

# NCH Action for Children, United Kingdom

1869 –

**Other Names:** • National Children's Home

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

## Details

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NCH Action for Children was established as a charity in 1869 by Thomas Bowman Stephenson to stop children having to go into workhouses. In 1908 the organisation became known as the National Children's Home and in 1937, 1939 and 1950 it was involved in child migration to Australia. Since 2008 the organisation has been known as Action for Children.

NCH Action for Children was one of the organisations that sent child migrants to Australia. In 1998 they gave evidence to the British parliament's Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants.

The organisation was founded 1869 as 'The Children's Home' by Thomas Bowman Stephenson, a Methodist minister in London. It grew quite quickly and by 1908 was known as the National Children's Home and Orphanage, then the National Children's Home, then as NCH.

Some children were sent to Australia via the Fairbridge scheme between 1937 and 1939. After World War II, another 90 children were sent (all but 12 on one boat in 1950 and all to Methodist Children's Homes, apart from 15 children who went to Barnardos). The nine children who came to the Methodist Children's Home in Western Australia probably all came from the National Children's Home.

NCH Action for Children was known in 2014 as 'Action for Children'. Their website holds many photographs of children and Homes.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Related Events

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

NCH Action for Children gave evidence at the Inquiry into the Welfare of Former British Child Migrants.

#### Related Organisations

- [Methodist Children's Home \(1922 - 1959\)](#)

NCH Action for Children is the organisation that inherited the records about British child migrants who were

sent to the Methodist Children's Home in the 1950s.

### Related Concepts

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

## Resources

- Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse, [Child Migration Programmes Investigation Report](#), March 2018
  - Howard, Philip J., [Their History: History of a Child in Care](#), 2012
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/nch-action-for-children/>