

# The Children's Society, United Kingdom

1881 –

**Other Names:**

- The Church of England Incorporated Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays
- The Waifs and Strays Society
- Church of England Children's Society

**URL:** <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>

## Details

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The Children's Society was established in Britain in 1881 as 'The Waifs and Strays Society'. From 1925 to 1961 they were involved in sending a total of around 400 children from their Homes in Britain to Australia. Children from The Children's Society homes emigrated under schemes operated by The Fairbridge Society, The Church of England Advisory Council of Empire Settlement, Northcote Children's Emigration Fund, the Big Brother Movement, and The Church Army.

A brief history on The Children's Society website says that they developed a series of cottage homes rather than large institutions. Information about these Homes is listed on The Children's Society's historical website, 'Hidden Lives'.

The Children's Society gave evidence about its child migration practices to the Select Committee into Child Migration, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia (1996).

In their 1998 evidence to the British parliament's Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants, The Children's Society stated they had a 'post-adoption and care service' which included enquiries about child migration. Information about the impact on former child migrants and ongoing service needs was included in the Memorandum tabled in evidence about this service.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Related Events

- [Select Committee into Child Migration, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia \(June 1996 - November 1996\)](#)
- [Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants, House of Commons Health Committee, Parliament of the United Kingdom \(July 1997 - 23 July 1998\)](#)

The Children's Society gave evidence at the Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants.  
Date: 1998 -

#### Related Organisations

- [Fairbridge Farm School, Pinjarra \(1913 - 1981\)](#)
- [Swan Homes \(1943 - 1959\)](#)  
The Children's Society sent child migrants from Britain to Swan Homes in Western Australia.  
Date: 1949 -
- [Melrose \(1952 - 1982\)](#)  
Child migrants from The Children's Society homes were sent to Melrose
- [Big Brother Movement \(1925 - current\)](#)  
Children from The Children's Society homes emigrated to Australia under The Big Brother Movement's child migration scheme.
- [Fairbridge Farm School, Molong \(1938 - 1973\)](#)  
Child migrants from The Children's Society homes were sent to Fairbridge Farm School, Molong
- [Clarendon Children's Home \(1922 - 2004\)](#)  
Child migrants from The Children's Society homes were sent to Clarendon Children's Home
- [Advisory Council of Empire Settlement, United Kingdom \(1925 - 1981\)](#)  
Children from The Children's Society homes emigrated to Australia under The Church of England Advisory Council of Empire Settlement's child migration scheme.
- [Swanleigh \(1960 - 2010\)](#)
- [Fairbridge Society Inc. \(1909 - 1987\)](#)  
Children from The Children's Society homes in Britain were sent as child migrants to Fairbridge Farm, Pinjarra Western Australia via the Fairbridge Society.  
Date: 1925 - 1953
- [St John's Home for Boys \(c. 1924 - 1958\)](#)  
Child migrants from The Children's Society homes were sent to St John's Home for Boys
- [Northcote Farm School \(1937 - 1979\)](#)  
Child migrants from The Children's Society homes were sent to Northcote Farm School
- [Church Army \(1932 - 2024\)](#)  
Child migrants from The Children's Society homes were sent to Church Army homes

### Related Concepts

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

## Resources

- Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse, [Child Migration Programmes Investigation Report](#), March 2018
- Health Committee, House of Commons, [Health - Third Report](#), 23 July 1998. *Relevance:* The Children's Society made a submission to the Select Committee on Health Third Report

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