

ENQUIRY BY MR. JOHN MOSS.

Points on which information is needed as to provision
for the welfare of children emigrating from the
United Kingdom to Australia.

A. FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES.

1. Are there any regulations in force governing:-
- (a) the conduct and management of, and standards of accommodation in, children's homes in which the children are maintained;
 - (b) the boarding out of children by voluntary organisations (with a view to securing the selection of suitable foster parents and safeguarding the welfare of the children when boarded out);
2. (1) What powers, if any, of inspection and enforcement are possessed by either Commonwealth or State authorities in regard to:-
- (a) the attainment and maintenance of satisfactory standards in (i) Children's Homes, and (ii) boarding out;
 - (b) the operations of voluntary organisations in the placing of children in employment, providing after-care and, where necessary, subsidising their earnings until they are self supporting.
- (2) At what average intervals do visits to children's homes and foster-homes respectively take place?

B. FROM INDIVIDUAL ORGANISATIONS CARING FOR THE CHILDREN.

3. (a) What safeguards are employed in the choice of foster-parents and foster homes, and what are the arrangements for the supervision of children boarded out?
- (b) On what basis are allowances paid to foster-parents, both in respect of young children, and in respect of children boarded out after leaving a Home at the age of 15?
- (c) Are the allowances regarded as more or less than, or just, adequate to cover the extra expense involved?
- (d) Do the allowances provide for (i) clothing and (ii) pocket money?
4. (a) Are the children given opportunity to exercise freedom of choice in the matter of employment?
- (b) What guidance is given them?
- (c) Does the organisation make use of such State services as may be available for guidance to juveniles and their placing in employment?
- (d) What careers are most commonly chosen?
- (e) What safeguards are employed in the selection of employers and what is the machinery of securing supervision over children when employed?

(f) What are the arrangements for assisting them financially until they are self supporting?

(g) Up to what age does such assistance continue?

5.5. Are children encouraged to maintain contact with parents and other relatives, both in the United Kingdom and in Australia?

6. What is the general standing and reputation of the organisation, and of the staff and/or voluntary workers employed having regard to the number of children over whom supervision is required?

7. What is regarded as the age on emigration at which children are most likely to derive most benefit from emigration?

C. FROM CHILDREN'S HOMES.

8. What are, in brief, the material standards of accommodation, furnishings and equipment.

9. What are the number, qualifications and suitability of the staff in relation to the number and sex of the children accommodated.

10. (a) What is the disciplinary regime of the home and the general home environment?

(b) Are the children afforded the opportunity for the development of individual interests and capacities?

(c) Are the children afforded the opportunity to form contacts with children living with their parents, and to become assimilated with the normal life of the community?

(d) What arrangements are made for holidays?

11. (a) What are the arrangements for the children's education, (i) within the home or (ii) at local outside schools?

(b) What facilities exist for children to receive higher education?

(c) To what extent is advantage taken of them?

12. What arrangements are made for medical care?

