

# Visit of John Moss

1951 – 1951

## Details

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In 1951, a British Home Office official named John Moss inspected and reported on Australian and New Zealand institutions where British child migrants were living. Moss spent July-December 1951 travelling around Australia and to New Zealand, inspecting institutions and making recommendations. His report, known as the Moss Report, was submitted to the British government in 1953.

John Moss, formerly of the Kent County Welfare Office, had served on the British Curtis Committee, which had investigated British out of home care in 1946. Moss was also a member of the British Central Training Council in Child Care. Later, he became an Assistant Under-Secretary of State in charge of the Children's Department of the Home Office.

His visit to Australia and New Zealand was a privately undertaken tour during which he inspected Homes so that he could report back to the British government. Moss inspected multiple Homes in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

Moss also met with representatives of the Department of Immigration in Canberra, gave public talks, and met with the heads of welfare departments and church organisations responsible for the management of Homes. As well as providing broad recommendations about the continuation and scope of child and youth migration from Britain to Australia, he also provided specific recommendations for improvements for many of the Homes he visited.

His final report, known as the Moss Report, was submitted to the British government in 1953. The report included recommendations about recordkeeping and the full provision of case histories from Britain to Australia, the age of children and youths for different migration schemes, and appropriate conditions for the Homes. While there was correspondence between the Department of Immigration and the organisations responsible for running the Homes about the implementation of at least some of the Moss Report recommendations, it is not clear that any major changes were effected by the Moss Report. Coldrey (2001) notes that, despite noting issues with some Homes, Moss was generally in favour of sending British children to Australia.

Moss' visit and report was followed in 1956 by a Fact-Finding Mission led by John Ross, who also inspected many of the institutions where child migrants were residing.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Related Events

- [Care of Children Committee, United Kingdom \(1946\)](#)  
John Moss, who visited Australia and reported on child migration to Australia was a former member of the Care of Children Committee.
- [Fact-Finding Mission on Child Migration \(1956\)](#)

## Related Organisations

- [Church of England Boys' Home \(1918 - 1976\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Marsden Home for Boys, Kallangur \(1929 - 1992\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Queen Alexandra Home for Children \(1910 - 1960\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Church of England Girls' Home, Carlingford \(1928 - 1977\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [St George's Homes, Rockhampton \(1922 - 1979\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [St Joseph's Home, Neerkol \(1885 - 1978\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [St Vincent's Home for Children \(1935 - 1971\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Boys' Town \(1945 - 1956\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Roland Boys' Home \(1951 - c. 1993\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [St Joseph's Girls' Home \(1900 - 1979\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Hagley Farm School \(1936 - 1976?\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [St Joseph's Waterton Hall \(1951 - 1970?\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Monte Pio Orphanage \(1910 - 1973\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Sunshine Home \(1951 - 1980\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Tasmanian Government Tourist and Immigration Department, State of Tasmania \(1946 - 1982\)](#)
- [Beaufront \(c. 1949 - c. 1958\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Dalmar \(1900 - current\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Murray-Dwyer Boys' Home \(1933 - 1970\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Fairbridge Society Inc. \(1909 - 1987\)](#)
- [St Vincent's Boys' Home \(1891 - 1985\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [St Anne's Orphanage \(1888 - 1977\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Mater Dei Orphanage \(1910 - 1957\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [St John's Orphanage, Thurgoona \(1882 - 1978\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [St Brigid's Girls' Home, Ryde \(1898 - 1978\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Mowbray Park \(1929 - 1959\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Big Brother Movement \(1925 - current\)](#)
- [Dr Barnardos Girls' Home, Burwood \(1938 - 1957\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Fairbridge Farm School, Molong \(1938 - 1973\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Riverview Training Farm \(1926 - 1956\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report

- [Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys \(1924 - 1973\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Clarendon Children's Home \(1922 - 2004\)](#)

#### **Related Archival Items**

- [M3157 John Moss \(Child Welfare Expert of U.K\) \(1951 - 1952\)](#)
- [John Moss Report on Child Migration - Implementation of Recommendations, National Archives of Australia \(1953 - 1955\)](#)
- [John Moss, CBE - U.K. Child Expert. Visit to Australia. Part I, National Archives of Australia \(1951\)](#)
- [John Moss C.B.E. U.K. Child Welfare Expert. Visit to Australia. Part II, National Archives of Australia \(1951 - 1952\)](#)
- [Moss John - visiting Child Welfare Expert, National Archives of Australia \(1951 - 1953\)](#)

#### **Related Concepts**

- [Child Migration \(1800s - 1970s\)](#)

## **Resources**

- Coldrey, Barry, [Submission No 15 to the Senate Inquiry into Child Migration](#), 2001

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/visit-of-john-moss/>