with several members of the Consular Corps. Their unanimous opinion was that child migration from Europe was just baloney.

There is an important 'five-page summary' on child migrant intake between the wars, dated 19 November 1943. It estimated that during the 1920s, total child and youth migration amounted to 2% of the assisted migrants who arrived in Australia, some 4 200 young people. Minutes on meeting of Sub-Committee on Child Migration, Inter-Departmental Committee on Immigration Policy, Canberra, 24 January 1944. Mrs C Kelly, six-page Confidential Report on Non-Government Migration Agencies performance also included. In correspondence between Government officials it is clear that they are aware (early 1944) of the shipping difficulty and the small numbers of children likely to be available, but in parliament 'there is so much advocacy for child migration on a large scale from the Opposition and on the Government-side', as R H Wheeler remarked to R L Peters, 16 June 1944. Report on plans to handle the proposed 50 000 'war orphans' on arrival in Australia. Copy of the Report of the Commonwealth Immigration Advisory Committee, 27 February 1946. At last, Government officials were aware that massive child migration to the nation was not a possibility. In lieu, the Government proposed 'to encourage those organisations already in existence which are used to handling child migration'.

Child Migration. General policy, Part 2, 1945–50 [c.400 pages] A446, 1960/66717

The first significant item in this massive file is a memo from A R Nutt, Department of Immigration, referring to an interview with John Pittard, Director of the Child Welfare Department, Victoria (26 June 1945). Pittard opposed the policy of bringing 50 000 child migrants to Australia. He instanced cases where British child migrants (eg under the prewar Fairbridge farm school scheme), upon reaching early youth, bitterly resented the fact that they were sent to Australia in a more or less compulsory manner. Pittard saw many practical problems in its implementation also. There is a detailed examination of the Catholic hierarchy's scheme for child migration, submitted 21 May 1946, and prepared by Brother A Conlon for Archbishop Simmonds. The arrangements were considered favourably but there was no financial commitment. Calwell replied:

All questions relating to financial assistance to voluntary organisations must be governed by the decisions of the Premiers Conference.

There is an important summary of the Proceedings of a Conference of Commonwealth and State Officers, 16 and 17 December 1946. Meanwhile Mr W Garnett at the British High Commission had made it plain that a representative of the British Government would have to inspect any institutions where it was intended to place child migrants (5 December 1945). The shipping difficulty was paralysing migration plans and there is much evidence of Calwell's frustration. See correspondence, Calwell to Beasley, Australian High Commission, 9 January 1947. The priority was to move 1 500 child migrants to Australia – to Fairbridge, Northcote Farm School, Victoria and to Catholic homes in Western Australia. There are copies of LEM 3 – *Form for Child Migrants* and LEM 4 – *Form for Youth Migrants* and detailed correspondence concerning the procedures by which Australian orphanages became registered as 'approved institutions' for the reception of child migrants. There is material on proposals for the admission of German orphan children and the scheme proposed by Major J Cooper, Shaftesbury Homes, Queensland; *Hansard* extracts from the Senate debate on child migration, 28 October 1948; a copy of General Conditions of the Scheme for Settlement of British Children in New Zealand; a Study on the Distribution of Intelligence in Migrant Children; and a copy of the Regulations made under the *Guardianship of Children Act 1946*. The last item is a proposal of the Consul-General for Greece, 7 February 1950, concerning the introduction of Greek children and youths to Australia.

Child Migration. General policy, Part 3, 1946–51 [c.300 pages] A446, 1960/66718

The first significant items concern the Immigration Department, under the Guardianship Act, dealing with problem cases concerning child or youth migrants. There was Mr S, a 'Little Brother' who was so grossly overweight that he was almost incapacitated for any work. He also suffered from epilepsy. The CMO, Sydney, sought medical advice and since it was believed that 'sooner or later he will become a charge on the public funds' the Big Brother Movement was requested to return him to the UK. This was done. There is correspondence regarding reception of child migrants from Malta for the Catholic homes in Western Australia. In May 1950, Mr R U Metcalfe, prepared a detailed study of the work of the Big Brother Movement since its inception, preparatory to a meeting of the Secretary, Immigration Department, with Big Brother Movement representatives. The issues discussed were: Australian Government's contribution to the Movement's London office; the maintenance of the children prior to their placement in employment; the hostel in Sydney for the reception of 'Little Brothers' destined for work in the city; the problems which had developed between the Big Brother Movement and the NSW Child Welfare Department and the proposed scholarships for 'Little Brothers' at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College. There is a good deal of material on the 'Standards/Selection' of child migrants debate in the bureaucracy and a copy of the controversial report *The Distribution of Intelligence in Migrant Children at Certain Institutions*, c. June 1950. In the wake of this, children at Fairbridge, Pinjarra were intelligence-tested and the results were more positive:

Overall only a little duller than a random group of children.

There is further correspondence on the proposals of the Overseas League to sponsor child migrants to Australia as it was doing to New Zealand and on the discussions to bring displaced young people from postwar Germany to Australia. Meanwhile, in Britain, the Home Office – opposed to child migration – was delaying approval to many Australian orphanages to receive British children. The file has a four-page summary of 'Proceedings held at the Planning Room, Immigration Department, Canberra, 23 November 1950'. The agenda items included: recognition of voluntary homes as 'approved institutions'; the (lack of) after-care when the child migrants graduated to the workforce; the planned Home Office regulations to control child migration; and payments to the voluntary organisations. There are a number of related newspaper cuttings.

Child Migration. General policy, Part 4, 1951–52 [c.300 pages] A446, 1960/66719

There is discussion between officials of the need to further amend the Guardianship of Children Act and further discussion on the plan of the Overseas League to bring children to Australia. Only Tasmania among the states warmed to the idea, though in New Zealand the scheme appeared to be working well. However, in NZ many of the so-called 'child migrants' were being placed with relatives and friends. An important shade of Government policy is contained in the following comment:

The movement of children direct to private persons is the most promising, and at the same time, the most risky method of introducing child migrants. The (State) Child Welfare Departments are not prepared to assume responsibility for unsatisfactorily-placed children.

There is further comment on German refugee youth and Home Office Regulations with heavy emphasis on the latter. There is a detailed report of the discussion in Canberra with Mr P T Kirkpatrick, newly-appointed General Secretary of Barnardo's, 1 June 1951. The issues discussed were: Home Office child migration policy; finance; recent disturbances at Mowbray Park, Picton; and after-care. Meanwhile, the Big Brother Movement had applied for financial support for its London office and much correspondence ensued between interested parties. On 8 August 1951, Commonwealth Immigration Department officers met with senior departmental officers at the NSW Child Welfare Department and there is a detailed report: including discussions on inspections of the voluntary homes; the standards of the

children; inspection of young men when placed in employment and exemption from the provisions of the Guardianship Act of older teenagers introduced by Jewish organisations. In NSW, tensions continued between the Big Brother Movement and the Child Welfare Department regarding after-care; the former claimed that association with Child Welfare lowered its image with employers. Apart from this, there are copies of the Minutes of the Commonwealth Immigration Advisory Council, 15 October 1951 and of John Moss's typed 25-page report, dated c. November 1951.

Child Migration. General policy, Part 5, 1952–53 [350 pages] A446, 1960/66720

This continues with correspondence, memoranda, notes of conferences and discussions concerned with a variety of child migration issues. Sir Tasman Heyes was forced to comment yet again, 13 February 1952, on the hoary issue of 'European war orphans, introduction to Australia'. He wrote:

Departmental investigations reveal... one parent alive or some other relative caring for them... countries want to look after their own children... in some cases parents are living in unsatisfactory circumstances but do not want to part with their child.

Mr F H Ordish wrote on the same matter:

Large numbers of such orphans available in Europe would probably be medically unacceptable owing to disease, malnutrition, tuberculosis, mental instability, neurosis and other incapacities of a permanent nature. Many have been uncontrolled waifs on the streets for so long that from the circumstances in which they have been placed they would be problem children unresponsive to authority.

There are discussions over classes of exemptions from the workings of the *Guardianship of Children Act 1946* and individual cases which caused the Department problems. On this, Mr R H Hicks, NSW Child Welfare Director wrote to Heyes, 5 March 1952:

I am becoming most concerned at the inordinate amount of time being taken up by breakdowns in child migration matters... out of all proportion to the time being devoted to general child welfare matters.

The Overseas League made another approach to the department to assist with placing child migrants but its efforts were politely rebuffed for the same reasons already outlined.

Child Migration. General policy, Part 6, 1953–54 [c.300 pages] A446, 1960/66721

Adoption of child migrants and their original selection were key issues discussed at the Conference of Commonwealth and State officers held in Canberra, 13 August 1953. Other issues were the complicated situation which ensued sometimes when parents followed their children to Australia and the costs of maintaining the children in the homes. However, the correspondence shows that recruitment and selection remained vital for these two years. The CMO, Australia House, was urged to be more active in recruiting, actively assisting the voluntary organisations, especially to establish better relations with the local authorities, and overcome the widespread apathy in the UK towards the policy – even hostility in some quarters. On 2 October 1953, Father C Stinson and Monsignor G Crennan of the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee had detailed discussions with departmental officers, following Stinson's return from fifteen months recruiting in the British Isles, Malta and Italy. Topics discussed included the ubiquitous recruitment – 'boys could be found; situation with girls extremely difficult'; British opposition – 'no one in authority was over-enthusiastic about child migration'; and the situation in Malta. Some boys were coming to Western Australia, but public opinion in Malta did not favour sending girls. There is an important ten-page report on the 'Conference with members of the Council of Voluntary Organisations for Child Migration' held at Australia House, 20 October 1953. There were no Catholic representatives and this limited its effectiveness. Two problems were canvassed: (1) the need to establish continuity of flow of child migrants; (2) the standard and calibre of the children recruited. Fairbridge and the Lady Northcote Home were still getting many recruits; others less so. There are detailed reports of the Conference of Ministers in Melbourne,

5 October 1953. The question of increasing maintenance payments was discussed at great length, but there was no increase at this stage.

Child Migration, General policy, Part 7, 1954 –72 [c.350 pages] A446, 1960/66722

The major events discussed are the visit of the British Fact-Finding Mission, 1956 and the subsequent rapid decline in the numbers of new child migrants arriving in Australia. Catholic child migration ended abruptly. Otherwise the perennial issues reappear – adoption, recruitment, 'the right type of child'. In addition, following the report of the British mission, a new emphasis appears: prodding the voluntary organisations to modernise their child care arrangements to keep abreast of modern developments. Newspaper reports from England and Australia on the mission's findings. There is a summary of the child migration scene, as at 24 April 1958, by Sir Tasman Heyes and its tone is pessimistic. Meanwhile, in Perth, the conviction of a former child migrant on a serious criminal charge awakened the argument from another angle, ie was Australia merely importing Britain's problem children? Senator D Tangney, Liberal, WA, supported the young immigrants. Fairbridge and Barnardo's kept a limited flow of children for some years, the former with its 'One-Parent' and 'Two-Parent' schemes backed by its prestige and the latter with its very extensive contacts in the UK from which to draw some youngsters. Correspondence suggests, however, that Government officials realised that the policy was increasingly irrelevant.

UK Fact-Finding Mission 1956, Part 1, 1955–56 [c.150 pages] A446, 1960/66768

This file and its successor (described below) contain exhaustive material on the visit to Australia of the British Fact-Finding Mission in 1956, the first mention of which came in a letter from Australia House to R H Wheeler at the Immigration Department, 3 November 1955 which advised:

Meanwhile nothing is being said about the Mission to the voluntary societies in London.

Wheeler replied, 11 November 1955:

Just why such a mission should follow John Moss so closely is not indicated.

There is much correspondence around the proposed Mission's itinerary in Australia; a two-page summary of 'Subsidies to Voluntary Organisations'; 'Brief Notes on Approved Child and Youth Migrant Homes' and a number of newspaper cuttings. The file includes thorough 'Notes of the Conference with the Mission, Canberra', 9 February 1956, and the Mission makes it abundantly clear that its emphases included 'boarding out', 'training for carers' and 'the isolation of many of the Homes from the Australian community'. As the Mission moved around, State Child Welfare Department Heads, sent their impressions to Canberra. In Victoria, Child Welfare noted the Mission's attitude to Nazareth House, Camberwell:

While it is a modern, well-run establishment, it did not merit their approval because of its institutional-like organisation.

The Director, Child Welfare, Hobart commented:

The Mission did not appear to be very impressed with conditions at St. John Bosco Boys Town, due mainly to the attitude of the Superior and the lack of female influence in the Home.

Child migration is discussed from many angles. There is a copy of the Mission's published report, *Child Migration to Australia. Report of a Fact-Finding Mission*, Cmd. 9832, August 1956.

UK Fact-Finding Mission 1956, Part 2, 1956–57 [210 pages] A446, 1960/66767

This complements (and partially duplicates) the previous file. However, this also covers the implementation of the Mission's report after its members had returned to Britain and the renewal of the Empire Settlement Act. After this was achieved, new agreements had to be made with each of the voluntary associations taking child

migrants, since subsidies were paid by the British Government under these agreements.

Child Migration Statistics, 1956–79 [16 pages] A446, 1964/46668

These statistics are not as useful for the study of child and youth migration as they might appear, since they concern all children brought to Australia since World War II and not merely unaccompanied young people. However, there is some useful material – eg on 22 August 1956, Australia House advised Heyes that some 80 000 to 100 000 British children had arrived in Australia with their parents. These youngsters were not the 'unaccompanied minors' for whom the term 'child migration' was coined, but they were children adding to Australia's population. The number of 'child and youth migrants' who had come unaccompanied to Australia, 1947–57, was 4 087. There is a pencilled list of 'child migrants' after 1960 but most of these would be young men brought to Australia by the Big Brother Movement, rather than primary school age children being admitted to 'approved institutions'.

Child migration from the UK – Agreement under Commonwealth and Empire Settlement Act between UK Government and the voluntary organisations, 1957–70 [c.50 pages] A446, 1968/71967

There is a copy of the draft agreement to be made between the British Government and the voluntary organisations taking child migrants under the renewed Commonwealth Settlement Act, 1957–62. The key idea guiding the renewed agreements is contained in a letter from the Dominions Office to J D Fraser, Immigration Department, 7 May 1957 in which he advises:

It is our policy to renew agreements under the Empire and Commonwealth Settlement Acts, 1922–57, provided that the organisations undertake to modernise their methods of child care to bring their arrangements in Australia more into line with those accepted in this country.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1943–50
A9816**

Recorded by:

1943–50: Department of Post-War Reconstruction (CA 49)

Canberra 32.4 metres

Child Migration – correspondence from J C Nield, Koornong School, Victoria, 1944 A9816, 1944/312

**Inter-Departmental Committee on Child Migration, 1944–46 A9816,
1944/589**

RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, 1939–51 CP815/1

Recorded by:

1944–50: Department of Information (CA 34)

Canberra 8.63 metres

**Migration: Booklet for Evacuee Children. Part 1, 1945–46 CP815/1, bundle
24/021/05**

**Migration: Booklet for Evacuee Children. Part 2, 1946–48 CP815/1, bundle
24/021/05**

Migration. Child Migration, 1943–49 [48 pages] CP815/1, bundle 25/021/19

This contains a variety of material on child migration mainly from the earlier period around the end of World War II when various schemes were being canvassed, but no actual resumption had occurred. The emphasis is on the proposed Government scheme of introducing 50 000 children soon after the end of hostilities. There are also private offers to assist with the children, mention of the repatriation of CORB children to Britain, newspaper items, some from Britain announcing the Australian Government's plans.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1922–68**A445****Recorded by:****1951–55: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 22.5 metres****Empire Settlement Act, Proposed extensions to, 1936–48 [c.100 pages]
A445, 103/17/2**

In November 1936, the British High Commission advised the Prime Minister's Department that the British Government was planning to extend the operation of the Empire Settlement Act for a further fifteen years. Prime Minister Joseph Lyons was attempting to resume assisted immigration but most State governments were lukewarm to this at best; hostile at worst. The principal amendments proposed for the renewal of the ESA were that maximum expenditure was fixed at £1,500,000 rather than £3,000,000 but the Bill would permit the UK Government to fund up to three-quarters of an agreed scheme entered into with a voluntary association, instead of the one-half under the existing Act. The file contains correspondence over the renewal of the 1922 Act; copies of the *First Interim Report of the Oversea Settlement Board*, July 1936; Cmd. 5326; 'Empire Settlement – Memorandum on Proposed Financial Resolution', HMSO, December 1936; *Hansard* (House of Commons), 19 January 1937 debate on the Amendment Bill; and other *Hansard* excerpts from both Houses of the British Parliament. There are also copies of certain agreements made under the renewed ESA with the Fairbridge Farm School, Molong and the Northcote Children's Emigration Fund.

**Child Migration. Guardianship of Children Bill, Part 1, 1952 A445, 103/7/2
part 1****Schooling, Training and Employment of Child Migrants introduced to
'approved institutions', 1950–52 [43 pages] A445, 133/3/5**

The file contains inspectors' reports of the institutions and the focus is on the training of the inmates for future employment. There is a copy of the 'Agreement for Service with Board & Lodgings' and the *Child Welfare Act 1947* (Sections 51 and 54). In April 1950 a four-man team inspected St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, Bindoon, with a view to placing the older boys in outside employment in the immediate future. There is a copy of the report and associated correspondence. It was this inspection which led to the formation of the 'Review Committee' to visit the 'approved institutions' twice a year to interview the older boys with a view to focusing their career options. There is an important memorandum (undated) written by Mr R U Metcalfe, c. June 1950 in which he comments:

The WA State Chief Migration Officer and the Under Secretary Lands and Immigration have, at Ministers and Officers Conferences in Canberra expressed concern at the action of several religious institutions of utilising child labour at the institutions on building and other work without any adequate remuneration to the older boys.

At Swan Homes, the inspectors found everything in order, assisted by the small numbers of child migrants in these homes. At Fairbridge, the Principal made it clear that 'any children retained on the staff of the school, would be, and were being paid,

award rates of pay'. There is a three-page statement of policy, 'Migrant Children and Wards in Institutions, in respect of Schooling and Employment', dated 28 March 1952. This includes the interesting statement:

Before children are sent to employment they are to be informed (a) that although they were brought up in the Institutions, they are under the Legal Guardianship of the Secretary, Child Welfare Department... until the age of twenty-one.

After they received copies of the WA 'statement', Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland made comments on their policies on the same subjects.

Child Migration, Material for the Minister's Conference, 1953 A445, 133/3/11

John Moss, CBE – UK Child Expert. Visit to Australia, Part 1 1951 [c.200 pages] A445, 133/3/6

John Moss was a County Welfare Officer in Kent for 40 years and a member of the seminal Curtis Committee on Child Welfare in 1944. In 1950 he was approaching retirement and wished to visit Australia. He offered his services to the Home Office to make an informal inspection tour of Australian institutions housing British child migrants. The Home Office accepted his offer because under the *Children Act 1948* its officials had to prepare Regulations for the control of the voluntary migration agencies and Moss's report would provide information on certain homes on which the Home Office had few details. In the first item in the file, Sir Tasman Heyes, Immigration Department head in Canberra explains Moss's visit to the State Migration Officers (SMOs) and advises complete cooperation in his survey. From the British High Commission, Mr W Garnett advises Immigration Department, 24 April 1951 that Moss's report is wanted especially on Roman Catholic institutions. The file includes newspaper cuttings on the approaching visit and an important 25-page summary of a meeting between Moss and Mr R U Metcalfe, Child Migration Officer, in Canberra, 24 & 25 October 1951. This is the first of four files of John Moss's inspection of Australian homes.

John Moss, CBE – UK Child Expert. Visit to Australia, Part 2, 1951–52 [c.200 pages] A445, 133/3/7

This is a continuation of material related to Moss's visit and the issues taxing officials at the time over child migration: appropriate age for child migrants; the arrangements on the immigration vessels; Home Office regulation. The first item is another copy of the 25-page 'Notes on Discussion', the last item of the previous file. In addition, there are newspaper cuttings on Moss's visit; the itinerary for the WA phase of his inspection and an enthusiastic report by Miss M G Coultas on her child migrant party; she was the Senior Escort on *The New Australia* which left Southampton. There is a draft copy of Moss's report, sent to R H Wheeler at the Immigration Department, 20 February 1952. Heyes noted to Moss that 'You have taken your task very seriously'.

John Moss, CBE – UK Child Welfare Expert – Visit to Australia, 1952–54 [c.150 pages] A445, 133/3/8

John Moss proved an enthusiastic supporter of child migration, his views crystallising around the 'fresh start' and 'prospects' view of the process for deprived youth. Moss was a lawyer, not a social worker. The Australian Government hoped to use his anticipated report to gain more children for Australia from 'Local Authority' care in Britain. The first item in the file is the transcript of a talk Moss gave on radio 2BL, 17 March 1952, in which he refers to rationing in Britain of 'meat, cheese and butter' – seven years after the war. Copies of articles written by Moss for the *British Weekly* and *Journal of the County Councils Association* praising child migration are here, together with letters he had written to British newspapers. There were delays in publishing his report. When finally the report emerged, Moss wrote to Wheeler, 14 October 1953:

It must seem rather odd that a report made in June 1952 is published in October 1953.

There is a copy of Moss's report in the file.

John Moss Report on Child Migration – Implementation of Recommendations, 1953–54 [c.100 pages] A445, 133/3/13

Moss's recommendations were clear, precise and specific and the Australian Government took their implementation seriously. The first item is a letter from the Immigration Department, Canberra to state Child Welfare Department directors summarising Moss's recommendations and urging action to implement them. Correspondence between Canberra and the various child migration agencies urging action along similar lines: admittance of Australian children to the homes taking only child migrants; the move from large institutions to cottage homes; the need for detailed case histories from parent bodies in the UK; pocket money, fostering and adoption.

INVESTIGATION CASE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1942–60 D1918

Recorded by:

1942–46: Investigation Branch, South Australia (CA 905)

1946–60: Commonwealth Investigation Service (SA) (CA 914)

Adelaide 1.46 metres

Commonwealth Immigration Advisory Council. Assimilation of migrant children into the Australian community, 1959–60 D1918, S3045

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–65 D400

Recorded by:

1948–66: Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)

Adelaide 435 metres

Child migration approved institutions statistics, 1953–58 D400, SA1954/1173

Child migration – Visit by UK Fact-Finding Mission, 1956, 1955–57 D400, SA1955/8761

Assisted Migration – Triestian parties of youths, Catholic Immigration Committee, 1955 D400, SA1955/321

Inquiry into conduct and progress of Migrant Children, 1959–61 D400, SA1959/3095

Assisted Migration Escorts for Children, 1950–55 D400, SA1961/1137

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–48 D401

Recorded by:

1946–48: Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)

Adelaide 1 metre

Child migration overseas league scheme, 13/5/1948–21/8/1950 D401, SA1948/5/179

**APPLICATION FORMS, MEDICAL EXAMINATION DOCUMENTS AND RELATED PAPERS OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN IMMIGRANTS (INCLUDING EX SERVICE) IN RECEIPT OF FREE AND ASSISTED PASSAGES, CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF SHIP ARRIVAL, 1947–51
D1989**

Recorded by:

1947–51 Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)

Adelaide 4.5 metres

Application for Child Migration, 'Ormonde', Johnstone, Kathleen or Cathie or Catherine, 19/1/1949 D1989, NN

Johnstone, Mary (Application for Child Migration) 19/1/1949, 'Ormonde' D1989, NN

M M Benstead – Application to migrate to Australia under the child migration scheme, 1944 – 1947 D1989, NN

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, 1926–50 PP6/1

Recorded by:

1926–45: Collector of Customs, WA (CA 808)

1945–50: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)

Perth 20 metres

Care of Child Migrant. Statement by United Kingdom Home Office. Inspectors Reports on Foster Parents, 1949–51 PP6/1, 1947/H/2590

Immigration Act (Child Migration) – Custodians – Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act, 1946–48 PP6/1, 1949/H/2246

Child Migration – Group Scheme, Claims for British Government Subsidy, 1947–50 PP6/1, 1948/H/156

Child migration – Training and employment of migrant children, 1950–51 PP6/1, 1950/H/4051

Approved Institutions. Transfer of Displaced Persons, minors, 1950 PP6/1, 1950/H/4191

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1945–50 A436

Recorded by:

1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31); 1945–50: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 5.04 metres

Farm Schools – General, 1935–40 [c.200 pages] A436, 1946/5/8

As the grim unemployment situation of the Depression years improved by 1935, there were moves to recommence assisted immigration. Child and youth migration were the most popular faces of state-subsidised immigration. Farm schools remained in vogue and the file follows Government policy as various groups planned to build new farm schools. In the first item, Mr T Patterson, Minister for the Interior, wrote 24 September 1935, to Prime Minister J A Lyons:

I formed the opinion at Pinjarra, WA that the Fairbridge Farm School was the finest example of successful migration work that I had ever seen.

There is correspondence on this and on the plans of a Committee of NSW Rhodes Scholars to build a new Farm School in the state; and on the move to use Lady Northcote's generous legacy to construct a farm school on Fairbridge principles in Victoria. *Hansard* reports of 1935 debates in both the Senate and House of Representatives are included. They show that the mood against immigration was still strong, despite the popularity of the farm school ideal. Many newscuttings are included – especially from the *Sydney Morning Herald* supporting Fairbridge and publicising plans to extend the scheme at Molong, via Orange in the state. There is correspondence regarding a farm school in Tasmania. The file makes plain that governments were prepared to offer Fairbridge and the Lady Northcote Home, Glenmore, Victoria more assistance by way of capital grants and maintenance payments than were to be available to other child migration organisations. The triumphal mood is captured in reports of the Fairbridge Annual General Meeting in London, April 1937. Mr R G (later Lord) Casey referred to Fairbridge 'performing a great imperial task'; Lord Hartington, Under Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, added that 'the British Empire was the only hope for the preservation of world civilisation'.

Child Migration Scheme with the United Kingdom, 1956–58 **A436, 1956/1110**

Child Migration – New Education Fellowship Scheme, 1945–46 **A436, 1948/5/6021**

Bishop of Lismore – Proposals – Child Migration, 1946 **A436, 1948/5/2593**

Child Migration Organisations in Australia – Survey by Mrs C Kelly, 1944–45
A436, 1945/5/54

Child Migration Scheme Administration – Applications for Appointments, 1944–46 [63 pages] **A436, 1945/5/57**

This contains applications from interested citizens seeking positions in the Immigration Department or to assist in the child migration program, often as welfare officers. There are replies, usually non-committal, from the Minister of the Interior, that if and when a vacancy occurs or a new position is created, the offer will be considered. This follows publication of the Government's plans for a new immigration policy of which child migration was to be a central feature.

Premier of Tasmania – Proposals Child Migration, 1944 [10 pages] **A436, 1945/5/37**

This file contains a plan submitted by Tasmanian Premier, Mr R Cosgrove, for a child migration plan in view of the widespread public discussion of immigration policy after the war. Apart from the plan there is only one piece of correspondence, from J S Collings MP, Minister for the Interior, saying that Cosgrove's plan would be forwarded to the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy for assessment. Cosgrove suggested that a Department of Child Migration be established, and that cottage homes on Fairbridge lines, attached to Tasmanian Area Schools, could be used to house the young immigrants. The plan reflects the romantic aura child migration had at this period.

CASE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES 1946–**J25****Recorded by:****1946–74: Department of Immigration, Qld Branch (CA 958)****Brisbane 1652.67 metres****Child Migration, 1947–52 [c.200 pages] J25, 1950/946**

This is a substantial file from the State Migration Office, Queensland. Much of the material concerns the 1948 plans of the Overseas League in London to develop child migration into private Australian families, rather than to institutions. The League was advocating what was outside long-standing Government policy. Sir Tasman Heyes outlined the Government's objections to the Overseas League scheme in an important letter to the CMO, Brisbane, 24 July 1948. Heyes stressed that 'the children may not come up to the expectations of the nominators' and the League had no facility in either the Britain or Australia to form a base for its proposed activities. There is correspondence on the arrival of youths in Australia under the 'Displaced Persons Scheme' by the Jewish Welfare Guardian Society; of young women arriving from Eire to be trained as Sisters of Mercy; and of 'Russian Orphan Children' arriving in Queensland via an orphanage in Shanghai, China. There is mention of the visits of Miss Harrison of the Scottish Home Office, and Mr J Moss of the Home Office in London to institutions in Queensland taking child migrants. In 1950, Mr D C Kinloch of the Overseas League made a second attempt to interest the Immigration Department in his child migration scheme, without success.

Child Migration – General, 1955–57 [c.200 pages] J25, 1955/18737

This file contains material on the UK Fact-Finding Mission, 1956, from the perspective of Queensland Immigration Department officials. Since relatively few child migrants were placed in the state, the mission would spend only six days, visiting principally Riverview (Salvation Army) and Neerkol, Rockhampton (Catholic). There were 27 child migrants at Neerkol, and 57 youths had passed through Riverview since resumption of child migration. In February 1956, the mission met executives of the voluntary organisations and Government representatives for separate meetings in Brisbane; and later visited the homes. At Neerkol:

in the evening [they] met UK migrant youths and girls who had been through the Home and were now either employed in the town or boarding at secondary schools in the district. Both at Riverview and Neerkol members had private talks with UK migrant children

(Nulty to Heyes, 2 March 1956). The file contains newspaper cuttings relative to the visit, a set of the minutes of the major conference in Canberra, 9 February 1956, with Australian Immigration Department officials and a copy of the Report of the Fact-Finding Mission: Child Migration to Australia, Cmd. 9832. HMSO, 1956.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1952–77 C3939**Recorded by:****1952–74: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)****Sydney 38.7 metres****Child Migration. Group Nominations, Box 2, 1952–57 C3939, N1955/25/75323****Child Migration of Orphans from Italy, Box 549, 1961 C3939, N1961/75238****Survey of Accommodation Available in Approved Institutions for Child Migrants, 1953–62 C3939, N1955/25/75054**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1959–73**K403****Recorded by:****1959–73: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)****Perth 49.56 metres****Child Migration: Inquiry into the conduct and progress of migrant children, 1958–62 [c.250 pages] K403, W59/57**

This concerns the 'Migrant Children School Survey', 1959. The Committee of which Mr Justice Dovey was Chairman included Dr J R Darling, Mr A Monk, Hon. P J Cleary, Mrs J Norris and Mr A J Lee. Side by side with this committee, the Child Welfare Minister in Western Australia appointed a committee to investigate the prevention of juvenile delinquency and associated problems. The former committee was not focused on child and youth migrants in any particular way, but the WA committee was. Western Australia was the only state in which the number of child migrants was such that they could be seen as posing special problems. There had been a number of well-publicised cases in which former child migrants were involved. Dovey's report was due for presentation at the 1960 Citizenship Convention. There is a copy of this report 'First Report on the Progress and Assimilation of Migrant Children in Australia' in the file. There are also the 1958 Annual Reports from the Commissioner of Police (WA) and the Child Welfare Department in that state. The latter included the useful information that 'Up until 30 June 1958, 1442 migrant children arrived in the state, of whom (over time) thirteen had been repatriated to the UK and nine were deceased'. Dr Darling had investigated the situation in WA and a short outline of his impressions is included. He wrote of the Child Welfare:

I am not desperately impressed by the quality of service rendered special migrant problems... children in, or from institutions, especially Roman Catholic institutions.

The problems of children from Catholic institutions, he said, stemmed from: (a) the nationality of the children – Italian and Maltese; (b) the very high proportion of very low IQs among the children; (c) the isolation of the sexes in the institutions; and (d) the lack of after-care. The Director Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association expressed resentment at the findings.

Child migration – child and youth organisations financial assistance and capital grants policy, 1952–61 [9 pages] K403, W59/58

The file is constructed around a request from the Immigration Department, Canberra, 9 July 1952 to CMO Perth to provide particulars of the capacity of the state's 'approved Homes' to receive more child migrants. This request followed a Conference of Commonwealth and State Officers, during which Agenda Item 20 concerned the need 'for a survey of available accommodation in voluntary child migrant institutions'. A clear chart of the situation in Western Australia is provided – 31 August 1952.

Child migration, Overseas League, 1948–50 [c.50 pages] K403, W59/59

The Overseas League (based in London) offered to arrange for Australian families to foster British children, but the Australian Government did not favour this form of child migration, though the League was able to manage a viable scheme in New Zealand. D C Kinloch, a senior League member, toured Australia in 1948 promoting their particular version of child migration, ie children selected by the League from ordinary poor families in Britain to be placed in foster care in Australia. The Immigration Department did not like the scheme. Key problems were: what would happen to the children if the original nominators or custodians could not, or would not, continue to fulfil their obligations; and what were the financial costs to the Government? In essence, the Government suggested that the Overseas League link its plans with one of the 'approved organisations' already in the field. All the correspondence in the file concerns this scheme which did have some success in New Zealand. However,

in New Zealand, the majority of the children fostered were placed with relatives and most of the children were over fourteen years of age on acceptance – an age group already catered for on the Australian scene by the Big Brother Movement.

**Child migration. Equipment and establishment allowance – policy, 1956–61
[23 pages] K403, W59/61**

The file concerns the equipment allowance which was paid by the Commonwealth Government to allow the homes to outfit child migrants before they entered the work force. In 1956 this allowance was raised from £5 to £10. Meanwhile, in 1961, with few child migrants arriving, Fairbridge, Pinjarra was considering the idea of introducing youth migrants under the Big Brother Movement to Western Australia. On 30 November 1961, the Immigration Department indicated that its WA Branch could pay £20 per 'Little Brother' introduced to the state by the Fairbridge Farm School.

**Child migration – education and training of children, 1950–52 [18 pages]
K403, W59/62**

The file focuses on the training and employment of child migrants at St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, Bindoon, following a thorough report on each boy after an inspection by three departmental officers, 14 April 1950. Their five-page evaluation appears in many departmental files. The officers noted that they had visited Bindoon one year previously and made recommendations which were not followed. As a result, the 'Review Committee' was established to visit each institution twice a year and interview each child fourteen years and over regarding career training. The committee would recommend a date for discharge from the institution.

**Child migration – foster parents and adoption, 1947–54 [17 pages] K403,
W59/63**

This file is poorly titled. It concerns – in the main – the question of adoption by WA citizens of UK child migrants residing in the state. However, the first item – five pages – is an important summary of new developments on the care of deprived children in Britain which will affect child migration. Garnett, W (Official Secretary, British High Commission) to Heyes, 18 October 1947. There is a Home Office statement on the principles which should guide juvenile migration.

**Child migration – legal guardianship of unassisted migrants, 1950–64
[47 pages] K403, W59/64**

This file contains much technical legal correspondence concerning the scope of the Guardianship of Children Act 1946 to control certain situations which arise, eg the arrival of young women almost eighteen years of age, who have been nominated by their fiance already settled in Australia. The second example discussed in detail is the possibility of deporting a former child migrant who has committed a serious criminal offence while he is still a legal minor 'since it is considered that he will probably continue to lead a life of crime and that his deportation is in the public interest' – 11 June 1957.

Child migration – group nominations, 1951 [1 page] K403, W59/65

A memorandum notes that some children are being recruited in Britain by representatives of the Australian voluntary organisations before their homes are declared 'approved institutions'. Arrangements to deal with this; more communication required.

Child migration – birth certificates, 1953 [1 page] K403, W59/66

This file contains a single piece of correspondence from Sir Tasman Heyes to the Director of the Child Welfare Department, Perth, 25 May 1953 concerning birth certificates of child migrants:

Former child migrants are often required to show birth certificates... for entry to the public service, before enlistment in the armed services and for some employers.

These had to be arranged with the Chief Migration Officer in London and were to accompany the children to Australia.

Child migration – farm learners scheme, 1953 [2 pages] K403, W59/67

Agenda Item No 7 of the Commonwealth and State Ministers Conference in Melbourne, 5 October 1953, had referred to 'Introduction of a Farm Learners Scheme' presumably in Western Australia since, it was noted, that the Big Brother Movement 'is doing a good job in this regard'. The item may have been prompted by Father Stinson, Director, Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association in Perth who had advised after fifteen months in Europe that 'lads over sixteen years could be more readily found than youngsters under twelve years'. There was no action on the matter.

Child migration – mixing of sexes, 1954 [2 pages] K403, W59/68

In his report, John Moss advised mixing the sexes in cottage homes maintained by the (Anglican) Swan Homes and the Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra – to approximate family living. The Child Welfare Department, Perth opposes this plan, 5 February 1954: 'the children are graded in accordance with their age and sex; they mingle at all other times, at play, at meals and at entertainments. This is the most practical way to conduct cottage homes'.

Child migration – pocket money, 1954 [5 pages] K403, W59/69

The Moss Report on Child Migration recommended that the children in each institution be given regular pocket money to spend as they choose. The file concerns the request from the Child Welfare Department, Director, Perth to the 'approved Homes' to provide relevant information. Six months passed. It is noted that Fairbridge and the Methodist homes had provided detailed information on pocket money; the Swan Homes and the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association had ignored the request.

Child migration – arrivals – placements in institutions, 1953–60 [74 pages] K403, W59/71

This file contains statistics concerning the number of child migrants and their placements in various institutions. Some of the statistics cover the whole of Australia but the main focus is on Western Australia. The first item is a chart: 'Placement of migrant children in institutions on arrival in WA as from 30–5–52 to 21–6–53'. There is some comment on the figures, but not much; the emphasis is on the charts themselves. There is a useful summary of 'Joint Government Financial Assistance' (1953). The last chart in the file contains the numbers of children in WA homes as of March 1960.

Child migration – maintenance payments, 1952–62 [49 pages] K403, W59/74

The correspondence in the file concerns the changing financial arrangements between the governments involved in child migration and the voluntary organisations, the custodians of the children. Some of the material deals with rare cases: eg some child migrants were in receipt of military pensions; could this money be used for their maintenance? (No). Would the UK subsidy be available to foster parents if and when a child was boarded out? (Yes). There was a crisis in 1960 when the WA Minister for Child Welfare decided unilaterally to end his state's subsidy for children entering institutions after 1 September 1960. Much paperwork on this matter. Eventually the Commonwealth persuaded the State Government to pay most of its regular maintenance to the institutions for new child migrant arrivals in Western Australia.

Child migration – subsidies – British Government, 1947–61 [39 pages] K403, W59/75

In the first item, Mr A R Peters, Immigration Department, Canberra, 24 July 1947 outlines for his counterpart in Perth the current payments to the voluntary organisations taking child migrants:

I refer to the decisions of the Premiers' Conference held in Canberra on 20 August 1946, at which all states agreed to pay 3/6 per week per child up to the age of 14 years, for the maintenance of child and youth migrants and to continue to pay this amount up to the age of 16 years, providing that the child is still at school. These contributions were to be paid subject to the Commonwealth paying child endowment and the United Kingdom Government continuing its contribution at the rate of 5/- (stg.) per week.

All the correspondence in the file – together with payment charts – refers to variations in this basic arrangement – over the years – due to inflation in the 1950s.

Child Migration – countries – Italy, 1959–84 [8 pages] K403, W59/299

In July 1959, Monsignor G Crennan, National Director of the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee, raised the possibility of child migration from Italy to the Catholic institutions in Western Australia. He was speaking with departmental officers in Perth prior to visiting Europe on immigration business. The Child Welfare Department in Perth was not enthusiastic about the proposal; the costs of maintaining child migrants were rising and 'in addition the after-care has fallen heavily on departmental officers' its Director noted. In the end, nothing came of Monsignor Crennan's suggestion, and no Italian child migrants came to Australia under the scheme.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1955– K47

Recorded by:

1955–74: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)
 1974–75: Department of Labor and Immigration, WA (CA 2318)
 1975–87: Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I], WA (CA 2328)

Perth 2986 metres

Assisted migration, British child migrants scheme, 1947–61 K47, 1959/845

Child migration – General transfer of guardianship, 1959–78 K47, 1959/995

Children (general child migration). United Kingdom Government mission investigations in Australia, 1955–58 K47, 1959/1000

SCHEDULES OF GROUP NOMINATIONS UNDER THE UK FREE AND ASSISTED PASSAGE AGREEMENTS, 1947–59 MP541/3

Recorded by:

1947–59: Department of Immigration, Victorian Branch (CA 961)

Melbourne 0.54 metres

There are only three folios relevant to child or youth migration. Overall there are forms for group nominations under the free and assisted passage agreements. Five boys – 14 February 1952 – training in farm work, 'Burton Hall', Tatura. 'Burton Hall' was approved as a voluntary child migration organisation. The Church of England Advisory Council of Empire Settlement in the UK was asked to suggest suitable boys for nomination. In addition, mention is made of six boys, 5–12 years old, for St John's Home for Boys, Canterbury – an approved voluntary child migration organisation. Another folio mentions a further three boys for 'Burton Hall', Tatura.

The Dreadnought Scheme

In 1903, the new Commonwealth of Australia agreed to pay £200,000 per year towards the expenses of the Imperial Squadron in the Pacific, but had no special naval vessels of its own. When in 1909 Germany's aggressive naval building program threatened Britain's naval supremacy, the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Sir Allen Taylor, convened a meeting in the Sydney Town Hall to establish a fund to purchase a Dreadnought (battleship) for presentation to Great Britain.

The gathering was held in a mood of wild enthusiasm, and after a series of rousing speeches by leading politicians, the following resolutions were 'carried unanimously':

- That in the opinion of this meeting of citizens glorying in the traditions of the British race, of which they are a part, the time has arrived for the Commonwealth to take an active share in the naval defence of the Empire;
- That in view of the expressed determination of Britain's rivals to challenge her naval supremacy, Australia should present a Dreadnought to the British Navy as an immediate expression of her invincible resolve to stand by the Mother country and take her place in the Empire's firing line;
- ... a fund be now opened to be called the Lord Mayor's Fund to which contributions towards the cost of a Dreadnought can be paid.

Over the ensuing year some £90,000 was subscribed from towns, shires, organisations and individuals throughout New South Wales. Over half the fund was subscribed by five large donors. However, by the middle of the year, the Deakin Government had decided to establish an Australian navy and the proposal to present Britain with a battleship seemed unnecessary. However, imperial enthusiasm remained strong.

The question arose what to do with the subscriptions, and some were returned to identified donors who wished for their money back. Most did not, and the Dreadnought Trust was established to dispose of the remainder, some £80,000. After discussion, it was agreed with widespread public support to donate around half to the Government towards the establishment of a naval college at Jervis Bay to train young Australians for the new navy; and the other half was placed in a fund to bring young men from British cities to be trained as rural workers on New South Wales farms.

A suitable venue for the boys' training was found near Pitt Town (Windsor) in the Hawkesbury River area, about twenty miles from Sydney, a 2 500 acre farm established by the New South Wales Government in 1893 to train city boys to be useful farmers – not with conspicuous success, since relatively few offered to be trained. The farm was called 'Scheyville' after the Director of Labour in NSW, W F Schey.

During the latter months of 1910, the Trustees of the Dreadnought Fund entered into an agreement with the NSW Government to bring out British boys between the ages of 16 and 19 'of good character and physique at a rate of about twenty

every fortnight and to pay the Government £5 for each of the lads sent to the training farm'. The first 'Dreadnought boys' – twelve in number – arrived on 21 April 1911 and were followed by 27 others on 15 June. Overall, by February 1915, 2 557 boys had arrived, and when the last group arrived in September 1939, the total number of Dreadnought boys brought to the state had reached 5 595.

Three years after World War I, the Dreadnought Trust recommenced its activities. Young men were again selected by Commonwealth Immigration officers in London from among those offering, recommended by county colonization societies and unemployment bureaux. Australia also advertised vigorously for young migrants. The young men were granted assisted passages to Australia. On arrival they were to receive a small amount of pocket money – not wages – while they trained, either at Scheyville for two to three months, or, for a select few, a twelve months course at one of the state agricultural colleges. At these, general farming was pursued in addition to some particular branch of agriculture suited to the locality: at Glen Innes in the New England tablelands, pastoral pursuits; at Wollongbar in the Richmond River district, dairy farming; at Grafton near the Clarence River, sub-tropical fruit culture; and at Cowra in the mid-west, sheep breeding and plant cultivation.

At Scheyville the training was severely practical and the regimen sparse. It was intended to approximate the standard of living the young men might expect to enjoy during their first years of employment. On completing the course to the satisfaction of the manager they were drafted to their first job and granted a £2 good conduct bonus. Wages in their first situation were 15/- to £2 per week with board and lodging. Thereafter, their welfare was supervised by the New Settlers League – from 1921 to 1930; and afterwards, by the British Settlers Welfare Committee. The latter body is considered to have been more effective than the former. Each employed travelling welfare officers to visit the boys on the farms and check their progress, treatment, prospects and conduct.

In 1923, the New South Wales Government introduced the Juvenile Migrants Apprenticeship Act for the care and control of juvenile migrants, but its provisions were draconian and it lasted only two years. Neither employers nor the young men were satisfied. Many absconded from their employment. The Act was repealed in 1926 and replaced by another which gave the Minister control of the training and of supervision during employment, but only until the age of eighteen. Employers were expected to notify the department before sacking a young man, and the young men were expected to inform the Minister after they changed their employment.

On paper all these arrangements seemed reasonable and many Dreadnought boys found satisfaction in their new lives, but there were serious problems for the majority. They were city boys being trained as farm labourers, and existing as strangers in a strange land. They were young and immature, scattered over vast distances, exploitable and exploited. They suffered loneliness, homesickness, 'Pommy bashing' and culture shock. Many returned – over the years – to Great Britain, especially during the Depression when some faced unemployment without the support networks taken for granted by long-standing residents. There were

some widely-publicised suicides among the boys and deaths from illness and accidents. It was a tough apprenticeship.

The training received at Scheyville was basic, conditions were primitive and staff were semi-literate, usually veterans of World War I who could not obtain better positions anywhere else. Over the years – for those Dreadnought boys who stayed – conditions improved and they could profit from the buoyant years of the 1950s and 1960s.

When one considers the numbers of young men who came to Australia under the Dreadnought Scheme – over 5 000 – the number and coverage of the files is limited. However, it is possible to gain a clear understanding of the genesis of the scheme, its implementation and its problems. There are numerous lists, some newspaper cuttings, some photos and overall, material of interest to genealogists in this section.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1904–20 **A2**

Recorded by:

1904–11: Prime Minister's Office (CA 588)

Canberra 30.06 metres

'Dreadnought', 1909 A2, 1914/4051

CORRESPONDENCE AND PRINTED MATTER ARRANGED ACCORDING TO SUBJECT ('SPECIAL PORTFOLIO'), 1888–1936 **A6661**

Recorded by:

Governor-General (CA 1)

Canberra 10.26 metres

Naval assistance (Dreadnought battleship). Proposed gift by Australia to the United Kingdom, 1909 [30 pages] A6661, 950

Public meetings in New South Wales and Victoria, orchestrated by the parliamentary opposition, initiated the idea of Australia donating a battleship to the British navy. The main event was a gathering at Sydney Town Hall on 25 April 1909, which was reported in the Sydney Morning Herald three days later and by the Governor of NSW to Lord Crewe, Secretary of State for the Colonies:

meeting largely attended... utmost enthusiasm prevailed... the following resolutions were passed unanimously: That in the opinion of this meeting of citizens glorifying in the traditions of the British Race of which they are a part, the time has arrived for the Commonwealth to take an active share in the Naval Defence of the Empire to show its invincible resolve to stand by the Mother Country and take her place in the Empire's firing line... a Dreadnought for the Royal Navy.

In the end, the Australian Government led by Alfred Deakin decided the time was appropriate to establish an Australian navy and the proposal lapsed.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL PASSPORTS), 1939–1970
A659****Recorded by:****1939: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)****1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)****Canberra 101.25 metres****Josephs, M. Dreadnought ex 'Arama' 2/39, 1940–42 [30 pages] A659,
1942/1/3206**

This file records the exceptional, but fruitless effort, in the context of wartime conditions, to locate, Montague Josephs, a Dreadnought boy, at the request of his mother who was distressed at not having had correspondence for six months – when the search began. 'Montagu', perhaps understandably, had changed his name and was last heard of in the AIF in its Middle East campaign.

Dreadnought Boys, 1929–43 [c.200 pages] A659, 1943/1/1892

The first item is a memorandum regarding 'Additional Accommodation for Dreadnought boys at the Grafton Experimental Farm'. Meanwhile, the British Government representative for migration (in Australia), Bankes-Amery writes to the Development and Migration Commission, Melbourne, 23 January 1929:

As you are aware... the Secretary of State has an agreement with the Trustees of the Dreadnought Fund under which we help them in their work by meeting half their expenses.

The agreement was due for renewal. At this time, with depression looming, an extract from the 'Monthly Report of the Migration and Settlement Office', London, January 1929, is pessimistic:

The recruiting of boys will become increasingly difficult during the next year or two... Canada is now very actively seeking boys and is able to offer a good deal more than we are at the moment. Free passages and certain special facilities for lending capital are the main factors... the rural basic wage in NSW has ensured the dismissal of many of these lads on attaining 21 years... letter-writing... adverse publicity [in Britain] which, if continued, will practically kill the Dreadnought movement.

Meanwhile, despite its endowment the Dreadnought Trustees were always hampered by lack of ready cash. This is plain in a departmental memo concerning the Trust, dated 1 February 1929. There is a major outline, dated 6 March 'Extracts from Reports on Dreadnought Lads showing their progress'. What follows are 81 'thumbnail sketches' of the boys' success. The statement was sent to the Under-Secretary, Development and Migration Commission, Melbourne. There is a copy of the Dreadnought Trust agreement with the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs under the ESA, and the report of a visit to the Scheyville Training farm by British representative, E G Crutchley, dated 3 April 1929. With the drift towards depression, the correspondence stresses the problems associated with the scheme: the competition with Canada for the best young men; the bad publicity in Britain 'of strikes, labour troubles, unemployment, droughts, injuries, occasional suicides and rural wages awards' in Australia. On 29 August, the Secretary of the Development Commission wrote to his counterpart at the Australian Women's National League a detailed account of the Trust's achievements to date which makes this a useful summary for the researcher. Fewer young men were arriving from Britain; but the winding-up of the New Settlers League in 1930 created a crisis over after-care just when it was most required. The Trust took over this work directly with support from the British Government under the ESA. Important correspondence on this development. However, there are no entries for the years 1932–1937 inclusive, and the first item after the hiatus is dated 17 June 1938, a report of a meeting of the British Settlers Welfare Committee and the Dreadnought Trust, which with Government prodding is planning to recommence its migration activities. However the first boys arrived only in March 1939 and only 76 arrived before the outbreak of war. Sydney Morning Herald, 10 September 1939, 'Farm Migrants Arrive'. Lists of boys arriving are in the file. Already it was clear that it was going to be harder to obtain suitable young men for the scheme, and the problems were summarised by R

H Wheeler at the Immigration Department, 27 February 1939, as a declining birth rate in Britain; better employment opportunities for the boys in the UK; the extension of social services whereby youths receive unemployment benefit at an earlier age; the grave international situation; and the disinclination of parents to grant permission to their sons to emigrate. The armed services were attracting suitable young men. The Trust maintained its after-care activities during the early war years, but did not recommence its activities after the war.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50**A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Immigration encouragement, New South Wales. Dreadnought Boys, 1921–45
[c.250 pages] A461, G349/17**

This commences with renewal of assisted immigration after the Great War and the commencement of British Government financial support for migration. Prime Minister's Department advises the High Commission, London that the Dreadnought Trust is to resume its migration work, 7 September 1921:

NSW is prepared to accept lads between 15 and 19 years of age for free farm training and maintenance at either Scheyville or one of the apprentice farm schools under the Agricultural Department. Boys for the apprentice farms should be superior class and receive up to twelve months subject to good behaviour and at the option of the boy.

Copy of pamphlet 'Australia's Offer to the British Boy'. As the first postwar boys arrived there were teething problems. *Age* (Melbourne) article, 14 February 1922 'Deluded Immigrants' caused a stir; conditions at Scheyville were spartan; staff were rough-and-ready and often under-qualified. There are echoes of the controversy ignited by the *Age* and a British investigator at Scheyville was told in no uncertain terms that the boys felt they had been misled in the UK about conditions in Australia. See: *Sun* (Melbourne), 10 May 1922. The bad publicity hampered recruiting for the scheme. High Commission cable to Prime Minister's Office, 22 May 1923:

Recent adverse statements press and parliament relative treatment of the lads is making recruitment very difficult... will not obtain full quota of Dreadnoughts.

There is a report on 'Boy Migration' from the Premiers Conference, May–June 1923. It stresses the poverty of most of the boys applying for the scheme. Copy of 'The Boy Settler', 22 November 1925; its editor was Dr Mary Booth (Empire Service Club), who explained its role to Prime Minister Stanley Bruce, 12 December 1925:

The Boy Settler is devoted to the interests of Dreadnoughts... the Empire Service Club is an activity of the Anzac Fellowship of Women... it had been at work for five years for these boys.

When the Big Brother Movement commenced there was confusion between this and the older Dreadnought Trust. In an interesting development, the Prime Minister's Department suggested that 'all future Dreadnought boys may be enrolled as 'Little Brothers', (15 December 1925). Copy of Agreement between the British Government and the Dreadnought Trust for the former to provide funds for after-care cost under the ESA. An uneasy relationship between the ANZAC Fellowship of Women, Sydney and the New Settlers League, both of which concerned themselves with the reception and welfare of Dreadnought boys, is revealed in a 1928 letter from Mary Booth.

British Settlers Welfare Committee – NSW, 1921–36 A461, D349/1/11

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1926–30**CP211/2****Recorded by:****1926–30: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)****Canberra 23.94 metres****Migration – State requisitions – NSW – Dreadnought Boys, 1927 [6 pages]
CP211/2, 54/1**

The first item, undated, gives (another) 'Summary of the Dreadnought Scheme, NSW' but from a different perspective. It has

assisted to migrate... boys... by assistance towards their passage money and training costs. The Government Training Farm, Scheyville, was established in 1911 when the first group of lads arrived. The farm is situated 37 miles from Sydney in undulating country near the Hawkesbury valley (Windsor). Its area is 2700 acres, 500 cultivated; 40 acres of orchard... Three months training is normal. The lads are accommodated in large dormitories in charge of a specially-selected steward (ex-AIF sergeants). The domestic arrangements are maintained to conform with those the lads will experience subsequently in employment.

There were 80 lads in training at any one time. Since 1911 when twelve boys arrived, the numbers were 1912, 300 boys; 1913, 216; 1914, 712; 1915, 463; 1916, 30; 1917, 17; 1918, one; and 1919–1921, none arrived. During the 1920s, 338 arrived in 1922; 607 in 1923; 422 in 1924; 753 in 1925; 684 in 1926 and 985 in 1927 after which numbers fell off. Apart from the 'Summary', the other correspondence stresses seeking younger rather than older boys for the scheme and the accommodation difficulties at Scheyville.

Settlement – Land – Dreadnought boys, 1927 [3 pages] CP211/2, 73/3

The concern here is the possibility of Dreadnought boys taking up land on their own account. The New Settlers League had asked the Land Settlement Committee, NSW to investigate the matter since under the 1923 agreement certain 'Dreadnoughts' were eligible for grants. The reply states the difficulties plainly: 'the boys' lack of capital is the critical issue. There are, indeed, twenty blocks in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area soon to be available and four Dreadnought lads have applied, but only one possesses the £300 capital qualification, even before character references are considered'. The reply of the Secretary, New Settlers Committee, to this observation, 12 August 1927, is tart: 'The £300 minimum capital is too low; the settler must have something to live on while trees grow and crops mature – and to make improvements. The boys cannot make a success on the capital stated. In view of these statements and the great uncertainty of the boy being successful, my executive has decided that it is inadvisable to encourage the boys to take up blocks upon the conditions offered... share-farming opportunities are best'.

YMCA youth migration

The YMCA is a non-sectarian, non-political Christian lay movement whose object is to develop high standards of Christian character through group activities and citizenship training. It was founded in 1844 in London when twelve young men led by George Williams, a drapery store employee, established a club for 'the improvement of the spiritual condition of young men in the drapery and other trades'. The association grew rapidly especially in the United States and it is now a massive worldwide movement with a presence in most countries. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.

Gold-rush immigrants brought the YMCA to Australia during the 1850s. The YMCA's programs include sports and physical training, formal and informal

education, camping and citizenship activities. Its branches maintain an international range of youth hostels.

YMCA involvement in youth migration to Australia was peripheral to its many other activities. However, some young people came to Australia under its auspices both during the 1920s and after World War II.

The records held by the National Archives cover reasonably fully the YMCA's part in bringing some young people to Australia, principally during the 1920s. The material concerns policy in the main and is of little interest to genealogists.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34

A458

Recorded by:

1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 49.77 metres

Immigration Encouragement. Oversea Settlement Scheme Agreement between British Government and YMCA, 1923–24 [13 pages] A458, E154/12

This contains an eight-page outline of the YMCA Scheme for Youth Migration to Australia, dated 15 June 1923 and signed by Cyril Bavin, General Secretary, Migration Department of the English National Council of YMCAs. This advocated the broadening of the basis of individual nomination of a prospective migrant to its extension from individuals to Church congregations, service clubs, friendly societies and lodges. Bavin stressed that the Migration Department of the English YMCA worked 'in closest co-operation' with the Oversea Settlement Committee of the Imperial government and with the London Agents-General of the dominion governments. There is a copy of an agreement conveyed by the Secretary of State at the Dominions Office, the Duke of Devonshire to the Governor-General of Australia, Lord Forster, between the YMCA and HMG:

... providing for the payment for a period of one year of the expenses of two representatives of the Association to enable them to organise and develop the "Collective Nomination Scheme"... which will contribute towards solving the difficult problem of assimilating settlers into the life of a new country.

In fact, three representatives were placed by the YMCA, one each in Victoria, NSW and South Australia.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–65

D400

Recorded by:

1948–66: Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)

Adelaide 435 metres

**Young Men's Christian Association – Youth Migration, 1947–61 [9 pages]
D400, SA1960/8091**

The YMCA had proposed on 24 April 1947 to arrange for 100 teenagers to come from the UK to Australia. Arthur Calwell encouraged the idea but stressed that the normal procedures had to be followed. The young men were brought to South Australia and the Immigration Minister extended certain privileges to both the Young Women's Christian Association and the YMCA so that they could assist in the reception and placement of the youths. The last exchange is from Mr K J Smith at Australia House to the Department in Canberra and the departmental reply. Smith, the Acting CMO, 11 May 1960 suggests why youth migration under YMCA auspices has remained a small operation:

... apparent lack of cooperation between the organisation in Australia and the UK.

A mere 50 boys had come during the preceding decade. The Immigration Department was unconcerned, replying that youth migration had been 'particularly successful' overall, and unlike the migration of children, there had been few recruitment difficulties.

SG149 YMCA SA126 YMCA Child Migration, 1957–60 **D400, SA1960/1936**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES)
PREFIX, 1952–77 C3939**

Recorded by:

1952–74: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)

Sydney 38.7 metres

Immigration – Youth Migration by YMCA, 1960 C 3939, N1960/75101

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, 1926–50 PP6/1

Recorded by:

1945–50 Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)

Perth 20 metres

Youth Migration, 1947 [6 pages] PP6/1, 1947/H/1318

This concerns the YMCA initiative to explore the possibilities for youth migration to Australia as Australia's postwar immigration policy was commencing. YMCA National Secretary, Mr J T Massey wrote to Arthur Calwell, 24 April 1947 saying that his 'Migration Committee' wished to bring 100 boys, 14 to 18 years old, from the UK, in two batches of 50. He hoped to work in association with the YMCA Community Services in London, and requested advice. Calwell's reply stresses that responsibility for reception and after-care of migrants was a state responsibility and the YMCA should liaise with State Government departments. Shipping is mentioned as a problem. The organisation was advised to see whether it possessed the accommodation facilities and financial resources to assist in youth migration. It is not clear whether the YMCA took its plans any further than this initial approach.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1945–50 A436

Recorded by:

1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)

Canberra 5.04 metres

**Major C Bavin – YMCA Migration Representative, 1937–38 [28 pages] A436,
1945/5/395 part 1**

The first item is a cutting from the Herald (Melbourne), 20 December 1937 mentioning that the YMCA in the UK is planning to resume its migration activities, and Major C Bavin, the YMCA Community Services Officer, is arriving to investigate the possibilities. Bavin is an executive member of many immigration societies, including the Overseas League and is also representing the Church of England Migration Council during his tour. He plans to spend three weeks in New Zealand and two months in Australia. Newspaper cuttings of Bavin's trip. There are two reports of Bavin's interviews with Mr H A Garrett of the Immigration Department, the second of which is the more informative. Bavin had found a ready response to his plans only in NSW, where the Scheyville farm would provide appropriate training for

the boys. Girls were to be included in the scheme. Bavin planned to use the service of the British Settlers Welfare Committee for after-care. Overall, Bavin impressed departmental officers: Garrett wrote to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, 10 February 1938:

I am impressed with Mr Bavin's scheme for the co-ordination of the voluntary migration effort in NSW through the British Settlers Welfare Committee, particularly the after-care aspect... the after-care of girls will require special consideration; they present more problems than boys.

Bavin's 16-page report is in the file, dated 22 June 1938. Bavin concluded an agreement with the Department of Labour and Industry in Sydney concerning the placing of 200 boys for farm work. Its main points were: on arrival they would go to Scheyville, there to be trained and maintained for some eight weeks while they learned basic farm work; after their training they would be placed in employment by the department at wages of around £1 per week, the same as for Australian boys of the same age. After-care was to be as discussed.

State youth migration

Youth migration to South Australia

South Australia was the first state to initiate Government guardianship of juvenile immigrants, the system being inaugurated under the Immigration Acts of 1901 and 1913. This plan was cut short by the outbreak of war but in 1922 the Premier, Sir Henry Barwell, revived the movement. His aim was to bring 6 000 teenagers to South Australia to fill the places of the men who were killed during World War I. The first parties were known as 'Barwell boys'. In 1923, an Immigration Act dealing with farm and domestic apprentices was passed. Under this Act, the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Immigration was appointed the legal guardian of each boy or girl immigrant who made a written declaration of their wish to come under his control. Young men from fifteen to eighteen and young women from eighteen to twenty-one were eligible; the period of Government control was three years.

As was usual with these pioneer immigration schemes, results were patchy, and controversy forced the abandonment of this phase of immigration to South Australia in 1925. A modified scheme was put into operation in 1927, under an amendment to the 1923 Act. Conditions of apprenticeship were relaxed, a greater portion, approximately one half of the total wages was paid direct to the farm apprentice and the number of boys nominated was reduced while each was allotted to a Big Brother. This system worked satisfactorily. By the end of 1928, 1 557 British youths had entered South Australia under the scheme.

There is less archival material available than the numbers who came under the scheme might suggest there should be. There is some interest for family historians among the documents in the files.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50**A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Immigration encouragement – Government schemes – South Australia –
Settlement of 6000 boys, 1922–24 [c.250 pages] A461, P349/1/5**

This file contains correspondence between the Prime Minister's Department, the Commonwealth Immigration Office and the Premier's Department, South Australia, relating to the scheme to introduce 6 000 British boys for farm work, 2 000 per year for three years, commencing in 1922. Two trial batches of 50 boys were sent a month apart, then monthly quotas as arranged. Boys were to be at least fifteen years of age before acceptance. Press statements, cables and letters reveal some early friction between the Prime Minister W M Hughes and Premier Henry Barwell, in the working out of the details of the scheme. Information is provided on financial arrangements between governments, the terms of agreement, loans and wages for the boys, conditions of their apprenticeship and the monthly requisitions. Although early shipments of boys were well received, there were complaints over the selection process when some proved to be below expectations.

**Immigration encouragement – Correspondence with states – South Australia –
Settlement of 6000 boys, 1920–25 A461, Q349/1/5****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34****A458****Recorded by:****1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 49.77 metres****Boy Farm Apprenticeship Scheme, SA, 1927–28 [11 pages] A458, V154/11****Premier, South Australia to Prime Minister, 9 August 1927:**

I desire to inform you, in connection with the migration policy of this Government, it is proposed to reintroduce the Boy Farm Apprenticeship Scheme [for 15–17 year olds].

The Premier requested that the Commonwealth migration authorities in the UK commence recruiting suitable young men, but he stressed that medical inspection must be strict; must exclude boys 'subject to urinary troubles'. There were many such cases in the past; 'very great inconvenience'. Boys from certain named institutions in the UK were 'previously very unsatisfactory'. In addition, the boys should not be led to expect too much in South Australia. The Development and Migration Commission took up matters stressing that the farm apprenticeship would be three years; and while noting that wages had increased it also stressed the need for a strict medical examination of intending youth migrants: 'the teeth and urinary organs' were to receive close attention; boys wearing glasses were not acceptable. A further memorandum from South Australia stressed that each successful applicant would be provided with a 'Big Brother' on arrival, and insurance (against accidents and sickness) and after-care were to be features of the scheme. This file says much about attitudes in the 1920s to youth migration.

Youth migration to Tasmania

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1921–23

A457**Recorded by:****1911–71: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 18.27 metres****Immigration Encouragement. Tasmanian Boys, 1922–23 [13 pages] A457, N400/10**

This deals with early 1920s youth migration to Tasmania. The key correspondence is a letter from a Burnie farmer, Mr C B Elliott, who is indignant at the youth and inexperience of the boys who are arriving in northern Tasmania:

Many boys are not up to standard; not long out of school; should be at home with their parents; 17–18 year olds are wanted; the first arrivals know nothing of farm life.

As a result of the controversy which Elliott's letter reflects, the CMO, Hobart wrote to the Prime Minister's Department, 1 November 1923:

... owing to complaints received from employers of the boys, it was decided to discontinue the shipment of further parties.

Immigration Encouragement. Gullet's visit to Tasmania, 1921 A457, H400/9

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50

A461**Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Immigration encouragement. Early schemes – Tasmania – Policy, 1921–25
A461, X349/1/5****Immigration encouragement. Early schemes – Correspondence with the states
– Tasmania, 1920–23 A461, Y349/1/5**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34

A458**Recorded by:****1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 49.77 metres****Immigration. New Settlers League – Tasmania, 1921–26 A458, D154/18**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1919–29

A2487**Recorded by:****1920–29: Repatriation Commission (CA 225)****Canberra 500 metres****Enquiry regarding application for Immigration Officer for Tasmania, 1921
A2487, 1921/7844**

Youth migration to Queensland

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50 **A461**

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Immigration encouragement – Early schemes, Correspondence with States – Queensland, 1920–22 A461, N349/1/5

Immigration – Queensland boys, 1921–31 A461, F349/1/7

Youth migration to Western Australia

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50 **A461**

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Immigration encouragement. Correspondence with the States, Western Australia, 1920–22 [75 pages] A461, T349/1/5

This concerns youth migration only marginally. On 30 October 1920, Prime Minister W M Hughes wrote to the Western Australian Premier requesting:

... particulars and capacity of any training farms, if any, at which youths 16 to 20 years of age may receive tuition before employment.

Western Australia guarded its relative independence in all migration matters. In July 1922 the Premier advised that after-care in Western Australia for assisted migrants was handled by the New Settlers League, which was a branch of the well-established Ugly Men's Association, a prominent service club in the state, which received a grant to pay the expenses of two organisers. In Western Australia, Fairbridge, Pinjarra was concerned with child migration, and the Young Australia League made a limited foray into youth migration.

Boy Scout youth migration

In 1927, the Victorian Branch of the Boy Scout Association lodged nominations for assisted passages for selected boy scouts from the United Kingdom aged fifteen to nineteen years old for farm work in the state. The branch accepted responsibility for their placement in employment and after-care. Until 1930 when assisted migration ceased some 200 young men had been introduced.

In many ways, the Boy Scout Association was duplicating the work managed by the Victorian Branch of the Big Brother Movement. However, in the late 1930s the latter got into financial difficulties and in 1941 the Victorian Branch of the Big Brother Movement was dissolved and its remaining funds and assets were handed over to the scouts. In the 1950s, there was again Boy Scout Association interest in sponsoring youth migration from Britain and a small number of young people were assisted to settle in Australia.

The one or two files here reflect the brief passing interest of the Boy Scout Association in youth migration.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50**A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Migration – Boy Scouts, 1937 [2 pages] A461, L349/1/7**

The file contains two newspaper cuttings: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 January 1937 and *Herald* (Melbourne) of the day before. In the former, the South Australian Premier announced that Sir Percy Everett, who was one of the Centenary visitors, represented the World Chief Scout and Imperial Headquarters at the Boy Scout 'corroboree' at Belair. The latter cutting refers to discussions regarding resuming youth migration under Scout auspices to South Australia. Imperial Headquarters had been left a legacy for the purpose. The South Australian Government was sympathetic but nothing appears to have come of the proposal at this stage.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–65**D400****Recorded by:****1948–66: Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)****Adelaide 435 metres****Child Migration – Victorian Boy Scout Organisation, 1954 D400,
SA1954/1497**

Young Australia League youth migration

The Young Australia League was not concerned primarily with child or youth migration. However, during the 1920s the League sponsored 192 young British men to Western Australia on lines similar to that of the Big Brother Movement in the eastern states. The Young Australia League was established in 1905 by a dynamic and controversial businessman, J J Simons, who was born in Clare, South Australia in 1882 but moved to Fremantle in his teens. The League was intended to promote 'education through travel'. It developed rapidly as a (mainly) middle-class youth movement – patriotic, non-sectarian, non-political. Girls were admitted, but the main focus was on young men's activities. The League promoted interstate and overseas travel, and acted as a literary and debating society. Theatricals and other social activities were encouraged.

Simons himself had a brief and stormy political career as Labor member for East Perth in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly during the 1920s, but after his defeat turned to journalism and as part of a business syndicate acquired the *Sunday Times* (Perth) of which he was Managing Director. Other newspapers were purchased and Simons developed a newspaper chain in the state. Meanwhile his Young Australia League peaked with 50 000 members before World War II. Simons died in 1948.

The Young Australia League arranged many and varied activities and youth migration was important to the League only during the later 1920s. The files displayed here reflect these priorities and their main focus is on policy and financial concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1930–32 **A430**

Recorded by:

1930–32: Department of Home Affairs (CA 756)

Canberra 4.14 metres

Visit Young Australia League, 1928–33 A430, G488

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34 **A458**

Recorded by:

1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 49.77 metres

**Immigration Encouragement. Young Australia League – Albury Branch, 1925
A458, N154/19**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50 **A461**

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Young Australia League – After-care, 1931 [7 pages] A461, E349/1/1

The Young Australia League had brought 192 migrant boys to Western Australia and been paid by the WA Government £900 per annum to assist with after-care expenses. With the onset of the Great Depression, the WA Government wanted to end the subsidy, something about which the Prime Minister's Department was unhappy:

His Majesty's Government fears that unless some arrangements are made to finance the YAL, the after-care arrangements made through the League will cease from 30 June 1931.

The WA Premier replied with some vigour that:

The subsidy was first granted to the YAL to form a Boy Settlers Department with the object of placing local lads leaving school in positions in the country. There was little response... the YAL then asked the Government to agree to the introduction of boys from England to be placed in the country... their interests to be watched... advise as necessary... 192 boys arrived... none in the last eighteen months and 22 lads have returned to the UK. Boys have also been introduced under the auspices of the Salvation Army and the Anglican Church Immigration Committee... the YAL has done very good work but we are in a very tight financial corner... the expense is not justified.

The material shows that a compromise was reached in which a grant of £200 was made to the Young Australia League for the next financial year after which there would be a review.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ROYAL VISIT, 1927
A6976**

Recorded by:

1926–27: Federal Capital Commission (CA 226)

Canberra 1 metre

Young Australia League, 1926 A6976, 55

J J Simons, Hon. Director, Young Australia League, wrote to the Acting Prime Minister Earle Page requesting an invitation for himself and 50 YAL boys to the opening of Federal Parliament the following year. The request was not approved.

FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1976– A6006

Recorded by:

1976–81: Australian Archives, Central Office (CA 1720)

1981–94: Australian Archives, ACT Regional Office (CA 3196)

Canberra 9.18 metres

This series contains copies of Cabinet papers dating back to 1901.

**Claim from Young Australia League for Commonwealth Financial Assistance towards the Visit of a Party of Boys to the British Empire Exhibition, 1923
A6006, 1923/12/7**

Young Australia League, 1929 A6006, 1929/02/08

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38 A1

Recorded by:

1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

1928–32: Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)

1932–38: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Canberra 337.14 metres

Young Australia League – West Australia, 1925–34 A1, 1934/2278

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, WITH 'V' (VICTORIA) PREFIX, 1924–62 B741/3

Recorded by:

1927–46: Investigation Branch, Victoria (CA 907)

Melbourne 29.88 metres

The Young Australia League, 1931 B741/3, V/8359

CORRESPONDENCE OF GOVERNOR-GENERAL, 1912–27 CP78/22

Recorded by:

1912–27: Governor-General (CA 1)

Canberra 29.98 metres

Young Australia League, 1925–26 CP78/22, 1926/272

Fairbridge Farm Schools

Kingsley Fairbridge was born in 1885 at Grahamstown, Cape Colony in South Africa. His father was a surveyor, a position which required constant travelling, and so the family was regularly on the move, as a result of which the boy, Kingsley, had little formal education. Moreover he contracted malaria as a child in Mashonaland and this was behind the chronic health problems he suffered and which were to lead to his early and untimely death in 1924 at the early age of thirty-nine.

Fairbridge grew to manhood as the British Empire was at the apogee of its power. He had met Cecil Rhodes and was imbued totally with his 'God, King, Country and Empire' ethos. His 'vision splendid', as he called it, commenced in 1897 when at the age of twelve he was working at his father's Gold Belt property in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) as a surveyor's assistant. It was a remote spot and Kingsley struggled with hunger, loneliness and lack of expertise as a surveyor. As he was working on the veldt one day, alone but for a native assistant, climbing in the steep and slippery hills, he looked into the deep valleys where the grass was six feet high and wished that he could see a farm. While half-starved and miserable, the vision came to him. Some day he would bring farmers here and they would prosper.

In 1903, at the age of seventeen, Kingsley was sent to England to visit and stay with his grandmother. He loved life in the rural south-east, but was less impressed with London. He had imagined a mighty imperial capital, the streets alive with serious-minded citizens, but in its East End he was distressed to see the streets filled with poor children, grubby and exhausted from lack of food and fresh air. He saw workhouses filled with abandoned children, orphanages bursting at the seams, and the overall waste of young lives not able to reach their potential. His vision grew.

However, the young idealist had received little formal education. He wanted to go to Oxford and so had to go to a 'crammer' to prepare for the entrance examinations. He failed twice, succeeding on the third attempt and entered Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar in 1908 to study forestry. With a bright, extroverted personality, some experience of life and good sporting and social skills, Fairbridge loved Oxford and made numerous friends among influential people. On 19 October 1909, he outlined his vision to a meeting of 49 of his fellow Rhodes Scholars at the Colonial Club. His enthusiasm was infectious; all present became foundation members of the Child Emigration Society, later known as the Fairbridge Farm Schools, incorporated almost immediately at Oxford that same year.

Kingsley wanted to see deprived children 'shedding the bondage of bitter circumstances and stretching their legs and minds amid the thousand interests of a farm'. He aimed to provide children with a sense of self-worth, and the training and skills necessary for their future in the sparsely populated rural areas of the British Empire – farming the imperial frontier. In Oxford, he met Ruby Whitmore, a nurse. She became in succession his secretary, wife and biographer, the last after Fairbridge's early death.

In 1911, Fairbridge met the Premier of Western Australia who was in London for the coronation of King George V. He was offered land near Perth on which to commence his social experiment, and so in January 1913 a party of 13 children arrived at Fremantle from England and took up residence in a primitive homestead on a run-down farm located between the townships of Pinjarra and Coolup, about 86 kilometres south-east of Perth. A few months later, 24 more children arrived and the ensuing years saw a desperate struggle for survival as World War I separated Fairbridge from his Oxford support base and diverted attentions elsewhere.

When the war ended in 1918, Kingsley went to London (1919–20) to rekindle enthusiasm and seek British Government support. Western Australia gave him a living allowance and an office in the Agent-General's building. His arrival was opportune as immigration was re-commencing, imperial unity was in vogue, and convinced imperialists such as Lord Milner and L S Amery were dominant at the Colonial Office. Fairbridge was at last 'preaching to the converted'. Amery was to call the Fairbridge scheme 'the finest institution for human regeneration that has ever existed'.

Under the Empire Settlement Act, the Overseas Development Board granted Fairbridge a substantial subsidy to purchase a new and better 3 200 acre property near Pinjarra and develop its facilities. The Commonwealth and State governments each promised five shillings per week per child, and there were private donations and contributions from the Rhodes Trust. Barnardo's Homes cooperated with Fairbridge in sending him suitable children, and the farm school was intended to take 300 youngsters at a time. By 1924, cottage homes for 200 had been built, a school for their education was provided and staffed by the Western Australian Government and success seemed assured.

However, Kingsley did not live to see his vision ('child rescue at home, abroad, migration within the Empire') fully realised; he died on 19 July 1924. Under his successors, the Fairbridge system matured: small group homes under cottage mothers; primary education at the local state school until 14; and one year to 18 months' training in farm work followed by placement in first jobs, with boys as farm labourers and girls as domestic servants.

In recounting so briefly the Fairbridge story, the emphasis has been on the ideal, as Kingsley Fairbridge was a man of high ideals. However, the all-too-human entered – as with so many attempts at social engineering. The children were deprived and the plan was drastic – to take urban slum children from the old world and turn them into farmers in a vastly different environment. A few prospered, many did satisfactorily and there were failures. Staffing was always a problem, the work demanding, the remuneration basic, and as a result, management could rarely be too exacting when employing cottage mothers, whose abilities and dispositions varied widely. This became exceptionally so during the war years when Fairbridge, Pinjarra experienced a 'time of troubles'.



Child migrants learning domestic science and blacksmithing on the Fairbridge Farm School near Pinjarra, WA, 1954.

NAA: A445, 133/2/64 TB527 (above); A445, 133/2/64 TB526 (below)



At work on the Fairbridge Farm School at Molong, NSW, 1954. Fairbridge management clung to its vocational principle of training boys as farm labourers and girls as domestic servants until after World War II, even though this had become anachronistic as early as the 1930s.
NAA: A1200, L17146 (above); A1200, L17161 (below)

The vocation norm – girls to domestic service, boys to farms – became anachronistic even during the 1930s. Yet Fairbridge management clung to this principle until after World War II. There were tensions between Fairbridge, Western Australia and the parent body in London – also unresolved until well after the war. However, the Fairbridge mystique remained strong and the ideal still inspired. A second Fairbridge Farm school was opened at Molong, near Orange NSW in 1937 and a third – on Fairbridge lines – was established at Glenmore, via Bacchus Marsh, Victoria at around the same time, the Lady Northcote Farm School. For many, Fairbridge was the 'Eton' of orphanages; the farm school model at its best.

After World War II, the Fairbridge schools received many boys and girls in the last phase of child migration, but by even the early 1950s, their management could see that 'the writing was on the wall' for the farm school movement. Fewer children were available every year. In view of this situation, Fairbridge experimented with the so-called 'One Parent' and 'Two Parent' schemes to widen their catchment pool.

In the former case, a single parent, usually a widow or unmarried mother, permitted her children to enter a Fairbridge home intending to follow them to Australia in due course, settle herself and re-establish the family. In the 'Two Parent' variation, Fairbridge assisted a British family who had too many children to qualify for normal assisted passage by taking the children until the parents had satisfactorily migrated and become settled in Australia. Small Fairbridge family homes were established at Tresca near Adelaide and at Hagley near Launceston, Tasmania and this variation of child migration survived until the early 1970s.

However, the rapidly changing times had made any scheme of child migration anachronistic. Fairbridge – by adapting – remained in the field longer than other child migration bodies, but social trends could be resisted only for so long. The end came in 1973.

There are numerous files on every aspect of the Fairbridge story, reflecting its central importance in child migration to Australia. The coverage is comprehensive with much material of interest to family historians, former residents, as well as to academic historians.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38

A1

Recorded by:

1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

Canberra 337.14 metres

Fairbridge Farm School. Immigration of British Orphan Children, 1917–18 [10 folios] A1, 1918/2799

This contains a letter dated November 1917 from the founder of the Fairbridge Farm School, Kingsley Fairbridge, to Prime Minister W M Hughes requesting passages for parties of around twenty-four children under supervision on transports and for Government assistance. The Secretary of the Department refers to the idea as 'splendid' in theory, but there are many practical difficulties. All vessels were under the control of the Imperial Parliament. The correspondence includes a memorandum

on the school and associated internal letters. The advice was to apply to the Ministry of Shipping in London as no suitable transports were available and no assistance could be given. Kingsley was himself in the UK recruiting and seeking £25,000 to continue his scheme. A 1919 press cutting from the Portsmouth Times on the school and its founder is also included.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1921–32**CP103/11****Recorded by:****1921–32: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 14.58 metres****Migration (agreement between the Secretary of State and the Child Immigration Society), 1923 [30 pages] CP103/11, 388**

This contains five copies – and nothing else – of the agreement with the Child Emigration Society/Fairbridge – 15 August 1923. The agreement is along the following lines:

Whereas the Society has established a Fairbridge School at Pinjarra in Western Australia (hereinafter called the 'Farm') for the purpose of training children of the poorer classes from the UK for settlement in the country districts of Australia; And whereas under the Empire Settlement Act, 1922; And whereas the Farm can accommodate at present only about 74 children and the Secretary of State and the Society are desirous of carrying out a scheme... for enlarging the Farm so as to provide accommodation for a total number of 200 children and for the maintenance of a certain number of the children during the period of five years.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1945–50**A436****Recorded by:****1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)****1945–50: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 5.04 metres****Fairbridge Farm School. File 1, 1921–28 [263 pages] A436, 1946/5/597 part 1A**

This file contains press cuttings, photographs, notes, Hansard extracts, and letters to the Prime Minister, the Commonwealth Superintendent of Immigration, the Director of the Commonwealth Immigration Office, the Governor-General, the Development and Migration Commission, and members of Parliament, on the history, development and work of the Fairbridge Farm School and the Child Emigration Society, in particular the question of Government contributions, together with various replies. The file includes details of subsidy payments, expenditure, ministerial memoranda, resolutions and notes of deputations in support of the Farm Schools, copies of agreements with Federal and State Governments, and a 1928 report by T H Garrett on the Child Emigration Society and the Children's Farm School Immigration Society of Western Australia. A 1926 statement from the Child Immigration Society of Western Australia to the Minister for Migration requesting a variation in the agreement includes extracts from letters of employers of Fairbridge youth.

Fairbridge Farm School. File 1, 1921–31 A436, 1946/5/597 part 1B**Fairbridge Farm School. File 1, 1927–28 [c.200 pages] A436, 1946/5/597 part 1C**

The context is the renewal of the agreements between Fairbridge and the British and Australian Governments for maintenance of child migrants at the farm school. The first four folios are Mr T E Sedgwick's 'Notes on the Kingsley Fairbridge Training

Farm, Pinjarrah (sic) Western Australia', c.1927 in which he records his impressions of a '22-hour visit' to the facility:

The outstanding impression of a short visit was the happy and healthy appearance of the children and the absence of any institutional character.

There is correspondence which shows that officers in the Immigration Section, and the later Development and Immigration Commission (Melbourne) had opposed any Commonwealth grant to the Child Emigration Society in 1922. L J H wrote to the Chairman of the Commission, 26 May 1927:

Prior to the decision of the Commonwealth Government in 1922 to contribute £10,000 over a period of five years, I reported, as did my predecessor, that from the purely migration point of view the scheme was not economical and on a per capita basis would be more costly than any other migration scheme.

There is a useful precis of the several Governments' financial arrangements with Fairbridge over the years, and much correspondence as to whether the grant should be continued, and if so, on what terms. In the end, the Prime Minister decided to continue the maintenance subsidy for one year from 31 October 1927, pending a further review. However, parallel with this discussion over maintenance payments were plans to take more children at the farm school. The Fairbridge Secretary wrote to the Development and Migration Commission, 13 December 1927:

As a result of discussions with Sir Arthur Lawley, it was definitely decided to increase the accommodation at the farm school to take 300 children necessitating the expenditure of approximately £10,700.

In 1928, T H Garrett made a comprehensive report on the voluntary agencies introducing assisted migrants; that on the Child Emigration Society (Fairbridge) is included, dated 16 May 1928. It includes the following:

Ninety-five per cent of the children are Church of England... a woman after care officer was appointed recently... aim not to antagonise employers but to look after the interests of the children... there is friction between the Perth and London Committees... the London Committee insists on certain control over staff appointments.

The file includes various list of child migrants, their ages, dates of birth, date of arrival, etc.

Fairbridge Farm School, 1929–35 [283 pages] A436, 1946/5/597 part 2

This is a large file focusing on 1929–31, containing correspondence with the Premier's Department, the Prime Minister, the Department of Land and Surveys, and the Development and Migration Commission regarding Commonwealth and State accounts and subsidies, annual reports (1928 and 1929), agreements between the Child Emigration Society and the British Government, minutes of relevant Development and Migration Commission meetings, balance sheets, copies of ministerial memoranda, notes of meetings and discussions, requisitions and nominations, details of accommodation and individual children at the farm school. The selection issue and the intellectual capacity of some of the children surfaced. There are press cuttings and photographs of arrivals of some child migrants.

Fairbridge Farm School Maintenance of Children. Claim for Commonwealth Portion, 1921 [1 page] A436, 1946/5/1831

One page only, consisting of eight photos of housing at the Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra, WA and groups of Fairbridge children – all taken from the *Western Mail*, 8 September 1921.

Representations by Dr B Attlee-Hunt 'Unsatisfactory Health of children introduced by Fairbridge Farm School, Western Australia', 1944–47 [12 pages] A436, 1946/5/4010

This contains a long, handwritten letter, by Dr Attlee-Hunt to the Director-General, Department of Health, from a Japanese prisoner of war camp towards the end of hostilities. Attlee-Hunt wrote of events at Pinjarra during the late 1930s, some seven to eight years previously, when he was involved in assessing certain Fairbridge children as suitable immigrants for Australia. Dr J H L Cumpston, the Director-General, eventually passed the letter to Arthur Calwell, who sought the comments of

his departmental officers. The departmental reply was defensive, suggesting that screening at Australia House was much improved since those days.

Fairbridge Farm School – Molong – NSW, 1937–47 A436, 1948/5/57

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES (POLICY MATTERS), 1922–68
A445**

Recorded by:

1951–55 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 22.50 metres

**Fairbridge Farm School, Molong NSW Part II, 1947–50 [c.200 pages] A445,
133/2/11**

On 10 June 1947, the Principal at Fairbridge Farm School, Molong, NSW wrote to Sir Tasman Heyes: 'It was indeed a pleasure to meet you and Mrs Heyes and show you some of the activities of the Farm School'. He spoke of renovations and developments costing £13,250 and added that 'the Council very much appreciates your offer of assistance in this program which is absolutely necessary'. There are a number of news cuttings from which it is possible to follow Fairbridge developments. A copy of the architect's plans for the renovations, and much supporting correspondence on their funding is included. There is also considerable duplication of key letters and memoranda. On the human side, Mr N Lamidey, CMO in London wrote to Heyes, 9 June 1948 regarding the health of prospective child migrants and the impossibility of imposing too high standards if numbers were to come. He added:

A desperate position exists in the UK at present regarding tonsil operations... children would be directed to Canada (if we are too demanding)... infantile paralysis in the UK in epidemic form... a proportion of the children, including some from Fairbridge Farm have signs of old rickets, but no active cases have been accepted. If the medical standard is raised the flow of child migrants to Australia may be depleted seriously.

A copy of the 'Deed on Mortgage' between the Fairbridge Farm Society, NSW and the Commonwealth and a 1948 brochure on the Molong establishment are among the papers. In March 1949, the Secretary of the Farm School was able to announce that he had received:

on behalf of Goldsbrough Mort & Co... a cheque for £15,000... a gift... to commemorate the centenary of the Company's association with the pastoral industry in Australia.

On 4 April 1949, Fairbridge advised Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, that 'the Company had decided to erect four new cottages at Molong' with its substantial donation. He added 'we have unequalled conditions to offer the children'.

Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra, WA, 1946–50 [c.200 pages] A445, 133/2/12

This commences with a copy of the booklet: *The Kingsley Fairbridge Farm School, Western Australia. Constitutions and Rules*. Much of the material concerns tensions and their resolution between the British Child Emigration Society and its sister organisation in Western Australia. The CMO, Perth wrote to Heyes, 20 September 1946:

No children have been sent from England since 1938. The only connection between the London and WA Councils is that... the London office, which is really a section of the Oversea Settlement Committee, is supposed to supply the necessary finance for the maintenance etc. of the children... friction between the two committees purely over finance. No money for maintenance has been received from England since 1942.

On 22 October 1946, Mr A Nutt wrote a memorandum on the Fairbridge situation to the CMO after consulting the British High Commission over Fairbridge problems:

Trouble arose over the insistence of the London body that it should appoint the Principal of the Pinjarra Farm school and other staff... personalities not principles (is at stake). The position is further complicated by the fact that the Council in WA is a separate legal entity... impasse... the UK grant to capital expenditure on the Fairbridge school stands at about £35,000... a showdown may be required.

Meanwhile the Minister for Lands and Immigration in Perth stressed that Fairbridge was 'highly regarded by the Government and people of the state', but he appointed a Committee to investigate the affairs of the school as child migration was recommencing after the war. Numerous news cuttings illustrate the course of events counterpointing the voluminous correspondence. In an attempt to place matters in order, a four-man group from the London Fairbridge organisation arrived in Australia in October 1947. They were Sir Charles Hambro, the Earl of Scarborough, Colonel Harry Logan and Mr C Wilberforce. Major government department reports clarify the situation. The concluding folios deal with the appointment of a new Perth Committee, the legal reorganisation of the Fairbridge Farm School property, the plans to renovate much of the Pinjarra plant and the arrival of the first postwar child migrants. There is a copy of the *Fairbridge Farm School Act, 1948* passed by the Western Australian Parliament.

**Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra, Western Australia, 1950–51 [c.200 pages]
A445, 133/2/63**

Much of this concerns proposals for substantial additions and renovations to the farm school plant at Pinjarra and negotiations with governments for the two-thirds subsidy to assist with payment. The Under Secretary, Department of Lands and Immigration, Perth wrote to Heyes, 9 March 1950:

The Principal considers that to house 83 children now in residence or "on the water" an additional six (6) cottages would have to be renovated.

There were only 42 children in residence at that date. The Chief Migration Officer, Australia House, Mr N W Lamidey supported financial support for Fairbridge:

there will be no difficulties at all in fulfilling all the nominations for Fairbridge children... The Society has expressed considerable anxiety over the question of accommodation for the children... The Fairbridge Society seems to be in a position to maintain a steady flow of child migrants during the immediate foreseeable future.

There is correspondence over claims for equipment allowance, renovations, arrival of children from Britain and the renovations, whose estimated cost was £83,504. As is common in Fairbridge files, there are useful newspaper cuttings to illustrate the correspondence and chart developments over time. There is also some evidence of the 'Intelligence of Child Migrants' controversy among the latter folios. The British children at Pinjarra were intelligence-tested; the results were said to confirm that the overall profile placed the children as slightly duller than a comparable group of Australian youngsters, but overall satisfactory.

Fairbridge Farm School, Molong NSW – Part III, 1953 A445, 133/2/132

**Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra Western Australia, 1951–54 [c.300 pages]
A445, 133/2/64**

Much of this concerns the renovations, additions and repairs to the Fairbridge facilities at Pinjarra after the visit of the English representatives and the recommencement of child migration. The property had become run-down during the long war years. The new Honorary Secretary, W E Aspinall, wrote to the Under Secretary Lands and Immigration, 1 May 1948:

There are 18 cottages which will require to be altered in order to bring them to a state comparable to English standards as mentioned by Rev. J H Litten (NCH) who visited Fairbridge some time ago... the work on the 18 cottages would cost £60,000.

There is a copy of the document, 'Income & Expenditure Accounts with Balance Sheet and Supporting Schedules for the Year ended 31st December 1949'. However, there were delays and with building costs rising rapidly, proposed renovations were estimated at £91,000 by 1951 when Fairbridge was negotiating with State and Commonwealth Governments for the two-thirds building subsidy. The Immigration Department, irritated at the cost, stressed to the Department of Lands in Perth that 'it is essential that expenditure of this nature should be confined to bare essentials'. Over time, most of the renovations were approved, the endless bureaucratic delays adding to costs in an inflationary atmosphere. Meanwhile,

children continued to arrive, and after a major inspection at Pinjarra, Mr F Mather reported, 16 July 1951:

The suggestions of the (Review) Committee concerning education and employment were approved. The various unions have agreed to assist in finding apprenticeships for suitable boys and will subsidise wages where they are insufficient to cover board and residence and permit the boy to retain 20/- per week for clothing and incidental expenditure.

There are news cuttings illustrating developments, but fewer than in some Fairbridge files. Early in 1952, John Moss visited Fairbridge and his report stressed, inter alia, the principal difficulty of the institutions, gaining and retaining suitable staff:

It is very difficult to obtain suitable house mothers and in practice there is no choice... very isolated rural area... in the present circumstances it is unlikely that a better type of house mother will be obtainable... the lack of attention to some children is not satisfactory... I understand that it is not at all unusual for a house mother to stay less than six months and most of them have been there for less than twelve months... the cottage homes system is dependent on obtaining satisfactory staffs.

Some time after Moss's visit a new principal was appointed at Pinjarra and various reports for 1952–53 suggest a general improvement at the institution. There are six black-and-white photos of Fairbridge Pinjarra life in an envelope towards the end of the file.

Fairbridge Farm School – Molong – Part 2, 1950–53 [c.250 pages] A445, 133/2/77

There are copies of the 'Annual Report(s) and Balance Sheet(s), Fairbridge Farm School, New South Wales' for the years 1949 and 1950 and feature articles on Molong in the *Western Stock and Station Journal*, 19 February 1951 and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 September 1952. Much of the material concerns planned renovations to the Molong plant and negotiations with governments for the building subsidy. The correspondence reveals communication problems between governments and the essentially Honorary Council members of the organisations, in this case, Fairbridge Molong (via Orange, NSW). After months of negotiation, Mr F L Parr, the Senior Investigation Officer, summarised the situation, 17 November 1952, to Sir Tasman Heyes:

I visited Sydney to discuss with the State authorities the problems associated with the claims lodged by the Fairbridge Farm School and the United Protestant Association... in lengthy conferences... Fairbridge have gone ahead and incurred considerable expenditure on buildings and furniture without advising either the State or Commonwealth. [Their Secretary] admitted that he thought that both Governments would automatically contribute on a third basis towards any work carried out... the UPA has already purchased considerable quantities of furniture... the State Government has not got sufficient funds to meet present commitments for child migrants.

The long negotiations and bureaucratic delays were taking place as building costs were rising rapidly, and in December 1952, Fairbridge sent a representative of their Council to Canberra to explain the difficult financial situation the association faced. In the background, governments were more aware than many of the voluntary organisations that there were fewer and fewer children available in Britain for migration and therefore, governments did not want to spend more than absolutely necessary on the institution's facilities.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, 1926–50

PP6/1

Recorded by:

1945–50: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)

Perth 20 metres

Fairbridge Farm School – Government Financial assistance, Buildings, etc. Pinjarra, 1948–51 [34 pages] PP6/1, 1949/H/2752

In the first folio, Mr R W Brownlie, Chairman of Governors, Fairbridge Farm School requests financial assistance from the Lands and Immigration Department, WA for renovations at the Pinjarra property, some £3,000 to renovate six cottages and

Fairbridge House. The permission was granted readily, but subsequently there were complications. The Deputy Crown Solicitor advised the CMO, Perth, 5 August 1949:

... that the WA body is in the process of being merged in the English body known as Fairbridge Farm School (Inc.). The State Act, No 35 of 1948, entitled Fairbridge Farm School Act, 1948 provides for the eventual vesting of all the assets of the local body in the London concern, and in the near future... the WA Society will cease to function.

The formalities to make the money available occupy some correspondence and there is a copy of the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Fairbridge Society over the monies for renovations. Progress was slow: the first 20 boys left Britain on 17 October 1950 when an inspector reported 'the present housing conditions are dubious at best'. However, the UK Board wished to fill Pinjarra by the end of 1951. The remainder of the correspondence refers to satisfactory completion of the renovations and payment for them.

**Fairbridge Farm School – Inspection and Progress Reports, 1948–50
PP6/1, 1949/H/2708**

Fairbridge Farm School – Immigration facilities, 1946–51 **PP6/1,**
1947/H/1595

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL PASSPORTS), 1939–70 **A659**

Recorded by:

1939: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)

Canberra 101.25 metres

Fairbridge Farm Schools – Migration during the war, 1940 [21 pages] **A659,**
1943/1/3278

The first item is correspondence from the British High Commission to the Department of the Interior, 12 March 1940 which advises that Fairbridge has 123 children recruited prior to the outbreak of war, and are maintaining them in difficult circumstances in England. Fairbridge wish to distribute the children among their farm schools in Canada and Australia. Will the Commonwealth accept 56 children and grant the usual maintenance payments? This was agreed, but as 'all regular sailings to Australia are cancelled' the children will have to be sent via Canada. There is a cutting from the *Herald* (Melbourne), 27 August 1940, that the children have arrived in New Zealand, and another from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 September, that the Fairbridge party has arrived in NSW and will be placed at Molong. There is material regarding the abduction of one of the child migrants from Molong by his uncle, the arrest of the uncle, the return of the boy and the subsequent trial and conviction.

Fairbridge farm school – Deduction of Commonwealth Subsidy – Annual requisition for children, 1931–38 [c.400 pages] **A659, 1945/1/505**

There is a copy of Fairbridge's 1931 Annual Report and many newspaper cuttings of Fairbridge arrivals and activities during the 1930s. Fairbridge arrivals continued during the Depression at around 70 children per year. In some ways the apogee of the Fairbridge reputation was reached in 1937 when at the Annual General Meeting in London, Mr R G Casey referred to the farm schools performing 'a great imperial task' and Lord Hartington, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Dominions, averred that 'The British Empire is the only hope for the preservation of civilisation'. A major theme in the file is the discussion over appropriate intelligence standards among the young Fairbridge children. There was a constant stream of young people being repatriated to the UK as unsuitable. In 1937, a memorandum refers to 35 children being sent back to England 'over the last five years'. The reasons cited included: 'sub-normal', 'moral defect', 'moral weakness', 'had an illegitimate child',

'several stigmata of degeneration', 'strong anti-social tendencies' and 'epilepsy'. In the discussion over repatriation of certain children, Mr A E Stowe, the Secretary in Perth mentioned some of the organisations who had placed the children with Fairbridge. These included: the Public Assistance Authorities, West Hartlepool, the Manchester Boys and Girls Refuge, the Middlemore homes, the Wandsworth, London Borough, Care Committee and Barnardo's. There is some correspondence over the establishment of the Lady Northcote Farm School on Fairbridge lines at Glenmore, via Bacchus Marsh, Victoria. On 29 August 1935, the Chairman of the Fairbridge Farm Schools, Inc. in London announced the opening of an office of the society in Newcastle 'to bring the benefits of the Farm Schools to many of the children of the distressed parts of Northumberland and Durham'. Since the establishment of the Australian venture, to 31 December 1935, 1 076 children had arrived at Pinjarra, 844 boys and 232 girls.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953–

A446

Recorded by:

1953–74: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 3346.4 metres

Visit to Australia of Major-General Hawthorn, Director and Secretary of the Fairbridge Society, 1965–67 [c.150 pages] A446, 1964/46181

General Hawthorn succeeded Mr W R Vaughan as Fairbridge Director in 1964 and soon afterwards planned a trip to inspect the Society's work in Australia. There are details included from the Minister's briefing notes: the 'One-Parent', and 'Two-Parent' schemes, the financial assistance to Fairbridge and a brief summary of the Society's development in Australia. Since 1949, some 416 unaccompanied children had arrived at Pinjarra under the Society's auspices, plus 196 under the two recently developed schemes. Since 1947, some 365 children had been received at Molong, together with an additional 80 youngsters under the 'One-Parent' and 'Two-Parent' schemes. There are details of the Society's recent purchases at Draper's Hall in Adelaide and Tresca in northern Tasmania. In a departmental memorandum dated 27 July 1964, Mr F C Castle noted that 'the original purpose for which the Fairbridge Society was established has almost disappeared'. The file includes the itinerary of General Hawthorn's visit and reports of meetings with officials. General Hawthorn visited Australia both in 1966 and 1967 and there are details of these visits along the same lines. There is a four-page summary of the situation Fairbridge faced with numbers dropping rapidly, dated May 1967.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50

A461

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Fairbridge Farm School, 1921–28 [283 pages] A461, C349/1/7 part 1

This relates to financial arrangements between the Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra, Western Australia, and the state and Federal governments.

Fairbridge Farm School, 1928–41 [413 pages] A461, C349/1/7 part 2

This file contains requisitions, advice of approvals for the introduction of children and correspondence relating to the payment of Government subsidies for the maintenance of children at the Fairbridge Farm Schools. There are also press cuttings, extracts from Hansard, copies of agreements with governments, various other letters, some regarding the loan of equipment from the Department of the

Army and memoranda relating to the schools. There is a memorandum from the Development and Migration Commission (DMC) for the Minister concerning the finances of the farm school, which had been granted a subsidy in 1922 against the advice of the DMC. Senator G J Pearce was anxious to end the subsidy as the Fairbridge Society 'is not a migration work, but a Child Welfare work which is not within the functions of the Commonwealth'. During the Depression there were (unsuccessful) attempts to terminate the subsidy. A DMC memorandum dated 7 April 1930 stated:

Similar subsidies are not paid to other Australian institutions which manifestly should take precedence over an institution like Fairbridge... but £40,000 has been sunk into the plant.

The Prime Minister's Department wrote to the Premier of Western Australia:

There have been repeated representations from the Clontarf orphanage, also located in your state, for a Commonwealth subsidy... it is increasingly difficult to justify the refusal of such request in view of the attitude adopted with regard to the Fairbridge Farm School... obvious inconsistencies.

There is a major report on the Fairbridge Farm – fifteen pages plus appendices – by Mr T H Garrett, 1928.

Fairbridge Farm School, Extension to States other than Western Australia, 1935–40 [47 pages] A461, K349/1/7

In the mid-1930s, the (NSW) Association of Rhodes Scholars indicated its support for 'the adaptation and extension of the farm school model to other parts of Australia'. Mr F B Edwards, MLA (Tasmania) wrote to Prime Minister J A Lyons about this matter on 14 September 1935. The first venture would be in New South Wales: 'a strong committee of NSW Rhodes Scholars has been formed... start with 50 boys in 1936... wants an initial grant and per capita subsidy'. Lyons sent the request to the Department of the Interior; the Minister, Mr T Paterson was enthusiastic:

Fairbridge is the finest example of successful migration work.



Breakfast at the Fairbridge Farm School at Molong, NSW, 1954.
NAA: A1200, L17162

In 1936, the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy gave the 'green light' to more farm schools:

Further farm schools on Fairbridge lines should be encouraged and the UK Government should be prepared to make a contribution.

Most of the correspondence involves the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Minister for the Interior and the Taxation Office and concerns the matter of subsidies. There are extracts from Hansard, a Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy concerning Fairbridge; references to the support received by Barnardo's Homes and material on farm schools in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania.

FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1976–

A6006

Recorded by:

1976–81: Australian Archives, Central Office (CA 1720)

1981–94: Australian Archives, ACT Regional Office (CA 3196)

Canberra 9.18 metres

This series contains copies of Cabinet papers dating back to 1901.

Fairbridge Farm School Western Australia, 1930 A6006, 1930/04/08

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES) PREFIX, 1952–77

C3939

Recorded by:

1952–74: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)

Sydney 38.7 metres

**Fairbridge Farm Schools – Capital Expenditure, balance sheets, etc, 1948–68
C3939, N1955/25/75209 part 1**

**Children – child and youth organisations – Fairbridge Farm Schools, 1973
C3939, N1955/25/75209 part 2**

This contains an outline of the NSW Government's subsidy for child migrants being maintained in the state. In 1971–72, there was only one, aged 16, under the care of the Fairbridge Society.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1965–76
PP582/1**

Recorded by:

1965–73 Department of Civil Aviation, Perth (CA 2884)

Perth 5.4 metres

Fairbridge landing ground, c.1967 PP582/1, 1972/2111

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1959–73**K403****Recorded by:****1959–73: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)****Perth 59.56 metres****Children – child and youth organisations – Fairbridge – Government financial assistance, c.1959–84 K403, W59/100****Children – child and youth organisations – Fairbridge – general inspections, c.1959–84 K403, W59/101****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1955–****K47****Recorded by:****1955–74: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)****Perth 29.86 metres****Children general child migration – Fairbridge Farm Society Overseas League Scheme, 1956–61 [48 pages] K47, 1959/998**

This contains material on the development of the Fairbridge 'One-Parent' scheme in 1956. Mr W H Vaughan from the London office arrived in Australia to arrange this scheme with Australian authorities. The 'One-Parent' scheme involved assisting a widow or deserted wife with children to emigrate to Australia. The Overseas League was willing to arrange employment and accommodation for the mothers while they established themselves in Australia, and during this time Fairbridge (Pinjarra) would maintain and educate the child or children. Sir Tasman Heyes indicated the Government's approval, 14 November 1956:

It has been agreed that a child shall not be sent until a personal nomination has been arranged for the parent and unless it has been confirmed beforehand that the parent will be acceptable for migration to Australia.

At this time three other Fairbridge leaders arrived in Australia: Lady Dulverton, the Hon. R Wills and the Hon. Aylmer Tryon. The last planned films on Fairbridge activities in Australia. The file includes: the announcement of the 'One-Parent Scheme' by Minister for Immigration, Athol Townley, 1 March 1957; a copy of the declaration widows were to sign before placing their children with the Society; and some problems with early cases.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1954 –**K38****Recorded by:****1954–72: Department of Labour and National Service (CA 1761)****Perth 162 metres****Fairbridge Society Family Migration Scheme instructions, (Department of Labour and National Service/Employment and Industrial Relations), 1960–72 [38 pages] K38, 1967/793**

This concerns the Fairbridge Society's 'Two-Parent' Scheme. The idea was that Fairbridge – Molong or Pinjarra – would take and care for the children while the parents were establishing themselves in Australia, and its objective was to assist large working-class families who would not otherwise be acceptable as Commonwealth nominees because they had too many children. The scheme was introduced on a trial basis, for Molong initially in 1960 and within a short time six families had arrived. There is a copy of the document: 'Information for Parents under

the Fairbridge Family Scheme'. By 1965, correspondence has arisen over problems with the scheme and families not honouring their agreement with Fairbridge.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SYSTEM, 1925–49**A1928****Recorded by:****1925–49: Department of Health (CA 17)****Canberra 82.71 metres****Request by Children's Farm School Immigration Society of Western Australia for accommodation of children at Woodman's Point Quarantine Station, 1928 [12 pages] A1928, 520/32**

Questions of isolation and quarantine for a party of 115 children sailing to Australia on the *Balranald* in 1928 were raised and subsequently withdrawn by the Children's Farm School Immigration Society of WA owing to an outbreak of measles. The file contains a list of infectious diseases occurring on immigrant ships from England, 1927, and a Department of Health report on phases of epidemic incidence among child migrants on arrival in Australia.

Lady Northcote Farm School

Lady Northcote had endowed Australian culture during the period 1904 to 1908 when her husband Lord Northcote was Governor-General of Australia. When she died in 1934, she left most of her money to charity, bequeathing virtually her whole estate of some £200,000 to the cause of child emigration. She was an admirer of Kingsley Fairbridge and his farm school initiative. In 1937 a farm school on Fairbridge principles was established at Glenmore, near Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, which was named after her.

The small number of files does not reflect the number of British children who came to this institution. However, a couple of the files are bulky and there is much relevant material, especially newspaper cuttings and lists which may be of interest to former residents, family historians and specialist historians.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1951–55**A445****Recorded by:****1951–55: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 22.5 metres****Northcote Training Farm, Glenmore, Victoria, 1944–50 A445, 133/2/24**

The first matters raised follow from a joint letter of the Fairbridge Society and the Northcote Trust to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, 5 April 1944. The letter concerns the resumption of child migration after the war, and requests (i) whether the British Government is prepared to support schemes for the emigration of children from Great Britain after the war; and (ii) if so, whether the Commonwealth Government is prepared to assist in the settlement of the children in Australia. The reply is non-committal, but the correspondence appears to have prompted a major inspection at Glenmore on 8 and 9 May, 1944. Mr R H Wheeler and Mr W Garnett of the British High Commission spent two days on the task. There were 85 children at the home, and 76 had graduated to further study, employment or the armed services. There had been problems during the war maintaining the home: 'there had

been trouble with the bigger girls and the state school teacher', and some of the past students who had returned for holidays and between jobs had misbehaved with the young women. In the wake of this, Colonel Heath had resigned as Principal, and Mr H Brown, formerly a House Master at Wesley had taken his place. Wheeler dwells on the staff difficulty at Glenmore as the source of trouble. On 10 May 1944, Wheeler and Garrett attended a meeting with the Trustees in Melbourne to discuss the financial situation at Glenmore and policy matters if and when full-scale child migration recommenced. There is also a detailed report of the Trustees, 12 June 1945, meeting and subsequent interviews with Mr A Calwell, the Immigration Minister. Meanwhile, in view of the declining enrolment, all children of school age had been sent to Molong. The dilemma with which the next range of correspondence for 1948 deals is the claim of the Northcote Trustees for Commonwealth funds to place the home in a position to cater for over 200 children, at a time when the numbers of child migrants were declining drastically. The Principal had been on a recruiting trip to the UK with only partial success, eg the National Children's Homes, who had sent children pre-war, and sent a few more to Australia during the 1950s, were turning against child migration in principle as a placement option for the deprived child. There are a number of newspaper cuttings in the file and details of the 1950 visit of Miss Vera Grenfell of the Northcote Trust in London to Glenmore. Subsequent papers are stated as having been placed on file A445, 133/2/74.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50 **A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Northcote Children's Migration Fund, 1934–38 [72 pages] A461, B349/1/7**

The first folio is a cablegram from Sir Stanley Bruce, High Commissioner in London, to the Prime Minister J A Lyons, announcing the Northcote bequest. The Dunstan Government in Victoria was, from the beginning, cool towards the venture 'in view of the large numbers of persons still out of employment in this state'. There was trade union opposition, evident in a letter, 11 August 1937, from the Town Clerk, City of Port Melbourne. He cites 'the acute unemployment problem' and opposes 'the action recently taken in bringing infants from England and settling them on a farm in Victoria'. The file contains a copy of the detailed agreement between the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and the Trustees of the Northcote Children's Emigration Fund for Australia under the Empire Settlement Act for assistance with capital works and routine maintenance.

FOLDERS OF COPIES OF CABINET PAPERS, 1976– **A6006****Recorded by:****1976–81: Australian Archives, Central Office (CA 1720)****1981–94: Australian Archives, ACT Regional Office (CA 3196)****Canberra 9.18 metres**

This series contains copies of Cabinet papers dating back to 1901.

Financial Assistance to (1) Northcote Children's Farm School; (2) Australians stranded Abroad, 1949 A6006, 1949/06/04**Agendum 1095 – Northcote Children's Farm School – Glenmore, Victoria – Financial Assistance, Report by IDC, 1949 A6006, 1949/06/04**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES)
PREFIX, 1952–77 C3939****Recorded by:****1952–74: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)****Sydney 38.7 metres****Visit by Miss Vera Grenfell, Secretary of Northcote Children's Emigration
Fund, 1965–66 C3939, N1965/75309****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1945–50****A436****Recorded by:****1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)****Canberra 5.04 metres****Northcote Children's Emigration Fund – Child Migration – Victoria, 1934–1941
[c.350 pages] A436, 1945/5/85 part 1**

The first significant item is a copy of the statement: 'The Northcote Emigration Fund for Australia. Receipts and Expenditure for the period from the inception of the Trustees Activities in Australia to 30 September 1937'. Many newspaper cuttings and clippings from Hansard are throughout the file. The initiation for the farm school came from the benefaction of £200,000 of Lady Northcote 'to commemorate the happy years spent in Australia by her husband and herself'. Much of the correspondence in this extensive file concerns the following: The Trustees of the Fund were Sir Harold Luxton, Mr E H Wreford of the National Bank, Major R G Casey, General Sir Brudenell White, and the Federal Treasurer of the time. The Premier of Victoria, c. January 1937, made it clear that 'the Victorian Government is not prepared to accept any responsibility, financial or otherwise, in regard to the children concerned'. The 'Glenmore' property was donated to the venture by the Hon. W Angliss, MLC; Colonel J S Heath, of Fairbridge, 'a tall vigorous one-armed veteran of the war', was appointed first principal. The Commonwealth Government undertook to give up to £7,000 for capital expenditure and 3/- per child per week with a maximum of £1,000 in any one year. The British Government, under the Empire Settlement Act, made available up to one-half of the capital cost of establishing the farm school up to a maximum of £STG 14 000 and to contribute 5/- per head per week towards maintenance. These generous terms followed from the initial generosity of Lady Northcote, the support of the Rhodes scholars and the high reputation of the Fairbridge Farm Schools. The Victorian press gave exceptional coverage during the establishment of the farm school at Glenmore, and the following headlines give the flavour: 'Fairbridge and his Vision'; 'Agog for a glimpse of Melbourne'; 'Handkerchief drill, cold showers and odd jobs' and 'The youthful farmers of Glenmore'. There is much information on funding; monies from governments were tardy in arriving. There is a copy of the Trust Deed. In a file with so many newspaper cuttings, the last word might be given to them: 'this little colony of 28 English immigrants'; 'escape from the crowded English towns'; 'the children at Glenmore are a splendid type'; and 'a place where everyone has a second chance'.

Dr Barnardo's Homes

Thomas Barnardo was born and raised in Dublin. As a young man he experienced a strong religious conversion and became an evangelical Christian. In 1867, he arrived in London at the age of twenty to train as a missionary with the China Inland Mission. However, despite his ardour, its directors suggested he should train as a doctor before going further. It was a time of grim economic depression in

the East End and while still a medical student Barnardo commenced work in a Ragged School in that part of the capital. The plight of the children touched his conscience and within two years he had established his first home for destitute and abandoned youngsters.

Other evangelicals, Annie Macpherson and William Booth among them, were immersed in the same work and for some church workers emigration seemed the only way to break the tragic cycle of grinding poverty. In this desperate situation, Annie Macpherson and Maria Rye pioneered child migration to Canada in 1869. Barnardo began to send children to Canada as early as 1872 through Macpherson's organisation. By 1881, he decided to throw himself wholeheartedly into child emigration and visited Canada to meet government officials and others interested in this work. He established a receiving home in Toronto for boys and increased numbers of young children were sent. Another home was later acquired at Peterborough, Ontario, called Hazlebrae and used mainly for girls.

Over the next twenty years, Dr Barnardo became the towering child care personality of the age and by the termination of most child migration to Canada in 1930, his organisation had sent 20 000 youngsters to the dominion. By comparison, Barnardo's involvement with Australia was small-scale. In 1871 a family of three children who had spent time with Barnardo after rescue from the London slums came to live on a sheep station in Australia. Seventeen years later, to show their appreciation, they sent twelve frozen sheep carcasses to Dr Barnardo's Stepney home. In 1883, an unofficial group of older Barnardo's boys arrived in Fremantle aboard the sailing vessel *Charlotte Padbury* but details of their later lives in Australia are sketchy.

Barnardo's Homes extended their field to Australia in a systematic way after World War I under the auspices of the Millions Club in Sydney whose president was Sir Arthur Rickard. The first meeting of the NSW branch of the association was held on 11 April 1921 under the Presidency of Lord Forster, the Governor-General. The work was organised similarly to that in Canada. A home at Ashfield was purchased as a receiving centre, a temporary residence for boys on arrival or as a convalescent home for any whom became sick or unemployed. It was named 'Barnardo House'. At this stage the boys and girls who arrived were older teenagers but their numbers were small – by comparison with the association's Canadian operation. In 1921, 47 children came; in 1922, 50; in 1923, 106; in the following year, 155; and over the next four years another 523 children arrived in Australia.

There was no problem placing the children as, for example, in 1928 – before the onset of the Depression – twenty farmers applied for each boy available and forty homes offered for each girl graduating as a domestic servant.

In 1927, the President of Barnardo's Homes in the United Kingdom, the Duke of York, visited New South Wales. It was decided to establish a training home for children under fourteen years of age. The Minister for Labour approved and the society purchased Mowbray Park near Picton, one hundred kilometres south of Sydney, the following year. The property was somewhat isolated, but was purchased on the contemporary view that the children should have beautiful

surroundings to compensate for the squalor of the urban slums and their lack of family life. When they came to establish homes of their own, this would give them an ideal to which to aspire.

Mowbray Park was opened in 1929 by the Governor of New South Wales. The boys were to be trained as farm labourers, the girls as domestic servants, while accommodation was on the cottage principle, with six cottages constructed to accommodate around two hundred children. This was close to best contemporary child care practice. In spite of the virtual cessation of migration during the Depression, Barnardo's Homes was permitted to bring children to Mowbray Park to keep its Australian care viable.

As with other juvenile immigration, World War II ended arrivals for the duration. Seven years later, in 1946, in preparation for a renewal of child migration, the clause requiring boys to work on the land and girls to be placed in domestic service, was removed from the Barnardo's charter. All children were given a free choice of occupation within their vocational skills and interests. In 1947 the first postwar party of Barnardo's Homes children arrived in New South Wales, to be followed soon after by a tour of inspection by Mr W Kirkpatrick, the General Superintendent of Homes (UK), to see that standards were appropriate. There had been some criticism of child migration in the British press.

In 1950, Greenwood, an eleven acre property at Normanhurst with four large buildings, was purchased as a hostel closer to Sydney. Boys and girls were to be trained on the same property, a departure from previous practice. In 1956, the arrival of the British Fact-Finding Mission – opposed to child migration – inspected, but its reports, both public and confidential did not particularly criticise Barnardo's, but pressured the association to continue modernising its regime.

In 1957, Karingal at Lindfield was opened as a small transitional home for working girls while they became established in employment. Thereafter, development was vigorous. The first family branch home, Tarana, was established at Belmont near Newcastle two years later. It was agreed to dispense with large institutional homes and replace them with smaller, mixed family group accommodation. A number of family group homes were opened: Hartwell House in Kiama for boys and girls; Ladd House for older girls and Fairfax House for older boys on the Normanhurst property.

In 1960, the Mowbray Park Picton property was sold and another large farm near Scone, Tooloogan Vale was purchased to establish a farm training school for immigrant boys of post-school age. Lindfield became a family group home. By 1962, additional family group homes were opened at Cronulla and West Ryde.

Since Barnardo's Homes executives knew their Australian care arrangements were state-of-the-art they continued child migration when other organisations abandoned the practice. The British Catholic 'Rescue Societies' ceased sending children to Australia in 1956 and there were few, if any, children coming through the Protestant churches. However, in 1967 the last party of seven child migrants under Barnardo's Homes auspices arrived in Sydney by air. It was the last phase of a policy which had its origins in the early seventeenth century.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38**A1****Recorded by:****1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)****1928–32: Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)****1932–38: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)****Canberra 337.14 metres****Barnardo Boys, 1921–34 [c.300 pages] A1, 1936/3667**

Sir Arthur Rickard at the Millions Club took the initiative to get Barnardo's Homes established in New South Wales as early as 21 November 1920. Barnardo's Homes offered to place 50 boys (8 to 12 years old), as an experiment. As the scheme developed in its early years, the boys who came were somewhat older and could be placed on farms immediately. Rickard attempted to arrange for the Commonwealth to pay the fares; Gullett at Immigration refused. Immigration was still, in practice, largely a state issue and there was widespread prejudice against Barnardo's boys. In order to make the boys more acceptable it was stressed that they were 'soldiers' orphans'. The Oversea Settlement Committee was to pay the fares. Rickard had asked the Canadian Immigration Agent in London, J Obed Smith, for his advice. Smith's reply is in the file as are numerous photos of Barnardo's activities. On their arrival in Perth, en route, the first group was entertained by members of the Young Australia League. There is a copy of the 16-page, Canadian document: Smart, G P *Juvenile Immigration, 1919–20: Report of the Chief Inspector of British Immigrant Children and Receiving Homes*, Thomas Mulvey, Ottawa, 1921. By early 1922, tensions arose between Barnardo's, UK and the Sydney Committee, which was wound up in August 1922 and there is much correspondence on this theme. It was at this stage that the original proposals were changed and older Barnardo children, girls as well, were to be brought. With government there were also tensions, behind which lay financial problems: the Director of Immigration wrote in one letter, 6 April 1923:

There is no money for idealistic immigration schemes.

Years passed, and by 1927 there is material around the argument over the 'quality' of the children arriving in Australia. Barnardo's Homes found the numbers from its own UK homes, but arranged for some to come from other Industrial Schools and orphanages; and some to come direct from their parents' homes. Mowbray Park, Picton was acquired in 1930 and Barnardo's Homes gradually moved from 'youth' to 'child' migration. There is a break of three years in the file, 1930–33, and there is more discussion over appropriate standards in terms of health and intelligence which the children should possess.

**Mowbray Park Farm, New South Wales, Dr Barnardo's Homes, 1930–31
[4 pages] A1, 1932/7863**

This has the copies of two agreements made under the Empire Settlement Act and sent from London, 27 March 1931: (a) an agreement, dated 22 December 1930, with His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia... to provide for assisted passages to suitable (Barnardo's) migrants; and (b) an Agreement, dated 2 December 1930, with Dr Barnardo's Homes... to provide for the utilisation of Mowbray Park Farm in the State of New South Wales for children from the United Kingdom.

**The Millions Club of NSW, Permission for Dr Woolnough to Address Club,
1935 A1, 1935/6117**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1904–20**A2****Recorded by:****1911–20: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 30.06 metres****Immigration – Proposals by the Millions Club, 1915 A2, 1915/1803****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50****A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Immigration – Barnardo Boys, 1921–44 [173 pages] A461, H349/1/7**

This contains copies of agreements with governments, Hansard extracts, newspaper cuttings, letters on maintenance subsidies by the Commonwealth for Barnardo children and group nominations for boys for Mowbray Park Farm School. Correspondence involves the Prime Minister's Department, the High Commission, the Commonwealth Immigration Office, the Development and Migration Commission, the Department of Labour and Industry (NSW), the Department of Transport and the Premier's Department (NSW). Material is also included on the withdrawal of financial assistance during the Depression and resumption of assisted migration of Barnardo's children in October 1936. The children's standards debate is featured and a small number were repatriated to the UK. New standards of intelligence, ie higher IQ levels, and personal adaptability were imposed.

Immigration – Barnardo's Boys, 1934–38 [3 pages] A461, A349/1/7 part 1

Newspaper cutting, c.1934 on 'Child Migration: Advantages to Australia. Work of Dr Barnardo's Homes' prompted a letter to Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain (copy to Prime Minister J A Lyons) from Miss I M Brown, from Hobart, protesting against 'the white slave traffic' as she viewed child migration.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'G' [GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS] INFIX, 1956–**A463****Recorded by:****1956–71: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 701.38 metres****Visit of Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Visit to Dr Barnardo's Home, Downer, Canberra, 4 April 1966 A463, 1966/66**

The Queen Mother was patron of the National Incorporated Association, Dr Barnardo's Homes and 1966 was the centenary of Thomas Barnardo's first involvement in child care. There had been discussion the previous year of the Queen Mother visiting a Barnardo's Home during her 1966 visit to Australia. There is a letter from Sir Martin Gilliatt, Principal Private Secretary to the Queen Mother to Sir Alfred Owen, Chair of the Council, 22 June 1965, that the Queen Mother would be delighted to visit. Of interest are the extraordinarily detailed plans for a twenty-minute call, including curricula vitae of all those to be presented to the Queen Mother.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1951–55**A445****Recorded by:****1951–55: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 22.5 metres****Dr Barnardo's Children's Homes, NSW, 1938–48 [186 pages] A445,
133/2/115**

Mostly covers the postwar period. There is correspondence relating to the termination of passage assistance for Barnardo children during the war, although maintenance grants to those up to 14 years of age and already in Australia was continued. There are press cuttings on the homes, details of maintenance payments for 1938 and a copy of the 1937 Supplementary Agreement under the Empire Settlement Act.

**Dr Barnardo Children's Homes, NSW, Part 3, 1949–52 [c.300 pages] A445,
133/2/4**

This file is very large and much of it is not available to the public since it concerns problems at Barnardo's Homes Picton in 1951. Includes a copy of the minutes of an important conference, 15 February 1949, between NSW representatives of the Big Brother Movement, Barnardo's Homes, the Child Welfare and the Commonwealth Department of Immigration. The background was the sense in some voluntary organisations, especially the Big Brother Movement, that they were being subjected to increasing and unnecessary control by the State Child Welfare Department led by Mr R Hicks. There is a cutting from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 May 1949, photo and comment on the arrival of 25 Barnardo boys on the *Chitral* and destined for Mowbray Park Picton. There follows correspondence and statements regarding a fracas and its aftermath between some of the boys and the Superintendent of the orphanage in January 1951. There is a detailed account of the events by Dr R Green, the NSW Secretary for Barnardo's Homes in a letter to R H Wheeler at the Immigration Department, 8 March 1951. Afterwards, Hicks commented to Heyes in Canberra, 14 February 1951:

... the organisations are inadequately equipped to handle appropriately a number of children sponsored by them.

In Canberra, one officer minuted:

I think it is important that the voluntary organisations should realise that their responsibilities do not terminate because a juvenile becomes difficult to control.

The Senior CMO, Mr R U Metcalfe, added that:

... only in special circumstances can children whom they have introduced be placed in state establishments.

At first, Barnardo's Homes had wanted the recalcitrant youths placed in state care.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953–**A446****Recorded by:****1953–74: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 3364.4 metres****Dr Barnardo's Children's Homes, NSW, 1953–61 [c.200 pages] A446,
1956/67312**

Focuses on Mowbray Park Farm School, Picton during the 1950s. Numerous newspaper cuttings with photos. In 1953, Sir Tasman Heyes offers departmental assistance in recruiting children and there is correspondence over the arrival of Mr T W Hayton, Barnardo's Homes Publicity Officer, to take the difficult financial situation in hand. The deficit for the year 1953 was £30,000, made good by the parent

organisation in the UK. An appeal was launched for funds and there is evidence from the press cuttings that it was widely supported. By 5 April 1954, 247 children had arrived in NSW under Barnardo's Homes auspices. There is mention of the serious car accident, 6 July 1957, in which a number of past students were injured in the Picton area. There is extensive newspaper coverage of the sexual abuse scandal which rocked the farm school in 1958 and which led Barnardo's Homes to close the facility a couple of years later.

Doctor Barnardo's Homes, NSW – Financial Assistance, 1950–71 **A446,**
1967/71858

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1920–57 **A436**

Recorded by:

1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)

Canberra 5.04 metres

Barnardo Children, 1930–37 A436, 1945/5/168 part 1

Includes material on the Millions Club, Barnardo's, Sir Arthur Rickard and the purchase and opening of Mowbray Park, Picton, the former residence of Sir Frederick Waley. The Depression led some to worry that Barnardo boys would take Australian boys' jobs and child migration was a sensitive issue in these circumstances. The British representative, Mr E T Crutchley, wrote in this context to the Secretary, Transport Department, 1 June 1931:

I hope sincerely that your Government will be able to approve the admission of further parties of children necessary to keep the school up to its capacity on the understanding that the cost of the passages is met in England.

In essence, the crux here was political:

Young Australian-born boys were tramping the country looking for work and therefore, were English young people to be brought in – at Government expense – as competitors?

(Senate Hansard, 16 November 1934). There is a great deal of correspondence over the quality of the children sent, their physique and intellectual capacity. Australia House warned on 20 September 1934 that 'the general policy of Barnardo's is only to send overseas those children who are unsuitable for placing in this country' and adds 'it is high time that the State of New South Wales were advised what is going on'. The writer, Mr W J Stables, suggests that medical certificates are being 'doctored' and cites the classic eugenics propaganda that 'subnormals breed more readily'. A special testing of certain Barnardo youngsters was undertaken. Seventeen children were considered 'poor stock', 'degenerates', 'probably mentally-defective', 'very dull' or 'dull': 'a very serious state of affairs which should not be permitted to continue' according to one official. On 4 July 1935, this officer minuted: 'Barnardo's authorities have not been 'playing the game' and said that sixteen children should be repatriated. Each child migrant should be required to have an IQ of 95 minimum. In April 1936, new guidelines for the admission of Barnardo children, and by extension, child migrants in general, were released.

Barnardo's Homes – NSW nominations, 1937–39 [70 pages] **A436, 1946/5/7**

In June 1937, the NSW Immigration and Tourism Minister approved the introduction of 60 juvenile immigrants under Barnardo's Homes auspices. In a letter to Australia House, T H Garrett advised around the same time:

As this is the first batch of Barnardo children to be granted assisted passages for some years, both Commonwealth and State Governments are particularly anxious that the children should be up to the required standard physically and mentally... during 1935, when they were not obliged to submit to Commonwealth selection, some Barnardo children were found to be unfitted for life in Australia.

There is a cutting from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 December 1937, which announced the arrival of 50 British children for Mowbray Park Picton, the largest

party to arrive in NSW for five years. The Senior Escort, Captain R D Rees remarked:

NSW has been selected as the best state for the work because of the better prospects of securing employment for the children when their training is completed and because of the interest shown in the work by the State Government.

The fourth folio is an apparently unrelated memorandum by the Port Medical Officer on medical checks on children arriving at Sydney.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'SB' (SHIPPING BRANCH) PREFIX, 1939–51 D1976

Recorded by:

1939–51: Australian Customs Service, Adelaide (CA 802)

Adelaide 16.4 metres

Enquiry regarding the admission to Australia of orphans from the UK –
Barnardo Homes, 1940 D1976, SB1940/555

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SC SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL SERIES, 1926
A3934**

Recorded by:

1926: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 1.62 metres

Sir Arthur Rickard – Appointment as Delegate, League Conference, 1926
A3934, SC28/1

CONSULAR INVESTIGATION FILES, ALPHA–NUMERIC SERIES C443/P1

Recorded by:

1946: Investigation Branch NSW, Security Section (CA 904)

Sydney 2 metres

Sir Arthur Rickard, Box 4, 1932–40 C443/P1, J34

RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, 1939–51 CP815/1

Recorded by:

1944–50: Department of Information (CA 34)

Canberra 8.63 metres

Immigration Articles for Millions Club Journal, 1947–48 CP815/1, bundle
33/021/118

**'THE SHEDDEN COLLECTION' [RECORDS COLLECTED BY SIR FREDERICK SHEDDEN DURING HIS CAREER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND IN RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE POLICY], TWO NUMBER SERIES, 1937-71
A5954**

Recorded by:

1937-39: Department of Defence (II) (CA 19)

Canberra 109.9 metres

Impressions of a Trip Abroad. An Address Delivered to the Millions Club Sydney, Australia by Mr Hudson Fysh, 1939 A5954, 192/50

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, CLASS 16 (MIGRANTS T-Z), 1951-52 A444

Recorded by:

1951-52: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 5.25 metres

Millions Club of NSW, 1939-51 A444, 1951/16/3089

CORRESPONDENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'DY' (DUKE OF YORK) PREFIX, 1926-28 A6680

Recorded by:

1926: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

1927: Director of the Royal Tour (CA 1052)

Canberra 3.66 metres

Millions Club Sydney - Request for representation at Canberra ceremony, 1926-27 A6680, DY16/22

Millions Club - Desire to entertain His Royal Highness, 1926 A6680, DY19/10

Address of Welcome - The Millions Club of NSW, 1927 A6680, DY57/9

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1945-75 A2880

Recorded by:

1945-75: Governor-General (CA 1)

Canberra 62.28 metres

Associations, Societies, etc. - Patronage - Dr Barnardo's Homes Young Helpers League, 1938 [12 pages] A2880, 20/6/86

This concerns correspondence between Marjorie Beaumont, Australian Warden for the Young Helpers League of Dr Barnardo's Homes and the Secretary to Lady Gowrie, wife of the Governor-General. Mrs Beaumont wrote, 10 March 1938, to request vice-regal patronage for the Young Helpers League. She explained that the League was composed of friends and children from 'happy homes all over the world' to provide for the support and assistance of the children in Dr Barnardo's Homes, especially the hospitals for sick children. HRH Princess Beatrice was President of the League which was founded in 1892. There is a copy of the booklet of the League

which claims a membership of 85 000 'Companions' organised into 2000 'Habitations' or groups. The League had raised £1,000,000 for Barnardo's Homes over the years. Lady Gowrie's secretary replied that the League was not long enough established in Australia to be considered for vice-regal patronage.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES)
PREFIX, 1952–77 C3939**

Recorded by:

**1952–74: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA957)
1974–75: Department of Labor and Immigration NSW (CA 1995)
1975–77: Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs [I] NSW (CA 1968)**
Sydney 38.7 metres

**Visit by Mr P L Hartley, Deputy General Superintendent of Dr Barnardo's
Homes, 1952–77 C3939, N1963/75248**

The Big Brother Movement

The Big Brother Movement was the most successful and enduring of the youth migration organisations. Its genesis appears to have been discussions between certain Australian and British business leaders at the 1923 Wembley exhibition; talks concerned with stimulating youth migration to Australia. Its basic idea was simple enough: each youth emigrating (the 'Little Brother') would be given an adult person in Australia (the 'Big Brother') who would provide encouragement, advice and support during the young migrant's early adjustment period in the new country. In one sense, it was a Victorian response to the Dreadnought Trust, but over time, the Big Brother Movement became better established in New South Wales. Its founder was (Sir) Richard Linton, businessman, philanthropist, freemason and after 1927 a conservative member of the Victorian Parliament. Later he became Victoria's Agent-General in London.

The critical factor limiting youth migration was understandably the natural reluctance of parents to permit the migration of their sons so far from the British Isles when they were so young and inexperienced. The 'Big Brother' provision was intended to respond to parents' fears. However, the British agent in Australia, Bankes Amery, gave an additional and plausible reason for the founding of the Big Brother Movement when he wrote in a memorandum, 2 October 1926:

The basis of the Big Brother Movement was the establishment of a set of conditions that would attract a better class of boy to Australia; a boy who had been brought up in a better class of home and who had up till the moment not been induced to leave Britain in any numbers... The boys whom the Big Brother Movement was out to cater for were the type who obtained Commissions during the war by promotion from the ranks... no previous scheme has been sufficiently attractive to middle-class parents.

The movement was launched in London on 14 July 1925, and much of its appeal would rest on its ability to recruit reliable 'Big Brothers' who would treat their obligations as more than nominal. The Big Brothers were usually recruited from service organisations such as the Royal Agricultural Societies, Rotary, the RSL and the Chambers of Commerce. They were usually city business and

professional men and of the same religion as the 'Little Brother' whom they promised to assist. Each undertook no financial or legal responsibility beyond what he would accept voluntarily, but agreed to carry out the following important duties:

- to care for the moral and general welfare of his Little Brother until the latter attained the age of 21 years;
- to meet the Little Brother on arrival, to spend the first day ashore in getting to know him and introducing him to his family and friends; and
- to act as mediator between the Little Brother and his employer, and with the full weight of the movement behind him to further the Little Brother's cause.

The Little Brother was intended to be a physically fit, upright, clean-cut, well-mannered British young man who was determined to work hard on the land in Australia. His application to Australia House was to be accompanied by references as to ability and character from his school, a minister of his church and another leading citizen. He then had to pass the usual medical checks at Australia House and, if accepted, was granted an assisted passage to Australia. Before sailing, the Little Brother signed a statement containing the following undertakings:

- to follow the advice of his Big Brother;
- not to leave the employer to whom he was allotted without his Big Brother's permission;
- to consult his Big Brother, or the Headquarters of the Movement, if in trouble;
- not to drink spirits or gamble;
- to open an account at a Savings Bank and to save at least half his wages;
- to write to his parents and to his Big Brother at least once a month;
- to resign immediately from the Movement if he left the land and took up other employment;
- to be prepared, if necessary, to accept a position in any state of the Commonwealth;
- to subscribe 12 shillings per year to a welfare fund.

These conditions, voluntarily accepted, enshrined middle-class virtues of sobriety, thrift and respect for social superiors and were intended to appeal to middle-class parents. The conditions were not legally binding.

As with all human endeavour, theory is one thing; practice another. Such was the case, naturally, with the Big Brother Movement. Its leaders wished to recruit immigrants from a social class which did not usually migrate, and to an extent did so. Of the first 1 515 Little Brothers brought to Australia (1926–29), 121 had attended a Public School and some 914 of the remainder had some secondary education, when 'secondary education' was 'middle-class education'. However, there was a tendency in Big Brother circles to exaggerate the social standing of its recruits, while its leaders railed in private that Australia House was sending them boys who could not reasonably be admitted to the houses of their Big Brothers. On the other hand, many Dreadnought boys, when offered the chance to come under Big Brother auspices readily did so: a 'Big Brother' was no load to carry!

It was natural that Big Brothers varied widely in the degree of support they could offer their proteges, and the degree of interest they brought to their responsibilities. The Big Brother was a city businessman or lived in a provincial city; the Little Brother was often stationed on a remote rural property. In this situation their chances of meeting were rare and the provision that the young man would write to his mentor once a month had an element of make-believe. During the Depression many Big Brothers were in financial difficulties and their Little Brothers could not be further from their minds. During the 1930s, some 350 'Little Brothers' returned to Britain.

The movement received financial support from governments at various times over the next half-century to assist with office expenses, capital works and after-care. The Big Brother Movement had an office in Australia House in London, and was treated with consideration out of proportion to the number of young men recruited. It was lauded in many files as the ideal form of migration. When depression came and its activities were curtailed, depleted office staff did their best to see that Little Brothers were kept in employment, when so many in the community were unemployed. The offices in London, Sydney and Melbourne treated the Little Brothers as members.

In 1937, when assisted migration resumed, some young men came to New South Wales and Victoria under the auspices of the Big Brother Movement but the outbreak of war terminated immigration, though again staff tried to maintain after-care for those who had arrived recently. However, the strains of financial stringency, depression and war proved too much for the Victorian organisation and its affairs were wound up in 1941, the remaining assets being given to the Boy Scout Association of Victoria.

In 1947, the Big Brother Movement, NSW, resumed its activities and in some ways, the 1950s and 1960s were its halcyon years: as many as 400–500 youths a year arrived in Australia under its auspices during that time. The buoyant Australian economy encouraged immigration, and the movement accepted that not all its proteges were suitable for rural employment, so ordinary city positions were a possibility. A small Tasmanian branch was opened, taking young men only for rural employment.

Since the Big Brother Movement did not recruit school-age underprivileged children, it was not plagued by the controversy over child migration. However, the end of the 'white Australia' policy in 1966, the election of a Labor government in 1972, and the termination of preference for British immigrants in Australia's immigration policy which followed, all made its privileged position at Australia House and in official rhetoric an anachronism. Gradually the Big Brother Movement ceased to recruit young British migrants and was transformed into a service organisation with a social club role.

There is massive coverage of all phases of the activities of the Big Brother Movement, and the voluminous material could be of interest to academic historians, former 'boys' brought out by the movement and to family historians.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38**A1****Recorded by:****1928–32: Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)****Canberra 337.14 metres****'New Australian', Big Brother Magazine, 1929 [44 pages] A1, 1932/7662**

This contains correspondence relating to the Big Brother Movement publication *The New Australian* and publicity material by the Salvation Army.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1920–57**A436****Recorded by:****1945: Department of the Interior (CA 31)****Canberra 5.04 metres****Big Brother Movement Victoria – Question of Governmental financial assistance, 1934–41 [333 pages] A436, 1945/5/88**

This file relates to the question of subsidies (from the Commonwealth and British Governments, and for a limited period, the Victorian Government) to the Big Brother Movement (established in Victoria in 1925), between 1934 until World War II. During most of the thirties, the Big Brother Movement was concerned solely with after-care. The file has implications for the whole question of financial assistance to voluntary migration organisations in the depressed 1930s. Some history of the Big Brother Movement and its activities are included, together with the 1935 Annual Report, press cuttings, and conditions for the reintroduction of assisted migration from 1936 and for Little Brothers in the late 1930s. Minutes of a Council Meeting in 1941 record the disbanding of the Victorian branch and the passing of its remaining funds to the Boy Scout Association.

Big Brother Scheme, 1926 [c.50 pages] A436, 1945/5/2217

There are details of its launch at the Millions Club in April 1925, aims and outline of the scheme, activities of the London committee, press cuttings, a large poster, progress reports on the Movement, application forms, booklets, pamphlets, relations with the New Settlers League, the Ugly Men's Association, and the Dreadnought Scheme, notes from a NSL Conference in 1924; an extract from Hansard of a speech by the Minister for Lands regarding group settlement and migration generally, draft pamphlets, notes and background information on assisted migration for use by the founder, Richard Linton, and members of parliament, G F Pearce and E R Farrar in 1925. Minutes and notes of meetings, conferences and deputations, letters of introduction for Linton, and correspondence with Prime Ministers W M Hughes and S M Bruce, the Commonwealth Immigration Office and the Development and Migration Commission regarding nominations and requisitions, reception of boys, training farms, after-care, and accommodation at Australia House are also included. Concern was expressed at the Migration and Settlement Office over possible competition with state schemes sponsoring boys owing to the guarantee of parental guidance. The question of financial assistance was also raised.

Little Brothers Meetings – Reports – Newscuttings, etc, 1929–30 A436, 1945/5/2218

Big Brother (Association) London Organisation, 1927 [19 pages] A436, 1945/5/2219

This relates to accommodation for the Committee of the Big Brother Movement at Australia House. It includes notes of a meeting of the Committee with the Development and Migration Commission on the work of the Movement.

Big Brother Requisitions, 1927 [8 pages] A436, 1945/5/2220

This includes correspondence between the Big Brother Movement and the Development and Migration Commission regarding requisitions for 1927 and the prospects of securing a training farm.

Big Brother Association, 1927. General File [113 pages] A436, 1845/5/2221

This contains an extract on the Big Brother Movement from the Migration and Settlement Office Monthly Report on Australian migration activities in Britain and Ireland, December 1927; some history of the Movement and its relationship with Dreadnought boys; activities of the Committee in London; notes of meetings with the Development and Migration Commission; the Annual Report of 1927; press cuttings; the impressions of Reg C Jordan, a pioneer of the Movement; and correspondence on requisitions and the acquisition of a training farm.

Little Brothers Big Brothers Movement, 1928 A436, 1945/5/2222**Big Brothers Association, 1928 General File, 1926–28 [260 pages] A436, 1945/5/2223**

Correspondence relates to the early progress of the Big Brother Movement in Australia. States participating were NSW, Victoria and South Australia. In NSW, however, the boys were all Dreadnought boys who had asked to have Big Brothers. Questions of financial aid were raised with the Oversea Settlement Department and the Development and Migration Commission. Correspondence also covers the selection process, possible cancellation of requisitions of Little Brothers to Victoria in 1928 owing to unemployment, the liability of the London committee, office accommodation in Victoria, and the appointment of a country welfare inspector. Annual Reports for 1927 and 1928, a booklet on the Movement, conference notes and press cuttings are also included.

Big Brother Movement, 1932–36 [46 pages] A436, 1945/5/2225

This contains Annual Reports for 1932 and 1936, notes of a committee meeting in 1933, correspondence on the possible sponsorship of English public and secondary school boys to Australia to undertake an agricultural diploma course in Victoria or NSW, a summary of the activities of the Big Brother Movement for 1925–35, the question of Government subsidies in 1935 and 1936, and various press cuttings.

Big Brother Movement, Victoria, 1937–39 [374 pages] A436, 1946/5/2

This relates to Government funding of the Big Brother Movement in Victoria during the late 1930s, particularly the continuation of a subsidy of £500 per annum granted to the Movement in 1936 by the Commonwealth and UK Governments for after-care until migration could be resumed. The file contains correspondence relating to financial matters, a nomination for 60 boys made in October 1937, but left in abeyance owing to financial uncertainty; the Movement's registration as a company in July 1938, and its amalgamation with the Boy Scout Association in 1939. One group of Little Brothers arrived in August 1939 as a result of a revised nomination but further requisitions were cancelled with the outbreak of war. Subsidies were then discontinued.

Big Brother Movement, 1925–33 [130 pages] A436, 1946/5/3

This contains requisitions, requests for an additional photograph for each Little Brother during 1929 and then the notice of a reduction, followed by the cancellation of the quota of boy migrants in 1930 owing to the Depression. It includes some 1925 material, correspondence relating to the financial situation during the early 1930s, minutes of executive committee meetings, annual meetings, reports and balance sheets for 1931 and 1932.

Big Brother Movement, South Australia, 1927–28 [36 pages] A436, 1946/5/4

This relates to the establishment of a division of the Big Brother Movement in South Australia in 1927. Boy migrants were selected through the Big Brother organisation in London in conjunction with the Migration and Settlement Office and a subsidy was payable in 1928. The file includes press extracts, recommendations for the South Australian division and forms prepared in conjunction with the Movement (eg for membership, objects, responsibilities of Big Brothers, etc).

Big Brother Movement – London Organisation – Financial Arrangements, 1937–40 [53 pages] A436, 1946/5/5

This contains a request from the Big Brother Movement for financial assistance for its London office, 1937, and other correspondence with the Department of the Interior on supervision of the boys and landing money. Until the suspended requisitions for 1937 were renewed and active recruiting recommenced, no consideration was given to the requests. Memoranda, notes of meetings and letters on the payment of Government subsidies are included. The subsidies ceased in September 1939.

Big Brother Movement 1926 General File A436, 1946/5/6**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL PASSPORTS), 1939–70****A659****Recorded by:****1939: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)****1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)****Canberra 101.25 metres****Big Brother Movement, Proposed financial arrangements, NSW 1937–40 [388 pages] A659, 1939/1/8431**

This contains details of Government subsidies, expenses, statements of accounts, annual reports, the constitution and many press cuttings concerning the Big Brother Movement.

Big Brother Movement, NSW nominations, 1938–42 [40 pages] A659, 1942/1/3374

This contains a list of Little Brothers and the ships on which they arrived; boarding officers' reports of 1939, documents and press cuttings relating to those and other arrivals of Little Brothers and correspondence between the Big Brother Movement and the Department of Labour and Industry, NSW and the Department of the Interior. The documentation concerns the renewal of youth migration in 1938 as the effects of the Depression appeared less acute. NSW hoped to receive 20 Little Brothers per month and these arrivals were to receive three months training at Scheyville before placement on farms. The UK and NSW Governments were to subsidise the Big Brother Movement to the extent of £750 per year or 75% of its expenditure, whichever was the lesser. Of the passage cost, the 'boy' paid £5/10/- and the governments £37 Stg. The file contains a number of personal stories;

accounts of illnesses on the journey; boys changing their minds regarding rural employment and the repayment of fares.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1901–50 **A461**

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Little Brothers, 1926–30 A461, E349/1/7 part 1

Rutherglen training farm for 'Little Brothers', 1926–28 [24 pages] A461, E349/1/7 part 2

In September 1926 Victorian Premier, Mr J Allan wrote to the Prime Minister regarding 'a visit of inspection of the Government Viticultural Station and Experimental Farm at Rutherglen by Mr Bankes Amery [the British Immigration Agent in Australia]'. Allan added:

It is extremely desirable to establish a training farm for youths who are arriving from England under the 'Big Brother Scheme'... many such youths are ignorant of the rudiments of farming... propose to give elementary training to such boys... three months... 25 to 30 boys at a time; 100 to 120 over a year.

There is a request for sharing of the costs between the three governments who would be involved in the proposed scheme, the Victorian, Australian and British Governments. The request was sent to the Development and Migration Commission (Melbourne) for comment and this reported to the Prime Minister, 7 December 1926 that they 'wished to inspect training schemes in other states before dealing with this question'. Time passed and there was no action. However, almost a year later, an officer from the Commission visited Rutherglen to inspect. It is not clear from the material on this file what happened to the proposal.

Big Brothers, 1933–45 [145 pages] A461, J349/1/7

This file contains correspondence and press cuttings relating to continued Government contributions to the Big Brother Movement during the 1930s, the resumption of passage for Little Brothers in 1937 after its cessation in 1930, and subsequent nominations and arrangements for transporting the boys. Information on the history of the Movement can be gleaned from Cabinet memoranda, two annual reports and various letters. Also included is correspondence between the Movement and the Prime Minister regarding the relationship between the Government's extended child migration scheme after World War II and the work of approved voluntary organisations.

RECORDS RELATING TO THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1937 **CP4/2**

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 1.26 metres

Policy of the United Kingdom Government; Policy of the Commonwealth Government – Statement by the Minister of the Interior; Development and Migration; Farm Schools; The Big Brother Movement, 1935–37 CP4/2, bundle 3/57

**CORRESPONDENCE RE GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL PROPERTY, 1924–59
SP857/10**

Recorded by:

1946–52: Property and Survey Branch, NSW (CA 1599)

1952–59: Australian Property Group, NSW (CA 1061)

Sydney 43.77 metres

Homebush NSW – Advance by Commonwealth Department of Immigration to the Big Brother Movement of NSW, 1951–54 SP857/10, PR/2462

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'N' (NEW SOUTH WALES)
PREFIX, 1952–77 C3939**

Recorded by:

1952–74: Department of Immigration, NSW Branch (CA 957)

Sydney 38.7 metres

Big Brother Movement – Nominations claims for equipment allowance, 1950–61 C3939, N1957/75099 part 1

Big Brother Movement – Nominations claims for equipment allowance, 1961–67 C3939, N1957/75099 part 2

Big Brother Movement – Nominations claims for equipment allowance, 1967–70 [14 pages] C3939, N1957/75099 part 3

This file deals with the request for, and acceptance of, the equipment allowance for a number of young men arriving in Australia under the auspices of the Big Brother Movement. There is a summary of Big Brother Movement objectives and achievements: c. November 1967: 'Air travel only now, groups of ten'. Since 1925, c. 6 800 Little Brothers have arrived; the Commonwealth and NSW State Governments have provided jointly an interest-free loan of £49,303 towards the establishment of Gunning Lodge at Burwood.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953–

A446

Recorded by:

1953–74: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 3346.4 metres

Big Brother Movement NSW Part 1, 1930–48 [200 pages] A446, 1962/65568

The first item is a copy of the Fourth Annual Report, 1929–30. The Depression is mentioned and it is claimed that 'all the boys have been kept in employment'. There is no further material until February 1938 and this concerns the recommencement of Big Brother Movement activities after the cessation of assisted immigration. Includes a four-page report on the situation of the Victorian Branch, 18 March 1938.

Newspaper cuttings about the arrival of 'Little Brothers' and Scheyville camp.

Seventy-eight young men arrived before war brought another halt to migration. The boys' problems are mentioned: homesickness, 'extremely youthful outlook'; the fact that they were straight from school and had never worked; no understanding of what they were attempting in Australia; their concerns over family and friends in the UK in view of the outbreak of war. During the war the Big Brother Movement maintained annual reports and plans for re-development of the scheme after the cessation of hostilities:

It is necessary that the Movement be in possession of its own training farm in a handy position to Sydney.

Captain G S Millar placed a property at Baulkham Hills at the disposal of the Big Brother Movement for the use of unemployed or sick Little Brothers and members on rest and rehabilitation leave. By 1943, an office in central Sydney provided a 'rendezvous' for members when they came to the city. The NSW Branch was the only part of the organisation to survive the war intact. Mr E Marriott, Big Brother Movement Treasurer presented detailed plans, 6 February 1945, for renewal of the movement's activities. The Immigration Department replied mentioning the well-known problems of shipping and the need for a new agreement with the British Government. A tight three-page briefing paper on Big Brother Movement status and activities, dated 12 December 1945, appears at this point, together with much civil service discussion of Big Brother Movement plans. Thereafter the material concludes with the visit of Big Brother Movement leaders, Lord Huntingfield and Colonel Clegg to Australia; the arrival of the first 17 post-war Little Brothers on the *Empire Star*, 14 August 1947; the purchase of the property for a training farm; and the first wave of tension between the Big Brother Movement and the NSW Child Welfare Department over after-care.

Big Brother Movement NSW, Part 2, 1949–51 [350 pages] A446, 1962/65569

There is considerable material about the strained relations of the Big Brother Movement with the Child Welfare Department, NSW. Under the 1946 Guardianship of Children Act, the Child Welfare Department had authority to secure the children's welfare. The Big Brother Movement felt that it looked after its own members better than the Child Welfare Department. It wished Child Welfare Department control to be waived or remain nominal. An important sixteen-page document is included: 'Proceedings of a Conference held at the Child Migration Office, Sydney, 15 February 1949' among interested parties. The Government position was that provision of financial assistance necessitated accountability; the British Government expected the Australian Governments to exercise some supervision over the young immigrants; and some Child Welfare Department officers did not think highly of the movement's own inspection arrangements. There is discussion regarding the formation of Big Brother Movement branches in other states.

Big Brother Movement, NSW Part 3, 1951–53 [200 pages] A446, 1962/65570

Much of the correspondence concerns a Big Brother Movement request for a subsidy from the Commonwealth Government to support its migration work. In spite of its close connections with the new Liberal-Country Party Government and its high reputation, the discussions over subsidy were protracted. In May 1951, the Government agreed to pay £2/10/- per youth landed (up to a maximum of £1,000 per annum), to assist with secretarial expenses and after-care. File includes the report and Balance Sheet for the Year ended 31 December 1949. The Big Brother Movement operated from an office in Australia House, The Strand, London. Meanwhile, Monsignor Crennan heard of the grant to the Big Brother Movement and wanted a similar grant to cover Catholic Church office expenses over child and youth migration activities. Correspondence over this matter ensued. Six Little Brothers who arrived in NSW prior to 1947 had died: there is correspondence over the procedures adopted in these cases, and similar situations which may arise, November 1951. Two youth migrants went before the courts; details of selection arrangements. Purchase of Big Brother Movement Pearse Hill property at Nashville, NSW. Newscuttings – *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 November 1952, 1000th 'Little Brother' since the war arrived.

Big Brother Movement, NSW Part 4, 1953–55 [c.150 pages] A446, 1962/65571

In 1953 Mr F W Mansell (Big Brother Movement, Secretary), wrote to Sir Tasman Heyes noting that problems with the Child Welfare Department, New South Wales were a thing of the past, but inflation was eroding the financial position. The 'equipment allowance' was raised to £5 per youth. Contains a list of Little Brothers arriving on the *Orion*, 27 February 1953 and numerous other lists of young men arriving under the Movement's auspices. Much correspondence concerned a new

crisis with the child welfare departments in NSW and Victoria: the Big Brother Movement commenced placing Little Brothers in Northern Victoria without notifying anyone. Social workers' reports on the boys' progress tended to be positive. Old tensions with child welfare authorities resurfaced; the Big Brother Movement associated 'child welfare authorities' with 'orphans' and 'delinquents', whereas its clientele were the cream of Britain's young men. The actual diversion of some lads to Victorian properties was due to a downturn in employment options in New South Wales. After much discussion, Big Brother Movement agreed to negotiate such matters with the Government departments concerned.

Big Brother Movement, NSW Part 5, 1956–59 [c.200 pages] A446, 1962/65572

The first correspondence in the file discusses the request of the Victoria League of Victoria for assistance with transport when the League entertains Little Brothers en route through Melbourne. It is agreed eventually that Immigration Department will provide a bus on such occasions. Immigration Department arranges that the Big Brother Movement and its Little Brothers will be exempt from the provisions of the Guardianship Act when each youth turns 18 years of age. The movement negotiates successfully to place some of its young men in Tasmania. Newscuttings and annual reports are included in the file.

Big Brother Movement New South Wales Part 6, 1960–67 [c.250 pages] A446, 1962/65573

The high status of the Big Brother Movement with the Coalition Government permeates the material. The correspondence deals with cooperation between Fairbridge and the Big Brother Movement in recruiting youth migrants, with the idea that some would be placed in Western Australia. There are newspaper cuttings regarding the arrival of a young peer, Lord Mauchlin (Michael Abney-Hastings), under the scheme, and the arrival around the same time of the 100th postwar party of Little Brothers. There were some problems with the youths' horseplay on the vessels bringing the groups to Australia and difficulties in consistently securing suitable escorts. The suggestion was made to bring the young men in small parties by air from Britain. Inflation continued to place strain on Big Brother Movement operating expenses and so in 1961 the Government paid a special subsidy of £20 for each youth landed, in the vicinity of £8 000 per annum. Further discussion – in the context of the 1961 recession – to place some young men in Western Australia with the support of the Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra. There is some correspondence, eventually without result, to revive the Big Brother Movement in Victoria, in which context mention was made that the Boy Scout Association had done some migration work after the war 'but later abandoned their scheme'. In 1962 there was an important discussion concerning further recruitment of 'good type Little Brothers', after 'strict selection standards'. This was the year that the Big Brother Movement extended its recruitment to include Kenya, South Africa and Singapore – the 'white Australia' policy was still guiding choice. Plans to dispose of Gunning House. Access to some folios is restricted under the thirty year rule.

Big Brother Movement Boys Hostel Homebush. Financial assistance towards capital expenditure, 1950–64 A446, 1964/46248

Big Brother Movement War Memorial Farm, Cowpastures Road, Fairfield via Liverpool, NSW, 1948–69 A446, 1964/46299

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1926–30**CP211/1****Recorded by:****1926–30: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)****Canberra 23.94 metres****Conferences – Big Brother Movement, 1927 CP211/2, 5/6****Associations – Big Brother Movement – Extra Copies, 1928 CP211/2, 3/70****Associations – Big Brother Movement – NSW, 1928 CP211/2, 3/72****Migrants – Little Brothers, 1927 CP211/2, 52/16****Training – Farms for Little Brothers CP211/2, 74/7****APPLICATIONS FOR ARTISTIC COPYRIGHT (WITH EXHIBITS), 1907–69****A1861****Recorded by:****1907–69: Copyright Office (Australian Industrial Property Organisation) (CA 556)****Canberra 26.18 metres****Drawing. 'Mike – Little Brother' Registration and Exhibit, 1928 [2 pages]
A1861, 5808**

This contains a black and white cartoon of a Little Brother, with bowler hat and walking cane suggesting the cultural gap between English boys' expectations coming to the Antipodes and the Australian rural reality. The image was patented for a comic strip by three Melbourne *Herald* journalists.

The Roman Catholic Church

Child migration to Canada was a regular, but small-scale feature of Catholic 'rescue' for deprived British children from 1872. The emigration to Canada continued until the Depression in 1930. When the Canadian government finally refused entry to unaccompanied children, Catholic carers saw Australia as a possible destination for the youngsters.

Father J Nugent of Liverpool headed the first Catholic organisation to send children to Canada. He made arrangements through parish priests to place the children with local families in Quebec and Ontario. In 1874, Cardinal Manning started the 'Crusade of Rescue' within the Archdiocese of Westminster and under Father Richard Seddon children were sent to the eastern townships of Quebec and the Ottawa area. In another part of London, Father A Douglas, Manager of St Vincent's Orphanage, placed some of his older boys in the prairie provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In 1899, Catholic child migration was coordinated from the Westminster 'Crusade of Rescue' and a central receiving institution, St George's Home, was established in Montreal and managed by the Sisters of Charity. The home provided the focus for juvenile emigration until it was closed in 1935. Overall, some 5 000 children

were sent to Canada by Catholic organisations during the heyday of child emigration, about 5–8% of the total.

In Australia Catholic interest in juvenile migration came late, after the successful work already commenced by the Dreadnought Trust, Barnardo's, Fairbridge and the Big Brother Movement. It was associated with the founding of the Knights of the Southern Cross in Perth in 1922 as a Catholic counterpart to the Freemason Lodge. One of the Knights' objectives was increasing Catholic migration to Western Australia, and more specifically child immigration.

In 1926, the Knights' executive found ready support from Brother Paul Keaney, the newly-appointed Director of the Clontarf orphanage near Perth. Brother Keaney with financial support from the Knights, planned a farm school at Tardun near Mullewa, west of Geraldton, to cater for the farm training of older Australian boys in care and also for British child migrants. Keaney's plans were not successful at this stage: the Director of the 'Crusade of Rescue' in Britain, Father Hudson, was unwilling to change his long-standing arrangements for sending children to Canada, and in Australia the Commonwealth government was not prepared to provide a subsidy on Fairbridge lines.

However, the farm school at Tardun was established for local youth in care after an epic pioneering struggle in the depth of the Depression. Meanwhile, Canada refused entry to unaccompanied children and Catholic carers in Britain were more responsive to placing some of their children in Australia. As economic conditions improved during the mid-1930s, assisted immigration revived. Farm schools were in vogue. The Fairbridge mystique was widely acclaimed.

By this time, the Christian Brothers were managing child care for Catholic boys and young men in four coordinated institutions, at Clontarf and Castledare orphanages in the suburbs of Perth, at the farm school at Tardun and on the new property at Bindoon, one hundred kilometres north of Perth, a property recently donated to the Order by a wealthy benefactor. It seemed relatively easy to integrate child migrants from Britain within the four orphanages according to their ages and talents. The British, Commonwealth and Western Australian governments were willing to assist with maintenance of the children.

In this situation, the Western Australian bishops arranged for Brother A Conlon to proceed to London to negotiate for one hundred child migrants with the British Catholic Rescue Societies in 1938. Conlon's task took longer than he anticipated, but over 1938–39 some three groups of boys, 114 in all, sailed for Western Australia to be educated and trained within the Christian Brothers four orphanages, collectively referred to as 'the Scheme'. While he was in Europe, Brother Conlon explored the possibilities of bringing Maltese children to Western Australia, but negotiations broke down at this stage. There were also tentative arrangements to bring a party of girls to the Nazareth Sisters Home in Geraldton, WA but the outbreak of war in September 1939 placed those plans on hold for the duration.

As has been mentioned before, during the war a transformation occurred in Australia's immigration policy, and in the new mass migration plans, child

migration figured prominently. Catholic Church leaders – late arrivals on the Australian juvenile migration scene – responded to government policy with the fervour and dedication of recent converts. A few months before Arthur Calwell's August 1945 launch of the government's revitalised immigration policy, Bishop Gummer of Geraldton wrote to the Prime Minister requesting permission to renew child migration to the Tardun scheme and to Nazareth House, Geraldton. The Prime Minister's Department advised Gummer to inquire in six months time when the war might be over and the migration scene clarified. However, the letter mentioned the 'extreme shortage of shipping', the housing problem in Australia and the priority of repatriating ex-Service personnel.

In the heady enthusiasm for immigration, Archbishop Prendiville wrote to Cardinal Griffin in London offering to take 2 500 British orphans into the Western Australian Catholic orphanages during the first eighteen months of peace. The Colonial Office, the Australian government and the Christian Brothers were appalled at the suggestion of such ridiculous figures. However, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference arranged with the Christian Brothers to allow Brother Conlon to accompany Archbishop Simmonds to Europe in April 1946: Simmonds to explore the possibilities of bringing large numbers of war orphans from devastated continental Europe to Australia, and Conlon to arrange a lift of British child migrants to the Tardun scheme. The Immigration Department funded the exercise.

Conlon arrived in London months before either the British government or the Catholic agencies were in a position to negotiate seriously. There were no ships available to transport migrants to Australia. A frustrating sixteen months passed during which Simmonds realised there were no appreciable numbers of war orphans from Europe to be obtained, and Conlon arranged the first postwar lift of 340 child migrants to Western Australia. Both men realised that there were relatively few youngsters in a changing Britain suitable for child migration.

During this 1946–47 trip to Europe, both Archbishop Simmonds and Brother Conlon visited Malta to explore the migration possibilities: the Archbishop to explore the overall migration scene and Conlon to arrange juvenile immigration. Eventually some 280 to 300 child migrants were to come to Western Australia from Malta between 1950 and 1965. Meanwhile the arrival of over 300 child migrants to Western Australia in 1947 filled the available spaces in the Catholic homes and for three years few children arrived under Catholic auspices. However, as the first arrivals graduated to the work force after 1950, the Catholic authorities made exceptional efforts during the years 1950–56 to recruit further youngsters to Catholic orphanages around the country. However, most went to Western Australia.

After this exceptional effort and enthusiasm for child migration after World War II, it is ironic that Catholic child migration from Britain terminated quite suddenly in 1956, though children already in the Australian homes stayed until their graduation. Changing styles of child care had made little or no impact on the large Catholic institutions managed by volunteer church workers, none of whom had any social work qualifications. The Home Office was aware of this and urged British carers to move towards fostering for deprived Catholic children. The crisis came in

1956 during the visit of the Fact-Finding Mission which was already opposed to child migration in principle and out of sympathy with institutional care.

The Mission produced a bland public report, but its more confidential notes were made available to interested parties in Britain, though not to the Australian government. Australian child care was deemed backward, and Catholic child care unsuitable for British children. Physical and sexual abuse was not the issue. Institutionalisation and untrained carers were the problem; the answer was foster care, and so during the next few years most deprived Catholic children were fostered, and no more British Catholic children were sent to Australia.

Youth migration through Catholic agencies was also a post-World War II development and some one hundred young men were sponsored to Victoria by the Young Catholic Workers Movement. In addition, the director of the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee, Monsignor G Crennan, arranged for some young refugees living in Austrian and Italian camps, escapees from Communist-dominated eastern Europe, to settle in Australia.

After World War II, child migration under Catholic auspices approached one-half of the total number of children brought to Australia. The volume of records in the National Archives reflects this reality and the coverage is comprehensive. However, it does need to be stressed that over the last ten years while there have been searing controversies regarding some Catholic orphanages during the child migration era, there is only a little here which bears on these controversies. No file contains material on the sexual abuse issue, since the matter was not raised at the time in such a way that comments were recorded in the written records, at the national level. Otherwise, former residents, family historians and specialists will find much relevant material in these files.

There were three principal Catholic orders associated with child migration in Australia. The Christian Brothers were founded in 1802 in Waterford, Ireland by a former businessman, Edmund Rice. Rice had been born in 1762, apprenticed to his uncle's wholesale provision business as a teenager, and married in his early twenties. His wife died in childbirth leaving him with a mentally-retarded daughter and during the following years his mind turned to establishing a society of religious brothers for the education of poor boys. Rice's first school was established in 1802 and by the time of his death in 1844 there were one hundred brothers managing schools in the British Isles, Gibraltar and New South Wales. Thereafter, the order grew rapidly numbering almost 4 000 members in the early 1960s, with a large presence in Catholic education in Ireland, Australasia and North America. In the 1990s there were some 500–600 Christian Brothers in Australia and 1 700 worldwide.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded in 1831 in Dublin, Ireland by Catherine McAuley with the objective of 'a most serious application to the instruction of poor girls, visitation of the sick, and protection of distressed women of good character'. The order grew rapidly and became the largest women's religious order in the English-speaking world, with a substantial presence in Great Britain and Australia, being numbered in the thousands.

The Poor Sisters of Nazareth were established in London in 1851 by Mother St Basil (Victoire Larmenier, 1827–78) under the patronage of Cardinal Wiseman. The original group of sisters left France to begin work in England at the Cardinal's request. Their objective was care of the aged, together with the care and education of underprivileged infants and children. Their headquarters are at Hammersmith in London. Numbers in the order peaked in the 1960s with over 1 000 sisters working in the British Isles, the United States, Australia and South Africa. In the 1990s the order numbered 400–500 sisters.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38**A1****Recorded by:****1916–28: Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)****1928–32: Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)****1932–38: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)****Canberra 337.14 metres****Catholic Immigration Society, NSW, 1928–30 [c.100 pages] A1, 1932/7362**

This concerns an abortive plan to introduce Catholic youths from the UK into the rural NSW Diocese of Lismore in the years just prior to the Depression, on the model of the Big Brother Movement. On 10 January 1929, Father (later Bishop) T B McGuire, the Vicar-General, requested from the clergy the names of prospective employers for the proposed youth migrants. The Australian High Commission cabled the Prime Minister's Department to encourage the initiative, which was receiving support from the Catholic Emigration Society (UK) and from Father Martindale's recent mission to Australia. It noted that 'as a general rule, the Roman Catholic bishops in the UK are opposed to migration'. In Melbourne, a memorandum of the Development and Migration Commission noted, 31 January 1929, that:

Father William Nicol, Mullumbimby via Lismore had said the Catholic people of the area could absorb 500 domestics and 250 'boys'. In the past the Catholic community has not taken any active part in migration matters and it is thought that this initiative presented a favourable opportunity of enlisting their cooperation not only now but more particularly for the future... I think an expenditure of £250 on a project of this kind (a recruiting trip to the UK for Father William Nicol) would be worthwhile if it resulted in the Catholic Church being allied with us in our migration.

The government did not wish to involve the churches in support of assisted migration. Father Nicol was booked to leave for London on the *Ormonde*, 20 July 1929, the British and Australian governments sharing the cost of his fare. However, Britain and Australia were drifting into recession and in view of 'the unsettled condition of employment generally' the plans to recruit young men for work in the Lismore diocese were cancelled, and so was Father Nicol's trip to London. After World War II, Father Nicol was to become the Australian bishops' representative in the UK, 1949–53.

Catholic Immigration, Queensland, 1929 [28 pages] A1, 1932/7421

The Hon. Secretary, Catholic Immigration Society of Queensland, a body which had been largely inactive for some years, wrote to the Development and Migration Commission in Melbourne, 20 August 1929, 'to obtain any rules which could govern a body like ours'. A week later, Mr J Mulvaney reported to the DMC on a recent trip to Queensland to stimulate youth migration. Mulvaney had met with Catholic migration representatives. He wrote:

There were in all about twelve persons, in addition to two boys for farm work who had that morning arrived in Brisbane under an arrangement made between the Catholic Immigration Society of Brisbane and the Catholic Emigration Society of London. The Queensland body has been inactive for some time.

However, they had a representative on the New Settlers League. There is a copy of the Constitution of the NSL (Victorian Branch) and a report on a meeting of the State

Council of the NSL (Victoria), 14 December 1928, at which the British representatives, Skevington, Bankes Amery and E T Crutchley were present.

Clontarf orphanage – Western Australia, 1928–30 [33 pages] A1, 1932/7433

This deals with the abortive plans of the management of Clontarf Orphanage, Perth, WA to bring child migrants to the Tardun scheme in the late 1920s. Brother P Keaney made his application to the Lands and Immigration Department in August 1927. Their reply in February 1928 was tentative:

I am prepared to agree to the proposal of your Institution to bring boys into the state from the UK, provided that your Institution can bring the Commonwealth and British governments into line, but the State's subsidy would be on the same basis as the Fairbridge Farm School, ie 4/3 per child, per week. The Fairbridge Farm School operates under Agreements with British, Commonwealth and state governments, and any representations to the Commonwealth on the matter should be made... to the Prime Minister's Department, and would then... be passed to the Development and Migration Commission... for consideration.

This was the procedure followed. In June 1928, the Commission reported, opposed to Commonwealth subsidy:

Whilst the scheme is praiseworthy from a humanitarian point of view, the cost is too great to permit of justification of Commonwealth subsidy from the business angle of migration.

The request was refused. In September 1928, the Prime Minister replied to Senator E Needham, WA that the request for financial assistance was unable to be granted. The approach was renewed via Senator P J Lynch in 1930 with a similar result.

Child Migration from Malta, 1935–37 [15 pages] A1, 1937/10182

This deals with an enquiry by the Commissioner for Malta to the Department of the Interior regarding assisted immigration of Maltese children on the same basis as Fairbridge children. As financial assistance to immigrants at the time was confined to those from the United Kingdom, the proposal was not considered favourably.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–65

D400

Recorded by:

CA 959 (1948–66: Department of Immigration, SA Branch)

Adelaide 435 metres

Child migration – Catholic youths sponsored by the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee, 1954 [14 pages] D400, SA1954/5622

This concerns the arrival under Catholic auspices of three groups of Yugoslav/Croatian youths, 60 in all, average age sixteen years, to South Australia. This migration took place on Monsignor G Crennan's initiative. The young men and women were in Italian refugee camps after their escape from Communist-ruled Yugoslavia. The plan was to apprentice or otherwise employ them immediately on arrival. After their arrival in Adelaide they were to be placed at Woodside (Army) Camp for a few days. The Good Neighbour Council and the Croatian Catholic Club were assisting in making arrangements for reception and after-care. The Catholic Immigration Office, Adelaide, was managed by Father L Roberts who was coordinating arrangements in South Australia.

Child Migrants for Goodwood Orphanage, 1949–57 D400, SA1954/7424

Assisted migration – Triestian parties of youths – Catholic Immigration Committee, 1955 D400, SA 1955/321

Child Migration – Child and Youth Organisations – St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, 1946–48 D400, SA1955/8736

CASE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1946– J25**Recorded by:****1946–74: Department of Immigration, Qld Branch (CA 958)****Brisbane 1652.67 metres****European Permanent Admissions under the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee sponsorships, Qld, 1947–66 [26 pages] J25, 1955/2814**

There is a list of state members of the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee in 1947. The file is relevant in part to child migration, but concerns the general immigration scene as viewed from Brisbane. Coverage is patchy. There were discussions in 1958, followed by an application for '120 European minors during the twelve months commencing 1 July 1958'. Youth migrants were obviously intended, but it is not clear from this file whether any young people arrived under the nomination.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50
A434****Recorded by:****1945–50: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 12.45 metres****State Catholic Immigration Committee – Registration as agent, 1949–50
[5 pages] A434, 1949/3/25955**

T O'Neill, Hon. Secretary, Catholic Immigration Committee, Queensland, wrote to the Chief Migration Officer, Brisbane, 24 October 1949:

I hereby apply, on behalf of the Queensland State Catholic Immigration Committee, for permission to continue lodging nomination forms for foreign and other migrants.

This was approved, 6 December 1949.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1945–50 A436**Recorded by:****1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)****1945–50: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 5.04 metres****Survey of State Organisations to deal with Youth Migration, 1946 [4 pages]
A436, 1946/5/5075**

In mid-1946, a Conference of Commonwealth and State Immigration Ministers recommended that a survey be conducted of the voluntary organisations in each state capable of assisting with youth migration. In this file, Queensland Premier E M Hanlon, wrote to Prime Minister Ben Chifley, 25 September 1946, that no such organisations were working in Queensland, and so:

... for the time being, the State Migration Authority will exercise control in youth migration and will deal with individual nominations for farm learners and group nominations from organisations like the Salvation Army.

The survey did not go far, but youth migration was discussed at the Premiers Conference in December 1946.

CEMWA: Request for children from Malta, 1938–50 [38 pages] A436, 1949/5/1220

The information relates to the post-World War II period, 1946–50, with the exception of two items, one giving conditions governing child migration from Malta to Christian Brothers institutions in Western Australia, the other a related letter. Some of the material concerns child migration generally and is not limited to the Maltese situation. Brother Conlon wrote to Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, 19 February 1946, while he was on a tour of Catholic dioceses in rural NSW and Queensland, and said:

There is keen interest in the Commonwealth's great scheme of immigration.

He asked Calwell for a passage to the UK as quickly as possible so that he could commence recruiting. Meanwhile, Captain Curmi, the Commissioner for Malta indicated, 12 February 1947, that:

The government of Malta would favour the emigration of children... for RC institutions in Western Australia...

but transport remained a problem and the claims of other classes of migrants would have to be met before those of child migrants could be considered. There is a copy of the 1938 agreement between the Christian Brothers and the government of Malta, but the agreement had never been implemented. By this stage, Brother Conlon was in the UK and wrote to Calwell, 23 November 1946:

I find that the numbers available will be far short of the number applied for by the bishops.

Most of the remaining correspondence concerns plans to bring Maltese children to Western Australia which involved policy as well as practical issues. The material includes a copy of an inspection at St Mary's Agricultural School, Tardun, 1948 and some newspaper cuttings regarding Maltese child migration.

CEMWA – Equipment Allowance Payments – Child Migrants, 1947–49 [57 pages] A436, 1950/5/5597

There are lists throughout of children who arrived in Western Australia under Catholic auspices from 1947 onwards, their dates of birth, age, ships on which groups travelled and the British institution from which they were sent. Mr F A Atkinson, Secretary of the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association applied for the equipment allowance on 19 December 1947 to the Secretary, Department of Immigration, Canberra. He asked for 'early remittance' of the monies, 'as all institutions have been subjected to heavy initial expenses'. However, the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association procedures were astray and the equipment allowance was not paid for months. Heyes wrote to the CMO, Perth, 7 January 1948:

The UK subsidy must be requested through the relative Association's Head Office in the UK. It was thought that the details of the scheme were known to Brother Conlon.

He added that the equipment allowance could only be paid 'after you have verified the ages of the children against the documents sent with them from London'. However, some documentation had gone astray or had never been sent. Three months later, Father Stinson was trying to arrange payment and hackles were rising all around. On 30 April 1948, Heyes advised Perth that 'a cheque is on the way' but it is not clear from this file if the payments were ever finalised.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1951–55**A445**

Recorded by:

1951–55: Department of Immigration (CA 51)**Canberra 22.5 metres****Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, Perth, 1938–50
[75 pages] A445, 133/2/8**

This file is linked to A461, I349/1/7 (described later in this section). Most of the material covers the period 1946–50, but there is some correspondence relating to migrant children and their admission to Catholic institutions in Western Australia immediately before World War II. There is a copy of the agreement, under the Empire Settlement Act, between the Secretary of State, Dominion Affairs and the Catholic Emigration Association (UK), dated 30 September 1938, for the maintenance of the children under the Tardun scheme, which included:

... in the case of boys who have completed a course of secondary education at Tardun, to use their best efforts to provide such boys as are suitable with an opportunity for acquiring farms on their own account, or to place them in suitable employment.

Appendix III sets out the course of training for the boys at the institutions. Copy of the agreement between the Secretary and the Christian Brothers of Western Australia for part-payment of annual interest on the buildings at Tardun, 1938–52, up to £5,000 overall. There is some correspondence concerning Maltese child migration and the problems of escorting the children to Australia. The report of the four-man team inspections at Castledare and Clontarf, 1 May 1947 is included. The commencement of child migration was in the offing. In Canberra, Sir Tasman Heyes was concerned, 15 June 1947, that child migration was being resumed before the institutions were ready:

Unfortunately the Group Nominations for WA were approved and scheduled to London before they were referred to the office of the UK High Commission... now we find that some of them [institutions] are quite unsatisfactory in their present condition.

However, by 12 November 1947, 234 boys had arrived for placement. There are a number of reports by various departmental officials of the institutions, including the 'Notes of the Conference', 4 February 1948, at the office of the Under Secretary, Lands and Immigration Department, over the situation at St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, Bindoon.

**CEMWA – Request for children from Malta, Part 2, 1950–53 [c.250 pages]
A445, 133/2/90**

The first Maltese child migrants arrived in Perth, boys to be spread around the four Christian Brothers orphanages. There was comment on the state of the ship on which they travelled, the *Ocean Triumph*, but Mr E A Membrey wrote to the CMO, in Canberra, 26 April 1950:

The children were of good physique, very neatly attired and well-mannered... it appeared obvious that much care had been taken in selecting these migrants.

There are applications for the equipment allowance, lists of Maltese children arriving, correspondence regarding the various forms required to support applications for the equipment allowance, and a useful two-page summary of 'General Policy' under the 1946 Guardianship Act. Much of the correspondence is completely routine, concerned with recruiting Maltese children to fill nominations. However, few Maltese child migrants arrived. Mr R U Metcalfe reported to Heyes, 7 August 1952 on a meeting between Father Stinson and Messrs Wheeler and Nutt before Stinson left to replace Father Nicol as Federal Catholic Immigration Committee representative in London:

On questions of financial assistance, Wheeler indicated that there was considerable tightening up and new grants were unlikely. With regard to Bindoon and the other homes, the irregular procedure had been the chief cause of the hold-up in payments. Father Stinson recognised that details, plans and specifications should be made available at the outset.

Later, Father Nicol's report on a visit to Malta, 1–6 May 1952 is appended. Nicol spoke of opposition in Malta to allowing child migrants to proceed to Western Australia: (a) there was an unfortunate letter written by a child to its relatives regarding treatment received in WA – allowing capital to be made out of a very small matter by political opponents to migration; (b) apathy of the orphanage authorities in sponsoring candidates for transfer overseas; (c) past instability of the government without sympathetic Ministers in Cabinet.

Federal Catholic Migration Committee. Child Migration – General. Part 3, 1954–55 [50 pages] A445, 133/2/147

This concerns both arrangements to bring Maltese child migrants to South Australia and Monsignor G Crennan's project to recruit Croatian (Yugoslav) refugees from camps in the Trieste area. The arrival of escapees from communist regimes in eastern Europe interested the media and there are numerous newspaper clippings included. Their flavour may be gleaned from the headlines: 'Yugoslav boys for Adelaide'; 'Yugoslav youth seek haven in Australia'; 'Escaped from Tito' and 'Croatian boys settling down happily now'. The number of youths who arrived is unclear, but fewer than one hundred.

Youth Migration – Young Christian Workers Movement, Hawthorn. Victoria, 1950–55 [c.300 pages] A445, 133/2/101

During 1949–50, Father F W Lombard, Director of the Young Catholic Workers Movement (Victoria) visited the UK to assess the possibilities of bringing young British workers to Australia on lines similar to that of the Big Brother Movement. Early correspondence includes Father Lombard's application for financial assistance to renovate the YCW hostel at Hawthorn, the acceptance of the YCW as 'an approved organisation' to bring youth migrants to Australia' and its plans to place the young men in employment and private accommodation after a three-months settling-in period at the Hawthorn hostel. Father Lombard was optimistic that the movement could recruit and bring 'up to 150 youths' per year. The Immigration Department was more sceptical, but eventually £12,000 was made available to prepare the hostel. Thirty-eight British youths were selected and of these, 16 arrived in September, and a further 18 prior to Christmas, 1950. There is a copy of the agreement between the Commonwealth and the Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation. In May 1951, Father Lombard submitted a brief report in the context of a request for urgent release of the Commonwealth and state funds promised for the hostel renovations. He wrote:

I visited Britain to organise a scheme for obtaining nominations... a total of 49 nominated British migrants have arrived. Already 15 boys have left the hostel, five are working with farmers; nine apprenticed; nine (others) working with the PMG; ten are in private homes in the suburbs. However, the financial burden is a heavy one.

This was the rub. With staff costs the Hawthorn hostel was running at a loss and much of the material concerns financial affairs and the problems associated with recruiting suitable boys from Britain. Fewer than 100 had arrived. Sir Tasman Heyes wrote to Monsignor G Crennan, 7 May 1952, about the same numbers arriving at Hawthorn hostel in view of the £16,000 government grant which the YCW had received. Crennan investigated and reported to Canberra: the problem was the heavy loss in managing the Hawthorn hostel; many of the boys were apprentices who could not afford much money for their board and lodging; and the YCW wanted to withdraw as quickly as possible from youth migration. This came as a 'bombshell'. Monsignor Crennan interviewed Immigration Department officials but the financial problem was insurmountable. The remainder of this large file concerns the termination of YCW involvement with youth migration, the disposal of the Hawthorn hostel, and the repayment of a substantial part of the original government grant.

Federal Catholic Migration Committee. Child and Youth Migration. General. Part 2, 1953 [29 pages] A445, 133/2/124

This contains material concerned with the visit of Monsignor G Crennan, Federal Director, Federal Catholic Immigration Committee and Father C Stinson, Director,

Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association to Canberra after Stinson's return from a fifteen-month recruiting trip to the UK, Malta and Western Europe. There is a copy of his 16-page report, which formed the basis for discussions with the Immigration Department, and the Department's own memorandum on the talks. The issues discussed included: the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee London office; recruitment of juvenile migrants; the situation at St John Bosco's Boys Home, Glenorchy, Tasmania; the low-level of intelligence among many Catholic child migrants; the special difficulties recruiting girls; and Father Stinson's attendance at a Conference of Catholic Charities in Rome where delegates from the Scandinavian countries had denounced his efforts as 'immoral and inhuman'.

Castledare – St. Vincent's Orphanage, WA, 1948–51 A445, 133/2/47

Bindoon – St. Joseph's Farm School, WA, 1948–51 [31 pages] A445, 133/2/33

This contains a range of reports on the institution by various departmental officials over the four years covered. The first is the team inspection at Bindoon on 19 January 1948, which led to the crisis meeting, 4 February, at the office of the Under Secretary, Lands and Immigration Department. The critical issues discussed were: provision of suitable furniture and educational facilities; female staff; lockers; medical review of all boys and wages for the older trainees. Key documents can turn up in more than one file since many government departments were concerned with child and youth immigration, including Child Welfare, Health, Immigration (Commonwealth), Immigration (State) and Transport. There is a copy of the 'Agreement for Service with Board and Lodgings' under the Child Welfare Act, 1947 (Sections 51 and 54). On 14 April 1950, a three-man team visited Bindoon 'to review the migrant inmates' with a view to placing the boys over 16 years of age in outside employment. Three months later, the inspectors returned to monitor this process and reported, 3 July 1950:

It appears that, at last, action is being taken to place the majority of the older boys out in positions [in the community].

There is also correspondence concerning the application for financial assistance from State and Commonwealth for the Bindoon building program and concerning the so-called 'Apprenticeship Scheme' which St Joseph's claimed to be implementing.

St. Mary's Agricultural School – Tardun, WA, Part 1, 1945–51 A445, 133/2/41

St. Joseph's Home for Children – Neerkol, Rockhampton, Qld, 1948–51 A445, 133/2/36

St. Josephs Orphanage and St. Vincent's Foundling Home, Leederville, WA, 1948–51 [c.100 pages] A445, 133/2/40

This contains a number of inspection reports and associated correspondence. Most of the comment was positive; the homes were running smoothly. On 18 October 1948, Messrs F Mather and G Denny were impressed with the 'growth and [healthy] appearance of the migrant children'. The Education Department inspector, Mr J Telford, reported, 26 July 1949:

The manner in which the immigrant children have settled down is worthy of special mention, this being a notable feature of every class... The general atmosphere of the school leaves nothing to be desired.

There is discussion of the poor health record of some children and their general educational retardation, for reasons associated with their institutional upbringing during the war years in Britain. In 1950, there is correspondence regarding the possible arrival of Maltese child migrants.

St. Joseph's Orphanage and St. Vincent's Foundling Home, Leederville, WA, 1951–54 [c.120 pages] A445, 133/2/144

The first prominent item is 'Application for Recognition as an Approved Institution for Maltese children' – a Joint Report by Messrs G Bartley (Commonwealth) and L Alexander (State), dated 20 August 1951. They found two establishments sharing the one block, catering for 340 girls (and some very young boys), staffed by 28 Mercy Sisters, 'one of the finest orphanages in the state'. They recommended 'Approved' status for Maltese child migrants. In fact, there were delays in gaining recognition. The CMO Rome, Mr J Cliffe reported, 28 July 1951:

This matter has been shelved for a long time by the Nationalist government (Malta) because they were unable to agree on a clear cut policy towards child migration.

Months passed before formal approval was granted in December, but this did not bring Maltese girls to Leederville. The Immigration Department advised almost a year later:

The Maltese authorities did not process the [requested] applications for twenty girls aged 5 to 10 years old for this institution. The latest information to hand concerning Maltese child migration mentions that the response has been poor.

Much of the material concerns plans for Maltese child migration.

Mater Dei Orphanage – Narellan, 1949–52 A445, 133/2/19**Murray Dwyer Boys Orphanage, Mayfield and Monte Pio Girls Orphanage, West Maitland, 1946–51 A445, 133/2/20****Murray Dwyer Boys Orphanage, Mayfield. Monte Pio Girls Orphanage, West Maitland, 1951–53 A445, 133/2/21****St. Patrick's Orphanage – Armidale NSW, 1949–54 A445, 133/2/42****St. Joseph's Orphanage – Cowper – NSW Part 1, 1949–54 A445, 133/2/37****GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, 1945–50****PP6/1****Recorded by:****1945–50: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)****Perth 36.5 metres****Castledare – St. Vincent's Orphanage – Queen's Park, Inspection and Progress Reports, 1948–51 [34 pages] PP6/1, 1949/H/1169**

In September 1949, Sir Tasman Heyes requested the Lands and Immigration Department, Perth to check that improvements promised had occurred at Castledare Junior Orphanage; specifically he enquired regarding female staff, fly-proofing the kitchen, the sanitary facilities and the conditions of the dormitories. He had seen two reports, one from May, from State Immigration and one from June, from the Child Welfare Department. The Under Secretary replied that the Catholic authorities were aware that 'no further admissions to Castledare will be approved while the present over-crowding of the classrooms exists'. Three weeks after the request from Canberra, Castledare was inspected again by Messrs Bartley and Brown from the Immigration Office in Perth. They found 'a vast improvement' though another fifteen boys had been placed at the home. There is mention that the Catholic authorities will apply for government financial assistance for the renovations requested.

Castledare – St. Vincent's Orphanage – Queen's Park. Government Financial Assistance, buildings etc, (Loan 1), 1950–51 [25 pages] PP6/1, 1949/H/2757

This concerns the correspondence surrounding the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association application for Commonwealth and state subsidy to assist in funding the renovations to the kitchen and scullery at Castledare. Complications arose from the fact that the renovations were complete before the application for assistance was lodged. It is not clear from this material whether the application was approved or rejected.

Clontarf – St. Peter's Orphanage, Victoria Park – inspection and progress reports, 1948–50 [32 pages] PP6/1, 1949/H/1167

This contains inspection reports and related correspondence. Mr J Marriott, the Child Welfare Department, Institution Officer, visited Clontarf on 15 January 1948 after 32 child migrants were placed there. He reported along the following lines:

... in company with the Manager, Brother Crowley, made an inspection of the premises and saw each of the 32 migrant boys in residence... [they] appeared to be in good physical condition... [but] rather severe sunburn... good spirits... school vacation... enjoyed immensely... picture shows... picnics... buildings spotlessly clean.

On 19 July 1949, two inspectors representing Immigration and Child Welfare Departments visited Clontarf and the report of each is in the file. Mr J Mather (Immigration) wrote:

57 child migrants; 132 others [boys]... Brother Crowley discussed the possibility of obtaining a specially trained teacher to take charge of the backward children... All the boys appeared to be in good physical condition... Bed Wetters dormitory, I regret to report, is far below the general standard of the institution... dining-room and kitchen not up to standard... the children appear to be happy... the general atmosphere of the institution is excellent.

There is correspondence around the issues of renovations of sub-standard facilities, building permits and possible government financial assistance.

Clontarf – St. Peter's Orphanage – Government financial assistance, buildings etc, 1952 [1 page] PP6/1, 1949/H/2754

There is one sentence: 'Governmental Financial Assistance for Clontarf buildings, 20 May 1952. NIL'.

Bindoon – St. Joseph's Farm School – Inspection and Progress Reports, 1948–50 [17 pages] PP6/1, 1949/H/1168

Two inspectors visited Bindoon on 13 July 1948 and their reports commence this file, which is one of reports and associated correspondence. One felt 'a sense of improvement' but the institution faced many problems, one of which was the boys' education. Mr M E Neck, the School Inspector, wrote:

Brother Keaney hopes that the Technical class room will be equipped and completed for use within six months. He has had difficulty in obtaining machinery and tools.

Another inspector wrote on 3 August 1948:

At present a number of boys sleep on verandas which in wet weather is not altogether desirable...

He added that wages for the trainees had to be arranged. There is a copy of Mr F Mather's more detailed comments of 7 September 1948 when he attempted to get the older boys' training program organised systematically. After Mather's report, there is no further inspection (evident from this file) until the Inspector of Schools, Mr C Radbourn, arrived fifteen months later. He wrote, inter alia, on 13 December 1949:

The boys are very backward, practically all have been in institutions in the UK all their lives... war... dislocation... Educationally, practically all of these boys are retarded, some very badly.

The roving inspector from the Scottish Home Office, Miss H R Harrison, arrived in April 1950 and was wonderfully impressed by Bindoon. Sir Tasman Heyes was informed, 28 April, that 'Miss Harrison considered Bindoon the best of the RC Homes she has ever visited'.

Tardun – St. Mary's Agricultural School – Inspection and Progress Reports, 1949–51 [28 pages] PP6/1, 1949/H/1166

The first item is a summary by G Bartley, Immigration Department, 13 October 1949, of the numbers of child migrants in Catholic institutions in Western Australia which includes these interesting facts:

317 British children now accommodated... five in employment; six with foster parents; 7 joined their own parents who arrived later and three have died.

Otherwise the main subject of the material is a series of inspections made by Mr J Abbott, the Country (Child Welfare) Inspector, based in Geraldton, in 1950 to St Mary's Agricultural School, Tardun and correspondence which followed Abbott's reports. The issues appeared to be possible overcrowding when 30 anticipated Maltese child migrants arrived and government financial assistance for renovations and floor coverings in the dormitories. The last item has Mr E R Denny, Immigration Department, explaining to his superiors in Canberra that in the Tardun climate 'floor coverings are not essential' and the overall position at the institution 'may be considered satisfactory'.

Nazareth House – Geraldton – inspection and progress reports, 1948–51 PP6/1, 1949/H/1165

Nazareth House – Geraldton – Government financial assistance, buildings etc, 1949 PP6/1, 1949/H/2756

St. Joseph's Orphanage – Leederville, Inspection & Progress reports, 1948–50 PP6/1, 1949/H/1163

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1959–84

K403

Recorded by:

1959–73: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)

Perth 49.56 metres

Child migration – CEMWA – subsidies, 1952–78 [88 pages]

K403, W59/86

This contains lists of child migrants who came to Catholic orphanages in Western Australia after 1952 in the context of Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association applications for the Commonwealth government per capita 'equipment allowance'. There is evidence that there were endless troubles checking names and dates of birth; personal papers supposed to be received from England did not always arrive, necessitating further negotiations. From July 1955 until early 1962, the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association did not claim the equipment allowance at all, and 56 children arrived during the interim – most being the 'second wave' of Maltese child migrants who came in the early 1960s.

Castledare Catholic Home, 1951–57 [45 pages]

K403, W59/89

This concerns inspections and associated correspondence of the Castledare (Junior) Christian Brothers Orphanage in Perth, Western Australia. Mr K R Crook from the British High Commission visited Perth in July 1951 and reported on Castledare to the Head, Immigration Department, Canberra:

A good deal of work has been done on this Home and many of the objections to it have been removed.

John Moss visited five months later and filed a mixed report, 6 December 1951:

The Recreation Hall is used as classrooms. This must be considered a very unsatisfactory arrangement... permits are required for building... The general appearance of the children is quite satisfactory. They were free, open and cheerful.

However, there was need to improve the ablutions and fly-proof the kitchen. Moss reported in another letter to the High Commission around the same time:

Apart from these points, I was favourably impressed by the conditions prevailing at the Home.

The renovations were delayed, there were money problems, and a further 20 boys arrived on the *Ormonde*, 21 August 1952. However, over the following year new classrooms were constructed and opened, 6 December 1953. There is correspondence over Castledare's acceptance as a suitable place for Maltese child migrants. There is little correspondence after 1953. However, in 1957 there were further problems in the wake of the visit of the UK Fact-Finding Mission of the previous year. Mr A L Nutt at the Immigration Department wrote, 25 June 1957:

The staff is inadequate for the number of children in residence.

Specifically it was the lack of female staff which mattered. Castledare was dropped from the list of 'approved institutions' recognised for the care of British child migrants. Nuns were promised, but a community proved impossible to find. A matron was engaged and eventually after protracted negotiations Castledare recovered its approved status.

**Castledare Catholic Home – Government Financial Assistance, 1950–55
[150 pages] K403, W59/91**

This concerns the tortuous negotiations around the request for, and processing of, the application for government financial assistance under the two-thirds building grant for approved homes taking child migrants. Mr H E Smith, Lands and Immigration Department, Perth explained the problem which generated the extensive file:

The Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association did not submit this application prior to completing the work.

However, the renovations were 'essential' and 'WA was willing to pay its one-third' after assessment of costs. The Chief Migration Officer replied, 25 July 1950, with a request for plans and receipts, but there were few:

The work had been done, day by day, and no plans or specifications were available.

A year passed and routine correspondence accumulated. Then on 24 July 1951, the State Building Inspector, Mr W Fortune reported on 'the haphazard way in which the contract was carried out' and added:

Future contracts in which Commonwealth and State monies are involved must be prepared by a competent architect and the [Housing] Commission notified before commencement of work.

There was a further application to fund more improvements in March 1953, but it is not clear from this file if any monies were ever paid.

Castledare Catholic Home – general inspection, 1948–54 [50 pages] K403, W59/92

Most correspondence is concentrated on the 1948 crisis. A four-man team visited Castledare in July and reported on an unsatisfactory situation which commenced when the Principal appeared 'unshaven and obviously not prepared for a snap visit'. Many of the children were sleeping on urine-soaked mattresses; the kitchen fly-blown; the recreation room being used as a classroom. Mr E R Denny wrote that 'the Catholic authorities be advised that the conditions which exist cannot be tolerated'. The response is discussed in the material. The most important item is the summary of the Castledare situation, penned by Mr W Garnett of the UK High Commission to Mr A L Nutt at the Immigration Department, 12 January 1951:

I visited Castledare in 1944... very unsatisfactory... my impression (after going over my reports) and with vivid recollection of what the place looked like when I last saw it, was that the authorities responsible for Castledare have been very dilatory in effecting essential improvements, even assuming that the institution is capable of being adapted to meet modern requirements.

The Immigration Department reacted defensively to the British official's comments, and in May 1951 a team inspection at the institution reported in positive terms. Later reports are equally encouraging.

Clontarf – Policy, 1947–59 [20 pages] K403, W59/93

This contains scattered material across almost ten years, though most of the correspondence is centred on the recommencement of child migration in 1947. There is a useful chart, 'Placement of Migrant Children in RC institutions in Western Australia'. However, much of the material is duplicated in other files. There is reference towards the end of Monsignor G Crennan's plans to place six refugee Croatian youths, 17–18 years old at Clontarf to learn English before placement in the work force. It is not clear if the plan proceeded.

Clontarf – government financial assistance, 1950–55 [2 pages] K403, W59/95

This contains material on the plans of Monsignor G Crennan, Federal Director of the FCIC, to place refugee youths at Clontarf.

Clontarf – general inspections, 1947–56 K403, W59/96

Clontarf child migrants – accidents, 1955–67 K403, W59/97

See also file PP352/1, WA12229, listed later in this section.

Bindoon Catholic Home – government financial assistance, 1949–57 [104 pages] K403, W59/87

This provides detailed material on the complicated story of partial government funding for the massive buildings at Bindoon. The decision to provide funds to institutions to upgrade certain facilities was made at a Conference of Migration Officers held at Canberra, 16–17 December 1946, and ratified by the government soon afterwards. The costs were to be shared equally by Commonwealth, State and the institution concerned. In the case of St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, however, the application for assistance was lodged in mid-1949 after some buildings were almost completed. Father Stinson, Director, CEMWA, wrote to Arthur Calwell, 19 July 1949:

Approximately a month ago I submitted to the State Housing Commission plans for extensions to Bindoon Boys' Town. I applied for a permit to commence building operations... of laundry block, technical workshops, dormitory block and staff quarters... estimated cost... £43, 864. I now wish to make formal application for the one-third Commonwealth government Grant.

One year passed, and when State and Commonwealth Immigration officers arrived to assess the situation, 21 July 1950, it was in the context of Bindoon's capacity to take further groups of child migrants, including Maltese children. Much of the building work was already finished; other developments had commenced. On 3 August 1950, Mr G Bartley wrote that:

Brother Keaney's methods are unorthodox; he has obtained all building materials from every source possible; the majority of the construction work has been done by the boys... under the direction of two Italian stonemasons.

Time passed; more inspections are noted in the file; before a team arrived from the Public Works Department and Commonwealth Child Migration Office, 9–13 October 1950. Their combined report is dated 9 January 1951, and includes the following comments:

The only drawings of the buildings available were very incomplete floor plans... no specifications are available... no receipts... although the procedure is quite irregular, the Hon. Minister for Lands agreed to recommend on this occasion that the state government pay one-third of the cost of all buildings considered essential for the use of the migrant children.

The boys had received no wages. However, this was far from the end of the saga and correspondence after 1951 records further visits, followed by the decision to pay £30,944 (half each Commonwealth and State) in instalments as buildings were

completed, furnished and inspected. The last payment is dated 21 January 1957, by which time Brother Keaney had been deceased for almost three years.

Bindoon Catholic Home – general inspection, 1947–56 [68 pages] K403, W59/88

The first item is an inspection report of St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, Bindoon, 26 May 1947, by the Assistant Under Secretary, Lands and Immigration Department, Perth before the arrival of postwar child migrants. He writes:

... the institution is essentially a Farm School intended for the rural training of youths after each boy has completed his primary education.

The place was not suitable for primary school boys; the nomination should be reduced from 100 boys to 50. The child migrants arrived in three groups between October 1947 and January 1948, and there is an inspection report by three departmental officers, 19 January 1948. They listed certain matters for 'urgent attention': provision of suitable furniture and educational facilities; female domestic staff; lockers; medical review of all boys; and wages for trainees. The file has a number of departmental reports and related correspondence on the home which had become controversial. On 4 April 1948, Mr S R Denny made a further review of the institution's progress and reported:

The position could be considered satisfactory for the time being.

He advised another inspection 'at an early date'. However, there is nothing here from April 1948 until August 1949. There is a handwritten memo, 20 October 1949:

A Conference with Mr W E Smith (Lands and Immigration Department), mentioned that conditions at Bindoon and Tardun are far from satisfactory; boys are working and not receiving proper education; some boys are acting improperly indicating insufficient control. If the British authorities were aware of the conditions it may create uneasiness and probable cessation of selection of children under the scheme. The Ministers are in conference and perturbed regarding the position.

There are further reports concerning costing the buildings at Bindoon; John Moss's comments, 11 December 1951; and a report by Mr G Bartley of the Commonwealth Immigration Department, 12 August 1952 in which he writes:

Many of the boys are approaching the age when they must leave Bindoon and it is an urgent necessity that the Review Committee visit to discuss their future with the lads.

There are reports and newspaper cuttings of the opening of the new buildings at Bindoon, 4 October 1953. The final section deals with the visit of the British Fact-Finding Mission in 1956; the unpleasant scene between the Principal and Mr J Ross, the Mission's leader; and the subsequent inspections ordered by the Immigration Department. This is an important file on the most controversial of the child migration institutions.

Tardun Catholic Home – government financial assistance, c.1947–57 K403, W59/120

Tardun Catholic Home – general inspection, c.1948–57 K403, W59/121

Nazareth House Catholic Home – general inspection, c.1947–78 K403, W59/109

St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's Catholic Homes – government financial assistance, 1948–54 K403, W59/112

St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's Catholic Homes – general inspections, c.1947–58 K403, W59/113

St. Joseph's, c.1959–84 K403, W59/925

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL PASSPORTS), 1939–1970
A659****Recorded by:****1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)****Canberra 101.25 metres****Catholic Emigration Association, London – Scheme to emigrate children to Catholic institutions in Western Australia, 1937–44 [300 pages] A659, 1945/1/499**

This commences with Archbishop Prendiville (Perth) writing to Prime Minister J A Lyons, 8 November 1937, regarding 'financial assistance to a scheme to emigrate children from England to our Catholic institutions in Western Australia'. Lyons passed the request to the WA government. There, the Deputy Premier, M F Troy, indicated cooperation and on 20 January 1938, Brother Conlon sent Lyons a detailed statement regarding plans for the Catholic child migration scheme. The Minister for the Interior, John McEwen, approved and agreed to the inclusion of Irish youth in the scheme. Wheeler warned, 7 February 1938:

Child migration is spectacular, but extremely costly.

During much of 1938 Brother Conlon was in Britain and there is correspondence around applications for financial assistance for capital costs for additions to the St Mary's Agricultural School at Tardun. In the event, the UK government allowed £250 per annum towards interest payable on loans for capital works at Tardun for a fifteen-year period. R H Wheeler at the Interior Ministry, Canberra, warned again, 21 July 1938:

I fear the RC Church has been rather hasty in introducing children from overseas.

There are lists of the Catholic children who arrived for the Tardun scheme, inspector's reports, claims for maintenance payments, correspondence over the medical and psychological tests which intending child migrants were given; and plans to bring girls from Britain to the Sisters of Nazareth at Geraldton.

**CHILD MIGRATION TO CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS, WA, 1937–45 [196 PAGES]
A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Child migration to Catholic institutions, WA, 1937–45 [196 pages] A461, M349/1/7**

This file contains letters regarding government financial support for Catholic institutions in Western Australia involved with British child migrants, specifically St Mary's Agricultural School, Tardun, managed by the Christian Brothers. There are details of other Christian Brothers institutions; and on aid to Fairbridge. Additional support was requested: extension of the maintenance subsidies to girls, boys over 14 years of age and girls from Ireland, for accommodation extensions and exemption from customs dues for equipment. The first item has the Deputy Premier, WA, Mr M Troy advising Prime Minister J A Lyons that 'experience has shown child migration to be the most successful form of immigration attempted in recent years' and thus supporting the plans of the Catholic Emigration Society (UK) to send children to the Tardun scheme 'on the same lines as the Fairbridge Farm School'. The State was willing to contribute towards the maintenance of the children; advised the Commonwealth to do likewise, which was eventually arranged. There is a useful three-page summary of government financial arrangements for supporting the various child migration schemes, dated 20 May 1938; and a second summary, dated

15 July 1938, which summarises government support for capital works. There are detailed lists of the first Catholic child migrants to arrive at Tardun.

Immigration – Clontarf orphanage, 1928–30 [46 pages] A461, I349/1/7

This file is linked to A445, 133/2/8 (described earlier in this section) and relates to the immigration of poor orphaned boys to Catholic institutions in Western Australia. It contains a request by the Clontarf Orphanage for government assistance similar to that given to the Fairbridge Farm School. The Development and Migration Commission strongly opposed the grant, 6 June 1928, in a memorandum to the Prime Minister:

The Commonwealth has subsidised the Fairbridge school for some years, but it should be stated that the granting of such subsidy was strongly condemned by the Commonwealth Immigration authorities (at the time). The scheme is unsound economically from a migration point-of-view, in that lads of working age could be recruited at a much lower cost than that involved in the introduction of young children under the Fairbridge scheme.

Senator Pearce granted the Clontarf orphanage representatives an interview but denied the request for assistance, 4 July 1928: 'work of that character is best carried out under private auspices'. A summary of Commonwealth assistance to Fairbridge is enclosed. In 1930, the matter was again raised with the new ALP government by Senator P J Lynch, Labor, WA. However, the reply was again negative: 'The maintenance of Institutions of that description is essentially a State function'.

Application for financial assistance – Young Christian Workers Movement, 1950 A461, R344/5/1

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1926–30

CP211/2

Recorded by:

1926–30: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)

Canberra 23.94 metres

Training – Clontarf Orphanage – Ministerial Approval, 1928 CP211/2, 74/28

**Clontarf Orphanage – Application for Financial Assistance, 1928 [7 pages]
CP211/2, bundle 105**

The principal item is a memorandum from the Development and Migration Commission to the Minister of the Interior regarding an application by Clontarf Orphanage, WA, for a Commonwealth subsidy on Fairbridge Farm School lines. The application was rejected:

... from a migration aspect, the large cost per head that the Commonwealth would be required to bear does not justify the granting of assistance...

the Minister replied, c. 11 June 1928.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES (LEGAL), SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'WA' PREFIX, 1944–69
PP352/1**

Recorded by:

1944–69: Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office, WA (CA 890)

Perth 27 metres

Clontarf bus accident – Public Subscription Fund – Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office, c.1944–69 PP352/1, WA12229

The file concerns a bus accident involving child migrants and contains correspondence between DCS and the Child Welfare Department, preparation of the

trust deed by DCS, notes of meetings of the fund trustees and a statement about the disbursement of the funds to the recipients. The file includes a list of names of the child migrants. There is more information regarding the accident in K403, W59/97, listed earlier in this section.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953–**A446****Recorded by:****1953–74: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 3346.4 metres****Child migration – St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Goodwood South Australia, Catholic, 1947–60 [c.200 pages] A446, 1956/67269**

This concerns recruitment of girls for the South Australian home and their education. Brother Conlon wrote to Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, 18 October 1947:

The Archbishop of Adelaide asked me when leaving for England at the beginning of 1946 to get him some girls for the orphanage in Adelaide.

Calwell explained the procedures: the Goodwood orphanage would have to be inspected both by British and Commonwealth representatives prior to recognition as 'an approved institution' for the reception of child migrants. There were delays: a team inspection was arranged in March 1948 and reported:

The present inmates appear naturally contented and happy; they present a well-cared-for appearance.

Meanwhile it proved difficult to find girls in the UK for child migration: girls were easier to foster and there was still unlimited work for older girls in domestic service. However, 28 migrant girls arrived, 19 January 1949, but four were 15–16 years of age on arrival. Father Roberts was appointed 'custodian' of the children. A proposal was discussed to bring Maltese girls to Goodwood; Captain Curmi, the Commissioner for Malta in Australia agreed to investigate the possibilities, but Maltese authorities, reflecting public opinion on the islands, were unwilling to send girls to Australia. There is some correspondence on the problems created when one of the older girls absconded from Goodwood and the orphanage did not want her returned. The Secretary, Child Welfare Department Adelaide, advised Father Roberts, 10 January 1951:

The welfare and care of every immigrant child of whom you are the custodian is your responsibility... While we are prepared to do anything to help in such cases, the responsibility must remain with the approved organisation sponsoring the child's entry to Australia.

There is some important correspondence on evolving Maltese child migration policy. The CMO, Australian Legation, Rome wrote to Canberra, 22 December 1951:

Child migration has been shelved by the Nationalist government [Malta] for a long time because they were unable to agree on a clear cut policy on child migration.

Meanwhile, at Goodwood the Mercy Sisters did not want any further child migrants. John Moss commented, 14 December 1951:

Some of the migrants who came were very difficult and clearly too old. There is no likelihood of any further nominations.

On 7 May 1952, Heyes told Father Roberts:

You will be interested to know that final arrangements are in hand for parties of Maltese children to come to Catholic institutions in Western Australia.

However, on 3 July 1952, the Commissioner for Malta, Captain F Stivala announced that Maltese girls for migration could not be found, and added:

... the position is that, notwithstanding the advantages inherent to this scheme, the response in Malta has been poor and it is for this reason that the outstanding nominations cannot be fulfilled.

Father Nicol advised, c. August 1952:

It is very difficult to find suitable child migrants from Malta; there is a background of opposition to child migration to Australia.

The CMO, Rome advised, 20 March 1953 that only one Maltese girl was available and she was not sent.

Child Migration. St. Joseph's Girls Orphanage, Kenmore, Goulburn NSW (Catholic), 1950–54 A446, 1956/67263

The Sisters of Mercy orphanage, Kenmore was five kilometres from Goulburn, NSW and catered for 90–100 children. The Child Welfare Department Director, R H Hicks, noted, 16 February 1950, that 'it is regarded as a well-conducted establishment'. However, he added that there were other NSW orphanages which had approved status, but which had received few or no child migrants. Kenmore had applied for status as 'an approved institution' to receive child migrants, at a stage when the Home Office (London) was imposing administrative delay on new applications (1950–52). In fact, the Home Office wanted another full inspection. Hicks summarised the results of the second inspection, 26 April 1951:

Although it is felt that it would be difficult to raise any strenuous objections to conditions in the home, it is felt that there is a great deal of room for improvement... staff inadequate... senior girls held too long... ablution section unsatisfactory... they are hardly in a position to provide for an additional group of children.

Time passed, and almost two years later, 8 January 1953, Monsignor G Crennan, Director, FCIC, announced that approval had been granted to place twelve migrant girls at Kenmore and there was talk of bringing Maltese child migrants in addition. All this proved abortive however and Kenmore was filled with local children.

Child Migration. St. Brigid's Orphanage, Ryde NSW (Roman Catholic), 1949–55 [88 pages] A446, 1956/67262

This has some similarities with the previous file: a Catholic NSW orphanage offering to take some child migrants at a time when it was difficult to gain sufficient British children to fill existing applications, and at the same time, the Home Office was delaying the approval of new applications. In the first folio, Father W Nicol, Federal Catholic Immigration Committee Federal Director before moving to London in 1949 wrote, 30 June 1949:

... regarding the custodianship of all Catholic migrant children coming to Australia under the age of twenty-one. The Federal Catholic Immigration Committee will accept the offer of custodianship of these children.

Father Nicol was himself the official custodian. There is much correspondence on the attempts to achieve 'approved' status for St Brigid's to accept child migrants, combined with the plain fact that relatively few children were available in the UK or Malta for placing in Australia. St Brigid's had to proceed through the same steps to Home Office approval as did Kenmore. It was not until 17 January 1952 that the British authorities gave their seal of approval, two and a half years after the first approach. In essence, the Home Office was opposed to child migration, the Dominions Office was sympathetic, and the British Cabinet was prepared to let it proceed until child migration died a natural death.

Young Christian Workers Movement – Youth migration – Part 1, 1948–54 [c.150 pages] A446, 1974/76807

On 28 July 1948, Mr Ted Long, President of the Young Christian Workers, wrote to Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell to request advice on a YCW scheme to immigrate young workers to Australia from overseas. Long requested financial assistance with purchasing a suitable building for use as a hostel for 25 to 30 young men, mainly apprentices, for a three-month settling-in period before they were placed in private homes. Calwell was supportive but indicated there would be no monies for routine maintenance. However, the two-thirds building subsidy would be available. On the strength of this the YCW found and purchased a suitable property at the corner of Patterson & Oxley Roads, Hawthorn (Victoria) which had been conducted as a guesthouse and was known as 'The Terricks'. Almost immediately,

the problems of renovations and refurnishing became urgent; and few formalities and inspections had been arranged. In July 1949, Father F W Lombard wrote to Calwell that:

... although the YCW purchased a hostel some eight months ago, we have only received six nominations from Britain, whereas we had hoped to receive nearly 200 each year.

Lombard suggested he proceed urgently to the UK to recruit suitable youths through the British Young Christian Workers Movement. Meanwhile, the Victorian Government had inspected the property and agreed with the renovation proposals, but on 8 September 1949, Long requested the actual monies from governments, the two-thirds subsidy 'forthwith' as 'we are being pressed for repayment of the loan'. There were further delays. Long wrote again to Sir Tasman Heyes, 18 November 1949 that his Committee was 'financially embarrassed'. There were further delays and some correspondence in the file over bringing first Baltic refugees and later Maltese workers to Australia via the Hawthorn hostel. Meanwhile, it was revealed that the YCW was not yet classed as an 'approved organisation' for introducing youth migrants, and the Department of Immigration was awaiting the return of Father Lombard from the UK to see if he had secured clear arrangements for recruiting suitable British lads. It was not until March 1950, fifteen months after the purchase of the hostel that the YCW secured approved status and an agreement was signed between the Commonwealth and the RC Trusts Corporation over assistance for purchase and renovations at the YCW hostel. In due course the monies were made available.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'G'
[GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS] INFIX, 1956– A463**

Recorded by:

1956–71: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 701.38 metres

Brother F P Keaney (Bindoon), Honour, 1953 A463, 1959/3608

This contains a small booklet on 'the scheme' which linked the four Western Australian Catholic orphanages in their reception of child migrants. Otherwise there is a single letter in which the Deputy-Secretary, Prime Minister's Department writes to another officer, 2 April 1953:

Brother Keaney is in charge of a farm and industrial school, more commonly called 'Boys Town', Bindoon, Western Australia... he is approaching 80 years of age. I am quite certain that the Christian Brothers Order would be extremely delighted if the remarkable achievement of Brother F P Keaney could be recognised. Any recognition (MBE) would be received by the Order with deep gratitude.

(Brother Keaney died in 1954 in his mid-60s.)

The Church of England

During the 1920s, various prominent figures within the Anglican Church in Australia encouraged assisted immigration, for young men and women, the former for farms, the latter for domestic service. The Church of England's Army, through Mr J H Stanley, had commenced migration work before the passing of the Empire Settlement Act: during 1921 it sponsored 174 persons to Australia, many of them ex-Servicemen, and scores of boys for farm work soon followed. The chief organiser was T S Pughe. In Queensland, Canon D J Garland managed schemes for both adults and farm boys, while the church in New South Wales was assisting some 700 immigrants by 1925.

After World War II, with Fairbridge, the Big Brother Movement and Barnardo's Homes in the main migrating Protestant youths, the Anglican Church was not heavily involved in juvenile migration. However, some children were brought to the Swan Homes near Perth. They appear to have been cared for satisfactorily and have never been mentioned in the controversy of the 1990s over some areas of Western Australian child care during the child migration era.

Many organisations assisted migrants to settle in Australia: the Anglican Church contribution to child and youth migration tended to be during the 1920s, when Canon D J Garland in Queensland provided committed, dynamic leadership to the Immigration Council established by the Church of England. The records in the National Archives tend to understate Garland's contribution, but provide useful comment on the problems and successes in settling British youth migrants in Australia.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38**A1****Recorded by:****1928–32: Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)****Canberra 337.14 metres****Church of England Immigration Council, 1929–32 [46 pages] A1, 1932/7486**

The Rev. D J Garland, Church of England, Director of Immigration, Queensland, wrote to the Secretary, Development and Immigration Commission, Melbourne, 21 January 1929 enclosing a news cutting from the Daily Mail (London) which concerned two nonagenarian British migrants in Queensland who had prospered. Garland suggests that their stories could be used in forthcoming publicity, showing 'that Queensland is a place where people coming young from England can live long lives and prosper'. There are letters from Bishop G D Halford and Rev. A E Taylor (Kingaroy) to Garland discussing the progress of recently-introduced British 'farm learners'. Taylor wrote, 24 July 1929:

I am very fortunate in that the majority of the boys sent to this district ring true and so they make it easier in finding work for others. It is surprising though what a lot of damage can be done by a boy who is not the right type.

There are a number of Garland's half-yearly and annual reports and some news cuttings on the work of the Church of England Immigration Council which brought some 1 600 people, the majority youth migrants to the state over some six to seven years until assisted migration was ended during the Depression. Garland wrote in his Seventh Annual Report, 25 July 1932:

Unfortunately immigration remains suspended... after-care (however) on behalf of immigrants already here is more required than ever... departures, but the epidemic of homesickness amongst the immigrants is subsiding... the Council has devoted considerable attention to the placing of young Queenslanders on the land, and with some measure of success.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34**A458****Recorded by:****1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 49.77 metres****Immigration Encouragement: Miscellaneous Policies. Anglican Church Scheme, 1923 [2 pages] A458, J154/15**

The Secretary of the Church of England Immigration Committee (Victoria) wrote to Lord Forster, 12 December 1923, that his committee has a plan to foster youth migration to the Commonwealth:

These migrants will be selected in London by the Church Army acting for, and on behalf of, this committee... These lads will be drawn for the most part from the Church Army Training Farm... The Church of England undertakes to exercise pastoral care and supervision over them in Australia.

In reply, the Governor-General's secretary commended the Church's initiative.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1951–55

A445

Recorded by:

1951–55: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 22.5 metres

**Clarendon – Tasmanian Church of England Childrens Home, Part 1, 1948–53
A445, 133/2/10**

Anglican Orphanage Perth, WA, 1947–53 [c.100 pages] A445, 133/2/3

The 'Anglican Orphanage' is often referred to as the 'Swan Homes', since the original property was adjacent to the Swan River. There were three sections of the establishment: the largest, was the original institution near Midland Junction, 'Middle Swan'; the second section was eight miles to the northeast, the 'Padbury Farm School' or 'Stoneville', a smaller institution for older boys learning farming; and the third property was at Coogee near Fremantle, occupied all year round but used for the children during holidays on rotation. The material can be confusing if the reader is not aware that there are three properties under one management and with more than one name. The first item is a report by Mr R W Gratwick, Child Migration Officer, WA, dated 20 April 1947 after his preliminary inspection of the Swan Homes. Renovations were in progress; more developments were planned; Government assistance was requested; and the Manager, Mr A R Peterkin, was prepared to take only 20 child migrants in the first intake. There is much correspondence over the question of financial assistance. The Immigration Department advised, 20 January 1948:

Following upon a conference with State Immigration authorities on 20 January 1948, it has now been decided that institutions accommodating both Australian children and child migrants will be eligible for financial assistance.

Peterkin made formal application to Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, 1 April 1948, for assistance with a £19,000 development: a modern home for the girls at Swan, and a dormitory wing at the Coogee seaside property. There is a round of correspondence following the request of the Archbishop of Perth to send Mr A A Robertson to the UK to review the recruiting situation for the church; and a number of inspection reports.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL PASSPORTS), 1939–1970

A659

Recorded by:

1939: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Canberra 101.25 metres

Church of England Migration Council – Nomination of forty youths over twenty years of age for farm work, 1938 [10 pages] A659, 1945/1/503

The Anglican Church was having difficulty filling a group nomination for youth migrants; hence the attempt to secure older young men for farm training. This group nomination envisaged five young men per month arriving, around 20 years of age, to

be given six months training at the Glen Innes Government Experimental Farm. The Manager at the NSW State Labour Exchange warned that there were problems with such an age group, and that the training period without wages would be far too long. The matter was passed to the Department of Interior, and Mr T H Garrett summarised his discussions with NSW Department of Labour and Industry officials, 29 November 1938. There were strong reasons for rejecting the nomination and Garrett suggested a conference with the Church of England Migration Council, NSW. It is not clear from the file if, and when, the conference was held, but the impression is that the group nomination did not proceed.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1929–**A432****Recorded by:****1929: Attorney-General's Department (CA 5)****Canberra 353 metres****Clarendon Children's Home Kingston, Tasmania. Financial assistance by Commonwealth and Tasmanian Governments: Accommodation for Child and Youth Migrants, 1949–53 [c.100 pages] A432, 1950/1454**

The Secretary, Diocesan Children's Home wrote to the CMO, Hobart, 16 August 1949, indicating that the Clarendon Children's Home had been approved for the purpose of child migration. He now asked for particulars so that he could apply for financial assistance for the additional building and renovations which would be required so that twelve British migrant girls could be received; £8,500 was involved and there were delays in processing the application. Heyes explained to the Commonwealth Solicitor, Hobart, 31 July 1950, the ground rules under which voluntary organisations could apply for the two-thirds grant:

At a meeting of the Commonwealth and State Ministers held at Canberra on 15 January 1947, it was agreed that contributions by the Commonwealth and States should be regarded as a grant repayable on demand, without interest, on the understanding that repayment would not be sought except in the event of the winding up of the organisation or its facilities being used for a purpose other than of child or youth migrants. It was also agreed that the Commonwealth should take the necessary action on behalf of itself and the State concerned for the making of grants, the taking of security and the execution of deeds. The Commonwealth undertook to pay the total amount of the agreed Commonwealth and State contributions to the organisations which were to receive the grants and to claim reimbursement from the states concerned.

There are copies of draft agreements proposed between the Commonwealth and the Anglican authorities in Tasmania and after correspondence on these drafts there is a copy of the signed agreement. Approval was not granted until 10 January 1952. Meanwhile, building costs had risen; there were further negotiations; the Government grant was increased.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1945–50**A436****Recorded by:****1945: Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)****1945–50: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 5.04 metres****Church of England – Youths for farm work wanted by NSW, 1938–47 A436, 1947/5/4171****Church of England Advisory Council of Empire Settlement, London. Child Migration Policy, 1948–51 [26 pages] A436, 1949/5/6347**

The Church of England had been involved in youth migration to Australia in the 1920s and supported the reintroduction of similar schemes in 1938–39, and on

23 August 1949, the Immigration Department initiated discussions with the Advisory Council on Empire Settlement to support the Government's new immigration policy:

As you know the Commonwealth Government is anxious to assist both religious and non-denominational bodies to bring children from the UK to Australia under approved migration schemes... voluntary organisations have the facilities for the accommodation and proper welfare of the children concerned and are well-equipped under Government supervision to care for the children.

The Council of Empire Settlement was anxious to be involved, but found recruiting suitable children extremely difficult. Miss E F Jones, the Hon. Secretary wrote to Australia House, 26 September 1949:

In spite of the fact that postwar child migration has been in operation for nearly three years, we are of opinion that Great Britain is not reconciled to the great opportunities and advantages which Australia offers to the children... of 52 Local Authorities, only two had submitted children for migration. Therefore, the sources of supply are limited to (i) (occasional) parents applying direct to our offices as a result of reading about our work in the National and Church press; (ii) Church of England institutions; (iii) two Local Government authorities.

Overall, the Church was involved only in a small way with postwar child migration, mainly to the Swan Homes near Perth.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1926–30

CP211/2

Recorded by:

1926–30: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)

Canberra 23.94 metres

Church of England Immigration Council, 1928–29 [43 pages] CP211/2, 3/104

Canon D C Garland, Secretary of the Council wrote to the Development and Migration Commission in Melbourne, 24 February 1928 regarding a grant to assist with the expenses associated with immigration promotion and after-care, especially of 'farm learners'. He received a small half-yearly grant, and much of the correspondence is around the grant, its retention and its increase. There are two copies of the 'Third Annual Report of the Church of England Immigration Council, 1928' of which the following is a guide to its approach:

The Council assists immigrants of any denomination... we want contented settlers... we notice with satisfaction the courteous acknowledgement by the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane, Dr J Duhig of our including in our nominations members of his church.

There are newspaper cuttings around the work of the Council, a copy of the unprinted fourth report, and minutes of some meetings. Garland was a 'true believer' in migration, and as unemployment rose, he tried to encourage the Government to foster immigration, but was swimming against the tide.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1959–84

K403

Recorded by:

1959–73: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)

Perth 49.56 metres

Swan Homes Anglican Orphanage – policy, 1947–61 K403, W59/114

**Swan Homes Anglican Orphanage – equipment allowance, 1954–65 [68 pages]
K403, W59/115**

This contains correspondence regarding payment of the equipment allowance for child migrants arriving at the Swan Homes over those years, together with lists of children and the names of the ships on which they arrived.

Swan Homes Anglican Orphanage – Government financial assistance, 1950–59 [52 pages] K403, W59/116

There are architects plans of the new Swan Girls Orphanage. The report on the Swan Homes, c.1950 includes the following:

The Church of England has created a Provincial Immigration Committee which negotiates on child migration matters... they are confident that the continual flow of children can be maintained from England for many years... all the dormitories have been renovated... the home at Middle Swan has an excellent Trade Training School... modern gymnasium... (overall) an excellent effort.

There is correspondence over financial assistance for new buildings.

Swan Homes Anglican Orphanage – general inspections, 1947–60 [63 pages] K403, W59/117

This contains numerous reports of inspections at the three homes, Coogee, Padbury and the original institution near Midland Junction which operated as the 'Swan Homes' under the Anglican Church. Over many years, the Superintendent was Mr A R Peterkin. These places, though less prestigious than Fairbridge and much less in the public eye than Brother F P Keaney's Clontarf and (later) Bindoon, represented contemporary Western Australian child care at its best. The reports consistently support this observation: the husband and wife teams in key management roles; adequate female staff with the younger boys; the homely atmosphere and small numbers at Padbury and Coogee; the co-educational aspect; the sensitivity to keeping family groups together. There is correspondence in the file over the role of the more isolated Padbury, 28 miles from Perth near the Great Eastern Railway. The Home Office insisted that no British children should be sent there straight after arrival; otherwise there was little for Child Welfare or Immigration Departments to argue about.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–65

D400

Recorded by:

1948–66: Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)

Adelaide 435 metres

Child Migration – Brighton Babies Home, 1948–51

D400, SA1951/7105

The Salvation Army

It was the Salvation Army among the Protestant churches which was most involved with promoting migration, including youth migration, before World War II. The Salvation Army was founded in London by William Booth, a Methodist minister, who severed his connection with that denomination and set out as an independent evangelist. A tent meeting conducted by Booth in 1865 on a disused burial ground in Whitechapel – a desperately deprived area – marked the beginning of what was to become 'The Christian Mission'.

The Salvation Army evolved from this mission in 1878 and spread rapidly throughout the United Kingdom and worldwide. In the militant mood of the times, the newly established Salvation Army declared war on sin and poverty and formulated its structure on military lines. Consequently military titles and phraseology were adopted and are still used for its 'officers' (full-time ordained ministers) and 'soldiers' (lay men and women).

William Booth was deeply concerned about the grinding poverty in London and in a book called *In Darkest England and the Way Out*, 1890, Booth found the solution for the 'submerged tenth' of the population in emigration. The people should be given agricultural training and then sent out to British colonies. The colonies were 'pieces of Britain distributed around the world' so the emigrant would be quite at home.

The Salvation Army was assisting people to emigrate to Canada late in the nineteenth century, some of whom were young men trained on their Hadleigh Farm Colony in Essex and then helped to settle in Canada. The numbers grew substantially and by the turn of the century this organisation was playing a major role in the emigration of children and continued to do so until World War I.

After the war and during the 1920s, the Salvation Army directed migrants to Australia. By this stage its efforts were directed to assisting families and settling farm boys, especially in Queensland. The Army worked closely with the Royal Colonial Institute and the Oversea Settlement Department within the Dominions Office. In Queensland, it established the special training camp at Riverview near Brisbane to give the farm boys some prior training. After-care was thorough and effective. The peak came in the late 1920s when on four separate occasions, the Salvation Army chartered the vessel *Vedic* to transport its emigrants from Britain to Australia.

After World War II, the Salvation Army as other religious denominations, was anxious to cooperate with the Government's mass migration policy. In 1948, Brigadier Winton took Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell, on a tour of the Riverview property which had become run-down during the war years. Winton hoped to make it a centre for child migrants but his understanding was that the 'child migrants' would be young men over fourteen years of age, more youth migrants for farm training. The Salvation Army was not involved with child migration, strictly defined, after the war.

Time passed; the Salvation Army organisation in Britain had cooled towards youth migration; renovations at Riverview took time; and the Big Brother Movement had become the organisation for youth migration. In the end only a few youth migrants, fewer than one hundred, passed through Riverview during the 1950s, and by the 1960s the Salvation Army was using the place for other purposes.

The Salvation Army's contribution to assisted immigration occurred mainly in the 1920s. The records provide some idea of the range of Army activities, but probably understate their impact. The main emphasis is on policy, finance, training and after-care; there is little to assist genealogists.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903-38

A1

Recorded by:

1932-38: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)**Canberra 337.14 metres****Salvation Army on Migration Activities, 1937 [28 pages] A1, 1937/10056**

This contains an attractive 20-page booklet 'Empire Migration and Settlement', 1937 which sets out the Salvation Army's policy and achievements in promoting migration, including the encouragement of child and youth migration. On policy, General W Booth had written, 1903:

I hold that Migration... (1) Must be advantageous to the country which the migrant leaves; (2) Must be acceptable to the country receiving the migrant; (3) Must be beneficial to the migrant... and to fail in any of these conditions is to fail in all'. The migration of boys was discussed on p. 17 in these terms: 'The Salvation Army's scheme of migration for boys includes a short training in elementary agriculture on their Hadleigh (Essex) farms under ideal conditions... Boys are also accepted for training at the Salvation Army farms at Riverview near Brisbane, and at Putaruru in New Zealand. Such boys are not given the training at Hadleigh, although they are assembled there for a short testing prior to embarkation. Overall, 6 000 boys have been trained.

General Evangeline Booth sent a copy of the brochure to the Minister of the Interior, 14 May 1937:

We trust these principles will find favour with delegates to the Imperial Conference.

R H Wheeler studied the booklet and wrote a memorandum for the Minister, 14 July 1937, which included:

The forte of the Army was the attention paid to after-care... the Commonwealth was singularly fortunate in the selection of Salvation Army officers who controlled migration activities at this end... Brigadier Imrie and Brigadier Wright.

The Prime Minister commended the Army for its brochure and its long assistance with migration.

Salvation Army: Introduction from Holland of youths for farm work and domestic workers, 1938 [c.100 pages] A1, 1938/8207

The Salvation Army Secretary for Migration, Mr O Culshaw wrote to Commissioner W R Dalziel on 3 March 1938:

At the request of Commissioner Vlas, the Territorial Commander for Holland, I went to Amsterdam a few days ago to discuss with Dutch authorities the question of emigration of Dutch nationals to Australia.

These suggestions and impressions were passed on to the Ministry for the Interior when Colonel Howard interviewed the Minister on 12 April regarding Salvation Army migration activities in general, including the proposal to bring some people from the Netherlands. Mr T H Garrett, wrote a short memorandum after the interview for the file:

The Minister indicated that under the migration policy the Commonwealth would welcome the introduction of Dutch people of non-Jewish race.

Howard was to place his proposal in writing. There are many copies of Howard's subsequent detailed proposal in the file. On 10 June 1938, Garrett replied. The Government approved the Salvation Army plan including the introduction of youths between 15 and 18 years of age for farm work:

The migrants introduced were not to be of Jewish race, and the Army was to be responsible for their reception, placement and after-care... and the repatriation to Holland of any who proved unsuitable during their first five years in Australia.

The war intervened before the plan could be placed into effect.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50**A461****Recorded by:****1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 143.82 metres****Immigration – Salvation Army, 1921–28 [c.150 pages] A461, F349/1/1**

This does not concern child migration, and only to a limited extent, youth migration. There is a copy of the agreement between His Majesty's Government and the Salvation Army, 19 August 1927 relating to migration and settlement in Australia of single women, boys, families, widows with families; the training of boys in Queensland; and the training of boys in the UK with a view to their migration as farm workers in Australia. There is the discussion of future subsidy arrangements with the Salvation Army; and a copy of *The Homeland Club Review*, October 1928 – a journal for the migrants sailing on the *Vedic*. There are two folios regarding the renewal of Salvation Army migration efforts in Queensland during the late 1930s.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1923–34**A458****Recorded by:****1923–34: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 49.77 metres****Immigration encouragement – Salvation Army, Financial 1923–27 [43 pages]
A458, J154/**

Much of this concerns discussions over Government subsidies to assist the immigration work of the Salvation Army. In a memorandum of 1 April 1924, the Deputy Director, Commonwealth Immigration Office, wrote:

... the only outside organisation handling migration to Australia in any effective way is the Salvation Army... invaluable work in after-care and welfare of migrants... recommend the £1500 grant... faithful service... wise expenditure.

However, not all agreed. Senator Wilson wrote to the Prime Minister, 15 April 1924:

... the claims of the Army are extravagant.

Meanwhile, the Oversea Settlement Committee (UK) was willing to pay half the ascertained cost of after-care up to a maximum of £3 per migrant: 1 140 migrants. In the end, the Salvation Army received £1,500 per year, 10% of passage money loans its officers collected, £5 per head for each boy received at Riverview and a further grant of £500 towards publicity and other expenses promoting migration in the UK. Three years later, the subsidy was reviewed.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'B' (CHILD ENDOWMENT)
PREFIX, 1904–74****A885****Recorded by:****1951–72: Department of Social Services (CA 32)****Canberra 7.92 metres****Salvation Army Homes Queensland – Institution, 1941–52 [c.100 pages]
A885, B96**

This concerns the recognition of Salvation Army homes in Queensland for the purposes of the Child Endowment Act, 1 October 1941. There is little material on Riverview or youth migration.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1926–30**CP211/2****Recorded by:****1926–30: Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)****Canberra 23.94 metres****Training – Hadleigh – Salvation Army, 1927 [6 pages] CP211/2, 74/9**

There are five black and white photos of the training the young men received at the Riverview training farm, and a booklet about the training they received at the Hadleigh farm, Essex Solving an Empire Problem, Part 1. Otherwise, the unsigned, undated report by a Welfare Officer on the Manilius is unsympathetic to the Army. The Welfare Officer gleaned his view after talking to 40 boys who were en route to Australia. He wrote of the regimen at Hadleigh, inter alia:

All the boys migrated under Salvation Army auspices have to go through the six weeks or more training at Hadleigh... some lads had prior farming experience... proselytising... money matters unsatisfactory... [On the other hand] a large proportion of boys applying at Australia House through the Labour Exchanges are below the standards of weight and height for age... they droop, slouch and smoke too much... for them, farm training is desirable.

There is no comment on this report in the file.

Training – Riverview Farm – Salvation Army, 1927 [14 pages] CP211/2, 74/12

There is a copy of: Munro, J 'Snatched from the Grip of Giant Despair' in the War Cry, 19 February 1927, p. 3 containing much of the Salvation Army's philosophy surrounding migration. The article commences:

'Charlie' was a Sunderland lad, 16 years of age... On the liner Vedic, the party sailed from London on December 17, and Charlie's heart was gay with hope and strong in the knowledge of sin forgiven.

There is correspondence between L S Amery, the British Migration Representative in Australia, and Lord Stonehaven, the Governor-General, on the training and settlement of boys in Queensland. Government tended to be satisfied with the Army's work. On 20 May 1927, Mr A J Jones, the Acting Premier in Queensland wrote to the Lieutenant-Governor in Brisbane:

The Queensland Government has agreed to contribute to the Salvation Army one half the cost of the reception and settlement expenses of 100 boys per annum to be introduced by the Salvation Army and given agricultural training at the Riverview farm.

A useful three-page summary of the Government's funding for Riverview follows. There are 'Notes on Salvation Army Training Farm for Boys at Riverview, Queensland', which includes:

The two dormitories are light, airy, lofty and exquisitely clean... lecture rooms... night lectures... by Government experts... the boys have acquitted themselves very creditably at a subsequent examination... [Riverview was formerly used for the retraining of delinquent lads]... duration of the training is for three to four months... letters received from the boys already placed in work were not satisfactory... 2/6 per week pocket money... the boys' fares from the farm to their first jobs are paid by the Salvation Army... they are placed in the same district which facilitates after-care and visiting... the approved quota is (now) sixty lads per annum.

On 8 March 1927, an official wrote 'Supplementary Notes' in the file which have a more critical tone.

Migration – Salvation Army boys, 1927 [27 pages] CP211/2, 53/83

This concerns financial arrangements between the Salvation Army and governments; and between the Army and the migrants whom it was assisting to settle in Australia. On 1 April 1927, Mr T C Macnaghten (OSC), wrote to Salvation Army Commissioner, D C Lamb:

The Oversea Settlement Committee is concerned at the Salvation Army practice of requiring the boys to repay part of their passage money... over two years... this is too long... it is not voluntary... it violates the Empire Settlement Act.

Otherwise, and pending negotiations on this, HMG did intend to renew the agreements made under the Act. There are summaries of the agreements made

between the Army and the several governments. The general sense of the other correspondence is that the Salvation Army was doing a fine job of introduction and after-care, but may be being overpaid for the fine task which is being performed.

Migration – Salvation Army girls, 1927 [2 pages] CP211/2, 53/84

There are two letters here, both from Brigadier James Imrie to the Development and Migration Commission regarding photos which he has sent them of 'young girls' which the Salvation Army has assisted to migrate to Western Australia. He wrote on 23 June 1927: 'What fine types of girls we are bringing into the country!'



British youth migrants at the Salvation Army Training Farm for Boys at Riverview, Queensland, having just completed the building of a dam, and learning how to mount and ride a horse, c. 1927. NAA: CP211/2, 74/9b (top); CP211/2, 74/9e (bottom)

Training – Riverview, 1927–28 [32 pages] CP211/2, 74/39

The first item is a 10-page reprint of an article, 'Riverview Training Farm', from the *Australasian*, 3 September 1927, which gives a very positive view of the establishment. There are lists of the boys who arrived under Salvation Army auspices on the *Ormonde*, 11 July 1927, and the names and addresses of first employers (after training); and similarly for boys who arrived on the *Vedic*, 7 December 1927; and those on the *Beltana* who arrived 25 April 1928 and those on the *Esperance Bay* who reached Riverview on 27 August 1928. There is correspondence about Patrick Walsh, who drowned two days after his arrival at Riverview. Otherwise, there is sundry correspondence on financial matters, and a comparison between Riverview and the NSW Government Training Farm, Scheyville, via Windsor which prepared Dreadnought boys for the land.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1922–68**A445****Recorded by:****1951–55: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 22.5 metres****Riverview Boys Home – Queensland – Salvation Army, Part 1, 1948–50
[c.150 pages] A445, 133/2/49**

In August 1948 Brigadier W Winton wrote to Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, regarding reviving youth migration at Riverview in Queensland. Calwell replied, 9 September 1948:

You will appreciate that any scheme of child migration by voluntary organisations must be controlled closely because of the possibility of the exploitation of the children.

At this point, Colonel Dean of the Army's Public Relations had to write to Calwell that 'Brigadier Winton is a Retired Officer and has absolutely no authority to represent us or to act for us in this matter'. Meanwhile, on 27 September 1948, the Salvation Army lodged Group Nominations 'for 36 males up to 15 years of age for training at Riverview Farm' with the CMO, Brisbane, Mr H Longland. He was advised by Sir Tasman Heyes, 26 October, that:

... when a voluntary organisation (such as the Salvation Army) revives its interest in child migration after the lapse of a number of years, it is desirable for a report to be submitted as to the present circumstances and capacity of the organisation (now) to accommodate, train and care for its proposed nominees.

An inspection was arranged promptly and Mr R Minto reported, 18 October that the Army was interested in taking youths for farm training, not child migration as such, and that:

... they are not prepared to pay wages to boys during training, but would like the Government to make some allowance to both their organisation and the boys... discipline is strict.

This strictness was related to the presence of some delinquent lads at Riverview, and on these grounds, the British High Commission Secretary, Mr W Garnett, indicated that Riverview could not be considered an 'approved organisation' until the young delinquents were sent elsewhere. It was at this stage that State Child Welfare Department Secretary, W D Smith, commented that Queensland delinquents would compare favourably with any British trainees 'as to character and intelligence'. Understandably, there were delays in granting Riverview 'approved status'. There is much correspondence over this delay and tactful arrangements to pacify the British High Commission over Mr Smith's comments. As Mr A L Nutt, Immigration Department commented:

In this clash of personalities the interests of Queensland in securing child migrants do not seem to be well served by its State officers.

Meanwhile, necessary renovations were occurring at Riverview, promises were made that delinquent and subnormal boys would be removed and Mr W Garnett

agreed, 31 January 1950, to raise no objections to Riverview being approved as a place suitable for the reception of British child migrants.

CASE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1946–**J25****Recorded by:****1946–74: Department of Immigration, Qld Branch (CA 958)****Brisbane 1652.67 metres****Child Migration – Child and Youth Organisations and Salvation Army
Riverview, 1947–62 [c.250 pages] J25, 1958/3052**

The Salvation Army was involved with youth migration during the 1920s, and in August 1948 Brigadier W Winton of the Army's Sydney office wrote to Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell whom he obviously knew well to say that he had inspected the Army's home at Riverview and felt that it could be modernised to take farm trainees, boys 14–18 years of age, not schoolchildren, (ie child migrants). An inspection at Riverview was arranged, 18 October 1948: it was being used to care for delinquents and some intellectually-handicapped children and was somewhat run-down. Mr W Garnett at the British High Commission commented, 27 October 1948:

Overall the scheme is good... but reports are not too happy... All the [church] authorities appear to be rushing into this business [child migration] without first getting their houses in order to receive migrants... not prepared to approve Riverview... the delinquents and intellectually handicapped would have to go first.

Time passed – two years almost, during which renovations were commenced at Riverview and the Salvation Army began canvassing for suitable boys in the UK for the scheme. In April 1950, Sir Tasman Heyes noted that the Army was having difficulties recruiting suitable young men and renovations at Riverview were proceeding slowly. Newspaper cuttings sympathetic to the scheme are scattered through the file. The formal opening of the Riverview renovations occurred on 19 August 1950, by which time eight boys were 'on the water' bound for Queensland. There were problems on board with some of the boys – the Surgeon on SS Chitral reported of one:

How this boy ever managed to obtain a berth on this ship remains a mystery.

During the 1950s, fewer than one hundred boys came to Riverview under the Salvation Army scheme, and by 1960 the Army had to consider other options for Riverview. The agreement with the British Government was terminated.

The Methodist Church

The Methodist Church had not been closely involved in juvenile migration during the interwar period. However, in 1938–39 some 37 children were sent from the National Children's Homes to the Lady Northcote Farm School, Glenmore, Victoria.

In 1948, the soon-to-retire President of the National Children's Homes, Rev. J H Litten, after a long and distinguished career, was allowed a three-month pre-retirement trip to Australia to visit his married daughter and check on the possibilities for child migration through various Methodist orphanages. Litten had been a member of the 1944 Curtis Committee on Child Care.

Litten was wonderfully impressed with the prospects in Australia for the children and on his return to London arranged for the National Children's Homes to prepare

a large disused rectory at Alverstoke near Portsmouth to receive parties of children prior to their embarkation. No one Methodist home in Australia was large enough to take many children; negotiations had to proceed with four institutions, each of which would take a few. Meanwhile, Litten retired and emigrated to Australia where he died suddenly in 1954.

Litten's successor as President of the NCH, Rev. J Waterhouse, and some others of the executive were not enthusiastic about sending the children. However, some plans had been made and eventually, between 1950 and 1954, 91 children emigrated in small parties to Australia and were spread among four Methodist homes in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50 **A461**

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Methodist Homes for Children, WA, 1939 [8 pages] A461, N349/1/7

On 2 April 1939, Mr T W Bindemann, Manager of the Methodist homes, wrote to the Prime Minister offering to commence a child migration scheme:

At Victoria Park... there is a Home for upwards of 50 children of both sexes, whilst at Werribee, there is a Farm Training School for boys accommodating thirty children... we are prepared to erect buildings to accommodate a further thirty boys and desire your approval to a scheme such as that which has been so successfully carried out by the Roman Catholic Church (bringing) orphaned boys from Great Britain.

The Secretary, Department of the Interior supported the scheme on the same lines as other similar schemes, and Bindemann replied thanking the Government for its encouragement, 12 June 1939:

I am expecting further correspondence from England within a few weeks which ought to clarify the position.

There the matter rested; the war intervened before anything further could be arranged.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–65 **D400**

Recorded by:

1948–66: Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)

Adelaide 435 metres

Methodist Children's Homes, 1949–50 [34 pages] D400, SA1955/8735

The initiative to interest the National Children's Home in child migration after the war came from the Lady Northcote Home, Victoria to which the NCH had sent 33 boys and four girls before the war. The soon-to-retire President of the NCH, the Rev. J H Litten, visited Australia and attempted to interest the Methodist Church in child migration. The file presumes this background. On 27 April 1949, the Methodist Church General Emigration Committee agreed to despatch a party of 50 children and four escorts 'in the autumn' to four separate Methodist orphanages in Australia, Dalmar (Sydney), Cheltenham (Victoria), Magill (South Australia) and the Methodist Girls Home in Perth. At this stage the Magill home was not 'an approved institution' but the official inspection in July 1949 found everything 'very satisfactory... small numbers... boys and girls... three separate houses... state school opposite the orphanage... homely atmosphere'. Correspondence from the Rev. S Forsyth, Superintendent at Magill outlined plans to construct four new cottages and stressed

that his organisation's financial position was 'sound'. However the arrival of the first party of children filled the available places in the Methodist homes and by mid-1950 no new children could be accepted until new building occurred. Meanwhile, the NCH in the UK was turning against child migration in principle.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953– A446

Recorded by:

1953–74: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 3346.4 metres

**Methodist Childrens Home, Magill, SA, 1948–55 [c.150 pages] A446,
1956/67274**

The Methodist Church Committee on Migration (Australia) appealed on 23 January 1948 to Arthur Calwell, Immigration Minister, for a grant to extend the accommodation at Magill to receive child migrants from the National Children's Home in England. There was capacity for 48 children at Magill. The submission stressed the problems the Methodist Church had in receiving British children: its homes in Australia catered for small numbers and could take only a few overseas children; there were many committees to consult, separated by vast distances, and in South Australia, Premier Tom Playford refused to give a building permit to extend the home at Magill in view of the extreme housing shortage in the state. A memorandum for the Secretary, Department of Immigration, from Australia House dated 11 October 1949 mentioned that:

Rev. J H Litten has prepared and furnished a large hostel, a former rectory, at Alverstoke near Portsmouth, with the intention of gathering together the fifty children whom he hopes to send as a first party.

Meanwhile, on 26 April 1949 the Magill institution was recognised as an 'approved Home' for the reception of child migrants. Sir Tasman Heyes wrote to the Director of Immigration (State Government), Adelaide, 28 February 1950:

The UK authorities prefer to handle the matter of maintenance payments for voluntary organisations in this country through a parent body in England.

Otherwise, the correspondence refers to problems mentioned already. By 1955, an internal memo at Australia House summarised the position for the Methodist Homes:

Recruitment prospects are poor; the CMO, London advised that the position of the NCH has been fully explored and unless their attitude changes, there is no likelihood of them submitting children for this or any other Methodist Home.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1959–73 K403

Recorded by:

1959–73: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)

Perth 49.56 metres

Methodist Home, Victoria Park – policy, c.1959–84 K403, W59/102

**Methodist Home, Victoria Park – equipment allowance, c.1959–84 K403,
W59/103**

**Methodist Home, Victoria Park – Government financial assistance, c.1959–84
K403, W59/104**

**Methodist Home, Victoria Park – general inspections, c.1959–84 K403,
W59/105**

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, 1945–50**PP6/1****Recorded by:****1945–50: Department of Immigration, WA Branc (CA 962)****Perth 20 metres****Methodist Home. Application for [status as] approved institution, 1950–51
PP6/1, 1950/H/2803**

The Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church was involved in child migration in a small way and for a few years only. In 1947, prominent members of the Church in Tatura, northern Victoria purchased a country mansion at Dhurringile in October 1947 for use by British child migrants. The mansion already had an exotic history, most recently as a prisoner of war camp and internment centre.

The home was administered by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and was that denomination's only foray into child migration. The youngsters were sought from the welfare services of the Church of Scotland and the Quarrier Homes at Bridge-of-Weir near Glasgow. Quarrier had sent many children to Canada before World War I and during the 1920s.

The first 29 boys arrived in December 1950 and for a few years some 50 boys were in residence. Thereafter, numbers dropped rapidly and the venture was ended in 1964.

Child and youth migration under the direct auspices of the Presbyterian Church was small-scale. The files reflect this, and those who arrived and those who cared for them are probably all mentioned somewhere among this material.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1951–55**A445****Recorded by:****1951–55: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 22.5 metres****United Protestants Association of NSW 'Melrose', 1951–53 [c.100 pages]
A445, 133/2/51**

In 1951, the United Protestant Association was anxious to make its facilities available to receive child migrants. Mr T Agst, its General Secretary, informed the Immigration Department that the UPA had received from the Church of England Council of Empire Settlement in London promises to find suitable children for placement in its NSW home, 'Melrose' near Parramatta. Heyes replied that everything would be done to 'secure early recognition of the Melrose Home as suitable for the purpose of child migration'. In the meantime, renovations would be necessary for the 25 British girls for whom application had been sought. There is some correspondence and reports concerning the UPA's plans and the situation of Melrose Home. However, there were delays in securing 'approved status', in gaining a clear idea of the number of children available, and in securing financial assistance from the NSW and Commonwealth Governments for the renovations at Melrose. In

essence, the UPA had come late into the child migration field, the Council of Empire Settlement was having great difficulty in securing suitable children, and there were communication gaps between the Council, the UPA, the Immigration Department and Australia House. This is a more important file than it might appear as it provides the background to the development of the so-called 'One Parent' schemes during the last phase of child migration.

United Protestants Association of NSW – 'Melrose Home', Pendle Hill. Part 3, 1952–55 [c.150 pages] A445, 133/2/117

This overlaps with, and then continues the developments discussed in the previous file. Since the Council of Empire Settlement could not provide the 25 girls which the United Protestant Association sought for Melrose, the UPA indicated on 6 June 1952 that it was quite prepared to accept children who had one parent alive and who planned to follow the children to Australia. Melrose remained empty and the governments 'tentatively approved financial assistance' to render it satisfactory for use. There is much discussion of the arrangements, financial and otherwise, *vis-a-vis* an association such as the UPA and any parents who might arrive in Australia in the wake of their 'child migrants'. Finally, some boys arrived at Melrose in 1953 and there were 14 there by 22 May of that year. One has the impression of incredible work – and some considerable expense – to place so few children in a new child migration venture as the policy was becoming obsolete.

United Protestants Association of NSW, 1945–51 A445, 133/2/50

Dhurringile Farm School for Migrant Boys. Part 1, 1948–50 [c.150 pages] A445, 133/2/25

This opens with Mr A G Harrison, Superintendent of Social Services, Presbyterian Church, writing to the Minister for Immigration, Arthur Calwell on 27 May 1948, saying that the church was interested in bringing child migrants to its property Dhurringile near Tatura, Victoria. An agent of the Presbyterian Church was in Scotland to select suitable boys. Calwell replied encouragingly but indicated the formalities which would have to be satisfied before Dhurringile was accepted as suitable for unaccompanied children. However, time passed with little action. In July 1949, almost a year later, Mr Harrison wrote to Calwell:

I have just returned from the Goulburn Valley, the work of migration is gripping the local people... we hope, ultimately, to make Dhurringile a Farm College for migrant boys.

However, in August there was a further setback. Mr A Duncan arrived back from Scotland 'without any boys or the promise of them'; nor was the place yet recognised as an 'approved institution' for the reception of child migrants. Moreover, the property required extensive renovations and there is much discussion over these and their cost among the correspondence. Mr R H Wheeler, an officer of the Immigration Department wrote, 8 November 1949:

in view of the past activities, or inactivities, of the Presbyterian Church in regard to the recruiting of 25 boys for Benmore (WA), it is extremely doubtful whether any large numbers can be recruited in the UK for Dhurringile.

Finally, almost another year passed before 'approved status' was gained and close to the end of the file is a cutting from The Age (Melbourne), 9 December 1950 noting the imminent arrival of the first party of boys for Dhurringile.

Dhurringile Farm School for Migrant Children. Part 2, 1950–53 [c.200 pages] A445, 133/2/106

The first folio lists the 22 boys who sailed on the MV Cheshire from London for Dhurringile and requests the equipment allowance for each. Much of the correspondence concerns the efforts of the Presbyterian Church to recruit child migrants, a task which proved exceptionally difficult and often unrewarding. Rev. L L Cameron, Chair of the Church of Scotland Committee on Emigration, explained on 22 January 1951, to Australia House:

The response to enquiries regarding the availability of children for emigration has been poor. Young children, five to eight years old, for Kildonan Home, Burwood (Victoria) are unlikely to be available in Scotland... in each case the Committee seeks the consent of the Scottish Home Office to the children's emigration... this consent is often withheld in the case of young children on the grounds that they are not old enough to form or express an opinion on the proposal that they should emigrate.

However, some children arrived; there were 31 boys at Dhurringile by March 1952, but few in terms of the financial assistance granted for the renovations on the property. There is a sprinkling of newspaper cuttings around the arrival of the children and the official opening of Dhurringile, 31 July 1951. The remainder of the material concerns considerable effort to recruit child and youth migrants for the Presbyterian homes but with limited success. Rev. A A Bell was in Scotland and Northern Ireland, October to January, 1952–53 but 'the direct response to his work has been very disappointing', Australia House reported to Canberra. An approach was made to Cyril Bavin and the Overseas League for assistance, again without success. There is a copy of the pamphlet, *His Future*, concerned with Dhurringile.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1959–73

K403

Recorded by:

1959–73: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)

Perth 49.56 metres

Benmore Presbyterian Home – policy, c.1959–84 K403, W59/77

Benmore Presbyterian Home – equipment allowance, 1961 K403, W59/78

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, 1945–50

PP6/1

Recorded by:

1945–50: Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)

Perth 20 metres

Presbyterian Children's Home Council, 1948–53 PP6/1, 1950/H/1361

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–65

D400

Recorded by:

1948–66: Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)

Perth 435 metres

Morialta Protestant Childrens Home Inc., 1956 D400, SA1956/5708

CASE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1946–

J25

Recorded by:

1946–74: Department of Immigration, Qld Branch (CA 958)

Brisbane 1652.67 metres

Marsden Home for Migrant Children, Kallangur, Qld, 1950 J25, 1959/5346

Shaftesbury Homes – General File, 1946–66 J25, 1953/6188

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1951–56**A462****Recorded by:****1951–55: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 52.93 metres****Proposed Establishment Child Migrant Organisation – Shaftesbury Homes,
1951–56 A462, 663/7**

Jewish child migration

The Australian Jewish Welfare Society was born of an initial ad hoc response to the persecution of Jews in Germany under the Nuremberg laws in 1935. Mr S S Cohen and other New South Wales Jewish community leaders met on 18 March 1936 to plan an association to assist Jewish refugees, families and single adults, to emigrate to Australia.

Over the months, December 1938 to September 1939, nearly 7 500 Jewish German and Austrian children were moved to Britain. Meanwhile, the AJWS established a children's home, 'Larino' in an old mansion in Maleela Avenue, Balwyn, Victoria. The place could accommodate 40 children and it was planned they would stay only three months before being fostered. In fact, only 17 children reached Melbourne before the war commenced. These arrived on the Orama on 24 July 1939.

In regard to Jewish refugee children, the AJWS applied in 1939 for permission to introduce 750 orphaned children from central Europe. The Society would be responsible for the transport, reception and after-care of the children, many of whom it was considered would be fostered by Australian families. Approval was given to introduce 250 orphaned German children. However, the AJWS experienced difficulty in obtaining orphaned children and only 19 were selected; most children were able to proceed to the United States with fewer problems. As a result of further representations to the Australian Government, approval was given in December 1939 for the introduction of 50 refugee children – not necessarily orphans, and in May 1940 for the introduction of 100 Dutch or Belgian Jewish children between 7 and 14 years of age. However, there was no transport available to bring the children; submarines made the passage unsafe.

In fact, it was not until 1947, in the context of a general resumption of child migration that small numbers of Jewish children arrived in Australia. Meanwhile, another Jewish organisation, the Jewish Welfare Guardian Society, had commenced in 1938 to sponsor youth migration for rural work. John Wars was the principal organiser, and he modelled his scheme on the Big Brother Movement. Wars met Sir Richard Linton to discuss his plan in December 1938. In that year the Guardian Society brought 20 young men from Germany to Australia via the Kitchener camp in England. All were placed in Dookie or Longerenong agricultural training colleges in Victoria, but war intervened and 17 of the 20 served with the AIF.

After the war, the Guardian Society continued its youth migration work and had 67 boys under its care by December 1949. In 1954, the two Jewish societies involved with child and youth migration merged. Although individual children had arrived earlier, the first group of 26 orphan survivors sponsored by the AJWS arrived in Melbourne on the Radnik on 1 February 1948. They were placed at 'Larino', soon to be renamed 'Frances Barkman House'. During the 1950s, some young men continued to arrive – survivors of the Belsen and Buchenwald concentration camps. They were older teenagers and more youth than child migrants. In fact, Jewish child migration to Australia was small-scale; most young survivors of Nazi persecution went to the United States.

The substantial body of archival records is out of proportion to the small number of Jewish child and youth migrants who arrived in Australia. The records cover the issues in detail, and there is material that will be of some interest to family historians.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38

A1

Recorded by:

1932–38: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Canberra 337.14 metres

Australian Jewish Welfare Society. Proposal regarding Control of Jewish Migration, 1938–39 [45 pages] A1, 1938/23138

Sir Samuel Cohen, President, AJWS, wrote to the Secretary, Department of the Interior, 6 September 1938:

It is suggested that all applications from Jewish persons overseas for permits to reside in Australia be submitted (first) to the AJWS.

The department did not acquiesce fully in this. While this provides background, including the tone of anti-Semitism in the Department of Interior, the file does not concern child or youth migration directly.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 2 (RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION), 1939–50

A433

Recorded by:

1939–45: Department of the Interior II (CA 31)

Canberra 12.6 metres

**Polish refugee children in Iran – Question of admission to Australia, 1944–45
A433, 1944/2/5976**

In the wake of the New Zealand Government's taking some 750 Polish children, accompanied by around 140 adults in 1944, the Polish Government-in-exile applied to Australia to take a similar group of refugees from camps in Iran, which the British Government wanted closed. In 'Notes of Interview between the Acting Prime Minister and the Consul-General for Poland, Mr L De Noskowski, 30 November 1944' the latter said:

The British Government has notified the Polish Government that all refugees who have been in Iran for the last two years must be evacuated as soon as possible.

A memorandum, Ministry of the Interior, 11 April 1945, is cautious on the proposal which is rather odd in view of the plans being made for massive child migration after the conclusion of hostilities. The memorandum stresses the transport difficulty and

the possible costs to Australia if any new Polish Government repudiates an agreement to subsidise the refugees. Moreover, 'new government might strongly object to the party being brought to Australia instead of being rehabilitated to Poland'. However, there were no Jews in the party of 669 children and 450 adults, all were Catholics. On the other hand, the only camp available was at Dubbo (NSW), remote from Sydney and in a place difficult to provide staff. In the end this refugee group did not come to Australia. John Curtin, the Prime Minister, wrote to Archbishop Mannix (Melbourne), 14 April 1945 of the confused situation in Poland and the need to leave the question in abeyance for the moment.

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1908–76
A434**

Recorded by:

1939: Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)
1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
1945–50: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 12.45 metres

**Polish Jewish Relief Fund: migration of children, 1937–42 [206 pages] A434,
1941/3/1039**

During 1937, a Melbourne-based Jewish charitable association, the Polish Jewish Relief Fund requested the Australian Government to allow them 'to introduce a number of male Jewish children, preferably orphans, from Poland, lads 14 to 16 years of age, at the rate of some 20 children per annum'. Mr T Paterson, the Minister for the Interior, prepared a memorandum for Cabinet, 1 November 1937 which was very unsympathetic to the proposal:

The Government has never been favourably disposed towards schemes for group migration of aliens... Polish Jews not an attractive proposition... Government should not approve the proposal.

Months passed, and for reasons unclear from the file, the proposal was approved on 7 June 1938 in a letter from J A Carrodus (Ministry of the Interior) to Mr A S Rose, Secretary of the Polish Jewish Relief Fund (PJRF):

The authority is granted on the understanding that, for a period of at least five years after their arrival in Australia, the selected youths will not be allowed to become a charge upon the public.

There is a copy of an undertaking to this effect by the PJRF. There are medical certificates, application forms and photos of the boys proposed for the scheme, some of the documentation being in Polish. The twenty young men arrived in Melbourne on the SS Otranto in the middle of 1939.

**Australian Jewish Welfare Society – Form of Guarantee, 1938–39 [13 pages]
A434, 1948/3/14960**

This concerns guarantees by the AJWS executives regarding the management of their Jewish co-religionists' immigration to Australia and provides background only to child and youth migration.

**Polish Refugee Children – Admission to New Zealand, 1944–47 [27 pages]
A434, 1947/3/4316**

The first item is an extract from the Evening Post (Wellington, NZ) which advised that:

The Acting Prime Minister today said that the New Zealand Government had offered to provide hospitality in New Zealand for a number of Polish refugee children... camp in the Pahiatua area.

The Department of External Affairs provided a short 'Details of Passage Arrangement', 16 November 1944, which noted that the children and the adults accompanying them would be transported by the US troopship, General Randall, returning to America via New Zealand. There are outlines of the arrangements to

receive the children; their welcome; and their acclimatisation to life in the dominion. On 16 July 1946, the Herald (Melbourne) mentioned that 'it is now probable that they will remain in New Zealand and eventually become Dominion citizens'.

Polish Jewish Relief Fund: migration of children, 1937–42 A434, 1941/3/1039

Australian Jewish Welfare Society. Reports regarding condition of Jewish children in Europe, 1944–45 A434, 1944/3/1272

The correspondence in this thin file concerns a report sent to the Secretary, Department of Immigration by Mr W L Brand, General Secretary of the AJWS, 13 December 1944, in which there is the following:

I trust the following information will be of interest to you in your future planning on child migration... I would point out that the Joint Distribution Committee of the USA have agreed to accept responsibility to the US Government and accept 5 000 Jewish children under the US Government's child migration scheme... the Committee works with UNRRA.

Australian Jewish Welfare Society Scheme for Admission of 300 refugee children, Part 1, 1943–46 [c.250 pages] A434, 1949/3/3

The first item is a memorandum for Cabinet by Senator J S Collings, Minister for the Interior, 25 February 1943, requesting fresh authority for the AJWS to 'introduce up to 150 Jewish refugee children who had been cared for by the Catholic Church in Vichy France'. The AJWS agreed that the children selected would be suitable 'of good type and satisfactory as regards physical and mental fitness'; and the Society would, of course, be responsible for their reception and after-care. Notionally, the numbers were raised to 300 children in 1944. There is correspondence over the original 1939 request by the Jewish authorities for Australia to take some refugee children who had arrived in Great Britain. The 'tyranny of distance', the danger of travel and the lack of shipping rendered all the plans and correspondence futile until well after the war. There is some material on the Holocaust and advice from London that the AJWS plans were impracticable for the immediate future. Jewish refugee children in Portugal or Switzerland could gain access to the United States. The file has details of the AJWS appeal for funds to support the Jewish children. However, the shipping difficulty remained acute until late 1947.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1951–55

A445

Recorded by:

1951–55: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 22.5 metres

Admission of Polish Refugee Children in India to Australia, 1946–49 A445, 255/1/8

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1943–44

A989

Recorded by:

1943–44: Department of External Affairs (CA 18)

Canberra 30.6 metres

Polish Child Migration to Australia, 1944 [11 pages] A989, 1944/554/2/5/1

On 1 December 1944, the Polish Government-in-exile requested leave to place 700 Polish refugee children then in Iran in Australia. They were orphans, aged 2 to 16 years of age. The Polish idea was that they would be temporary residents in Australia and this concerned the Ministry of the Interior. An official wrote on the file:

It makes all the difference to Interior's consideration of the request whether the proposal is for temporary asylum or permanent residence. The Poles would be prepared to leave selected children in Australia as permanent residents.

The Interior Department requested details from New Zealand as to how they had handled the refugee Polish children there. There is no decision recorded in this file.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1914–50**A1608****Recorded by:****1939–45: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)****Canberra 20.79 metres****Polish Children from Iran, 1944–46 A1608, AU39/1/3****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1949–58****A439****Recorded by:****1951–52: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 6.66 metres****Australian Jewish Welfare Society, 1952–53 A439, 1952/11/7044****CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1901–92****A442****Recorded by:****1951–52: Department of Immigration (CA 51)****Canberra 8.28 metres****AJWS – Scheme for the administration of 300 refugee children, part 2, 1946–52
[200 pages] A442, 1952/14/693**

The first item concerns correspondence between the President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, regarding the introduction of Jewish child migrants from refugee camps in accordance with the Government's permission granted in January 1943, and in fact, in accordance with permission first offered in 1938. This was a classic case in which war, lack of available shipping, and the 'tyranny of distance' had frustrated good intentions. Calwell replied on 29 June 1946, and after outlining negotiations stretching over eight years stressed that with the 'scarcity of shipping' the Government could do nothing at that time. He mentioned that there was a request from the Jewish Welfare Guardian Society of NSW for permission to bring 100 young men 'for agricultural education'. Calwell seems to be hinting that the two Jewish Welfare Societies should coordinate their activities. Meanwhile material suggests that the Jewish community had collected a large sum of money for 'the reception, maintenance and after-care' of the children, if and when they arrived; and was trying to arrange suitable children with colleagues in Switzerland. The young people originally selected for Australia had gone to the United States which was much easier to access. Finally, on 19 February 1948, the Jewish authorities advised Immigration that some children had arrived and were being placed in private homes. Numbers were small. On 24 January 1951, the Secretary, Child Welfare Department, Melbourne advised that he had 19 Jewish minors on the Department's records, and most were 'youth' rather than 'child' migrants.

CASE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1946–

J25

Recorded by:

1946–74: Department of Immigration, Qld Branch (CA 958)

Brisbane 1652.67 metres

Australian Jewish Welfare Society, 1949 J25, 1949/4175

The Children's Overseas Reception Board Scheme

During 1940, at one of the darkest moments of World War II in Europe, some 3 000 British children were evacuated to the dominions, 577 of them to Australia. With hindsight, the sending of over 3 000 children to the dominions to escape the bombing, even at a time when invasion seemed imminent, appears a strange gesture, but it appears to have been the dire circumstances of war that swayed the Children's Overseas Reception Board. The 3 000 children were a minute percentage of the young people in Britain at the time, and it had been hoped to send abroad many more thousands of children.

In mid-1940, with French resistance to the German attack collapsing and the invasion of Britain likely, plans to evacuate children from British cities were accelerated. Hundreds of thousands were moved to rural areas. However, some wished to emigrate children to greater safety overseas. On 17 June, in the wake of the Dunkirk rescue of 320 000 British troops from France, Geoffrey Shakespeare, Secretary of the Dominions Office, brought a plan to the War Cabinet to move thousands of children to Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Apart from the obvious arguments, Shakespeare stressed that many rich families could and had sent their children to safety overseas. His plan was to offer such an option to poorer households, and he urged that good sense advised that the fewer people there were to feed in Britain the better at such a time.

The Cabinet discussed the issue but their debate was interrupted when an aide brought a message to the Prime Minister that the French Government had decided to surrender. The discussion on the Children's Overseas Reception Board scheme ended and discussion moved to more urgent matters. The Cabinet Secretary noted 'approved' in the minutes of the Cabinet meeting and Shakespeare went back to his office to get the evacuation moving.

Over the next four weeks the 3 000 children were despatched, most of them to Canada but two ships carrying children, the *Volendam* and the *City of Benares*, were torpedoed, the latter with the loss of 77 children. The scheme was aborted forthwith as too risky, but 577 children eventually arrived in Australia.

It was understood that the children would remain overseas for the duration of the war, hence the children in Australia stayed five to six years. Most were back in the UK by February 1946, though 14% of those in Australia elected to remain and many more came back as migrants after their initial return to Britain.

The Overseas Children Scheme (Australian terminology) or the Children's Overseas Reception Board Scheme (British terminology) is often rated favourably

by comparison with postwar child migration. There has never been the same controversy over its workings or results.

The voluminous files give a thorough coverage of the Overseas Children Scheme and should be of interest both to historians and genealogists, and to former CORB children and their relatives. Because of the special circumstances of their arrival, these children were assisted more carefully than was common with child migrants. This is reflected in the records.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASSIFIED SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH ALPHABETICAL PREFIX, 1920–52 A2908

Recorded by:

**1930–52: Australian High Commission, London (CA 241)
Canberra 27.18 metres**

**Childrens Overseas Reception Board Nominal Rolls, 1940 A2908,
M54 ANNEX**

**CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL PASSPORTS), 1939–1970
A659**

Recorded by:

**1939–45: Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)
Canberra 101.25 metres**

Overseas Children Scheme – Evacuation of physically defective children overseas, 1940 [6 pages] A659, 1940/1/7831

This contains a memorandum from Department of Interior officer Mr A R Peters dated 13 November 1940, on a request from the Central Council for the Care of Cripples (London) via the Victorian Society for Crippled Children on the possibilities of Australia taking some of the children for the duration of the war. Peters could see 'difficulties likely to arise' and advised the Minister to express regrets that it was impossible to assist. The request arrived after the CORB scheme had been 'temporarily' abandoned, in the sense that no future parties of children were being despatched because of the submarine menace.

Overseas Children Scheme – Record of custodians and children (Western Australia), 1940–43 [c.120 pages] A659, 1943/1/4132

The first item is an acknowledgement from the Department of the Interior of the receipt of detailed reports from the Overseas Children's Reception Committee. These are entitled 'Progress Report on the welfare of children who arrived in this State on the ships *Batory*, *Nestor* and *Diomed*'. Each home taking a child was visited personally by the Chairman and Secretary; there are detailed reports on the children throughout 1941. These would be very useful for CORB children interested in exploring this phase of their lives. The second detailed report is dated, 16 September 1941:

War conditions make it such that the children were not as advanced as Australian children of their own age [but]... responding well... the children greatly appreciate the fortnightly broadcasts from their parents... we still have several difficult cases... but we have matters well in hand.

By 1943 it was becoming difficult to find new homes for CORB children, who, for one reason or another, required a change of residence.

Overseas Children Scheme – Financial assistance from the Australian Universities Commission, 1943–44 [17 pages] A659, 1943/1/4703

Some of the children were approaching school leaving age and a small number wished to attend university. Mr E J Pittard wrote to the Registrar, University of Melbourne, 3 August 1943:

... regarding the application for British Evacuee children for financial assistance to attend the University of Melbourne... the custodians cannot be expected to provide university training for children in their care.

The AUC reply was sympathetic but noncommittal; enquiries were made around the states to obtain an idea of numbers which were one to three children per state. In the light of these enquiries, the Australian Universities Commission agreed to drop 'the obligations of such children to continue studies until graduation and to perform national service after graduation'. It was presumed that suitable children would receive scholarships.

Overseas Children Scheme. Record of children and custodians (NSW) Part 1, 1941–44 [c.300 pages] A659, 1944/1/355

There are lists of children who arrived in NSW from the *Batory* and the *Diomed*, together with the names and addresses of their guardians. These are followed by further lists showing the schools each child was to attend with special remarks, and dated December 1940. There are further updated lists for January 1941, and 19 February 1941. On 19 February 1941, the Director, Child Welfare Department sent to the Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior:

... copy of extracts from reports forwarded to Mr W J Garnett, the CORB representative. This schedule completes the first quarter's inspection... and enclosed are a list of transfers, medical reports and changes of addresses pertaining to overseas children.

For the times, the lists are comprehensive and the comments pertinent. These would be very interesting material to a former CORB child, or to relatives searching for personal records.

Overseas Children Scheme – Question of employment of girls in army in India, 1944 [13 pages] A659, 1944/1/846

Army Liaison contacted the Child Welfare Department, Sydney, 9 February 1944, regarding:

... openings... available for the employment of English-born women and girls with the Army in India and Ceylon [Sri Lanka]... preliminary enquiry... the jobs would be of a clerical nature.

The Child Welfare Department replied that it was a matter for the parents and the CORB officers in the UK. The CORB representative in Australia, Mr C Bavin, was contacted. Bavin thought the proposal 'unwise' (8 March 1944) and the Minister for the Interior advised through Mr J Horgan, 14 March 1944, that 'he would not be prepared to release overseas girls from the [Overseas Children] scheme'.

Overseas Children Scheme – Record of children and custodians (Queensland) Part 1, 1940 – 1944 A659, 1944/1/1134**Overseas Children Scheme – Nominations forwarded to London from Queensland, 1940 [97 pages] A659, 1940/1/6453**

On 28 August 1940, the Director, Child Welfare, Queensland advised the Secretary of the Interior of 'a list of names and addresses of children it was planned to send to Queensland and the names of their proposed sponsors'. These lists are in the file. Only a fraction of the children arrived because the scheme was aborted.

Overseas Children Scheme – Question of maintenance of children, 1940–42 [72 pages] A659, 1940/1/7577

Many of the children sent had relatives in Australia and the British parents expected or presumed that they would take the children. The Australian Government was

prepared to give a maximum payment of 10 shillings per week per child, but youngsters were placed where it was hoped the host would maintain the children unaided. T H Garrett at the Department of the Interior wrote in a memorandum, 16 September 1940:

It will be seen that out of a total of 479 children, 317 have been virtually consigned to relatives and friends who have not voluntarily offered to take them.

The Children's Overseas Reception Board agreed that:

... there is no need for the Australian authorities to send children to nominated homes if unable to provide for children and would prefer children to be placed in other homes prepared to take them without payment which is what the Canadian authorities are doing.

Meanwhile, the Australian Government did not expect any British payment during the children's sojourn, as Senator Foll, Minister for the Interior said (16 January 1941):

... it was desired that true Australian hospitality should be extended to these little guests from the Old Country.

Overseas Children Scheme – Report on arrangements in Queensland for reception and placement of children from MV *Batory*, 1940 [9 pages] A659, 1940/1/7621

There is a copy of the Brisbane *Courier*, 18 October 1940, which includes details of the welcome of 35 CORB children to Queensland: 'Brisbane welcomes them with Pineapple'.

There is a copy of the program of the children's concert given on MV *Batory* on 12 October 1940 and a menu from the ship's First Class galley, 8 October 1940. Mr J H Honeysett who travelled with the children from Fremantle, wrote a detailed report for the Minister for the Interior, 22 October 1940, in which he said:

The staff on the train journey from Sydney to Brisbane gave unstinted devotion to the welfare of the children... the children were entertained at stations along the way, Coffs Harbour, Casino and Kyogle... The reception to the children by the people of Queensland was magnificent.

Overseas Children Scheme. Evacuation Scheme for school children, 1939–40 [15 pages] A659, 1941/1/597

This is essentially one document: 'Notes on the British Government Evacuation Scheme for School Children' (in the UK) from September 1939 to May 1940 by Camilla Epps. It is an interesting social document on working class conditions in England at the time. The evacuation proceeded but was riddled with problems: eg

Dirty and verminous children were being placed in clean billets. Many more of the children were found to be verminous than anybody had dreamed of... difficult or unpleasant children were not wanted... Many village people found it hard to realise what war might entail. Many foster parents repented of their offers. Homesickness among the children. Foster parents found themselves confronted by a type of child they had never encountered or even heard of.

Overseas Children Scheme – Transfer of war orphans, 1941–44 [c.200 pages] A659, 1941/1/1261

The first item is correspondence from Mr E D Darby, the President of the British Orphans Adoption Society to the Editor, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 February 1941 advocating the despatch of British war orphans to Australia for adoption. This suggestion arose in the context of the planning of the CORB scheme which was considered at a conference held in London on 18 June 1940, bringing together representatives of the British Government and the dominions. There is a ten-page summary of the Conference of Commonwealth and State Government representatives, Canberra, 27 June 1940 to discuss the question from the Australian end:

Letters are pouring in from people anxious to take a child... offers to take altogether 5000 children... the (separate) question of the transfer of orphans for adoption is now under consideration... people are being carried away with enthusiasm for the project... responsibility involved... the Commonwealth would finance the scheme at the Australian end.

Meanwhile, the BOAS pressed its scheme and there is material on this, including a copy of the Society's constitution and rules. Mr J H Honeysett reported on this scheme on 8 April 1940:

The Society should be informed that it is desirable that the scheme should be submitted to the UK authorities for consideration.

Mr J A Carrodus advised the Official Secretary, UK High Commission that there 'is a strong public feeling in Australia that many homes here would be prepared to adopt orphan children'. Adoption was never part of the CORB scheme. Eventually it was decided that the question of the adoption of war orphans would be considered later.

Overseas Children Scheme – Schedule of Queensland applications, 1940
[56 pages] A659, 1941/1/2207

The Secretary, Department of Immigration wrote to the State Children's Department, Brisbane on 1 July 1940:

In accordance with the decision reached at the recent conference held in Canberra regarding the question of providing homes for overseas children... I forward... applications by residents in your state.

There are names and addresses; and their requests regarding age and sex for a CORB child whom they were willing to foster for the war's duration.

Overseas Children Scheme – Nominations forwarded to London from WA, 1940
A659, 1940/1/6456

Overseas Children scheme – Group of school children to Victoria, 1940
A659, 1940/1/6335

Overseas Children Scheme – Nominations forwarded to London from Tasmania, 1940
A659, 1940/1/6451

Overseas Children Scheme – Victorian police, 1940 **A659, 1940/1/5431**

Overseas Children Scheme – SS Nestor, 1940 – 1940 **A659, 1940/1/6584**

Overseas Children Scheme – Queensland reimbursement claims, 1941
A659, 1941/1/75

Overseas Children Scheme – Evacuation scheme for school children, 1940
A659, 1941/1/597

Overseas Children Scheme – Maintenance of escorts while in Australia, 1941
A659, 1941/1/2707

Overseas Children Scheme – Reimbursement claims, NSW, 1941 **A659, 1941/1/2223**

Overseas Children Scheme – MV Batory, 1940–41 **A659, 1940/1/6582**

Overseas Children Scheme – Nominations forwarded to London from NSW, 1940
A659, 1940/1/6455

Overseas Children Scheme – Nominations forwarded to London from Victoria, 1940
A659, 1940/1/6452

Overseas Children Scheme – Nominations forwarded to London from South Australia, 1940
A659, 1940/1/6454

Overseas Children Scheme – Temporary accommodation, pending placement, 1940
A659, 1940/1/6595

- Overseas Children Scheme – Allocation to States on population basis, 1940
A659, 1940/1/6587**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Appointment of matrons and conductors, 1940–
43 A659, 1940/1/6586**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Financial arrangements and provision of funds,
1940–41 A659, 1940/1/6583**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Discharge of D A L Manning from scheme, 1941
A659, 1941/1/1554**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Immunisation against Diphtheria, WA, 1940
A659, 1940/1/8793**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Inquiry re report of Chicken Pox amongst
children, 1940 A659, 1940/1/8678**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Expenses paid in connection with examination
of children by Dr Park, WA, 1940 A659, 1940/1/8157**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Fund for evacuee children, 1940 A659,
1940/1/7963**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Evacuation of physically defective children
overseas, 1940 A659, 1940/1/7831**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Financial Arrangements and Provision of Funds,
1940–41 [21 pages] A659, 1940/1/6585**
- Senator H S Foll, Minister for the Interior wrote to Prime Minister Menzies, 4 July 1940:
- Cabinet approved an offer to the UK Government to take over and care for 5 000 children... UK Government to pay passages; foster parents to be paid 5/- per week, which amount would be collected from the parents in Great Britain. However, the Australian people did not want payment! Australians would defray all costs after the arrival of the children... State Governments were supporting the scheme whole-heartedly.
- Prime Minister Menzies wrote on the file, 9 July 1940 to the effect that there was not a hard-and-fast limit on nominations, that the expenses would be apportioned between the state and Commonwealth Governments, and that NSW had requested and received £1,000 for additional expenses connected with the arrival of the children.
- Overseas Children Scheme – Visit of J H Honeysett to Perth, 1940
[c.100 pages] A659, 1940/1/6590**
- This concerns the Department of the Interior's plans to meet the MV *Batory* which was bringing a large party of children to Australia. Mr W J Garnett was in charge of the children on the ship. Mr J Honeysett travelled to Western Australia to meet the ship when it arrived at Fremantle and then accompanied the children to the eastern states.
- Overseas Children Scheme – Reimbursement claims, WA, 1941 A659,
1941/1/2756**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Reimbursement claims, Vic, 1941 A659,
1941/1/2724**
- Overseas Children Scheme – Policy – Part 2, 1940–42 A659, 1946/1/4515**

Overseas Children Scheme – Establishment of fund to meet special expenditures, 1942–46 A659, 1946/1/609

Overseas Children Scheme – Nominal rolls, 1940 A659, 1946/1/4518

Overseas Children Scheme – Press cuttings from UK newspapers, 1940 [36 pages] A659, 1940/1/7753

This is precisely what is says – some 50 to 60 newspaper cuttings concerned with the Overseas Children Scheme. The genesis of the CORB is seen in the context of a *Daily Express* (London) report, 18 July 1940, 'Commons row on rich children sent abroad'; and the departure of the children was understandably emotional, 'Evacuees left Singing' (*Evening News*).

Overseas Children Scheme – Interstate transport, 1940 A659, 1940/1/7818

Overseas Children Scheme – London organisation, 1940 A659, 1940/1/7973

Overseas Children Scheme – Motion picture industries scheme, 1940 A659, 1940/1/8052

Overseas Children Scheme – Education problems in England, 1940 A659, 1940/1/8751

Overseas Children Scheme – Exemption from duty on parcels, 1940 A659, 1940/1/7548

Overseas Children Scheme – Policy and application to the Northern Territory, 1940 A659, 1940/1/7688

Overseas Children Scheme – SA – Reimbursement claims, 1941 A659, 1941/1/883

Overseas Children Scheme – Nominal roll – Escorts doctors and nurses, 1941 A659, 1941/1/584

Overseas Children Scheme – Cabling nominations to London, 1940 A659, 1941/1/565

National Security Regulations (Overseas Children) – Discharge of Smith, Anthony Bennett (CORB 318) from Overseas Children Scheme, 1942 A659, 1942/1/5325

Overseas Children Scheme – Periodical report re welfare, 1940–43 A659, 1942/1/5516

Overseas Children Scheme – Record of children and custodians (South Australia), 1940–45 A659, 1944/1/1815

Overseas Children Scheme – Record of children and custodians (Tasmania), 1940–44 A659, 1944/1/4659

Overseas Children Scheme – Clothing allowance, 1940–44 A659, 1944/1/4659

Overseas Children Scheme – Free cabling facilities, 1940–45 A659, 1945/1/5887

**Overseas Children Scheme – Letter of appreciation by Her Majesty the Queen
to custodians of the children, 1943 A659, 1946/1/4516**

**GENERAL AND CLASSIFIED CORRESPONDENCE, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES,
1902– B13**

Recorded by:

Collector of Customs, Melbourne (CA 789)

Melbourne 136 metres

**Children evacuated from the United Kingdom under Overseas Childrens
scheme via MV *Batory*, 1940 B13, 1940/51635**

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50 A461

Recorded by:

1934–50: Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

Canberra 143.82 metres

Migration – Overseas Children Scheme, 1940 [2 pages] A461, O349/1/7

This contains a cable to the Australian High Commission, London to enquire if a particular girl is travelling on the SS *Nestor* to Australia as part of the Overseas Children Scheme.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1945–50 A436

Recorded by:

1945: Department of the Interior (CA 31)

1945–50: Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Canberra 5.04 metres

Overseas Children Scheme – Policy Part 3, 1941–43 A436, 1946/5/2949

**Overseas Children Scheme – British Orphans Adoption Society, 1940–45
A436, 1946/5/308**

**Overseas Children Scheme – Applications for Children by Residents of the
Australian Capital Territory, 1940 A436, 1949/5/6881**

4 Genealogical Sources

The National Archives holds many records which are likely to contain information of interest to those wishing to trace the individual histories of child and youth migrants to Australia. These sources include records such as immigration case files (usually known as migrant selection documents), ships passenger lists, ships nominal rolls and naturalisation files. Essentially, the records held by the National Archives relating to individual child and youth migrants relate to their entry to Australia rather than to their day-to-day care once they had they arrived.

A number of the policy and administrative files described in Chapter 3 contain lists of names and other details of individual child or youth migrants. In some instances these records are likely to be important sources for genealogical research. Each of these types of records is described later in this chapter.

In addition to consulting the records of the National Archives described in this chapter, it may be necessary for researchers to consult the holdings of a number of other archives and institutions in order to locate all the available records on a particular child or youth migrant. For much of the twentieth century the administration of Australian migration programs was the responsibility of the Australian State governments. Details of relevant holdings of these institutions are listed in Appendix 4. And because the migrants were almost exclusively leaving from the United Kingdom, there may be embarkation records in the United Kingdom Public Record Office. Further details are also listed in Appendix 4.

Because the day-to-day care of child migrants who came to Australia remained with the charitable or religious bodies which ran the migration programs, detailed information about the care of individual child and youth migrants will not normally be found in Commonwealth or State Government archives; rather, it will be found in the records of the religious and charitable bodies which ran the homes and orphanages in which the children lived. Details of the holdings and contact addresses for these institutions are listed in Appendix 4.

Child migration was a separate category from youth migration or juvenile migration. Child migrants were apparently-abandoned, illegitimate, poverty-stricken children of primary school age who were usually in care in the United Kingdom before their despatch to Australia. On arrival in Australia, child migrants were placed in care (ie in children's homes or orphanages) for further training before placement in employment. Many of these children, separated from their parents and familiar surroundings, suffered from the disruption and dislocation, and this part of a family history can be a distressing one to uncover. On the other hand, youth (or juvenile) migrants were 15 to 19-year-olds who came from ordinary family backgrounds and made their own decisions to come to Australia, often to work in rural areas.

An area touched on in the introduction to this guide and which has been widely aired in the media over recent years is that of child abuse in certain Australian orphanages during the child migration era. There is little mention of such incidents in the records described in this guide, not through any attempt to avoid discussing

them, but rather because the records in the collection of the National Archives do not mention such allegations or incidents.

The reason for this was mentioned in passing above. Child and youth migration schemes were managed and administered by charitable bodies and the churches. While approved and supported financially by Commonwealth and State governments, who provided the ground rules, gave some financial support and monitored activities, it was the voluntary associations that did most of the day-to-day work with juvenile migrants. Consequently, the records held by the National Archives deal mainly with policy and administration, relations between the Commonwealth Government and the State government immigration departments, and relations with the church and charitable organisations in relation to the schemes they administered. Persons seeking to pursue research relating to the care of individual child migrants in particular orphanages or homes should consult the records held by the institutions listed in Appendix 4.

Records held by the National Archives

1. Migrant selection documents and related migration forms

Migrant selection documents were normally completed by the person applying to migrate to Australia. They consist of the completed application form, a medical report and other associated forms that accompanied the application. In the case of child or youth migrants the application was usually completed by a guardian and the associated forms would usually include items such as extracts of birth certificates, school reports, maintenance guarantees, and even police character reports. These documents may also have the name of the particular organisation which sponsored the migration (such as the Christian Brothers or the Fairbridge Society).

As the majority of migrant selection documents are arranged chronologically by date of ship arrival in Australia, it is important to have the name of the ship, the approximate date of arrival, and the state in which the person arrived. Records of arrivals in a particular state will usually be held by the office of the National Archives in that state. If you do not have this information, you may need to examine the migrant selection documents of all states to locate the information you are seeking.

Migrant selection documents for child and youth migrants are not generally arranged separately to the documents for migrants as a whole. Exceptions to this are a small number of collections in our Melbourne and Perth offices, which are listed separately below.

MIGRANT SELECTION DOCUMENTS – CHILD AND YOUTH MIGRATION

Melbourne

British under-age migrant selection documents (1947–63)	B4061
Personal documents of British Child Migrants (1947–65)	MP765/1
Personal documents of British Child Migrants (1955–56)	MP485/1

I.E.M. 3.

29 AUG 1954 12 35 PM
 Ref. No. 9 6 159
 Group & Nomination No.

Commonwealth of Australia

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION, AUSTRALIA HOUSE, LONDON.

Child Migration.

SECTION A.

To be completed by Voluntary Organisation in conjunction with parents or guardian.

1. Name in full DOROTHY ELIZABETH ISHMAEL
(in block capitals) (Christian Name) (Surname)
 2. Full postal address 2 ERYLLAS, PENYWAUN, ABERDARE, GLAM, SOUTH WALES
Verified from Ad. Card #. Telephone No.
 3. Date of Birth 13-11-1943 Place of Birth Cardiff Nationality British
(Birth Certificate to be attached)
 4. Religion Church of England
 5. Father { Name JOHN ISHMAEL
 Address 2 ERYLLAS, PENYWAUN, ABERDARE, GLAM, SOUTH WALES
 Nationality BRITISH Occupation litter
 6. Mother { Name LILIAN ISHMAEL
 Address 2 ERYLLAS, PENYWAUN, ABERDARE, GLAM, SOUTH WALES
 Nationality BRITISH Occupation Factory Hand
- | | Name | Age | Address |
|-------------|------|-----------|-----------------|
| 7. Brothers | | <u>8</u> | <u>as above</u> |
| and | | | |
| 8. Sisters | | <u>12</u> | <u>as above</u> |
8. Name and address of guardian (if applicable) _____
 9. Names and addresses of any relatives in Australia
nil
 10. Educational Standard Junior School
(Attach school report)
 11. Intelligence Quotient to be stated _____
 12. Details of any recent Intelligence or Vocational Tests with dates _____
 13. If child is in institutional care, state name of institution and date of child leaving parents' care _____

The form used by the department of Immigration to record the personal details of intending child migrants. In this example reproduced with the permission of the child migrant, the names of her siblings have been deleted to protect their privacy.

14. State whether parents are still in contact with child and if so, reason for child's emigration
Parents and child's own request
15. (a) Has the child been committed to the care of any person or body as a "fit person," or is the child in the care of a local authority or the Managers of an Approved School?
No
- (b) If so, has the required consent of the Secretary of State to the child's emigration been obtained?
/

Medical History

16. Sex *Female* Height *4 ft 3 inches* Weight
17. What illnesses has the child had (including infectious complaints)? *Mearles*
18. Has the child been vaccinated? *Yes* Date *January 1950*
19. Has the child been immunized against diphtheria? *Yes* Date *1947*
20. Has the child ever been in hospital? *No*
21. If so, state complaint, date and hospital
/
22. Name and address of usual medical attendant *Dr. Simpson*
23. Is it necessary or has it been necessary for the child to wear glasses? If so, supply details
No
24. Does the child wet the bed? If so, how frequently *No*
25. Has the child or any of the family or near relatives suffered from:
 (a) mental deficiency, insanity or mental disease *No*
 (b) epilepsy or fits
 (c) tuberculosis

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the foregoing particulars are correct and that I conscientiously believe *Dorothy Elizabeth Tolson* is a suitable child who will benefit by migration to Australia.

Signed *[Signature]*
 for and on behalf of *[Signature]* of England's Advisory Council
 of Emigration
 (Name of sponsoring organization)
 Date *5 August 1954*

Page 2 of the form. A further page was completed by the child's parent or guardian. A different form (LEM 4) was used for youth migrants.

NAA: PP93/10, ISHMAEL, D E

Perth

Child migration selection documents – British children (1947–59)	PP93/10
Child migration selection documents – Maltese children (1947–59)	PP93/11

MIGRANT SELECTION DOCUMENTS – ALL MIGRATION**Sydney**

Migrant selection documents – all migration (1947–48)	SP104/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1948–49)	SP104/2
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1949–50)	SP122/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1951)	SP231/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1952)	SP274/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1953–54)	SP343/5
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1955–56)	SP388/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1956–57)	SP427/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1957–58)	SP476/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1958–60)	SP500/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1960)	SP516/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1960–63)	SP593/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1961)	SP550/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1962–63)	SP643/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1963–64)	SP646/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1964)	SP669/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1964–65)	SP716/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1965)	SP725/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1965)	SP731/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1965)	SP745/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1965–66)	SP763/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1966)	SP785/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1966)	SP791/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1967)	SP835/1
Migrant selection documents – all migration (1967)	SP849/1

Migrant selection documents – all migration (1967–68) SP874/1

Migrant selection documents – all migration (1967–68) SP884/1

Melbourne

British migrant selection documents (1947–61) B3986

Maltese migrant selection document (1948–61) B3985

Personal and medical documents of British migrants (1947–50) MP80/1

Personal and medical documents of British migrants (1950–52) MP195/1

Personal and medical documents of British migrants (1954–55) MP250/2

British migrant selection documents (arrival by aircraft) (1960–68) B3593

British migrant selection documents (arrival by vessel) (1962–68) B3954

Brisbane

British migrants (free or assisted passage) personal papers (1947–51)
BP23/1

Nominal rolls of British Migrants arriving at Queensland under the Assisted
Passage Scheme (1961–62) BP384/23

Adelaide

Personal documents of British migrants (including ex–service) in receipt of
free and assisted passages (1947–55) AP67/1

Personal Documents – British Assisted Migrants (1957–62) AP306/1

Personal Documents – British Assisted Migrants (1958–59) AP175/1

Personal Documents – British Assisted Migrants (1963–65) AP366/1

Personal Documents – British Assisted Migrants (1965) AP320/1

Personal Documents – British Assisted Migrants (1965–66) AP381/1

Personal Documents – British Assisted Migrants (1966–67) AP457/1

Personal Documents – British Assisted Migrants (1967–68) AP504/1

Correspondence files re British Citizens' assisted passages to Australia
AP576/1

OTHER MIGRATION RECORDS

Melbourne

Ships' files relating to the assisted passage scheme (1921–37) B4094

Brisbane

Register of aircraft flights – assisted passage migrant scheme (1946–53)
J921

Adelaide

Application forms, medical examination documents and related papers of British and Foreign Immigrants (including Ex-Service) in receipt of free and assisted passages (1947–54) D1989

Ships nominal rolls and personal documents of assisted British migrants. (1955–58) AP120/1

2. Passenger lists

Passenger lists and ship and aircraft nominal rolls can be useful in determining the name of a ship or aircraft in which a particular migrant (or group of migrants) arrived. From this information it may be possible to locate further details on other files, as well as extend a search to the records of the state archives or other institutions. Passenger lists can also be used to determine a migrant's exact date of arrival in the country, and can help in locating the names of other child migrants who arrived in the country on the same ship or aircraft.

Lists of passenger arrivals and departures are held by the National Archives for most Australian ports. Some of the earlier years have been microfilmed, and for the majority of these copies are available in each office of the National Archives. The following table lists the passenger lists which are available.

CANBERRA – (FOR ALL PORTS AND TERMINALS)

Ships' passenger lists – inwards (1924–64) A907

Passenger lists from July 1924 to June 1936 have been microfilmed and copies are held in each office of the Archives

Aircraft passenger lists, inwards (1934–46) A1230

Incoming passenger cards – aircraft (1946–64) A1225

Inwards passenger manifests – aircraft (1946–) A1231

Incoming passenger cards (1965–72) A1197

SYDNEY

Inwards crew and passenger lists for Australian ports (1915–22) SP83/11

Passenger lists, inwards ships, Sydney (1923–) C1115

Passenger lists, inwards aircraft, Sydney (Rose Bay and Mascot) (1936–64) C3456

Manifests, passenger – inwards aircraft (1964–72) SP1150/1

Manifests, passenger – inwards ship (1949–72) SP1151/1

Passenger cards (aircraft) (1948–51) SP140/1

MELBOURNE

- Volumes of inward passenger lists – ships (1924–64) B4397**
Microfilm copies of this series are also located in Canberra
- Passenger manifests (Melbourne) (1965–66) MP905/1**
- Passenger manifests (Melbourne) (1966) MP990/3**
- Inward passenger manifests – Aircraft (1962–66) MP1163/2**
- Incoming and outgoing passenger cards (aircraft) (1949–50) MT19/1**

BRISBANE

- Ships passengers lists, Brisbane inward (1852–64) J715**
- Aircraft passenger cards inwards (1947–60) BP215/2**

PERTH

- Inward passenger manifests for ships and aircraft arriving at Fremantle, Perth Airport and outports (1898–78) K269**
- Inward passenger lists, outports (1904–23) PP261/3**
- Inwards passenger/migrants nominal rolls (1918–32) PP444/4**
- Inward passenger lists, outports (1923–35) PP240/3**
- Nominal rolls (inward) of ships passengers (1953) PP353/1**
- Nominal rolls (inward) of ships passengers (1954) PP378/1**
- Ships nominal rolls (1952–) PP9/3**
- Ships nominal rolls (1955) PP93/6**
- Ships nominal rolls (1956) PP93/7**
- Ships nominal rolls (1957) PP132/6**
- Ships nominal rolls (1958) PP135/1**
- Ships nominal rolls (1959) PP139/1**
- Nominal rolls (ships and aircraft) (1959–61) PP202/7**
- Nominal rolls (ships and aircraft) (1962–64) PP222/2**
- Nominal rolls (ships and aircraft) (1965) PP256/3**
- Nominal rolls (ships and aircraft) (1966) PP262/3**
- Incoming aircraft passenger cards (1948–56) PP9/6**
- Incoming aircraft passenger cards (1957) PP50/5**
- Incoming aircraft passenger cards (1958) PP93/4**

Incoming and outgoing aircraft passenger cards (1959)	PP110/4
Incoming and outgoing aircraft passenger cards (1960)	PP135/3
Incoming and outgoing aircraft passenger cards and lists (1960)	PP142/1

ADELAIDE

Ships passenger lists – inwards (1941–64)	D5077
Ships nominal rolls (Foreign) (1947–50)	D2002
Inwards passenger cards (surface vessels) (1948–50)	AP475/1
Aircraft passenger manifests, inwards & outwards (1951–72)	AP1174/2
Shipping passenger manifest – inwards & outwards (1965–76)	AP1174/3

HOBART

Passenger lists and crew lists (inward) – Port of Hobart (1903–51)	P2005
Passenger manifests, inwards ships (1967)	P1666

3. Naturalisation files

The process of naturalisation in Australia prior to 1949 conferred British nationality on the applicant. Therefore, it was not necessary for British immigrants (including children) to become naturalised because they were already British citizens. However, with amendment to the naturalisation legislation which took effect from 26 January 1949, all migrants wishing to become Australian citizens were required to make an application for naturalisation, regardless of their country of origin. In cases where particular child migrants became naturalised citizens, the naturalisation collections held in the National Archives and listed in the table below will contain relevant records.

CANBERRA

Correspondence files (1903–38)	A1
This large correspondence series contains many naturalisation files	
Name index cards, naturalization (1911–56)	A1652
Correspondence files, Class 4 (naturalization) (1939–50)	A434
Correspondence files, Class 1 (general, passports) (1939–50)	A659
This series also contains more than 9 000 naturalisation case files	
Correspondence files, Class 11 (Migrants A–C) (1949–52)	A439
Correspondence files, Class 12 (Migrants D–G) (1951–52)	A440
Correspondence files, Class 13 (Migrants H–K) (1951–52)	A441

- Correspondence files, Class 14 (Migrants L–N) (1951–52) A442**
- Correspondence files, Class 15 (Migrants O–S) (1951–52) A443**
- Correspondence files, Class 16 (Migrants T–Z) (1951–52) A444**
- Correspondence files (1953–) A446**

This correspondence series contains many naturalisation case files.

MELBOURNE

- Case files, annual single number series with 'V' (Victoria) prefix (1955–)
B44**

SYDNEY

- General correspondence files with 'N' (New South Wales) prefix (1951–67)
SP1122/1**

BRISBANE

- Case files (1946–) J25**

PERTH

- General correspondence files with 'H' infix (1926–50) PP6/1**

ADELAIDE

- Correspondence files with 'SA' prefix (1948–65) D400**

HOBART

- Microfilm of aliens, new arrivals and naturalisation registration cards (1948–
74) P2691**

- Case files, annual single number series with 'T' (Tasmania) prefix (1951–) P3**

- Numerical register of Certificates of Naturalization (1951–88) P1948**

DARWIN

- Correspondence files with 'I' (Immigration) prefix (1947–75) E601**

- Correspondence files (1949–) E37**

4. Policy files and lists of child migrants

In Chapter 3 it is noted that a number of the policy files contain lists of the names and other details of many child and youth migrants. This information was compiled in the context of recording ship arrivals, claims for equipment allowance and the vaccination or immunisation of migrants, to name but a few. The records below are those noted to contain such information during the compilation of this guide. It is likely that other files not listed here will be found to contain similar lists upon

examination. The files are listed under the sections in Chapter 3 in which (in most cases) they are more fully described.

POLICY RECORDS CONTAINING DETAILS OF NAME-IDENTIFIED CHILD OR YOUTH MIGRANTS

Child migration policy

Child Migration within the Empire (1930) A1, 1932/7707

Schedules of group nominations under the UK free and assisted passage agreements (1947–59) MP541/3

The Dreadnought Scheme

Dreadnought Boys A659, 1943/1/1892

Fairbridge Farm Schools

Fairbridge Farm School. File 1 (1927–28) A436, 1946/5/597 Part 1C

Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra, WA (1946–50) A445, 133/2/12

Fairbridge Farm School, Molong NSW Part II (1947–50) A445, 133/2/11

Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra Western Australia (1951–54) A445, 133/2/64

Big Brother Movement

Big Brother Scheme (1926) A436, 1945/5/2217

Big Brother Movement, NSW nominations (1938–42) A659, 1942/1/3374

Big Brother Movement – Nominations. Claims for equipment allowance (1950–61) C3939, N1957/75099 Part 1

Big Brother Movement, NSW Part 4 (1953–55) A446, 1962/65571

Big Brother Movement – Nominations. Claims for equipment allowance (1961–67) C3939, N1957/75099 Part 2

Big Brother Movement – Nominations. Claims for equipment allowance (1967–70) C3939, N1957/75099 Part 3

The Roman Catholic Church

Catholic Emigration Association, London – Scheme to emigrate children to Catholic institutions in WA (1937–44) A659, 1945/1/499

Child migration to Catholic institutions, WA (1937–45) A461, M349/1/7

Clontarf bus accident – Public Subscription Fund – Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office (1944–69) PP352/1, WA12229

CEMWA – Equipment Allowance Payments – Child Migrants (1947–49)
A436, 1950/5/5597

CEMWA – Request for children from Malta (1950–53) **A445, 133/2/90**

Child migration – CEMWA – subsidies (1952–78) **K403, W59/86**

The Church of England

Swan Homes Anglican Orphanage – equipment allowance (1954–65) **K403, W59/115**

The Salvation Army

Training – Riverview (1927–28) **CP211/2, 74/39**

The Presbyterian Church

Dhurringile Farm School for Migrant Children (1950–53) **A445, 133/2/106**

Jewish child migration

Polish Jewish Relief Fund: migration of children (1937–42) **A434, 1941/3/1039**

The Children's Overseas Reception Board Scheme

Children's Overseas Reception Board Nominal Rolls (1940) **A2908, M54 ANNEX**

Overseas Children Scheme – Nominations forwarded to London from Queensland (1940) **A659, 1940/1/6453**

Overseas Children Scheme – Record of custodians and children (WA) (1940–43) **A659, 1943/1/4132**

Overseas Children Scheme – Record of children and custodians (NSW) (1941–44) **A659, 1944/1/355**

The Personal History Index

The Personal History Index (PHIND) computer database has been developed by the Christian Brothers, the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of Nazareth in Western Australia. It records the location of records held by a variety of institutions in Western Australia concerning child migrants who were cared for in that state by the three participating organisations. Information recorded on the database includes:

- name;
- date and place of birth;
- parent's names (if known);
- age at departure from the United Kingdom;
- shipping details;
- name and location of sending order in the United Kingdom;
- destination order in Western Australia;
- initial residence, as well as any transfers between homes and schools; and
- location of records on the subject, including medical, social, educational, baptismal, and immigration records – as well as sources of any records available in the United Kingdom.

Records held by other archives and institutions

As referred to briefly in the beginning of this chapter, it is highly probable that researchers will need to contact other archives and institutions around Australia, and possibly in the United Kingdom, if they wish to find all relevant records relating to a particular individual. The contact addresses for these institutions are included in Appendix 4.

Appendixes

Appendix 1 Abbreviations

ACBC	Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
AJWS	Australian Jewish Welfare Society
BBM	Big Brother Movement
BDES	British Dominions Emigration Society
BSWC	British Settlers Welfare Committee
CCBOS	Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlements
CEA	Catholic Emigration Association
CEMWA	Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association (Perth)
CES	Child Emigration Society
CO	Colonial Office
CORB	Children's Overseas Reception Board
CWD	Child Welfare Department
ESA	Empire Settlement Act
FCIC	Federal Catholic Immigration Committee
FCMC	Federal Catholic Migration Committee
HMG	His/Her Majesty's Government
HO	Home Office
IDC	Inter-Departmental Committee
NCH	National Children's Homes
NSL	New Settlers League
OSB	Oversea Settlement Board
OSC	Oversea Settlement Committee
RCI	Royal Colonial Institute
SMO	State Migration Officer
SOSBW	Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women
YAL	Young Australia League
YCW	Young Christian Workers Movement (Catholic)
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

Appendix 2 Who was in juvenile migration

Amery, L S (1873–1955)

Imperialist writer and politician: born India, the son of a civil servant attached to the Forestry Department, he was educated at Harrow and Oxford. Barrister; conservative member of parliament for a Birmingham constituency, 1911–45. He was in South Africa during the Boer War and served during World War I before joining the cabinet secretariat in 1916. He served as Secretary of State for the Dominions, 1924–29, and was the principal architect of the *Empire Settlement Act 1922*.

Arthur, R (1865–1932)

Arthur was born at Aldershot, England in 1865 and graduated as a physician from the universities of St Andrews and Edinburgh. He emigrated to New South Wales in 1891, a man of ideas and causes. He sat in the New South Wales parliament from 1904 to 1932. He supported migration and close settlement and was the founding president of the Immigration League of Australia in 1905. He was one of those who founded the 'Dreadnought Scheme' in 1911 and was an early supporter of the Big Brother Movement. He was Minister for Health, 1927–30, in the Government of Sir Thomas Bavin.

Booth, Mary (1869–1956)

Physician and welfare worker: born Burwood, Sydney; graduated University of Sydney, 1890; governess to the children of the Governor of New South Wales, the Earl of Jersey, 1891–93. In 1899 graduated in Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. Independent means; feminist; Vice-President National Council of Women (NSW). In 1915 established a 'Soldiers Club' in the Royal Hotel for the duration of the war. In 1921 became President of the ANZAC Fellowship of Women (until 1956) and moved into migrant welfare, committed to bringing migrants – 'our own British stock' – to Australia. Involved especially in after-care of young men brought to Australia by the Dreadnought Trust and the Big Brother Movement; edited *The Boy Settler* for their benefit.

Calwell, A (1896–1973)

Civil servant and politician: born in West Melbourne and attended the Christian Brothers College near his home; entered the Victorian Public Service in 1913. By 1911 he had already joined the Labor Party and held a range of elected positions within the party. Calwell represented the Melbourne constituency in the Federal parliament from 1940 to 1973. He served as Minister for Information in the last two years of World War II; Minister for Immigration 1945–49; and was completely committed to the 'Populate or Perish' policy in immigration – as well as 'white Australia'. Calwell saw child and youth migration as vital parts of the overall migrant intake. He expanded Australia's traditional immigration base beyond the British Isles to southern and eastern Europe.

Conlon, Brother A (1875–1957)

Louis Conlon was born in County Westmeath, Ireland, 1875 – his father was a National School teacher – and commenced training for the Christian Brothers in 1891. He was sent on the Australian mission as a young man and spent 17 years teaching (later Headmaster) at Waverley College, Sydney. In 1928, he came to Western Australia as principal of the Brothers College, St George's Terrace and was, therefore, aware of the Tardun scheme and plans for Catholic child migration from an early stage. By 1930, he was a member of the Brothers executive but over the next 20 years spent much of his time and energy establishing the Agricultural College at Tardun on a firm basis and arranging child migration to Catholic institutions in Western Australia.

Fairbridge, Kingsley (1885–1924)

The founder of the Fairbridge Society was born in 1885 at Grahamstown, Cape Colony in South Africa. In 1909 while at Oxford studying forestry, Fairbridge outlined his child migration vision to a meeting of fellow Rhodes Scholars, and those present formed the Child Emigration Society, later known as the Fairbridge Society. In 1911, Fairbridge met the Premier of Western Australia who offered land near Perth on which to commence his social experiment, and in January 1913 the first party of children arrived at Fremantle from England. In 1919, Kingsley went to London to rekindle enthusiasm for his scheme, and gained British Government support to purchase a property near Pinjarra and develop its facilities, as well as weekly allowances for each child from the Commonwealth and State Governments. By 1924, the year Fairbridge died, cottage homes for 200 children had been built, as well as a school, staffed by the Western Australian Government.

Garland, D J (1864–1939)

Clergyman, Church of England: born Dublin, Ireland, the son of a librarian, migrated to New South Wales as a child with his family; 1889 entered the ministry. In Perth, 1892–1902 he held various senior positions in the church, since he was extremely energetic and had a flair for organisation, but in 1902 moved to Charters Towers, Queensland as rector. World War I army chaplain, Middle East. He was Director of Immigration for the Anglican Church in Queensland 1911–33 and President of the New Settlers League from 1926. In these positions he encouraged juvenile migration to Queensland and was prominent in migrant welfare.

Keaney, Brother Paul (1888–1954)

Francis Keaney was born at Rossiniver, County Leitrim in 1888, into a poor farming family. In 1909 he joined the Royal Irish Constabulary where he spent three uneventful years, then resigned to emigrate to Australia. After a variety of jobs, in 1915 he joined the Queensland Police Force. A year later he had entered the Christian Brothers and after training was posted to Clontarf orphanage near Perth. Over the next thirty years he became a Western Australian identity for his work in child care, first at Clontarf orphanage, then in pioneering work at Tardun and later at St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, Bindoon. He was associated with

massive building projects, planned by his friend, Father Urbano of the Benedictine abbey at New Norcia, and carried out by the boys and some of the Brothers. He was lauded at the time as 'The Man in a Million' and 'The Orphan's Friend', before and after his sudden death in 1954. In the last ten years, he has appeared as a much more controversial figure.

Linton, (Sir) Richard (1879–1959)

Businessman, politician, philanthropist: born Palmerston North, New Zealand and arrived in Sydney in 1899. Over time Linton's main business activities were in Melbourne and in 1927, he entered the Victorian Legislative Assembly as the Nationalist member for Boroondara. Meanwhile in 1924, he had founded the Big Brother Movement, the idea for which grew out of his own experience of arriving in Sydney as a young man knowing that his elder brother was already there to assist him. The movement encouraged young men to emigrate to Australia knowing that there was an established citizen to whom they could look for some support. In 1933 he was appointed Victoria's Agent-General in London and he remained involved in public life for many years.

Rickard, (Sir) Arthur (1868–1948)

Businessman, real estate developer, philanthropist: born Currawong, NSW and moved to Sydney as a young man to seek his fortune. After achieving this goal, he was the foundation president, 1912 to 1948 of the Millions Club (Sydney) established in the belief that accelerated British migration would make Sydney the first Australian city to reach one million inhabitants. In the 1920s, Rickard was active on the executives of many organisations which fostered immigration to the state, especially juvenile migration: the New Settlers League, the Big Brother Movement, Dr Barnardo's Homes and the British Empire League. It was the Millions Club which sponsored the arrival of Barnardo's Homes in Sydney in 1921. In 1926, he was a member of the Australian delegation to the League of Nations General Assembly. Rickard's work for youth migration continued for the rest of his life and he was President of the Big Brother Movement at the time of his death.

Appendix 3 Voluntary and church organisations involved in child migration work

Australian Jewish Welfare Society – formed in 1937 with the amalgamation of several existing organisations; selected, sponsored and received Jewish refugees, mainly adults but some unaccompanied children and teenagers.

Big Brother Movement – a juvenile migration scheme, founded in 1924 by Sir Richard Linton. Australian men (called 'Big Brothers') acted as father figures to youths arriving in Australia from Britain to work on the land (until 1939) or to work in either city or rural areas (after 1947).

Boy Scout Association – sponsored juvenile immigration to Australia, mainly to Queensland.

British Settlers Welfare Committee – established in 1931 for the purpose of attending to the after-care of youth arriving in New South Wales as assisted immigrants.

Catholic Emigration Society/Association – based in London, this organisation coordinated the child emigration 'rescue' aspect of Catholic welfare agencies in Britain after 1902.

Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association – based in Perth, the CEMWA was founded in 1947 to assume the role of custodian for all Catholic child migrants brought to Western Australia.

Child Emigration Society – based in Oxford, in association with the Farm School Society of Western Australia it sponsored child migrants for settlement at Kingsley Fairbridge's Farm School at Pinjarra, south of Perth, from 1913.

Christian Brothers – a Roman Catholic religious order, founded in 1802 at Waterford, Ireland by a former businessman, Edmund Rice, for the education of poor boys. Brothers first arrived in Melbourne in 1868. The largest male religious order in Australia, it managed the four Western Australian Catholic orphanages (Clontarf, Castledare, Bindoon and Tardun) which received child migrants, first in 1938–39 and in larger numbers after 1947.

Church Army (Anglican) – brought teenagers, mainly to Queensland, for farm work both before and after World War I.

Church of England Immigration (Migration) Council (or Committee) – under the leadership of Canon D Garland the Council assisted, by group nomination, many young men to come to Queensland during the late 1920s.

Church of England Society for Empire Settlement – a London-based organisation which coordinated Anglican child and youth migration to Australia.

Dr Barnardo's Homes – commenced child migration to New South Wales in 1921, assisted by the Millions Club.

Dreadnought Trust – established in 1909 to assist and support young men to come to Australia to be trained for work on the land.

Methodist Church – through four Australian homes, accepted 91 child migrants during the 1950s. These children were sent by the National Children's Homes, Great Britain.

Millions Club – formed in Sydney in 1916. Its founder, Sir Joseph Carruthers, campaigned to settle 'a million farmers on a million farms' in New South Wales and Victoria.

New Settlers League – formed in 1921, the League was a voluntary body receiving government assistance to welcome and assist British immigrants, especially young people. It had branches in most states, in Western Australia as a sub-branch of the Ugly Men's Association. Only the Queensland branch continued to operate after 1930.

Presbyterian Church – initiated a small child migration scheme during the 1950s from Scotland to a home, Dhurringile, near Tatura in the northern Victoria.

Salvation Army – was the main Christian organisation involved in youth migration during the 1920s. During the last phase of child and youth migration to Australia, it assisted a small number of teenagers to settle in Queensland through its Riverview Farm School near Brisbane.

Sisters of Mercy – took a limited number of child migrants into their orphanages at Goodwood, South Australia, and Neerkol, via Rockhampton, Queensland.

Sisters of Nazareth – cooperated with the Christian Brothers in sending many of the boys in their care in English institutions to the Brothers' orphanages in Western Australia. They took some girls from Britain into their home at Geraldton after World War II.

Young Australia League – brought youth to Western Australia, doing for that state what the Dreadnought Trust and the Big Brother Movement were arranging in New South Wales and Victoria.

Young Christian Workers Movement – a Catholic association which brought some young men to Victoria in the 1950s.

Young Men's Christian Association – worked in conjunction with certain Protestant churches in promoting child migration during the 1920s.

Appendix 4 Records held by other archives and libraries

Australia

STATE RECORDS AUTHORITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Note that records showing names and details of individual persons and families are closed to public access for 70 years. Permission to view or copy these records must be sought from the Department of Community Services. All the records listed here are held at the Kingswood repository.

Immigrant children's files, 1947–76, 7/2036A–2049B, 10/37264–74, 3/7829–50, 19/8455.3, 7/8652.2–8655 (22 cartons, 44 boxes)

These files relate to young people entering the country who were under 21 years of age and had no parent or blood relative responsible for them in Australia. These migrants, sponsored by organisations such as the Big Brother Movement and Dr Barnardo's Homes, were supervised by Child Welfare Officers when they were placed in the community. The files include medical reports, reports on the immigrant children and correspondence relating to their placement.

Immigration files, 1946–74, 8/2426 (one box)

These files contain correspondence between Commonwealth departments, relevant charitable institutions and State government departments, including the Immigration Division of the Chief Secretary's Department, the Department of Tourist Activities and the Treasury. The subjects dealt with are child migration to Australia and the funding of the hostels to house them. These files comprise: Big Brother Movement – Homebush Hostel, Gunning House, 7 July 1950–November 1968; Burwood Hostel, November 1963–December 1973; War Memorial Farm, Fairfield, 9 October 1946–November 1968; Dr Barnardo's Homes – Greenwood, Normanhurst, 29 June 1960–1 June 1970; Maintenance Payments – Child Migration General Policy, 8 June 1950–20 December 1972; Fairbridge Farm Schools – Molong, 12 February 1948–20 November 1974.

Registers of the arrival and discharge of immigrant children 1953–56 and 1960–64, 18/1238.1 (two volumes)

These registers have entries recording monthly arrivals and discharges of immigrant children. The arrival entries generally give names, ages and whether the child was nominated by an individual or sponsored by an organisation, such as Fairbridge, Big Brother or Dr Barnardo's. The discharge entries give name, age, type of nomination, and reason for discharge from guardianship. Statistics separated into three age groups of boys and girls are included.

Miscellaneous correspondence files relating to immigrant children, 1971–74, 18/1238.2 (one bundle)

There are three files in this series. Two concern correspondence with officials of the Big Brother and Dr Barnardo's schemes. The third file relates to a District Officer's investigation of a complaint by a child sponsored by the Big Brother Scheme.

Files concerning the arrival of immigrant children sponsored by the Big Brother Scheme, 1965–73, 18/1238.4–1240 (three boxes)

These files relate to the arrival of 'Little Brothers' in New South Wales. The files contain a notification from the New South Wales Immigration Division of the boys' impending arrival, giving date, flight number or ship's name, and the names and ages of the boys. The results of later medical examinations are included, as well as a signed declaration from the Executive Director of the Big Brother Movement accepting custody of the boys.

Returns of employment changes made by young persons sponsored by the Fairbridge Farm Scheme, 1968–69, 18/1238.3 (one bundle)

These weekly returns were sent by the Principal of the Fairbridge Farm School to the Department. The information includes name, date of new employment, category of wages and home address. The returns were signed by the Principal and include the children's departmental file numbers.

Depots, homes and hostel files, 1971–73, 3/1735–37, 8/2314–15, 8/2242 (six boxes)

These files contain applications for licences to conduct a depot, home or hostel. On 1 November 1969, amendments to Part VII of the *Child Welfare Act* became effective, and, as a result, all places defined as a Depot, Home or Hostel which provided residential care for six or more children up to 16 years of age had to be licensed in terms of the new provisions. These files give full details of the facilities offered, staff and their qualifications, proposed alterations to premises, etc. Correspondence regarding the application and correspondence from the individuals concerned is also included.

QUEENSLAND STATE ARCHIVES

These records listed below are those for the principal schemes involving most young unaccompanied immigrants. Records relating to other schemes may be located by searching the Queensland State Archives database, Guide to Record Holdings, or by searching the correspondence indexes, registers and correspondence files of agencies such as Home Office or Health and Home Affairs which may have been involved with youth migration schemes.

Immigration Department

Correspondence regarding farm learners scheme, 1922–35, QSA IMM/176

Indenture forms and applications for farm learners, 1938–40, 1922–30, QSA IMM/221

Papers regarding Interstate Conferences of the New Settlers League and reports of annual meetings, etc, 1924–36, QSA IMM/219

Papers concerning the New Settlers League Annual State Conference, 1922–34, QSA IMM/217–218

New Settlers League correspondence with migrants, 1923–48, QSA IMM/214–216

Foreign migration, New Settlers League, regarding the employment of migrants in the sugar industry, railway fares, freight car hire, establishment of hostels for migrants in country centres, 1952–56, QSA A/13047

Premier's Department

Correspondence from the general system respecting immigration of lads as farm learners, sponsored by the Church Army, 14 January 1911–20 April 1923, QSA PRE/110

Correspondence regarding immigration of lads as farm learners, 5 May 1922–17 August 1932, QSA PRE/111–113

Correspondence from the general system respecting immigration of lads as farm learners sponsored by the Salvation Army, 23 February 1922–2 January 1936, QSA PRE/114

Correspondence from the general system respecting immigration of lads as farm learners, sponsored by the Church of England Immigration Council, 15 March 1924–28 July 1930, QSA PRE/115–116

Correspondence from the general system respecting adverse reports on lads brought out as farm learners and on unsuitable lad migrants, 12 June 1923–8 February 1928, QSA PRE/117

Correspondence from the general system respecting deaths, accidents, etc of lads brought out as farm labourers, 9 November 1923–6 May 1930, QSA PRE/118

STATE RECORDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Files relating to child migrants under the Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act, 1946 (index available), GRG 29/122

Applications for assisted passage as farm apprentices – 'Barwell Boys', 1922–24 (index available), GRG 7/6

This series has completed forms of application giving personal details, address in the United Kingdom, referees, name of parent or guardian, date of arrival in South Australia and the name of the ship.

Applications by youths for assisted passage as boy migrants – 'Big Brother Movement', 1927–29 (partial index available), GRG 7/7

This series has completed forms of applications, including personal details, address in the United Kingdom, referees, name of parent or guardian, date of arrival in South Australia, and name of the ship.

Miscellaneous applications for assisted passage by farm youths, agricultural workers and settlers, 1921–30 (index available), GRG 7/9

This series has completed forms of application with personal details, address in the United Kingdom, referees, name of parent or guardian etc., date of arrival in South Australia and the name of the ship. It also contains some files relating to women.

ARCHIVES OFFICE OF TASMANIA

All case files and indexes listed here have either a 50 or 75-year access restriction. The administrative files (AD203) have a 25-year access restriction. If you require access to the records of the Department of Social Welfare you should apply to the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000. For access to the records of the State Immigration Office or the Fairbridge Society you should write, in the first instance, to the State Archivist, Archives Office of Tasmania, 77 Murray Street, Hobart, 7000.

The records of the State Immigration Office document the nomination and arrival of the child migrants:

Index to personal nominations, 1946–81, AA60

This is an index to people nominated under the various joint immigration agreements between the United Kingdom and Australian governments. Some subject cards such as Boys Town, Big Brother Movement and Fairbridge Society children can be found in this series. The cards contain details such as occupation, age, address in England, names of family members, departure and arrival dates and name of the ship on which the migrant arrived. The name of the nominator is included, as are file numbers for the nominator and migrant files.

Migrant files, 1946–81, AA59

This series consists of case files of all nominated migrants.

The records created after arrival can be found in the case files of the Department of Social Welfare:

File guide to correspondence records, c.1970–c.1990, AD247

Correspondence records, 1919–93, AD203 (see file no. 14 for administrative records relating to child migrants)

Index to case files of the Child Welfare Division, c.1950–c.1970, SWD61

Applications and associated correspondence relating to the custody and welfare of children under various Acts, including child migration, c.1922–c.1981, AA226

This series is a merger of several series of case files into two alphabetical sequences (see also SWD66 below).

Case files of the Child Welfare Division, c.1944–70, SWD66

These files are identical to those in AA226 (see above) but were removed from this sequence when a separate Child Welfare Division was created within the Department. Files relating to child migrants are included in this series.

Record cards of 'non-citizen' children including children arriving under the Child Migration Scheme, 1950–68, 1970–78, AD256

These cards contain summary information on the welfare of British and non-British

child migrants including the name and address of the person with whom they were living.

Correspondence concerning children brought to Tasmania under the auspices of the Overseas Children's Reception Committee, 1940–45, SWD60

These case files relate to children who were brought to Tasmania by the Overseas Children's Reception Committee. The children were to remain in Tasmania for the duration of the war, or such lesser period as might be deemed necessary in the interests of both parties.

Master index to case files, c.1920–c.1989, AD204

This is the master index to applications and associated correspondence relating to the custody and welfare of children under various acts, including child migration.

Records of the Fairbridge Drake Society, 1925–77, NS1438

The Fairbridge Society home for orphaned British migrant children and migrant children with one parent living was established at Exeter, Northern Tasmania in 1957. The home was closed in November 1976. In 1991 with the approval of the President of the Fairbridge Drake Society, London, the Tasmanian records of the society were deposited in the Archives Office of Tasmania. Access to the records is restricted for 100 years in line with the access conditions determined for the British records of the Society, which are housed at the University of Liverpool (described below). Among the records is a family register, 1958–76, and 13 case files, c.1965–76.

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE OF VICTORIA

The records listed below are located at the Laverton Search Centre and are closed to general public access. Access to the records may be provided by the controlling agency, the Department of Human Services.

Child migration files, 1924–70, VPRS 10092

These files document both the assessment of applications to nominate British and alien minors and the subsequent administration of legal guardianship of those minors by the Children's Welfare Department, Family Welfare Division. Files documenting the administration of legal guardianship include considerable personal information about minors and their custodians. Documentation on the files includes reports of social workers, parents, custodians, employers, vocational guidance officers, teachers and doctors.

Children's Overseas Reception Board files, c. 1940–46, VPRS 10093

The series comprises client files of children evacuated from the United Kingdom during World War II and some files relating to the administration of the scheme. Upon arrival in Victoria the children were boarded with private families. The Children's Welfare Department oversaw the allocation of the children to their custodians and their subsequent maintenance and welfare. Most of the files in the series comprise case documentation including: application of the custodian to accept evacuated children; evacuation and travel reports regarding the children (eg vaccinations, medical reports); departmental inspectors' reports (eg health,

behaviour, adjustment, suitability of nominators); school reports; and social worker reports.

STATE RECORDS OFFICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Many of the records held by State Records relating to child and youth migration were created by the Child Welfare Department and its predecessor the State Children's Department. The Lands and Surveys Department was also involved with child migration initially through its links with other land settlement schemes. Child migrants in Western Australia were cared for within institutions or by individual sponsors. By 1963 the principal institutions were Swanleigh, Castledare, Clontarf, Tardun, St Joseph's Bindoon, Nazareth House and Fairbridge.

All records of the former Child Welfare Department that contain client information are restricted records. Permission to view or copy these records must be sought from the Department of Family and Children's Services. A 30-year access rule applies to records of the Premiers Department (now Ministry of Premier and Cabinet). Researchers should contact the State Records Office for information on the current access status of all government archives.

Child Welfare Department, 1927–72, AN 145, AN 320

Files on child migration are located within the main series of Child Welfare Department registered files. These records include policy and administration files, funding, approvals and inspection of institutions, nomination and guardianship forms, and liaison with institutions and groups associated with child migration (eg the Big Brother Movement). Also included are indentures and employment agreements for child migrants. Many Child Welfare administrative files were re-registered as Department for Community Welfare files prior to their transfer to the State Records Office.

Policy and administration, AN 145, Accession 1031

1921, AN 145/2376 (2 vols), AN 145/2748; 1922, AN 145/1095; 1927, AN 145/772, AN 145/891, AN 145/973 (vols 1, 5); 1928, AN 145/116, AN 145/496; 1931, AN 145/2181; 1934, AN 145/286; 1937, AN 145/366; 1938, AN 145/619; 1940, AN 145/358, AN 145/632, AN 145/593; 1941, AN 145/41, AN 145/305; 1944, AN 145/300, AN 145/515; 1945, AN 145/524; 1946, AN 145/607 (vols 5, 6); 1947, AN 145/542, AN 145/685; 1949, AN 145/975; 1951, AN 145/852; 1952, AN 145/665; 1953, AN 145/1163, AN 145/1309; 1955, AN 145/350; 1956, AN 145/46, AN 145/212

Maltese child migrants, 1952, AN 145/1358

Nomination forms and guardianship records, 1952, AN 145/1027

Benmore, 1946, AN 145/1073

Burnbrae, 1952, AN 145/1314

Castledare, 1927, AN 145/1078; 1934, AN 145/76; 1947, AN 145/938; 1948, AN 145/160 (vol. 5)

Clontarf, 1922, AN 145/1405 (3 vols), AN 145/715 (2 vols); 1926, AN 145/1523; 1927, AN 145/913 (2 vols); 1947, AN 145/937; 1955, AN 145/1951

Fairbridge Farm School, 1921, AN 145/667; 1924, AN 145/1414; 1927, AN 145/159; 1930, AN 145/926; 1952, AN 145/1399

Methodist Boys Farm, 1929, AN 145/1291

Methodist Homes, 1952, AN 145/1313

Nazareth House, 1940, AN 145/1425; 1942, AN 145/219; 1947, AN 145/940

St Joseph's, 1922?, AN 145/1613; 1925, AN 145/719; 1953, AN 145/1808

St Joseph's, Kellerberrin, 1952, AN 145/929

St Joseph's, Subiaco, 1947?, AN 145/939

Salvation Army Home, Gosnells, 1945, AN 145/851

St Mary's Agricultural School, Tardun, 1929, AN 145/565; 1947, AN 145/936 (vols 1, 2)

Policy and administration, AN 320, Accession 1417

Policy and procedure, A56 (vols 1–5), A256, A3309

Nominations, A184 (vols 1, 2)

Benmore, A4249

Burnbrae, A3404

Clontarf, A53

St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, Bindoon, A4256

Policy and administration, AN 320, Accession 2532

Reports and liaison between Nathaniel Harper Homes, A66

Immigration – migrant children boarded out – recoup of subsidy from the British Government, A135

Western Australian Child Welfare Departments Annual Reports, A366 (vols 1–3)

Policy and administration, AN 320, Accession 2606

Clontarf Boys Accident Appeal, 1957/1640 (2 vols)

Policy and administration, AN 320, Accession 2607

Big Brother Movement, A155

Nominations, A184 (vols 3, 4)

Wards – Ministerial approval for variation of treatment, A191 (vols 1–4)

Institutions – Clontarf, A215 (vols 1, 2)

Capitation Grants to institutes and foster mothers, A231 (vols 1–4)

Wards resident in institutions, A306

Nominal roll of unaccompanied migrant children, A317 (vols 1, 2)

Act and Regulations, Section 118 – day-to-day care policy. Children under six years of age, A609 (vol. 1)

Policy and administration, AN 320, Accession 2608

Castledare junior orphanage policy and procedure, reports and correspondence, A2260 (vol. 1)

Hostel, Tudor Lodge, Mt Lawley, establishment legislation – Immigration, Guardianship of Children Act, 1946–73, A3029 (vol. 1)

Policy and administration, AN 320, Accession 2868

Indentures – child migrants, 14 items, six on microfilm

WA Immigration Department, AN 228

There is a small number of Immigration Department files from 1910 to 1959 which document state immigration policy, applications for funding and inspections of institutions, and files relating to specific child migration schemes and programs. There are also rolls of migrants from 1947 to 1962.

Policy and administration, AN 228, Accession 1193

1948, AN 228/896, AN 228/1644, AN 228/1949, AN 228/3744; 1949, AN228/6996; 1950, AN 228/2356; 1953, AN 228/3619; 1956, AN 228/381

Maltese children, 1956, AN 228/2433

Nomination forms and guardianship records, 1949, AN 228/5203

Institutions: Fairbridge Farm School, 1950, AN 228/2040

Lee Steere House, 1948, AN 228/591

St Joseph's, Subiaco, 1947, AN 228/6155; 1948, AN 228/2805

St Joseph's, Bindoon, 1948, AN 228/3141

Department of Lands and Surveys, AN 3

This agency administered the State Immigration Department from the early 1920s until 1973. As with Child Welfare Department records, the files on migration

schemes are interspersed throughout the main departmental registered file series. The records include policy and administration files, nomination forms, guardianship records and records relating to specific schemes (AN 3, WAA 42 and WAS 211).

Policy and administration, AN 3, Accession 541

1912, AN 3/4330; 1927, AN 3/6569; 1933, AN 3/102; 1947, AN 3/2201; 1948, AN 3/444, AN 3/482; 1950, AN 3/6269

Nomination forms and guardianship forms

1934, AN 3/296, AN 3/297, AN 3/1360, AN 3/1825, AN 3/2152, AN 3/2736; 1935, AN 3/123, AN 3/1568, AN 3/2176, AN 3/2604; 1937, AN 3/369; 1946, AN 3/4185, AN 3/4186, AN 3/4588, AN 3/4612; 1948, AN 3/3861

Policy and administration, AN 3, Accession 1699

Permission to inter the remains of the late Kingsley Fairbridge in Fairbridge Farm, 1924, AN 3/3815

Nomination forms and guardianship records, 1931, AN 3/465

Policy and administration, AN 3, Accession 1755

Migration and settlement schemes, 1932, AN 3/1020; 1944, AN 3/766; 1948, AN 3/48

Institutions (financial assistance, etc) Roman Catholic Orphanage, Avon location 1771, 1933, AN 3/743

Procedural files, 1948, AN 3/600, AN 3/5033; 1952, AN 3/1010

Castledare, 1948, AN 3/5116

Nazareth House, 1948, AN 3/598

Tardun, 1948, AN 3/926

Victoria Park, 1947, AN 3/6490

Scheme to bring British boys out for training in rural area work (Accession 1778), 1953, AN 3/4591

Assistance to build and accommodate twenty additional boys at Swan Homes, 1955, AN 3/334

Italian child and youth migration scheme, 1955, AN 3/2772

Child migrants from Eire – policy re: (Accession 1843), 1957, AN 3/391

Other departments with an interest in migration and children include the

Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Colonial or Chief Secretary's Department, the Education Department, the Health Department and the Crown Law Department. Specific files within the Departments of Health and Education have not been identified.

Premier's Department, AN 2, WAA 2 and WAS 36

With one exception all relevant records are located within the departmental registered file series. The records include details of proposed migration schemes, applications for assistance, investigations of the State Children's Department and negotiations with the Commonwealth and British Governments on legislation for child migration. There is also a card register of the Children's Overseas Reception Board and reports on the movement of children during World War II.

Overseas Children's Reception Committee – Chairman's reports, 1942–44, consignment 1005

Migration and settlement schemes (Accession 1496), 1922, file numbers 403, 603; 1923, file numbers 551, 599; 1932, file numbers 71, 104

Agent General – immigration of boys – appointment of Col. Chas. R. Davies, 1922, file number 395

Boys Employment League (Accession 1496), 1930, file number 712; 1932, file number 354

John Curtin MHR – wanton exploitation of children at Fairbridge Farm School, 1936, file number 148

Kingsley Fairbridge – memorial at Umtali, Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) establishing of, 1949, file number 329

Institutions (government subsidies) Fairbridge Farm School, 1919, file number 252; 1927, file number 88

Colonial Secretary's Office, AN 24

Scheme for transfer of British children to Australia during the war period (Accession 1703), 1940, file number 240

Re. child immigration and charitable bodies (Accession 1816), 1916–1919, file number 1051

Immigration. Reporting cases of mental deficiency amongst children emigrating to Western Australia (Accession 752), 1920, file number 1962

Immigration. Dr Barnardo's Boys Homes England. Emigrating boys from (Accession 752), 1922, file number 1887

Crown Law Department, AN 47

Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra – control by parent society, London and Western Australian society to merge with, 1948, file number 3267

Other files relating to the evacuation of children during World War II are at WAS 1508, Card register of the Children's Overseas Reception Board

Clontarf general correspondence & reports, 3 vols, 1031, AN 145/1, 1405/22

Mentally defective boy at Clontarf Orphanage, 1031, AN 145/1, 1523/26

Clontarf Orphanage manual of training at, 1031, AN 145/1, 913/27

Clontarf Orphanage: establishment of a Mental Health Home, 'Castledare', 1031, AN 145/1, 619/38

Child immigration: Roman Catholic immigration scheme, 1031, AN 145/1, 1078/27

Child welfare literature: departmental pamphlets, 1031, AN 145/1, 746/38

Visit of the Director of Child Welfare, New South Wales to advise on Child Welfare Department matters, 1031, AN 145/1, 1309/53

Castledare Junior Orphanage reports & general correspondence, 1031, AN 145/1, 763/34

Immigration: Maltese child migrants, 1031, AN 145/1, 133/58

Clontarf bus accident, 15 December 1955, 1031, AN 145/1, 1951

Mentally deficient children, Castledare Orphanage, 1031, AN 145/1, 2376/21

St Joseph's Roman Catholic Farm School, Bindoon, 1031, AN 320/1, A4256

Child Welfare Department, Salvation Army, 1031, AN 145/1, 610/22

Child Welfare Department, Clontarf Orphanage, 1031, AN 145/1, 715/25

Castledare Orphanage: mentally or physically deficient children, 1031, AN 145/1, 101/28

Roman Catholic and Anglican subsidised institutions, 1031, AN 145/1, 366/37

Child care institutions. corporal punishment, 1031, AN 145/2, 632/40

Institutions: post-war building program, 1031, AN 145/2, 300/44

Child Welfare Department: care of children under war time conditions, 1031, AN 145/2, 515/44

Wards of the State, 1031, AN 145/2, 539/44

Lotteries Commission Western Australia, grants to institutions, 1031, AN 145/2, 957/49

Child welfare in Western Australian institutions, 1031, AN 145/2, 852/51

Tardun Farm School: establishment of, reports and general correspondence, Vol. 1, 1031, AN 145/1, 565/29

Tardun Farm School: establishment of, reports and general correspondence, Vol. 2, 1031, AN 145/1, 565/29

Child immigration: Roman Catholic immigration scheme, 1031, AN 145/1, 619/38

Proposed establishment of an industrial school for Roman Catholic boys – Bindoon, 1031, AN 145/2, 937/47

Christian Brothers Farm School, Tardun: inspections and reports, 1031, AN 145/2, 936/47

Clontarf Orphanage (RC): inspections and reports, 1031, AN 145/2, 937/47

Child migration: visit by Mr John Moss, 1031, AN 145/2, 665/52

Child migration WA: general policy and procedures, 1031, AN 145/5, 607/1946

Immigration, visit of the UK Mission, Fact-Finding Mission, 1031, AN 145/5, 46/1956

St Joseph's Farm School, Bindoon: inspections and reports, 1031, AN 145/6, 935/1947

Review Committee reports WA, Child Welfare Department annual reports, 1946–69, 2868, 320/10, 2868/4

Boys Town, Clontarf 17 October 1947–27 October 1954, 2868, 320/10, 2868/5

Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, 1953–60, 2868, 320/10, 2868/6

Farm School Tardun, 1947–55, 2868, 320/10, 2868/8

St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, Bindoon, 2868, 320/10, 2868/13

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

Fairbridge Society

Microfilm no. M1841–1845 contains records of the Fairbridge Society and its related organisation, the Middlemore Children's Emigration Homes. The Fairbridge Society microfilm includes: minutes, 1925–52; correspondence with the Northcote Trust, 1834–70; records of meetings with the Home Office, 1945–63; correspondence with the Commonwealth Relations Office, 1949–72; correspondence on extension of Fairbridge activities to New Zealand, 1932–56; Queensland, 1934–62; New South Wales and Victoria, 1952–58; reports of visits

by officers of the society to Australia, 1960–76; album of photographs of Australian parties, 1912–52; papers on future of the Fairbridge Society, 1944–60; miscellaneous papers on the Pinjarra School, 1913–39; minute book of the British Dominions Emigration Society, 1937–1. The Middlemore Children's Emigration Homes microfilm includes: Committee minute books; House Committee books, annual reports, papers, correspondence and reports; correspondence relating to child emigration (children emigrated through the Fairbridge Society and Fairbridge Farm Schools). The original records are held by the Birmingham Reference Library, Birmingham City Archives, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3HQ, England.

Dreadnought Trust

Microfilm no. N120, covering the period 1909–39, includes: index to the names of the boys sponsored by the Trust – vol. 1; the register of boys – vol. 2; the register of the ships bringing the boys – vol. 3. The original manuscripts are in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

Big Brother Movement

Microfilm no. 196, 1926–29 are the papers of Reginald Trelawny Thornton (1897–1968) and include the diary of his tour of Australia and Canada, July–December 1928. They cover the tour of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, when he discussed problems of assisted immigration with officials, businessmen and farmers, and met boys sent out by the Big Brother Movement, and also his journey across Canada where he sought to launch the movement. There is also his correspondence, 1926–28, including letters to his wife and letters of introduction for Thornton from L S Amery, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, to the Governor-General and State Governors. Also included are cuttings mainly from Australian newspapers, 1928–29, concerning Thornton's tour and the departure of boys from Australia.

MS 9163 (the papers of Geoffrey Vellacott, a former 'Little Brother', 1927–35) include letters from Vellacott to his mother dated from 29 March 1927 to 17 March 1935. The letters start with descriptions of the voyage on the *Jervis Bay* from England to Melbourne in 1927 under the auspices of the Big Brother Movement, followed by descriptions of his work and social experiences on farms in Victoria at Red Cliffs, Mount Lancefield and Stanhope. Later letters describe his interest in the church and thoughts on joining the ministry, his time at Ormond College, Melbourne and his marriage in 1935. Mention is made in the letters to the Big Brother Movement and his time spent as a 'Little Brother'.

MITCHELL LIBRARY, SYDNEY

Records held relating to child migration include the Richard Arthur papers and Australian Joint Copying Project microfilm reels of Public Record Office, UK, records: DO 35 and DO 57. See also the Dreadnought Trust entry under the National Library of Australia, above.

J.S. BATTYE LIBRARY OF WEST AUSTRALIAN HISTORY, PERTH

Fairbridge Society Records: MN 62, ACC 527A, 539A, 673A, 694A, 934A, 3025A, 3026A, 3027A and 3028A. There are further references in the Oral History Collection and the Pamphlet Collection (PR 9534).

ARCHIVES, HOLY TRINITY ABBEY, NEW NORCIA

Lord Abbot Catalan, correspondence with Bindoon, 1934–1954, PAX Q 1353

United Kingdom

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

The following list of records concerning child and youth migration held by the United Kingdom Public Record Office is not comprehensive and is intended to provide only a starting point for researching the records. For further information contact the PRO at the following address:

The National Archives
Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8876 3444
Internet: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Board of Trade

Outward passenger lists (arranged chronologically by port of departure), 1890–1960, BT 27

Cabinet Office

Cabinet minutes from 1945, CAB 128

Cabinet memoranda from 1945, CAB 129

Oversea Settlement Committee, March 1922, CAB 27/174

Migration Committee, November – December 1928, CAB 27/380

Overseas Development and Migration Committee, June–August 1929, CAB 27/382

Empire Migration Committee, July 1930–July 1931, CAB 58/163–166

Colonial Office

Overseas Settlement, 1918–25, CO 721

Emigration original correspondence, 1817–96, CO 384

Land and Emigration Commission etc, 1833–1984, CO 386

Dominions Office

Dominions Office and Commonwealth Relations Office: Original correspondence 1926–61, DO 35 (includes material on Fairbridge Farm Schools, Barnardo's Homes and many other assisted passage schemes, eg DO 35/1137/M894/1–6, with additional material in DO 35/3367, 3379–3383, 3385–3416, 6369–6384)

Overseas Settlement, 1926–36, DO 57

Migration: Further correspondence and papers, 1943–51, DO 114/107

Children's Overseas Reception Board files, 1940–59, DO 131

Home Office

Registered papers (references listed under 'Children' and 'Emigration'), HO 45
Emigration of children from Home Office schools, 1921–36, HO 45/16538
Employment of children abroad, arrangements for supervision whilst in Canada, 1926–27, HO 45/20409

Emigration of children under *Children Act 1908*, HO 45/10598/188663

Scheme for emigration of children to Canada in lieu of committal to Industrial Schools, 1885–97, HO 45/9991/A46505, HO 45/9992/A46505, HO 45/9672/A46505B

Emigration of Reformatory and Industrial School children, 1891–94, HO 45/9838/B10399A

Orphans assisted from Ireland to New South Wales, HO 45/2253

Suspension of Irish orphan emigration to Australia, HO 45/3367, HO 45/3646

Proposal to emigrate Aberdeen factory girls to Australia, HO 45/6057

Registered papers, supplementary, HO 144

Emigration of children from Dr Barnardo's Home, 1889–93, HO 144/310/B6159

Emigration of young children from Industrial Schools, 1893–95, HO 144/495/X42032

Emigration of girls to Canada from Dr Barnardo's Homes, 1911–15, HO 144/1118/203442

Children entry books, 1905–21, HO 167

Ministry of Health

Correspondence with Colonial Office on emigration to Canada including reports on individual children, 1887–92, MH 19/11

Poor Law Union and local authorities correspondence arranged chronologically within county and union, MH 12

Poor Law instruments 1916–32, including orders for emigration, usually for children, MH 64

Emigration of children to the Union of South Africa, 1946–47, MH 55/1645
Public assistance: emigration, 1919–35, MH 57/54–59

Children's Department of the Home Office, 1850–1971, MH 102 (these are a major source for child emigration policy in the 1940s and 1950s, including Fairbridge Society farm schools)

Ministry of Labour

Overseas, 1923–67, LAB 13 (includes files on assisted and free passage schemes in the 1950s)

Prime Minister's Office

Migration, 1942–45, PREM 4/42/1

General shipping policy: files (GSP Series), 1922–71, MT 73 (includes general files on post-World War II emigration to the colonies and supply of shipping)

Treasury

Supply files, T 161 (includes material on various assisted passage schemes listed under 'Emigration' and references to child migration under 'Empire Settlement Act')

Committee on Overseas Settlement, 1942–46, T 220/21

ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY, LONDON

Royal Colonial Institute, Emigration Committee minute book

SYDNEY JONES LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

The Sydney Jones Library at the University of Liverpool holds a number of papers vital for the study of child emigration. These are records of Barnardo's Homes, the National Children's Home (now NCH Action for Children), the Fairbridge Society (now Fairbridge), and the Emigration Home for Destitute Little Girls, Peckham. Some of the archives are subject to access restrictions: a 'closed period' of 100 years from the closure of the records in the case of archives relating to clients, 75 years in respect of archives relating to the staff of the charity, and 30 years in respect of administrative archives. For further information, contact:

Special Collections & Archives
Sydney Jones Library
The University of Liverpool
PO Box 123
L69 3DA
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 151 794 2696

Email: mwatry@liv.ac.uk Internet: <http://sca.lib.liv.ac.uk/collections/index.html>

In the following listing, the Department's references for the records occur at the beginning of each entry (eg D7).

Dr Barnardo's Homes Archives (D.239)

It should be noted that at any one time, Barnardo's retains some of the records described below in order to carry out its current work. In such cases it may be possible for researchers to consult the records at Barnardo's offices, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex. Barnardo's periodically deposits with the Department of Special Collections and Archives its more recent non-current records.

A. Dr Barnardo's papers

A1/1–980 – Sermon notes, 1867–1905 (together with keyword index: Vol. 1 of List of Records of Dr Barnardo's)

A2 – Personal and administrative correspondence, 1866–1905

A3 – Publications: Annual Reports, 1867–1995; *Night and Day*, 1877–1964; *Bubbles*, c. 1888; *Ups and Downs*, 1897–1904; leaflets by Dr Barnardo; *Young Helpers League Magazine*, 1892–1928; *The Open Door*, 1929–40; *Guild Messenger* and *Boys Magazine*, 1933–79; *The Quest*, 1931–35; *Happiness Illustrated*, c. 1935–39; *Forum*, 1946–71; books on Dr Barnardo, 1904–46; pamphlets on Dr Barnardo's Homes, 1884–1938; leaflets for Dr Barnardo's Homes by various authors

A4 – Miscellaneous: meetings, book, notes, address, etc, 1864–1905, 1930, 1946, 1971–77

B. Council papers

B1 – Minutes and agenda of Council, Committee (of East End Juvenile Mission), and Finance Sub-Committee, 1877–1958

B2 – Legal documents: memorandum and article of association, court case papers, copy of will of Dr Barnardo, registers of sealed documents, etc, 1885–1937, 1951–74

B3 – Committee minutes: Executive Committee, 1908–46; Committee of Management, 1946–67; General Purposes Committee, 1968–71; Annual General Meetings agenda, annual reports, minutes, etc, 1940–41, 1951–71; minutes (etc) of the Publicity Sub-Committee, 1906–09 and of the Committee on Christian Outlook, 1970–71; Overseas Management Committees (regarding Australia, Kenya, New Zealand); minutes, reports, accounts and correspondence, 1953–77

B4 – Circulars, reports and correspondence, etc: miscellaneous, 1901–72

B5 – Lists of patrons, presidents and committee members, c. 1934–62, and indexes to minute books, c. 1960s

C. Child care, including its administration, 1905–78

C1 – Chief of Staff/General Superintendent/General Secretary: outletters, 1903–14, 1916; annual reports to Council, 1938–71; correspondence, reports, questionnaires, etc, 1934–74

C2 – Sections papers: Studio (register of negatives, negatives card indexes, etc), 1869–1978; Chief Medical Officer (annual reports, minutes, correspondence, etc), 1880, 1914–20, 1937–76; Works Department (correspondence), 1908–18; Administration (specimen forms, annual reports, minutes, correspondence, etc), c. 1912–68; Boarding-Out (memos, correspondence, reports, etc), 1891–1966; Migration (court papers, licences, reports, correspondence, accounts, etc), 1875–1974; Social Services and After-care (annual reports and statistics, correspondence, etc), 1943–65; Press, Publicity and Information (minutes, annual reports, staff circular, memos), 1946–71; Adoptions (reports, extract from minutes, correspondence, etc), 1945–69; Regional Reports, 1947–77; Special Education (annual reports, minutes, reports, etc), 1947–70; Transport (annual reports), 1964–68; Staff Recruitment/Personnel (registers of staff and students, annual and other reports, etc), 1889–1976; Religion (reports, correspondence, accounts, minutes, etc), 1951–67

D. Director of Child Care (including administration post 1970)

D1 – Director of Child Care and Head Office Child Care sections

- (1a) General: minutes, agendas, memos, correspondence, 1904, 1947–74
- (1b) Policy: reports, surveys, lists of cases admitted, etc, 1875, 1930–80
- (1c) Administration: reports, etc, 1946–80
- (2) Management Audit: sample forms, appeal leaflets, etc, 1963–c. 1977
- (3) Architects Section: reports, specifications, correspondence, etc, 1968–77

D2 – Children's records

- (1a) Migration to Canada: boys party books and boys registers, 1882–1939; girls registers and notes and correspondence, 1883–1930; cash books and accounts, 1910–55; visits diaries, 1884–c. 1887
- (2a) In-care children's records: admission registers, location books, precis books, etc, 1870–1967

D3 – Divisional Office records

- (i) Children's files from Divisional Offices
 - (a) Sample files – c. 10% sample covering children born c. 1932–c. 1973 (files and microfilm)
 - (b) Social workers papers: diaries, reports, correspondence, etc, 1930–75
 - (c) Adoptions: 10% sample of case papers, 1972 onwards

- (d) Other records of children from Divisions: registers, applications, reports, etc, 1896–1972
- (ii) Sub-office papers
 - (a) Exeter: memos, correspondence, etc, 1957–71
 - (b) Plymouth: adoption and admission indexes, applications indexes, circulars, correspondence, etc, 1954–77
 - (iii) a2. Hatherley Brake: registers, log sheets, medical record sheets, correspondence, registers of staff and children, accounts etc, 1940–78
 - (iii) a3. Knotley Hall: papers not yet received
 - (iii) a4. The Meadows: minutes, reports, correspondence, registers of staff and children, accounts, etc, 1948–77
 - (iii) a5. Netherheys: admissions book, photographs, plans, etc, 1938–c. 1972
 - (iii) a6. The Quarries, Exeter: reception registers, children's files, medical record books, accounts etc, 1892–1970
 - (iii) a7. Shotley Park: correspondence, registers, photographs, children's files, etc, 1946–74
 - (iii) a8. Springhill School, Ripon: children's files, visitors book, agreements, plans and accounts, 1940–74
 - (iii) a9. Quinta School: children's files, medical record cards, admissions and discharge book, log books, accounts, etc, 1941–80
 - (iii) a10. Druids Heath: admission and discharge book, annual and medical returns, minutes of managers' meetings, etc, 1940–80
 - (iii) b1. Duncroft: girls files, 1952–82
 - (iii) b2. The Meadows: boys' files (dates of births c. 1940–65)
 - (iii) c1/1. Nautical School minutes, 1922–31; Russell-Cotes minutes, 1932–46; and log book, 1920–64
 - (iii) c1/2. Stepnew Technical School minutes and day book entries, 1908–32
 - (iii) c3. Riponi registers, reports, accounts, etc, 1940–77
 - (iii) c4. Macedon: accounts, inventory, children's saving records, 1945–68
 - (iii) c5. Duncroft: minutes, day books, reports, correspondence, etc, 1948–79

D4 – After-care children's records

- 1/1–48. Boys situation books, 1876–1977
- 1/49–51. Boys military lists, 1914–45
- 1/52–118. Miscellaneous statistics and lists, 1928–71
- 1/119. Children placed, 1947–54
- 1/120–22. Children deceased, 1901–67
- 2/a&b. Boys and girls after-care records: correspondence, reports, memos, 1910s–60

D5 – Divisional Child Care Administration

- (i) Scotland: registers, correspondence, etc, per home, 1944–79

- (ii) Yorkshire Division: case notes, log books, correspondence, etc, 1944–86
- (iii) Northern Ireland and Eire Division: annual reports, accounts, correspondence, etc, 1954–82
- (iv) North West: case files, correspondence, visitors books, etc, 1943–77
- (v) South Wales and South West: registers, minutes, reports, etc, 1892–1979
- (vi) London
 - (a) Children's records, c. 1913–33, 1948–78
 - (b) Local staff meetings, 1958–75
 - (c) General policy, 1958–75
 - (d) Establishment records, 1886, 1893–1983
 - (e) General administrative files, 1959–76
 - (f) Finance, 1956–75
 - (g) Miscellaneous, 1881, 1920–50, 1963–75
- (vii) Midlands, 1939–88

E. Fund raising and appeals

E1 – Special organisations

- (i) Young Helpers League (until 1933 the Barnardo Helpers League): minutes, membership lists, programs, scrapbooks, etc, c. 1890–1984
- (ii) The National Farthing League: annual reports, 1957–68, and reports on League's history and work, 1962–67
- (iii) Barnardo Day: annual report of Fund and correspondence regarding match booklets and entertainments, 1947–71

E2. Head Office Sections

- (i) General, including Appeals Department: samples of publicity material, correspondence, press cuttings, etc, 1873–1989
- (ii) Deputations, Department/Sub-committee: minutes, correspondence, etc, 1934, 1950–58
- (iii) Gifts in kind/shops: annual and other reports, and accounts, 1941–77
- (iv) Trusts and Estates Section:
 - (a) Legacy registers, 1904–77
 - (b) Legacy files, 1893–1967
 - (c) General administration: annual reports, trust accounts and files, 1906–08, 1946–47, 1962–78

(v) Barnardo publications: gift catalogues and brochures, 1969–92

(vi) Publicity Section, Creative Group: leaflets, etc regarding productions, c. 1966–90

E3. Appeals Regions

(i) Belfast: correspondence, accounts, reports, etc, 1938–78

(ii) Leicester: reports and correspondence, 1892–1967

(iii) Cardiff: card index of branch secretaries etc of the English and Welsh branches, 1948–71

(iv) Edinburgh: brochures, correspondence, accounts, etc, c. 1936–80

(v) Midlands: minutes, recipe books, correspondence, 1955–88

F. Finance

F1 – Finance Sub-Committee, general papers: minutes, reports, accounts etc, 1867–1985

F2 – Accountant

(i) Properties ledgers, 1890–1963

(ii) Accounts ledgers, 1962–85

(iii) Microfilms of paid invoices, cleared cheques, etc, 1968–80

(iv) Community Homes accounting correspondence, 1971–77

F3 – Properties files

(i) Deeds, 1768–1968

(ii) Plans, 1928–c. 1975

(iii) Sample administrative files, 1925–85

F4 – Barnardo School of Printing: admission books, boys' files, minutes, church services registers, correspondence, examples of work produced, etc, 1920–80

F5 – Personnel: record cards and microfilms of staff files, c. 1940–71

F6 – Personnel Services: industrial relations and other correspondence and reports, 1972–88

G. Press cuttings, c. 1890–1952, 1967, 1979–80

H. Ephemera: publicity and appeals material, programs, calendars, etc, c. 1875–1989

J. Other child care organisations taken over by Dr Barnardo's Homes

J1 – Johnson and Curtis Charities: accounts, 1866–1931, and correspondence, 1952–73

J2 – Liverpool Sheltering Homes: registers and index, 1872–1925

J3 – Macpherson Homes

(a) Home of Industry, Spitalfields: history books, register and emigrant register, 1870–1924

(b) Annie Macpherson Home, Stratford, Ontario: register, index to registers and history books of children sent to Canada, 1871–1915

(c) Marchmont Homes, Canada: history books, lists and index of children, 1870–1914

J4 – Reformatory Refuge Union

1. Minutes, 1856–1933

2. Agenda and attendance books, 1870–1934

3. Annual reports, 1857–1936

4. Correspondence, 1856–59, and re Royal Charter, 1935–37

5. Finance: committee minutes, 1901–32, and funds ledger, 1936–47

6. Departments: Associated Societies for Care and Maintenance of Infants: committee minutes, reports, correspondence, etc, 1912–25; Associated Societies for Care of Women and Children: minutes, letters, etc, 1912–25; Association of Workhouse Aid Committees: minutes, letters, and report of conference, 1910–25; Discharged Prisoners Aid Society: minutes, conference reports, etc, 1880–1914, and minutes and annual reports of the Holloway DPAS, 1904–19; Female Mission Committee (1857–1924, after which its title was changed to 'Women's Mission to Women'), Female Aid Society (1866–82), and Anchorage Mission (merging in 1947 of the WMW and the Anchorage Home): minutes, accounts, correspondence, annual reports, press cuttings, etc, 1857–1946; Inebriates Reformation and After-care Association Committee: minutes, correspondence, press cuttings, register of members, etc, 1899–1936; Inspection of Homes Association: minutes, reports, correspondence, press cuttings, etc, 1901–29, and report of inspections of reformatories and refuges with correspondence, 1860–71; Legge Library: committee minutes, catalogues and bulletin, 1908–25; National Association of Certified Reformatory and Industrial Schools: minutes, correspondence, accounts, memos and conference

reports, 1884–1927; Provident and Benevolent Fund: annual reports, 1877–1963, and rules and tables, c. 1949

7. Miscellaneous subcommittees: minutes, correspondence, memos and press cuttings, 1857, 1881–1932

8. Conference reports, pamphlets, journal, etc, 1853, 1861–1936

9. Miscellaneous: meeting poster, 1856, history etc of the RRU, 1906 and c. 1966–67, and trust deed of the George Moore Fund, 1939

J5 – Children's Aid Society

1. Minutes and agenda, 1887–1967

2. Annual reports, 1919–64

3. Correspondence & miscellaneous, 1933–76

4. Homes committees: minutes, reports, etc, 1892–1954

5. Miscellaneous subcommittees: minutes, 1932–35, 1946–66

6. Printed material: song sheets, conference report, 1904–08, CAS News Bulletins 1945–56, and charter and by-laws, c. 1954

7. Miscellaneous: salaries registers, Royal Charter, plates of illustrations, etc, 1905–68

8. Children's cases: case files, medical reports, etc, c. 1964–70

J6 – St. Matthew's Orphanage for Female Orphans

1. Minutes, 1883–1964

2. Accounts, 1868–1965

3. Miscellaneous, 1892–1921

J7 – Miss Sharman's Homes

1. Minutes, financial and other reports, 1907–69

2. Annual reports, 1867–92, 1905–68

3. Finance: home accounts, 1946–66, and homes dividend book, 1945–67

4. Miscellaneous: register of children admitted, 1867–1913, and register of West Square Home, 1915–68

Watts Naval School, Barnardo's Homes (D.443)

Photographs of staff and pupils, newscuttings, hymn book and pocket watch of the head boy, 1922–48

Barnardo's Homes archive (D.281)

Draft lists and reports, surveys of records at out-stations, registers of issues of records to officers, folder of adoptees names etc, principally for 1976–82

National Children's Home (D.541)**A. Central committees**

A1 – Minutes of the General Committee, 1869–1962

A2 – Minutes of the Executive Committee, 1909–17, of the Executive Council 1933–57

A3 – Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee, 1878–81, and Finance and General Purpose Committees, 1894–1962

A4 – Minutes of the Application Committee, 1908–66

A5 – Minutes of other committees, 1878–1964, including Local Branch Committees, 1914–45, and Welfare Council, 1944–64

A6 – Miscellaneous, including names and addresses of Committee members, 1918–91

C. Policy and planning

C1 – Policy and procedure manuals, 1945–90

C2 – Policy papers, 1954–85

C3 – Organisation and branch surveys, 1934–47

C4 – Strategic plans, 1973, 1987, 1991

D. Publications

D1 – Annual reports, yearbooks and annual reviews, etc, 1869–1993

D2 – Magazines, newspapers and newsletters, including *Children's Advocate*, 1871–86; *Highways and Hedges*, 1888–1933, *Children*, 1934–88, and *Our News* (for Old Girls and Boys), 1909–73

D3 – Books on the National Children's Homes, 1883–1994

D4 – Books about individuals, 1913–87

D5 – NCH surveys and reports, 1991–94

D6 – Material written by staff, 1954–80

D7 – Hymn books and sheet music, 1882–1987

D8 – Miscellaneous, 1883–1992

L. Overseas

L1 – Canada: includes registers, 1873–1931, which provide details and progress reports of the children who were emigrated to Canada

L2 – Central Europe: records of three schemes involving the rescue of refugee children from Central Europe-Serbia, 1918–21; Riversmead Scheme (to provide safe haven for young male German and Austrian Christians with Jewish ancestry), 1939–61; the 'Hospitality Scheme' (to provide homes for children currently in refugee camps on the Continent), 1946–60

L3 – Australia: includes Committee minutes, 1948–59, registers, 1949–52, publications, 1945–90, and correspondence files, 1938–59, relating to both NCH's own migration scheme and to NCH's earlier use of the Fairbridge Society's emigration scheme

L6 – Miscellaneous, 1918–91, including South African Fund Register, 1918–27, and minutes of the Council for Voluntary Organisations for Child Emigration (including Barnardo, NCH and Fairbridge), 1951–59

Case files

In addition to the archives described above, the Department of Special Collections and Archives holds the case files of all children formally admitted into NCH since its foundation in 1869; the case files currently number over 65 000.

Photographs

The Department has a large collection of c. 7 000 photographs of NCH homes and premises, staff, groups of children and activities from NCH Action for Children's Highbury offices. The majority of these are arranged by home, though some have been placed in folders covering, for instance, 'Staff NCH' and 'Stephenson' relating to the Rev. T B Stephenson.

The Fairbridge Society (D.296)

A. Establishment and foundation, 1908–20

A1 – Outlines and draft agreements, 1908–12

A2 – Texts by Kingsley Fairbridge (sermons, speeches and articles), 1909–20

B. Council and Executive Committee, 1910–87

B1 – Executive Committee and Council minutes, etc, 1910–76

B2 – Finance Committee minutes, 1932–82

B3 – Council minutes, 1965–87

B4 – General correspondence of the Council, 1934–80

B5 – Council Sub-Committees minutes and correspondence, 1937–81

C. Policy, planning and finance, c. 1921–76

C1 – Memoranda and articles of association, c. 1921–67

C2 – Policy documents, c. 1930–76

C3 – Annual general meetings, 1957–75

C4 – Finance, 1925–78

D. Publications, 1910–96

D1 – Annual reports, 1910–96

D2 – Material on Kingsley Fairbridge, 1912–83

D3 – General material on the Fairbridge Society, 1913–73

D4 – Newsletters, 1939–93

E. Children's records, 1912–83

E1 – Case files, 1912–82

E2 – After-care reports, 1920s–70s.

E3 – Progress and enquiry registers, 1971–82

E4 – Recruitment officers correspondence, 1971–82

E5 – Indexes, 1912–83

F. Publicity and fundraising, 1909–82

F1 – Appeal leaflets, 1914–c. 1975

F2 – Newscuttings, 1909–82

F3 – Audiovisual material, 1953–82

F4 – Photographs, 1912–82

F5 – Advertising correspondence, 1966–82

F6 – Local branch correspondence, 1948–81

F7 – Will and legacy files, 1937–69

G. Property, 1935–77

G1 – Creagh House, London, 1935–69

G2 – Canada: Burford Management Services Ltd. 1946–77

G3 & G4 – General property, 1934–77

H. Emigration policy, 1914–76

H1 – Policy and procedure

H2 – Conductors passage agreements, 1939–60

H3 – Maintenance and outfit agreements, 1939–60

H4 – Overseas visits, 1940–76

H5 – Emigration Assistance Fund, 1914–68

H6 – Other related organisations, 1937–61

J. Australia, 1920–83

J1 – General, 1944–72

J2 – Pinjarra, Western Australia, 1920–81

J3 – Molong, New South Wales, 1936–83

J4 – Drapers Hall, South Australia, 1936–80

J5 – Tresca, Tasmania, 1955–73

J6 – Northcote, Victoria, 1934–67

K. Other overseas, 1932–58

K1 – British Columbia, Canada, 1933–50

K2 – Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, 1936–58

K3 – New Zealand, 1932–54

K4 – West Indies, 1942–45

M. Miscellaneous, 1911–83

M1 – Fairbridge, 1911–83

M2 – General, c. 1927–78

Canada

For a list of records of the Fairbridge Society relating to Canada which are held by the Department of Special Collections and Archives, see Bruce G Wilson (ed.), *Manuscripts and Government Records in the United Kingdom and Ireland relating to Canada*, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, 1992, pp. 303–4.

Other Countries

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF EIRE

Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister), Australian Immigration Scheme, 1938, S10 732A

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF MALTA

Conlon, P A, Visits of the Rev. Dr J D Simmons, Brother Conlon and Father Davies in connection with emigration to Australia, LGO60, 4321/46

Conditions of Maltese emigrants to Australia, LGO 5771/45

Captain H Curmi, Preparation of Literature to encourage emigration, LGO 5775/46

Minutes of the Emigration Committee, LGO 2081/47

Emigration to Australia, LGO 646/44

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ARCHIVES, CANADA

Harry Logan papers

ZIMBABWE ARCHIVES, HARARE

Kingsley Ogilvie Fairbridge papers, FA 2

Rhys Seymour Fairbridge papers, FA 3

'Pioneer Days of Kingsley Fairbridge and his Farm Schools', FA3/11/2/25

Appendix 5 Organisations helping former child migrants to find family members

Australia

The Child Migrants Trust

In England and Australia, the organisation best placed to assist former child migrants to find relatives is the Child Migrants Trust. The Trust, established in Nottingham, England, in 1987, works on behalf of former child migrants who are seeking information about their childhood and family history, or who wish to be reunited with members of their family. The Trust has records of all births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales from 1890 to 1993. After research has located relatives, social workers perform the delicate task of counselling and making the first contacts between the client and family members. The Trust operates from two locations in Australia and one in the United Kingdom.

Child Migrants Trust Inc.
5 Thomas Street
Nedlands WA 6009
(PO Box 674, Nedlands WA 6009)
Tel: (08) 9386 3605
Fax: (08) 9386 3695
www.childmigrantstrust.com

Child Migrants Trust
228 Canning Street
North Carlton Vic. 3054
Tel: (03) 9347 7403
Fax: (03) 9347 1791

Child Migrants Trust
28A Musters Road
West Bridgford, Nottingham,
NG2 7PL, England,
Tel: (0115) 982 2811
Fax: (0115) 981 7168

Barnardo's Australia

The Barnardo's After Care section provides a search facility for child migrants who were brought to Australia under Barnardo's schemes. The records consist primarily of a card index of all Barnardo migrants who came to Australia. Information on the card index includes name, date of birth, ship name and date of arrival, and any placement within New South Wales. The After Care Section can also retrieve the individual case records which are held in the Mitchell Library. Please note, however, that access to these records is limited to the surviving child migrant or their immediate next-of-kin.

Barnardo's Australia
After Care Service
60–64 Bay Street
Ultimo NSW 200
(Locked Bag 1 Million, Broadway NSW 2007)
Tel: (02) 9281 7933
Fax: (02) 9281 0441
www.barnardos.org.au/barnardos/html/aftercare.cfm

Big Brother Movement

Ms Carolyn Nielsen
Big Brother Movement, NSW Office
PO Box N874
Grosvenor Place NSW 1220

Dreadnought Scheme

Canon Harold Rawson
Custodian, Dreadnought Scheme
Claremont Lane
Windsor NSW 2756

The Fairbridge Foundation

The Secretary
The Fairbridge Foundation
Trust Building
155 King Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Salvation Army

Salvation Army Archives
69 Burke Street
Melbourne Vic. 3000

Other

Anglican Church Archives
373 Ann Street
GPO Box 421
Brisbane Qld 4001

Australian Child Migrant Foundation
Level 2, 459 Hay Street
Subiaco WA 6008

Christian Brothers Ex-Residents Services
PO Box 1129
Bentley Delivery Centre
Bentley WA 6952

Sybil McLaren-Carr
International Association of Former Child Migrants
PO Box 124
Christies Beach SA 5165

WA Institutions Reconciliation Trust
Level 6, 55 St George's Terrace
Perth WA 6000

Canada

Heritage Renfrew Home Children Committee
107 Erindale Avenue
Renfrew, Ontario
Canada, K7V 4G3

Mr John Willoughby
Chairman, Canadian Centre for Home Children
PO Box 2601
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Canada, CIA 8C3

United Kingdom & EIRE

British Boys Movement (formerly Big Brother Movement)

British Boys Movement
Canberra House
10–16 Maltravers Street
London, WC2
England

The Child Migrants Trust

Child Migrants Trust
28A Musters Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham, NG2 7PL
England (see entry under Australia)

Department of Health and Social Security

Department of Health and Social Security Liaison Officer
Records Branch, Room 101B
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE98 1YU
England

Fairbridge

The Fairbridge Drake Society
202 Lambeth Road
London, SE1 7JW
England

International Red Cross

International Red Cross
Welfare Section
9 Grosvenor Crescent
London, SW1
England

International Social Services

International Social Services
Cranmer House
39 Brixton Road
London, SW9 6DD
England

Roman Catholic Organisations

The Catholic Children's Society
Westminster Crusade of Rescue
73 St Charles Square
London, W10 6EJ
England

Rev. Mother-General
Poor Sisters of Nazareth
Hammersmith Road
Hammersmith, London, W6 8DB
England

The Director, Father Hudson's Homes
Coleshill, Birmingham
England

The Catholic Rescue Society
St Vincent House
13 Westbourne Crescent
Whitechurch, Cardiff, CF4 2XN
Wales

Catholic Child Welfare Council
120 West Heath Road
London, NW3 7TY
England

Catholic Child Welfare Council
c/- Catholic Children's Society (Southwark)
49 Russell Hill Road
Purley, Surrey, CR8 2XB
England

Salvation Army

Salvation Army International Headquarters
101 Queen Victoria Street
London, EC4
England

Other

Children's Home and Mission
Mill Grove
10 Crescent Road
South Woodford, London, E18
England

Church Army Headquarters
Independents Road
Blackheath, London, SE3
England

Church of England Children's Society
Edward Rudolf House
Margery Street
London, WC1X OEJ
England

The Director, Family Tracing Services
105–109 Judd Street
Kings Cross, London, WC1H 9TS
England

The Director, Invalid Children's Aid Society
126 Buckingham Palace Road
London, SW1W OEJ
England

The Director, Jewish Welfare Board of Guardians
315 Ballards Lane
London, N12 8LP
England

The Director, Middlemore Homes
6/113 Moseley Street
Highgate, Birmingham, B12 ORY
England

The Director, Mr Fegan's Homes, Incorporated
160 St James Road
Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN12HE
England

National Children's Home
Highbury Park
London, N5 1UD
England

PACT
15 Belgrave Road
Rathmines, Dublin 6
Eire

Presbyterian Orphan Society
41 Howard Street
Belfast, BT1 6NE
Northern Ireland

Shaftesbury Homes
3 Rectory Grove
London, SW4
England

The Secretary, Smyly Homes
15 Rock Hill
Blackrock, Dublin
Eire

Thomas Coram Foundation
40 Brunswick Square
London, WC1N 1AZ
England

Appendix 6 Suggestions for further research

There has been an exponential growth over the last 15 years in the professional academic study of child and youth migration. The evidence for this is contained in the bibliography at Appendix 7. However, many areas await further research and a few of these are suggested below.

While seventeenth and eighteenth century child migration to the American West Indian colonies has barely been studied, research in this area would be expensive since travel to the United States and Britain would be essential. However, the primitive criminal justice system, the 'kidnapping' of children for resale in the Americas for private profit and Christian philanthropy during the seventeenth century would make an interesting study.

To the author's knowledge, the involvement of the YMCA, the Boy Scouts, and the Young Australia League in youth migration has never been studied. The major academic effort has been directed to the work of Dr Barnardo's Homes and the Fairbridge Society. The work of the Dreadnought Trust and the Big Brother Movement have never been the subject of definitive research, and archival material is readily available in both Australia and Britain for the researcher on both these organisations. Many former 'Dreadnought boys' would be still alive; and even more 'Little Brothers' to give personal dimensions to the material available in archives.

The material can be explored from different angles. For example, there are published studies of child migration to Tasmania and New South Wales, but not to Queensland, South Australia, Victoria or Western Australia. Changing community attitudes to youth and child migration await study, as does the legal framework both in Australia and in Britain which underpinned the movement.

Catholic child and youth migration has been the subject of much popular and some academic writing. However, much work remains, for example, the work of the three major religious congregations in child migration: the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of Nazareth and the Christian Brothers. The Young Catholic Workers Movement launched a brief foray into youth migration after World War II. It awaits study to assess its genesis, short flourish and abortive end after a few years.

As far as the author knows, the Lady Northcote Farm School at Bacchus Marsh (Victoria) has not been the subject of research, nor has the work of the Anglican, Presbyterian or Methodist Churches. The numbers each brought were small, but the Salvation Army was a major migration organisation of the 1920s and was involved in youth migration after the Second World War. Its efforts await systematic elucidation. It is doubtful if the above exhaust the areas for further research and writing.

Appendix 7 Bibliography

Adams, J and Somerville, M, *Cargoes of Despair and Hope: Scottish Emigration to North America, 1603–1803*, John Donald, Edinburgh, 1993

Anderson, J, 'Interview with Peter Ross: Migration, Tardun, Christian Brothers, Clontarf, North-West, station work, Aborigines', OH 2326 TS, J S Battye Library of Western Australia, Oral History Unit, Perth

Angel, A, *Fifty Years of Caring: The History of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, 1939–98*, AJWS and Australian Jewish Historical Society, Sydney, 1988

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Appendix 8 Guides to the collection

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Appendix 9 Addresses of other archival institutions

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