

# Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants, House of Commons Health Committee, Parliament of the United Kingdom

July 1997 – 23 July 1998

URL: <https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm199798/cmselect/cmhealth/755/75502.htm>

## Details

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An Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants was undertaken by the Parliament of the United Kingdom's House of Commons Health Committee in 1997-98. In relation to Australia, the Inquiry was most interested in the fate of children who were sent from Britain in the twentieth century.

The inquiry and its report (known as 'Health Committee – Third Report' 1998) focused on:

- The experiences of people who had been sent to Australia as child migrants
- The role of the 'sending' agencies at the time of sending and at the time of the inquiry
- The role of 'receiving' agencies when they 'cared' for the children, and at the time of the inquiry
- The role of governments in child migration, and at the time of the inquiry
- Records relating to the migration and placement of children
- Access to records by former child migrants
- Family separation, family tracing and reunion
- The services and other support mechanisms available and necessary for former child migrants and their families of origin

During the Inquiry, members of the Committee visited Perth to hear evidence in public sessions and meet with former child migrants privately.

One key outcome of this inquiry in Western Australia was the creation of the WA government's Former Child Migrants Referral Index. That index matches records for child migrants held in WA with records known to be held in the UK.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry Into Child Migration, Parliament of Australia \(2000 - 2001\)](#)

- [Child Migrant Support Fund, British Government \(1999 - 2002?\)](#)  
The Child Migrant Support Fund was established as a British Government response to the Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants.
- [Select Committee into Child Migration, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia \(June 1996 - November 1996\)](#)
- [Apology to Former Child Migrants by the British Government \(24 February 2010\)](#)
- [Child Migration Programmes Investigation, UK Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(2017 - 2018\)](#)

## Related Organisations

- [Holy Spirit Province of the Christian Brothers \(1967 - 2007\)](#)  
The Christian Brothers gave evidence at the Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants.
- [Fairbridge Society Inc. \(1909 - 1987\)](#)
- [Department for Family and Children's Services, State of Western Australia \(1 July 1995 - 1 July 2001\)](#)
- [Child Migrants Trust \(1987 - current\)](#)
- [Old Fairbridgians Association, Western Australia \(1930s - c.2024\)](#)
- [CBERSS: Christian Brothers Ex Residents and Students Services \(1995 - December 2005\)](#)
- [Catholic Child Welfare Council, United Kingdom \(1929 - 2003\)](#)  
The Catholic Child Welfare Council gave evidence at the Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants.  
Date: 1998 -
- [The International Association of Former Child Migrants and Their Families \(1994 - current\)](#)
- [The Children's Society, United Kingdom \(1881 - current\)](#)  
The Children's Society gave evidence at the Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants.  
Date: 1998 -
- [Family Care Society \(1989 - current\)](#)  
The Family Care Society gave evidence at the Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants.
- [NCH Action for Children, United Kingdom \(1869 - current\)](#)  
NCH Action for Children gave evidence at the Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants.
- [Father Hudson's Society, United Kingdom \(1902 - current\)](#)
- [Advisory Council of Empire Settlement, United Kingdom \(1925 - 1981\)](#)
- [Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association \(1947? - 1970\)](#)

## Resources

- Community Affairs References Committee, [Lost Innocents: Righting the record - Report on child migration](#), 30 August 2001
- House of Commons Health Committee, [Minutes of Evidence Taken Before the Health Committee on 4 June 1998 \(Health - Third Report\)](#), 4 June 1998
- House of Commons Health Committee, [Minutes of Evidence Taken Before the Health Committee on 11 June 1998 \(Health - Third Report\)](#), 11 June 1998
- Health Committee, House of Commons, [First Special Report: Welfare of Former British Child Migrants](#), 13 March 2001
- The Children's Society, [Hidden Lives Revealed](#), No date
- Lateline, [Lateline: Sins of The Brothers](#), 24 November 1998

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