

# Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia

2003 – 2005

**Other Names:** • Forgotten Australians inquiry

**URL:**

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## Details

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The Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care was referred to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee on 4 March 2003. This inquiry was directed primarily to those affected children who were not covered by the 2001 report *Lost Innocents: Righting the Record*, inquiring into child migrants, and the 1997 report, *Bringing them Home*, inquiring into Aboriginal children. The Committee released its first report from the inquiry on 30 August 2004, *Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children*. A second report, *Protecting vulnerable children: A national challenge*, was released on 17 March 2005. The Australian Government's response to the inquiry was tabled in the Senate on 10 November 2005.

The Senate inquiry received over 500 submissions. In the final report, the Senate paid tribute to those Forgotten Australians who had shared their stories:

*The Committee members are most grateful and offer their heartfelt thanks to all those who provided submissions describing their life experiences. The Committee considers that these submissions by so many people do not just represent their own individual stories, but they are also provided on behalf of their thousands of brothers and sisters who experienced life in an institution or out-of-home care. In addition, all those who provided submissions deserve the thanks of the Australian people for whom these submissions can open their eyes to a sad, painful, often tragic and not understood chapter in Australian history.*

Under the terms of reference, the Senate Community Affairs References Committee was to inquire into the following matters:

- (a) in relation to any government or non-government institutions, and fostering practices, established or licensed under relevant legislation to provide care and/or education for children:
- (i) whether any unsafe, improper or unlawful care or treatment of children occurred in these institutions or places,
- (ii) whether any serious breach of any relevant statutory obligation occurred at any time when children were in care or under protection, and

(iii) an estimate of the scale of any unsafe, improper or unlawful care or treatment of children in such institutions or places;

(b) the extent and impact of the long-term social and economic consequences of child abuse and neglect on individuals, families and Australian society as a whole, and the adequacy of existing remedies and support mechanisms;

(c) the nature and cause of major changes to professional practices employed in the administration and delivery of care compared with past practice;

(d) whether there is a need for a formal acknowledgement by Australian governments of the human anguish arising from any abuse and neglect suffered by children while in care;

(e) in cases where unsafe, improper or unlawful care or treatment of children has occurred, what measures of reparation are required;

(f) whether statutory or administrative limitations or barriers adversely affect those who wish to pursue claims against perpetrators of abuse previously involved in the care of children; and

(g) the need for public, social and legal policy to be reviewed to ensure an effective and responsive framework to deal with child abuse matters in relation to:

(i) any systemic factors contributing to the occurrences of abuse and/or neglect,

(ii) any failure to detect or prevent these occurrences in government and non-government institutions and fostering practices, and

(iii) any necessary changes required in current policies, practices and reporting mechanisms.

The Committee released its first report from the inquiry on 30 August 2004, *Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children*.

A second report, *Protecting vulnerable children: A national challenge*, was released on 17 March 2005. This report was largely devoted to foster care, with a focus on contemporary foster care issues. It also contained information about disability institutions and juvenile justice centres.

The Australian Government's response to the inquiry was tabled in the Senate on 10 November 2005.

## Gallery

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### **Australia apology over abuse in state shelters - 16 Nov 09**

**Description:** Al Jazeera's Michelle Stone reports on the apology to 'forgotten Australians' and former child migrants.



### **Prime Minister says sorry**

**Description:** The Parliament of Australia issued a national apology to the Forgotten Australians on 16 November 2009. 'Prime Minister says sorry' is a video of then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivering that apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants in the Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra.

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# More info

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## Related Entries

### Related Events

- [Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants, Parliament of Australia \(16 November 2009\)](#)  
The Apology on 16 November 2009 was an endorsement of Recommendation 1 from the 'Forgotten Australians' report of the Inquiry into Institutional Care.
- [Victorian Government Apology to Forgotten Australians \(9 August 2006\)](#)  
The Victorian Government apologised to Forgotten Australians after the release of the Forgotten Australians report.
- [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Commonwealth Government \(2012 - 2017\)](#)
- [Apology to Forgotten Australians and Child Migrants, Parliament of New South Wales \(19 September 2009\)](#)  
The NSW Premier's apology was a response to the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care.
- [Apology to Child Victims of Child Abuse while in State Care, Parliament of South Australia \(17 June 2008\)](#)
- [Inquiry into the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Lost Innocents and Forgotten Australians Reports, Parliament of Australia \(2008 - 2009\)](#)

### Related Glossary Terms

- [Institutional Care \(1860s - 1970s\)](#)
- [Child Labour](#)

### Related Organisations

- [St Joseph's Home for Children, Sisters of St Joseph \(1967 - 1991\)](#)
- [St Augustine's Boys' Home \(1966 - 1988\)](#)
- [Bayswater Boys' Homes \(1897 - 1987\)](#)
- [St Vincent de Paul Orphanage for Boys \(1874 - 1967\)](#)
- [St Augustine's Boys' Orphanage \(c. 1855 - 1939\)](#)
- [Care Leavers Australia Network \(2000 - current\)](#)
- [St Vincent de Paul Girls' Orphanage \(1874 - 1962\)](#)
- [Winlton \(1956 - c. 1991\)](#)
- [St John's Homes for Boys and Girls - Canterbury \(1958 - c. 1997\)](#)
- [St John of God Training Centre \(1953 - 1967\)](#)
- [Box Hill Boys' Home \(1913 - 1984\)](#)
- [Melbourne Orphanage \(1926 - 1965\)](#)
- [Morning Star Boys' Home \(c. 1936 - 1975\)](#)
- [St Joseph's Home \(c. 1911 - 1980\)](#)
- [St Vincent de Paul Boys' Home \(1967 - 1997\)](#)
- [St Vincent de Paul Children's Home \(1962 - 1992\)](#)
- [Bindari Lodge \(1971 - 1995\)](#)  
Bindari Lodge was mentioned in Submissions no 88 and 229 to the inquiry in Children in Institutional Care
- [Boys' Home, Indooroopilly \(1946 - 1968\)](#)  
Boys' Home Indooroopilly was mentioned in Submissions 90, 327, 338, and 339 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [BoysTown \(1961 - 2001\)](#)  
BoysTown was mentioned in Submission 105 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home \(1910 - 1962\)](#)  
Diamantina Receiving Depot was mentioned in Submission 505 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook \(30 October 1919 - 26 May 1966\)](#)  
Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook was mentioned in Submissions 141 and 217 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Girls' Probationary School \(1901 - 1945\)](#)  
Girls' Probationary School was mentioned in Submission 46 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care

- [Good Shepherd Home for Girls, Mitchelton \(1930 - 1966\)](#)  
Good Shepherd Home for Girls, Mitchelton was mentioned in Submission 120 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Harrison Cottage Family Group Home \(1960 - 1981\)](#)  
Harrison Cottage Family Group Home was mentioned in Submission no 88 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Holy Cross Home \(1965 - 1973\)](#)  
Holy Cross Home was mentioned in Submissions 120, 229, and 500 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Holy Cross Retreat \(13 October 1889 - 1978\)](#)  
Holy Cross Retreat was mentioned in Submissions 221 and 237 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Home for Boys, Riverview \(1956 - 1966\)](#)  
Home for Boys, Riverview was mentioned in Submissions 75, 90, and 339 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Ipswich Mental Hospital \(1938 - 1964\)](#)  
Ipswich Mental Hospital was mentioned in Submission 513 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Irwin Blowers House \(1980 - 2000s\)](#)  
Irwin Blowers House was mentioned in Submission 227 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [James Horton School for Girls \(1954 - 1963\)](#)  
James Horton School for Girls was mentioned in Submission 505 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [John Oxley Youth Detention Centre \(1987 - 2001\)](#)  
John Oxley Youth Detention Centre was mentioned in Submission 174 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Kalimna Vocational Centre for Girls \(1962 - 1977\)](#)  
Kalimna Vocational Centre for Girls was mentioned in Submissions 222 and 532 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Karrala House \(1963 - 1971\)](#)  
Karrala House was mentioned in Submissions 222 and 512 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys \(1924 - 1973\)](#)  
Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys was mentioned in Submissions 229 and 308 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Marsden Family Group Home \(1974 - 2001?\)](#)  
Marsden Family Group Home was mentioned in Submission 132 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Alliance for Forgotten Australians \(2006 - current\)](#)  
The Alliance for Forgotten Australians was established following the report of the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care.
- [Marsden Home for Boys, Booval \(1962 - 1974\)](#)  
Marsden Home for Boys, Booval was mentioned in Submission 327 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Mittagong Cottage Homes \(1885 - 1976\)](#)  
Mittagong Cottage Homes was mentioned in Submission 271 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Mt Maria Re-Education Centre, Mitchelton \(1966 - 1973\)](#)  
Mt Maria Re-Education Centre was mentioned in Submission 222 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Nazareth House, Wynnum North \(1926 - 1982\)](#)  
Nazareth House, Wynnum North was mentioned in Submissions 1, 237, 410, and 412 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Nicklin Cottage Family Group Home \(1 September 1960 - current\)](#)  
Nicklin Cottage Family Group Home was mentioned in Submission 88, 229, and 308 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Queen Alexandra Home for Children \(1910 - 1960\)](#)  
Queen Alexandra Home for Children was mentioned in Submissions 229 and 505 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Redcliffe Home, Goodwood \(1955 - c. 1990\)](#)  
Redcliffe Home, Goodwood was mentioned in Submission 437 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care

- [Salvation Army Girls' Home, Toowong \(1956 - c. 1961\)](#)  
Salvation Army Girls' Home, Toowong was mentioned in Submission 120 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Silky Oaks Haven for Children \(1940 - current\)](#)  
Silky Oaks Haven for Children was mentioned in Submissions 102 and 120 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre \(1983 - 1993\)](#)  
Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre was mentioned in Submissions 132 and 222 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [St Joseph's Home, Neerkol \(1885 - 1978\)](#)  
St Joseph's Home Neerkol was mentioned in Submissions 78, 96, 149, 170, 197, 217, 218, 219, 225, 309, 353, 361, and 431 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [St Vincent's Home for Children \(1935 - 1971\)](#)  
St Vincent's Home for Children was mentioned in Submissions 23, 48, 107, 120, 141, 190, 202, 227, 243, 437, and 482 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Tufnell Home \(1901 - 1993\)](#)  
Tufnell Home for Children was mentioned in Submission 222 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [W. R. Black Home \(24 November 1928 - 1965\)](#)  
W. R. Black Home was mentioned in submissions 87, 88, 101, 120, 230, 242, and 409 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Warilda Children's Home and Warilda Infants' Home \(1964 - 1967\)](#)  
Warilda Children's and Infant's Home was mentioned in Submission 222 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Warilda Receiving and Assessment Centre \(1967 - 1989\)](#)  
Warilda Receiving and Assessment Centre was mentioned in Submission 227 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Wilson Youth Hospital \(1961 - 1983\)](#)  
Wilson Youth Hospital was mentioned in Submissions 58, 105, and 227 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Wolston Park Hospital \(1969 - 2001\)](#)  
Wolston Park Hospital was mentioned in Submission 228 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [St Augustine's Orphanage \(1939 - 1966\)](#)

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