

# HISTORY TIMELINE

Regarding the removal of  
First Nation Australian Citizens  
from their Families of Origin

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Supplementary submission in response to part (a) of the Inquiry into the role of commonwealth in contributing to forced adoption, by Origins in Partnership with the Stolen Generations Alliance and Origins HARP (Healing and Recovery Project for Forgotten Australians)

# Introduction

We, the partners to this submission, believe that the following information contains evidence not only that “forced adoption” of First Nation Australians occurred, but that the Commonwealth is responsible for such.

The distinction between the act of taking a child without legal authority of a court of law and those acts implied by the phrase “with a view to adoption” is linked, we believe, with the social policies of assimilation and rehabilitation – separation policies of commonwealth and state governments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, regarding eugenic ideas about race, morality, economic status, and health. Those subjected to these policies now identify as members either of the Forgotten Australians, the Stolen Generations, or Australians Separated by Forced Adoption (or a combination of the latter).

## **Forgotten Australians**

This group includes indigenous and non-indigenous newborns who were rejected as “unadoptable”, consequently spending time in State / other institutions, and indigenous and non-indigenous unmarried mothers who spent time in maternity homes as minors.

A distinction especially needs to be made between the Stolen Generations and Australians Separated by Forced Adoption (AASW), in view of opinions popularized in media circa 2010 regarding the Rudd Government Apology to the Stolen Generations as wrongly exclusive of “whites”.

## **Stolen Generations**

Members under this umbrella also identify as Australian indigenous who were subjected to an official assimilation policy of the Commonwealth Government, which led to the separation of their family members. They also identify as people who suffered the extinction and segregation of their families and family members.

## **Australians Separated by Forced Adoption (ASFA)**

This group includes mostly unmarried indigenous and non-indigenous parents who were separated from their children at birth (but also those who conceived outside of an existing marital relationship), who were subjected to an official rehabilitation policy of the Commonwealth Government. Numerous examples of both the assimilation and rehabilitation policies have been provided in timelines prepared by Origins SPSA Inc and submitted to the current Inquiry into forced adoption.

## **Indigenous identification with also with the Forgotten Australians and ASFA**

Despite the distinctions between the Stolen Generations, Australians Separated by Forced Adoption and the Forgotten Australians, there are similarities which effect individual identification of indigenous Australians with the latter groups.

The notion of a “white stolen generation”<sup>1</sup> – an umbrella implying reverse discrimination by the Government in its offering of an Apology to the Stolen Generations – should be rejected along with its implied exclusion of “whites”; the Stolen Generations, Australians Separated by Forced Adoption (ASFA), and Forgotten Australians (separated by forced

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sunday-telegraph/mothers-demand-adoption-apologies/comments-e6frewt0-1225957369988>

adoption) definitively include indigenous Australians. In contrast, non-indigenous Forgotten Australians and ASFA *cannot* identify as members of the Stolen Generations; the Stolen Generations umbrella does not exclude people on the basis of ethnicity but opposes ethnic racism.

Highlighting the ethnic racism that manifested in the separation of indigenous family members by 'forced adoption', the theme of respectable "white" families is evident in the following extract from "Bringing them home":

I was taken off my mum as soon as I was born, so she never even seen me. What Welfare wanted to do was to adopt all these poor little black babies into nice, caring white families, respectable white families, where they'd get a good upbringing. I had a shit upbringing. Me and [adopted brother who was also Aboriginal] were always treated different to the others ... we weren't given the same love, we were always to blame. ... I found my mum when I was 18 - she was really happy to hear from me, because she didn't adopt me out. Apparently she did sign adoption papers, but she didn't know [what they were]. She said to me that for months she was running away from Welfare [while she was pregnant], and they kept finding her. She remembers being in - it wasn't a hospital - but there were nuns in it, nuns running it. I was born at Crown Street. They did let her out with her brother one day and she run away again. Right from the beginning they didn't want her to have me.

--(*Bringing them Home Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families, April 1997, Confidential evidence 657, New South Wales: woman taken from her mother at birth in 1973 and adopted by a non-Aboriginal family.*)

Aboriginality is equated with the 'morally unfit', in the following commentary implying eugenics in the removal of aboriginal children from their families:

The governments in the 1930s said children had to be taken away from their parents because the influence of their own communities was immoral and they were in danger of abuse and neglect, but the real agenda then was to de-Aboriginalise them.<sup>2</sup>

### **The Rehabilitation Policy**

Notably, the Australian Government did not take the advice of Miss Constance Duncan of the Commonwealth Department of Health in 1944:

With this comment on illegitimate children in her report to the National Health and Medical Research Council, Miss Constance Duncan, of the Commonwealth Health Department, urged measures to protect the child and prevent the mother becoming dissolute. All authorities were agreed that not only was it beneficial from the baby's point of view that the mother should keep the child, but to ensure the rehabilitation of the girl it was essential that she assumed responsibility for her baby, said Miss Duncan. Medical testimony was that most prostitutes began by having an illegitimate baby, and that if there had been provision for such unmarried mothers to retain the children and be employed many would not be so engaged.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Aboriginal Timeline, Creative Spirits, retrieved 17th October, 2011, from <http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/aboriginal-history-timeline-early-20th.html#ixzz1b5YxF16H>

<sup>3</sup> 1944 'PLEA TO ASSIST SINGLE MOTHERS.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 9 December, p. 2, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48958239>

Origins submissions to the current Inquiry have established that in 1946, An Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) was formed '...at the inter-state conference of social workers in the Commonwealth Department of Social Services', to be 'a coordinating body for the State associations of social workers' and 'to speak for them on matters that affect the Commonwealth, and speak for the Commonwealth in international affairs connected with social work.'<sup>4</sup>

In 1947 the Director General of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, Mr. Rowe spoke about the role of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) as official mouthpiece of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services:<sup>5</sup>

Mr. Rowe pointed out that councils of social service and such groups as the Australian Association of Social Workers could do a great deal to influence public opinion in a way which Government officers could not, by calling attention to existing evils and helping to decide what was the best way to deal with them.<sup>6</sup>

In an article titled, "The work women do", the objectives of the AASW are also defined:

It is those who have diplomas in social science who are eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers. It is therefore a professional body, its objects including the promotion of professional social work throughout the Commonwealth; interpretation of the aims and objects of social work to the public; the co-ordination of activities in various States; and representation in matters pertaining to the Commonwealth in the international sphere.<sup>7</sup>

In Australia in 1953, Fullbright scholar Miss Margaret Thornhill unveiled for consumption by the Australian public, US Government policies deeply steeped in eugenics:

practice and experience over many years have shown that adoption is in the best interests of both mother and child. The woman whose behaviour deviates from the moral code is under a social handicap that is very difficult to overcome, and in the majority of cases a handicap that is personal as well as social.

In the past it was assumed that the only psychological difference from the normal relationship of mother and child was in the absence of the marriage certificate. Our experience has disproved that assumption as a general thing...<sup>8</sup>

For a comprehensive overview of the treatment of "existing social evils" by the AASW, see Origins submission to the Inquiry into commonwealth contribution to forced adoption, titled "An Experiment of the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in the Sydney Metropolitan Region in 1953".

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<sup>4</sup> 1946 'Women's News Association Formed By Australian Social Workers.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 12 September, p. 7, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27910131>

<sup>5</sup> Numerous examples of the rehabilitation policy of separating 'illegitimate' newborns from their mothers at birth, are included in Timelines submitted by Origins to the current Inquiry. The psychopathology of the unwed mother was a pseudo-science promoted by both the medical and social work professions across English-speaking, nations circa 1920s – 1970s. It was imported to Australia long before 1946.

<sup>6</sup> 1947 'Importance Of Voluntary Organisations.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 25 June, p. 11, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article35983845>

<sup>7</sup> 1949 'The WORK that WOMEN DO.', *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 13 October, p. 15, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26666447>

<sup>8</sup> 1953 'Studying Our Social Problems And Our Approach To Them.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 17 November, p. 7, viewed 19 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48919075>

## **Not to usurp but aid the efforts of voluntary welfare bodies including maternity homes**

'Working with welfare organizations' is a recurring theme circa 1940s – 50s (see timelines of Origins submitted to this Inquiry), correlated with the rise of international social work and 'forced adoption' as common practice of existent welfare organizations. With the latter foundations laid, it remained only for the application of new theories of the elite of the social work profession to filter out of social science departments across Australia in theoretical justification of 'forced adoption'. Punishment and secrecy due to shaming in maternity homes would respectively give way to the idea of unmarried motherhood as inherently problematic and need to conceal crimes.

An article dated 1939, titled, "Unwanted Children" links the rehabilitation population policy with the League of Nations in 1927:

The status and treatment of illegitimate children has long claimed the attention of league experts. It was first raised in 1927 when the women's committee of the International Federation of Trades Unions, Amsterdam submitted a memorandum concerning the rehabilitation of unmarried mothers and the protection of illegitimate children.<sup>9</sup>

### **The Mission of the Maternity Home circa 1940s – 1950s**

Scandal and secrecy are themes associated with the mission of maternity homes, as evident in the following article implying the destruction of the 'illegitimate' family:

One of the most charitable aspects of the work of St. Anthony's is the safeguarding of the good name and reputation of highly respectable families. Many good daughters of the best of parents have found themselves needing the shelter and protection of the Home, far from the critical eyes of self-righteous society. From here they have been enabled to return to their parents without the slightest danger of their situation being revealed. No one can cast a stone at another.<sup>10</sup>

The 'respectable' origins of the unmarried mother is also a theme in the following article from 1944:

'Most unmarried mothers, he stressed, were not from the slums but from respectable middle and upper class homes. These girls are not bad. They are your relatives and mine. They are pitiful victims of our own failure.'<sup>11</sup>

One Josephite describes relinquishment as a sacrifice:

I never agreed with the policy that the girls were not allowed to see the babies. I remember speaking to a priest about it twenty years later and saying I didn't agree with that. My idea was that if the girls were making the sacrifice of giving up their babies they should have seen them and known them and really made that sacrifice for the babies.

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<sup>9</sup> 1939 'UNWANTED CHILDREN.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 14 October, p. 11, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46431213>

<sup>10</sup> A history of St Anthony's Home Croydon, July 1989, written by Sr Kath Burford RSJ. Provided by Origins NSW.(PDF 664KB), Parliament of Australia, Senate, retrieved 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from <[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/comm\\_contrib\\_former\\_forced\\_adoption/submissions.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/comm_contrib_former_forced_adoption/submissions.htm)>

<sup>11</sup> 1944 'Many Girls Under 15 in U.S. Having Babies.', *The Mail* (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 20 May, p. 2, viewed 16 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55879640>

That was always my theory. This was not the matron's. (Sr A. Baldwin, *Heeding the Voices*, 2004, p. 83, available online)

### **The unwanted child – the adoption/abortion connection**

Circa 1920s – 1970s, 'the unwanted child' is exemplified in numerous articles advertising 'illegitimate' babies to prospective adoptive citizens (again featured in timelines submitted by Origins to the current Inquiry into forced adoption). We would argue that the reference "unwanted" was not a denial of the common practice of forcibly removing 'illegitimate' newborns from their mothers; the coercion of unmarried mothers was public policy and knowledge. We would also argue that by "unwanted", the innate affection and identity of "unmarried" mothers as real mothers is not being called into question; articles of the period also speak of aided "unmarried" mothers as being those fiercely determined not to part with their children (see historical timelines of Origins submitted to the Inquiry into forced adoption).

It is common knowledge that in Christian theology, the 'intellect and the will' have been portrayed to reign supreme over the affections; the 'heart' has been appropriated to wives in submission to the 'head'. According to such a patriarchal system, true affection corresponds with a state that is morally right. The couple who plans for a child – the married couple – is upheld as more entitled to the offspring of the unmarried mother. The 'illegitimate' is unchosen / unplanned child, while preparation for a child is proven by marital status. Nevertheless, forced adoption has in recent years been retrospectively portrayed as the equivalent of a nine-month termination.

In a lecture presented to the Australian Catholic University in May 2009, Margaret McDonald reportedly claimed that the Catholic Adoption Agency was established due to 'poor contraception resulting in many unwanted pregnancies.' (Australian Catholic Historical Society, June 2009 newsletter)

In 1952, the Australian Commonwealth Department of Immigration arranged for the "Motherhood of Man" movement to take the 'illegitimate' offspring of unwed mothers for adoption in New Zealand, as a measure to 'beat the abortionist'. The mothers were then promptly shipped back to Australia, 'debabied':

In the past year the movement has cared for 192 unmarried mothers and arranged for the adoption of 173 babies. The president of the movement (Mrs. J. R. Bovaird) said: We are not a religious body. We offer friendship and we are out to beat the abortionist.

On the other hand, in 1971, the Reverend Norman Webb addressed a meeting at the Town Hall in Sydney, where he called for the abortion of illegitimate children – those 'apparently wanted at conception but not wanted at birth.'<sup>12</sup>

## **EUGENICS**

### **Eugenics of the medically 'fit' – babies deferred**

Children taken from mothers without authority of a court were subjected to a compulsory medical assessment to ascertain their adoptability (deferred adoption). The healthy in theory

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<sup>12</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqpQX8ynonM>

went to 'morally' and/or economically 'fitter' homes, while the 'unadoptables'<sup>13</sup> of the deferred adoption system were placed in State or other institutions (Forgotten Australians). All unmarried mothers were subjected to VDRL testing (see the Zerk Letter, submission 170b to the current Inquiry into forced adoption).

In the following advertisement from 1952, eugenics of the medically fit is apparent in the sourcing of babies from medically fit "unmarried" mothers:

If you want a child and can't have one go East down Hay Street until you come to the old Tramways buildings. Then turn off into a narrow alleyway past a sign which says LOST PROPERTY until you come to the door of a small office...If you are approved your name will be added to the already long waiting list for children from the following sources:

- . Neglected Children.
- . Children of medically fit unmarried mothers
- . Abandoned children.
- . Orphans and others under the care of the Welfare Dept.<sup>14</sup>

Regardless of their ultimate destination, whether that was to be offered for adoption or placed in a State institution<sup>15</sup> – the removed newborns were punished for the 'sin' of their mothers (rehabilitation). With its origins in the object of the rehabilitation of the unwed mother, the secrecy provision in the Model legislation was a veto to conceal illegitimacy, in effect, by barring any future knowledge of mother and child regarding each other. The veto system which accompanied the opening of the records in 1991 provided an option to apply the original intent of the uniform legislation, which was to conceal illegitimacy and, therefore, retrospectively to deny the human right of every child to know and respect its heritage. In an article titled, "Uniform Law on Adoption of Child Planned", the secrecy surrounding the 'illegitimate' child is evident:

The Registrar-General was prohibited from giving any information regarding the origin of an adopted child. That prevented the activities of those who would like to expose the fact that some young man or woman was an adopted child.<sup>16</sup>

As one adopted person recently commented to a member of Origins, "Everyone knew that adoption meant illegitimate..." (anonymous)

### **Eugenics of the economically 'fit'**

The eugenics of the economically 'fit' is related to the Calvinist theory of predestination, according to which material prosperity is viewed as a sign of God's grace and, thereby, the Christian morality of the economically fitter married couple. The latter beliefs are also linked with 'the work ethic' and withdrawal of financial assistance to the 'undeserving poor'. In an article titled, "World Crusade for Child Welfare – Home Discipline Breaks Down", poverty

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<sup>13</sup> "The Unadoptables", Australian Journal of Social Work, 1967

<sup>14</sup> 1952 'YOU'D LIKE TO ADOPT A BABY?.', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 11 May, p. 12 Edition: COUNTRY EDITION, Section: Sporting Section, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59544301>

<sup>15</sup> Prospective adoptive parents could take a deferred adoption baby, "with a view to adoption" and return the child if the medical problem did not resolve.

<sup>16</sup> 1941 'UNIFORM LAW ON ADOPTION OF CHILD PLANNED.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 24 October, p. 5, viewed 19 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article41936786>

and immorality are linked: 'I am astounded that people of the so-called poorer classes are, in the circumstances, as moral as they are.'<sup>17</sup>

According to Calvinism, evil is inherent; the upbringing of any child was not to be entrusted to the unmarried mother, especially who brought poverty to bear upon her child; though the 'illegitimate' child was considered 'wealth of the nation' during the population crises around WWII, recruitment advertisements for prospective adoptive couples may indicate that fears of 'Bad Blood' were being allayed by 'nurture over nature' to encourage adoption. This was clearly also a money-saving measure of governments of the day.

## **Conclusion**

Far from excluding "whites", First Nation People waged a just war against an authoritarian regime in Australia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to pave the way for non-indigenous Australians to now stand and be counted among them.

## **NOTE: Deceased Persons**

Users of this Timeline should be aware that, in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, seeing images of deceased persons in photographs may cause sadness or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural prohibitions.

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<sup>17</sup> 1934 'WORLD CRUSADE FOR CHILD WELFARE.', The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 8 September, p. 16, viewed 19 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58857966>



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**Above: extracted from a newsletter of the Stolen Generations Alliance, featuring indigenous Australians keen to be heard by the Senate Affairs References Committee examining the role of the commonwealth in contributing to forced adoption.**

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<sup>18</sup> [http://www.linkupvictoria.org.au/media/docs/nlu\\_news\\_05.11\\_s.pdf](http://www.linkupvictoria.org.au/media/docs/nlu_news_05.11_s.pdf)

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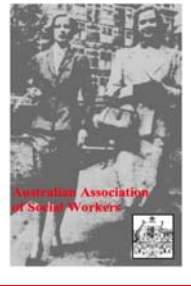




<sup>19</sup> “The Tree Generations”, retrieved 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from  
<<http://wwwmcc.murdoch.edu.au/ReadingRoom/6.2/Poignant.html>>






# HISTORY TIMELINE KEY

Image	Image Correspondence
	<b>To Remove and Protect: Laws that Changed Aboriginal Lives<sup>20</sup></b>
	<b>The Commonwealth of Australia</b>
<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<b>Policies expressed or implied by commonwealth government officials and the consequences of the latter</b>
 <p>The opening session of the League of Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 15 November 1920.</p> <p>21</p> 	<b>League of Nations / United Nations</b>

<sup>20</sup> [http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prov/nsw\\_prov.html](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prov/nsw_prov.html)

<sup>21</sup> <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/unintro/unintro3.htm>

		<b>Commonwealth Department of Social Services</b>  <b>Financial Assistance to Unwed Mothers</b>	
		<b>Commonwealth / Australian Association of Social Workers – formed from out of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services in 1946</b>	
<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>		<b>Scholars / Scholarships</b>	
<b>NSW</b>  <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<b>Victoria</b>  <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<b>Queensland</b>  <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<b>Western Australia</b>  <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<b>South Australia</b> 	<b>ACT</b>  <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<b>Northern Territory</b> 	<b>Tasmania</b> 
<b>Britain</b>  <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<b>Canada</b>  <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<b>USA</b>  <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<b>New Zealand</b> 

	<b>POPULATION</b>
	<b>Medical profession</b>
	<b>Social Work Profession / medical almoners</b>
	<b>Psychopathology of the unwed mother</b>
	<b>Hate speech and propaganda towards the "unwed mother" and her "illegitimate" offspring:</b>  Theme of the unwanted ('illegitimate') baby – See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia (at sub 170b: <a href="http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/comm_contrib_former_forced_adoption/submissions.htm">http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/comm_contrib_former_forced_adoption/submissions.htm</a> )
<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<b>Legal and political</b> See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia

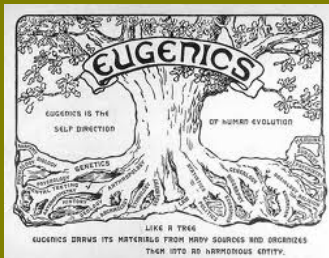


## Babies for adoption; demand for babies

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## Forgotten Australians and HARP

How many of the children rejected as “unadoptable” after being removed from their mothers with “a view to adoption” could identify as Forgotten Australians?



## Forced Adoption Eugenics

**The practice of “deferred” adoption, all babies were subject to a medical examination to assess “suitability for adoption”.**

‘This image was frequently used by eugenics organizations. The text describes eugenics as “the self direction of evolution” and declares that “like a tree eugenics draws its materials from many sources and organizes them into a harmonious entity.” The tree’s roots include genealogy, biography, biology, mental testing, psychology, anthropology, and statistics.’<sup>22</sup>

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## Catholics / Catholic

See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia

**“Defending the reputation of highly respectable families”** – K. Burford, History of St Anthony’s Home for Unmarried Mothers, Additional Information at:

<[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/comm\\_contrib\\_former\\_forced\\_adoption/submissions.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/comm_contrib_former_forced_adoption/submissions.htm)>)

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## Presbyterians and Methodists

See also: History Timeline of Adoption in Australia

## Puritanism

## Themes of rehabilitation and punishment

<sup>22</sup> The Adoption History Project, “Eugenics”, extracted 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2011, from <<http://pages.uoregon.edu/adoption/topics/eugenics.htm>>

	<p><b>Salvation Army</b> See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p>
	<p><b>Rescue Homes</b> See History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p>
	<p><b>Women working during the war</b> See History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p>
	<p><b>Black Market Babies / "Barren Wives"</b> See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p>
	<p><b>Spinsters</b> See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p> <p>It is interesting to note that the members of the Montreal Council of Social Agencies – of the administrative level of the Council and its Financial Federation – were all unmarried women, according to Anne Frances MacLennan's "Charity and Change: The Montreal Council of Social Agencies' Attempts to Deal with the Depression" (Department of History McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, April 1984)</p>
	<p><b>Savings to governments via adoption of children</b> See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia, for further examples.</p>



**Promotion of adoption / advertisement regarding how to adopt/babies for adoption**  
See History Timeline of Adoption in Australia

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

**Extracts from the Report “Bringing them home”**




# HISTORY TIMELINE

## Commonwealth Contribution to Forced Adoption

DATE	ARTICLE
1901	<p><b>State Children Relief Act</b> Established State Children's Relief Board with authority to direct the removal of State children; grant licences for the reception of State children as boarders; apprentice any child; approve persons applying to 'adopt' State children; and arrange terms of 'adoption'. Boarding out officer may remove State child from asylum, reformatory school, and arrange for a child to be boarded out. Repealed by Child Welfare Act 1923.</p>
1902	<p><b>Children's Protection Act</b> An offence for any person to receive a child under three to adopt, rear, nurse or otherwise maintain for payment a child, other than a guardian, manager or officer of an institution or private charity or a person exempted by Minister. An offence also to neglect or ill-treat a child. A child so found may be boarded out, sent to an industrial school or committed to the care of a relation or other person. Repealed by Child Welfare Act 1923.</p>
1903	<p><b>In a Woman's Mind By Comrade Mary<sup>23</sup></b> The deputation from the Prevention of Cruelty Society that waited upon Premier Philip last week to urge the adoption of the Affiliation Act and State Children's Act of South Australia, were patriots out to save their country. In South Australia a woman who declares that she is to become the mother at some future date of an illegitimate child, can get the father bound over to pay £10 towards the confinement expenses, through the provisions of an Affiliation Act, and because the mothers are not in dire straits for money at that time fewer illegitimate infants die in that State than in any of the States. South Australia, too, has a Children's Court, where boy and girl offenders are tried in a private room away from the degrading associations of a police court, and the good result of this reform is proved by the fact that since the establishment of the Juvenile Court in Chicago three years ago the number of boys under the age of 16 lodged in the country goal has been reduced from 575 to 20.</p>
1905	<p><b>Infant Life Protection Act</b> Any person wishing to adopt a child under the age of 10 may make application to the Director of the State Children Department for permission. The Director must obtain consent in writing of parent, parents or guardian. Repealed by State Children Act 1911.</p>

<sup>23</sup> 1903 'In a Woman's Mind.', Worker (Brisbane, Qld. : 1890 - 1955), 5 September, p. 5, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article70902902>

<p><b>1905</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Act</b> Established the position of Chief Protector who was the legal guardian of 'every aboriginal and half-caste child' to the age of 16 years. Regional protectors to be appointed with power to grant permits for employment of Aboriginal males less than 14 years and Aboriginal females. No person to remove any 'aboriginal', any male 'half-caste' under 16, or any female 'half-caste' without the written authority of a protector. Minister for Aboriginal Affairs may remove 'aboriginals' from one reserve or district to another reserve or district. The marriage of an 'aboriginal' woman and a non-Aboriginal man requires the permission of the Chief Protector. Minister may exempt 'aboriginals' from the Act but an exemption could be cancelled at any time. Regulations may be made for 'the care, custody and education of the children of aborigines and half-castes' and 'enabling any aboriginal or half-caste child to be sent to and detained in an aboriginal institution, industrial school or orphanage'. Repealed by Native Welfare Act 1963.</p>
<p><b>1905</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act</b> A 'neglected' or 'uncontrollable' child may be apprehended and brought before a court which can release the child on probation, commit the child to an institution until the age of 18 years or to the care of a willing person. A child in an institution may be apprenticed in accordance with the Apprentices Act 1901. Repealed by Child Welfare Act 1923.</p>
<p><b>1907</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>State Children Act</b> Secretary of State Children Department to have care and control of all State children. Where a court finds that a child is destitute or neglected, or the child is 'uncontrollable' or 'incorrigible', it may order the child to be committed to the care of the department or sent to an institution to be detained until the age of 18. If a child is found guilty of offence the court may order that the child be sent to an industrial school. Reasonable notice of a complaint against a child must be given to his/her parent or guardian. Repealed by Child Welfare Act 1947.</p>
<p><b>1909</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Protection Act</b> This Act gave the Board for the Protection of Aborigines statutory powers in relation to all reserves. Duty of the Board to provide for the custody, maintenance and education of the children of 'aborigines'. Board may apprentice 'the child of any aborigine or the neglected child of any person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood in his veins' subject to the Apprentices Act 1901. (The Apprentices Act 1901 provided for a minimum age of 14 years for apprentices and regulated the terms and conditions of apprenticeships.) The Board vested with power over all reserves including power to remove people from them. Entry onto reserves by non-Aborigines forbidden. Regulations may be made for the care, custody and education of Aborigines and prescribing the conditions on which certain children may be apprenticed under the Act.</p>
<p><b>1911</b></p>	<p><b>Aboriginals Ordinance (Cth)</b> To be read with Aborigines Act 1910. After the Northern Territory became a territory of the Commonwealth on 1.1.1911 all South Australian laws remained in force until altered by a Commonwealth</p>

<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>law. Chief Protector may undertake the care, custody or control of any 'aboriginal or half-caste' if in his opinion it is necessary or desirable. A protector or police officer may take 'any aboriginal or half-caste' into custody if he believes that person is not being properly treated. An 'aboriginal or half-caste' remaining within a prohibited area is guilty of an offence and may be removed. Repealed by Aboriginals Ordinance 1918.</p>
<p>1911</p> 	<p><b>State Parliaments – South Australia<sup>24</sup></b>  The Aborigines Bill, which was revived from last session, was further considered in committee. Mr. Homburg protested against the separation of aboriginal mothers from their_ young children, and the Premier promised to deal with the matter by regulation. ' Mr. Campbell said some halfcastes were nearly white, and should be absorbed into the community. With this object he moved a new clause to empower the chief protector to purchase land on which aboriginals or half-castes might be allowed to settle with the object of making homes. This was carried, and the Bill was reported.</p>
<p>1911</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>State Children Act 1911</b>  Replaced the 1865 Act. The Director of State Children Department is the guardian of all State children. The Director may place a State child in a receiving depot; detain him/her in an institution registered under this Act; transfer him/her from one institution to another; place out or apprentice him/her; or place him/her in the custody of some suitable person. This action may be taken without reference to parents or relatives of the child. Amended by State Children Act 1917 - a court may release a child on probation. Repealed by Children's Services Act 1965.</p>
<p>1911</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Act Amendment Act</b>  Chief Protector made the legal guardian of all illegitimate 'half-caste' children 'to the exclusion of the rights of a mother of an illegitimate half-caste child.' Aboriginal institutions to exercise the same powers as State institutions in respect of State children. Repealed by Native Welfare Act 1963.</p>
<p>1911</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Act</b>  Established the position of Chief Protector of Aboriginals and a system of regional Protectors. Aboriginals Department to provide for the 'custody, maintenance and education of the children of aboriginals' and to 'exercise a general supervision and care over all matters affecting the well-being of aboriginals'. Chief Protector is the legal guardian of 'every aboriginal and half-caste child, notwithstanding that any such child has a parent or other relative living' until the age of 21 years, except while the child is a 'State child' within the meaning of the State Children Act 1895. Each regional Protector is the local guardian of every child within his district. The Chief Protector 'may cause every aboriginal or half-caste to be kept within the boundaries of any reserve or aboriginal institution, or to be removed to and kept within the boundaries of any reserve or aboriginal institution, or to be removed from one reserve or aboriginal institution to another'. An 'aboriginal or half-caste</p>

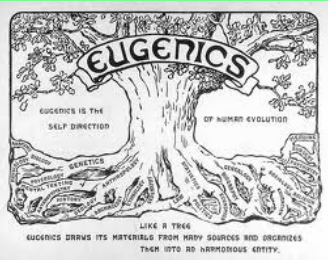
<sup>24</sup> 1911 'STATE PARLIAMENTS.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), 6 September, p. 10, viewed 10 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5308571>

	<p>who refuses to be so removed' commits an offence. A medical practitioner may order the removal of an 'aboriginal or half caste' child to any 'lock-hospital'. Regulations may be made for the 'care, custody and education of the children of aboriginals and half-castes'; 'enabling any aboriginal or half-caste child to be sent to and detained in an aboriginal institution or industrial school'; and prescribing the conditions on which 'aboriginal or half-caste children' may be apprenticed. Repealed by Aborigines Act 1934.</p>
<p><b>1912</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Cape Barren Island Reserve Act</b>  An Act 'to provide for the subdivision of the Cape Barren Island reserve and for occupation of portion thereof by the descendants of Aboriginal natives'. Secretary for Lands responsible for promoting welfare and well-being of residents of the reserve. Cape Barren Island reserve, which was created in 1881, to be subdivided into homestead and agricultural blocks. Persons named in schedule and their widows and descendants may make application for licences to occupy land free of rent. Residents required to reside continuously in their houses for six months each year. Licences may be bequeathed to widow or descendants but if widow who is a licensee marries 'a white man' all her rights to the licence cease. Persons over 21 years who are not licensed occupiers or lessees may be removed from reserve. 'In order to encourage the settlement of the half-castes in other parts of Tasmania outside the Reserve' an applicant may be granted a licence to occupy Crown land elsewhere in Tasmania. Regulations may be made for the control of residents upon the reserve. Repealed by Cape Barren Island Reserve Act 1945.</p>
<p><b>1914</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>THE ABORIGINES. SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION<sup>25</sup></b>  Mrs. Daisy Bates, Hon. Protector of Aborigines in the Eucla district, in evidence before the Aborigines' Commission to-day said that the natives would be almost better left in their native state, as contact with civilisation eventually led to immorality. She referred to the immorality of white men, and said that all of the men whom she had approached had respected her requests and had sent their black women away. Some, however, had taken them back when she left the district. The manner in which the white man treated the black women depended upon the temperament of the former. Witness thought that the non-mission methods adopted on the northern stations represented the best way of dealing with the natives. Half-castes were wonderfully prolific, but the full-blooded aborigines was a diminishing race. A Federal appointment would strengthen her tremendously in her work. She could carry out the duties effectively on £200 a year. She could go among natives without risk.</p>
<p><b>1915</b></p>	<p><b>Aborigines Protection Amending Act</b>  Removed the requirement that an Aboriginal child had to be found to be neglected before the Board could remove him/her. 'The Board may assume full control and custody of the child of any aborigine, if after due inquiry it is satisfied that such a course is in the interest of the moral or physical welfare of such child' and remove such child to such control and care as it thinks best. Parents of a child removed in this way may appeal to a court. Apprenticeship of children by the Board</p>

<sup>25</sup> 1914 'THE ABORIGINES.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 30 July, p. 4, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26912109>

<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>no longer subject to the Apprentices Act 1901. The Board may apprentice children `on such terms and conditions as it may think under the circumstances of the case to be desirable'. Every child so apprenticed who refuses to go to the person to whom the Board has apprenticed him/her may be removed, for the purpose of being trained, to some home or institution as the Board may arrange. Repealed by Aborigines Act 1969. Governor Macquarie: Proclamation dated 4 May 1816 Aborigines declared subject to the protection of British law, but any infractions may render them outlawed and lead to loss of privileges.</p>
<p><b>1915</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Infant Life Protection Act</b> Consolidation of 1890 Act. Repealed by Child Welfare Act 1928</p>
<p><b>1918</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act</b> Provisions in 1909 Act giving Board power over a person `apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood in his veins' removed. Repealed by Aborigines Act 1969.</p>
<p><b>1918</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aboriginals Ordinance 1918</b> Combined the 1910 Act (SA) and the 1911 Ordinance (Cth), giving the Chief Protector wide-ranging powers over Aboriginal people. Repealed by Welfare Ordinance 1953.</p>
<p><b>1919</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>State Children Act Amendment Act</b> In committing any child to an institution the court must have regard to the child's future welfare. The court may direct that a child be detained in one of the institutions scheduled to the Act or in some other institution at which such special training and supervision can be provided as may best meet the needs of any special case. Repealed by Child Welfare Act 1947.</p>
<p><b>1919</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Children's Maintenance Act</b> Prior to this Act mothers in this position would have to arrange for a court to declare their children to be `neglected' and committed to the care of the Department. The Department would then `board them back' with their mothers who would receive the boarding out allowance from the Department. Repealed by Children's Welfare Act 1928.</p>



<p><b>1920</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act 1920</b> Provided for the legal adoption of children under the age of 17 years for the first time in Tasmania. Police magistrates given the power to make an adoption order but the Registrar-General may also exercise the power. The written consent of parents or legal guardian required unless the child is a child of the State or a 'deserted child'. A deserted child is 'any child who, in the opinion of a police magistrate, is deserted and has ceased to be cared for and maintained by its parents or by such one of them as is living'. Amended by Adoption of Children Act 1941 - age of a 'child' for adoption raised to 21 years. Adoption of Children Act 1945 - if a police magistrate is satisfied that the parents or guardian of a child are dead or their whereabouts are unknown for not less than five years or it is impracticable to obtain the consent of the parents or legal guardian and that it is in the interests of the child to do so, the police magistrate may make an adoption order without their consent. Repealed by Adoption of Children Act 1968.</p>
<p><b>1923</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Child Welfare Act</b></p> <p>Court given similar power as in 1905 Act to commit a 'neglected' or 'uncontrollable' child. All children committed to or inmates of an institution in the custody are under the control of the superintendent of the institution until they attain the age of 18 or are discharged, removed, apprenticed or placed out. A child may be adopted if the child's parents or guardian consent. Consent may be dispensed with if the court is of the opinion that the parent or guardian has deserted or abandoned the child. Amended by Child Welfare (Amendment) Act 1924 - court may dispense with consent in any special circumstances where it deems it expedient to do so. Repealed by Child Welfare Act 1939.</p>
<p><b>1923</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines (Training of Children) Act</b></p> <p>Expanded the definitions of 'aboriginal' and 'half-caste' in the 1911 Act. Provided for the removal of an 'aboriginal child' to an institution under the control of the State Children's Council. The Chief Protector 'may ... commit any aboriginal child to any institution within the meaning of the State Children Act 1895, ... to be there detained or otherwise dealt with under the said Act until such child attains the age of eighteen years'. Applies to legitimate 'aboriginal' children who have obtained a qualifying certificate under the Education Act 1915 or who are at least fourteen years old and all illegitimate children irrespective of age who in the opinion of the Chief Protector and the State Children's Council are neglected.</p>
<p><b>1924</b></p> 	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>

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are needed to see this picture.

I hold that there are no illegitimate children. But there are illegitimate parents. It is among the children of illegitimate parents that the death rate is so alarmingly high. The unwanted immigrant is damned into life. The mother is usually denied the conditions that make the ministry of maternity possible. The father is gene rally an irresponsible polygamist, having no sense of responsibility to the race, no sense of the, sanctity of life, and no domestic sanity. He has the passions of a man, but the mental and moral nature of an infant. He lacks even good horse sense. He be smirches the life he begets. Every child has the right to be well born. Every child has the right to a heritage of health. Nature counts tremendously, counts much more than nurture. Stock tells in every thing. More things than we care to admit in these democratic days depend upon the breed. A child should expect to have a healthy father and a healthy mother. Unhealthy men and women have no right in reason or in morals to expect children. We are accustomed to regard eugenics as a fascinating academic study. But it is surely sufficiently advanced in public sense to insist that posterity has some rights. Parents owe something to their offspring. To beget a child fore doomed to disease is to do despite even to animal laws, to the standard of the stud. I Mother-Craft Florence Nightingale wrote: 'Childbirth is neither a disease nor an accident, and any frailty attending it is not to be counted as so much per cent, of inevitable loss. On the contrary, a death in childbirth is almost a subject for an inquest. It is nothing short of a calamity, which it is right that we should know all about, to avoid in future.' In Australia one mother dies in every 210 births; in England and Wales— where the housing and economic conditions are unspeakably inferior — one in 256. What's wrong with Australia?<sup>26</sup>

1925

## ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

### The Government Bill.

The proposals of the Government in the way of legislation concerning the adoption of children were explained in the House of Assembly by the Attorney-General (Hon. W. J. Denny) on Tuesday.

#### Adoption of Children – The Government Bill

Some objection might be raised to the Bill on the ground that an order of adoption finally put an end to all the rights of the natural parent to the adopted child, and poor persons might, conceivably, be compelled by straitened circumstances to give up children, whom they would, but for poverty, be willing to keep. The answer to that objection was that there was little likelihood that poor persons would avail themselves of the provisions of the measure in order to obtain proper maintenance for their children. There was no need for such persons to do so, since under the State Children's Act or the Destitute Persons Act, according to the circumstances of the case, there was adequate provision for ensuring the proper maintenance of any child whose parents could not afford to keep it, and at the same time ensuring to the parent the right to take over the maintenance of the child if at any time he or she became in a position to support it. Orders of adoption were only made with the consent of the parents and after full enquiry, and no doubt the officiating Magistrate would advise any parent who merely wanted to part with a child to secure its proper maintenance that there was no need to take the extreme step of having the child adopted for that purpose.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>26</sup> 1924 'THE HOME-GROWN IMMIGRANT.', *The Mail* (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 11 October, p. 17, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63796043>

<sup>27</sup> 1925 'ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.', *The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), 19 August, p. 9, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57295547>

<p>1925</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act</b> Introduced a system of legal adoption of children in South Australia for children under the age of 15 years. Repealed by Adoption of Children Act 1966/7.</p>
<p>1925</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>ABORIGINALS – CHILDREN REMOVED From Parents' Control – HEARTRENDING SCENE – GRAFTON</b><sup>28</sup></p> <p>The circumstances under which four aboriginal children, whose ages ranged from four to 13 years, were separated from their parents have aroused much indignation locally. At a meeting of the Copmanhurst Shire Council Councillor Boorman said that the separation occurred just before Christmas.</p> <p>Councillor J. N. Short expressed the utmost indignation. He said that the parents had come to him about their trouble, and he went with the father to the police officer. It appeared that the officer's instructions were to meet the children at the ferry, and thither they went accompanied by their parents, who did not know that their little ones were to be taken away from them. The scene at the parting was heartrending, but the children were taken, despite protests and tears, and conveyed to Kempsey. The children had been properly fed and clothed by the parents. It was a nice Christmas box to give to the parents of the children to wrest their children from them. The parents were in a terrible state about it, and were calling at his place every day asking him when they were to have their little ones back.</p> <p>It is understood that the action originated with the Aborigines' Board in Sydney, and the local police no doubt carried out Instructions. It is believed that the police showed kindness in carrying out their duties, and efforts, made to secure a pass for the mother to accompany the children to Kinchela, near Kempsey, were unavailing, the instructions being to remove the children from the control of their parents. The mother has the reputation of being hard-working and honest, but it is alleged that little can be said in favour of the father. It is stated the mother was principally responsible for the upkeep of the family, but her duties away from home threw the children on their own resources.</p> <p>The mother at first protested against the removal of the children, and finally consented. Residents in the vicinity of the Grafton Reserve are said to be emphatic on the point that the children were not neglected, and a petition urging the return of the children to the care of their parents is being prepared for presentation to the authorities.</p>
<p>1925</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>

<sup>28</sup> 1925 'ABORIGINALS.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 9 January, p. 8, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16184182>



<p><b>1926</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Maintenance Act 1926 [also known as Social Welfare Act 1926]</b>  Consolidated Destitute Persons Act 1881-1886 and State Children Act 1895-1918. Made provision for granting assistance to mothers for the maintenance of their children. State Children Council replaced by Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board. Amended by Maintenance Act Amendment Act 1965 - Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board replaced by Social Welfare Advisory Board. A child may no longer be removed on the ground of destitution but an `uncontrollable child' may be. An `uncontrollable child' is one who has acquired or is likely to acquire habits of immorality, vice or crime and whose parents or guardians appear unable or unwilling to exercise adequate supervision or control. Repealed by Community Welfare Act 1972.</p>
<p><b>1927</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>State Children Act Amendment Act</b>  Replaced the term `State child' with `ward'. A `ward' defined as a child who is received into an institution or apprenticed, boarded out or placed out under this Act. Repealed by Child Welfare Act 1947.</p>

<sup>29</sup> 1925 'ABORIGINES FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION.', *The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), 18 February, p. 11, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63729430>

1927

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<sup>30</sup> 1927 'BENNELONG.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 2 July, p. 11, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article16378304>

<p>1928</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Children's Welfare Act</b> Consolidation. Repealed by Children's Welfare Act 1954.</p>
<p>1928</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>31</p>	
<p>1928</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act</b> Provided for legal adoption of children in Victoria for the first time. Repealed by Adoption of Children Act 1958.</p>
<p>1929</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>'Queensland Protector of Aborigines recommends to the federal government that Aboriginal people be assimilated where they are in contact with European society and that inviolable reserves be established for tribal people.'<sup>32</sup></p>
<p>1929</p>	<p><b>AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINE "LOWEST TYPE OF SAVAGE" OPINION OF SIR BALDWIN SPENCER<sup>33</sup></b> Sir Baldwin Spencer commented last week upon the statements made by</p>

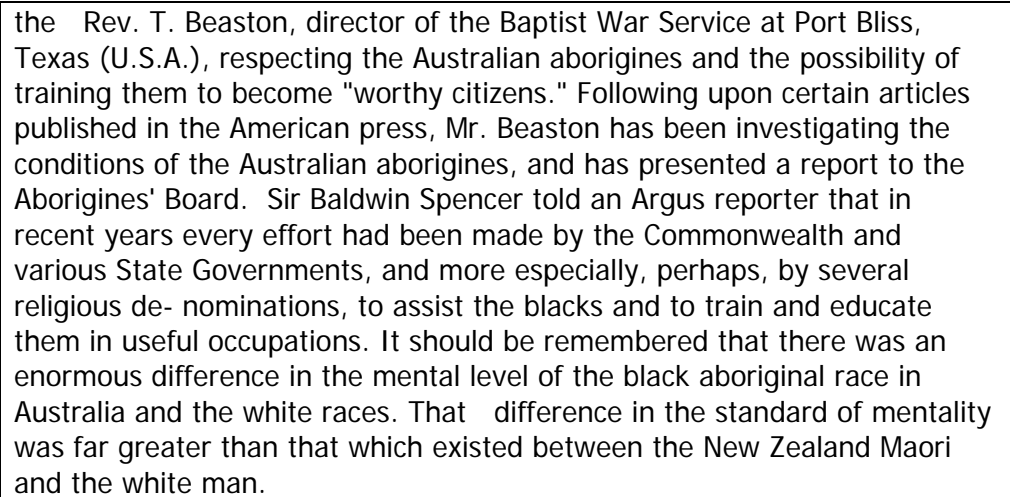
<sup>31</sup> 1928 'SHOOTING OF NATIVES.', *The Register* (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), 20 December, p. 11, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article53605829>

Image in this row extracted from: <[http://www.aboriginalartprints.com.au/works\\_enlargement.php?work\\_id=608](http://www.aboriginalartprints.com.au/works_enlargement.php?work_id=608)>

<sup>32</sup> Aboriginal Timeline, Creative Spirits, retrieved 17th October, 2011, from <<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/aboriginal-history-timeline-early-20th.html#ixzz1b5YxF16H>>

<sup>33</sup> 1926 'AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINE.' *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 29 May, p. 7, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29445950>

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"When two races differ so widely in cultural level as do the Australian aborigines and the white races, there is no possibility of their blending in any shape or form," continued Sir Baldwin Spencer. "One thing only can be done, and that is to keep the lower race as far apart as possible from the higher race with which it is thrown in contact. This stand has already been taken up by the Government and denominational bodies working among the aborigines. It is useless to attempt to train the old blacks. From the stage of childhood the aboriginal children should be taken and prevented from following their hereditary nomadic instincts. One of the greatest difficulties faced by workers among aborigines is the dislike of the blacks for steady, continuous work. In my opinion the only manner in which they can be effectively dealt with is to place them on large reserves, where they may be kept away from white people and trained from an early age to do useful work. Under present conditions the suggestion that they should be placed in positions in the post office and railway service does not appear to be worthy of consideration."

28

	<p>wilder parts of Australia, and especially in bad seasons, the funds at the disposal of those who are charged with the task of providing for the blacks are often on too small a scale for the work to be done efficiently.</p> <p>"Fortunately," concluded Sir Baldwin Spencer, "on many of our large stations throughout Australia the blacks are treated with the greatest consideration and kindness. For many years station-owners have assisted the blacks to a very considerable extent, and what might have otherwise been a hard existence for aborigines in certain parts of the country has been made an agreeable and a comfortable lot."</p>
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1930

**"1229 full-bloods  
7026 half-castes"**

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are needed to see this picture.

Extracted from:

**Little Children Are  
Sacred**

[http://www.actnow.com.au/Issues/Little\\_Children\\_are\\_Sacred.aspx](http://www.actnow.com.au/Issues/Little_Children_are_Sacred.aspx)

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<sup>34</sup> 1930 'ABORIGINES.', *Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill, NSW : 1888 - 1954), 29 April, p. 3, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46560529>

1932

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35

## **HALF-CASTE CHILDREN Taken from Aboriginal Mothers FEDERAL POLICY DEFENDED<sup>36</sup>**

There is every justification for the policy of removing half-caste children from their aboriginal mothers in native compounds and bringing them to Darwin, according to officials of the Department of the Interior.

This, it is said, is done to give the children a chance in life, as if they were left in the compounds they would be brought up as aboriginals, and at the same time would not be recognised by full-blooded members of the tribe.

In Darwin they are treated as whites. The girls are taught domestic economy, and the boys trained for station work, for which they show special aptitude.

The department claims that the system has proved completely successful.

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are needed to see this picture.

Image: Aboriginal Timeline, Creative Spirits, retrieved 17th October, 2011, from  
<<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/aboriginal-history-timeline-early-20th.html#ixzz1b5YxF16H>>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.dipity.com/tizztazz111/personal/>

<sup>36</sup> 1932 'HALF-CASTE CHILDREN.', *Advocate* (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954), 22 October, p. 7, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article67978671>

1933

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are needed to see this picture.

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<sup>37</sup> 1933 "'HALF-CASTE PLAN WOULD FAIL".'. *The Mail* (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 10 June, p. 4, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58626618>



1933

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

38

1933

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

### **Children's Welfare Amendment Act**

Definition of neglected altered to include a child living under conditions that means he/she is likely to lapse into a career of vice or crime; the child's guardian is unfit by reason of his conduct or habits, or (if female) is soliciting or behaving in an indecent manner; a child wandering about the streets at night without lawful cause after a member of the police force has warned the child to cease; or a child engaged in street trading'. Repealed by Children's Welfare Act 1954.

<sup>38</sup> 1933 'PLEA FOR BLACKS EFFICIENT PROTECTION SOUGHT.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 29 November, p. 10, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article11715677>

1934

**"The children of  
half-caste and  
white  
parents...regard  
ed technically as  
blacks"**

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

39

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<sup>39</sup> 1934 'WHITE-SKINNED.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 21 June, p. 10, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17088748>

1934

QuickTime  
decompressor  
are needed to see

**THREE COURSES:**

- (1) Extinction
- (2) Absorption
- (3) Segregation

**"The possibility of  
absorption of the  
aboriginal population  
into the white  
community in case the  
blacks do not  
conveniently die out..."**

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

40

<sup>40</sup> 1934 'CARE OF ABORIGINES.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 13 March, p. 18, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32991155>

1934

"...the native women...the laws governing them bore a strong resemblance to those given to the Jewish women by Moses and recorded in the Old Testament. They were very modest..."

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

41

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<sup>41</sup> 1934 'WAS "ADOPTED" BY ABORIGINES.', *The Queenslander* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1866 - 1939), 30 August, p. 35, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23338831>

<p><b>1934</b></p> <p><b>"Offers to adopt some of the 100 white octoroon children who are inmates of the half-caste homes at Alice Springs and Darwin"</b></p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>42</p>
<p><b>1934</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Act</b></p> <p>Combined the provisions of the 1911 Act and the 1923 Act. No significant alterations to the powers or duties of the Chief Protector. Chief Protector may commit any `aboriginal child to any institution within the meaning of the Maintenance Act 1926 ... to be there detained or otherwise dealt with under the said Act until such child attains the age of eighteen years'. The child may then be dealt with as a neglected child under the Maintenance Act. These provisions only apply to legitimate `aboriginal' children who have either obtained a qualifying certificate within the meaning of the Education Act 1915 or attained the age of fourteen years; and illegitimate `aboriginal' children who, in the opinion of the Chief Protector and the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board are neglected or otherwise proper persons to be dealt with under this Act'. Chief Protector has similar powers to remove `aboriginals' and `half-castes' as in 1911 Act. Repealed by Aboriginal Affairs Act 1962.</p>
<p><b>1934</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>Describing the practice as "cruel and barbarous," Mr. William Hatfield, the Australian author, vigorously attacked armed raids by North Australian police on native camps for the purpose of taking half-caste children from their aboriginal mothers. Mr. Hatfield said that these raids were</p>

<sup>42</sup> 1934 'WHITE OCTOROON CHILDREN.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 27 July, p. 19, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36715376>

	<p>not only inhumane but also prejudicial to the welfare of the north as the removal of half-caste children robbed the black tribes of a potent source of intelligence and development.<sup>43</sup></p>
<p>1934<sup>44</sup></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>

<sup>43</sup> 1934 'No title.', *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 15 September, p. 10, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55603158>

<sup>44</sup> 1934 'OCTOROON GIRLS Not Wanted in MELBOURNE.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 8 September, p. 16, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47478100>

<p><b>1935</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act</b> Provides for adoption of 'infants' under 21. The Director of the State Children Department is responsible for making an adoption order. Director may dispense with the consent of the child's parents or guardian if satisfied that a parent or guardian has 'abandoned or deserted the infant or cannot be found or is incapable of giving consent; has persistently neglected to contribute to support; or is a person whose consent ought, in the opinion of the Director and in all the circumstances of the case, to be dispensed with'. Repealed by Adoption of Children Act 1964.</p>
<p><b>1935</b></p> <p><b>REHABILITATION OF THE UNWED MOTHER<sup>45</sup></b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p><b>1935</b></p> 	<p><b>RACIAL BETTERMENT – THE CLAIMS OF EUGENICS<sup>46</sup></b> In spite of the expenditure of £407,545,000 on social services in England and Wales in 1930 ... it was estimated that one person in every 10 was too dull or too unhealthy to engage in industry, one in every 120 was mentally defective, and one in every 300 was certified insane ... Those of us who at home urge the claims of eugenics find ourselves for the most part crying in the wilderness.</p> <p><i>You in Australia have already ploughed your first furrow</i></p>

<sup>45</sup> 1935 'THE WORK OF THE ALMONER.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 13 September, p. 5, viewed 17 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article11767001>

<sup>46</sup> 1935 'RACIAL BETTERMENT.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 14 September, p. 20, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32898571>



*and it would not be like you if it were not a straight one. Eugenics is the study of agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations, either physically or mentally.*

- President of the British Medical Association (Sir James Barrett)

1935<sup>47</sup>

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

## **WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – MIGRATION DISCUSSED. Treatment of Aborigines. London.**

Two hundred women from all parts of the Empire attended the British Commonwealth League's conference...A considerable portion of the day was devoted to discussion of the position of Australian aborigines, Miss Helen Baillie moving a resolution in regard to the Royal Commission on the treatment of aborigines. She said that it was almost certain that the Australian Government would authorise the medical inspection of all natives in the north, especially in regard to leprosy and venereal diseases. Most of the so-called murders of whites, she said, were caused by the whites taking native women. Mrs. Johns (Victoria) said that the care of half-caste children was proving hopelessly ineffective. All the resolutions were carried.

1935

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

## **Infants Welfare Act**

An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Welfare of Children and the Protection of Infant Life'. A child may be apprehended as neglected and detained in a receiving home or other specified place to be taken before a children's court. The court may commit a neglected or uncontrollable child to the care of the Social Services Department or to an institution. Where a child is charged with being neglected or uncontrollable, the parents have a right to be heard, but if the parents do not appear the court can hear the matter without them. A child may also be admitted to the care of the director on the application of his/her parent or near relative or any person of good repute to be dealt with in the same way as a neglected or uncontrollable child. The Director of Social Services is the guardian of every child of the State and may place a child in a receiving home or in an institution; board-out, apprentice or place the child in service; or place the child in the custody of a suitable person. An offence to wilfully ill-treat, neglect, abandon or expose a child; communicate with a child in an institution; or, being a near relative liable to maintain a child, to desert the child or leave the child without adequate means of support. Repealed by Child Welfare Act 1960.

<sup>47</sup> 1935 'WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 20 June, p. 16, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32864301>




<p><b>1936</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act</b>          Court may order the removal of an `aborigine' who is `living in insanitary or undesirable conditions' to a reserve or a place controlled by the Board or to the State from whence he/she came. Repealed by Aborigines Act 1969.</p>
<p><b>1936</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Native Administration Act</b>          Changed the title of Chief Protector to Commissioner of Native Affairs. The expansive definition given to `native' extended the reach of the Commissioner's powers. Commissioner of Native Affairs made the legal guardian of all legitimate and illegitimate `native' children to the age of 21 `notwithstanding that the child has a parent or other relative living'. Repealed by Native Welfare Act 1963.</p>

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

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<sup>48</sup> 1936 'LEGAL MEANING OF ABORIGINE.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 12 August, p. 21, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48169100>

<p><b>21-23 April 1937</b></p> <div data-bbox="132 185 499 477"> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> </div>	<h2>Assimilation policy</h2> <p><b>Aboriginal Welfare - Conference of Commonwealth and State Authorities</b> called by the federal government, decides that the official policy for some Aboriginal people is <b>assimilation policy</b>. Aboriginal people of mixed descent are to be assimilated into white society whether they want to be or not, those not living tribally are to be educated and all others are to stay on reserve.<sup>49</sup></p>
<p><b>1937</b></p> <div data-bbox="205 551 422 752">  </div>	<p><b>Birth Rate Decline Danger to the Nation</b><sup>50</sup></p> <p>Asserting that the declining birth rate was endangering not only the <b>countries of the British Empire</b> but all civilised countries in the world the new member for Lilley (Q) ... urged the Federal Ministry to extend its maternal and infant welfare work. He said that population was Australia's vital need. The Commonwealth could not expect to receive large numbers of migrants from the British Isles where the birth rate was also declining seriously.</p>
<p><b>1937</b></p> <div data-bbox="132 842 499 1879"> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="659 1272 956 1341"> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1102 1843 1142 1865"> <p>51</p> </div>

<sup>49</sup> Aboriginal Timeline, Creative Spirits, retrieved 17th October, 2011, from

<<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/aboriginal-history-timeline-early-20th.html#ixzz1b5YxF16H>>

<sup>50</sup> 1937 'INFANTS' HOME.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 22 September, p. 8, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17402377>

<p><b>1938</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Ordinance</b></p> <p>Regulated adoption of children in the ACT for the first time. The Child Welfare Act 1923 (NSW) which regulated adoption in NSW did not apply in the ACT. Consent to adoption required of parent or guardian, person with custody, or person liable to contribute to support. Consent may be dispensed with where a person has abandoned or deserted the infant; cannot be found; is incapable of giving consent; persistently neglected or refused to contribute to support of infant where liable; or where the court is satisfied that in all the circumstances it should be dispensed with. Repealed by Adoption of Children Ordinance 1965 (Cth).</p>
<p><b>1938</b></p> <p><b>CHILDREN'S CHARTER</b></p>  <p><i>...experiments were being made in placing children in private homes...</i></p> 	<p><b>CHILD WELFARE. Investigations at Geneva</b></p> <p>With regard to problems of child welfare, the work of the League of Nations has undergone considerable development during the past 15 years. The present meeting of the Advisory Committee on Social Questions has just reaffirmed the famous "Children's Charter," first put forward by the "Save the Children" International Union, and adopted by the Assembly of the League in 1924. <b>This charter was a declaration of the rights of the child, and has special bearing on tragic events of our own day.</b></p> <p>It declares, for example, that, in times of emergency and of disturbance or of war, the child should be the first concern of the authorities. The child represents the most precious heritage of mankind and should be the first object of care in any emergency. During the past few years, the League has published a series of studies showing what provision is made for ensuring the well-being of children in different countries...</p> <p><b>It had been found that, in many countries, experiments were being made in placing children, not in institutions, but in private homes. In the first instance, this placing of children in families has applied, not to delinquent children, but to orphans, abandoned children or children whose parents had been plainly shown to be unworthy of parental authority. Experts on child care in general agreed that the best possible thing that can be done for any child is to give him a home. He should, in the first instance, be left in his own home if the only difficulties there are material ones. Poverty itself, they declared, should never be considered sufficient reason for taking a child out of his home; in that case, the parents should be assisted by the social authorities to keep the family group together.</b></p> <p><b><i>Nor should illegitimate children be taken away from their mothers, except for the gravest of moral reasons. Social workers have usually found that it is happier for the child to have one parent than to be an orphan, and in the case of an illegitimate child it is often the best possible thing for</i></b></p>

<sup>51</sup> 1937 'NEW CONTROL SCHEME.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 8 July, p. 8, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17392380>

*...interesting examples of experiments in different social situations...*

*the mother to be allowed to keep him.*

But in cases where a child has no natural home, the design of the authorities responsible for the placing of children is to find him a second home to replace what he has lost. With this purpose in view, the committee recommends that the home in which a child is placed should resemble the one he has lost in so far as possible, with particular reference to race, language and religious instruction.

The committee has been engaged in examining the text of a report which is to be published this year on the placing of children in families. This report will summarise the experience of social authorities and voluntary workers in some 38 countries. It gives a number of interesting examples from experiments in different social situations throughout the world. The report will conclude with the principles on which the League experts consider that the placing of children in families should be based.

This statement is prefaced as follows: Since civilisation itself is transmitted through the child, his wellbeing becomes a primary concern of organised society. Society everywhere recognises the home and family as the natural primary agency for the care, guidance and control of the child during his years of immaturity and dependence. It is, however, incumbent upon the community to provide such security and protection for the family as will enable it to discharge its responsibilities adequately, and further to encourage and, if need be, compel it to do so.<sup>52</sup>

1938

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Extracted:  
[http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/special\\_to\\_pics/stolen\\_generations/](http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/special_to_pics/stolen_generations/)



#### **FUTURE FOR THE BLACKFELLOW<sup>53</sup>**

There are obvious difficulties, constitutional and administrative, in the way of instituting a single Commonwealth control of the aboriginal population of Australia, even if it were agreed that a Federal department would have better competence for such responsibility than any State Government.

As a matter of fact, it is the present condition of aborigines in territories under the control of the Commonwealth that excites most pity and concern for their future. Yet there is a strong case for treating the welfare of aborigines as a national responsibility and for setting up some Federal authority which could promote co-operation among all agencies engaged in this work, co-ordinate policies, and gather a valuable common fund of knowledge and experience. It is probable that the Queensland Government has given more thought to and expended more pains on the protection of aborigines than any other Government in Australia in recent years, but that is all the more reason why it should lend its aid to a Federal effort to save the remnants of Australia's native race. Even in our own State the black fellow has a very meager share of its prosperity and the solicitude of its social services. There is evidence that the terrible disease of leprosy is

<sup>52</sup> 1938 'CHILD WELFARE.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 1 June, p. 6, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42082985>

<sup>53</sup> 1938 'FUTURE FOR THE BLACKFELLOW.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 3 January, p. 10, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article39745325>

	<p>spreading among the natives of the far North, and for such investigation as has been undertaken so far credit is partly due to Federal financial assistance. We cannot undo the crimes of earlier generations. But the very standards which we are now so ready to apply in judging the treatment of native populations in other lands under an alien rule should constrain us to more humanitarian consideration of the condition of our own 'natives.' After having taken so much from the aborigines it is time we exerted ourselves to give to those who remain a better future than slow extinction by disease under the extruding pressure of a civilisation that offers them little more than a beggar's portion of this vast continent and its wealth.</p>
<p>1939</p> 	<p><b>Adoption Association: Demand for Children Exceeds the Supply</b><sup>54</sup></p> <p>The National Children Adoption Association sends children to various parts of the British Empire including Australians...The demand for these children exceeds the supply – and girls are preferred, being regarded as more companionable in later life than boys.</p>
<p>1939</p>  <p>The opening session of the League of Nations Geneva, Switzerland, 15 November 1919</p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>

<sup>54</sup> 1939 'ADOPTION ASSOCIATION.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 2 February, p. 23, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17547115>

## THE REHABILITATION OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER<sup>55</sup>

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

1939

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**Child Welfare Act 1939** Replaced the Child Welfare Act 1923. Where a court finds that a child is neglected it may release the child on certain conditions; commit the child to the care of the Minister to be dealt with as a State ward or commit the child to the care of an institution. The Minister of Child Welfare is the guardian of every child...who becomes a ward to the exclusion of the parent or other guardian'. Minister may direct the removal or transfer of any ward; remove any child from any charitable institution, depot, home or hostel and cause him/her to be apprenticed, boarded out, placed out or placed as an adopted boarder. An adoption order may be made if it promotes the welfare and interests of child. Parents or guardian must consent to adoption but consent may be dispensed with where the court deems it just and reasonable to do so. Amended by Child Welfare Amendment Act 1961 - where payment of maintenance for child who is an inmate of a charitable depot, home or hostel has not been paid for 1-6 months, the child may be admitted to State control and the person in charge of the charitable depot, home or hostel deemed to be the child's foster parent. Child Welfare (Amendment) Act 1966 - where it appears to an officer or person in charge of a depot, home or hostel that the welfare of the child may be promoted, the child may be committed by a court to the care of Minister to be dealt with as a ward admitted to State control; apprenticed, boarded out, placed out or placed as an adopted boarder. Repealed by Children (Care and Protection) Act 1987.

<sup>55</sup> 1939 'UNWANTED CHILDREN.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 14 October, p. 11, viewed 17 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46431213>

<p>1939</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Act Amendment Act</b></p> <p>Position of Chief Protector replaced by the Aborigines Protection Board. Each member of the Board to be a protector of Aborigines for the whole of the state. System of regional protectors continued. Definition of 'aborigine' expanded and ceased to distinguish 'half-castes'. Established a system of exemptions from the jurisdiction of the Act. 'Where the board is of the opinion that any aborigine by reason of his character and standard of intelligence and development should be exempted from the provisions of this Act, the board may ... declare that the aborigine shall cease to be an aborigine for the purposes of this Act'. Exemptions may be conditional and revocable for three years or unconditional and irrevocable. Repealed by Aboriginal Affairs Act 1962.</p>
<p>1939</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act 1939</b></p> <p>Director of Native Affairs is the 'legal guardian of every aboriginal child under 21'. Director may 'execute agreements between or on the part of aboriginals in the State for the legal custody of aboriginal children by aboriginals or other persons who in his opinion are suitable persons to be given legal custody of such children'. Director may cause any 'aboriginals' who are camped near a town to 'remove their camp to such other place as he may direct'. Director may cause any 'aboriginals' to be 'removed from any district to a reserve and kept there for such time as may be ordered' or to be removed from one reserve to another. This power does not apply to 'a half-blood child living with and supported by a parent of such child who is not subject to this Act'. Regulations made be made for the 'care, custody and education of the children of aboriginals' and prescribing the conditions on which 'aboriginal' children may be apprenticed or placed in service. Repealed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 1965.</p>





<p>1939<sup>56</sup></p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p>1939<sup>57</sup></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>World War II begins. Although Aboriginal people are not recognised as citizens, two Aboriginal military units are established and some Aboriginal people serve in other sections of the armed forces as formally enlisted soldiers, sailors or airmen. Aboriginal people serve in Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific and New Guinea.</p> <p>Aboriginal children continue to be removed from their families during the period 1939 to 1945, including children whose fathers are at war overseas.<sup>58</sup></p>
<p>1940</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act</b>  Aborigines Protection Board replaced by Aborigines Welfare Board. An Aboriginal child found to be neglected under the Child Welfare Act 1939 to be committed to the Board as a 'ward of the Board'.  Duties of the Board include 'assisting aborigines in obtaining employment' and 'maintaining or assisting to maintain them whilst so employed, or otherwise for the purpose of assisting aborigines to become assimilated into the general life of the community'. The Board no longer has duty of education of Aboriginal children but still has duty of custody and maintenance. It may establish homes for the reception, maintenance, education and training of wards. Where in the opinion of the Board a ward is not ready for employment or apprenticeship 'the ward may be placed in a home for the purpose of being maintained, educated and trained'. Wages of children to be paid to the Board and kept in a trust</p>

<sup>56</sup> 1939 'MEN WHO SERVED IN THE WAR.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 14 February, p. 17, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46300580>

<sup>57</sup> [http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/edu/ICT/student\\_pages/sem1\\_2007/DSeed/wsheel1.html](http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/edu/ICT/student_pages/sem1_2007/DSeed/wsheel1.html)


<sup>58</sup> Aboriginal Timeline, Creative Spirits, retrieved 17th October, 2011, from <<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/aboriginal-history-timeline-early-20th.html#ixzz1b5YxF16H>>

	<p>account for use by the Board for the ward's benefit until the ward turns 21. An offence to try to communicate with a ward in a home or enter any such home without the consent of the Board. Where a children's court finds that a child is neglected or uncontrollable under the Child Welfare Act, the court may deal with the child in accordance with that Act, except that where the court decides that the child should be admitted to State control the child shall be committed to the care of the Board as a ward; and where the court decides to commit the child to an institution the child shall be committed to an institution established under this Act. Repealed by Aborigines Act 1969.</p>
<p><b>1940s – 1950s</b></p> 	<p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>59</sup>:</b></p> <p>During the 1940s and 1950s the Aborigines' Welfare Board and the Child Welfare Department worked closely together to place Indigenous children. A child's skin colour often determined the type of placement made. Lighter coloured children were sent to institutions for non-Indigenous children or fostered by non-Indigenous families.</p>
<p><b>1940</b></p> 	<p><b>Birth Rate Decline<sup>60</sup></b></p> <p>Details of Australia's rapidly declining birthrate are given in figures released by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) yesterday. The natural increase per 1000 of population in 1921 was 15.1 per cent. This had fallen to 7.1 in 1935 and in 1938 was 7.8.</p>
<p><b>1940<sup>61</sup></b></p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p><b>1941</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture</p>	<p><b>Native Administration Amendment Act</b></p> <p>Restricted right of Aboriginal people to move from north to south of the State across the 20th parallel of south latitude. Repealed by Native Welfare Act 1963.</p>


<sup>59</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from <[http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_3.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_3.pdf)>

<sup>60</sup> <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2527530>

<sup>61</sup> Image: Banner made by Bill Onus for the Australian Aborigines League, c. 1940s (National Museum of Australia), retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from <<http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/journal/indigenous-civil-rights.htm>>

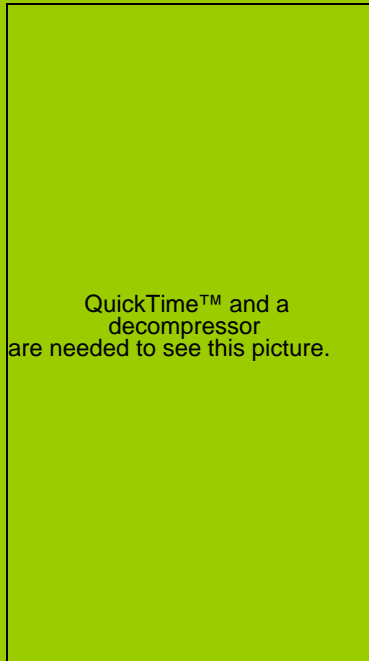
<p><b>1941</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Child Welfare Agreement Ordinance</b>          To approve an agreement made between Commonwealth and NSW for the reception, detention and maintenance in institutions in NSW of children committed to those institutions by courts of the ACT.          When an ACT court commits a child to a state institution, the child may be taken by an ACT officer to a shelter in Sydney. The child then comes under the provisions of the Child Welfare Act 1939 (NSW) as if the child had been committed to a NSW institution by a NSW children's court. The agreement was varied by the Child Welfare Agreement Ordinance 1962. Repealed by Children's Services Ordinance 1986 (Cth).</p>
<p><b>1941</b></p> 	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p><b>1941</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Uniform Law of Adoption of Child Planned<sup>62</sup></b>          The Government had agreed to exchange notifications of adoption with the Commonwealth and to endeavour to secure the same reciprocity between the States, and also to submit to the other States the possibility of a uniform adoption law throughout the Commonwealth... In Queensland the authorities had great difficulty in finding suitable children to meet the demand for adoption. 'Childless women went to great lengths to conceal the fact that they could not bear children. Often they would go to another State to adopt a young child, failing to realise that, on their return, the adoption had no force in law. 'We are proposing to the other States that the whole question of adoption should be handed over to the Commonwealth for a Uniform adoption law.' said Mr. Hanlon.... Some cases</p>

<sup>62</sup> 1941 'UNIFORM LAW ON ADOPTION OF CHILD PLANNED.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 24 October, p. 5, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article41936786>

	of childlessness were due to malpractices and the Government was trying to reduce this number...Abortion, after all, was to a great extent a social problem. It was most difficult to stamp out by law.
<b>1943</b>  	<p><b>Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act</b>  The Board may issue (and cancel) exemption certificates whereby an Aboriginal person 'shall be deemed not to be an aborigine or a person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood'. The Board may board-out children admitted to its control. Once an Aboriginal child has attained the minimum school leaving age the child is to be apprenticed or placed in employment. The Board is the authority in relation to children admitted to its control with power over removal and transfer of wards, apprenticing wards and approving custody of wards. Repealed by Aborigines Act 1969.</p>

1944

Rehabilitate the mother by supporting her to remain united with her child



QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

<http://portraitartistsaustralia.com.au/browse-portrait-artists/bennett-kim/>

# PLEA TO ASSIST SINGLE MOTHERS

**CANBERRA, Friday.**—About 1500 children of unmarried mothers were born in the last year in one State—Queensland—alone, and this part of Australian child population cannot be ignored.

With this comment on illegitimate children in her report to the National Health and Medical Research Council, Miss Constance Duncan, of the Commonwealth Health Department, urged measures to protect the child and prevent the mother becoming dissolute.

All authorities were agreed that not only was it beneficial from the baby's point of view that the mother should keep the child, but to ensure the rehabilitation of the girl it was essential that she assumed responsibility for her baby, said Miss Duncan.

Medical testimony was that most prostitutes began by having an illegitimate baby, and that if there had been provision for such unmarried mothers to retain the children and be employed many would not be so engaged.

Two suggestions had been made to improve this:—

A maintenance allowance be granted to unmarried mothers for a certain period, say, for the first 12 months of the child's life, sufficient to keep the child and herself.

Establishment of special hostels where such women could live with their children, and where the children could be cared for while the mother took employment and maintained her child either in whole or in part.

Miss Duncan added that a solution to the problem of illegitimate children and their welfare would be found if organisations already caring for unmarried mothers and their children were encouraged to assist.

1944<sup>63</sup>


Rehabilitate the Unwed Mother

<sup>63</sup> 1944 'WASHINGTON REVEALS BABY BLACK MARKET.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 11 April, p. 2, viewed 17 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42017856>

<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p><b>The money was to assure...to rehabilitate the unwed mother</b></p>	<p>64</p>
<p><b>1944</b><sup>65</sup></p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p><b>1944</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Native Citizenship Rights Act</b>          To be granted 'citizenship' under this Act, an Aboriginal person had to convince a magistrate that he/she had severed all ties to extended family and friends (parents, siblings and own children excepted), was free from disease, would benefit from holding citizenship and was 'of industrious habits'. Repealed by Native (Citizenship Rights) Act Repeal Act 1971.</p>

<sup>64</sup> 1944 'BABY ADOPTION RACKET.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 11 April, p. 3, viewed 17 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48792067>

<sup>65</sup> 1944 'Problem Of Illegitimate Children In Australia.', *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 9 December, p. 4, viewed 17 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26048727>

<p>1941<sup>66</sup></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>1</p>
<p>1942</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN</b></p> <p>Sir: I protest against the attitude of 22 members of the Legislative Assembly in voting against the amendment to include in the Miners' Pensions Bill unfortunate children born out of wedlock. The attitude of Mrs Weber makes me feel ashamed to be a member of the same sex. All honour to the 13 members who voted in the minority. - B. D.I CRISFIELD (Dandenong). The 22 members who voted against pensions for children born out of wedlock are to be commended. It is against the sanctity of the marriage tie and would encourage the breaking of God's law. Our lads are fighting for honour and sanctity of home, as well as freedom. Environment in which the child is reared is recognised as the most important factor in juvenile crime. Every citizen owes to the community a moral duty to oppose any pension that would lower the standard of citizenship.<sup>67</sup></p>
<p>1942</p> 	<p>Report reveals there are in excess of 90,000 endowed children in the Commonwealth, representing an annual liability of 11,828,011 pounds.<sup>68</sup></p>
<p>1943</p>	<p><b>Many Wartime Homes Are Waiting to Adopt Babies<sup>69</sup></b></p> <p>Contrary to the general idea, Miss Cocks said that many unmarried mothers whose babies are cared for at the home, do not wish their babies to be adopted.</p>

<sup>66</sup> 1941 'Woman's Realm.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 10 June, p. 4, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47147309>

<sup>67</sup> 1942 'ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 9 December, p. 11, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12008724>

<sup>68</sup> 1942 'Pensions Bill Up By £3m.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 12 December, p. 3, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50148493>

<sup>69</sup> 1943 'WOMAN'S REALM.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 23 July, p. 3, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46763546>





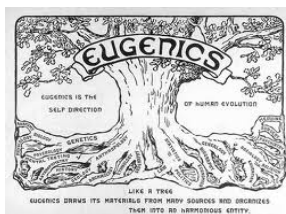
1944



### Shortage of Babies<sup>70</sup>

Over 100 people in this State are waiting to adopt babies, but there are not enough babies available. Most babies are adopted when they are about three weeks old, and are usually illegitimate children born in metropolitan hospitals, and whose mothers either cannot or do not want to look after them... Most babies are adopted when they are about three weeks old, and are usually illegitimate children born in metropolitan hospitals, and whose mothers either cannot or do not want to look after them.

1944



**Brisbane City Mission calls for married, Australian citizens prepared to adopt a child regardless of its sex, adding that the baby will be healthy.<sup>71</sup>**

1944



### More Boys Born Out of Wedlock In Queensland<sup>72</sup>

The apparent increase in the numbers of illegitimate boy babies is providing a problem for the Queensland State Children's department which has to find homes for them. There are now so many little boys awaiting adoption that the department has had to advertise.

<sup>70</sup> 1944 'SHORTAGE OF BABIES.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 15 January, p. 4, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46781789>

<sup>71</sup> 1944 'BABIES FOR ADOPTION.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 8 May, p. 3, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42027316>

<sup>72</sup> 1944 'More Boys Born Out of Wedlock In Queensland.', The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 25 March, p. 14, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55883510>



1944

*"Most unmarried mothers are not from the slums, but from respectful middle and upper class homes"*



## Many Girls Under 15 in U.S. Having Babies

From "The Mail" Special Representative in U.S.A.

NEW YORK, Saturday.—Dr. J. E. Garrison, on retiring as chief physician of the Salvation Army at Birmingham, Alabama, disclosed that during his 29 years of hospital work he delivered 2,067 illegitimate babies.

He said he had noted a sharp increase recently in the number of births to girls under 15, and attributed the situation to "home conditions and false ideas of patriotism."

Most unmarried mothers, he stressed, were not from the slums, but from respectable middle and upper class homes.

"These girls are not bad. They are your relatives and mine. They are pitiful victims of our own failure," he said.

National Library of Australia

The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 May 1944, page 2

1944

Article titled "OUR POPULATION IIMIGRATION PLANS – Advisory Council's Views"<sup>73</sup>

**PRE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CARE TO BE BROUGHT UNDER  
THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**'A wide range of social reforms and plans to stimulate a steady influx of suitable Immigrants after the war will be put before the appropriate Federal and State ministers almost immediately as a result of a meeting**

<sup>73</sup> 1944 'OUR POPULATION.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 9 September, p. 4, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44977541>

**of the Population and Migration Advisory Council held in Perth yesterday. Members present included representatives of prominent public bodies.**

**The president of the executive (Mr J. H. Gaffney) was in the chair. Holding that a policy to achieve a rapid increase of population by immigration was inseparable from one for social reforms and stimulation of the natural increase, the meeting resolved to urge an extension of family endowment to include the first child and a higher rate of payment; marriage loans of £200 at a low rate of interest and repayable if there should be no children born within the first five years, but otherwise, one-third to be written off at the birth of the first child, half of the balance to be written off at the birth of the second, and the whole of the outstanding amount to be written off at the birth of the third; also that the wages, of any man marrying before reaching 21 years of age be subsidised from Government funds to equal the basic wage. Other reforms advocated were...**

- **including instruction in mothercraft to girls over 14 years of age and the raising of the school-leaving age to 16 years;**
- **provision of domestic assistance in the home during a mother's confinement and**
- **the bringing of pre-natal and post-natal care under the supervision of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services;**
- **control of the sale of contraceptives;**
- **provision of "clean" birth registrations for illegitimate children by the use of a fictitious father's name...**

**Members were unanimous in the view that no suitable person should be excluded from the Commonwealth, provided that he or she be of essentially European stock, but that the Commonwealth Government should determine the distribution of migrants until naturalised in order to prevent the formation of foreign colonies. Child migration was favoured and it was decided to urge the Commonwealth Government to take immediate steps to implement that policy, using existing institutions until they are fully occupied and any vacant military establishments suitably converted until proper Institutions can be erected, the children to be wards of the Commonwealth until they attain the age of 18 years.**

**While favouring the adoption and fostering of children by reputable people, members were of the opinion that extreme caution ought to be exercised to ensure that such children were not used for cheap labour or domestic drudgery. It was decided to recommend the appointment of an employment officer to supervise employment of State wards.<sup>74</sup>**

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<sup>74</sup> 1944 'OUR POPULATION.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 9 September, p. 4, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44977541>

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are needed to see this picture.

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<sup>75</sup> 1944 'Then There Is The Case Of Mrs. Lionel Indich—.', *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 30 January, p. 5, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59191442>

1944<sup>76</sup>



1944

**ALL AUTHORITIES  
AGREE: IN BABY'S BEST  
INTEREST TO REMAIN  
WITH MOTHER**



### **Plea to assist single mothers<sup>77</sup>**

CANBERRA, Friday. — About 1500 children of unmarried mothers were born in the last year in one State — Queensland — alone, and this part of Australian child population cannot be ignored.

With this comment on illegitimate children in her report to the National Health and Medical Research Council, Miss Constance Duncan, of the Commonwealth Health Department, urged measures to protect the child and prevent the mother becoming dissolute. All authorities were agreed that not only was it beneficial from the baby's point of view that the mother should keep the child, but to ensure the rehabilitation of the girl it was essential that she assumed responsibility for her baby, said Miss Duncan.

Medical testimony was that most prostitutes began by having an illegitimate baby, and that if there had been provision for such unmarried mothers to retain the children and be employed many would not be so engaged. Two suggestions had been made to improve this: — A maintenance allowance be granted to unmarried mothers for a certain period, say, for the first 12 months of the child's life, sufficient to keep the child and herself. Establishment of special hostels where such women could live with their children, and where the children could be cared for while the mother took employment and maintained her child either in whole or in part.

**Miss Duncan added that 'a solution to the problem of illegitimate children and their welfare would be found if organisations already caring for unmarried mothers and their children were encouraged to assist.**

<sup>76</sup> 1944 'ENTOWMENTTO ABORIGINALS.', *Cairns Post* (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), 28 April, p. 3, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42419194>

<sup>77</sup> 1944 'PLEA TO ASSIST SINGLE MOTHERS.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 9 December, p. 2, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48958239>

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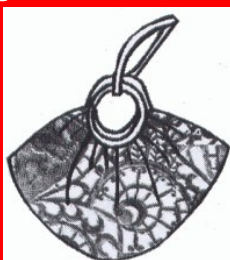
1945



## **SOCIAL SERVICES. Transferring State Workers<sup>78</sup>** **CANBERRA, July 19**

About 270 State public servants will be transferred to the Commonwealth Public Service for the Government's social service schemes. This figure was given at a meeting of Federal Labour Caucus today. Members stressed that the Government must obtain civil servants who would administer the programmes sympathetically.

1945



## **EXTENSION OF ALMONERS' WORK<sup>79</sup>**

A new attitude toward all types of problems—particularly social problems—and a growing realisation of the close connection between social conditions and health had arisen in Britain, Mrs J. L. Hepburn, of the Red Cross Social Service Department, said at the seventh annual meeting of the Institute of Hospital Almoners at the Town Hall yesterday. Mrs Hepburn has recently arrived in Australia from Great Britain, and said that Britain was watching the progress of the social services here with great interest.

1945



## **Brighton Babies' Home Building Fund<sup>80</sup>**

The organising secretary of the Brighton Babies' Home (Rev. F. W. Brasher) says that the problem of illegitimacy is inseparable from the life of society, and everything should be done to eradicate the birthmark of illegitimacy from the child. This can largely be done through the system of effective adoption carried on at the Brighton Babies' Home. The adoption of the baby into a good home immediately lifts the problem as far as the child is concerned and is in many cases the complete solution.

1945

## **TREND TOWARDS FALL IN POPULATION<sup>81</sup>**

If the present trend continued, Australia's population would reach its maximum about 1960, and would begin a steady decline about 1980, said Mr B. Douglas, immigration officer of the Social Services Dept., addressing the Launceston 50,000 League yesterday. This indicated the importance of developing an immigration formula that would meet all sides of the

<sup>78</sup> 1945 'SOCIAL SERVICES.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 20 July, p. 8, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article51759152>

<sup>79</sup> 1945 'EXTENSION OF ALMONERS' WORK.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 September, p. 10, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article978847>

<sup>80</sup> 1945 'Brighton Babies' Home Building Fund.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 4 October, p. 6, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48670755>

<sup>81</sup> 1945 'TREND TOWARDS FALL IN POPULATION.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 4 September, p. 6, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26142062>



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*The question needs to be  
asked, How many  
aboriginal babies rejected  
by the process of deferred  
adoption comprise the  
Forgotten Australians?*

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are needed to see this picture.

question. It was recognised, however, that the first obligation was to return and establish in work the 50,000 Australian men and women in the services.

"After 150 years of settlement we have only seven million persons to occupy 3,000,000 square miles in Australia," said Mr Douglas. "During the past 60 to 80 years the natural increase has been steadily declining, and we are barely maintaining that increase.

*"Twenty per cent of Australian marriages are childless, 22 pc produce one child, and 24 pc two children. We are relying on the other 34 pc with three or more children to carry on the natural increase in population. Twenty seven per cent of the population does not marry, and in the war we lost thousands of our best young men for the second time in 25 years."*

Any immigration plan should be based on attraction and not compulsion, said Mr Douglas. There should be careful selection in the country of origin, and organised reception of migrants in Australia. The development of primary and secondary industries on a vast scale should precede any influx. Decentralisation, housing, social services, and assisted passages should all fit into the migration plans. A Federal proposal to bring children from Europe had been discussed, and it was suggested that an experiment be made first with a cottage scheme in Tasmania. It was not proposed at present to send British children to Australia for adoption.

1946<sup>82</sup>



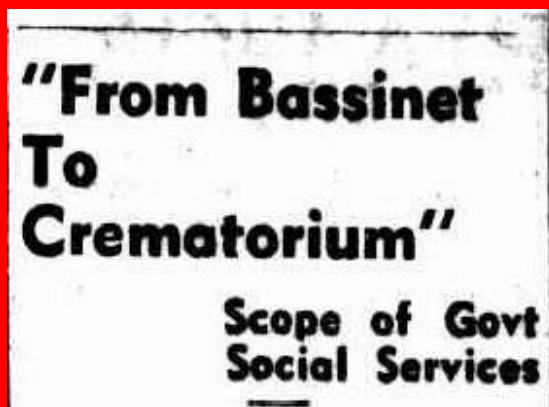
### From Bassinet to Crematorium – Scope of Govt Social Services

An interstate conference of government social workers was told yesterday that the Commonwealth social service was so comprehensive that it "looked after people from the bassinet to the crematorium."

**In saying that, Mr J. P. Collopy, Deputy Commissioner for Social Services in Victoria, said that so far social service work conducted by the Commonwealth had been chiefly palliative, and assistance was "handed out" with little consideration for the reasons behind the circumstances of the people who needed help. It was to social workers that the department now turned to investigate cases and watch the channels into which assistance went, and how it was used.**

**The conference, which is being attended by social workers attached to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, was opened by Mr T. H. Pitt, Acting Director-General of Social Services.**


<sup>82</sup> 1946 'Of Interest to WOMEN.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 22 November, p. 6, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49365493>



# COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**Commonwealth Association of Social Workers  
and Research Bureau**

(otherwise known as the Australian Association of Social Workers, whose archives are restricted and held in the Melbourne University Library)

1946	<p><b>Women's News: Association Formed By Australian Social Workers<sup>83</sup></b></p> <p>An <b>Australian Association of Social Workers</b> has been formed at the inter-state conference of social workers in the Commonwealth Department of Social Services which is being held in Melbourne this week.</p> <p><b>The association will be a coordinating body for the State associations of social workers, and will speak for them on matters that affect the Commonwealth, and speak for the Commonwealth in international affairs connected with social work.</b></p> <p>Miss Norma Parker, who with Miss Elvira Lyons is a delegate from New South Wales, has been appointed chairman of a provisional committee. The executive committee will sit first in Sydney, with sittings rotating between the capitals every three years.</p> <p>Miss N. Cameron and Miss K. Smith, of Sydney, are N.S.W. departmental representatives at the conference, which is under the general direction of Miss Lyra Taylor<sup>84</sup>, head of the Department's Social Service Bureau. <b>Miss</b></p> 
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<sup>83</sup> 1946 'Women's News Association Formed By Australian Social Workers.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 12 September, p. 7, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27910131>

<sup>84</sup> Miss Lyra Taylor was a Committee member of the Montreal Council of Social Agencies, of

## Social Worker In Perth

It was important to let people know what resources of the community were available to them when they required assistance, the administrative officer of the social work and research section of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (Miss Lyra Taylor) said yesterday.

Miss Taylor, who arrived in Perth this week from Melbourne, is making one of her regular



MISS LYRA TAYLOR.

This article from 15 April 1950 (National Library) refers to the AASW as the Commonwealth Association of Social Workers, and that is indeed what it was.

Dorothy Sumner, of Chicago, who is at present attached to the staff of the Board of Social Studies at Sydney University as casework lecturer, is attending the conference, and next week will conduct two courses of lectures, one specially for all the State social workers and research officers attached to the Commonwealth Department.



1946

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decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

### **WHAT IS THEIR FUTURE? : Young aborigines at the Darwin area<sup>85</sup>**

A new plan for handling the native problem is being worked out in the Northern Territory  
THE aboriginal population is not now decreasing numerically to the extent which is popularly supposed, according to Mr. E. W. P. Chinnery, formerly Commonwealth Adviser on Native Affairs, and now acting as Director of Native Affairs in the Northern Territory.

Recently I made a number of visits to native compounds in the Territory, in the company of Mr. Chinnery, and in the course of these visits he out-lined the constructive and comprehensive plan which has been prepared to handle the problem of the aborigines, in combating their extinction and improving their standards of health and education.

Important is the problem of the half-castes or as the Department of Native Affairs more kindly terms them, "part-aborigines." Suspended, as they are between two races, the old and the new the lot of these people is an unenviable one. They are outcasts from the tribes and are usually shunned by the white races. Yet from the purely scientific aspect absorption in the white races is regarded favourably. The progeny of "part aboriginal" parents never revert to the aboriginal strain, but retain the characteristics of the white race predominantly.

After Investigations extending over 37 years with the natives in New Guinea and Australia, Mr. Chinnery, who received portion of his anthropological training at Cambridge University in England, first presented his long-range plan to the Commonwealth Government in 1940. The plan was accepted, but its implementation was interrupted by the war. The basis of the plan is sociological and economic security for the aborigines and part-aborigines, with special provision for safeguarding the health of peoples by the extension of the present medical facilities.

The five major factors which have been taken into consideration are, accommodation, health, education, social facilities, and employment.

The view is held by the Department that definite areas in towns should be allocated, where they can become more or less self-contained communities...

<sup>85</sup> 1946 'WHITHER THE ABORIGINES?.', *Western Mail* (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 4 July, p. 5, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article53244636>

A good deal of ill-founded criticism has been levelled against the Department for this particular scheme, alleging that a policy of "segregation" is being advocated. Officers of the Department point out that in all large towns racial centres naturally develop. They claim that by guiding the growth of these separate areas they will be able to accomplish much in building the morale of the part-aboriginal peoples, and removing the intense inferiority complex which is so tragically characteristic of this case.

#### Health

WITH its impingement on the white population in the forms of "various tropical and infectious diseases, particularly in the Northern Territory, the health of both these classes is of paramount consideration. At present the health of the aborigines is the joint responsibility of the Department of Health and the Department of Native Affairs. In the larger compounds, hospitals have been established, and the more serious cases handled in general hospitals. Cases of leprosy in the Northern Territory are sent to the Roman Catholic Mission on Melville Island, portion of which is devoted to this purpose.

Under the new plan it is proposed to give elementary training to selected natives with a view to intensifying and extending the scope of the medical services. By training a proportion of the aboriginal and part-aboriginal population in first-aid and elementary medical practice it is considered that these people generally will become increasingly health-conscious...

#### Social Facilities

PROBABLY the most important aspect of the new plan is the emphasis which has been placed on providing adequate social facilities for both these classes. While nominally the colour bar is less apparent in the Northern Territory, socially it is much more obvious.

To overcome this it is proposed to provide recreation rooms, libraries and sports grounds; assistance is also to be given by trained welfare workers to enable both types to build a social life of their own. It is thus hoped to overcome the problem of promiscuity, combat the inferiority factor, and reduce the problem of delinquency.

Delinquency is not abnormally high amongst either the aborigines or part-aborigines. At present the Government has a Welfare Station at Snake Bay, on Melville Island, which incidentally is set amongst the most picturesque tropical surroundings. Under the new plan it is proposed to place this station under the control of trained welfare workers.

The Department of Native Affairs is not unappreciative of the invaluable work which has been accomplished by Missions sponsored by the various churches. Without their assistance progress would have been considerably retarded.

Intimate contact with the aborigines seems to engender in the officers of the Department that intense, fiery devotion to a cause which brooks no obstacles. The successful implementation of adequate finance has so far been the greatest handicap, but with peacetime conditions prevailing this handicap should be overcome. Whether the destiny of the aborigines lies in eventual extinction or in absorption in the white races, in the coming years they are assured of vastly improved conditions.

1946

#### **OLD TYPE OF SOCIAL AID GONE<sup>86</sup>**




The older school of social workers, the 'Do Gooders,' was rapidly passing

<sup>86</sup> 1946 'OLD TYPE OF SOCIAL AID GONE.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 4 October, p. 6, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49359504>

	<p>away. <b>Miss Lyra Taylor, chief research officer of the Commonwealth Department of Social Service</b>, said last night...Miss Taylor predicted increased international outlook and scope in all fields of social work. It was vitally important that the temporary exchanges of social workers between different countries should continue. She did not favour the exclusive use of the expert in social work. While it was desirable to have more trained personnel, other welfare workers and interested voluntary bodies were essential.</p>
<p><b>1947</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor needed to see this picture</p>	<p><b>Child Welfare Act</b></p> <p>The secretary of the department to have the care, management and control of wards. Where a court finds a child to be 'destitute' or 'neglected', it may commit the child to the care of the department; send him/her to an institution; or release him/her on probation. In committing any child to an institution a court is bound to have regard to the future welfare of such child. A child committed to the care of the department may be detained in an institution; boarded out, apprenticed or placed at service with a 'suitable person'; or placed in the custody of a 'suitable person'. No ward to be detained in an institution or to be under the control of the department after attaining the age of 18 except that a period of supervision or detention of any female ward may be extended to 21. Reasonable notice of the complaint must be given to the child's parent or guardian.</p>
<p><b>1947</b></p> 	<p><b>MORE SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITY URGED<sup>87</sup></b></p> <p><b>Increasing Australian participation in world social service activities was urged last night by Mr F. H. Rowe, Director-General of Social Services, speaking at the annual meeting of the Victorian branch, Australian Association of Social Workers.</b> Mr Rowe said that Australia must be represented at the September Hague conference, which would decide where the next international conference of social service workers would be held. Social service workers, during the next few months, must become articulate, formulate public opinion, and ensure that representatives to the Hague conference were selected. New branch officers elected: President, Miss Helen Clark; vice-president, Mrs C. Kitchen; secretary, Miss J. Sambell; treasurer, Mr R. Burke; employment secretary, Miss G. Norman; executive committee, Miss J. Raymond, Miss J. Anderson, Miss E. Monson, Miss O. Dodd, Miss R. Hoban, and Mr H. McKenzie.</p>
<p><b>1947</b></p> 	<p><b>Social Workers' Important Job<sup>88</sup></b></p> <p>Miss Jean Ritchie, a social worker attached to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services in Brisbane, is spending a week in Sydney meeting members of the Board of Social Studies at Sydney University, and workers in her own field. It is proposed to start a Board of Social Studies at Brisbane University next year.</p> <p>"There is still a great need for social workers," Miss Ritchie said, "although many agencies who should have them do not. Private agencies can fill in the gaps not touched by Government Departments. <b>Social work should be recognised as largely preventive, and trained workers can do an important</b></p>

<sup>87</sup> 1947 'MORE SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITY URGED.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 March, p. 14, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22415813>


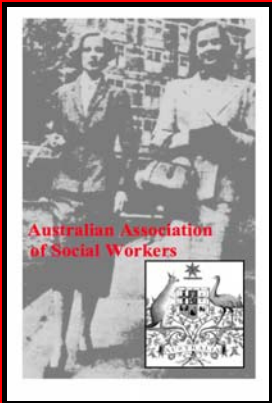
<sup>88</sup> 1947 'Social Workers' Important Job.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 22 May, p. 14, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18027083>

<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>job in the community...</p> <p><b>Miss Ritchie is one of several women attached to the Commonwealth Departments of Social Services in each State - a member of the team of trained social workers established by the head of the Social Services Research Bureau, Miss Lyra Taylor, who has been attached to the Department since 1944.</b></p>
<p>1947</p> 	<p><b>SURVEY OF WELFARE SERVICE<sup>89</sup></b></p> <p><b>An informative survey of community work undertaken by social workers in the Commonwealth Social Services Dept. was given yesterday by Miss Kathleen Corvan, social worker of the department in Tasmania. She was speaking at a meeting held under the auspices of the United Nations' Association at the Town Hall, yesterday. Mr J. Modridge was chairman. "In a country of 7,500,000 people and with £70,000,000 spent annually on social services that tend to increase, demand for trained administrators and service personnel will become greater," Miss Corvan said.</b></p>
<p>1947</p>  <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Social Workers' Important Job<sup>90</sup></b></p> <p>Miss Jean Ritchie, a social worker attached to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services in Brisbane, is spending a week in Sydney meeting members of the Board of Social Studies at Sydney University, and workers in her own field. It is proposed to start a Board of Social Studies at Brisbane University next year.</p> <p>"There is still a great need for social workers," Miss Ritchie said, "although many agencies who should have them do not. Private agencies can fill in the gaps not touched by Government Departments. Social work should be recognised as largely preventive, and trained workers can do an important job in the community..."</p> <p><b>Miss Ritchie is one of several women attached to the Commonwealth Departments of Social Services in each State - a member of the team of trained social workers established by the head of the Social Services Research Bureau, Miss Lyra Taylor, who has been attached to the Department since 1944.</b></p>
<p>1947</p> 	<p><b>VALIDATING MEASURE. Legal Foundation For Legislation. CANBERRA. May 15<sup>91</sup></b></p> <p>The Social Services Declaratory Bill, to give effect to powers conferred by the Referendum and to place on a legal foundation to existing social services legislation, was passed by the Senate today. The Minister for Health and Social Services (Senator McKenna) said that although the Government previously had specific power to enact social service legislation only on invalid and old-age pensions, it had provided many other benefits under its power to appropriate public moneys. The High Court decision on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act showed that this power could be used only for purposes stated or implied in the Constitution. Parliament had been</p>

<sup>89</sup> 1947 'SURVEY OF WELFARE SERVICE.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 29 April, p. 5, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26378781>

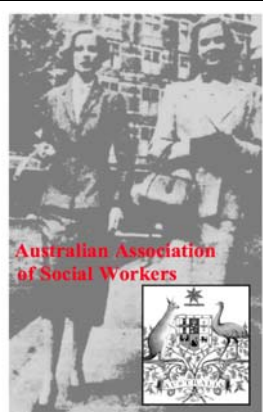
<sup>90</sup> 1947 'Social Workers' Important Job.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 22 May, p. 14, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18027083>

<sup>91</sup> 1947 'VALIDATING MEASURE.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 16 May, p. 10, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46312141>

	<p>acting on too wide a view. Existing Acts would be validated from December 1946, so that prosecutions could be launched for offences such as fraudulent claims for pensions or other benefits committed since then. Parliament now had power to make laws for maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services, student benefits and family allowances.</p>
<p><b>1947</b></p>   <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>GROWTH OF SOCIAL SERVICES<sup>93</sup></b></p> <p>It is anticipated that the total expenditure on social services by the Commonwealth during the year 1947-48 will amount to £72,060,000.</p> <p>This was stated by Senator Mc Kenna, Minister for Health and Social Services, in the Senate when he introduced the Social Services Consolidation Bill, "It will be apparent," he said, "that what in effect is taking place amounts to a redistribution of the national income."</p> <p>As a consolidating measure the Bill repeals the whole of 42 Act of Parliament, and it repeals portions of seven other Acts, all of which are listed in the schedule. It consolidates the law in relation to j social benefits which fall broadly, under the headings of Invalid and Old-age Pensions, widows' pensions, maternity allowances, child endowment, unemployment and sickness benefits.</p> <p>"With the passage of time," the Minister said, "certain portions of the existing legislations have become obsolete, making their repeal desirable, whilst differing provisions in sections of a somewhat similar character in the Acts relating to the various benefits have produced confusion and anomalies. The main objectives in the consolidation are to eliminate obsolete sections, remove anomalies, simplify drafting, amalgamate certain sections of the administration, to modernise the legislation and to present it as a symmetrical part of a well-defined pattern of social security.</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY</b></p> <p>Whilst the Bill was, to a considerable extent, a consolidating measure, he said it was also in many important ways of amending and creative nature. In recent years there had developed in the peoples of enlightened countries a recognition of the fact that care of the aged, the infirm, widowed, unemployed and sick could not properly be left to individuals and to organisations set up for charitable purposes. It was now an accepted principle that these were matters of community responsibility, to be implemented and administered at the governmental level without discouraging charitable efforts. The basic idea was to assure to every individual, as far as was humanly possible, "man's most precious possession, peace of mind."</p> <p>In reviewing the history of the social service legislation of the Federal Parliament, Senator Mc Kenna said that the referendum of September 28 last had resulted in power being conferred upon the Parliament to make laws with respect to "the provision of maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorise</p>

<sup>93</sup> 1947 'GROWTH OF SOCIAL SERVICES.', Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 22 May, p. 7, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56782635>





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any form of civil conscription), benefits to students and family allowances." "This alteration of the Constitution," he went on to say, "not only confirmed the Commonwealth power to provide social services benefits of a type already in existence, but has given it also almost unlimited power in new and important fields of social service..."

"Child endowment is paid in respect of nearly 1,000,000 children and the cost is approximately £20, 000.000 per annum. There are some 43,500 widows drawing pensions at a yearly cost of £3,300,000. There are fewer than 10,000 people receiving unemployment benefit and about 9000 receiving sickness benefit, the two costing, at present rates, approximately £1,750,000 per annum. This year it is estimated that there will be more than 22,600 funeral benefits, involving the expenditure of some £220,000. "It is of interest to note that the Department of Social Services last year issued more than 2,000,000 cheques, and that on every working day in the Sydney branch alone more than 2000 separate pieces of correspondence are received. There are not many homes in Australia which do not have a direct and beneficial association with the department."

#### SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU

Senator McKenna ... made special reference to the Social Research Bureau, which was established in November 1944 on the recommendation of the joint committee. Though its development had been retarded by the shortage of trained personnel, a great deal of useful work had been accomplished, he said. Trained social workers had been introduced into the administration and their skills employed in difficult cases of child endowment, unemployment and sickness benefits, age and invalid pensions, and in the rehabilitation program.

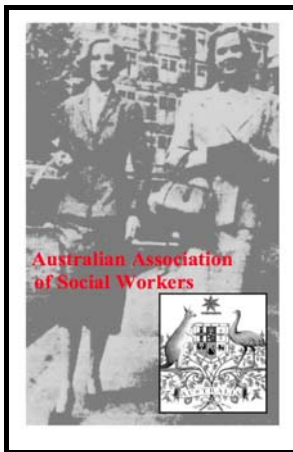
"These workers," he said, "render a professional service acquired by their specialised training to many people for the purpose of assisting them to attain satisfying relationships and standards of life in accordance with their particular wishes and capacities. Concurrently with this day to day work, the Bureau has a program of social research directed towards the evaluation of the actual human and social effect upon people of the Commonwealth's total social welfare program and of specific portions of that program. The research officers have also made a comprehensive survey of social service agencies and facilities throughout the Commonwealth and have established and are maintaining association with more than 200 official and non-official social service bodies outside Australia.

"Through these associations an increasing store of up-to-date, reliable facts on overseas developments in social welfare is being amassed. At the same time there is provided a channel for the dissemination overseas of authoritative information on current social activity and in the Commonwealth. In an era when the value of international knowledge and understanding can hardly be over-emphasised this exchange of information is of great importance and significance...From July widows' pensions will be paid fortnightly, instead of each four weeks as at present.

1947

**Meeting Needs Of Australian Family<sup>94</sup>**

<sup>92</sup> 1947 'Couples want to adopt babies; law says 'no'.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 18 November, p. 7, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22520598>



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Social services in the modern sense embodied much more than financial aid, Miss Lyra Taylor of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, said last night in an address on "Social Services fix the Family." **The United Nations Social Commission, she said, had defined social services as "organised activities for promoting the physical and mental welfare of the members of a community by close personal contact, which may involve direct assistance to the individual or have in view the improvement of his environment."**

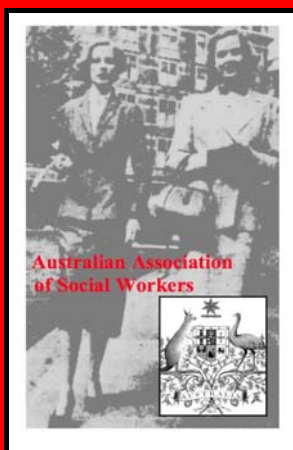
The majority of people thought of social services strictly in terms of financial help. This was particularly true in relation to those services made available and administered by statutory bodies, whether at the Commonwealth, State or municipal level. Obviously until Governments had provided a sound underpinning of economic security for all citizens, it was impossible to embark to any great extent on social services of a different kind...Miss Taylor urged that these services should not be regarded merely in terms of money spent, but of economic security.

**Furthermore, she added within the last two years 16 trained social workers and two social research workers had been added to the staff of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. These were people who by their special training in human relationships were qualified to develop that personal contact between the department and its beneficiaries recommended by the United Nations Social Commission.**

1947

### **Importance Of Voluntary Organisations<sup>95</sup>**

When the Director-General of Commonwealth Social Services (Mr. F. H. Rowe) was in Adelaide last week, he had some interesting things to say about the importance of voluntary social agencies, in view of the trend in this country as elsewhere, for Government control in a wide field of social welfare activities.




While it had come to be recognised in recent years that certain types of social services must inevitably become the responsibility of Governments, Mr. Rowe said it was also accepted that voluntary agencies or organisations must continue to play an important part in fields in which many of them had been the pioneers. There should be no attempt to discourage those members of the community who realised and accepted their responsibilities for the wellbeing of their fellow-citizens...Rather than discourage them the Government wished to encourage the growth and development of voluntary social agencies and there was an admirable degree of co-operation between existing agencies and the Federal and State Governments. Mr. Rowe said that his department had done a great deal to wards awakening a social conscience throughout the Commonwealth by emphasising the importance of the trained social worker and research worker. He hoped to see the day when all Governmental and voluntary bodies were staffed by trained people.

The schools of social studies at Sydney and Melbourne Universities had been persuaded to take increased numbers of students to help to meet

<sup>94</sup> 1947 'Meeting Needs Of Australian Family.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 27 May, p. 11, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article30530651>

<sup>95</sup> 1947 'Importance Of Voluntary Organisations.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 25 June, p. 11, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article35983845>



<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>increasing demands. Another important development in the department, Mr. Rowe said, was the establishment in 1944 of a social research bureau, of which Miss Lyra Taylor was the officer in charge. Through this bureau constant touch was kept with social welfare activities all over the world, and the information compiled was available to all interested.</p> <p><b>Mr. Rowe pointed out that councils of social service and such groups as the Australian Association of Social Workers could do a great deal to influence public opinion in a way which Government officers could not, by calling attention to existing evils and helping to decide what was the best way to deal with them.</b></p>
<p><b>1947</b></p> 	<p><b>Population Survey For 1945<sup>96</sup></b></p> <p>Issued today by the Commonwealth Statistician Dr. Roland Wilson...One man married at 90 and three at 15. There were nine brides at 14 and 109 at 16. The number of marriages dropped from the wartime peak of 12,011 a thousand in 1942 to 852 in 1945. More minors married than in any year except 1944. The birth rate was the highest since the end of World War I and the number of illegitimate births was a record 7,195, although the percentage was slightly lower than in 1944.</p>
<p><b>1947</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Did you know<sup>97</sup></b></p> <p>... that illegitimate births notified totaled 1398— the lowest since 1942. that applications to adopt children continue to increase, but because of the decline in the illegitimate birth rate there is a waiting list of more than 100 willing to adopt babies of either sex. These facts are taken from the report of the Director of the State Children's Department (Mr. W. Smith) tabled in Parliament yesterday</p>
<p><b>1947</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Domestic Assistance Services Act</b></p> <p>Established a domestic assistance service to assist in homes where the mother is unable to undertake 'ordinary domestic duties by reason of pregnancy or maternity, or by reason of accident, sickness or infirmity of any kind' or where the lack of domestic assistance service in the home is a cause of hardship.'</p>
<p><b>1947</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>DEBT TO THE NATIVES Commonwealth Control Suggested<sup>98</sup></b></p> <p><b>The Premiers' Conference decided to call a conference of Commonwealth and State officials to investigate the transfer of control of aborigines to the Commonwealth and, alternatively, to consider the question of Commonwealth financial assistance being given to the States which had the responsibility for native welfare.</b></p> <p>The matter was raised by the West Australian Attorney-General and Minister for Native Affairs (Mr. McDonald), who said that there was growing feeling in Western Australia regarding our responsibilities to the native population. Western Australia had the largest aboriginal and half-caste population of any of the States, he said. At the last Premiers' Conference it</p>

<sup>96</sup> 1947 'FATHER AT AGE OF 87.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 22 July, p. 4, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article35988773>

<sup>97</sup> 1947 'DID YOU KNOW...', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 2 October, p. 2, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49652342>

<sup>98</sup> 1947 'DEBT TO THE NATIVES.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 23 August, p. 9, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46335149>



<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>had been agreed to form a committee comprising representatives of the Department of Social Services, the Department of the Interior and appropriate State officers to consider the transfer of control of natives to the Commonwealth. So far that committee had not been called together. It had now come to examine the policy towards the natives. W.A. had 10,000 natives who were out of touch with civilisation and 16,000 in other parts of the State. There were 207 natives in the leprosarium at Derby and the State was deeply concerned at the possibility of further spread of the disease. W.A. had not spent as much as other States on native welfare. Queensland and South Australia were spending over £9 a head a year but WA, with its large native population and limited financial resources, was spending only £2/ 18/ a head.</p> <p>This covered education, social services, rations, health matters and a variety of other things, including all the native institutions. There must be a long-range plan covering two or three generations, Mr. McDonald declared. The work must be directed towards the children. Moving that the committee decided on last year should be called together and should also discuss the question of Commonwealth financial assistance, Mr. McDonald said that the whole nation had a responsibility towards the aboriginal inhabitants. The New South Wales Minister for Housing (Mr. Clive Evatt) said that last year N.S.W. had spent £63,400 on its 10,000 aborigines. He objected to the fact that natives who lived on native stations were deprived from receiving social service benefits. The Premier of Queensland (Mr. Hanlon) said that his State spent £182,000 a year on its 15,000 natives. The aborigines should be taught to be self-supporting. "If we are going to do anything," he said, "let us get the anthropologist and the theorist out of it."</p>
<p>1947</p> 	<p><b>"Did you know?"<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>...that 1015 children in institutions and 3999 living with relatives or foster mothers were being cared for as State children. . . . that 1474 children were admitted to the care of the State during the year. . . . that £112,857 was paid State aid to relatives or parents —for 3350 children. . . . that the department holds 782 trust accounts for State wares with £32,567/5/5 to their credit. . . . that illegitimate births notified totalled 1398— the lowest since 1942. . . that applications to adopt children continue to increase, but because of the decline in the illegitimate birth rate there is a waiting list of more than 100 willing to adopt babies of either sex. These facts are taken from the report of the Director of the State Children's Department (Mr. W. Smith) tabled in Parliament yesterday.</p>
<p>1948</p> 	<p><b>CONTROL OF ABORIGINES Conference To Be Held In Canberra on February 3 CANBERRA<sup>100</sup></b></p> <p>The main subject for discussion at the first conference for 10 years on native affairs, to be held at Canberra on February 3, will be whether there should be Commonwealth or State control of aborigines. The conference, which will be attended by representatives of all States except Victoria and Tasmania, will make recommendations to the Commonwealth Government on aboriginal welfare generally. Victoria is not attending because it has only a very small aboriginal population. Chairman of the conference will be the Minister for the Interior.</p> <p>The conference will once more bring the Australian aboriginal into the</p>

<sup>99</sup> 1947 'DID YOU KNOW...', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 2 October, p. 2, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49652342>

<sup>100</sup> 1948 'CONTROL OF ABORIGINES.', *Centralian Advocate* (Alice Springs, NT : 1947 - 1954), 30 January, p. 9, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59652407>



limelight. Control of aborigines by either the Commonwealth or State will be much the same thing for the aborigines themselves. Will they gain anything out of all these discussions, or will their lives go on in the same old groove? It is a problem that cannot be solved in a few hours, but only by years of hard work by patient officials and the aborigines themselves. The Native Affairs branch has done a lot of good work for the native and has built up settlements for issuing rations regularly to them, trying to teach them to speak English and how to earn their livelihood, in other words, trying to help the aboriginal adjust himself to live among white men. In some cases they have been successful in doing all this and there are many aborigines today who can hold down a good job and live reasonably, thanks to the Native Affairs. But there are a lot of unhappy natives who, brought to a settlement, cannot adjust themselves to the sudden change of living condition. So many aboriginal laws, unbeknown to the white man, are broken by gathering of tribes in a settlement, and again the native himself may break a white man's law without knowing it and be penalised for something he is entirely ignorant of. These and many other problems have to be settled or try to be adjusted by men of the Native Affairs Branch. And so the battle goes on. Very few people understand the work involved by the branch, and the officials have to give careful consideration to who they employ in this work, as a great amount of harm can be done by unscrupulous officers. As to whether the native settlements are going to eventually make good, honest citizens out of the aborigines or make them lazy, well fed, good for nothing, time alone will tell.

(Mr. Jonhson) and the deputy chairman the Secretary of the Department of Interior (Mr. J. Car rodus)...Other Commonwealth representatives will be the Director General of Social Services (Mr. F. H. Rowe)

1948

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### **Good Social Plan, But Workers Are Few<sup>101</sup>**

The Commonwealth Government had a progressive social service scheme, but there were not enough social workers, Miss Dorothy Sumner, an American social worker said in Brisbane last night. Great progress had been shown in a short time by the Social Services Department, and it already compared favourably with those in Britain and America, she said.

Miss Sumner has visited all State capitals in the last six weeks as consultant to the Commonwealth Social Services Department. She was brought to Australia in 1945 by the Sydney University to lecture on social studies. She said that Australia had an advantage over America because social service work here was uniform in all States. In America it varied, depending on the State's financial status. Remaining to Brisbane until Saturday, she will endeavour to assist social workers in this State. She will return to America in May.

<sup>101</sup> 1948 'Good Social Plan, But Workers are Few', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 18 February, p. 4, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49652590>

<p>1948<sup>102</sup></p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p>1948</p> 	<p><b>CHILD WELFARE PAYMENTS</b><sup>103</sup></p> <p>An increase of 5/ a week in allowances paid by the Child Welfare Department to a number of women with dependent children had been approved by the State Government, the Minister for Child Welfare (Mr. Watts) said yesterday.</p> <p>These women included deserted wives, <b>unmarried mothers</b> and women with sick husbands who had not benefited by the recent increase in Commonwealth pensions, he said.' The additional State assistance, which would apply from next Wednesday, would involve expenditure of over <b>£1,000.</b></p>
<p>1948</p> 	<p><b>OUTLAWING GENOCIDE PARIS, Nov. 26</b><sup>104</sup></p> <p>Speaking over the United Nations radio yesterday, the President of the General Assembly (Dr. Evatt) said that the present draft international convention on genocide was "epoch making and one of the major achievements of the present Assembly."</p> <p>Dr. Evatt described genocide as <i>"the crime of committing any deliberate act which is intended to destroy or cause serious harm to groups of human beings because of their race, religion or political opinion."</i></p> <p>The convention to outlaw this crime was the result of tremendous effort which occupied the cream of the world's international lawyers over two years, he said. Dr. Evatt said that the convention meant "moulding within the framework of an internationally acceptable legal document the very different legal systems of 58 nations and the divergent ideas of 58 different lawyers."--Reuters.</p>

<sup>102</sup> 1948 '[?].', *Worker* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1890 - 1955), 13 September, p. 4, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71434002>

<sup>103</sup> 1948 'CHILD WELFARE PAYMENTS.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 29 October, p. 8 Edition: 1st EDITION, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47138766>

<sup>104</sup> 1948 'OUTLAWING GENOCIDE.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 27 November, p. 6 Edition: 3rd EDITION, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47145270>

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1949

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### **Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Ordinance**

Amended the definition of 'neglected child' in the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act 1905 (NSW). Repealed by Child Welfare Ordinance 1957 (Cth).

<sup>105</sup> 1949 'Half-castes happy in W.A. home.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 5 March, p. 22, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47221329>

1949

**"THESE CHILDREN  
ARE  
COMMONWEALTH  
DEPENDANTS"**



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106

1949

#### **POLICY ON NATIVES – Board Urges Absorption<sup>107</sup>**

The Aborigines' Welfare Board believes that all aboriginal people should be absorbed into the white community. The board says this in its annual report

<sup>106</sup> 1949 'MOVEMENT OF HALF-CASTES.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 26 January, p. 4, viewed 18 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18097010>

<sup>107</sup> 1949 'POLICY ON NATIVES.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 31 March, p. 11, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18109341>

	for the year ended June 30, 1948. The Chief Secretary, Mr. J. M. Baddeley, tabled the report in the Legislative Assembly yesterday...The report said that many aboriginal families were living an aimless existence in some areas of N.S.W. The Aborigines Welfare Board would appoint eight welfare officers to investigate living conditions and the social behaviour of these aborigines. The report said there were 11,485 aborigines in N.S.W. at June 30, 1948. Of these, only 878 were full blooded.
1949 	<b>200 Waiting to Adopt Babies</b> <sup>108</sup> The State Children's Department has a list of 200 couples waiting to adopt babies.
1949 	<b>Black Market in Babies here, too?</b> <sup>109</sup> The possibility that a black market in babies might be operating in Victoria was admitted yesterday by police and Child Welfare Department authorities. They were commenting on a statement by Mr Heffron, NSW Minister for Education, in Sydney on Monday that welfare officers were investigating a suspected black market in that State." 
1949	Minister for Education discloses that in 1948, 3,939 applications for adoptions had been received but that only 625 adoptions could be arranged. There is a two-year wait for girls and a one-year wait for boys. <sup>110</sup>
1949 	Minister for Education discloses that in 1948, 3,939 applications for adoptions had been received but that only 625 adoptions could be arranged. There is a two-year wait for girls and a one-year wait for boys. <sup>111</sup>
1949 	<h2 style="text-align: center;">2019 adoptions registered in NSW</h2>
1949	<b>Single Mothers</b> <sup>112</sup> There were many vacancies in two Brisbane homes conducted by Church authorities, for expectant unmarried mothers, the Health and Home Affairs Minister (Mr. Jones) said in Parliament yesterday. Mr. Lukins (Q.P.P., Maree) had asked whether Mr. Jones would consider a means of finding

<sup>108</sup> 1949 "'Black" market in babies here, too?'.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 26 January, p. 6, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22702909>


<sup>109</sup> 1949 'BABIES FOR ADOPTION IN DEMAND.', *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 26 January, p. 21, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26495765>

<sup>110</sup> *ibid*

<sup>111</sup> 1949 'TRAFFIC IN BABIES.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 25 January, p. 8, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47640337>

<sup>112</sup> 1949 'Single mothers.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 17 March, p. 5, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49934141>



	adequate accommodation for unmarried mothers.
<p>1949</p> 	<p><b>To save groups</b><sup>113</sup></p> <p>CANBERRA, Thursday — A Bill to approve Australian ratification of the international convention on the prevention and punishment of genocide was introduced in the House of Representatives. In his second reading speech on the Bill the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said genocide meant the wholesale or partial destruction of religious, racial, or national groups.</p>
<p>1949</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>Image extracted:  <a href="http://www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/publications/research_guides/nt-guide/chapter8/8.2.html">http://www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/publications/research_guides/nt-guide/chapter8/8.2.html</a></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Social Services For Aborigines in TOWNSVILLE</b><sup>114</sup></p> <p>During the visit of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs (Mr A. Jones) to church missions in the Gulf of Carpentaria, strong representations were made to have the Commonwealth social service benefits apply to the aborigines of Queensland.</p> <p>On his arrival in Townsville today, Mr Jones said that the Commonwealth authorities had granted aged, invalid and widows pensions and also the maternity allowances to Torres Strait islanders, but despite representations by the State Government, had consistently refused to make these benefits available to aboriginal residents on Government settlements and on church mission reserves.</p> <p>Mr Jones pointed out that when it was considered that aboriginal workers, as with white workers, were liable for income tax earnings, the logic of their claim to receive social service benefits could be appreciated. It was maintained that the aborigine of North Queensland was an essential unit in the population of that portion of the State. The services of these men in the pastoral industry had been appreciated to the extent that it was generally recognised that without the aborigine that tills, great industry would be in a parlous state.</p> <p>CARE OF CHILDREN</p> <p>On the various mission stations every effort was being made for the care and control of aboriginal children, said Mr Jones, and the Commonwealth Government did provide child endowment for these children. It did not give to the aged, the sick, the widows and to the mothers the concessions granted to white citizens of the State.</p> <p>Mr Jones said it was the intention of the State Government to continue representations in the interests"</p>

<sup>113</sup> Ibid

<sup>114</sup> 1949 'Social Services For Aborigines.', *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 23 July, p. 4, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56911693>

	of these coloured taxpayers to have these concessions granted them.
<p><b>1949</b></p> 	<p><b>National Conference of AASW<sup>115</sup></b></p> <p>More than 200 interstate delegates are expected to attend the second biennial conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers to be held in Melbourne from August 26 to 28. Of these 17 will be from South Australia, the largest group from here that has yet attended a conference on social work in Australia. One significant feature in connection with South Australia is the number of agencies who have not only given leave to staff members to attend the conference, but are also covering their expenses, which indicates the importance attached to the opportunity to meet and discuss with workers in other States questions of mutual interest.</p>
<p><b>1949</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>The Work that Women Do<sup>116</sup></b></p> <p>It is those who have diplomas in social science who are eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers. It is therefore a professional body, its objects including <b>the promotion of professional social work throughout the Commonwealth; interpretation of the aims and objects of social work to the public; the co-ordination of activities in various States; and representation in matters pertaining to the Commonwealth in the international sphere.</b></p>
<p><b>1949</b></p> 	<p><b>Why Adoption Babies Are Few<sup>117</sup></b></p> <p>"With a State illegitimacy average of 350 annually why are hundreds of people on the child adoption waiting list? Mainly because a single mother in these more tolerant days often marries a man who was not the father of her offspring and then the pair have legitimacy conferred upon the child by adopting it. In giving this answer yesterday, Child Welfare Dept. Secretary A. L. Young made the unexpected observation that the present illegitimacy was practically identical with the peak war period...Reasons why unmarried women now held on to their children were mainly economic, Mr. Young said. Higher wages and greater help from Commonwealth and State sources had increased their independence."</p>

<sup>115</sup> 1949 'National Conference Of A.A.S.W.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 19 August, p. 11, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36682067>

The SA delegation included the president of the SA branch. Miss E. M. Porsyth (senior social worker. Commonwealth Social Services in SA). Miss D. P. Pearce (director, social services. Red Cross). Miss B. LeCornu (Repatriation General Hospital. Miss C. Douglas (chief almoner. RAH), and Miss B. Matters (assistant almoner, RAH). Misses C. J. Bosworth, E. F. Bennett and SJDJV. (Commonwealth Social Services). Miss P. Sandford (Medical social worker. Commonwealth Employment Services, Miss N. P. Bates and Mr. C. Harris (Family Welfare Bureau), Miss H. Buckley (TB Association). Mrs. M. Sugg (Legacy Club). Miss J. MacLennan C of E social welfare office). Misses A. Stanton and Shaw (Children's Welfare Department), Miss M. Cornish (Children's Hospital almoner), and Miss Hilda Wilson (Immigration Department). The president of the conference was Mr. S. Greig Smith, secretary or the Citizens' Welfare Services. Victoria. It was opened by the Minister for Health and Social Services (Senator McKenna). Speakers at a symposium on rehabilitation included Dr. dive Fitts (honorary physician. Royal-Melbourne Hospital), Dr. George Burniston (acting Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation. Commonwealth Department of Post-war Reconstruction), Miss Alison Player (chief almoner Royal Melbourne Hospital and director of studies for the Australian Association of Hospital Almoners.

<sup>116</sup> 1949 'The WORK that WOMEN DO.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 13 October, p. 15, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26666447>

<sup>117</sup> 1949 'Why Adoption Babies Are Few.', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 4 September, p. 3, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59494415>








1949<sup>118</sup>

“A Government official said th Commonwealth Director of Native Affairs (Mr. F. H. Moy) was the children's legal guardian, and knew what was best for their welfare. The children were wards of the Commonwealth, which paid all their expenses since their transfer to Penrith...”



QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

<sup>118</sup> 1949 'Officials Aware of Aboriginals' Return.', *Advocate* (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954), 26 January, p. 5, viewed 18 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article69326080>

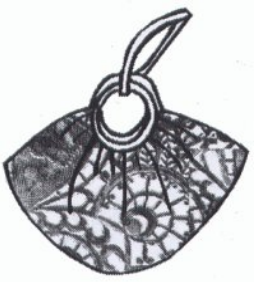

<b>1950</b> 	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>119</sup>:</b>          In 1950 the Board advertised for 'foster parents ... for 150 Aboriginal children'.</p>
<b>1950</b> 	<p><b>Baby Queue<sup>120</sup></b>          Most commodities are plentiful enough, these days to eliminate any need to queue up for them. Supply is catching up to demand with one big, or, rather, little exception. Babies. Adopted ones. Lucky applicants for this perishable form of goods must wait at least six months. Others have to wait up to 18 months to two years. Each year a thousand or more babies are adopted in this State. Last year it was nearly 1200...The babe to be adopted must be free from abnormalities and in a good state of health.</p>
<b>1950 – 1981</b> 	<p><b>Directors Reports to the Queensland Parliament 1950s -1981</b>  <b>(submitted by Origins Inc to Inquiry into commonwealth contribution to forced adoption policies and practices)</b></p>
<b>1950</b> 	<p>Article advising readers how to have their name placed on a waiting list to adopt a baby. The Child Welfare Department is advertised as being more affordable in respect to associated fees in comparison with a private solicitor. The article relates, "A probationary period of at least six months is the rule, during which time the progress and development of the child are carefully checked. If at the end of that time the new parents are not satisfied that a suitable child has been allotted to them, they may return it before the adoption is made legal."<sup>121</sup></p>
<b>1950</b> 	<p><b>Secretary of the NSW Children's Welfare Department<sup>122</sup></b>          "The number of people waiting to adopt children is tremendous. Some people are prepared to do anything to get a child for adoption."</p>

<sup>119</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from [http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_3.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_3.pdf)

<sup>120</sup> 1950 '[?]', Cairns Post (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), 13 January, p. 8, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42653639>

<sup>121</sup> 1950 'Your home is childless— SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO ADOPT A BABY!.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 June, p. 8, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22836870>

<sup>122</sup> 1941 'Family Notices.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 18 February, p. 6, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8154469>

<p><b>1950</b></p> 	<p><b>Article about the Child Welfare Department<sup>123</sup></b></p> <p>"It is not easy to estimate a probable waiting time (to adopt), but the demand has never yet been met by the supply. Quite a number of unmarried mothers-and illegitimate babies form the largest adoptable group-do not wish to part with their babies...They may enter a home any time before the child's birth and a sickness benefit is paid for six weeks before and after birth. The comfort and help given during these difficult days and the training received in caring for the baby makes the girls fiercely determined not to part with it."</p>
<p><b>1950</b></p> 	<p><b>You're home is childless so you've decided to adopt a baby<sup>124</sup></b></p> <p>Reports how to return a baby if it proves unsuitable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- supply and demand (a two year wait for a baby)</li> <li>- adoption of those with desirable, heritable characteristics;</li> <li>- adopters want a baby young enough not to have recollections of its former life;</li> <li>- claiming that the child adoption system is racket-free.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1950</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Should we deprive unmarried mothers of a baby's love?<sup>125</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Doctors advocate that illegitimate children should be taken from their mothers at birth and put out to adoption at a fortnight old."</li> <li>- "The pain of parting with the baby after eight weeks or more may help to keep the unmarried mother straight in her future life." (punitive)</li> <li>- "Many maternity homes run by charitable institutions in Melbourne endeavour to keep unmarried mothers with their babies for periods up to three months in order to feed it herself (to give it a better start)."</li> <li>- "Adoption is believed to be in the best interests of the illegitimate child."</li> </ul>
<p><b>1950</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>BABIES FOR SALE Alleged Racket In Hospital<sup>126</sup></b></p> <p>Four Melbourne hospitals are suspected of selling babies to childless couples. Three of the hospitals are believed to be in the suburbs and one in the city. Investigations are believed to have shown that one Sydney hospital and three doctors are also involved in the racket. Although the price of the babies sometimes is as high as over £100, the average price is £50. All the babies are those of unmarried girls. There are more than 400 childless couples in Victoria on the waiting list for children for adoption but under State law if it can be proved babies are bought the adoption is not legal.</p>
<p><b>1950</b></p>	<p><b>FUTURE OF NATIVES – MR. HASLUCK'S PROPOSAL<sup>127</sup></b></p> <p>Measured by our treatment of the aborigines, said Mr Paul Hasluck, member for Curtin (W.A.), in a recent speech in the House of</p>

<sup>123</sup> 1950 'Wanted—A Baby.', *Western Mail* (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 25 May, p. 31, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article39103357>

<sup>124</sup> 1950 'Your home is childless— SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO ADOPT A BABY!.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 June, p. 8, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22836870>

<sup>125</sup> 1950 'Edited by BETTY LEE Woman and the Home.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 18 July, p. 8, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22913146>

<sup>126</sup> 1950 'BABIES FOR SALE.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 10 July, p. 4, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47873790>

<sup>127</sup> 1950 'FUTURE OF NATIVES.', *Cairns Post* (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), 6 July, p. 4, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42673770>



Representatives, our record of native administration would not stand scrutiny at the standards of our professions publicly made in the forum of the world of a high concern for human welfare."

Mr. Hasluck, who was born in Western Australia, is the author of "Our Southern Half-castes" and "Black Australians." He was for some time lecturer in History at the University of Western Australia, and was seconded to the Department of External Affairs in Canberra during the war. He has represented Australia at United Nations' meetings on a number of important occasions. It is time, he says, that the aborigines of this country had a "new deal," and he wants the Commonwealth Government to co-operate with State Governments in measures for their social advancement. According to the census taken in 1944, he told the House, there were then in Australia 71,895 persons who were classified as aborigines, including 24,881 half-castes. Approximately one-third were classified as nomadic and slightly fewer than one-third as being in employment. Of the remainder, the majority were either in supervised camps, or were looking after themselves in various stages of transition from bush life to the life of the white community.

## INSTITUTIONS

There are 50 Government institutions caring for 9300 natives and 54 Christian missions which care for about the same number, the-staffs totalling 283 and 219 respectively. In addition, such voluntary organisations as the Flying Doctor Service extend their benefits to aborigines. Of the total of approximately 72,000 aborigines, three-quarters are in Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

"I realise that some missions do not take their responsibilities so seriously as other missions do," said Mr. Hasluck, "but, generally speaking, all missions bring into the field of native administration a body of devoted and zealous workers who cannot, and never will, be matched by the ordinary methods of Public Service recruitment. Any Government should accept with gratitude the services of so dedicated a body of people. The Christian missions have the support of the efforts and sympathies of the general community.

"We should consider starting a new era in which direct, positive action will be taken. Today the burden of administration falls most heavily on a few States. To point the contrast, whereas Victoria, with an annual consolidated revenue of approximately £45 million, expends only £5000 a year on aborigines; Western Australia, with a revenue of about £20 million, expends £70,000 on their administration and care. The responsibility is unequally distributed among the people of Australia, and it is a responsibility which should be shared by the whole of the people. As the Commonwealth Government is the only one that can speak in the name of the whole community, it has a special obligation to ensure that the nation accepts that responsibility.

"In the course of our participation in international discussions, we have entered into solemn declarations, and in the case of the Charter of the United Nations we have made positive commitments to promote the welfare of depressed peoples and to uphold human rights. So, by international obligation, we have acquired this, additional responsibility as a



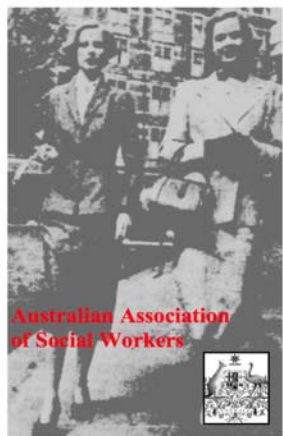
	<p>national Parliament."</p> <p><b>MB. GILMORE'S SUPPORT</b></p> <p>Mr.. T. V. Gilmore, the member for the new Queensland electorate of Leichhardt, spoke in support of the case put by Mr. Hasluck. In North Queensland, he said, the aborigines and the half-castes were, in many instances, living under very poor conditions. The missions were doing a very fine work there, but that work was limited by lack of sufficient finance.</p> <p>"The Commonwealth Government," he added, "should confer with the State Governments in order to provide the money to assist in the better housing, clothing/feeding, education and employment of these unfortunate people. Dr. Cook, a Commonwealth medical officer who is carrying out a medical-survey of the conditions under which these people live, stated in Brisbane that the North Australian native population had become a reservoir of infection which endangered the tropical white population. That is a very good reason why the Commonwealth should, with the utmost rapidity draw up a scheme for the purpose of assisting these people. Everything possible should be done to alleviate their sufferings."</p>
<p>1950<sup>128</sup></p> <p><b>"Although they were taxed by the Federal Authorities, natives could not participate in social services other than child endowment"</b></p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p>1950</p>	<p><b>IMPORTANCE OF CAUSES IN SOCIAL DISTRESS<sup>129</sup></b></p> <p><b>What really mattered in social work was to get at the underlying cause of a person's difficulty</b>, Miss Lyra Taylor told a meeting of the Tasmanian branch of the <b>Australian Association of Social</b></p>

<sup>128</sup> 1950 'TAXING OF NATIVES.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 7 November, p. 6, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48134742>

<sup>129</sup> 1950 'IMPORTANCE OF CAUSES IN SOCIAL DISTRESS.', *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 23 March, p. 6, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26691427>

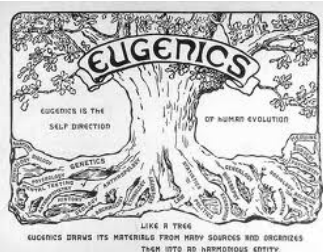


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**Workers in Hobart** last night. **Miss Taylor is officer in charge of the Social Work and Research Division of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. A New Zealander, she did many years of social work in England and Canada.** She said one of the greatest developments in social work had been specialised training for social workers. "However, I do not believe that everybody engaged in social work in the community should be highly trained," Miss Taylor said. "The function of voluntary social workers is to pioneer all kinds of social effort, and to see that the Government does its duty. "People who have not been specially trained in modern schools of social work have made, and will continue to make, a tremendous contribution to the good of the community. We must never lose sight of that. "Nearly every new piece of social improvement has been conceived by some person who has not had any training in social work."

1950



**Answers to readers' questions: Do you believe in the science of eugenics?**<sup>130</sup>

"The most hopeful way is to give unborn babies, not a better biological inheritance - which is a slow and doubtful project but a better social inheritance, which can be as rapid as we have the will to make it. The eugenicist wants all babies to be born of fitter parents; I suggest that a more hopeful plan is to see that all babies are born into a fitter world. More hopeful, and more practicable. What nobody knows as yet is how much of a person's character depends on heredity and how much on environment."

1950



**Wanted – a Baby**<sup>131</sup>

...unmarried mothers of illegitimate babies form the largest adoptable group who do not wish to part with their babies ... "(unmarried mothers) may enter a home any time before the child's birth and a sickness benefit is paid for six weeks before and after birth"; "the comfort and help given during these difficult days and the training received in caring for the baby makes the girls fiercely determined not to part with it."

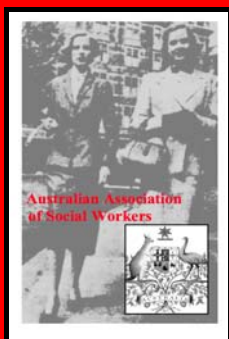
<sup>130</sup> 1950 'Answers To Readers' Questions.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 8 April, p. 18, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47840407>

<sup>131</sup> 1950 'Wanted—A Baby.', Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 25 May, p. 31, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article39103357>

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1950

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### **Would you like to own this baby?<sup>132</sup>**

Welfare worker's task:

- To act on behalf of infertile/childless married couples;
- to place a baby with sound hereditary background.

Article also relates:

- that the mother permitted to hold her baby will decide to keep it;
- that Australian hospitals have a system whereby a mother signs the surrender papers before the birth of the child and is not allowed to see the child;
- it is believed that it is better that the mother sign away the child before she has a chance to change her mind;
- babies are kept in a home for twelve months if they are not medically cleared for adoption;
- racial background must be matched to avoid it becoming public knowledge that the child is adopted, which would cause the child suffering.

**Miss Isobel Strahan (president of the Australian Association of Hospital Almoners) recommends that there be a probationary**

<sup>132</sup> 1951 'Last year the Victorian courts sanctioned the adoption of 1,042 babies...WOULD YOU LIKE TO OWN THIS BABY?.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 July, p. 1 Supplement: The Argus Magazine, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23061983>

period not less than six months within which a child may be returned if not suitable to a couple. She says, "You can't guarantee that the child will be 100 per cent perfect...environment is the main thing."

## Year's Work Reviewed

The annual meeting of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers took place last night, when the president (Miss Ethel Cannon) reviewed the past year's activities. The group had taken an active part in arranging opportunities for the discussion of topical social questions, and these meetings had been well attended by the public, the president said. The publicity sub-committee had arranged for a number of speakers to give addresses, and these included Mr. George Haynes, secretary of the National Council of Social Services of Great Britain, who spoke on the necessity for voluntary organisations to help in social welfare. Miss Lyra Taylor, from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, spoke of the present state of social work in Australia and the possibilities of future development.

133

1951



### Latest shortage here is babies<sup>134</sup>

Like most other things there is a shortage in South Australia of babies for adoption. About 356 couples are waiting to adopt baby girls and 121 are waiting for boys. Of that number, 102 couples would take either a boy or girl if they could get a baby immediately. For the 12 months ended June 30 there were 403 official adoptions handled by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department.

1951

### Aborigine Babies Order "Cruel"<sup>135</sup>

ADELAIDE, Tues. - the president of the Aborigines' Advancement League (Dr. C. Duguid) told the annual meeting last night that the Federal Government was cruel in ordering that half-caste babies must be taken from their mothers at the age of three

<sup>133</sup> 1950 'Year's Work Reviewed.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 12 October, p. 14, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47891614>

<sup>134</sup> 1951 'Latest shortage here is babies.', *The Mail* (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 7 July, p. 14, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55784709>

<sup>135</sup> 1951 'Aborigine Babies Order "Cruel".'. *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 24 October, p. 13, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27052134>



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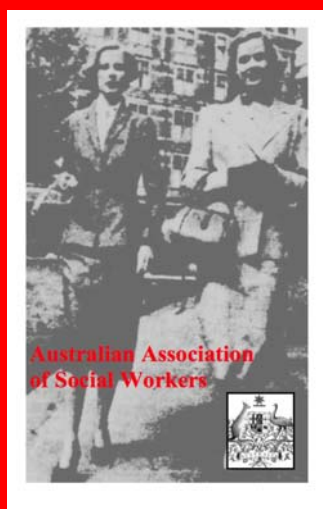
He said it was the policy of the Federal Government to separate half castes and full bloods, but taking babies from the mothers was the most hated task of every patrol officer. The half-caste children were sent either to Melville Island or Croker Island until they were 18. They were then free to return to the Mainland.

Dr. Duguid said that a more humane policy must be devised. "The Federal Government has decided to educate all full-blooded aborigines even on the stations. Its policy is to absorb the aborigines into the white race," said Dr. Duguid. "In view of this, surely it would be better to let half caste babies grow up with their mothers in their own country."

1951

The federal government convenes the Australian Conference for Native Welfare, with all states and territories represented except Victoria and Tasmania, which claim to have no Aboriginal 'problem'. The conference officially adopts a policy of 'assimilation' for Aboriginal people. 'Assimilation means, in practical terms, that it is expected that all persons of Aboriginal birth or mixed blood in Australia will live like white Australians do.'<sup>136</sup>

1951



### **Social Work Conference In Adelaide<sup>137</sup>**

**The third biennial conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers will be held in Adelaide.** Most of the sessions will be held at the University, with an open session on the evening of August 27, at which Mr. Paul McGuire will be the speaker. Special stimulus will be given to discussions by the fact that a number of the speakers have returned recently from abroad where they had opportunity of studying developments in social work. Mrs. A. G. Wheaton, lecturer in charge of the Board of Studies in Social Science, University of Adelaide, who attended a number of international and national conferences in Europe last year, will be the speaker at the opening session on the evening of August 24, and the speaker at the closing session on August 28, will be Miss Katherine Ogilvie, director of training, NSW Institute of Hospital Almoners, who has also been abroad recently. **Subjects for discussion during the conference include 'Family Case Work,'** to be introduced by Miss Dorothy Davis, an American, who is supervisor of the welfare service of the Australian Red Cross in Sydney; **'Child Welfare,'** introduced by Miss Hazel Smith, of the Child Welfare Department, NSW; **'Medical and Psychiatric Social Work,'** on which Miss Helen James, medical social worker, SA, and Miss Margaret Grutzner, psychiatric social worker, Repatriation Department, Sydney, will speak; **'The Contribution of Social Work to Community Organisation,'** introduced by Dr. Dora Peyser, PhD., NSW; and **'Group Work,'** introduced by Mr. A. Livingstone, lecturer in group work, University of Melbourne. The conference committee in, Adelaide includes the convener. Miss A. Mitchell,

<sup>136</sup> Aboriginal Timeline, Creative Spirits, retrieved 17th October, 2011, from

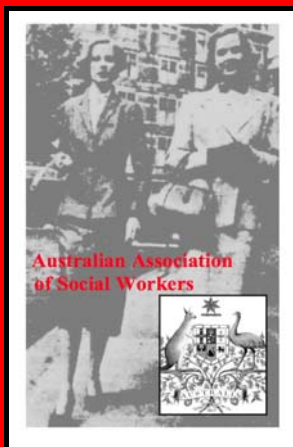
<<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/aboriginal-history-timeline-early-20th.html#ixzz1b5YxF16H>>

<sup>137</sup> 1951 'Social Work Conference In Adelaide.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 3 August, p. 11, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45722362>

	<p>the president of the SA branch of the association (Miss M. Forsyth) ; and Mrs. C. Boehm, conference secretary.</p>
<p>1951</p>   	<p><b>U N. BODY DEPLORES MINISTER'S ADVICE STATEMENT<sup>138</sup></b></p> <p>A statement by the Minister for Social Services (Mr. A. G. Townley) on the separation of half-caste children from their aboriginal mothers, was deplored yesterday by the Status of Women Council in Tasmania.</p> <p>The council is a sub-committee of the United Nations Association in Tasmania. In a statement yesterday, the council said Mr. Townley had advised the public not to press for information on the subject.</p> <p>The statement continued: "As responsible members of a country pledged to carry out the ideals and policy of the United Nations, we are bound to inquire into and seek to remedy any failure of our country to fulfill the recommendations of this body."</p> <p>The statement said a correspondent in "The Mercury" had asked, reasonably enough, how the United Nations Association, having accepted the Declaration of Human Rights, could remain silent when the separation of half-caste children from their aboriginal mothers was made public.</p> <p>"The Status of Women Council had already taken steps to ascertain the facts of these charges from the Minister for Territories (Mr. Hasluck), and from the president of the Aboriginal Advancement League (Dr. C. Duguid), who made the initial criticism," the statement continued.</p> <p>"The replies from both qualified people are now before our committee, which feels that while the Government action is prompted only by a sincere desire to further the ultimate interests of the children concerned, nevertheless such a policy must create much suffering on the part of the full-blood mothers.</p> <p>"Dr. Duguid's reply adds nothing further to his original charges, but offers proof of the veracity of these. "To those people interested, we again reiterate that the best interests of the aboriginal population of Australia can only be adequately served when their welfare is under Federal control.</p> <p>"This transfer of State power to the Federal Government was refused in 1947, but it is hoped that public opinion may reconsider its decision in a separate referendum for the purpose."</p>

<sup>138</sup> 1951 'U.N. BODY DEPLORES MINISTER'S ADVICE.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 21 December, p. 13, viewed 10 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27062601>

1951



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### Aiming At National Standards<sup>139</sup>

The Formation of an Australian Council of Social Service; which will hold its first meeting in Adelaide next Wednesday marks an important development in the attitude towards social service in Australia. **Headquarters of the Australian Council is in Melbourne, with the Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University (Professor G. W. Paton) as president.**

Adelaide was chosen as the place for this first meeting because of the presence here of a number of the leading social workers in the different States who are attending the conference of the **Australian Association of Social Workers**. Professor Paton will preside. There have been for some time Councils of Social Service in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland, each working as an independent unit, and each with its own journal providing a medium for presenting information about various fields of social service and dealing with social problems. The establishment of a Federal body, linking the State councils, will, it is hoped, strengthen the whole scope and standard of social work in Australia by putting it on a national level.

**It will be possible, also, to make a unified approach to Governments and voluntary organisations in relation to social service, generally bringing Australia into line with non-governmental organisations in other countries.** On the international level it will strengthen relations with social welfare bodies in other countries, and also Australian representation at international conferences such as the International Conference of Social Work and others concerned with worldwide sociological research and activities.

<sup>139</sup> 1951 'Aiming National Standards.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 24 August, p. 11, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45730377>

# Homes for all babies here

**P**ARENTS in Victoria need not offer children for adoption because of the housing shortage.

Mr. E. J. Pittard, secretary of the Child Welfare Department, said last night that a number of private institutions in the State would take in young children.

Young couples, he said, could place their children in these institutions until their housing difficulties were solved.

There was, however, no Government institution to provide a home for these children, said Mr. Pittard.

He had heard of no case of a young couple seeking to have their child adopted because of the housing shortage.

In Adelaide on Sunday Miss T. Wardell, Victorian delegate to the Australian Association of Social Workers, said that some young couples were offering children for adoption.

This was necessary, she said, because the parents could not find accommodation.

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140

1951

## Australian Council Of Social Service<sup>141</sup>

Delegates of councils of Social Service in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland and a number of delegates to the recent conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers who were present as observers, attended the conference yesterday of the newly - formed Australian Council of Social Service, of which Professor G. W. Paton (Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University) is president. This was the first interstate conference held since the

<sup>140</sup> 1951 'Homes for all babies here.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 28 August, p. 3, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23064533>

<sup>141</sup> 1951 'Australian Council Of Social Service.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 30 August, p. 7, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45716810>



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## BRITAIN

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## CANADA

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## USA

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Australian Council was formed early this year, and discussion was concerned mainly with its future objectives...

**One of the principal matters discussed was the formation of a national committee to affiliate with the International Conference of Social Work**, which will hold its triennial conference in Madras in 1953.

It was suggested that such a national committee should be as widely representative as possible, consisting of representatives of both statutory and voluntary organisations and voluntary as well as professional workers. A sub-committee was appointed to advise the Australian Council on the convening of such a committee.

**It includes the president and secretary of the Australian Council, Miss K. Ogilvie. a vice-president of the NSW Council and director of training, NSW Institute of Almoners, Professor G. L. Wood. University of Melbourne, Mr. A. Livingstone, acting director of the Board of Social Studies at Melbourne University, and Dr. Stoller, senior psychiatrist in the Repatriation Division of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.**

**Other subjects dealt with were the relationship of the Australian Council with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and with their national and international bodies.**

**United Nations social welfare fellowships in relation to assistance to fellows doing research in Australia and to the need for Australian social workers to do research in other countries, particularly in fields in which expert knowledge is lacking in Australia.** The conference also discussed the possibility of establishing an Australian Social Service Journal.



Article:

## YOU'D LIKE TO ADOPT A BABY?

*"If you want a child and can't have one go East down Hay Street until you come to the old Tramways buildings. Then turn off into a narrow alleyway past a sign which says LOST PROPERTY until you come to the door of a small office..."*

*If you are approved your name will be added to the already long waiting list for children from the following sources:*

- . Neglected Children.
- . Children of medically fit unmarried mothers
- . Abandoned children.
- . Orphans and others under the care of the Welfare Dept."

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Adoption eugenics discourages the adoption of unhealthy children, placing the healthy ones into economically and 'morally fitter' families.

## YOU'D LIKE TO ADOPT A BABY?

If you want a child and can't have one go East down Hay Street until you come to the old Tramways buildings.

Then turn off into a narrow alleyway past a sign which says LOST PROPERTY until you come to the door of a small office.

There, when you knock at the door you'll probably be told to wait.

If you are, your wait will be a long one—3 years for a girl and 2 years for a boy.

Child Welfare Dept. Supreme Court. A deserted child is defined as "any child who, in the opinion of the judge has ceased to be cared for and maintained by its parents ... or one of them ... or guardian ... etc."

If you are approved your name will be added to the already long waiting list for children from the following sources:

- Neglected Children.
- Children of medically fit unmarried mothers.
- Abandoned children.
- Orphans and others under the care of the Welfare Dept.

On a standard form you'll answer personal inquiries

into your own history, status and health.

You will be required to answer questions relating to your salary, property owned, your religion, your convictions in court (if any) and your private income.

You will be asked to say by what Christian names your adopted child will be known.

This will be a prelude to a personal examination of your circumstances and an inspection of your home conditions. (Location is not important).

Information is furnished under the provisions of The Adoption of Children Act 1893-1949.

This State Act says that a "deserted child" under the age of 21 subject to certain provisions, may be adopted upon application in writing on a prescribed form to a judge of the Supreme Court.

Atheists have little chance of securing a child as too many "good Christian homes" are waiting for children.

Adoption Act prohibits single people adopting children of the opposite sex unless they are 30 years older than the child.

An age limit of 45 is set down.

An unmarried mother may change her mind about giving her child out for adoption, at any time before a Court order has been made.

In some cases mothers have been known to recall their children after they have been placed in a private home; but only where a Court order has not been made.

Possibilities of children being given love and affection come before material considerations.

A good "working class" home is considered to be as suitable as that of a "wealthy family."

Cost of adoption is usually under £5.

In certain cases children too are allowed a choice.

Children over 12 have the right to approve of their prospective parents and those over 9 usually are sent out on probation.

By Dept. policy Protestants are given children of Protestant origin and Roman Catholic children are sent to Catholic homes.

Atheists have little chance of securing a child

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1952<sup>143</sup>

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<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/10/24/2068331.htm?site=news>

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<sup>143</sup> 1952 "'Rotten" Legislation For Coloured Australians.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 5 November, p. 3, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49061776>

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[http://www.hreoc.gov.au/declaration\\_indigenous/index.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/declaration_indigenous/index.html)

### **The world is judging us – WHAT IS GOING TO BE THEIR FUTURE?<sup>144</sup>**

These young original Australians are typical examples of the care and attention given to aboriginal children by the State Government at Cherbourg settlement near Murgon.

WHAT are we doing for the original Australians? It is an important social question, and one on which the world is judging us. Our treatment of the aborigines has been the subject of Communist propaganda overseas. Moscow has spread fantastic stories of 'slavery.' The truth is that Queensland is making a genuine effort to give the aboriginal a chance.

THERE are no 'Stone Age' blacks in Queensland now. A few nomads roam out in the bank country, but they are not primitive. The last in their savage state were the Bentinck Islanders, in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The last handful of them were taken across to Mornington Island a few years ago and have since been missionised. Some of them are inter-marrying with the Mornington people. They will never go back to barren Bentinck. So when we speak of aborigines today, we speak of people who in the main are well cared for; folk who have surprising self-respect, and more to hope for than they have ever had since the white man came. What is being done to preserve and help them may best be told in question and answer.

How many aborigines are there in Queensland? The State's population of coloured people — controlled and uncontrolled— is 21,400. Of these, 13,800 support themselves. The other

<sup>144</sup> 1952 'The world is judging us.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 10 November, p. 2, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50530316>



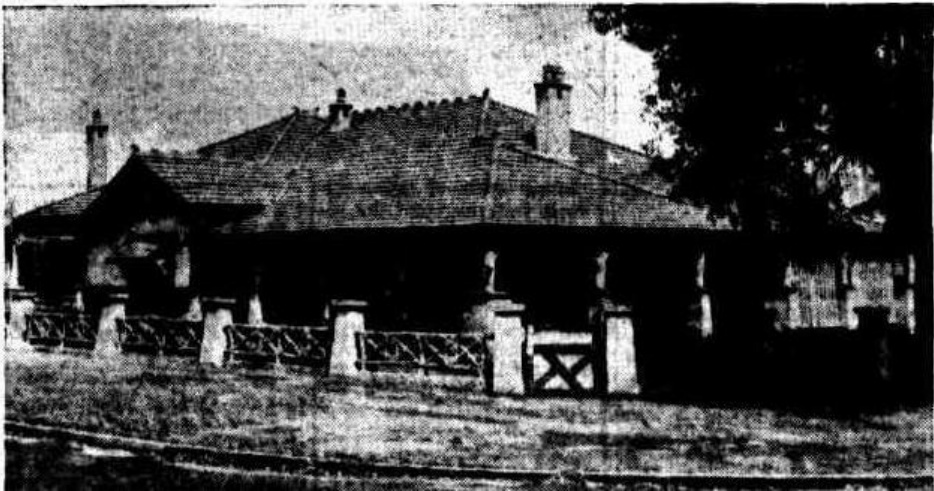
7600 are partly or fully maintained in Government townships or on church missions. Their numbers are not increasing or decreasing to any marked extent. The annual report of the Director of Native Affairs (Mr. C. O'Leary) gives the numbers as: 9540 full-bloods, 6875 half bloods; and 5000 half-bloods, exempted from the operations of the controlling Act, are not regarded as aborigines for statistical purposes. There are also 5500 Torres Strait Islanders, but they are racially different and theirs is a separate story.

Of the controlled aboriginal population of 16,400, 7550 (46 per cent) are on Government settlements and on missions. They are distributed thus:— Palm Island. 1250; Cherbourg, 1000; Woorabinda. 700; others are in the care of 12 church missions in the Far North and along the shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The remaining 8850 (54 per cent) work in the country and maintain themselves and their families, paying taxation out of their wages the same as other citizens. . . . An estimate of the total Australian aboriginal population is 47,000 full-bloods, 28,000 half-bloods. Three-quarters of the full-bloods are in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

How do Queensland aborigines live? They are given an opportunity to lead a good community life on Government settlements. And the missions also serve them well.

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Cape Barren Islanders (AOT, PH30/1/6671)  
[http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion\\_to\\_tasmanian\\_history/A/Aboriginal%20missions.htm](http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/A/Aboriginal%20missions.htm)

<p>1952<sup>145</sup></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<h2 data-bbox="550 123 1460 197">Not Slaves — Not Citizens</h2> <p data-bbox="531 212 841 828">Shock and sorrow turned to bitterness and despair as the imported beasts of the early settler scattered the game and ate the berries and seeds of our aboriginal forefathers, and the white men invaded their sacred places, paraded their churinga and sacred things before women and wondered why they ran away with their hands covering their eyes, voided their lives of all that was traditional, and beautiful, and made their songs and ceremonial dances empty and meaningless.</p> <p data-bbox="531 840 837 945">Spiritual misery and physical starvation stalked where formerly there was happiness and, at least, enough for all.</p> 
<p>1952</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p data-bbox="523 1545 877 1579"><b>Expand social service<sup>146</sup></b></p> <p data-bbox="523 1585 1508 1825"><b>Australia needed to develop more social services, such as individual case services, one of the Commonwealth leading social workers said yesterday. She said Australia was not becoming a social State, nor was it running the risk of chronic dependency because of its social services. She is Miss Kathleen Crisp, assistant administrative officer of the Commonwealth Social Services Department social work and research division.</b></p>

<sup>145</sup> 1952 'Not Slaves — Not Citizens.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 11 October, p. 2, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49057682>

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**Miss Crisp is...recently returned from a nine months tour of the United States and Canada on a United Nations Welfare Fellowship.** 'Unless you have some feeling of security, how can you expect people to battle through unemployment and other vicissitudes of life?' she asked. 'I think that our present social service provisions are good. I believe in them. But we do need to develop more services, such as individual case services...

In America they say that individualised case work is necessary to prevent chronic dependency. I do not think we run that risk here. We have broad benefits available to all. Everyone does not need financial assistance. Some may need support in a social emergency. A person out of work, for instance, may find it difficult to accept financial relief and still feel he is retaining his self-respect. Case work services can help him overcome this.' Miss Crisp, a friendly Victorian joined the Commonwealth Service in 1945 and became assistant administrator in 1948. **'There is a great shortage of social workers,' she said. 'The Australian Association of Social Workers has a membership of between 500 and 600...'**

1952

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#### **Meaning Of "'Native' May Be Altered"<sup>147</sup>**

Only full-blooded aborigines will be designated "natives" within the meaning of the Native Administration Act, if an amendment moved by Mr. Strickland (Lab.) is carried.

In moving the second reading of his amending Bill in the Legislative Council last night, Mr. Strickland said that the Act in its present form separated the descendants of the aborigines into groups, each with different rights and privileges in the community. The "dividing line" was based on the proportion of aboriginal blood running in the veins of the individual. In effect, the Act said that those with less than quarter blood were natural-born citizens, while those with quarter blood or more were natives. This meant that one person had a permanent birthright, but the other--the "native"--could only apply for, and be given, a "licence." The permanent birthright gave all who had it an equal start in the community, whereas the designation "native" had led to a psychological reaction which was beginning to show that the distinction was not good for the people it concerned, or for the nation as a whole. Inter-marriage had resulted in a difficult task for the Department of Native Affairs to establish what proportion of blood a person might contain, in order to know on which side of the line he might be classed. The officers of the department were dealing in fractions as small as 1/128th to decide whether a person of mixed blood was eligible for social services or citizenship. Mr. Strickland said that there were many people in responsible occupations who, because of a fraction of blood, were placed below the "distinction line." They would not apply for certificates of citizenship for they looked on such certificates as something similar to "tickets of leave." The Bill, Mr. Strickland said, was designed to move the dividing line and place all descendants with less-than full aboriginal blood on the same level." The debate was adjourned.

<sup>146</sup> 1952 "'Expand social service".', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 2 July, p. 3, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50531543>

<sup>147</sup> 1952 'Meaning Of 'Native' May Be Altered.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 31 October, p. 5, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49060960>

1952

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[http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/expedition\\_photographs\\_h\\_basedow\\_1903\\_1928/1926\\_expedition/slideshow\\_1\\_3.html](http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/expedition_photographs_h_basedow_1903_1928/1926_expedition/slideshow_1_3.html)

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<sup>148</sup> 1952 'Lilardia' is angered by bomb plans.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 19 March, p. 3, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23169376>

1952

"The Commonwealth Government will amend the whole of the Northern Territory law covering citizenship of native people. A new law to be enacted will assume that every British subject has citizenship as a birthright, and that enjoyment of the right shall be withheld only if a person stands in need of special care and assistance."



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149

1952

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### **Child Welfare Act Amendment Act**

Before declaring a child destitute, the court must be satisfied that all available proceedings taken to obtain an order against near relative for contributions.

1952

### **Citizens To Plan Bill On Natives** <sup>150</sup>

Many aborigines and half-castes sat among a predominantly white gathering in Cecil Building, Perth, last night when it was decided to draw an

<sup>149</sup> 1952 'Natives to be given full British citizenship.', *Advocate* (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954), 30 September, p. 2, viewed 18 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article69446787>

<sup>150</sup> 1952 'Citizens To Plan Bill On Natives.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 13 December, p. 12, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49069218>

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outline for a new non-party Native Administration Bill.

The meeting was sponsored by the Women's Service Guilds of W.A. Representatives of ten organisations attended. Some of the coloured people present were in family groups, including young children. It was agreed that the present Native Administration Act was outmoded and that piecemeal amendments would not suffice. A committee of seven with power to coopt is to be selected. Its task will be to outline a Bill embodying equal civic rights; appropriate protection, with relief from penalties for non-exercise of certain civic duties; and continuance of the welfare policy, with specific emphasis on health, education and housing.

The outline will be submitted to another public meeting early in the new year. All Acts affecting natives will be examined and amendments prepared where necessary. A proposal to petition the Governor for the introduction of the Bill to Parliament was left in abeyance. The Minister for Territories (Mr. Paul Hasluck) said that something dynamic was happening on the native question and in this State some forward movement was taking place. New legislation would be introduced in the Legislative Council for the Northern Territory at its next sitting to permit natives to enjoy the rights of all people in Australia.

There would also be sections covering protection. Instead of the title Native Affairs, there would be a director and department of welfare. "We have got to get them to look towards us for their future and not towards the bush."

1953

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<http://sgwebquest.wordpress.com/introduction/>

**A happy family on aboriginal children is cared for at Umeewarra Mission Home And Haven by FRANK HILL<sup>151</sup>**

In a comfortable iron and timber home just out of Port Augusta, a happy family of 40 aboriginal children ranging in age from a few months to 15 years is maintained largely on child endowment. As a feat of household management it would be more remarkable if it were not overshadowed by the many other accomplishments of the household. The home of this immense family is the Umeewarra Mission, the 'mother,' tireless, grey-haired, practical Miss K. M. Simmons, who has just completed 33 years of hard work for aboriginal children. With the help of two equally enthusiastic assistants. Sister Morton and Miss Cantle, Miss Simmons has transformed what looks like an ordinary iron house surrounded by sand dunes and low scrub, into a new hope for aboriginal children. The house was built for the purpose in 1946...

Miss Simmons, who was an ordinary schoolteacher before adopting aborigines, says with conviction, 'Given equal chances they can do equally well with white children.' The children are of all types— full bloods, half-castes and three-quarter castes — and they come to the mission for a variety of reasons. Some are orphans or

<sup>151</sup> 1953 'A happy family of aboriginal children is cared for at Umeewarra.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 12 September, p. 8, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48917625>



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motherless, others are from families too large for the parents to care for, others are the legacy of shiftless whites who have left their de facto wives with a handful of children.

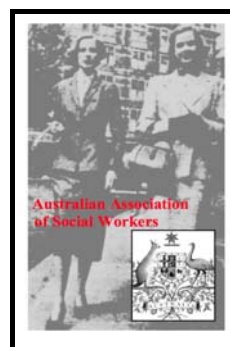
1953 – 1954

## REHABILITATION OF THE UNWED MOTHER

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**Educational campaign  
directed at the  
Australian public, of US  
scholar miss Margaret  
Thornhill, regarding the  
'need' of the unwed  
mother for more than  
medical help to solve  
her "problem"**

April 1953 – A New Approach to the Problem of Delinquency<sup>152</sup>  
June 1953 – The Problem of the Unmarried Mothers<sup>153</sup>  
July 1953 – Should Unwed Mother Give Up Her Child?<sup>154</sup>  
September 1953 – Guardianship Agency Urged Before Adoption<sup>155</sup>  
October 1953 – Should the Adoption Law Be Changed?<sup>156</sup>  
October 1953 – To Join Social Science Staff at University<sup>157</sup>  
November 1953 – Fulbright Scholar's Experience in Child Welfare<sup>158</sup>  
November 1953 – Studying our Social Problems and our Approach to them<sup>159</sup>  
August 1954 – NSW Unwed Mothers: Report Soon<sup>160</sup>  
September 1954 – Should She Surrender Her Baby?<sup>161</sup>



1953

**SHOULD UNWED MOTHER GIVE UP HER CHILD?<sup>162</sup>**

<sup>152</sup> 1953 'A NEW APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF DELINQUENCY.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 16 April, p. 3 Section: Women's Section, viewed 10 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18368359>

<sup>153</sup> 1953 'The Problem Of The Unmarried Mothers.', *The Sunday Herald* (Sydney, NSW : 1949 - 1953), 28 June, p. 12, viewed 3 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18504211>

<sup>154</sup> 1953 'SHOULD UNWED MOTHER GIVE UP HER CHILD?.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 15 July, p. 9, viewed 3 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18388329>

<sup>155</sup> 1953 'GUARDIANSHIP AGENCY URGED BEFORE ADOPTION.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 24 September, p. 2, viewed 3 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18379458>

<sup>156</sup> 1953 'Should The Adoption Law Be Changed?.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 1 October, p. 2, viewed 3 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18390934>

<sup>157</sup> 1953 'To Join Social Science Staff At University.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 30 October, p. 15, viewed 3 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48917090>

<sup>158</sup> 1953 'Fulbright Scholar's Experience In Child Welfare.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 10 November, p. 11, viewed 3 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48923667>

<sup>159</sup> 1953 'Studying Our Social Problems And Our Approach To Them.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 17 November, p. 7, viewed 3 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48919075>

<sup>160</sup> 1954 'N.S.W. UNWED MOTHERS: REPORT SOON.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 7 August, p. 13, viewed 3 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18429216>

<sup>161</sup> 1954 'SURRENDER HER BABY?.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 8 September, p. 26, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46448400>

<sup>162</sup> 1953 'SHOULD UNWED MOTHER GIVE UP HER CHILD?.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 15 July, p. 9, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18388329>

<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b><i>"The most able, competent and better-adjusted unmarried mothers are the ones who give up their babies for adoption,"</i></b> said an American social worker, Miss Margaret Thornhill, yesterday, when she was guest speaker at the Feminist Club. Miss Thornhill is in Australia on a Fulbright scholarship studying the "unwed mother and her child..."<b><i>"The unmarried mother," she said, "needs more help than medical care and accommodation. She needs a skilled case-worker who can help her to examine her own situation and decide not only what is best for her child but, just as important, best for her. "This help should begin as soon as the girl becomes known to a social agency-it should not wait for the arrival of the baby, nor should it end there."</i></b> Adoption of illegitimate children, she said, had not only become acceptable, but very popular. There were now many more would-be parents than unmarried mothers. Although the outlook on illegitimacy was changing, the child who had no legal father had still "a hard row to hoe."</p>
<p>1953</p> <p><b>REHABILITATION OF JOAN MURRAY, UNWED MOTHER<sup>163</sup></b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>

<sup>163</sup> 1953 'LETTERS TO EDITOR.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 26 September, p. 2, viewed 17 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27523239>



1953<sup>164</sup>

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<sup>164</sup> 1953 'WANTS END TO FOOLISH NAMES FOR ABORIGINES.', *The Canberra Times* (ACT : 1926 - 1954), 13 August, p. 1, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2888590>

1953<sup>165</sup>



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1953

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#### **Welfare Ordinance 1953-60**

Director of Welfare given extensive powers over the lives of people declared to be 'wards'. Although the Ordinance made no reference to Aboriginality, the exception of people eligible to vote from the class of people that could be declared to be wards meant that it could only apply to Aboriginal people. The Administrator may declare a person to be a 'ward' because that person 'stands in need of special care and assistance' owing to that person's 'manner of living'; 'inability, without assistance, adequately to manage his own affairs'; 'standard of social habit

<sup>165</sup> 1953 'Do Aborigines Get A Fair Deal?', The Sunday Herald (Sydney, NSW : 1949 - 1953), 1 February, p. 2, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18516225>

and behaviour'; or 'personal associations'. No person entitled to vote may be declared a ward. The Director of Welfare made the legal guardian of all wards. The Director to keep a Register of Wards. The Wards Appeal Tribunal to hear appeals against a wardship declaration. If the Director considered it to be in the best interests of the ward, a ward may be taken into custody; detained on a reserve or in an institution; or removed from one reserve or institution to another. The Administrator's authorisation required for the removal of a child under 14 years if it means removal from his/her parents. Director may make orders authorising police to enter, search and remove a child. A non-ward may not habitually live with a ward unless the non-ward is a relation. Director may order a ward not to live with another ward. A male non-ward may not live with or be in the company of a female ward after sunset. A ward may not marry without the consent of the Director. Director may manage property of wards. Repealed by Social Welfare Ordinance 1964.

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<sup>166</sup>1953 'Bill Removes Difficulties In Adoptions.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 25 September, p. 8, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article52930620>

1953



### 1,400 in NSW waiting to adopt children<sup>167</sup>

- 18 months wait for boys, 2 year wait for girls;
- "the demand is much greater than the supply"

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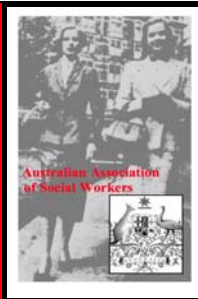
1953

### Segregate Subnormals?<sup>168</sup>

Social welfare officer [Miss Wilga Fleming](#), told interstate delegates to the

<sup>167</sup> 1953 "'A Daughter's A Daughter All Her Life"...', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 7 May, p. 5  
Section: Women's Section, viewed 15 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18372790>

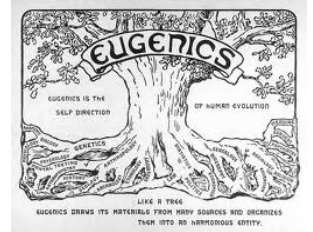
<sup>168</sup> 1953 'Segregate Subnormals?.', *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 19 April, p. 8, viewed 21 September, 2011,  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59552638>



Sub Normal Children's Assn. Conference today that the Australian Government was not doing as much as Governments overseas for sub-normal children.

She also suggested the segregation of sub-normal children in families when brothers and sisters reached adolescent age because she claimed they could retard the social life of the other children.

Miss Fleming also said parents tended to cut themselves off from society when they had a sub-normal child. That did not allow such children to reach the limit of ability.



1953

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

### Aboriginals Ordinance (No 2)

Amended definition of `aboriginal' to remove references to `half-castes'. Director made the legal guardian of all `aboriginals'. Director may declare a person with an `aboriginal' ancestor to be an `aboriginal' if it is in that person's `best interests' and that person requests the Director to do so. Director to keep a register of persons declared to be `aboriginals'. Repealed by Welfare Ordinance 1953.

1953<sup>169</sup>

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.



## WARDS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

<sup>169</sup> 1953 'Gaoling Of Man For Living With Aboriginal.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 8 May, p. 2, viewed 18 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18370010>

1954

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170

1954



### Adoption Aids Barren Wives<sup>171</sup>

An effective psychological treatment, used in the past by family doctors, is being widely adopted. Often a barren couple consulting their physician in a small town would be advised to adopt a baby to fill the void. The adopted infant, coddled and pressed to the foster parent's breast, often produced physiological changes in the body of the woman, resulting in natural conception. Today, when diagnosis fails to disclose the cause of deficiency in a childless couple, therapists advise: "Adopt a child and see what happens."

1954

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decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

The Victorian A.L.P. conference decided today to amend Labour policy to provide for abolition of State control of aboriginal affairs and establishment of a special Federal Department to take its place.

A resolution to this effect also called for reconstitution of the Victorian Aboriginal Welfare Board to meet the needs of Victoria's part-aboriginals, pending adoption of such a Federal policy.

Another motion sought consideration of education for aboriginal children, to give them equal opportunities with white children. The chief secretary, Mr. Galvin, who supported the combined resolution, said adoption of a policy concerned only with giving 'equal' opportunities to both races would be a retrograde step in Victoria.

Mr Galvin said there was no segregation in Victoria and any aborigine child who showed the least promise was given every opportunity to take advantage of education facilities.

"If the present position in Victoria was changed, the education privileges enjoyed by the aborigines in the state would be taken away and they would

<sup>170</sup> 1954 'Adoption.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 3 May, p. 4, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23430423>

<sup>171</sup> 1954 'Adoption aids barren wives.', The Sun-Herald (Sydney, NSW : 1953 - 1954), 3 January, p. 64, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12639123>

	<p>have to compete with the white children on a comparable standard, said Mr Galvin.<sup>172</sup></p>
<p><b>1954</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Welfare Ordinance</b></p> <p>The Minister may exercise a general supervision and care over all 'aborigines' and over all matters affecting the interests and welfare of 'aborigines'. On the application of a parent or guardian of a child, the Minister may admit the child to his control and provide for his/her maintenance, education and training. A person who in the opinion of the Minister is guilty of misconduct may be removed from a reserve. The Minister may apply to a court for an order to remove an 'aboriginal person' or a person 'apparently having an admixture of 'aboriginal blood' to a reserve or such other place as the court directs on the ground that the person 'is living in insanitary or undesirable conditions' or 'should be placed under control'. The court may also direct that the person returns to the State or other place from which he/she came. The Minister may issue exemptions from ordinance. Repealed by Aborigines Welfare Repeal Ordinance 1965 (Cth).</p> <p>From 1911 until 1989 a number of NSW laws as well as Commonwealth ordinances applied in the ACT as indicated below. Following self-government in 1989 the ACT passed its own laws. From 1915 the legislation applying in the ACT has also applied to Jervis Bay. For details of NSW laws refer to Appendix 1.1. After the Aborigines Welfare Repeal Ordinance 1965 the removal of all Aboriginal children came under the Child Welfare Ordinance 1957 and subsequent child welfare legislation.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p><b>1954</b></p>	<p><b>Children's Welfare Act</b></p> <p>Introduced a system of regulation for non-government children's institutions. Children's Court to determine whether a child or young person is in need of care. Police can arrest without warrant any child or young person suspected of being in need of care and bring</p>

<sup>172</sup> 1954 'Victorian A.L.P. Moves For Federal Control Of Natives.', *The Canberra Times* (ACT : 1926 - 1954), 15 June, p. 1, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2904805>

<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>the child before a Children's Court to be committed to the care of the department. Director can make a range of placements including institutions, private homes, employment or service etc. Non-government children's institutions must be registered with the department and are known as 'approved children's homes'. An agency may apply for a child in its custody to be admitted to State guardianship once agreed maintenance contributions fall into 6 months arrears. Repealed by Children's Welfare Act 1958. After Aborigines Act 1957, the Board had no specific power in relation to Aboriginal children. Aboriginal children were removed under the Child Welfare Act 1954 and subsequent child welfare legislation.</p>
<p>1954</p> 	<p><b>Should She Surrender her Baby?</b><sup>173</sup></p> <p>Unmarried mothers throughout Australia can receive financial assistance before and after their confinement from the Commonwealth Social Services Department.</p> <p><b>The usual sickness benefit payments are available to these mothers for six weeks before and six weeks after their confinement. The rates are: £1/11 weekly for girls aged 16 to 18 years; £2/0/0 for the 18 to-21-years age group; and £2/10/0 for the 21-and-over group. In addition, if the mother decides to keep her child she can also receive a 5/- weekly payment for it for six weeks after its birth. As well as these benefits, unmarried mothers can claim child endowment of 5/- a week for the first child and the maternity allowance of £15 for the first child. In N.S.W., under section 27 of the Child Welfare Act an unmarried mother who wants to keep her child but cannot afford to support it may apply to the Child Welfare Department for regular payments.</b></p>
<p>1954</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Babies for the Brave</b><sup>174</sup></p> <p><i>Every adoption institute has its percentage of "unadoptables" – children with crippled limbs, bad heredity, blind, deaf, congenital hearts, mental defects.</i></p> <p>This article also relates the practice of allowing prospective adoptive parents to select a baby.</p>
<p>1954</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Native Welfare Act</b></p> <p>Commissioner and Department of Native Affairs changed to Commissioner and Department of Native Welfare. The Commissioner remains the legal guardian of 'native' children except where the child has been made a ward under the Child Welfare Act 1947. 'The Commissioner may from time to time direct what person is to have the custody of a native child of whom he is the legal guardian, and his direction shall have effect according to its tenor'. Repealed by Native Welfare Act 1963.</p>

<sup>173</sup> 1954 'SURRENDER HER BABY?.', The Australian Women's Weekly (1933 - 1982), 8 September, p. 26, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46448400>

<sup>174</sup> 1954 'BABIES FOR THE BRAVE.', Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 25 November, p. 4, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article39368506>




<p><b>1954</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>NO ONE TO CLAIM RAYMOND (AGED 4) – HIS MOTHER IS MISSING<sup>175</sup></b></p> <p>Brown Eyed Raymond Boota, 4, who has been ill for 16 months In the Brisbane Children's Hospital, has lost his mother. Hospital authorities have been trying to locate her for the last four months.</p> <p>Raymond was passed fit for discharge six weeks ago, but no one has come to claim him. His address was given by a woman with him when he arrived at the hospital as Woodenbong aboriginal settlement (Northern New South Wales).</p> <p>The Children's Hospital superintendent (Dr. E. C. Fison) said yesterday: 'We just don't know what to do with him at the moment. He's been ready to go home for several weeks.' Raymond, a half-caste aboriginal, was admitted to hospital in August, 1953. The hospital has received no word from his mother since then. Brisbane social welfare workers are trying to find her. When he arrived at the hospital Raymond's body was choked with between 60 and 70 round worms, which had caused peritonitis.</p>
<p><b>1955</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>176</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>177</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>178</p>

<sup>175</sup> 1954 'NO ONE TO CLAIM RAYMOND (AGED 4).', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 30 December, p. 1, viewed 11 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50620506>

<sup>176</sup> 1955 Protecting children in adoption, compiled by M. Thornhill, retrieved 15 October, 2011, from <<http://www.archive.org/stream/protectingchildr00unit#page/6/mode/2up/search/exceeds>>

<sup>177</sup> Ibid

<sup>178</sup> Ibid

<p><b>1956</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Infants Custody and Settlement Ordinance</b>  Repealed Infants Custody and Settlements Act of 1899 (NSW). A court may, upon the application of a parent, make such order as it thinks fit regarding the custody of the infant. Where the court is of the opinion that a parent has abandoned, neglected or deserted an infant; so conducted himself/herself that custody should be refused; or the tender age of the infant of his/her state of health render it expedient he/she should remain with his/her mother or some other person then court may decline application for custody. Where a parent has abandoned, deserted or neglected an infant, the parent must satisfy the court that he/she is a fit person to have custody. Where the court is satisfied that a person with custody is unfit to continue because of cruelty or neglect, court may order the infant be given up to the custody of another. Repealed by Infants Custody and Settlements (Repeal) Act 1995 (ACT).</p>
<p><b>1955-56</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>1067 adoptions registered in QLD</p>
<p><b>1956</b></p> 	<p><b>Social workers not to approach the mother to solicit her for the adoption of her child.</b></p> <p>(See attachment "A" in blue folder: Directors Report to the Queensland 1950s)</p>
<p><b>1957</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Child Welfare Ordinance</b>  Ended the application of NSW child welfare legislation to the ACT. Where a court commits a child or young person to the care of the Minister on the ground that the child is neglected, or a parent has consented to the admission of a child or young person to government control, the child may be apprenticed, boarded out, placed out or placed as an adopted boarder. The court may also commit a neglected child to an institution. If a child committed to an institution may be removed to NSW for detention and maintenance in a State institution. The Minister is the guardian of wards. Amended by Child Welfare Amendment Ordinance 1979 (Cth) - removed powers of Minister to place a ward as an adopted boarder or apprentice. Minister to provide accommodation and maintenance for child admitted to government control. Minister may revoke an admission to government control on the application of a relative. Repealed by Children's Services Ordinance 1986 (Cth).</p>
<p><b>1958</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>Victorian Institute of Hospital Almoners and the Australian Association of Almoners amalgamate with the <b>Australian Association of Social Workers</b> in 1958 to form a Special Interest Group within the AASW – the Medical Social Workers Group. Some of the almoner/social work staff at the RMH are key figures in the evolution of the Associations and with the increasing professionalisation of social workers</p>

<p><b>1958</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>179</sup>:</b></p> <p>By 1958 116 wards had been fostered, 90 of them with non-Indigenous families. In 1960 over 300 Aboriginal children were in foster homes and another 70 or so were in Cootamundra and Kinchela.</p>
<p><b>1958</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Child Welfare Ordinance</b></p> <p>Replaced State Children's Act 1895 (SA). Similar definitions of 'destitute' and 'neglected' as in the 1895 Act. Director is the legal guardian of every State child to the exclusion of the child's parent or other guardian. A court may declare a child to be destitute, neglected, incorrigible or uncontrollable and commit the child to the care of the Director or another person, to be sent to an institution or released on probation. A State child who absconds from an institution or other placement is guilty of an offence. The Territory Administrator may declare a mission station, reformatory, orphanage, school, home or other establishment whether within the NT or not as an institution for the purposes of the Ordinance. A State child may be sent to a place within the Commonwealth to be placed under control, trained, educated, cared for and maintained. Repealed by Community Welfare Act 1983.</p>
<p><b>1958</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Child Welfare Act Amendment Act</b></p> <p>Where it appears to the Minister that a person has placed a child in care of another but maintenance is not being paid, the Minister may commit the child to the care of the department.</p>
<p><b>1960</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Social Welfare Act</b></p> <p>The 'welfare of the child shall be the first and paramount consideration' in placing a child. Repealed by Social Welfare Act 1970.</p>
<p><b>1960s</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>180</sup>:</b></p> <p>In the 1960s police officers routinely investigated reports of girls under the age of 16 years giving birth. Young mothers, whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, were told that if they did not consent to the adoption of their babies the father of the child would be prosecuted for carnal knowledge.</p> <p>Under the <i>Adoption Act 1964</i> adoptions were more regulated. Adoption</p>

<sup>179</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from [http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_3.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_3.pdf)

<sup>180</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from [http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social\\_justice/bth\\_report/report/ch4.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/bth_report/report/ch4.html)

	<p>agencies had to be approved by the Chief Secretary of the Social Welfare Department. The Aborigines Welfare Board was one of the 'private' agencies approved under the 1964 Act.</p> <p>Adoption wasn't one of the ... major functions [of the Aborigines Welfare Board] but the Board was one of 23 adoption agencies in Victoria at the time. If you really wanted a baby and you were struggling and couldn't get a baby through a normal adoption agency, you went to the Aborigines Welfare Board and you could get yourself a baby (Professor Colin Tatz evidence 260 page 15).</p>
<p><b>1960</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Child Welfare Act</b></p> <p>Replaced the 1935 Act. Under this Act honorary child welfare officers may be appointed. In 1966 there was an honorary child welfare officer appointed on Flinders Island. Children's court may declare a child found to be neglected, or brought before it 'on the application of a parent, guardian or relative of the child or a person of good repute having the care and custody of the child', to be a ward or make a supervision order which requires the child to be under the supervision of a child welfare officer or probation officer. Amended by Child Welfare Act 1963 - deleted the power of a 'person of good repute' to apply for a child to be made a ward.</p>
<p><b>1960</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<div data-bbox="564 936 1442 1451"> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> </div> <p>181</p>
<p><b>1960</b></p>	<p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>182</sup>:</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>Rather than accede to the missions' requests for more funding, the government explored ways to reduce expenditure on Indigenous affairs. One proposal discussed in 1960 to reduce the financial cost of the missions and settlements was to put as many 'light skinned children as possible' up for adoption and force 'eligible people' into the non-Indigenous</p>

<sup>181</sup> 1960 'Should she adopt an aboriginal?.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 16 November, p. 42  
 Supplement: Teenagers' Weekly, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46939323>

<sup>182</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from  
 <[http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_5.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_5.pdf)>

	<p>community. The State Children's Department refused to handle these adoptions claiming it was a matter for the Department of Native Affairs. However, it did deal with some Indigenous children who had been committed to State care by placing them in foster homes with non-Indigenous foster parents and in its institutions for non-Indigenous children. Here the children were subject to discrimination and vilification.</p> <p>Claims by the inmates that there was discrimination by the Superintendent against the coloured inmates were fairly frequent. In effect, the inmates state that the coloured inmates receive a greater number of strikes which were inflicted with greater force than would be applied to a white inmate guilty of a similar breach of the rules.</p> <p>[R]emembering the 3 additional strikes to boy 28, the general opinion and the expressions used of coloured inmates in the punishment book, which were not only descriptive but contemptuous, such as 'darkies', 'poor type of darky', 'aboriginal of poor colour', 'bad poor type of aboriginal', 'typical nigger', 'black waster', and 'black mongrel', neither am I prepared to hold beyond reasonable doubt that there was not discrimination in punishment against the coloured inmates (Schwarten 1961 pages 44 and 45)</p>
<p>1960</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Native Welfare Act Amendment Act</b></p> <p>'Quadroons' and persons less than 'quadroon blood' excepted from the definition of 'native'. Repealed by Native Welfare Act 1963.</p>
<p>1961</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Welfare Ordinance 1961</b> Extends the definition of ward to include an Aboriginal person under the control of the Qld, WA or SA legislation entering the NT and allows for the removal of wards from the NT. If the removal of a ward would mean the separation of a child under 14 years from his/her parents or the separation of a parent from a child under the age of 15 years, then the court must be satisfied that 'necessary and adequate arrangements have been made for the 'maintenance, education and care of the child'. Repealed by Social Welfare Ordinance 1964.</p>
<p>1961</p> <p><b>NATIVE WELFARE CONFERENCE</b></p>	<p>At the Native Welfare Conference ministers agree to strategies to assist assimilation of Aboriginal people. These include the removal of discriminatory legislation and restrictive practices, the incorporation of Aboriginal people into the economy through welfare measures and education and training and the education of non-Aboriginal Australians about Aboriginal culture and history. After the conference, all states and territories amend their legislation.</p> <p>The conference marks the beginning of a modern land rights movement and widespread awakening by non-Aboriginal Australians to claims for justice by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The South Australian</p>

	Premier Sir Thomas Playford argues for integration rather than assimilation of Aboriginal people. <sup>183</sup>
1962  QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture	<b>Child Welfare Act Amendment Act</b> Director of the Child Welfare Department made the guardian of wards. Where it appears to the Minister that a child has been left without a parent or guardian; or the whereabouts of any parent, near relative or guardian of the child is not readily ascertainable, then if the child is not destitute or neglected, the Minister may commit the child to the care of the department.
1962  QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.	<b>Aboriginal Affairs Act</b> Aborigines Protection Board replaced by Aboriginal Affairs Board. The new Board ceased to be the legal guardian of Aboriginal children. The duties of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs include the management and regulation of reserves; general supervision and care over all matters affecting the welfare of Aborigines and persons of Aboriginal blood; 'in his absolute discretion to provide, in cases of need, when possible, for the maintenance and education of the children of Aborigines and persons of Aboriginal blood'; and 'to promote the social, economic and political development of Aborigines and persons of Aboriginal blood until their integration into the general community. The Board is to establish and maintain a Register of Aborigines and has the power to remove names of those persons 'who, in its opinion, are capable of accepting the full responsibilities of citizenship'. An applicant whose name the Board refuses to remove may appeal to a special magistrate. Amended by Aboriginal Affairs Act Amendment Act 1966/7 - provided for the establishment of Aboriginal Reserve Councils. Aboriginal Affairs Act Amendment Act 1968 - abolished the Register of Aborigines. Repealed by Community Welfare Act 1972.
1963  QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.	<b>Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act</b> Repeal of provisions allowing a magistrate to send 'mixed blood' Aboriginal people to a place controlled by the Board; and those which made it an offence to take an adult Aboriginal person away from NSW and for non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal people to live together. Repealed by Aborigines Act 1969.

<sup>183</sup> Aboriginal Timeline, Creative Spirits, retrieved 17th October, 2011, from <http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/aboriginal-history-timeline-early-20th.html#ixzz1b5YxF16H>

<p><b>1963</b><sup>184</sup></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p><b>1963</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Native Welfare Act</b></p> <p>Commissioner ceased to be the guardian of 'native minors'. Duties of Department of Native Welfare include providing for 'the custody, maintenance and education of the children of natives' and to assist in the 'economic and social assimilation by the community' of 'natives'. Only 'natives' and specified persons to enter or remain on reserves. Regulations may be made for 'the control, care and education of the children of natives'. Repealed by Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972.</p>
<p><b>Circa 1963</b></p> <p><b>CROWN STREET WOMEN'S HOSPITAL</b></p>	<p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report</b><sup>185</sup>:</p> <p>Adoption was another method of removing Indigenous children from their families. Mothers who had just given birth were coerced to relinquish their newborn babies. Those whose children had already been forcibly removed were pressured by Board officials to consent to adoption. The Child Welfare Department processed the adoption but relied on Board officials to obtain the mother's consent. The Child Welfare Department did not check to ensure that Indigenous mothers understood they were being asked to agree to the permanent removal of their child.</p> <p>Most of us went to Crown St. Hospital. That's where my son was born, and then we went back to the hostel with the baby. Once we were there,</p>

<sup>184</sup> 1963 'Their foster son is an aboriginal.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 28 August, p. 4, viewed 14 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article51195156>


<sup>185</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from <[http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_3.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_3.pdf)>

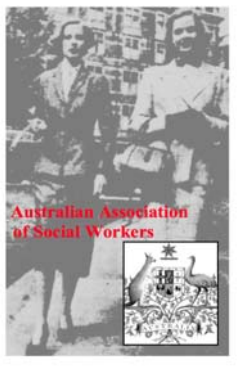
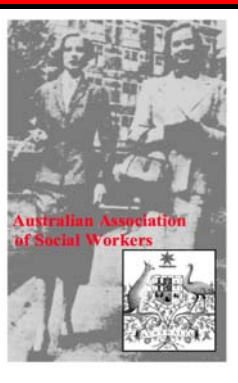
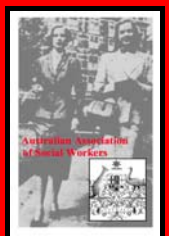



		<p>we had the Welfare coming in, asking you what you was going to do – telling you most of the time that your parents didn't want you, the father of the baby didn't want you ... they said to me they couldn't find anyone that wanted me, and they couldn't find anywhere for me, like a live-in job where I could take the baby. And then they said the only one they could find that was willing to take me was my eldest sister, who I'd never seen since I was a little girl – she'd gone before us: she went away with some white people that were supposed to take her away for a good education – and they said she was the only one who was willing to take me, but she didn't want the baby. So they brought the papers in and told me to sign and that was it.</p>
1963		<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>186</p>
1964	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Social Welfare Ordinance</b> Restricted entry to reserves and assistance of the Department of Social Welfare to people who 'in the opinion of the Director are socially or economically in need of assistance'. A welfare officer can suspend the right of an 'aboriginal' to enter or remain on a reserve. Repealed by Community Welfare Act 1983.</p>
1964	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>QLD Adoption of Children Act 1964</b> The Supreme Court is responsible for making an order for adoption. The welfare and interests of the child are the paramount consideration in making an order for adoption. Grounds for dispensing with consent similar to those in 1935 Act and include 'special circumstances by reason of which the consent may properly be dispensed with'. Amended by Adoption of Children Act 1983 - to dispense with consent the court must also be satisfied that the welfare and interests of the child will be promoted if the order is made.</p>
1964	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>187</sup>:</b></p> <p>Under the Adoption Act 1964 adoptions were more regulated. Adoption agencies had to be approved by the Chief Secretary of the Social Welfare Department. The Aborigines Welfare Board was one of the 'private' agencies approved under the 1964 Act.</p> <p>Adoption wasn't one of the ... major functions [of the Aborigines Welfare Board] but the Board was one of 23 adoption agencies in Victoria at the</p>

<sup>186</sup> 1963 'AT HOME.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 16 October, p. 40, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46947843>

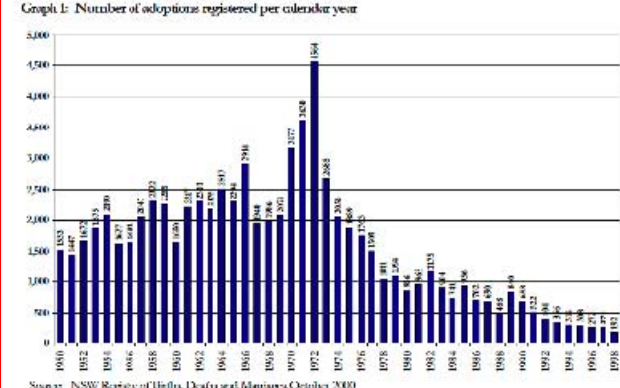




<sup>187</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from [http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_4.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_4.pdf)

	<p>time. If you really wanted a baby and you were struggling and couldn't get a baby through a normal adoption agency, you went to the Aborigines Welfare Board and you could get yourself a baby (Professor Colin Tatz).</p> <p>Although adoptions were more regulated after 1964, many procedures are still unclear. Some adoptive families simply returned children they no longer wanted. Some Indigenous parents found out that they had unknowingly agreed to relinquish children when they believed they were placing them in temporary care. Still others simply could not locate children who had been fostered or adopted by the agency.</p>
<p>1964</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act</b>  Replaced 1928 Act. Established a stricter procedure for selecting adoptive parents. Amended by Adoption of Children (Information) Act 1980 - Relates to access to records of public and private adoption agencies.  Repealed by Adoption Act 1984.</p> <p><b>Extract from: Adoption Legislation Review Committee Report 1983 page 59:</b>  Informal and formal foster care arrangements and holiday placements supposedly for a temporary period, were frequently the beginning of a permanent separation of Aboriginal children from their family and community. Some children placed informally, were passed from one foster home to another, names were changed and the child's whereabouts 'lost' to their parents and unknown to welfare authorities. Some of these placements may have led to the granting of an adoption order with parents' consents being dispensed with on the ground of whereabouts unknown, particularly as there was no restriction prior to the 1964 legislation as to who could arrange adoptions.</p>
<p>1964</p>	<p>Viola W. Bernard M.D. adoption expert and author of the book titled "Adoption", acknowledges the known 'psychic trauma' to mothers by permanent separation through adoption when she asks "Shouldn't agencies make every effort to encourage natural parents, both married couples and unwed mothers, to keep their children, in order to prevent psychic trauma from permanent separation?"</p> <p><b>(copy submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to Inquiry)</b></p>
<p>1964</p> 	<p>Journal of Department of Child Welfare, Feb, Vol 3, No 2, making it an offence to "advertise" babies for adoption and gives instruction on how to take a consent to adoption; that is, that the Mother must be aware of the import of her consent as well as alternatives to adoption, financial assistance, placement of child in a licensed home or admission to State control as alternatives to adoption. The journal also gives fictitious account of how the baby is given over to adopters, explaining what determines a child's future, and mentions how a child is "matched" with the adoptive parents and how adopting a child brings on fertility for adopters. <b>(copy submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to Inquiry)</b></p>
<p>1964 – 1967</p>	<p>The established adoption procedure as per its "Policy on Adoption "at the Women's Hospital Crown Street: from the Affidavit of Mrs Pamela Thorne (Nee Roberts) Head Social Worker in Charge Women's Hospital Crown Street between 1964 and 1976:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paragraph 25. The usual practice was that the mother was not permitted to see her baby in the delivery room but there would have been occasional exceptions to this. In the days after the birth the mother did not see the baby. The Policy Manual would reflect these</li> </ul>



	<p>procedures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paragraph 27. The policy regarding putting a pillow over the chest of the mother during the birth had been aimed at preventing the commencement of bonding between mother and child, by obscuring the child from view after birth. <b>(Affidavit of Mrs Pamela Thorne (Nee Roberts) submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Senate Inquiry)</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>1965</b></p> 	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>188</sup>:</b></p> <p>The powers of the NSW Board differed from those in some other States in that it never had guardianship of Indigenous children and therefore could not consent to the adoption of one of its wards. However the Adoption of Children Act 1965 allowed for the consent requirement to be waived if 'that person is, in the opinion of the Court, unfit to discharge the obligations of a parent or guardian by reason of his having abandoned, deserted, neglected or ill-treated the child'. Rather than endeavour to contact the mother of a child whose foster parents wanted to adopt him or her, the Board applied to the Children's Court to waive the consent requirement.</p>
<p><b>1965</b></p> 	<p><b>Miss Mary Lewis, Social Worker Catholic Welfare Bureau, Sydney,</b> states: "Many agencies in this country have punitive, illegal and harmful rules regarding the unmarried mother's inalienable right to physical contact with her child, when she has decided on adoption. Some agencies refuse to allow the unmarried mother to see her child, nor do they tell her the child's sex. While this may be done from the best motives, these misguided people should look more carefully into the situation." <b>(Australian Association of Social Workers National Conference 1965, submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Senate Inquiry)</b></p>
<p><b>1965</b></p> 	<p><b>The big query: WHY a falling birthrate?<sup>189</sup></b></p> <p>Staff reporter Kay Kearney says not so long ago it was fashionable to blame everything from juvenile delinquency to three-legged calves on The Bomb. That's been outgrown, thank goodness. Now The Pill gets the blame. On July 7, for example, the news broke that the birthrate for the first quarter of 1965 was the lowest for 22 years. To be precise, it was 19.47 per 1000 head of population, only slightly above the birthrate in the middle of World War II and 1037 fewer than for the same period in 1964. Most people had the answer pat. "Of course," folk muttered darkly, "it's The Pill."</p>
<p><b>1965 – 1972</b></p>	<p><i>"The bumper adoption era"</i></p>

<sup>188</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from [http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_3.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_3.pdf)

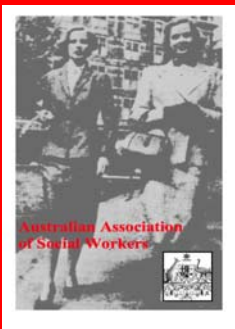

<sup>189</sup> 1965 'The big query: WHY a falling birthrate?', The Australian Women's Weekly (1933 - 1982), 28 July, p. 4, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46448886>

<p><b>1967</b></p> <p>Chart shows peak years of adoption, the latter known to social workers of its day as the Bumper Adoption Era in NSW (circa 1967-1972)</p>	 <p>Graph 1: Number of adoptions registered per calendar year</p> <p>Source: NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, October 2000</p>
<p><b>1965</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Ordinance</b></p> <p>The welfare and interests of the child are the paramount consideration. Repealed by Adoption Act 1993 (ACT).</p>
<p><b>1965</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act</b></p> <p>The welfare and interests of child are the paramount consideration. In making an adoption order the Court may dispense with consent if a person cannot be found or identified; the person is not capable of properly considering the question; the person is unfit to discharge the obligations of parent or guardian having abandoned, deserted, neglected or ill treated a child; the person failed to discharge obligations of parent or guardian; or there are any other special circumstances by reason of which consent may be dispensed with. Amended by Adoption of Children Amendment 1966 - court power to dispense with consent due to 'other special circumstances' removed. Court may dispense with consent where the interests and welfare of child are promoted by the adoption order.</p>
<p><b>1965</b></p> 	<p><b>May 6th Annual Conference of Child Welfare Administrators</b></p> <p>Federal, State, Territories and NZ discuss uniformity of adoption laws as well as views on development throughout Australia and mutual cooperation for one another's benefit, which includes State reports on unadoptable children and their care, uniform adoption practices and ages of mothers etc (submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Senate Inquiry)</p>
<p><b>1965</b></p> 	<p><b>NSW Standing Committee on Adoption and Social Services</b></p> <p>established in 1967 with the introduction of the Adoption of Children Act 1965, comprised of representatives of the Department of Child Welfare Adoptions Branch, members of the Australian Association of Social Workers, representatives of private adoption agencies, a member of the medical profession, and members of adoptive parent organizations.</p>
<p><b>1965</b></p> 	 <p>The Catholic Adoption Agency begins to arrange adoptions directly out of the Mater hospital. (Connecting Kin guide p. 169)</p>


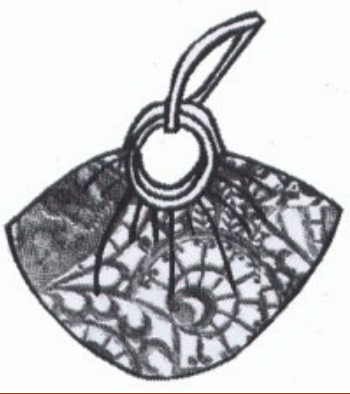




<p>1965</p> 	<p>A Queensland newspaper article implies knowing infliction of mental trauma on unwed mothers in Queensland, reporting that those in 'Heartbreak Ward...wait for the babies they will never be allowed to see. The latter statement attests both to public knowledge regarding the systematic removal of the offspring of the unwed mother at birth as well as the pain that would surely be inflicted due to the same.<sup>190</sup> (submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Senate Inquiry)</p>
<p>1965</p> 	<p><b>Mary Lewis of the Catholic Adoption Agency at Conference for Child Welfare Workers</b> (also representative in 1953 in AASW Report study of Unmarried Mothers) speaks of adoption practices that are harsh, punitive and unlawful. (submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Senate Inquiry)</p>
<p>1965 7<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup> December</p> <p>NSW Parliament HANSARD</p> <p><small>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</small></p>	<p>Mr McCaw maintains: "The natural parents have the rights and responsibility for the care, custody, control and upbringing of the child." Mr McCaw proceeds to say that natural parents must not be put in a situation where they can be unduly or improperly influenced, and that they must have time and supporting services to come to a considered decision about the child who is to be taken away.</p> <p>On December 8th 1965, the Honorable A.D Bridges states, "I am convinced that adoption is the best substitute for care by the child's own parents or close relatives," also stating that "natural parents need assistance in coming to a reasoned decision as to the course they should follow" and that "extremely careful consideration should be given to all possible alternatives before a child is removed from his own parents for adoption." Mr Bridges also emphasizes that parents, regardless of their social or legal status, should have the opportunity for full consideration of all the factors involved including the legal and psychological consequences of their decision to surrender or retain their child.</p> <p>In ongoing discussion, The Hon Asher mentions there is no provision in the Bill to protect unmarried mothers in respect of parental support.</p> <p>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Senate Inquiry)</p>
<p>1965</p> <p><small>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</small></p>	<p><b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Act</b></p> <p>Established position of Director of Aboriginal and Island Affairs in place of Director of Native Welfare. Director is no longer the legal guardian of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Director may order an assisted Aborigine or Islander who is not residing on a reserve to be transferred from any district to a reserve'; and upon the recommendation of an Aboriginal Court of a reserve on which the assisted Aborigine is residing, order the assisted Aborigine to be transferred from such reserve to another reserve for Aborigines. Similar provisions in relation to Islanders. Regulations may be made for the preservation, development, assimilation, integration, education, training and employment of assisted Aborigines and assisted Islanders; the care of children of assisted Aborigines or assisted Islanders other than such children who are in the care, protection or control of the Director of the State Children Department; and the employment and apprenticeship of children of assisted Aborigines or Islanders other than such children who are in the care, protection or control of the Director of the State Children Department. Repealed by Aborigines Act 1971 &amp; Torres Strait Islander Act 1971.</p>

<sup>190</sup> Heartbreak Ward", ALASQLD website, extracted 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010 from  
<<http://alasqld.blogspot.com/2010/04/heartbreak-ward-sunday-truth-october-24.html>>


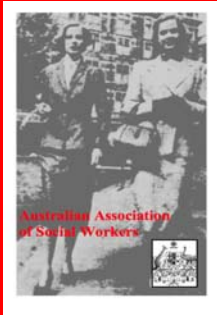


<p><b>1965</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Children's Services Act 1965</b></p> <p>Replaced the 1911 Act. Established Department of Children's Services. Missions and government settlements were licensed as institutions. A child found to be in need of care and protection may be admitted to the 'care and protection' of the director of the department if a court is satisfied that the child's care and protection cannot be secured by any other order it could make such as ordering a parent or guardian to enter into a recognizance or ordering the director to have 'protective supervision' over the child. The director has guardianship of a child admitted to his/her care and protection. Similar powers in relation to a child in 'need of care and control'. Once admitted to the care and protection of the director the child may be placed, in the best interests of the child, with the child's parents, a relative or friend, in an institution licensed under the Act or in a hostel. The director may grant financial assistance to a family to help care for a child.</p>
<p><b>1966</b></p>  <p>Australian Association of Social Workers</p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>191</p>
<p><b>1966</b></p> 	<p><b>The Medical Journal of Australia</b> acknowledges the medical profession's negligence and breach of duty of care at having introduced the practice of denying mothers access to their own children without any prior research being conducted to establish the consequences to the mother or child in interrupting the birth process and preventing the mother from ever seeing the child she gave birth to. The article refers to the over representation of adopted children in Child Guidance Clinics, with concluding medical evidence showing that financial stability and religious persuasion are not enough. More research and follow up of the child is advised and that Departments of Mental Health, Obstetrics and Social welfare should be willing to look at their practices to see how they could improve.</p> <p><b>The MJA reports (p. 934) on a symposium titled "The Unmarried mother and Child Adoption", which was held in South Australia in 1966, that "No one knew exactly what effect the removal of the child had on the young mother, and whether it would be better for her to handle the child, and to look at it for a short time, or whether she should not see it at all. In either case she would mourn its loss, but in the latter case she might mourn a fantasy child."</b></p> <p><b>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Senate Inquiry)</b></p>
<p><b>1966</b></p>	<p>Social Work Caseworker Miss M. Nicholas runs a course, for adoption workers employed in post adoption counseling, titled, <b>The Natural Parent's Needs After Placement of Her Child</b>, in which she outlines what was already known by 1966 about the psychiatric and</p>

<sup>191</sup> 1966 'Sheas' big day.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 11 May, p. 29, viewed 13 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46947019>

	<p>psychological injury caused by relinquishment.</p> <p>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Senate Inquiry)</p>
<p>1966</p> 	<p>Youtube video from 1966<sup>192</sup> exemplifying an inherent conflict of interests permeating adoption cooperatives of the day, involving hospitals, maternity homes and adoption agencies to bring about the removal of 'illegitimate' children on behalf of infertile/childless married couples.</p> 
<p>1966-67</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act</b> Replaces previous adoption legislation. Repealed by Adoption of Children Act 1988.</p>
<p>1967</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Senior social worker for Crown Street Women's Hospital, Pamela Roberts wrote:</b></p> <p>There is a very great problem in placing the atypical child – the baby of mixed race, with a medical problem, and the like, and we need to recruit more adoptive parents who are able to offer love and security to the "hard to place" child. Indeed, in the State of New South Wales at the moment we are still in the happy position of having a pool of adoptive parents waiting for children. Not all areas of the country are the same and we will have to be continually examining and, where necessary, improving our methods of recruiting adoptive parents. Particularly if we are to be able to reassure the mother who has surrendered her baby the best possible future for her child. Adoption will always be a most valuable way of providing the illegitimate child with a substitute family.</p>
<p>1967</p> 	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act</b> Consolidated and amended the previous laws relating to adoption. The Registrar-General may no longer exercise the powers of a police magistrate in relation to adoption. Before an adoption order is made a report must be made regarding the proposed adoption by the Department of Social Welfare or an approved private adoption agency. The welfare and interests of the child must be served by the</p>

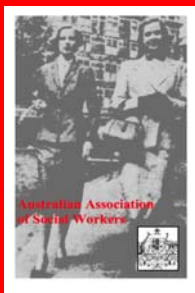
<sup>192</sup> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUJaLbTsIjc&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUJaLbTsIjc&feature=player_embedded)



	adoption. The only agency approved under this Act was the Catholic Private Adoption Agency. Repealed by Adoption of Children Act 1988.
<p><b>1967</b> Extract from the Journal of Social Work, Australian Association of Social Workers:</p> <p><b>Reasons for Deferring the Adoption of a Child</b></p> <p><b>"Mixed Racial background resulting in markedly coloured pigmentation..."</b></p>	
<p><b>1967</b></p> 	<p>Published in <b>1967 by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)</b>, was the outline of the new procedure to be followed by Social Workers in relation to the Adoption of Children Act 1965 in its treatment of unmarried mothers to ensure that the mothers rights would be protected under the new Adoption of Children Act 1965. Those recommendations, as outlined by <b>Sister Mary Borromeo and published in the Australian Journal of Social Work, Volume 20 (1967), pp. 9-15, "The Social Workers Responsibility"</b> stated in respect to hospital procedures that: <b>"The mothers right to see, handle and nurture her child, if she so desires, often requires protecting."</b> (Submitted to the Senate Inquiry, along with letters from Qld Department of Children's Services to adopters circa 1968 &amp; 1978, providing the name of the mother and child; also see Pamela Roberts from the same conference and Sunday Telegraph February 5th 1967 re: fathers rights)</p>
<p><b>1967</b></p> 	<p><b>Conference of Child Welfare Administrators Perth</b></p> <p>The States and Territories met in Perth to consider matters of child welfare uniformity in adoption legislation, proposed legislation for interstate movement of children as well as provided child welfare statistics for Australia and New Zealand, with NSW Child Welfare Department being the central agency for collecting and collating uniform statistics and with two sets of statistics complied upon agreed uniform principles.</p> <p>It was suggested that in 1968 there should be a conference of Commonwealth and state offices dealing with adoption and fostering to improve not so much principles and board policies of child welfare but where interstate movement is concerned.</p> <p>In this meeting Queensland passed misinformation from States' reports in relation to adoption procedures, in respect of secrecy provision of the Act, in that Re3 (d) precluded adopters from knowing the names of natural parents when in fact they were not precluded. (Submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Senate Inquiry: letter to adopters; minutes</p> 

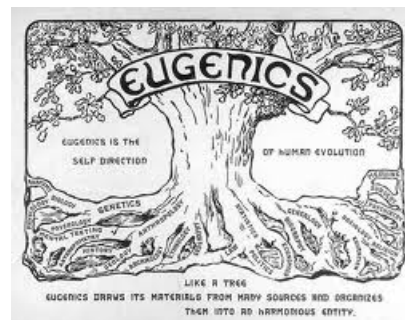
of the conference with  
Commonwealth and states)

1967



Senior social worker for Crown Street Women's Hospital, Pamela Roberts writes:

There is a very great problem in placing the atypical child – the baby of mixed race, with a medical problem, and the like, and we need to recruit more adoptive parents who are able to offer love and security to the “hard to place” child. Indeed, in the State of New South Wales at the moment we are still in the happy position of having a pool of adoptive parents waiting for children. Not all areas of the country are the same and we will have to be continually examining and, where necessary, improving our methods of recruiting adoptive parents. Particularly if we are to be able to reassure the mother who has surrendered her baby the best possible future for her child. Adoption will always be a most valuable way of providing the illegitimate child with a substitute family.<sup>193</sup>



1968



**Conference of Child Welfare Administrators**

In that they were liaising and overseeing uniform adoption legislation and child welfare issues with State Directors/ Administrators of Child Welfare annually from 1960 onwards.

In respect of the Commonwealth's responsibility in regard to adoption of children, the following applies:-

The Commonwealth had an overarching role in ensuring that uniform adoption legislation was enacted throughout the Commonwealth.

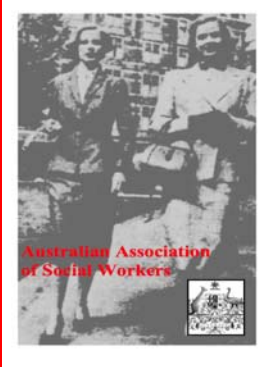
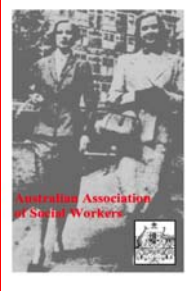
It had annual and regular dialog with States and Territories in respect of adoption statistics and procedures and facilitated and encouraged interstate removal of children for adoption placements into Territories such as the ACT and Papua New Guinea (without the knowledge and the consent of the child's mother or father).

The Commonwealth also had knowledge of the surplus of babies and children awaiting adoption and did not bother to investigate why there was such a surplus given the financial benefits that were available to unmarried mothers.

The Commonwealth had a priori knowledge that the adoption of babies with health problems, or those about whom adopters for any reason had reservations, would remain State wards (without the knowledge and consent of the child's mother or father)

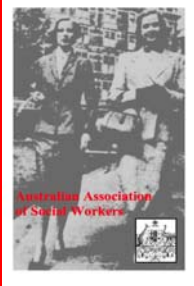
**(Ninth Annual Conference of Child Welfare Administers Canberra April 1968, submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to Senate Inquiry)**

<sup>193</sup> P., Roberts, “One in thirteen: a reconsideration of the problems of the unmarried mother and her child”, 1967 Address to the council of Social Services of NSW, 1969

<p><b>1968</b></p>	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>194</sup>:</b></p> <p>In 1968 responsibility for placing Indigenous children from the ACT was transferred to the Commonwealth Department of the Interior. This marked a shift in policy for foster care. Previously the practice had been to place children with an unrelated foster family in NSW. Restricted contact with their natural family and continued foster care arrangements meant that these placements, in effect, often became pseudo-adoptions. From 1967, the practice of Commonwealth Departments was to place children in residential care in the ACT and attempt to reunite the child with their family.</p>
<p><b>1968</b></p> 	<p><b>The Official Journal of the Australian Institute of Hospital Administration</b> titled "Hospital Administration" outlines The Hospital's Responsibility towards the Unmarried Mother and her Child by Miss Pamela Roberts (married name Thorne) in which she emphasizes that: 'Good patient care is the sort of care that all pregnant women should have.'</p> <p>Nowhere was the established adoption procedure of preventing the mother from seeing her child ever mentioned in the Official Journal. Roberts writes: "In theory no pressure is put on a patient either to release the baby for adoption or to keep the child but in many cases she has little choice because without the help or cooperation of her family the girl who wants to keep her baby will find the facilities poor." Yet the practice of removing the mothers rights at birth to her child continued unabated.</p> <p>In 1966, well before the Whitlam Government introduced the Sole parent benefits in 1973, the Australian Association of Social Workers outlined the financial provisions available to all fatherless families in noting that the unmarried mother was entitled to the same State and Commonwealth benefits as widows and deserted wives.</p> <p>Attached also is an article on layettes provided to unmarried mothers (note Pamela Roberts) social worker to Dian Welfare. <b>(Submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to Senate Inquiry)</b></p>
<p><b>1968</b></p> 	<p><b>28 aboriginal / part-aboriginal children placed for adoption<sup>195</sup></b></p>

<sup>194</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from [http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_3.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_3.pdf)

<sup>195</sup> Kraus, J., "Historical Context of the Adoption Crisis in NSW", 1976, Australian Social Work Journal, Vol 29, No 4

<p>1969</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Act</b></p> <p>Abolition of Aborigines Welfare Board. Aboriginal children under the care of the Aborigines Welfare Board to become wards of the State. Aboriginal children's institutions deemed to be depots under the Child Welfare Act 1939 and subsequent child welfare legislation. After Aboriginal Protection (Amendment) Act 1940, Aboriginal children were removed under the Child Welfare Act 1939 and subsequent child welfare legislation.</p> <p>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>196</sup>:</p> <p>Although the abolition of the Board meant that Indigenous children were, in theory, treated the same as non-Indigenous children, 'the child welfare approach was, in effect, overt denial but covert recognition and denigration of Aboriginality' (historian Dr Heather Goodall quoted by Wootten 1989 on page 26). Kinchela and Cootamundra closed shortly after the Board was abolished but the home at Bomaderry was still functioning until 1980.</p> <p>I was taken off my mum as soon as I was born, so she never even seen me. What Welfare wanted to do was to adopt all these poor little black babies into nice, caring white families, respectable white families, where they'd get a good upbringing. I had a shit upbringing. Me and [adopted brother who was also Aboriginal] were always treated different to the others ... we weren't given the same love, we were always to blame. ... I found my mum when I was 18 – she was really happy to hear from me, because she didn't adopt me out. Apparently she did sign adoption papers, but she didn't know [what they were]. She said to me that for months she was running away from Welfare [while she was pregnant], and they kept finding her. She remembers being in – it wasn't a hospital – but there were nuns in it, nuns running it. I was born at Crown Street. They did let her out with her brother one day and she run away again. Right from the beginning they didn't want her to have me.</p>
<p>1969</p> 	<p><b>32 aboriginal / part-aboriginal children placed for adoption<sup>197</sup></b></p>

<sup>196</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from [http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_3.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_3.pdf)

<sup>197</sup> Kraus, J., "Historical Context of the Adoption Crisis in NSW", 1976, Australian Social Work Journal, Vol 29, No 4



Participants concurred that the conferences were a valuable avenue of contact and cooperation between states and territories as well as the sister Dominion of New Zealand.

1970

**Social Welfare Act** [also known as Community Welfare Services Act 1970 and Community Services Act 1970]. Consolidation of Children's Welfare Act 1958, Social Welfare Act 1960 and amendments. Amended by Community Welfare Services (Amendment) Act 1979 - minor changes to definition 'care' includes emotional abuse and being ill-treated, d. Not repealed but substantially amended by Children Act 1989.

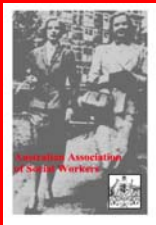



1970

**Article titled, "Unwanted Children Set Problem" reports:**

[illegible]

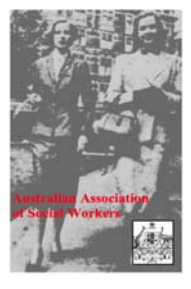

<sup>198</sup> Kraus, J., "Historical Context of the Adoption Crisis in NSW", 1976, Australian Social Work Journal, Vol 29, No 4



	<p>and the fear that heredity will show has frequently been responsible for rejection. Some couples have refused to take a child of a prostitute or criminal. The Adoption of Children Act which came into effect in February, 1967, demands that the history of natural and adoptive parents be examined thoroughly.</p> <p><b>(Article submitted to Senate Inquiry)</b></p>
<p>1971</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Aborigines Act 1971</b>  Abolished status of 'assisted Aborigine'. Established Director of Aboriginal and Island Affairs. An offence to be on a reserve unless entitled under the Act to be there. A permit may be revoked by the Aboriginal council established for that reserve or by the Director. Regulations may be made with respect to the development, assimilation, integration, education, training and preservation of Aborigines; the care of children (being Aborigines) other than those who are in the care and protection or control of the Director of Children's Services. Repealed by Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984.</p>
<p>1971</p> 	<p><b>82 aboriginal / part-aboriginal children placed for adoption<sup>199</sup></b></p>
<p>1971</p> 	<p><b>The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)</b> publishes its <b>Manual of Adoption Practices</b> in New South Wales. Compiled by the Child Care Committee the Manual reiterates the recommendations made by Sister Borromeo in 1967 when the Committee outlines the procedure to be followed to protect the mother's rights, and on page 4 declares: "It would be morally and ethically indefensible to refuse an unmarried mother opportunity to see nurse and nurture her child if she so chooses. Parental rights should never be subjugated by hospital or institution routine." Page 5 refers to the psychological and legal implications to the mother if the consent is not properly taken.</p> <p><b>(Origins submission Number One pages 52-55)</b></p>
<p>1971</p> 	<p><b>March Conference of Child Welfare Administrators Ministers</b>  Ministers report receiving submission concerning the "contentious issues" such as the procedures of the administration of the <i>States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act 1968</i></p> <p><b>(Directors Reports to Queensland Government)</b></p>
<p>1971</p> 	<p><b>The Australian Association of Social Workers (NSW Branch) Manual of Adoption Practices in NSW</b> gives social workers instruction on mothers' legal and parental rights etc, as well as regulation on how consent to adoption is to be given. <b>(Origins submission Number One pages 52-55)</b></p>

<sup>199</sup> Kraus, J., "Historical Context of the Adoption Crisis in NSW", 1976, Australian Social Work Journal, Vol 29, No 4



<p><b>1971</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Juvenile Courts Act</b> Establishes Juvenile Aid Panels to deal with truants and uncontrollable children. The Panel may recommend that a matter be referred to a Juvenile Court or may deal with the matter directly. Repealed by Children's Protection and Young Offenders Act 1979.</p>
<p><b>1972</b></p> 	<p><b>93 aboriginal / part-aboriginal children placed for adoption<sup>200</sup></b></p>
<p><b>1972</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Community Welfare Act</b> Established the Department of Community Welfare which was an amalgamation of the Child Welfare Department and sections of the Department of Native Welfare.</p>
<p><b>1972</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Community Welfare Act 1972 [also known as Family and Community Services Act 1971]</b> Repeals Social Welfare Act 1926-71, Aboriginal Affairs Act 1962-68 and Children's Protection Act 1936-69. A child committed to care may be placed with his/her parents, approved foster parents, a 'house', hospital, mental hospital or as the case may require. In the placement of children the interests of the child are the paramount consideration. Assistance may be granted to families and persons in need. <b>Amended by</b> Community Welfare Act Amendment Act 1973 - removes Minister's power to manage property of Aboriginal people and communities. Community Welfare Act Amendment Act 1976 - notification requirements in relation to suspected neglect, abuse. Community Welfare Act Amendment Act 1981 - definition of 'Aboriginal' deleted. Community Welfare Amendment Act 1982 - in the administration of the Act account to be taken of 'the different customs, attitudes and religious beliefs of the ethnic groups within the community'.</p>
<p><b>1973</b></p> 	<p><b>74 aboriginal / part-aboriginal children placed for adoption<sup>201</sup></b></p>

<sup>200</sup> Kraus, J., "Historical Context of the Adoption Crisis in NSW", 1976, Australian Social Work Journal, Vol 29, No 4

<sup>201</sup> Ibid

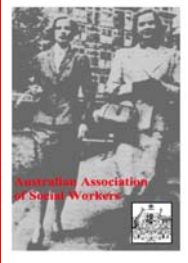


**1973 - The Supporting Mother's Benefit** is initiated by the Whitlam Labor government as a direct result of lobbying by the Victorian Council of the Single Mother and Her Child.

In the years proceeding its introduction, single mothers are eligible for assistance under *The States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act*, and six months later unmarried mothers are then paid the same Commonwealth Social Service Benefit as widowed, deserted or divorced women (some states waived the six month waiting period in 1968).

Regarding the Supporting Mother's Benefit, Farrar notes:

**The Supporting Mother's Benefit was initiated in 1973 by the Whitlam Labour government as a direct result of lobbying by the Victorian Council of the Single Mother and Her Child. In the years proceeding its introduction, single mothers were eligible for the same Commonwealth Social Service Benefit as widowed, deserted or divorced women, and, ironically, in New South Wales at this time, unmarried mothers comprised the largest group of recipients (55%). Three years earlier, although there was little difference in the actual number of unmarried mother recipients, the percentage of the total group was only 12%, with deserted wives and widows outranking them.**<sup>202</sup>

<p><b>1974</b></p> 	<p><b>39 aboriginal / part-aboriginal children placed for adoption</b><sup>203</sup></p>
<p><b>1974</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Child Protection Act</b></p> <p>Where it appears to a court that a child under 12 years may have suffered injury as a result of cruel treatment the magistrate may order that the child be taken to a 'place of safety' for up to 30 days.</p> <p>Application may be heard ex parte. Where a court is satisfied that the child has also suffered injury through ill treatment the magistrate may declare the child to be a ward of the State.</p>

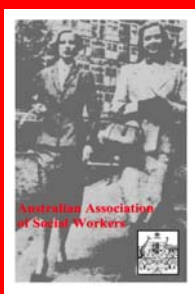
<sup>202</sup> <http://utsescholarship.lib.uts.edu.au/dspace/handle/2100/295>

<sup>203</sup> Kraus, J., "Historical Context of the Adoption Crisis in NSW", 1976, Australian Social Work Journal, Vol 29, No 4

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**Adoption Nursery, "St Anne's attached to  
St Anthony's Home for Unmarried Mothers, Croydon Park, Sydney**

**1975**



**68 aboriginal / part-aboriginal children placed for adoption<sup>204</sup>**

<sup>204</sup> Kraus, J., "Historical Context of the Adoption Crisis in NSW", 1976, Australian Social Work Journal, Vol 29, No 4

1975



QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.  
205

1975



### Baby Shortage closes agency

This article (**submitted to Senate Inquiry**) is significant because it reveals that the original mission of mother and baby homes evolved from an emphasis on mother craft and rescue of infants to places out of which adoptions are arranged. Probable main causes for the "dramatic slump" are considered to be contraceptives to single mothers and the large number of legal abortions.



The video (from 1971) at the following link<sup>206</sup> reports a similar theme in a less biased manner, referring to the headlines of a Sydney newspaper, which imply that maternity wards are full to overflowing with pregnant unmarried mothers because of the purging of abortion clinics in Sydney and Melbourne (circa 1965-1966), despite that the majority of the ninety thousand abortions performed prior to that purging have reportedly been procured by married women. In response, the Reverend Norman Webb (after whom a Wesley Methodist College scholarship is named<sup>207</sup>) calls for the abortion of illegitimate children, 'who apparently are wanted at conception but not wanted at birth.' In the context of the video, the latter is an allusion to the child placed for adoption at birth as an unwanted child.

1975

### Australian Women's Weekly

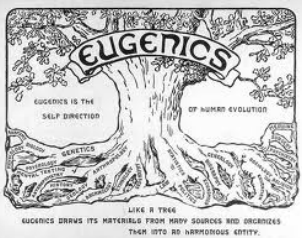


"Where have all the babies gone?"<sup>208</sup> notes correlation between declining numbers of babies for adoption and the announcement of the Whitlam government benefit. Margaret McDonald, then principal officer of the Catholic Adoption Agency comments: "We are only taking names now and our age limit for adopting a first baby is 36. In 1972 we placed 340 babies in homes, but last year our figure was only 198. In Melbourne for some strange reason this shortage of babies hit about a year

<sup>205</sup> 1975 'WHERE HAVE ALL THE BABIES GONE?.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 14 May, p. 57, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44022040>

<sup>206</sup> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqpQX8ynonM>

<sup>207</sup> <http://www.wesleycollege-usyd.edu.au/documents/WebbWyllieScholDscrptn11.pdf>

<sup>208</sup> 1975 'WHERE HAVE ALL THE BABIES GONE?.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 14 May, p. 57, viewed 16 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44022040>

	<p>before it hit us. Many agencies there have closed down and one which re-opened last year and places about 100 babies a year, <u>no longer accepts applications from people who want only the healthy.</u></p>
<p>1976</p> 	<p><b>Adoption Legislation Report of the Review Committee</b></p> <p>The Review committee acknowledges that the "Department" operates one of the largest "adoption" services in the world based on "very little research."</p> <p>Note Committee: Margaret McDonald - Principle office of the Catholic Adoption Agency, Adoptions manager of NSW Dept YACS and manager of (PARC) Post Adoption Resource Centre) Ferry Grunsit and Terrence Greenwood - presiding judge of Dian Welfare's court case, Mary McLelland</p> <p><b>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc)</b></p>
<p>1976</p>  <p>1976</p>	<p><b>First National Conference on Adoption</b>, organized by the Standing Committee on Adoption and Social Issues, headed by Pamela Thorne (nee Roberts), during which Father John Davoren, Director Catholic Social Welfare Commission (NSW) reiterates the warning his colleague Social worker Mary Lewis had made a decade earlier about protecting the mother's rights, when he presented his paper title Decisions About Adoption: Uses And Abuses Of The System. Father Davoren notes mothers are powerless, acknowledging their abuse via the denial of their legal rights. <b>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc)</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div data-bbox="715 1429 995 1496" data-label="Text"> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1129 1317 1513 1877" data-label="Text"> <p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>209</sup>:</b></p> <p>1976 a paper delivered at the First Australian Conference on Adoption directed the attention of social workers to the large numbers of Indigenous children who were being placed by non-Indigenous welfare workers with non-Indigenous families. The paper drew on the experience of Indigenous services with children who had been removed and placed away from the Indigenous community. This practice was inconsistent with the policy of self-determination and harmful to the Indigenous children concerned.</p> </div> </div>
<p>1977</p>	<p><b>Royal Commission on Human Relationships Final Report</b></p> <p>Note Federal Government Attorney General consults with State</p>

<sup>209</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from <[http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_2.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_2.pdf)>



Attorney General about uniform adoption practices in the 1960s, noting that unmarried mothers keeping their babies is causing concern as there are not enough babies for adoption. The report goes on to mention that a study of unmarried mothers who kept their babies is very positive. **(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc)**

1977



The Attorney General the Hon. Frank Walker M.L.A. instructs the then Minister for Youth and Community Services Mr. Rex Jackson, to investigate and report on an allegation by a mother who claimed duress and deception was involved in the taking of her consent to the adoption of her child. Mr. O'Mara prepares the draft reply to the Attorney General on behalf of the Minister.

On the final page of that draft reply, Mr. O'Mara writes that the adoption counseling process, both prior to and after confinement, has involved warning the mother of the risk of grievous future regret if considering adoption. He basis the latter assertions on an interview with Social workers employed at the Women's Hospital Crown Street in 1968.

Yet in total contradiction to what he writes, the actual policy was to promote adoption in the supposed interest of the child, including to interrupt the mother-child bonding by forbidding the mother to ever see her child at all:

It has to be accepted that the surrendering of a child for adoption inevitably means for the natural mother a momentous decision which she may later bitterly regret. It is one of the tasks of the Social Worker and the allotment officer who has dealings with the natural mother both before and after her confinement, to counsel her wisely about the options open to her, to ensure that she understands what she is doing if she decides to surrender her child for adoption (and this includes her understanding that she may grievously regret her decision later) and to support her sensibly and kindly, in her decision once it is irrevocably made.

1978



QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

1978

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Extracted from:  
[http://www.greenleft.org.a  
u/node/46070](http://www.greenleft.org.au/node/46070)

### **The lost children of Sydney<sup>210</sup>**

Wayne, four, and Natalie, two, are lucky. They live in better conditions than most other Aboriginal children living in inner-Sydney. However, they will have to face many of the same problems as they grow up. Katie arrived with a small carry-all. It didn't hold much, it didn't have to. Just a skirt, a cardigan, a few underclothes and a treasured chipped bottle of nail polish. She had run away from the children's home where she had been placed as a State ward. She was 12 years old but looked younger.


Tiny, lost, alone. She didn't smile. She didn't speak.' Withdrawn, unhappy and trusting no one she had come to a rundown house in Sydney's Regent Street, Redfern. Maybe they would help. The house, sandwiched between two empty buildings, is the Aboriginal Children's Service. Founded in 1976, to help Aboriginal children, it is run by Aborigines for Aborigines.

Many of the Aboriginal children living in a city's inner suburbs have never known the comfort of a secure family life. They live in poverty and ill-health. Many turn to crime and alcohol. A jolly motherly woman is administrator. The field officer is Isabel Coe, young, active, energetic, quick to smile and laugh. Isabel is sister of Paul Coe, founder of the Aboriginal Legal Service. The third member of the team is Sylvia Scott, a tall, elegant, warmly compassionate woman.

Funding is minimal. The task enormous. The day Katie arrived the Federal grant had run out. The next grant was not due for two more months. "We'll make it," said Vilma. "We'll beg, borrow, cadge. We're not giving up." There will be no salaries for the three women until the grant arrives. Any donations, any money raised from raffles, will go to the children.



<sup>210</sup> 1978 'The lost children of Sydney.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 19 July, p. 25, viewed 12 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article54686799>





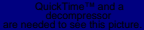



<p><b>1979</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Children's Protection and Young Offenders Act</b> Where the Minister is of the opinion that a child is in need of care because he/she is maltreated, neglected, the child's guardians are unwilling or unable to exercise supervision or to maintain the child, or the child's guardians have abandoned him/her or cannot be located, the Minister may apply to the Children's Court for a declaration that the child is in need of care. Repealed by The Status Repeal and Amendment (Children Protection and Young Offenders) Act 1993.</p>
<p><b>1980</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Extract from Bringing them back home: The Stolen Generation report<sup>211</sup>:</b> In 1980, the department's Aboriginal Children's Research Project reported that '17.2% of children in corrective institutions are Aboriginal'. Of these children, '81% ... are not in their home regions [and] 34% had no contact with either parents or relatives'. In addition, '10.2% of children in non-government children's homes are Aboriginal [and] 15.5% of children in foster care are Aboriginal' (quoted by Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly upon Aborigines 1981 on page 293). The Aboriginal population of NSW at the time was about 1% of the total.</p>
<p><b>1981</b></p> <p><b>Australian Women's Weekly</b></p>	<p><b>Search for a surrogate mother<sup>212</sup></b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p><b>1982</b></p> 	<p><b>Health Commission's Policy Circular File No. 1081</b> finally distributed after 1<sup>st</sup> September 1982 to all hospitals in NSW, though the Health Commission has been aware of the negligent and illegal nature of its established adoption practices since it began allowing unmarried mothers to see their babies behind the glass window of the nursery by 1973. That same Policy Circular identifies the practice of preventing the natural mother from seeing her child or putting obstacles in her way of exerting that right as constituting a breach of s31 (b) of the Adoption of Children Act 1965 and, therefore, the established hospital procedures as obtaining a consent by fraud, duress or other improper means within the meaning of the Adoption Act. <b>(Submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to Senate Inquiry into forced adoption)</b> Note: the major teaching and maternity hospital, Crown Street closed in 1983. Crown Street over-saw the most number of unlawful adoptions, throughout its history.</p>


<sup>211</sup> Bringing them back home: Stolen Generation report, retrieved 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, from <[http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen\\_gen/stolen\\_generation\\_3.pdf](http://www.artistwd.com/joyzine/australia/stolen_gen/stolen_generation_3.pdf)>

<sup>212</sup> 1981 'Search for a surrogate mother.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 1 April, p. 15, viewed 16 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47114859>

<p><b>1982</b></p> <p><b>Australian Women's Weekly</b></p>	<p><b>Speed of Progress</b><sup>213</sup></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> </div>
<p><b>1983</b></p> 	<p><b>Australian Institute of Family Studies releases Winkler and Van Kepple Report (The Effect on the Mother of Relinquishing a Child for Adoption)</b></p> <p>Noting loss and grief of mothers, the study makes mention of claims of mothers who feel that their child had been kidnapped (The West Australian (1984) "Adoption: The living cost that exposes suicide and mental health damage to mothers"; The Weekend Australian (March 5-6, 1983) also makes reference to mothers feeling that their children had been "kidnapped").</p>
<p><b>1983</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Community Welfare Act</b></p> <p>Introduced the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle for the first time in legislation in Australia. The Minister may grant assistance to a person, family or group. The Minister is to act in accordance with the welfare of the child. In making orders in relation to a child in need of care the court must take account of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle.</p>
<p><b>1984</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption Act 1984</b> Introduced Aboriginal Child Placement Principle. Placement of an Aboriginal child must be in accordance with the Principle. Consent to adoption may only be dispensed with in special cases such as where child has been seriously and persistently ill-treated.</p>
<p><b>1984</b></p> 	<p><b>Human Rights Discussion Paper No. 5</b> reports claims of unlawful practices and discrimination of mothers on the grounds of marital status, reporting:</p> <p>Policies, particularly in hospitals, have been altered recently, another factor which has contributed to the fall in the number of babies available for adoption. Since, for example, unmarried women have been allowed the same rights to see and hold their babies in Western Australia as married women, the number of babies available for adoption has fallen from 670 in 1969 to 99 in 1981.....The unreasonableness of rules restricting access to children likely to be put up for adoption is arguable on the grounds that such restrictions, rather than helping the mother make a responsible decision, are designed to make that decision for her. <b>(Submitted by Origins</b></p>

<sup>213</sup> 1982 'Between Ourselves.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 3 November, p. 96, viewed 16 October, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47121624>

1984 	<p align="center"><b>SPSA Inc to Inquiry)</b></p> <p><b>Review of Adoption Policy and Practices in NSW, the Marshall Report 1984</b> acknowledges that:</p> <p>Research supports claim that relinquishment has resulted in lifelong distress with, at times serious implications for the mental health of the mother involved. Again and again the theme is represented of the powerlessness of the relinquishing mother and the denial of knowledge about her rights, options and services available to her and Social pressures, including the attitude of the parents and the value position of the professionals involved (doctors, social workers and nurses) all colluded to make them feel they had no choice.</p>
1984 	<p><b>The Department of Youth And Community Services "Adoption: Options for Reform"</b> (1984-5) indicates that prior to 1984-5 the adoption worker had not been providing the mother with her right to alternative options to allow her to make an informed choice:</p> <p><u>In future</u>, before consent is taken, relinquishing parents should receive counselling and written information on the implications of adoption, alternatives to adoption and community support services which can help them if they want to keep their child.</p> <p><b>(Submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to Inquiry)</b></p>
1984 	<p align="center"><b>Children (Guardianship &amp; Custody) Act</b></p> <p>Concerns duties of guardians and disputes between them. Gives effect to the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth). Court shall not make a guardianship or custody order with respect to an Aboriginal child unless a report has been received from an Aboriginal Agency. Repealed by Children and Young Persons Act 1989.</p>
1986 	<p><b>Review of the A.C.T. Adoption of Children Ordinance Report No. 23, Human Rights Commission</b>, states on p. 3:</p> <p>Adoption procedures have largely disregarded the rights of the parent considering relinquishment to be made aware of the alternative options to adoption, and to full and disinterested support in arriving at a decision. The many submissions received from natural mothers who relinquished children for adoption, describing their unresolved grief and sense of loss, bear testimony to the failure of bureaucratic procedures to protect their rights. <b>(attachment "Ac" in blue folder)</b></p>
1986 	<p>Minister for Youth and Community Services, Mr John Aquilina, in his response to a complaint made by a mother about the treatment she received as a patient during the adoption of her child in 1970, states that:</p> <p>The Act specifically prohibits undue influence being used to obtain a consent to adoption, and The Department of Health introduced guidelines in 1981 to ensure that relinquishing mothers were afforded the same rights as other mothers in the hospital setting and to make hospital staff aware of the needs of relinquishing mothers.</p>
1986 	<p>Mrs Margaret McDonald, in November 1986, then Manager of Adoptions Branch NSW Department of Youth and Community Services acknowledges the mother's rights had been violated when she wrote in her article titled, <b>"In Defence of Adoption"</b>: Agencies may find themselves working with women who are striving painfully after a lapse of years to come to terms with a grief they were unable to face at the time. The old practice of denying a mother access to a child she planned to surrender has died out.</p>

	<p>The right of a mother to now see her child if she wishes to do so is now freely acknowledged.</p>
<p><b>1986</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Children's Services Ordinance</b>  Replaced Child Welfare Ordinance 1957 (Cth). Emphasises strengthening and preserving the relationship between the child and his/her family and the desirability of leaving child in his or her home. Where a court finds that a child is in need of care it may make a supervision order; a residential order; commit the child to an institution; make the child a ward of the Director of Family Services; or refer the child to the Mental Health Tribunal for assessment.</p>
<p><b>1987</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Children (Care and Protection) Act</b>  Introduced Aboriginal Child Placement Principle. Concept of 'neglect' replaced by 'behaviour that harms the child'.</p>
<p><b>1987</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children (Amendment) Act</b>  Amended the Adoption of Children Act 1965 to provide that the Director 'shall have regard to the indigenous or ethnic background and cultural background of the child'.</p>
<p><b>1987</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Community Welfare Act</b>  The objects of community welfare legislation include the promotion of the welfare of Aborigines on the basis of a recognition of Aboriginal culture, identity, community structures and standards, the rights of Aborigines to raise and protect their own children and to be involved in decision making processes that affect them and their children.</p>
<p><b>1988</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act</b>  Replaced 1968 Act. Includes provisions enabling adult adoptees to obtain information about themselves.</p>
<p><b>1988</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption Act</b>  Introduces Aboriginal Child Placement Principle. Traditional Aboriginal marriages recognised for the purpose of adoption.</p>

<p><b>1989</b></p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Children and Young Persons Act 1989</b> Includes Aboriginal Child Placement Principle. Sets out procedures for removing a child 'in need of protection'.</p>
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# Aboriginal children feel 'different', re

By YVETTE STEINHAUER

Aboriginal children who have been adopted by white families are ending up on the streets, a Human Rights Commission into homeless children was told yesterday.

The commission heard that a third of all Aboriginal children who were homeless were the result of the breakdown of adoptive and foster placements in non-Aboriginal families.

It is estimated that nearly 25 per cent of all Aboriginal children in NSW are either adopted, fostered out, or are in government institutions. This compares with one in every 300 non-Aboriginal children.

Addressing the inquiry, the coordinator of the Aboriginal Children's Service in Redfern, Ms Ann Weldon, said many Aboriginal children ran away from home when they realised they were different to their adoptive parents.

"They are in no-man's land: in limbo when they realise, and they take off in search of their identity," she said.

"They reject their white family but at the same time they may not readily fit into the black community."

These were the Aboriginal children who ended up on the streets of Redfern and Sydney's outer western suburbs, she said.

"You go out any night around Redfern and you'll see them. Wherever night hits them that's where they'll kip down till morning."

The Aboriginal Children's Service (ACS) is a licensed fostering agency. During the first 10 months of this year the Redfern ACS assisted 121 Aboriginal children brought before the NSW courts — 42 were homeless.

The St Mary's ACS office for the same period dealt with 150 juvenile court cases, and of these, almost half were homeless.

"The large numbers of homeless Aboriginal children are the result of destructive interventions into Aboriginal family life through the welfare system and the alienation of countless Aboriginal children brought up under white control," Ms Weldon said.

Aboriginal children were

adopted into non-Aboriginal homes and institutions partly because of a lack of Aboriginal-run emergency and long-term accommodation centres.

There are two Aboriginal hostels in the State — one at Woodford in the Blue Mountains and one at Moree.

Ms Weldon said the ACS had presented the State Government with a number of petitions asking for funding to set up more Aboriginal-controlled hostels and youth refuges but had received no

response.

Yesterday's inquiry was told that 25 per cent of all children in NSW corrective institutions were Aboriginal despite the fact that they comprise less than 1 per cent of the juvenile population.

An estimated 1,690 children in foster care were Aboriginal, and over 10 per cent of children in non-government homes were Aboriginal.

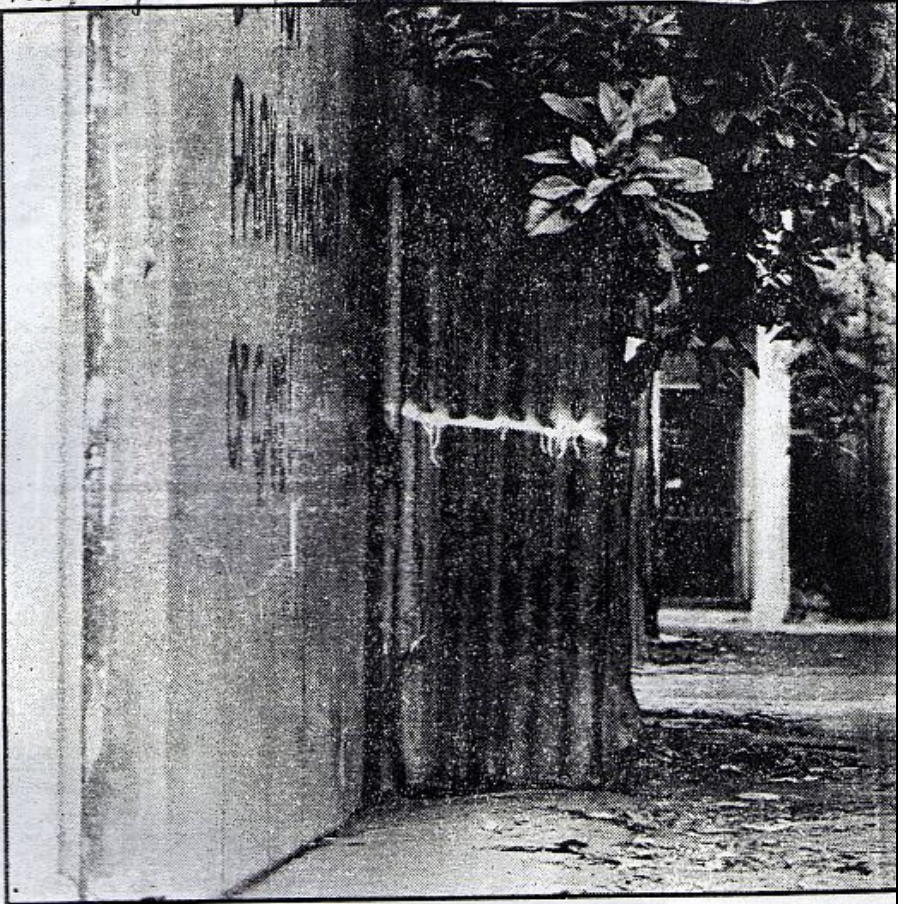
Another group of Aboriginal children who "hit the streets", Ms Weldon said, were those whose

families were forced to move to new Housing Commission estates in the outer suburbs of Sydney.

She said many of the children felt alienated in their new environment and headed back to the city, gravitating around the streets of Redfern.

The Human Rights Commission of Inquiry into youth homelessness will be sitting in Sydney today before moving interstate.

It will be hearing submissions from youth refuge and welfare workers.



Edward Fenton, 15 ... his home is the back streets of Red

## Adoption rules thwart couple

The NSW Department of Youth and Community Services failed to inform couples hoping to adopt children from overseas that a new departmental policy on age meant they could no longer adopt.

The Ombudsman's annual report said a couple were prevented from adopting a second overseas-born child when new age guidelines were applied to them.

The Deputy Ombudsman, Dr Brian Jinks, criticised the department's suggestion that the couple

SMH 29/2/89

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.



1989

# ... feel 'different', reject white homes



Picture by ELIZABETH DOBBIE

...enton, 15 ... his home is the back streets of Redfern, or under a bridge at Croydon.

... response.  
... yesterday's inquiry was told that  
... per cent of all children in NSW  
... corrective institutions were Aboriginal  
... despite the fact that they  
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... It will be hearing submissions  
... from youth refuge and welfare  
... workers.

## For Edward, it's no worry

Edward Fenton, 15, was a ward  
... of the State when he was three  
... years old. There were no other  
... Aborigines in his institutional  
... home.

Edward cannot remember how  
... many times he was fostered out to  
... different white foster-parents. "It  
... was numerous times," he said.

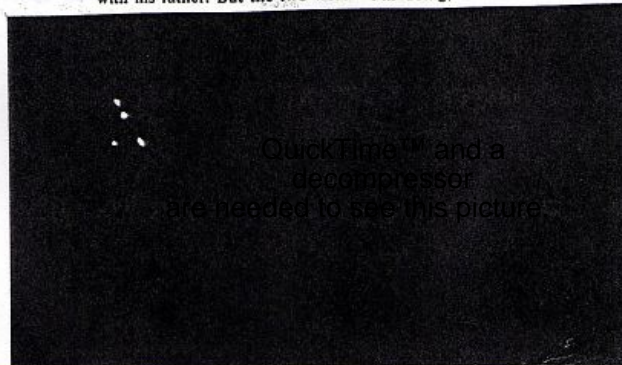
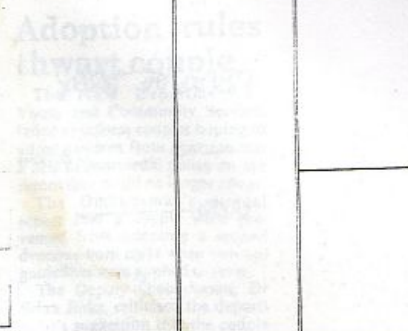
When he was 6, Aboriginal  
... welfare workers reunited Edward  
... with his father. But the two were

virtual strangers and the reunion  
... lasted less than six months.

Since then Edward has lived  
... with friends and distant cousins in  
... Victoria and NSW. Now he is  
... homeless.

He lives on the streets of  
... Redfern, under a bridge at Croy-  
... don and in empty houses in the  
... inner-city.

"I don't mind my life and what  
... I'm doing,



1991



**Teens forced into Adoption (Sunday Herald)** Unmarried mothers in Victoria claim they were forced to give up their babies. The Director General of Community Services states that he has no doubt that illegal adoptions have occurred on a "significant scale."



## Baby Scandal Inquiry Demand







Mothers "pressured" into giving up there babies are seeking a Royal Commission into past adoption procedures.






## Police probe claims of adoption scam in Victoria

(Articles submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Inquiry into forced adoption)




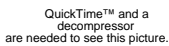




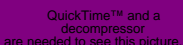


<p>1992</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Review of the Adoption Information Act 1990</b></p> <p>The commission exposes illegal practices of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- taking the baby without mothers consent;</li> <li>- drugging;</li> <li>- transporting her to another location without her consent;</li> <li>- forbidding her to see the baby, etc.</li> </ul> <p>(see latter attachment in blue folder), as well as article in The Australian 1st Oct 1993, titled: <b>"Judge decries adoption trauma"</b> in which is reported that Justice Richard Chisholm recommends changes to law to provide safeguards against mothers being pressured into handing over their offspring for adoption. He refers to the NSW Law Reform Commission, noting also that experienced adoption workers have backed up the harrowing stories he has heard from "many hundreds of mothers."</p> <p><b>(Articles submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Inquiry into forced adoption)</b></p>
<p>1993</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption Act 1993</b></p> <p>An adoption order must be in accordance with the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle.</p>
<p>1994</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Children Act</b></p> <p>Included the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle. Recognised traditional Aboriginal marriages for the purpose of adoption. Regulations Adoption of Children Regulation 1994 - a parent may record wishes regarding the suitability of the adoptive parents and regarding access to the child or giving or receiving information about the child.</p>
<p>1994</p> 	<p><b>Paper titled "Has Adoption A Future" is presented by Mrs Margaret McDonald at the "Proceedings of the Fifth Australian Adoption Conference"</b></p> <p>Margaret McDonald speaks of "unlawful hospital procedures" (p9-10) and consultation in 1977 with Obstetric Social Workers, which was the basis for the policy by the NSW Health Department (regarding the denial of parental rights), circulated in 1982. <b>(Submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Inquiry into forced adoption)</b></p>
<p>1995</p> 	<p>Origins NSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- founded by Dian Wellfare to address past adoption practices and trauma relating adoption;</li> <li>- Joins the NSW Standing Committee on Adoption and Permanent Care</li> <li>- Origins expands to include QLD</li> <li>- Leads the International Women's Day March in Sydney;</li> <li>- Origins attends review of the Adoption Information Act Reform</li> </ul> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>to</p>

	<p>Forum;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submission to Beijing International Women's Conference.</li> </ul>
<p>1996</p> 	<p><b>Dead Baby Scandal (Rapid Adoption)</b>  Minister Wooldridge rules out national Inquiry  <b>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Inquiry into forced adoption)</b>  <b>W v NSW: Dian Welfare sues NSW Illawarra</b> (Mercury, 15th December, 1996) <b>"Landmark adoption case fails"</b>  Master Greenwood, who did not declare his previous interest in adoption, dismisses the matter. Also see Affidavit and sworn statement from Pamela Roberts re: adoption practices. Master Green was also familiar with Ms Roberts. <b>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Inquiry into forced adoption)</b></p>
<p>1996</p> 	<p>Origins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tasmanian Dead Baby Scandal, Origins inundated by media;</li> <li>- Origins expands to include Victoria;</li> <li>- Submissions to Law Reform Commission on Review into NSW Adoption of Children Act;</li> </ul> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p>1997</p> 	<p>Origins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- presents to the XIX Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention Adelaide;</li> <li>- Origins presents to the 6th Australian Conference on Adoption held in Brisbane CBD;</li> <li>- Origins Victoria instigates inaugural conference at Parliament House;</li> <li>- Dian Welfare calls for Parliamentary Inquiry into Past Illegal Adoption Practices on Lateline ABC (titled "Birthbond").</li> </ul> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p>1997</p> 	<p>Origins NSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- gains Inquiry into Adoption Practices;</li> <li>- Origins goes global with the launch of it's first two websites;</li> <li>- Evidence given at Forde Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.</li> </ul>
<p>1998</p> 	<p><b>NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Past Adoption Practices</b></p> <p>Justice Richard Chisholm describes taking of the baby without the mothers consent as unlawful and as "kidnapping in a non-technical sense."  <b>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Inquiry into forced adoption)</b></p>
<p>1999</p> 	<p>Origins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Queensland Ombudsman calls for review of vetoes due to pressure from Origins and as a result of Origins uncovering fraudulent vetoes;</li> <li>- Origins gains Inquiry into Adoption Practices in Tasmania.</li> </ul> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>

<p>1999</p> 	<p><b>As Keynote Speaker at the Australian Catholic University, Maev O'Collins</b> addresses the history of adoption and how "despite the enactment of legislation meant to provide better protection, the human, as well as strictly legal rights of the birthmother often continued to be ignored."</p> <p><b>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Inquiry into forced adoption)</b></p>
<p>1999</p>	<p>"After viewing past adoption social files" Centacare on behalf of the former Catholic Adoption Agency apologizes for past adoption abuses, on day two of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into past adoption practices (1950-1998).  <b>(submitted by Origins SPSA Inc to the Inquiry into forced adoption)</b></p>
<p>1999</p> 	<p><b>Origins USA is founded</b></p> 
<p>2000</p> 	<p>NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Adoption Practices finds adoption practices unlawful and unethical, in its Final Report titled "Releasing the Past":</p> <p>7.61 Mothers argued that the practice denied their legal rights as guardian of the child. As explained above, the Health Commission stated that the mother was the legal guardian of the child until the signing of the consent form. Justice Richard Chisholm agreed that the mother remained guardian of the child until she gave consent and that preventing her from having access to the child prior to the consent would not have been authorized</p> <p>7.62 The Committee therefore believes that the practice of denying a mother access to her child prior to the signing of consent was unlawful. Those professionals who contributed to the process where access was denied were clearly acting unlawfully.</p> <p>7.63 Whatever the rationale for the practice, the Committee believes that in all cases women should have been consulted about this issue prior to the birth and that a woman should not have been denied access to her child if she requested it. Therefore, failure to grant access constituted an unlawful and unethical action.</p>
<p>2000</p> 	<p>The Standing Committee on Social Issues for the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Past Adoption Practices (1950-1998) notes in regarding the practice of marking the medical files of unwed mothers with versions of the code BFA (Baby for Adoption), that:</p> <p>The marking would affect the procedures surrounding the birth in three ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First, as to the contact the mother would have with the child;</li> <li>2. Secondly, as to accommodation of the mother and child after the birth;</li> <li>3. Finally as to the medication that would be administered to the mother.<sup>214</sup></li> </ol>





<sup>214</sup> "Releasing the Past": Final Report of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into past adoption practices (1950-1998), Standing Committee on Social Issues, paras. 7.13, 7.14, 7.15, accessed 26th February 2010 from <[http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/56e4e53dfa16a023ca256cfd002a63bc/\\$FILE/Report.PDF](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/56e4e53dfa16a023ca256cfd002a63bc/$FILE/Report.PDF)>

2000		New NSW Adoption Act 2000 incorporates all of Origins recommendations into section five of the legislation.
2001		In her book titled the "Many Sided Triangle: Adoption in Australia", prefaced by Justice Richard Chisholm, Mrs McDonald and co-author Mrs Audrey Marshall, who together had 70 years of adoption experience between them, provide the link between the recommendations of Dr Lawson and the Crown Street's unauthorized adoption policy when the authors acknowledged on page 3 of their book that the views of the author of the Fetherston Lecture were shared by professional workers in the health and welfare systems which administered the policies relating to adoption.
2001		Origins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- makes submissions to the Queensland Adoption Review;</li> <li>- Origins has input into Child Migrant Inquiry.</li> </ul> 
2002		Origins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Origins Canada is established;</li> <li>- Origins instigates 1st National Conference on Mental Health Aspects of Persons Affected by Family Separation at Liverpool Hospital, Sydney;</li> <li>- Origins representative invited to sit on SWSAH Area Mental Health Advisory Committee.</li> </ul> 
2003		Origins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Origins NSW opens its own office at Bonnyrigg;</li> <li>- Origins stages workshops in Sydney and Queensland into the historical perspective and effects of adoption;</li> <li>- Origins makes submission to "Forgotten Australians" Inquiry;</li> <li>- Qld Origins opens its office at the Mental Health Association Building, Wacol QLD.</li> </ul>
2004	  	Origins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Origins mothers in Victoria win court battle for FOI;</li> <li>- Origins speaks at Women's Court of Human Rights University of NSW;</li> <li>- Origins instigates 2nd National Conference on Mental Health Aspects of Persons Affected by Family Separation. Parks Centre for Mental Health Wacol Qld;</li> <li>- Film Australia provides grant of \$400,000 to film makers for Origins instigated documentary "Gone to a Good Home". Filming begins soon after;</li> <li>- Origins Queensland invited to participate as members on Adoption Act Review Committee.</li> </ul>
2004		Excerpt of transcript from court case of L. Arthur Versus





	<p><b>Queensland –Witness Statements:</b></p> <p>MARY MILTON CATTANACH - Social Worker - Consent Taker:</p> <p>"What was the range of reactions' that you had to deal with from these different mothers?-:</p> <p><i>"Well, uncontrollable distress, some of them wouldn't - barely speak to you at all, and others would be quite abusive and rude because that was the only way they reacted to the stress that they were under, and so you just tried to calm them down and talk to them."</i></p>
<p>2004</p> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>	<p>'I never agreed with the policy that the girls were not allowed to see the babies. I remember speaking to a priest about it twenty years later and saying I didn't agree with that. My idea was that if the girls were making the sacrifice of giving up their babies they should have seen them and known them and really made that sacrifice for the babies. That was always my theory. This was not the matron's.' (Sr A. Baldwin, Heeding the Voices, 2004, p. 83, available online)</p>
<p>2004</p> 	<p><b>Anti-adoption culture alarming<sup>215</sup></b></p> <p>The parliamentary committee says over the last 35 years, adoptions of Australian born children have dropped from over 9,000 to less than a hundred, forcing many would-be parents to look overseas...Committee chairwoman Bronwyn Bishop says she was surprised by the general lack of support for adoption. What we found was there was an anti-adoption culture that permeates the entire bureaucracy, she said. She says the best way to change the anti-adoption culture is to use non-government organisations to assess applications.</p>
<p>2005</p> 	<p>Origins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Origins Qld and NSW appeared and gave evidence before the Senate Inquiry Into Mental Health;</li> <li>- Origins Victoria, Queensland and NSW submits and appears to Inter-country Inquiry;</li> <li>- Origins links up to work with Aboriginal Stolen Generation through South West Sydney Stolen Generation Support Group.</li> </ul> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>

<sup>215</sup> Anti-Adoption Culture: Alarming Inquiry, 'ABC NEWS ONLINE', extracted 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 from <<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200511/s1518173.htm>>

<p>2006</p> 	<p>Origins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mothers Adoption Stories Art Exhibition held in Brisbane;</li> <li>- Origins invited to speak at Sorry Day dedication to Stolen Generations Monument at Mount Annan;</li> <li>- Appears at Forgotten Australians Conference;</li> <li>- presents submissions to Senate inquiries into "Stolen Wages" and "Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005";</li> <li>- Origins becomes a member of the Forgotten Australians Alliance 2006;</li> <li>- Origins Australia is represented by two of our speakers at the U.S. "Shedding the Light on Adoption" conference in New York organised by Origins USA in collaboration with Adoption Crossroads;</li> <li>- Origins Victoria Held the 3rd National Conference on "The Mental Health Aspects of Persons Affected by Family Separation" Melbourne Town Hall Victoria 10th-11th October;</li> <li>- Documentary "Gone to a Good Home" is aired November 2nd on SBS National Television. It is later aired on a further three occasions on SBS.</li> </ul> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p>2007</p> 	<p>Origins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- presents submission to the Senate Mental Health for Provision of Services;</li> <li>- organizes Sorry day event at Mount Annan;</li> <li>- Lily Arthur NSW Coordinator is nominated non-indigenous delegate for Stolen Generations Alliance.</li> </ul>
<p>2008</p> 	<p>Origins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dian Welfare Founder of Origins Dian Welfare Passes away 16th April;</li> <li>- 2008 Origins attends Apology Day in Canberra;</li> <li>- Origins organizes Sorry day event at Mount Annan;</li> <li>- Nominates Dian Welfare for My Favorite Australian Unsung Hero for the opening of the National Portrait Gallery Canberra, Dian's Portrait now traveling Australia;</li> <li>- Submission to the Senate Committee on Community Affairs Inquiry into Recommendations from Forgotten Australians Inquiry 2004 calling for a Senate inquiry into adoption;</li> <li>- Origins Qld lobbies Queensland Government to change Sec 39 Qld Adoption Act, new Act passes though Parliament in 2009 amending Sec 39</li> </ul>
<p>2010</p> 	<p>An ABC Perth Radio program featuring stories at the time of the announcement of the WA State Apology: Approximately seven minutes before the end of the program<sup>216</sup>, a former Crown Street nurse testifies to cruelty and discrimination against the unwed mother implicit in her training and in attitudes she has witnessed as her time as a midwife in training.</p>

<sup>216</sup> <http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2010/03/05/2838001.htm>



<p>2010</p> 	<p>Origins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 15th November after 13 years of calling and lobbying and submissions into 10 Senate Inquiries Origins successfully gains a Senate Inquiry into Forced Adoption instrumented by the Greens Party;</li> <li>- Origins announces Origins International.</li> </ul> <p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p>
<p>2010</p> 	<p>QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.</p> <p>Origins begins to confer with TRACK, Truth and Reconciliation for the Adoption Community of Korea.<sup>217</sup></p>

Origins SPSA Inc  
<http://www.originsnsw.com/>

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

<http://www.sgalliance.org.au/website/index.php>

QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Origins HARP  
<http://www.originsharp.com/>

<sup>217</sup> [http://thirdmom.blogspot.com/2008/08/truth-and-reconciliation-for-adoption\\_62.html](http://thirdmom.blogspot.com/2008/08/truth-and-reconciliation-for-adoption_62.html)