

Select Committee into Child Migration, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia

June 1996 – November 1996

Details

The Select Committee into Child Migration was appointed in June 1996 by the Western Australian Legislative Assembly. It was established to investigate and report on child migration to Western Australia between the early 1900s and 1967.

A major aim of the Select Committee was to inquire into and report on the action necessary to assist former child migrants in the tracing of their family history and research, the tracing of relatives and reunification with them.

The Select Committee also investigated other aspects of the child migration schemes including their history, the agencies involved in emigrating children, the institutions child migrants were sent to, the role of all governments in promoting and supporting the schemes and their impact on people's lives.

In November 1996, the Committee tabled an interim report that noted the establishment of this Committee was the 'culmination of a growing awareness by the community that child migration did occur and was a policy actively promoted by various governments. This Committee was also a tacit acknowledgment by the Parliament of Western Australia that some measure of responsibility was owed to these people.'

With a State general election imminent, the Parliament did not take up the Committee's preferred option of continuing the inquiry through the establishment of an Honorary Royal Commission.

More info

Related Entries

Related Events

- [Inquiry Into Child Migration, Parliament of Australia \(2000 - 2001\)](#)
- [Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants, House of Commons Health Committee, Parliament of the United Kingdom \(July 1997 - 23 July 1998\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Castledare \(1934 - 1983\)](#)
The Select Committee into Child Migration heard evidence about Castledare.
- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)
- [The Children's Society, United Kingdom \(1881 - current\)](#)

Related Archival Series

- [Papers, 1948-1997 \[manuscript\] \[Cosgrove\] \(1948 - 1997\)](#)

Related Concepts

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

Resources

- [Cosgrove, Oliver Manuscript Note](#), State Library of Western Australia website, 1998
 - Swain, Shurlee, [History of Australian inquiries reviewing institutions providing care for children](#), October 2014
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