



Redress WA Newsletter

No: 7 September 2011

Redress WA Closing

The Western Australian Government's Redress WA Scheme will be finalised this month with all applications assessed and the final ex-gratia offers being made to eligible applicants.

Following is a message from the Minister for Child Protection Robyn McSweeney to everyone who has been involved with Redress WA including applicants, service providers and staff:

"While I have been deeply saddened to learn about the distress expressed by many applicants as a consequence of their time in State Care, I have also been inspired by the courage demonstrated as applicants told their stories and recounted the wrongs done to them. I thank all applicants for their patience as they waited for their applications to be processed.

The success of the Redress WA scheme in achieving its objectives would not have been possible without the strong support of many organisations and people in the Western Australian community. I would especially like to acknowledge and thank the Redress WA services providers for working alongside us to support our applicants.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to Redress WA staff. I know from the many letters received from applicants that your dedication, commitment and compassion has not gone unnoticed.

To all our applicants, I sincerely hope the Redress WA experience has assisted in some way to provide closure on your past experiences in State Care and I hope that love and kindness is given to you in the future."

Access to Past Records

If you have not already applied for your departmental records you may wish to contact the Family Information and Adoption Service (FIAS) at the Department for Child Protection. For information relating to Aboriginal personal and family history contact (08) 9259 3536. For former ward and child migrant records contact (08) 9259 3526.

Please be aware that due to the high number of applications received by this office it may take 18 months or longer for information to be sent to you.



Exhibitions

On their own: Britain's child migrants

Through photographs, letters, and poignant mementoes from the migrants themselves, this exhibition explores the journey of former child migrants from their departure to where they are today. This touching exhibition is coming to the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle next year from 19 May – 14 August 2012.

On their own – Britain's child migrants is an Australian National Maritime Museum travelling exhibition in association with National Museums, Liverpool, UK. For further information visit the exhibition website www.britainschildmigrants.com

Ongoing Support Available to Redress WA Applicants

Redress WA appreciates that your decision to apply to the scheme may have uncovered painful and difficult memories. The support groups and individual counselling sessions offered by Redress WA in partnership with experienced service providers have assisted many applicants. As Redress WA closes, we are mindful of your ongoing wellbeing and have put together information about a range of services available to you.

Acacia Support Centre Inc., South Hedland, WA

T: (08) 9172 5022

Provides counselling and support from its facility in Port Hedland. This can be arranged by contacting them during normal business hours.

CBERS, Fremantle, WA

T: Freecall 1800 621 805 [charges apply from mobiles]
(08) 9433 3644

E: welcome@cbers.org

W: www.cbbers.org

CBERS run a support group in Fremantle on Wednesday mornings, free of charge to Redress WA applicants. Individual counselling (bulk-billed under Medicare) is also available through CBERS in a number of locations around the Perth metropolitan area. Contact CBERS for further information.

Care Leavers Australia Network [CLAN], Bankstown, NSW

T: Freecall 1800 008 774 [charges apply from mobiles]

Mobile 0425 204 747

E: support@clan.org.au

W: www.clan.org.au

A support and advocacy group for those who grew up in orphanages, Children's Homes, institutions, and foster care, CLAN offers face to face and telephone counselling to those who require this type of support, including non members and families of care leavers.

CLAN members receive a monthly newsletter containing information about socials and reunions, the latest news about care leaver issues and any other relevant information.

The Child Migrants Trust, Hawthorn, VIC

T: (03) 9815 2022

Child Migrants Trust, Victoria Park, WA

T: (08) 9472 7582

W: www.childmigrantstrust.com

A specialist service for former child migrants and their families who want to find out more about their personal histories or wish to be reunited with a family member.

The Trust can help source personal documents, conduct worldwide family research, provide professional counselling services prior to reconnecting with family members, and assist in preparing applications for citizenship.

Kinway, Broome, WA

North West Services, Anglicare WA

T: (08) 9193 8100

Kinway, Kununurra, WA

North West Services, Anglicare WA

T: (08) 9166 5000

Kinway can provide free counselling and support services to Redress WA applicants in the North of Western Australia. Redress WA applicants should contact Anglicare's offices in Broome, or Kununurra for advice on the support services available in the following towns: Broome, Kununurra, Dampier, Derby and Karratha.

ConnectGroups, WA

T: Freecall 1800 195 575 [charges apply from mobiles]
(08) 9228 4488

W: www.connectgroups.org.au

Provides advice and assistance regarding the availability of self help and support groups across WA. Membership is free to anyone in the community seeking support. For more information contact Ivi Sanchez at ConnectGroups or visit the website.

Help for Indigenous Care Leavers

The Australian Government funds the LINK UP and BRINGING THEM HOME programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

LINK UP services operate across the country to provide support, guidance and assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Staff work with Aboriginal people to trace, locate and reunite them with their families and put them in touch with other services they may need.

The BRINGING THEM HOME program funds over 100 counsellors nationally to provide counselling to individuals and families.

To contact a counsellor please telephone your nearest LINK UP service:

Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation, Northbridge, WA

T: (08) 9218 9477

W: www.yorgum.com.au

Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation, Broome (West Kimberley), WA

T: (08) 9193 6502

W: www.kimberleystolengeneration.com.au

Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation, Wyndham (East Kimberley), WA

T: (08) 9161 1496

Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre, South Hedland (Pilbara), WA

T: (08) 9172 3275

W: www.wangkamaya.org.au

Support available under the Department of Health and Ageing's Better Health Care Plan

To access support from a mental health professional under this program, visit your local GP for a referral. Your GP will complete a Mental Health Care Plan, or a Referred Psychiatric Assessment and Management Plan and refer you to a clinical psychologist or another suitable mental health professional.

Many mental health conditions may be covered under this program including bipolar, general anxiety, adjustment, depression, bereavement, panic, alcohol, drug use and sleep disorders.

For information on Medicare rebates and how the scheme operates phone Medicare on **132011**.

National Library of Australia Oral History Project

The National Library of Australia is in the midst of a three year project to conduct interviews with Forgotten Australians and former child migrants.

Many interviews have already been done and the Library still wants to hear from people wishing to be interviewed. Contact project staff on Freecall **1800 204 290** [charges apply from mobiles] or email fafcm@nla.gov.au if you are interested.

For more information and to listen to interviews online go to www.nla.gov.au/oh/fafcm/



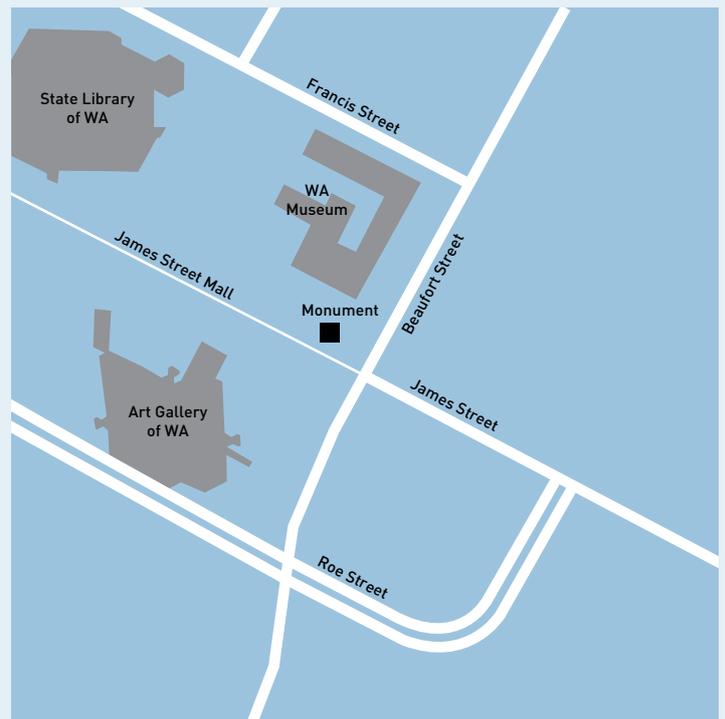


The Memorial to the Forgotten Australians

Late last year, Child Protection Minister Robyn McSweeney and the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency, Dr Ken Michael AC, unveiled Western Australia's first official monument to the State's Forgotten Australians. The unveiling of the monument in Northbridge symbolises the formal acknowledgement of abuse and neglect suffered by many care leavers while in State care.

Minister McSweeney said the monument was an acknowledgement of the neglect and suffering experienced during the last century by thousands of West Australians who spent their childhood or adolescence in out-of-home care.

The memorial is located on the grassed area in front of the Western Australian Museum's Jubilee Building, Perth Cultural Centre, James Street, Perth.



Redress WA Helpdesk

The Redress WA Helpdesk will remain open until all payments are made. Calls to the Redress WA telephone numbers listed below will automatically divert to the Department for Communities once the Scheme is closed. The email address will remain active until the middle of 2012.

Telephone: Freecall 1800 617 233 [charges apply from mobiles]
(08) 6217 8720 (standard call charges apply)

Email: info@redress.wa.gov.au