



COPY

THE FAIRBRIDGE SOCIETY

Creagh House,  
38, Holland Villas Road,  
London W.14

The Chief Migration Officer,  
Australia House,  
STRAND, W.C.2.

31<sup>st</sup> March 1960.

Your Ref. HF/FB C46/1/1

Dear Mr. Lamidey,

Thank you for your letter of the 25th instant. It is the practice of this Society to send a brief history sheet to our Boards of Governors in Perth and Sydney respectively in regard to each child going to a Fairbridge Farm School in Western Australia and New South Wales. This sheet gives the following information:

Name of child:	Date of Birth:	Creed:
Scholastic ability (including I.Q.)		Character of Child:
Illnesses:	Mother:	Father:
Period at Fairbridge Reception Centre:		Remarks.

and a copy is sent to the Principal of the Farm School so that he is aware of the information which is lodged at our Perth and Sydney Offices.

In addition to the above - and more important - we send to the Principal of the Farm School a private and confidential history of the child. This is a fairly comprehensive record and includes family background, reason for application, recommendations of those who are interested in the child, record of illnesses and medical attention and reports from those who have had the care of the child. As much of the information given to us regarding family background is confidential, only one copy of this private and personal history is sent to reduce the risk of the information falling into unauthorised hands. The Principal understands that these histories must be treated as confidential, kept under lock and key, and are in his personal custody. It is felt that these particulars assist the Principal in understanding the children and their attitude, reactions and problems, thereby enabling him and his staff the better to fill the children's educational and emotional needs. These details also assist in dealing with children's questions regarding their past and with their correspondence with their relations in this country. If a child requires medical or psychological treatment, the Principal would, of course, pass on such information from the confidential history as may be required professionally.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) W.R. Vaughan  
Director.

Child Welfare Department,  
508 Hay Street,  
PERTH.

12th July, 1954.

The Commonwealth Migration Officer,  
Commonwealth Immigration Department,  
862 Hay Street,  
PERTH.

Dear Sir,

Re Moss Report on Child Migration : Pocket Money -  
Your 133/1/5.

I regret the delay in replying to your previous communication, but this was due to the fact that I am unable to obtain from either the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association or the Swan Homes any definite information concerning the payment of pocket-money to migrant children who are accommodated in their institutions.

Replies have been received from the following:

Methodist Homes for Children.

Each child receives 3d. to 1/- per week, depending on age.

When the children go on outings, which take place at very frequent intervals, on an average hardly less than once a week, they are given pocket-money varying from 6d. to 1/-. During the summer months cool drinks, ice-creams, etc. are supplied in addition.

There is a regular purchase of chocolates and sweets at the Home and these are issued at intervals to the children.

All odd school expenses, (concert money, swimming, gifts, etc.) are paid to the children as required.

Children going on holidays are given sufficient pocket-money to cover their spending during the time they are away from the Home.

The hosts of the children are asked not to give them money to bring back to the Home and gifts of money or clothing to individual children are not encouraged.

Fairbridge Farm School:

It has always been the policy of this Institution to allow each child pocket-money. At the present time the scale is as under:-

Children 6 and under	...	3d. per week
7 and 8	...	4d. " "
9 and 10	...	5d. " "
11 and 12	...	6d. " "
13 and 14	...	7d. " "
15 and over	...	1/-d. " "

In addition, the senior and junior task boys and girls who are allotted duties on the farmside and in the village establishments, are paid between 2/- and 3/- per week, according to their

seniority. Junior task children work for a fortnight about and receive 2/- per week for the working fortnight.

Trainee boys and girls at the Farm School receive 10/- per week, out of which they are encouraged to bank half for special purposes in a trust account maintained by the Society on their behalf.

In connection with other institutions, although I understand that children are given money for outings, there appears to be nothing definite in the way of pocket-money.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd). A.L. Young  
Secretary.

COPY:MB.

orig on 133/1/32

THE FAIRBRIDGE SOCIETY

38, Holland Villas Road,  
London. W.14.  
1st April, 1954.

The Chief Migration Officer,  
Australia House,  
The Strand,  
LONDON. W.C.2.

Dear Mr. Lamidey,

At a recent meeting of the Council of Voluntary Organisations for Child Emigration it was reported that it would be helpful if you knew what arrangements were made by the various Organisations regarding pocket money for child migrants during their journey to Australia.

So far as this Society is concerned, I should let you know that if any child has less than 10/- pocket money (and often children's relatives, or friends of the Society, make small monetary gifts prior to sailing), we make up the difference so that every boy or girl has at least 10/- to spend during the voyage. In addition, we give the senior escort a sum of petty cash (30/- per child) to cover gratuities to stewards, trips ashore, haircutting, cables to us advising wellbeing of the party, laundry, postage, etc. etc. We find that this sum is more than adequate for the purpose - a balance is usually paid over to our representatives in Western Australia or New South Wales.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) W.R. Vaughan  
Director

THE FAIRBRIDGE SOCIETY

[INCORPORATED]  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

70  
DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION  
133/3/8  
CANBERRA

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PERTH, W.A.

WEA.DH.

133/1/31

25th March, 1954.

The Secretary,  
Department of Immigration,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

Re: Report on Child Migration to  
Australia by Mr. John Moss.

I am sorry that there has been a long delay in replying to your letter of 4th January. It was necessary to refer Mr. Moss' report to the Principal of the Farm School and to ask for his comments thereon. The Principal's Report could not be sent on to you until my Board had the opportunity of seeing it.

I have pleasure in enclosing herewith a copy of the Principal's Report which deals specifically with the suggestion by Mr. John Moss that the Society should accept Australian children as well as migrant children, at its Farm School.

I would like to mention that members of the Board of Governors of this Society are in complete accord with the views expressed by the Principal.

Yours faithfully,  
for THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

*W. E. Aspinall*  
SECRETARY.

*3 copies of this  
encl. filed  
in document*  
*W. E. O*

*Castle 2/3*

COMMENT UPON SUGGESTION BY JOHN MOSS (Vide HOME OFFICE REPORT "CHILD MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA" - PARAGRAPH 39) THAT THE SOCIETY SHOULD ACCEPT AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN AS WELL AS MIGRANT CHILDREN AT ITS FARM SCHOOLS.

1. Mr. Moss expressed the opinion that it would be very desirable for Institutions handling Migrant children solely, to make changes in policy to the intent that some Australian children be accepted at such Institutions. He makes specific reference to the Fairbridge Schools, the Northcote Children's Farm School and Dr. Barnardo's establishments.
2. He gives no reasons for such opinion nor for supporting his recommendations that such a change in policy be considered. He gives no lead as to the ratio of Migrant children to Australian children which he would recommend as being desirable. The Institutions which he particularly noted as catering for both Australian and Migrant children have a large number of Australian children and a smaller number of Migrant children.
3. In the absence of specific reasons we must attempt to determine why Mr. Moss expressed his opinion and made his recommendation. Presumably he felt that a mixture of native born and migrant child in the one School would materially assist in the assimilation of the latter into Australian community and way of life; that the native born child would, by association, act as a kind of tutor to the other in local customs, practices, observances, standards and codes; that both classes of children would have something to offer to the other which would react to their individual and mutual benefit; that the Migrant Institution would be less English and more Australian.
4. Without in any wise entering upon the pros and cons of such reasoning, I believe that those experienced in the control and management of purely migrant establishments, would regard such reasoning as academic, rather than real; would feel the opinions expressed and the reasons which can be advanced as lacking in substance. I do not suggest that good does not result from association between native born and migrant children - that both classes gain from such association - that English communities halt the process of complete assimilation.
5. With particular regard to the Kingsley Fairbridge Farm School at Pinjarra, I am prepared to confidently argue that there is no justification for a change in its policy to receive only migrant children and that the reasons which might be advanced in support of a policy change cannot be advanced in relation to such Farm School.
6. Arguments against any policy change are as follows:-
  - (a) From the Australian National viewpoint it is essential that the maximum number of ideal migrants (i.e. child migrants) should be brought to Australia. If the accommodation available for acceptance of migrant children is reduced (i.e. used for acceptance of Australian children) then less ideal migrants are gained for Australia.
  - (b) The heaviest financial burden of maintenance of the Society's Farm Schools is borne by England and English people. The financial support accorded the Society in England would be substantially weakened if its policy were changed so that its schools catered for Australian children to the exclusion of English children.

*Yp*

*Goodman*

- (c) The Society is already becoming embarrassed because it finds itself unable to accept all children offered to it in England.
- (d) A change of policy along the lines recommended in the Moss Report would be contrary to the objects of the Society as outlined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association and would be contrary to the Founder's vision.
- (e) Any such change would introduce the "Parent" problem. Those in charge of child establishments well know the problems associated with the close presence of parents - their demands for privileges not accorded to other children - the unsettling effect their close presence has upon their own children and upon other children whose parents are at remote distances - and so on.

*Good point*

(f) Pinjarra is not an isolated English community. Pinjarra children are in constant touch and association with Australian people (including children) and with the Australian way of life, because:-

- (i) the Farm School staff of nearly 50 includes a majority of Australian born and they and their families are "of" the Fairbridge family and in complete identity with it;
- (ii) all post primary children (50 at present) attend the Pinjarra Junior Agricultural High School daily and thus associate in the school room and on the playing field with Australian children;
- (iii) Pinjarra District children attend at the Farm School daily to take specialist subjects, e.g. Domestic Science, Woodwork, Metalwork, and the Course in Agriculture. Pinjarra children taking the Course in Agriculture are boarded by me at the Farm School and live in the cottages with our children;
- (iv) all School teachers are Australian;
- (v) many of our children spend school vacations in Australian homes with Australian families;
- (vi) hosts of visitors come to the Farm School so that not a day passes without the children having some association with Australians. Visitors approximate 5,000 per year;
- (vii) many Australian sporting bodies visit the Farm School and play matches against our children;
- (viii) I have adopted the policy of allowing our children to act as hosts to Australian children, e.g., wards of Legacy and school friends.

7. Summarized, any reasons which might be advanced in favour of a change of policy are far outweighed by good and cogent reasons for maintenance of the existing policy of the Fairbridge Society to cater solely for migrant children.

(A.E. BALL)

PRINCIPAL.

22/1/1954.