

2.6 Reunion experiences	Linkup Statistics	Linkup organizations / Bth REPORT.
4.3	Parents of adoption children. Lied to Guilt of child to find aboriginal family/identify Inability of parents to understand or get advice.	
Conclusion: "responsible" (pg23 par 5)	The Australian Government > King & Queen > British Law	Australia is part of the Commonwealth NOT a Republic. Aboriginal people need to look at the legal case of Maralinga cleanup to take genocide back to the British Parliament and the Crown.....
REFERENCES	Slack	BTH Report SNAICC reports Linkup reports Adoption & Family Information Service reports of State Adoption Services.

Heather Shearer
SA Aboriginal Delegate
1/4/2010.

* I am representing SGA

Teleconference Agenda

Topic – Impact of past adoption practices: Summary of key issues from Australian research

Thursday 1 April 2pm – 3pm (AEDST)

To join the teleconference, please dial: 1800 009 263.

You will be asked to enter a pin number. The pin number is: 51718#.

Time	Detail	Who
2:00	Welcome	Cate McKenzie, FaHCSIA
2:05	Overview of key themes and findings contained in - <i>Impact of past adoption practices: Summary of key issues from Australian research</i> (AIFS Report)	Dr Darryl Higgins, Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)
2:15	Discussion of AIFS Report	Dr Darryl Higgins, Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS)
2:55	Close	Cate McKenzie, FaHCSIA

2nd person
added into
the conference.

AIFS

ASAP -
Responses - Towards the time
(31st May?)
(Email through).

Origins NSW Inc.

Supporting People Separated by Adoption

Issue No. 54 February 2011

P.O. Box W18 Fairfield West NSW 2165

Office Phone(02) 9604 9352

Email lilyfair1950@hotmail.com

Website <http://www.originsnsw.com>

Links to online chat forum

"Forgotten Australians" Website www.originsharp.com

incl. links to Origins Qld, SA, USA & Canada



**After 15 Years of fighting for justice
We Have A National Inquiry !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
See inside for more details**

State Support Network

New South Wales

Lily (02) 9604-9352

Central Coast

Loma 02 4325-7460

Maureen 02 4324-1754

Dina 02-4976-2615

Newcastle

Theresa 02496 33482

Queensland Linda Bryant

(Coordinator) Origins Qld

0403169509

Cairns

Judy 07 4036-1232

Victoria

Elizabeth 0398120215

Lyn 03 54764264

Jeanie 0353672203

Janet 0415608711

Tasmania

Bill 0427524387

Origins affiliate USA

Director

Karen Butterbaugh

karenwb@erols.com

Origins Canada

Bryony

<mailto:bryony@pacificcoast.net>

**Please remember that
our contacts are not
trained counsellors**

Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2011 we hope that our members have had a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Many events have marked the beginning of this year, needless to say the Inquiry has dominated our attention over the past couple of months.

It has also been necessary for the Inquiry to extend the deadline for submissions now to the 31st of March 2011. If you are having difficulty writing your submission please contact us on the numbers on the front of the newsletter, or if you choose we have enclosed with this newsletter a one page submission to copy and send to the Inquiry, there is one for mothers and also one for adoptees, so please send something in and have your name recorded for the record

The submissions are now starting to appear on the Senate site and are being sent from all over the world to support us so if anyone wants to speak or be interviewed in any media please let me or the committee know

Our Senate Facebook is a great way of letting people know what is happening and also for giving support so if you are on the internet please drop in and say hello

The committee of Origins has been busy all over the holidays collecting and collating evidence to present to the Inquiry and our principle submission on the Commonwealth responsibilities has reach four file folders.

I would like to thank Lizzie who has been relentless in putting together a historical overview of how adoption evolved from the late 1890s into the unlawful period once seen in its entirety the whole picture can be see of how this phenomena took on a life of its own

I would also like to thank Linda in Queensland for holding the "fort" and collecting evidence for Qld mothers and Elizabeth and her team in Victoria for their efforts as well

The principle Origins submission will consist of an electronic timeline accompanied by the principle submission plus smaller submissions on relevant

issues and part (b) the framework resolution for Commonwealth and States, if you would like to add comment please let us know

I would like to thank and welcome back some of our old members and also welcome our new members who have joined us to help us with our work a special hello to Neil.

I would also like to thank those who have sent donations to help spread the word, our last newsletter was sent to the whole membership base and electronic distribution brought the mail out to over 1,000 notifications of the Inquiry

Although this has started out to be a positive year it has also seen the sadness and tragedy of the loss of one of our beautiful mothers Rozanne, who many of you will know personally.

Rozanne died suddenly on the 8th of February a tragic loss to her husband Jose and daughter Katherine and son Stephen, we who knew her will mourn her loss deeply

The committee would also like to acknowledge Virginia who is also a well known mother and long time supporter of Origins, Virginia is currently in Sutherlandshire hospital battling cancer, her friends may like to offer her their support by visiting her and saying hello, we are all praying that she will come back to good health and join us once again at our functions. We would also like to let our members know that Wendy is going well and is recovering day by day she can be visited at Wyoming Nursing Home Ashfield

We would also like to express our disappointment that other adoption organisations have failed to properly inform their members of the Inquiry and would also like to stress that we have been working closely with the Stolen Generations and Forgotten Australians to make sure that those mothers and adoptees are also acknowledged in the Inquiry

This hopefully will be a year where we look forward to some recognition and justice and also a year where Origins will have to renew its direction and its view for the future, any suggestions for our aims and objectives would be most welcome
Finally we would like to thank those who have made a submission to the Inquiry we commend your courage and thank you for supporting us at this historic time we pray that we will all find some peace and resolution after the report has been brought down ... Cheers from the Committee



In Remembrance Of Rozanne



Rozanne, a beloved wife, mother, friend, a Maori Princess and an Origins long time member, known for her outgoing friendly and positive nature. Rozanne was a person of unlimited generosity of spirit and support to those in need, we will mourn her passing with deep sorrow



Apology Day

Was marked this year at Westmead Children's Hospital where we set up a stall and celebrated with cupcakes and info

On Stolen Generations and Forced adoption, many thanks to Rita our indigenous coordinator for her help

Well done Rita



Are you a Financial Member?

Find out by the code on the address label on the envelope

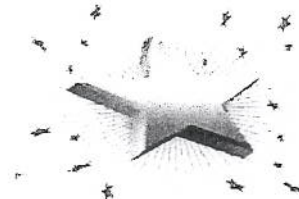
F = financial, **D** = membership is due,

U = un-financial, **C** = complimentary



Forgotten Australians

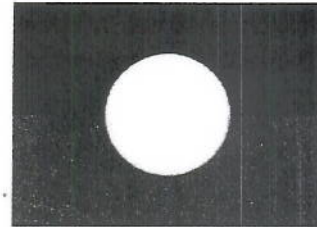
The committee would also like to thank Pamela for her hard work and dedication to the FAs and also to our "forced adoption" focus, Pamela is also affected by forced adoption as well as being a Forgotten Australian she continues to represent us at a national level on the Forgotten Australians Alliance... thank you Pamela



*A gold star!
and*

Many thanks

also to Theresa in Newcastle who is busy holding meetings and lobbying her local members of parliament, Therese has managed to get two of her local members to donate \$100 each to Origins Well done Theresa !!!



Journey of Life Project (Funded by FACHSIA)

Is still going well and we have been holding art workshops with the elders at Hoxton Park Elders Groups we have also have been on a couple of excursions with the elders to places of interest

Just before Christmas we celebrated with a Christmas lunch at the Botany Bay Seafood Restaurant where a good time was had by all

On the 18th of February we will celebrate Auntie Marge's 70th Birthday at Mounties Sports Club. The funding for this project is nearly at an end and we are glad to report that we have utilised the grant to its full advantage in supporting Stolen Generations with the near weekly workshops, excursions, welfare

support and information sharing amongst other things, a little money has gone a long way and hopefully there may be another event and more funding along the way



Cupcakes galore were given away at Westmead for the 3rd Anniversary of the Apology to the Aboriginal People of Australia many thanks to Rita and her colleagues we gave away over 200 cupcakes and novelties the cakes were made by Rita's granddaughter Jade and tested by Rita's great grandkids Thanks Nanna Rita



Need Help?

We know that it may be a difficult time for you if you are writing up your submission if you need support please call us or if you are on the internet please join our Senate Facebook the link can be found on our website www.originsnsw.com under the Senate Inquiry page

Language (Lizzie Bew)

What is a 'biological mother'? A biological mother is a mother only in virtue of having given birth...not. This language has been carefully chosen (like gestational carrier) to neutralize motherhood for the benefit of parties which seek to exploit the poor and vulnerable, as adoption agents actively seek to procure babies as commodities for their industry. They must promote the idea that it is OK for PAPs to aspire to deny a child access to its mother from birth - that such is a morally neutral act. Birthmother is a term which grew up with a period not of "forced adoption" (forced adoption is an illegal institution) but baby theft and holier-than-thou contempt for unmarried mothers by the adoption industry thriving in the early fifties in Australia and other English-speaking nations. Sometimes PAPs were trained to tell the child that adoption was the loving act of his/her mother. Other times they would advise: "Don't sugarcoat the answer." But the bottom line is this. An adopted child will always yearn for the reasons, though if those reasons are wrong (immoral) will assess them as such. Adopted children, unfortunately, are told so many lies in the interests of others. Adoption is not a morally neutral act; hence why the new emphasis on providing justification for the permanent loss of the living. Adoption removes hope and belief in human capacity; hence all the suicide, macabre memorials (WA State apology) and other fallout.

Please tear off and return with subscription fee

SUBSCRIPTION TO MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE note Change of Address

If you wish to become a financial member or renew your membership please send application form provided along with subscription fee to:

'ORIGINS SPSA Inc'
P.O. Box W 18
Fairfield West N.S.W. 2165

Name.....
Address.....

Telephone.....
 Annual Membership:
 \$25.00.....Full rate
 \$10.00.....Concession

Donation.....\$.....
 DATE...../...../.....

To ensure you receive your newsletter please inform us of any change of address.

Your name and address

Delete what is not applicable

Re Senate Inquiry into

“Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practices

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee

I would dearly like to be able to present a submission to the above Inquiry but due to the emotional turmoil of reliving the most painful and traumatic event in my life, I am unable to do so

I would like to state that the consent to the adoption of my child was given without information of my legal rights

I gave birth to my child at (name and location of hospital) on the (date of birth)

- I was /not allowed to see my child after birth
- I was/ not given information in regard to foster care for my child
- I was/ not informed of any life long future regret if I surrendered my child for adoption
- I was not given information on financial assistance that would enable me to keep my child

Finally I would like to say that:

As citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident in ... State.....

I had an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution and the Common Law of this country

As an Australian citizen, the Commonwealth affords me protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threaten my right to life, liberty and justice from those who would deny me these rights, within and without, the borders of Australia

Please accept this as my submission

Yours Sincerely

Your name and address here
Strike out what is not applicable

Re Senate Inquiry into
“Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practices

Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee

I would dearly like to be able to present a full submission to the above Inquiry but due to the emotional turmoil of addressing the most painful and traumatic event in my life, I am unable to do so

As an adopted person I believe that I may have been the victim of “forced adoption practices” at the time of my birth (name and location of hospital) on the (date of birth)

I would like to ask whether the committee can determine that the consent to my adoption was given freely by my mother and with information of my legal rights to be cared for by her, as my sole legal guardian. In that:

- Was or /not allowed to see me after birth
- She was or/ not given information in regard to foster care until she was in a position to care for me?
- Was she offered information on financial benefits that enable her to keep me?
- Was she informed of any life long future regret if she surrendered me for adoption?
- Was she informed of the life long mental health and identity problems of adopted children known since at the every least 1942?

Finally I would like to say that:

As citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident in (... State...)

I had an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution and the Common Law of this country

As an Australian citizen, the Commonwealth affords me protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threatened my right to life, liberty and justice from those who would deny me these rights, within and without, the borders of Australia

And as a Australian citizen my rights to be brought up with my own natural family were breached with little or undue consideration of my future welfare

Please accept this as my submission

Yours Sincerely

**IMMORAL AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES THAT
TOOK OUR CHILDREN AWAY.....**



BE HEARD!

TELL YOUR STORY TO THE SENATE INQUIRY...
Calling for submissions to the Senate Inquiry into the
**COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION TO FORMER
FORCED ADOPTION POLICIES AND PRACTICES**

The Stolen Generations Alliance (SGA) encourages all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and children affected by these policies and practices to make a submission to the Inquiry. Your submission will be an important contribution to this Inquiry and will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences are included

Submissions are due by 31st March 2011

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Inquiry Terms of Reference

That the following matters be referred to the Community Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report by 30 April 2011:

- (c) the role, if any, of the Commonwealth Government, its policies and practices in contributing to forced adoptions; and
- (d) the potential role of the Commonwealth in developing a national framework to assist states and territories to address the consequences for the mothers, their families and children who were subject to forced adoption policies

If you need any assistance or more information, please contact one of our SGA Adoption Inquiry Sub-Committee members;

Leonie Pope Heather Shearer Lily Arthur
0411 030 428 0457 354 109 (02) 9604 9352

Or email SGA National Coordinator at: gillian.brannigan@gmail.com

You can also find further information at:

www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/inquiries/index.htm

Please note: The SGA is not liable for any outcomes of this Inquiry and encourages those making submissions to seek appropriate personal support.



**Stolen
Generations**
Alliance

Australians for Truth, Justice and Healing.

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**Stolen
Generations**
Alliance

Australians for Truth, Justice and Healing.

Origins Inc New South Wales
Adoption Support



Origins Inc Supporting People Separated by Adoption

Origins has now gone international follow our link on the navigation bar

Breaking News We have a Senate Inquiry into "Forced adoption" !

Senate calls inquiry into forced adoptions

Posted Mon Nov 15, 2010 9:30pm AEDT

The Senate is to inquire into the Commonwealth's role in the forced adoption policies from the 1940s to the 1980s.

Greens Senator Rachel Siewert has won support of the Senate for the issue to be considered by the Community Affairs References Committee.

There have been calls for a national inquiry into the practice of forcing unwed mothers to give up their babies.

Western Australia's Parliament has already issued a formal apology to women affected by the practice.

- [Home](#)
- [Origins](#)
- [International](#)
- [Senate Inquiry](#)
- [Petition](#)
- [Origins Response to West Australia Apology](#)
- [ASFA \(Australians Separated by Forced Adoption\)](#)
- [Origins Response to AIFS Report](#)
- [Origins Charter](#)
- [Margaret McDonald \(1988\)](#)
- [Fathers Response to AIFS Report](#)
- [Old Adoption Media](#)
- [On-Line Adoption, Removal, Separation Forum](#)
- [Time Line](#)
- [History of Adoption \(Dian Welfare\)](#)
- [Dedication Page](#)
- [Breaking News](#)
- [Origins Web Sites](#)
- [Dian Welfare](#)
- [Barbara Maison](#)
- [Disclaimer](#)
- [Smashed by Adoption](#)
- [Our Documentary](#)
- [Rebecca's Law](#)
- [Origins Mental Health Conference](#)
- [Papers](#)
- [Media](#)
- [NSW Parliamentary Adoption Inquiry](#)
- [Sec 39](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [Adoption Crimes and Breaches](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Damage](#)
- [Stories and Poetry](#)
- [Life's Journey Project](#)
- [Fathers Speak Out](#)
- [Wake Up Little Suzie](#)

Civil Rights CrimesThe Greatest SwindleWhat they knewDian's PortraitSt Anthony's blogspotForgottenAustraliansInteresting LinksPetitions for ForgottenAustraliansRemembrancePagePhotosOur ProductsOur OfficeBecoming a MemberSubscription FormSearching InformationStolen GenerationsAllianceLink-UpOur PhilosophySearching forReunionContact Us<http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/inquiries/index.htm>**Join this Facebook for regular updates**http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_141502909234775**Please sign our Petition for a National Inquiry here <http://www.originsnsw.com/id35.html>****Who or what is Origins?**

- **The Evolution of Origins - Our History**
- **Our Achievements - NSW Inquiry into Illegal Adoption Practices - A World Precedent**
 - **Our Aims and Objectives**

Our History (Australia)

Thank you for taking the interest to visit our Home Page. Before I introduce you to our organization, Origins Inc., I would like to acknowledge that without the tremendous work carried out by national organizations such as Adoption Triangle, ARMS, Jigsaw and others who lobbied and fought hard to change adoption legislation that enabled mothers and children access to identifying information, our own organization, Origins Inc., may not have evolved. As it was the hope that we may finally be permitted to meet the children born to us that became the key to our freedom. It allowed many of us to begin facing the nightmare of our past and to begin seeing clearly for the first time.

Had legislation not been passed, we may never have been prompted to delve into and uncover the illicit activities of the adoption industry - and history would have continued to write of the decades between the 1950's and 1980's as being the only period in the history of humankind where young mothers defied nature itself and 'willingly' surrendered their own newborns en-masse to strangers.

Origins Inc. Was founded in 1995 by a small group of mothers who, having lost their children to adoption, were being continuously re-traumatized each time so-called experts and health professional minimized and invalidated the severe emotional anguish, trauma, and grief left in the wake of their adoption experience, assuming that we, as mothers, should have accepted the loss of our living babies - as if it were possible to do that.

Along with the perpetual violation we felt in having so-called adoption professionals and others justifying and exonerating themselves of their own complicity in this scandalous practice, that had preyed upon our vulnerable state when we were too young, and too oppressed to know how to fight this wicked system, by hearing adoption of newborns now being referred to as a social phenomenon of a social era that is passed - rather than the illicit raping of babies from their mothers that it was - we decided enough was enough.

With everyone adroitly avoiding the truth, at our expense, we realised that by remaining silent we had inadvertently become the "keepers of the lie" and we knew that until mothers began speaking out publically about our abusive and inhuman treatment - the myths, lies and deceit upon which adoption has thrived, would continue to harm the emotional well-being of our children, and we as their mothers would be colluding in our own abuse.

Having researched, we discovered that losing our babies had been entirely avoidable had our legal rights not been contravened. So we made the illicit adoption practices the focal point of our organisation. The law was the only weapon we had to force people to bother to listen to us, and not continue to minimise and dismiss our plight. It was really our cry for acknowledgement of the trauma we were experiencing as a result of these practices.

We have uncovered much more than we originally intended to.

Reading this Home Page will open your eyes to what will come to be seen as a shocking, socially engineered programme of separating babies from their mothers at birth. Having nothing whatsoever to do with the interest of the newborn infant.

The adoption of infants at birth has been a socially contrived - sanctioned evil designed to control illegitimacy at the expense of both mother and child.

Our Aims And Objectives.

Support: To provide confidential support and information through: a telephone service available to people separated by adoption and regular support meetings where mothers have the freedom to speak and be heard in a safe place.

Healing: To promote the process of healing the emotional damage caused by adoption separation and and secrecy.

Reunion: To assist in the reunion of family members separated by adoption.

Awareness: To promote community awareness and understanding of the lifelong consequences and social issues associated with adoption separation.

Research: To encourage and promote research in to the mental health consequences and social issues associated with adoption.

Redress: To seek acknowledgement, validation, accountability and redress for negligent adoption practices.

Reform: To encourage and promote legislative, social and administrative reforms that address the needs of the people already separated by adoption, and which promote systems of secure, alternative child care that respect the ongoing needs and dignity of both mother and child as an alternative to permanent separation

Liason: To liase with any Government departments or other agency, body or individual who may assist in promoting the aims and objectives of Origins.

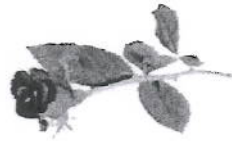
Newsletter: To offer our members a quarterly newsletter.

Origins Postal Address

**Origins Inc.
P.O. Box W18
Fairfield West NSW 2165
Phone (02) 9604 9352**

***"and there follows a mist and a weeping rain
.....and life is never the same again."***

.....



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Save our Children



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***Origins Inc Supporting People Separated by Adoption
Phone (02) 9604 9352***

Origins Logo designed by Lina Eve (copywrite)

Website designed and maintained by Lily Arthur

1969

	Males	Females	Total
Under one year	463	496	959
One year	34	37	71
From two to five years incl. .. .	105	88	193
From six to twelve years .. .	80	66	146
From thirteen to fifteen years .. .	18	17	35
From sixteen to twenty-one years .. .	10	27	37
Twenty-one years and over .. .	3	4	7
Totals	713	735	1,448
Legitimate children adopted .. .	75	90	165
Illegitimate children adopted .. .	638	645	1,283
Totals	713	735	1,448

Three males and four females over the age of 21 years were adopted. Since the operation of "The Adoption of Children Acts, 1964 to 1967," such adoptions can be made, conditional upon the person being single and being maintained and reared for a considerable period by the prospecting adopting parent or parents.

A good liaison has been maintained with the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs, and efforts are continuing to secure placements with Aboriginal parents for coloured children available for adoption. There is a reticence on the part of Aboriginal mothers to consent to the adoption of their children, and whilst there is a general acceptance of responsibility to care for the children of other Aborigines, there is not the same motivation to adopt children as exists in the white community. Applications are received from time to time from members of the white community to adopt Aboriginal children, but the Department exercises extreme care in this area because of the high risk of the application being motivated by sentiment.

Enquiries continue to be received for the adoption of Vietnamese and other Asian children, and it has been possible to meet the needs of these applicants by the placement of children of Asian extraction born in Queensland. In the case of Vietnamese children, it has been made quite clear that the Vietnamese Government does not favour the adoption of their children by people in foreign countries.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

"The Children's Services Act of 1965" (Part VIII) requires that, with specific exceptions, persons who are non-relatives and have children under 10 years apart from their parents in their custody for a period longer than 48 hours must be registered with the Department of Children's Services. This registration also includes the premises where the children will live. These provisions of the Act are designed to ensure that the environment is satisfactory and not prejudicial to the interests of children. In these circumstances placement is made by the parents by private arrangement. The registered persons are not foster parents within the meaning of the Act.

Seventy-eight persons and premises were registered to care for children under ten years of age at 30th June, 1969, and there were 95 children in this form of care. A total of 38 children were placed in this way during the year, and 23 were removed from such care. Officers of the Department visit these registered persons and premises from time to time to ensure compliance with the conditions of registration is being maintained.

Part VIII of the Act provides also for notification within a prescribed period, of births and deaths of illegitimate children, as well as containing provisions dealing with the ill-treatment, neglect and abandonment of children, together with powers to deal with offenders and to protect children.

During the year 1968-69, there were 3,196 ex-nuptial births notified to the Department, representing an increase of 87 over the previous year. This represents an increase of 2.8 per cent. over the previous year, as against 7.6 per cent. in 1967-68 over 1968-69. The continued increase in the number of children born out of wedlock remains a matter of concern. However, in interpreting these statistics, regard must be had for the fact that a substantial number of the children are born into de facto associations, many of which provide a stable home life for the children. During the year, 621 infants were born to such associations and 409 were to married women. The number of illegitimate children adopted during the year was 1,283.

The seven homes in Queensland providing accommodation for unmarried mothers have continued to be fully occupied. These Homes are conducted by the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the Salvation Army, the Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Church (Life Line). They render a very valuable service, helping girls through a most difficult

ment subsidizes capital expenditure, including alterations and improvements by Denominational bodies at these Homes.

The incidence of proven cases of cruelty to children is comparatively low. Many complaints of cruelty involving children are received by the Department, but, in a majority of cases, investigation shows that there is no substance in the complaints. There are others in which there is insufficient evidence to bring a charge; in many instances the persons making the complaints do not want to be involved in any legal outcome.

The Department is ever vigilant in relation to child cruelty, and it makes immediate enquiries into complaints and suspected cases. There is also a close liaison with the Police Department in this direction. The Hospital Service also co-operates closely and brings under notice for investigation, any cases of suspected "battering".

The penalties under the Children's Services Act for cruelty to children are \$400 or imprisonment for twelve months, or both fine and imprisonment. In addition, the provisions of the Criminal Code apply. Thirty-two parents or guardians were prosecuted for offences committed on children during the year 1968-69. These offences involved attempted murder, incest, manslaughter, bodily and grievous bodily harm, indecently dealing, assault on a female and ill-treatment.

LEGISLATION

"The Children's Services Act of 1965" and "The Adoption of Children Acts, 1964 to 1967" were not amended during the year.

The Children's Services Regulations were, however, amended on 17th October, 1968, to provide for:—

- (a) An increase from \$6.50 to \$7.50 in the amount paid weekly to Denominational Institutions and foster parents for the maintenance of children in care, this Regulation being effective from 3rd November, 1968; and
- (b) An increase in the amount of family assistance payable to a parent when not in receipt of a Commonwealth Social Service benefit to make such amount consistent with the increase granted at that time by the Commonwealth to "A" class widows. This increase applied from 13th October, 1968.

Regulations to prescribe the conduct and standard of child care centres have not proceeded because of legal difficulties which may involve an amendment of "The Children's Services Act of 1965."

CONFERENCE OF CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS

The tenth annual Conference of Child Welfare Administrators was held in Sydney from 28th April to 2nd May, 1969. This Conference comprises representatives from the States and Commonwealth Territories, and this year also included the New Zealand Director of Child Welfare.

It discusses matters of interstate co-operation, such as proposals for legislation to control the interstate movement of children in care, as well as the functioning of uniform adoption legislation.

The conference discussions with regard to adoption were based on a report prepared by Commonwealth and State Adoption Officers following a meeting held in Sydney on 18th and 19th March, 1969. This Conference of Adoption Officers reviewed existing procedures, as well as the functioning of the uniform legislation. As a result of the discussion of the report of this Conference by the Child Welfare Administrators, recommendations will be forthcoming to further improve adoption processes.

The Conference of Child Welfare Administrators has again provided a valuable avenue of contact between Directors of Child Welfare throughout Australia and New Zealand and, without doubt, has been instrumental in facilitating co-operation between the States and Commonwealth Territories, as well as the Sister Dominion.

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Of the 841 children associated with the Department in the Northern District, there are 238 children in care, 515 assisted children and 88 children under supervision. Apart from supervision, the number of children in these categories is lower than in 1967-68. The increase in the number of children under supervision is, of course, reflected throughout the State generally.

The daily average number of children resident at "Carramar" was 36 as against 33 in 1967-68 and 24 in 1966-67. There were 28 children in residence at 1st July, 1968, and 29 at the close of the year. There were, however, 337 movements of children to and from the Home, as compared with 298 in the previous year. The greatest number of children in residence at any one time was 44, and there

ATTACHMENT 3

ADOPTION

"The Adoption of Children Acts, 1964 to 1967," empower Director, Department of Children's Services, to arrange options and make adoption orders.

The Department of Children's Services is the only adoption authority in Queensland. The Acts do not permit operation of private adoption agencies, as is the case in some other States of Australia. Unless a child is to be adopted by a relative, any private adoption arrangements are illegal and constitute an offence under the Acts.

The Department conducts all matters relating to adoption on a strictly confidential basis and endeavours to effect the most appropriate placements for the children, whose interests in every respect are paramount. Persons who desire to adopt children should therefore have no hesitation in contacting the Department.

A total of 1,371 adoption orders, 15 less than in 1966-67, were made during the year. The number of applications for adoption has, on the other hand, increased by 89 to 1,735. These figures indicate that the waiting period in some categories has lengthened. There are, however, a number of factors which the Acts require the Director to take into consideration and which cause variation in waiting time. These factors relate to age of applicants, physical appearance, state of health, education, religious upbringing and convictions, and that the welfare and interests of the child will be promoted by the placement with particular applicants. The Director must also take into consideration any wish that a natural parent expresses in regard to the religion in which the child shall be raised.

Particulars of adoption activities are contained in the following tables:—

Applications received	1,735
Adoption orders issued	1,371
Applications refused	6
Applications withdrawn	54
Applications deferred	58
Adopted by spouse	261
Adopted by relatives	68
Adopted by non-relatives	1,042

OCCUPATIONS OF ADOPTERS

Professional, Managerial and Clerical	Skilled	Unskilled	Pensioners, &c.	Farmers and Graziers
219	539	451	19	143

ANNUAL INCOME RANGE OF ADOPTERS

Under \$1,800	\$1,800 to \$2,800	\$2,800 to \$4,000	Over \$4,000
30	675	382	284

Particulars as to ages of children adopted are as follows—

	Males	Females	Total
Under one year	482	501	983
One year	29	26	55
From two to five years incl.	81	73	154
From six to twelve years	64	56	120
From thirteen to fifteen years	12	10	22
From sixteen to twenty-one years	13	17	30
Twenty-one years and over	4	3	7
Totals	685	686	1,371
Legitimate children adopted	59	67	126
Illegitimate children adopted	626	619	1,245
Totals	685	686	1,371

It will be noted that four males and three females over the age of 21 years were adopted. This has only been possible since the operation of "The Adoption of Children Acts, 1964 to 1967," and such adoptions are made conditional upon the person being single and being maintained and reared for a considerable period by the prospective adopting parent or parents.

The co-operation with the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs continues most satisfactorily and, at present, attempts are being made to secure placements with Aboriginal parents for coloured children available for adoption. Although applications are received from time to time from members of

the white community for the Department exercises extreme care in this area because of the high risk of the application being motivated by sentiment.

Many enquiries have been received for the adoption of Vietnamese children, and this matter was the subject of a Conference with Commonwealth Officers. The Commonwealth has ascertained the attitude of the Vietnamese Government to their children going to other countries, and it has been made quite clear that the Vietnamese Government does not favour the adoption of their children by people in foreign countries.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

"The Children's Services Act of 1965" (Part VIII) provides that, with certain exceptions, persons who are non-relatives and have children under ten years apart from their parents in their care for a longer period than 48 hours must be registered with the Department of Children's Services. This registration includes both the person and the premises and is designed to ensure that the environment is satisfactory and not prejudicial to the interests of a child. In these circumstances placement is made by the parents by private arrangement, and the registered persons are not foster parents within the meaning of the Act.

At 30th June, 1968, 75 persons and premises were registered to care for children under ten years of age and there were 80 children in this form of care. A total of 37 children were placed in this way during the year, and 63 were removed from such care. These registered persons and premises are visited by officers of the Department from time to time to ensure compliance with the conditions of registration are being maintained.

Part VIII of the Act provides, in addition, for the notification within a prescribed period of births and deaths of illegitimate children. It also contains provisions dealing with the ill-treatment, neglect and abandonment of children, together with powers to deal with offenders and for the taking of steps which will give protection to children so involved.

During the year 1967-68, there were 3,109 ex-nuptial births notified to the Department, representing an increase of 219 or 7.6 per cent. over the previous year. It is apparent that the continued increase in the number of children born out of wedlock remains a matter of grave concern. However, in interpreting these statistics, regard should be had to the fact that a substantial number of the children are born out of *de facto* associations, many of which provide a stable upbringing for the children. During the year 510 infants were born to such associations and 358 were to married women. The number of illegitimate children adopted during the year was 1,245.

Accommodation provided for unmarried mothers by Denominational bodies has continued to be in constant demand. There are seven such Homes in Queensland conducted by the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the Salvation Army, the Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Church (Life Line); and they are rendering a very valuable service by helping many girls through a difficult period. Their co-operation with the Department is of considerable assistance in carrying out its functions.

The Department subsidizes capital expenditure, including alterations and improvements by Denominational bodies at these Homes.

The incidence of proved cases of cruelty to children is low. Many complaints of cruelty involving children are received by the Department but, in most cases, investigation has shown that there is no substance in the complaint. There are others in which there is insufficient evidence to bring a charge.

The Department is ever vigilant in relation to child cruelty, and it makes immediate enquiries into complaints and suspected cases. The Hospital Service co-operates closely with the Department in this field and brings under notice for investigation, any cases of suspected "battering". There is also a close liaison with the Police Department in this direction.

There were 26 parents or legal guardians prosecuted for cruelty or ill-treatment of children in the twelve months ended 30th June, 1968. Of these 15 were prosecuted for sex offences, whilst the others involved murder, assault and ill-treatment.

The penalties under the Children's Services Act for cruelty to children are \$400 or imprisonment for twelve months, or both fine and imprisonment. In addition, the provisions of the Criminal Code apply.

AGES OF CHILDREN ADOPTED

	Males	Females	Total
Under one year	488	491	979
One year	62	46	108
Two to five years inclusive	95	97	192
Six to twelve years inclusive	71	79	150
Thirteen to fifteen years inclusive	15	18	33
Sixteen to twenty years	20	14	34
Twenty-one years and over	1	3	4
Totals	752	748	1,500
Legitimate children adopted	65	65	130
Illegitimate children adopted	687	683	1,370
Totals	752	748	1,500

A sound liaison has been maintained with the Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs and efforts are continuing to secure placements for aboriginal or coloured children. Generally there is difficulty in placing coloured children, and in recent months there has been an increase in the number of babies being offered for adoption of Maori extraction. These are not readily placeable in Queensland. Applications are received from time to time from Europeans to adopt full blood aboriginal children. However, the Department exercises extreme care in this area because of the high risk of the applicants being motivated by sentiment.

Enquiries have recently been received regarding the possibility of adopting Peruvian children who have been orphaned in the earthquake disaster in that country. It is considered, however, by adoption authorities generally that not enough study has yet been made into the effects on children of being adopted into a culture other than their own, and that any proposed solution of the Peruvian problem by adoption may only lead to further disruption and trauma for the children involved.

In regard to children not readily adoptable, departmental practice is to place them with foster parents with a view to adoption. In the main, these babies are born to unmarried mothers and adoption may be deferred on medical advice, either for observation or because they have a condition requiring medical attention. Their future would be institutional unless special efforts were made to place them in foster care.

The number of these infants taken into care is increasing and continuity of placement must be maintained to ensure that there is room in departmental homes for incoming infants.

The Department of Social Medicine of the University of Queensland recently carried out a survey of these deferred adoptions. The survey, the results of which were received in November, 1969, was carried out in relation to the year 1967-68. The main conclusions were that "approximately 14 per cent. of proposed adoptions for the year 1967-68 were deferred, the main reasons for deferment being physical or mental disability, followed by racial background. Social factors and delay caused by investigations into hereditary traits accounted for the remainder. At the time of the survey approximately one third of the children were adopted, one half were in foster homes and only 8 per cent remained in Institutions. The system of deferred adoptions would seem to work well since only a small percentage were eventually left in Institutions."

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Efforts are being made to improve the liaison between the Department and hospitals in Brisbane and Ipswich for the reporting of cases where cruelty or ill-treatment of children is suspected. To this end a particular Child Welfare Officer has been appointed to act as a contact between the Department and the Social Work Departments of the hospitals concerned.

The Department is mindful of its responsibilities under the Act to protect children, particularly with respect to the battered child.

There is a low incidence of proven cases of cruelty. Many complaints are received by the Department, and although there is a high proportion in which there is no substance, there are many others in which cruelty and ill-treatment could have occurred but there is insufficient evidence to lay charges.

Persons generally, whilst willing to report cases of cruelty, ill-treatment and neglect, are reluctant to give evidence. In most cases, it reverts to the Police or Child Welfare Officers to either witness or obtain firm evidence of the cruelty or neglect to enable prosecution to ensue.

This is an aspect of the Department's work which requires constant attention, because the fact that potential offenders know that the Department is forever vigilant in this field acts in many instances as an effective deterrent.

In addition to penalties under the Children's Services Act the provisions of the Criminal Code can also apply.

During the year 1969-70, 24 parents or guardians were prosecuted for cruelty, neglect and ill-treatment of children. These offences involved indecently assaulting a female, incest, serious assault, ill-treatment of children, manslaughter and common assault.

The Children's Services Act requires that, with certain exceptions, persons who are non-relatives and have in their custody children under 10 years of age living apart from their parents are required to be registered with the Department if the period of custody is longer than 48 hours. This registration involves both the person and also the premises in which the children live. These persons would not be foster parents under the Children's Services Act but usually would have accepted children into their custody by a private arrangement with the parents.

The number of persons and premises registered to care for children under 10 years of age at 30th June, 1970, was 70 and there were 92 children in this form of care. A total of 42 children were placed in this way during the year and 45 were removed from such care.

Officers of the Department visit these registered persons and premises from time to time to ensure compliance with the Children's Services Act.

The births and deaths of children born out of wedlock must be notified to the Department within a prescribed period. During the year 1969-70, there were 3,367 ex-nuptial births notified to the Department, representing an increase of 171 or 5.3 per cent. over the previous year's figures. There was an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the previous year. A substantial number of these children are born into stable de facto associations, whilst others are born to unmarried mothers not living in a de facto relationship. During the year 543 children were born into de facto associations and the number of ex-nuptial children adopted during the year was 1,370. There were 346 children born to married women where the husband was not the father of the child.

Services for unmarried mothers are provided by seven Homes conducted by Denominational bodies. The Roman Catholic Church provides a service through the Holy Cross Home at Woolloowin, Brisbane, and the Anglican Church through St. Mary's Home, Toowong, and the Women's Shelter at Spring Hill, Brisbane. The Salvation Army has two Homes, Boothville at Windsor in Brisbane, and Bethesda, Rockhampton. Kiononia at Chelmer is conducted by the Methodist Church (Life Line), and the Presbyterian Church provides a Home (Kookuna) at Redcliffe. These Homes render a valuable service which is utilized to the full. The Homes co-operate closely with the Department and are a valuable help in enabling the Department to fulfil its responsibilities with respect to the children. The Department subsidises capital expenditure, including alterations and improvements, at these Homes.

Complaints have been received from time to time concerning the tattooing of children. The extent to which young people are being tattooed is not known but there is a small percentage of boys and girls in care of the Department who have been tattooed prior to coming into care. One or two cases have come under notice of girls being heavily tattooed by professional tattooists on all parts of the body and the girls and their parents have later desired the tattoos removed. This of course is a painful and difficult surgical process and, in the Department's experience, it has been used to remove tattoos from parts of a child's body which will show whilst wearing clothing.

As a consequence the Children's Services Act was amended during the year to provide that a person shall not tattoo a child or otherwise make upon the skin of a child any permanent mark or design resembling a tattoo. The prescribed penalty is \$400 or imprisonment for six months or both such fine and imprisonment. The Commissioner of Police and all known tattooing artists in Queensland have been made aware of the changed legal position in this regard.

LEGISLATION

"The Children's Services Act of 1965" was amended during the year and the amending Bill was assented to on 16th April, 1970. The Act was amended in the following particulars:—

1. To clarify further that a child for whom financial assistance only was paid under "The State Children Acts, 1911 to 1955," is not a child in care under the Children's Services Act.
2. To enable undertakings by parents and guardians to contribute to the maintenance of their children, given under the repealed "The State Children Acts, 1911 to 1955," to be enforceable under the Children's Services Act.
3. To amend the definition of "day care centre"—
 - (i) To include kindergartens. Kindergartens were previously excluded making it possible for persons conducting day care centres to avoid the regulations by describing such centres as kindergartens.

The majority of babies adopted are born to unmarried mothers. Where an approach is received from a married woman to have her expected child accepted for adoption, she must satisfy the Director that the best interests of all concerned will be served by proceeding. Medical reasons, or perhaps the possible breakdown of the marriage because the father of the expected child is someone other than her husband, may provide sufficient cause to accept a child for adoption in such circumstances.

Particulars of adoption activities are contained in the following tables:—

Applications received	.. .. .	1,938
Adoption orders issued	.. .. .	1,562
Applications refused	.. .. .	57
Applications withdrawn	.. .. .	250
Applications deferred	.. .. .	146
Adopted by spouse	.. .. .	304
Adopted by relatives	.. .. .	57
Adopted by non-relatives	.. .. .	1,201

OCCUPATIONS OF ADOPTERS

Professional, Managerial and Clerical	Skilled	Unskilled	Pensioners, &c.	Farmers and Graziers
603	468	344	12	135

ANNUAL INCOME RANGE OF ADOPTERS

Under \$1,900	\$1,900 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$5,000	Over \$5,000
23	470	689	380

Particulars as to ages of children adopted are as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Under one year	576	530	1,106
One year	35	28	63
Two to five years inclusive	87	82	169
Six to twelve years inclusive	78	83	161
Thirteen to fifteen years inclusive	14	24	38
Sixteen to twenty-one years	8	15	23
Twenty-one years and over	2	..	2
Totals	800	762	1,562
Legitimate children adopted	67	77	144
Illegitimate children adopted	733	685	1,418
Totals	800	762	1,562

The usual problems continue to be encountered in the placement of coloured children and great care must be exercised to ensure that people of European extraction applying to adopt these children are properly motivated and that the relationship will not break down as the child grows older.

Enquiries are received from time to time regarding the possibility of adopting children from foreign countries. These must be approached with extreme caution because of the high degree of risk of the applicants being motivated by sentiment. It is doubtful if sufficient knowledge has been acquired regarding the effects on such children of being removed into a culture other than their own.

The practice of placing children not readily adoptable, because of some physical, mental or social disability, is continuing with marked success. This is done on a deferred adoption basis, the applicants being placed in the same situation as foster parents until such time as the success of the adoption can be assured. The number of these cases is increasing, there being 107 adopted in 1970-71, and the rate of effective placements must be maintained so that room in departmental institutions will be available to accommodate the flow of new admissions.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Liaison has been maintained with the Social Work Departments of hospitals in Brisbane and Ipswich for the reporting of cases which could involve cruelty to or ill-treatment of children. A child care officer has been detailed especially to investigate each case where suspicious circumstances exist, particularly with respect to the battered child.

It is usually very difficult to obtain sufficient evidence to seek orders of care and protection in respect of the child or to lay charges of cruelty against parents or other persons.

All complaints are investigated and, although there is a high proportion in which there is no substance, there are many others where varying degrees of suspicion exist but which cannot be proven. Regrettably, there are parents who vent their frustrations and anxieties on their young children, and in many cases which come under notice the visible evidence may represent only a small part of the total picture. There are undoubtedly many instances arising of ill-treatment or neglect of children which are not reported through people not wishing to become involved.

The Children's Services Act requires that, with certain exceptions, persons who are non-relatives and have in their custody children under ten years of age living apart from their parents are required to be registered with the Department if the period of custody is longer than 48 hours. This registration involves both the person and also the premises in which the children live. These persons would not be foster parents under the Children's Services Act but usually would have accepted children into their custody by a private fostering arrangement with the parents.

The number of persons and premises registered to care for children under ten years of age at 30th June, 1971, was 73 and there were 100 children in this form of care. A total of 60 children were placed in this way during the year and 45 were removed from such care. Officers of the Department visit these registered persons and premises from time to time to ensure compliance with the Children's Services Act.

The births and deaths of children born out of wedlock must be notified to the Department within a prescribed period. During the year 1970-71 there were 3,787 ex-nuptial births notified to the Department representing an increase of 420 or 12.5 per cent. over the previous year's figure. There was an increase of 5.3 per cent. in the previous year and over the past five years, the percentage of increase has been 31 per cent. A substantial number of these children are born into stable defacto associations whilst others are born to unmarried mothers not living in a defacto relationship. During the year 627 children were born into defacto associations and the number of ex-nuptial children adopted during the year was 1,418. There were 431 children born to married women where the husband was not the father of the child.

Services for unmarried mothers are provided by seven Homes conducted by denominational bodies. The Roman Catholic Church provides a service through the Holy Cross Home at Woolloowin, Brisbane, and the Anglican Church through St. Mary's Home, Toowong, and the Women's Shelter at Spring Hill, Brisbane. The Salvation Army has two Homes, "Boothville" at Windsor in Brisbane, and "Bethesda", Rockhampton. "Kiononia" at Chelmer is conducted by the Methodist Church (Life Line), and the Presbyterian Church provides a Home, "Koolkuna" at Redcliffe. These Homes render a valuable service which is utilized to the full. The Homes co-operate closely with the Department and are a valuable help in enabling the Department to fulfil its responsibilities with respect to the children. The Department subsidises capital expenditure, including alterations and improvements, at these Homes.

There have been two prosecutions during the year under the amendment to the Children's Services Act last year making it an offence to tattoo a child. In the first prosecution of this type in Queensland a tattooist was fined \$40 for tattooing a 15-year-old boy's arm. The other charge was dismissed on the grounds that the prosecution had failed to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

CONFERENCES OF CHILD WELFARE MINISTERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Ministers responsible for child welfare in Australia met in conference for the second time in Hobart on Friday, 19th March, 1971. The Commonwealth Minister for Social Services also attended. The twelfth annual Conference of Child Welfare Administrators preceded the Ministers' Conference from 15th to 18th March, 1971.

A wide range of matters associated with child welfare was listed on the agenda of the Administrators' Conference and, stemming from this, the Ministers received submissions concerning many important and contentious items such as the procedures followed with the administration of the *States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act 1968*, recognition of New Zealand adoptions, employment of children in public performances, age of criminal responsibility, roles of the Commonwealth and the States in the provision of assistance to handicapped children, &c.

All Ministers were of the opinion that the Conference was well worthwhile and should be held annually as it provided them with a valuable opportunity for an exchange of views and also to become personally acquainted.

Queensland will host both the Ministers' Conference and the Child Welfare Administrators' Conference in 1972. The necessary arrangements for the Conferences will be put in hand at the appropriate time.

Adoptions

1712

Adoption statistics for the year under review are as follows:—

	1970-71	1971-72
Applications received	1,938	2,294
Adoption orders issued	1,562	1,774
Applications refused	57	35
Applications withdrawn	250	257
Applications deferred	146	171
Adopted by spouse	304	357
Adopted by relatives	57	58
Adopted by non-relatives	1,201	1,359

The Director, Department of Children's Services is the sole authority in Queensland for the arranging of adoptions and making adoption orders, pursuant to "The Adoption of Children Acts, 1964 to 1967." The operation of private agencies is not permitted in Queensland as in some other States, where arrangements also differ in that adoptions are made through varying judicial processes.

Adoption arrangements made privately between parties constitute an offence under the Acts except in the case where the child to be adopted is a relative within the meaning of the Acts.

All matters relating to adoptions are dealt with on a strictly confidential basis and every endeavour is made to effect the most appropriate placement for the children. At all times the welfare and interest of the children is the paramount consideration.

A total of 1,774 adoption orders were made during the year, an increase of 212 on the previous year. This is the greatest number of orders issued in Queensland in any one year. The number of applications received also exceeded last year's figure, being 2,294 as against 1,938.

The waiting time has fluctuated throughout the year but in some categories has lengthened. This is influenced by a number of factors which must be taken into consideration to comply with the provisions of the Acts, and include the age of the applicants, physical appearance, conditions of health, education, religious upbringing and other factors. The Director must have regard to any wish of the natural parent, or person required to give a consent, concerning the religion in which the child is to be raised. Furthermore, the Director is required to satisfy himself as far as possible that the welfare and interests of the child will be promoted by placement with a particular applicant.

Children adopted are mainly babies born to unmarried mothers, but there are a number of married women who approach the Department to have their babies adopted. In these latter cases, the Director must be satisfied that the interests of all concerned will be served before proceeding. Medical reasons or where the father of the expected child is someone other than the woman's husband may provide sufficient cause for acceptance. The welfare of other members of the family has to be considered should the stability of the marriage be threatened by the refusal of the husband to accept the child.

Occupation of Adopters:—

Professional, Managerial, Clerical	Skilled	Unskilled	Pensioners	Farmers and Graziers
815	465	349	15	130

Efforts in the placement of aboriginal and children with other racial backgrounds, continue to present problems and great care must be taken to ensure that applicants are properly motivated and that a breakdown will not occur particularly as the child grows older.

Likewise with enquiries received regarding the adoption of children from foreign countries, the Department must exercise extreme caution in this area because of the high risk of applicants being motivated by sentiment. It is also doubtful if sufficient knowledge has been acquired regarding the effects of such children being removed into another culture and that the solution of their problem by adoption may only lead to further disruption and trauma for the children involved.

Particulars of adoptions by relatives:—

Relationship to Child Adopted	Males	Females	Total
Natural parent(s)*	164	193	357
Grand parent(s)	16	10	26
Aunt and/or uncle	10	10	20
Brother or sister	1	1	2
Other relatives	4	6	10
TOTAL	195	220	415

* Indicates adoption by spouse, i.e., adoption into the marriage in the case of remarriage or adoption of a mother's illegitimate child into the marriage where she has married someone other than the child's father.

Annual income range of non-relative adopters:—

Annual Income	Number
\$	
Less than 3,000	211
3,000-3,999	438
4,000-4,999	240
5,000-5,999	189
6,000-6,999	75
7,000-7,999	55
8,000-9,999	37
10,000 and over	93
Not stated	21
	1,359

Particulars as to ages and legitimacy of children adopted are as follows:—

Age	By Non-relatives			By Relatives			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 3 months	542	520	1,062	..	1	1	542	521	1,063
3 months and under 6 months	31	25	56	2	1	3	33	26	59
6 months and under 1 year	30	23	53	4	3	7	34	26	60
1 year and under 2 years	58	46	104	9	10	19	67	56	123
2 years and under 6 years	34	29	63	80	94	174	114	123	237
6 years and under 13 years	9	7	16	60	82	142	69	89	158
13 years and under 21 years	2	1	3	35	29	64	37	30	67
21 years and over	2	..	2	5	..	5	7	..	7
TOTAL	708	651	1,359	195	220	415	903	871	1,774
Legitimate children adopted	11	9	20	84	90	174	95	99	194
Illegitimate children adopted	697	642	1,339	111	130	241	808	772	1,580
TOTAL	708	651	1,359	195	220	415	903	871	1,774

1973

Adoptions

The sole authority in Queensland for the arranging of adoptions and making adoption orders, pursuant to the Adoption of Children Act 1964-1972, is the Director, Department of Children's Services. Adoption agencies are not permitted to function.

All matters relating to adoptions are dealt with on a confidential basis and every endeavour is made to effect the most appropriate placement for the children. At all times the welfare and interest of the children is the paramount consideration.

The waiting time in the various categories has varied through the year but towards the latter part a gradual build up of approved applicants has been apparent. Whilst the usual factors which must be taken into consideration to comply with the provisions of the Act have had some bearing on this situation, the main reason for the diminishing numbers of infants being offered for adoption, is the increasing number of mothers exercising their right to keep their babies. The Department is most careful in dealing with this aspect, as the decision is one which rests entirely with the mother and in the case of legitimate children also the father.

This tendency is nation wide and indeed in some other States the appropriate authorities have ceased accepting applications or have drastically curtailed their intake.

A total of 1678 adoption orders were made during the year, a decrease of 96 on the previous year contributed to by an increase of 35 in adoption by relatives and a decrease of 131, a significant 9.64 per cent., in adoption by non-relatives. The number of applications to adopt processed also decreased from 2,294 in 1971-1972 to 2,068.

Children adopted are mainly babies born to unmarried mothers, but there are a number of married women who approach the Department to have their babies adopted. In these latter cases, the Director must be satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and interests of the family are served before proceeding. Instances of exceptional circumstances are, medical reasons, or where the father of the expected child is someone other than the woman's husband. The welfare of the whole family has to be considered and should the stability of the marriage be threatened by the refusal of the husband to accept the child.

Efforts in the placement of aboriginal and children with other racial background, although presenting some problems, have continued with success and every effort is made to ensure that applicants are properly motivated and that the future will bring security to the child.

Inquiries regarding the adoption of children from foreign countries continue to be received and extreme care is exercised by the Department in dealing with such inquiries, as there is a real possibility in applicants being motivated by sentiment. The Act prohibits adoption arrangements being made privately between parties and consequently the admission of children from countries outside Queensland for adoption is restricted to those cases where a relationship exists between the parties concerned and only then following exhaustive inquiries in both countries as to the overall position and the likelihood of the placement being a success.

The placement of children, not readily adoptable is continuing, and indeed a waiting list, particularly for girls has now been established. The number adopted for the current year in this category was 200.

During 1972 two medical students conducted a survey of deferred adoptions in Queensland to determine the reasons for the deferments. The investigation was based on a sample from the twelve months period ended 30th June, 1971. A similar survey was previously carried out in relation to the year 1968-69.

The reasons for deferments were:—

	Per cent.
Congenital abnormalities	21
Mixed racial origin	19
Physical abnormalities (including respiratory depression at birth, developmental lags, spasticity infections and prematurity) ..	40
Medical and psychiatric history of parents ..	9
Social reasons (including indecision of mother in signing consent, anti-social behaviour of mother)	9
Reason not stated	2
	100%

This survey disclosed also that approximately 14% of infants made available for adoption were deferred. A similar result was evident from the previous survey from the year 1968-69.

Particulars as to ages and legitimacy of children adopted are as follows:—

Age	By Non-relatives			By Relatives			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 month	280	284	564	..	..	..	280	284	564
1 month and under 3 months	209	197	406	..	..	..	209	197	406
3 months and under 6 months	15	33	48	2	..	2	17	33	50
6 months and under 1 year	23	19	42	7	4	11	30	23	53
1 year and under 2 years	41	41	82	11	15	26	52	56	108
2 years and under 6 years	38	32	70	86	89	175	124	121	245
6 years and under 13 years	5	9	14	91	88	179	96	97	193
13 years and under 21 years .. .. .	..	..	..	20	33	53	20	33	53
21 years and over	1	1	2	2	2	4	3	3	6
TOTAL	612	616	1,228	219	231	450	831	847	1,678
Legitimate children adopted	7	9	16	84	90	174	91	99	190
Illegitimate children adopted	605	607	1,212	135	141	276	740	748	1,488
TOTAL	612	616	1,228	219	231	450	831	847	1,678

Illegitimate babies

increase

The number of illegitimate babies born in New South Wales has risen from 4,000 in 1962 to 7,000 last year.

This was said yesterday by the Deputy Director of the Department of Child and Social Welfare (Mr. W. Langshaw) at a luncheon meeting of the Legacy Club.

"An increasing number of illegitimate babies are handed over for adoption yearly," Mr. Langshaw said. "This is a contributing factor in the shortened waiting period undergone by childless couples."

"A few years ago this was estimated at four to five years."

"It is now no more than 12 to 15 months."

"An adverse effect of this boom in the adoption business," said Mr. Langshaw, "is the fact that it is increasingly hard to place babies with slight physical defects, such as cleft palates."

"Our current placement figures of 30 a month are far too low," he concluded.

\$38 FOR A NEW 'DAUGHTER'



Warrant Officer and Mrs. Frost, of Anzac Village, Holsworthy, with their daughters Meredith, 11, and Penelope, 8, an Aboriginal they adopted when she was two years old.

19.10.63

Adoptions

I READ with interest the article by Mr. A. W. ... headed "Adopted babies to get a new deal" (D.T., 25.3.65).

My interest, sickened somewhat on reading "There just aren't any easy ways of adopting a child, except in an isolated case or two of baby black-marketing."

I myself have prepared many hundreds of private applications for orders of adoption. In one only of such cases was there ever reason even for suspicion of "black-marketing" and that case occurred 19 years ago.

I personally take umbrage at the inference to be drawn that in the cases of the 951 children stated to have been privately adopted during last year, there was an element of "baby black-marketing."

For the information of those persons interested, there are numerous people in this State — including doctors and others — who, for humane reasons only, take it upon themselves to assist married couples, who have no children or in their own opinion an insufficient number of children, in adopting babies.

For my own part, I would say that some of the most unfortunate placements of children which have come to my notice have been made by so-called "adoption agencies."

11.10.65

UNWANTED CHILDREN SET PROBLEM

Sun Herald
22/11/70

By MAREE VAN STEYN

Unwanted children were creating a crippling problem for adoption societies, State authorities said this week.

Last year the number of children adopted in NSW rose to 2,346, compared with 1,715 in 1968-69 — an increase of 25 per cent.

But the number of children that could not be placed in homes also rose.

A spokesman for the Child Welfare Dept said: "Some parents wait years for the right baby. A child who perhaps might have been their own."

"In this selectivity some children are inevitably passed over."

He said such children faced the uncertain future of foster homes or orphanages or life in State institutions.

Some would never know what it was to be part of a family.

final adoption papers are usually signed within this period.

The parents relinquish all rights to the child, in access, name and control.

Some babies are deliberately temporarily withheld from adoption by the department. If they are born mentally or physically handicapped, the department may make them wards of the State, place them in hospitals or with foster parents.

Occasionally children whose natural parents have a history of infirmity or disease are held in hospital for examination to ensure that these have not been passed on to the child.

When a child is rejected for adoption, it is usually placed in a temporary or permanent foster home with a ready-made family.

At present the department is desperately seeking foster parents for young male babies.

"Everyone seems to want little girls, and more boys are born than girls," the spokesman said.

Unwanted children can spend months, sometimes years in foster homes awaiting adoption. Each year their chances diminish.

Reasons

There are three major reasons why some infants are slow to be adopted or are rejected completely. They are: physical or mental handicaps, being of mixed race, or children who had been deserted by their parents who refuse to sign adoption papers or cannot be traced.

Most babies are adopted from birth.

They are usually placed with adoptive parents within four weeks of birth and

Deferred

One centre has 24 children awaiting adoption. 13 of them of mixed blood. Some have been there for several months.

Of the 2,346 children adopted last year, only three were Aborigines, and only 95 of mixed race.

Some prospective parents are deterred by the background of a child's parents 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 a 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.

BABY IN 11 HOMES

Children who cannot be placed the department tries to put in foster homes.

I visited one home where an 18-month-old child had been in 11 different foster homes. It had been accepted by adoptive parents, but was rejected before the final papers were signed.

The emotional upheavals were so great, that baby is under constant mild sedation. And its future is still not decided.

Children of mixed blood are hardest to place.

Where they have been abandoned by parents the department often insists that infants be made wards of the State.

This often applies to the children of unmarried mothers who have unsuccessfully tried to keep them.

The consent of one or both parents is an essential of adoption.

The courts are empowered to over-ride this requirement but will only do so after exhaustive searches for either the mother or father.

Should she adopt an aboriginal?

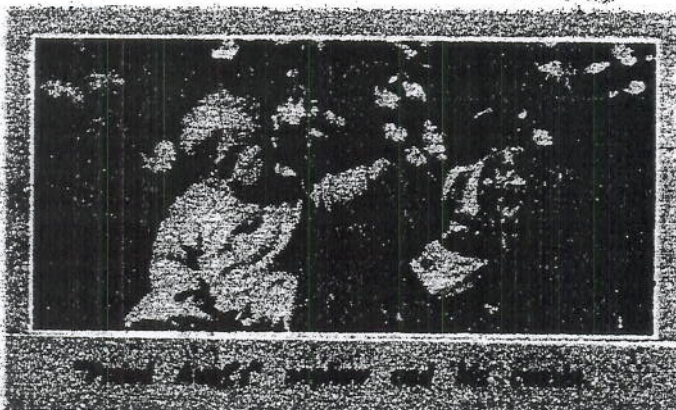
TWO of my sisters and one brother are aborigines, and I love them as much as I do my own brothers. At first we were worried about them making friends, but they have more friends than they could ever wish for. After a while people grow used to their dark skins and take no notice of them. Denise is the youngest. We have had her since she was ten months old, and she is now nearly five. She knows she is darker than we are. In fact, she calls herself "Ninny," which is short for piccaninny. In the summer-time she laughs at us because we sunbake for hours trying to make our skins darker. Then there is Della. She is 11 and a big help to my mother, especially with the younger children. She is very excited at the moment because I told her that I want her to be my junior bridesmaid for my wedding next year. Denise is going to be flowergirl. Next there is Eddie. He is nine and looks like an angel with his beautiful wide smile. Sometimes you find an odd person who frowns on a dark person, but if the children know right from the start that they are a little different in color from the rest of the family, they don't take any notice. — *J. Woodforth, Yagoona, N.S.W.*

I ATTENDED high school in a district which had a training home for aboriginal girls and I was one of the many who voted in one of these girls as "house" captain at school. Another girl from the home narrowly missed being school captain. Both were

● **How would teenagers feel and behave if an aboriginal child were adopted into their family or social group, asked "Black and White" (T.W. 28/9/60). She and her husband, she said, were thinking of adopting one into their own family of two boys. Most readers urge her to do so.**

good at sport as well as academic work. I liked them and they were very popular. I wonder just how far these girls would go if they had the opportunities you are prepared to give some little girl? By all means adopt an aboriginal. — *Jennifer Rees, Cobargo, N.S.W.*

MY sister adopted a black baby boy who is 2½ years old. He is loved by all the family, and her own children are as proud of him as anyone could be of his brother. The family have never had any reason to regret their decision to adopt him. I enclose a photograph (below) of him playing with one of his white cousins. — *"Proud Aunt," Dorrigo, N.S.W.*



I AM 18 and the color question has worried me for several years. I have several colored friends, and I do feel there is a growing awakening among teenagers of the futility of color bars and of the moral issues involved. I would like to have a colored brother or sister. — *J. R. Tomlinson, Brisbane.*

AN adopted child's place in society depends on the place given to her in her home. If you, as parents, treat her as your own child, giving her love and understanding, and your own boys treat her as their sister, then society will accept her, as it accepts you. I say go ahead. — *"Go Ahead," Woodville, S.A.*

A TRUE friend doesn't pick and choose people for their color but for their character. If this aboriginal girl has a good and pleasant character, anyone who would not associate with her because of her color wouldn't be a worthy friend, anyway. At school we had many aborigines, and nine out of ten of those I got to know were just the same as whites. — *Jillian Leaman, Mosman Park, W.A.*

I FEEL it would be unwise to adopt a dark girl. As a teenager she would find it hard to mix and have boy-friends as other teenagers do. Later it would be hard for her to find a marriage partner, as inter-marriages are not really accepted, and also she would not be able to go back to her tribe and adapt herself to the life there. — *"Hopefully Helpful," Beaumaris, Vic.*

MY next-door neighbors have an 18-year-old dark boy boarding with them. He is in our church group, in one of our football teams, and in other activities in the town, and is well liked. — *Patricia Lawrence, Nambucca Heads, N.S.W.*

ABORIGINES are different in color and custom from whites and because of this many are treated cruelly. Although you may treat this child lovingly in the home, I feel little could be done to give her a happy social life. As a teenager, I would strongly advise against your adopting this child. — *"Doubting," Tamworth, N.S.W.*

p 40

Black adoption plan winds down

THE VICTORIAN

Government is winding down the placement of Aboriginal children in long-term foster care of white families because such adoptions hardly ever succeed.

The main problem has been that most white families assiduously try to deny the aboriginality of their adopted or fostered child.

These conclusions come from Mollie Dyer, director of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, now advising the State Government.

Dyer says that Victorian State Welfare Department statistics showed a 90 per cent breakdown rate when Aboriginal children were fostered or adopted by white parents.

"State welfare agencies," she said, "would ask a prospective couple: 'Do you consider an Aboriginal child is different from a non-Aboriginal child?'"

"If the couple said 'no,' they got the child. Our agency asks the same question. If the couple says that an Aboriginal child is not different, that's 10 strikes against them."

Dyer says that an Aboriginal child raised without an understanding of his roots and without association with Aboriginal people, is most likely to suffer an identity crisis in adolescence.

That is when society throws his aboriginality up in his face. The first blow is commonly felt when he learns that girls aren't allowed to go out with him.

BY ADELE HORIN

stemmed from an ethnocentric belief that white middle-class child-rearing practices were the only acceptable ones.

"For example, the assessment is made that a grandmother cannot care for a child even though the grandmother is the backbone of the Aboriginal community when it comes to children," Dyer said.

The Victorian Social Welfare Department now makes no placement of Aboriginal children without consultation with Dyer's agency.

The agency interviews and assesses prospective adoptive and foster parents. To date, the department has accepted all its recommendations.

As a result, no Aboriginal children in Victoria were placed in long-term foster care with white families last year com-

pared to 20 or 30 a year before the agency's inception.

Financial, health and alcohol problem counselling — by Aboriginal counsellors where possible — have been offered instead in order to help Aboriginal families stay together.

The situation is not so fortunate in the other States where children continue to be removed with "disastrous effects on Aboriginal family life," according to John Austin, director of the SA Aboriginal Community Centre.

Austin said that about one-fifth of SA's Aboriginal children — between 400 and 500 — were living in institutions or with white foster parents. He says that one-third of children in foster care are Aboriginal.

In WA an estimated 600 Aboriginal children are in foster care, mostly with white couples and about 1,000 more are wards of the State.

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency started out trying to help unhappy-placed Aboriginal children by putting them straight into the Aboriginal community.

However, for many, the transition from a white middle-class family was too dramatic, particularly when the child had been taught to disdain his own people.

Now, as a transition measure, the child is more likely to be placed with another white family — this time one who had regard for Aboriginal culture and the importance of the child's Aboriginal identity.

The agency also brings 32 mixed families together regularly so that Aboriginal children can get to meet each other and to see the roles of adult Aboriginals.

The question of cross-cultural adoption was one of the subjects discussed at a recent

Aboriginal Child Survival conference in Melbourne.

Steven Unger, the assistant director of the Association on American Indian Affairs, has been visiting Australia to talk to Aboriginal groups and others on the problems Indian families face in keeping their children.

He told The National Times that he had been struck by the many parallels between Indian and Aboriginal families.

"Wherever I talk, Aboriginal people say, 'you're describing exactly what we've been through,'" he said.

Unger said that Indian children have been removed from their families at massive rates in order to "save them from being Indian" and because they're considered "so cute they're very much in demand for fostering and adopting."

However, the situation is improving in the US with the passage through Congress last

October of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The Act forbids welfare agencies from removing children from reservations for fostering or adoption purposes. Only Indian tribal councils will have that power.

For Indian children not living on reservations, strict and special procedures will have to be followed in court. Welfare agencies will have to show they have offered services to the family but these have failed.

Due recognition will have to be given prevailing cultural, social and child-rearing practices in Indian society.

Aboriginal groups are looking at ways to adapt the Indian Child Welfare Act to the Australian scheme. Other Aboriginal child welfare agencies, similar to Mollie Dyer's, have opened recently in most States in the hope of working closely with State welfare agencies.

ADOPT CHILDREN ADS IN SHOPS

AAP, LONDON.

AN English county council is backing a scheme to advertise for adoption children in shop windows and

It will be run by social workers from the Dr Barnardo charity organisation.

KT 2/699

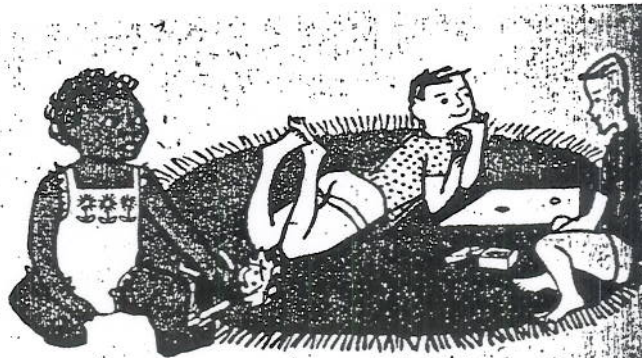
by our readers

TELL THE ADOPTED CHILD

UNDER the announcements of births in a daily paper I read the notice: "A son, by adoption." How wonderful for the people concerned to announce to the world they had adopted a child, instead of the secretive attitude of some adoptive parents who want neither the public nor the child to know.

I think it better to let everyone know the child is adopted and to tell the child when he is old enough to understand.

If that is not done, usually someone gives the secret away and it comes as a great shock to the young man or woman. — £2/2/ to Mrs Nellie Miller, Hurstville, Sydney.



The dark baby played alone

I WAS filled with horror and sadness recently after visiting the home of a young white couple who are taking care of a destitute aboriginal child of 20 months. There was nothing wrong with the white couple nor with the home of their two well-behaved small boys. But the poor little black speck, playing with her toes, was alone — a helpless mite farmed out to white guardians and isolated by her colour. Not many weeks will pass before her wondering instincts will awaken and she will see she is different from the other children around her. Black, white, yellow or brown children are all the same. Being "different" clouds their lives. I suggest that in future when aboriginal children are farmed out in white homes they be sent in pairs. Single children should be sent only to the homes of well-educated aborigines. — £2/2/ to Mrs Eileen Bost, Naremburn, N.S.W.

You may
quote me—

WOMANS DAY
1957.

Baby Jill, the light of our lives

Children with medical problems are not usually wanted for adoption, but Jill has a loving family

"LOOK QUICK! She crawled." When Jill, aged two, took 12 small steps on hands and knees, the family came running.

Jill was born not only with mongolism but also to a parent who could not cope, so Jenny Park, 37, Churchill Fellow and trained nurse, with her schoolteacher husband, Rob, set out to do what most parents hope all their lives to avoid. They chose to have a retarded child in their family. Jenny took Jill home with a view to adoption.

The Parks' family of eight, two adopted children, six fostered, already included several nationalities. And baby Jill came in, from the State children's home, as "the light of our lives."

Today, thanks to the family's daily efforts — 20-minute sessions, five times a day — Jill can crawl and pull herself up. Now at home in the Brisbane suburb of Brighton, she is learning to climb.

The alternative for Jill would have been life in an institution.

Jenny, when asked if she would take the baby, didn't hesitate. Early in their marriage she and Rob had adopted "unfashionable" babies — Kim, half

unfashionable babies — Kim, half Malaysian, bright and clever, and Tania, quarter Chinese, an “ugly duckling” baby, who today is the most beautiful nine-year-old.

“Ten years ago, people would not take colored babies,” Jenny said.

The Parks also fostered Katrina, part Maori, and Lee, part Indian. Then in 1969 they applied to be parents of a Presbyterian church “family group home” of six. With their four this made ten. Since then the original family has grown up, three are married, but new members keep the number at ten.

As Eurasian and Aboriginal babies became more fashionable for adoption, babies with medical problems became the neglected group — and Jenny chose Jill.

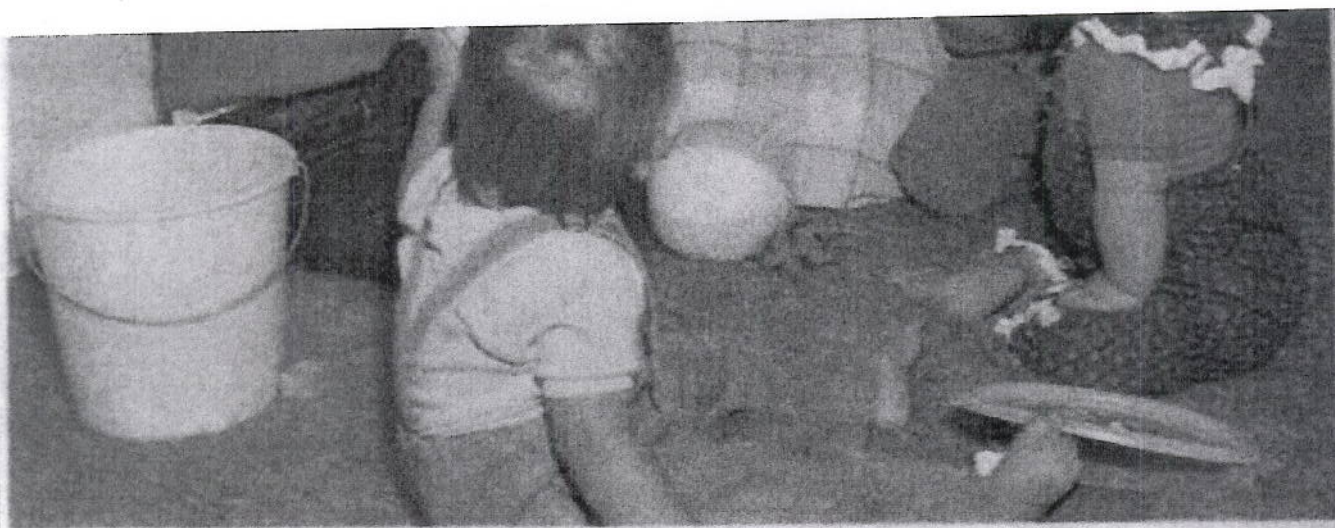
From the beginning, Jill's program included visiting a psychologist, occupational therapist and physiotherapist.

“She had a bad chest and this had to be treated,” said Jenny. “Then we taught her

By GRACE
YOUNG

By GRACE
YOUNG





Jenny with the children, who all like to join in Jill's exercises. Jill (at lower right) can pull herself up now.

to sit up and get to her knees, making her aware of her body. Now all the children do the exercises with Jill — buttons in bottles, moving, reaching, climbing.

“Jill has done more for the family than we have for her. One of the boys adores her. Until this, he had never loved. She has brought out an emotion he didn't know he had. She is dependent, happy, pleasing and pretty, and the others are not ashamed to be seen with her.”

While the Parks know that Jill's future is sub-normal school, sheltered workshop, hostel living, “She will always be ours.”

Studied in six countries

“Really she's far more interesting than a normal baby,” said Jenny. “We get so excited at everything she does.”

Jenny applied for a Churchill Fellowship to study child-care because she felt it was time that rank and file people, not just administrators, should know what was being done about management and financing, and what types of children were in care. Her search this year took her to England, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark,

... her mother this year took her to
England, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark,
Sweden and America.

"Sweden and Denmark are far ahead."

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mum or in family groups of less than four.

England, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Sweden and America.

"Sweden and Denmark are far ahead."

she said. "All the children are at home with mum or in family groups of less than four, with supportive services. That's an ideal situation and I can't see how we are going to get it here.

"Children here come into care, as State wards, because parents cannot cope. They're at the end of their tethers. There is some delinquency, but most come from split homes or as battered babies.

"The realistic financing of overseas groups is staggering," Jenny said. She works at home every day, her husband teaches at school nearby, and her help amounts to \$22-worth of domestic work a week, whereas overseas staff ratios are as high as one to every four children, plus laundress, cook and cleaning lady, with recreation and clothing allowance.

Jenny found that children in care in Europe all kept small animals, and came home to Brisbane to add chooks and ducks to the fish, birds and cats already at home.

"Now everyone has something to call their own," she said. "If they cannot love a human being, they can love an animal."



Woman's angle

HOW CAN ANYONE RESIST LINDA?

LINDA is six months old, has sparkling brown eyes and an infectious smile.

She's a baby any mother would be proud of, but she's nobody's baby.

She's one of 20 from seven days to six months old available for adoption at St. Anthony's Home, Croydon, but for whom nobody so far has asked.

In Linda's case, authorities at the home believe those big brown eyes and something in the shade of her glowing skin suggest a strain of "colour."

It shouldn't be an impediment to her adoption, but Sister Barbara, of the Sisters of St. Joseph in charge of the home, fears it is.

And she can't do anything to reassure prospective parents (if they feel like this) because Linda's mother, a reasonably well-educated, intelligent girl, could tell them nothing of still a waiting list for adoption in other agencies though it has shortened.)

A migrant and his wife bridge the barrier of race and colour

By ROSALIE STEPHENSON

WHEN I entered the charming, modern home of a handsome young Dutch migrant and his Australian wife in Albury, N.S.W., I found the family of five young children playing happily around a roaring fire with their parents.

Attractive Mrs Ben Veen was nursing "the new baby," three-year-old Robert, beautifully dressed in a sailor-style suit, was sitting on his "father's" knee, looking at pictures of Holland.

There was nothing in this closely knit family circle to suggest that Robert and his baby sister were in any way different from the other three happy children—nothing except the colour of their skins to show that they are the two lucky little aboriginal children who have been adopted into the Veen family.

Robert, perhaps, demands a little more love and attention from his "daddy" than the Veen's own sturdy son Peter, aged 5.

First claim

And eight-month-old baby Heather naturally has first claim on her mother's time, so that blonde, blue-eyed Mary Ann, 18 months, is just a wee bit jealous. But otherwise the Veen children are as proud and delighted about their little piccaynny brother and sister as are their parents.

Tall, blond and strikingly good-looking, Mr Ben Veen came to Australia from Indonesia (originally from Utrecht, Holland), in 1949. He was on his way to Sydney to take a job but decided to stop and see Albury.

Instead of going on to Sydney, Ben Veen took a job as a drink waiter in a leading Albury hotel and has lived there ever since. His family have been in the hotel business for generations—and Mr Veen is a teetotaler!

His wife is an attractive, dark-haired Melbourne dental nurse, and they have three



Aborigines Robert and Heather are as much part of the Veen's home as Peter, Bernice and Mary Ann.

children of their own, Bernice, 6½, Peter, 5, and Mary Ann.

Hard work and wise saving have enabled them to buy a spacious modern house, in front of which is a double-fronted shop and office building, which is let.

"We are not wealthy by any means, but we felt that we could give two little aboriginal children the same chances in life as our own children will have," Mr Veen said.

Having made their decision, the Veen's approached the Aborigines' Welfare Board, and Mr Veen went to Sydney to take Robert from an orphanage nine months ago. They wanted two aboriginal children as they felt that one might be conscious of too much attention. So they were very happy when they were told that Robert's baby sister could come to them, three months ago.

To the Veen's surprise and pleasure they found that the people of Albury were delighted about their decision.

When Robert arrived home, the hotel staff presented Mr Veen with a parcel of new clothes for him. Baby Heather has also received many gifts, and good wishes have been showered upon them.

Robert and Bernice share the equality of childhood.

The children have a well-kept, safe garden to play in, a big Boxer dog called "Jenny" a budgerigar and an aquarium of fish. In the pleasant family living-room there are shelves of good books and a radiogram with a special collection of children's records.

"Good intelligence"

"At first Robert and even little Heather seemed a bit backward compared with our own children at the same ages," said Mrs Veen.

"But we are sure that was only because they had been in a babies' nursery and had missed the stimulus of normal family life. They are quickly catching up, and Robert shows a good intelligence. He is particularly fond of mechanical toys and is always trying to find out how things work."

I asked Mrs Veen whether she had not felt some apprehension about increasing family to five young children. "Not a bit," she laughed. "I find that with a larger family the kiddies learn to do lots of things for themselves, and help one another. Bernice, Peter have thoroughly enjoyed helping the little ones."

As Mr Veen's hours at hotel are from 4 p.m. to midnight, he is also able to help a great deal with the children. Quiet, gentle and infinitely patient with them, he is nevertheless anxious that a share of the credit should go to wife.

"She manages wonderfully and even makes all the children's clothes herself," told me.

The Veen family does have a car, and Mr Veen is by on his motor scooter, a well-known sight in Albury. He takes Bernice and Peter to school on the scooter.



Aboriginal children feel 'different', r

+ resonance - youth - HK inquiry

+ Adoption

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.

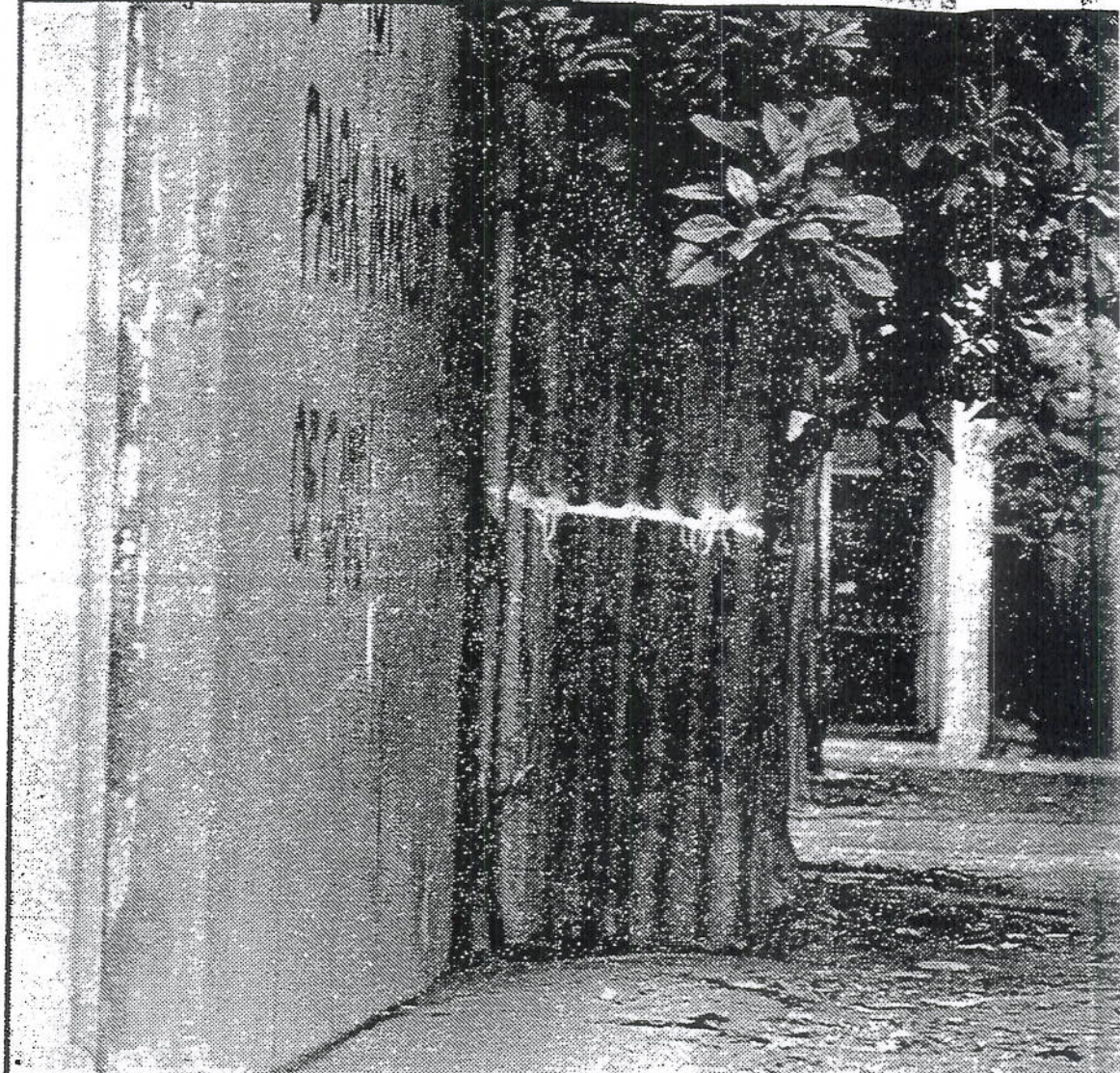
"You go out any night around Redfern and you'll see them. Wherever night hits them that's where they'll kip down till morning."

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



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

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.

Adoption rules thwart couple

The NSW Department of Youth and Community Services failed to inform couples hoping to adopt children from overseas that 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 Ian Jinks, criticised the depart-

SMH 29/10/89

SMH 29/12/89

I feel 'different', reject white homes



Picture by ELIZABETH DOBBIE

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

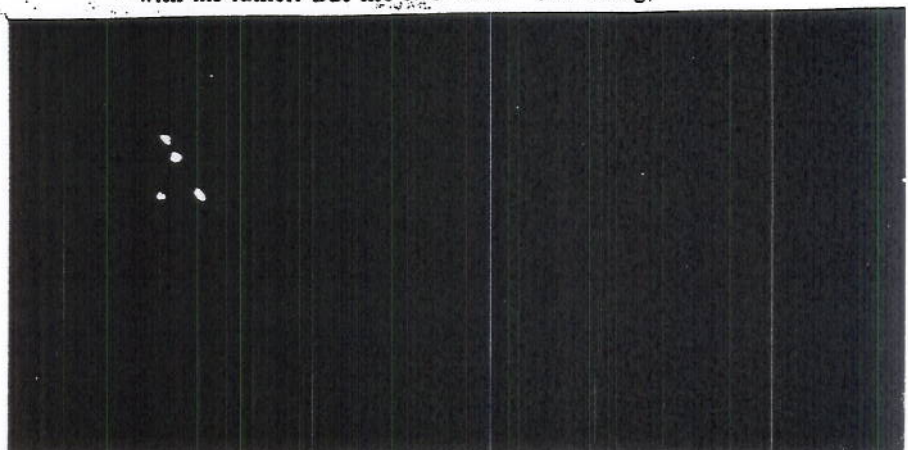
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SMH 29/10/81
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For Edward, it's no worry

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 Croydon and in empty houses in the inner-city.
"I don't mind my life and what I'm doing,



ATTACHMENT (4)

Deciding between two mothers

Your story about Darlene Sanders having to choose between two mothers surprised me. While I can understand her attitude about trying to find herself and get to know her "real" mother, I also feel strongly opposed to what she has done to her "other" mother. To me, Albert and Johanna Sanders are Darlene's "real" parents, having had enough love in their hearts to adopt an Aboriginal baby and raise her as their own. It must have been heartbreaking for them when Darlene argued about hating them. It sounds to me as if she is an ungrateful little girl who is ready to forget about her "other" mother and family who have obviously loved her to their fullest. While I hope that Darlene and Belinda can find each other again, I also hope they realise the heartbreak they left behind.

Mrs V. Pitman,
Coffs Harbour, NSW.

Should she adopt an aboriginal?

● How would teenagers feel and behave if an aboriginal child were adopted into their family or social group, asked "Black and White" (T.W. 28/9/60). She and her husband, she said, were thinking of adopting one into their own family of two boys. Most readers urge her to do so.

A TRUE friend doesn't pick and choose people for their color but for their character. If this aboriginal girl has a good and pleasant character, anyone who would not associate with her because of her color wouldn't be a worthy friend, anyway. At school we had many aborigines, and nine out of ten of those I got to know were just the same as whites. — *Jillian Leaman, Mosman Park, W.A.*

I FEEL it would be unwise to adopt a dark girl. As a teenager she would find it hard to mix and have boy-friends as other teenagers do. Later it would be hard for her to find a marriage partner, as inter-marriages are not really accepted, and also she would not be able to go back to her tribe and adapt herself to the life there. — *"Hopefully Helpful," Beaumarus, Vic.*

MY next-door neighbors have an 18-year-old dark boy boarding with them. He is in our church group, in one of our football teams, and in other activities in the town, and is well liked. — *Patricia Lawrence, Nambucca Heads, N.S.W.*

ABORIGINES are different in color and custom from whites and because of this many are treated cruelly. Although you may treat this child lovingly in the home, I feel little could be done to give her a happy social life. As a teenager, I would strongly advise against your adopting this child. — *"Doubting," Tamworth, N.S.W.*

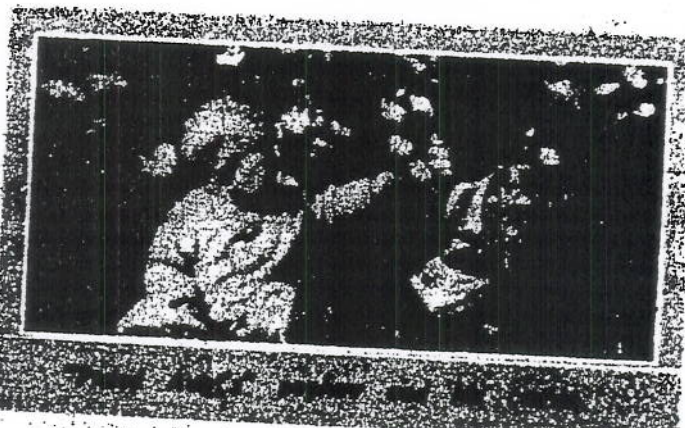
TWO of my sisters and one brother are aborigines, and I love them as much as I do my own brothers. At first we were worried about them making friends, but they have more friends than they could ever wish for. After a while people grow used to their dark skins and take no notice of them. Denise is the youngest. We have had her since she was ten months old, and she is now nearly five. She knows she is darker than we are. In fact, she calls herself "Ninny," which is short for piccaninny. In the summer-time she laughs at us because we sunbake for hours trying to make our skins darker. Then there is Della. She is 11 and a big help to my mother, especially with the younger children. She is very excited at the moment because I told her that I want her to be my junior bridesmaid for my wedding next year. Denise is going to be flowergirl. Next there is Eddie. He is nine and looks like an angel with his beautiful wide smile. Sometimes you find an odd person who frowns on a dark person, but if the children know right from the start that they are a little different in color from the rest of the family, they don't take any notice. — *J. Woodforth, Yagoona, N.S.W.*

good at sport as well as academic work. I liked them and they were very popular. I wonder just how far these girls would go if they had the opportunities you are prepared to give some little girl? By all means adopt an aboriginal. — *Jennifer Rees, Cobargo, N.S.W.*

MY sister adopted a black baby boy who is 2½ years old. He is loved by all the family, and her own children are as proud of him as anyone could be of his brother. The family have never had any reason to regret their decision to adopt him. I enclose a photograph (below) of him playing with one of his white cousins. — *"Proud Aunt," Dorrigo, N.S.W.*

I AM 18 and the color question has worried me for several years. I have several colored friends, and I do feel there is a growing awakening among teenagers of the futility of color bars and of the moral issues involved. I would like to have a colored brother or sister. — *J. R. Tomlinson, Brisbane.*

AN adopted child's place in society depends on the place given to her in her home. If you, as parents, treat her as your own child, giving her love and understanding, and your own boys treat her as their sister, then society will accept her, as it accepts you. I say go ahead. — *"Go Ahead," Woodville, S.A.*



I ATTENDED high school in a district which had a training home for aboriginal girls and I was one of the many who voted in one of these girls as "house" captain at school. Another girl from the home narrowly missed being school captain. Both were



L. to r.: Miss Gwendra Williams, Mrs Kathleen Dexter, Miss Isabel Hansen, all Foundation workers.

The drifters in two worlds

John was very different from the rest of the babies in the adoption nursery at a big Sydney hospital. His skin was the colour of nicely browned toast. His eyes were huge and fringed with attractive, long and dark lashes.

John was an illegitimate Aboriginal baby, son of a 16-year-old girl whose first home had been a gunyah out of Congreah, Qld., her second home a shanty near Moree, N.S.W., her third a shabby tenement in Redfern, Sydney.

When he was three months the nurses said goodbye to John as he left in the arms of his adoring white foster-mother for his all-European, upper-bracket Sydney home. He grew amid love and care. At five, he started at his all-white, upper-bracket school.

Then, at seven, he became difficult, almost uncontrollable. After his parents had tried everything, the headmaster suggested a children's psychiatrist, and an appointment was made.

But before the child went to the specialist, someone suggested the parents contact the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, in George Street, Sydney. Welfare worker Mrs Kathleen Lester, herself an Aboriginal, and a grandmother, took the call. "Bring the little man in," she said, "I'd like to meet him."

John took Mrs Lester's hand the moment they met. He looked around him and saw, for the first time in his short life, other people of his race. He exchanged a few words, and remarks, with another Aboriginal boy visiting with his father.

From then on, particularly after several more visits to his new friends at the Foundation, John was a different boy — a normal boy.

"He'd found himself," said Mrs Lester. "He understood at last why he was the way he was. He resolved the conflict inside him, and felt at last he belonged to his

own special people, even while living happily in his all-white situation."

John's case was not isolated, Mrs Lester went on. There had been several like that. "Every Aboriginal," she said, "has a tribal memory, a sense of belonging to an ancient people and culture. The child who never really gets hold of this is the lost one, the drifter between two worlds."

"Of course, integration of the Aboriginal in white society is necessary, and important. But it is equally vital that Aborigines develop a sense of pride and try to help themselves."

"This is where the Foundation's work is so important. We give assistance to Aborigines, particularly the hundreds who come each year to Sydney from the country, looking for a new way of life. But we don't mollycoddle them; we guide, we push, we advise them."

From Mt. Isa

Young Isabel Hansen, said Mrs Lester, taking me to meet the pretty 17-year-old Aboriginal girl operating the Foundation's switchboard, was a case in point. Isabel lived with her brother and two sisters at Mt. Isa, in Western Queensland, and went to school at Charters Towers.

She arrived in Sydney at the beginning of this year and went straight to work at the Foundation.

"The couple I'm living with are wonderful," Isabel said. "They're only young themselves. Heather Mills, the wife, is only 24 and her husband, John, about the same. They have a little boy, Billy, aged four, and they both

teach High school.

"We got to know each other last year when Heather's parents were on the same station at Mt. Isa that my parents were on and Heather visited them. They really take care of me. They're quite strict, but they understand me."

Mrs Lester said, "Sometimes we get a call from the Travellers' Aid Society at Sydney's Central Station. A whole family of Aborigines, Dad, Mum, three or four kids have turned up from a country town, with nowhere to go, nobody to turn to.

"This, I believe, is the Aboriginal nomadic instinct making itself felt. When the means of livelihood in one place runs out, move on. Once, years ago, it was very carefully planned by the tribes, and strictly adhered to. Now it is usually unplanned, a kind of pathetic hoping that something will turn up."

Courts, hospitals, prisons, railway stations, private homes . . . these are the places where Mrs Lester goes to try to help Aborigines in trouble, and set them on the road to helping themselves.

The Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, established five years ago, needs at least \$250,000 by April to extend and improve its work. Many distinguished citizens and committees are helping to raise this amount, and a door-knock appeal will be held throughout the Sydney metropolitan area next Sunday. Offers of help, and donations, can be sent to the Appeal Director, Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs, 810-812 George Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000.

—BARBARA RICHARDS

THE ADORIGINAL CINDERELLA

might her life changed... she
 a humpy on the bank of a creek
 the luxury of a Melbourne home
 with "fairy godfather and mother"

By ISABEL CARTER

WHEN little 13-year-old
 Adoriginal girl Joyce
 Blitner went back to
 Katherine, N.T., after
 visiting the Queen Mother in
 London this year, she
 thought the page had turned
 for her one and only glimpse
 of high society.

But there was another page
 to come. Overnight she was
 wakened from her neat but
 humpy on the banks of
 the Katherine River and
 about to live in a luxury
 Melbourne home.

Her "fairy godparents" are
 Mr and Mrs C. Eric Tobias,
 Glen Waverley, Melbourne.
 They have brought brown-
 haired Joyce to Melbourne to
 live as a daughter would,
 in their gracious living, and
 showing they possess —
 beautiful furnishings, a TV
 and a late model Rolls
 Royce saloon.

When we visited Joyce at
 her new home, Mrs Tobias, a
 kind, kindly woman in her
 middle years, showed us to
 the large drawing-room fur-
 nished with antique pieces. In
 the background, Joyce hover-
 ed shyly, her dark face
 pale. She was as close as
 she dared get to an electric
 heater.

"Joyce feels the cold in-
 stead," Mrs Tobias explain-
 ed. "She carries the heater
 into her room with her.
 After all, it was 80 degrees
 when she left Katherine three
 years ago and it never gets
 much colder than that."

Joyce went off, silently, to
 finish the little housekeeping
 as she was engaged on.

Mrs Tobias said, "Joyce
 astounded me, she does her
 chores so well. She can make
 a bed better than I can. The
 first morning, I saw her finish-
 ing off the corners quite pro-
 fessionally, and she told me
 she had learned to do it that
 way in the Girl Guides at
 Katherine."

TV appearance

So far, life in the Tobias
 household has been a be-
 wildering experience for Joyce,
 a well-spoken and polite child
 who behaves with surprising
 maturity.

Television cameras have
 been focused on her (she has
 been herself on TV twice), the
 phone has not stopped ringing,
 and countless strangers have
 asked her questions.

One thing went straight to

her heart—the TV set. Joyce
 chuckled with delight when
 she curled up in front of it the
 Saturday afternoon of her ar-
 rival and watched the football,
 and then the children's pro-
 grams.

"That footy is better than
 the kids play at Katherine
 School," she said.

On Sunday morning three
 little girls came to invite her
 to Sunday School. She will go
 soon, but that morning she
 did not have enough warm
 clothes to be allowed out.

Farewell gifts

Joyce was confirmed in the
 Church of England at Kath-
 erine.

She took me into her dainty,
 sunny bedroom where a big,
 dressed doll spread its skirts
 over the counterpane of
 Joyce's bed.

She brought out her fare-
 well presents. Her teacher,
 Mr Wadey, and pupils at the
 Katherine State School gave
 her a tapestry-backed mirror,
 brush and comb, and an aunt
 gave her handkerchiefs.

Joyce picked up a toy bird-
 cage with a little bird that
 chirped when she wound it.
 It was a gift from her brothers
 and sisters.

On the bedside table was
 a stamped letter, addressed in
 her big, schoolgirl script to
 "Mr and Mrs Blitner, c/-
 Nixon's Farm, Katherine,
 N.T."

Joyce's father works on the
 vegetable, pig and goat farm
 run by Mr Nixon at Kath-
 erine, and Mrs Blitner works
 for a householder in the town.

There are six other children
 in the family.

"We are going to build
 Joyce a flat of her own at the
 end of the house," said Mrs
 Tobias, pointing to where
 yellow-brown clay had been
 scooped away.

"We moved all the rhodod-
 endrons and camellias from
 this patch of garden and as
 soon as the weather clears up
 we'll begin building here.
 Joyce will have her own bath-
 room and toilet, french doors
 opening on to a sun terrace,
 and her own piano, and we
 want her to bring her little
 friends here and entertain
 them as often as she likes."

Mr Eric Tobias, an account-
 ant and property owner, and
 his wife are a middle-aged
 couple who have no children
 of their own. They were holi-



Joyce Blitner off to do some shopping in the Rolls Royce, symbol of her new life.

daying in the Northern Ter-
 ritory this year when the local
 native welfare officer told
 them of Joyce's desire to bet-
 ter herself. They decided
 swiftly to bring her south to
 live with them. They will adopt
 her as soon as possible.

"I told the officer if Joyce
 wanted a shoulder to cry on
 and somebody to look after
 her, to wrap her in a parcel
 and send her down to me,"
 Mr Tobias said.

"Her parents are quite
 happy about our plans to
 adopt Joyce. The dark people
 are not as possessive of their
 children as we are."

He pointed to the magni-
 ficent view of the Dandenongs,
 to the acres of grounds, and
 their big modern home.

"I want Joyce to share all

this," he said. "Next term we
 are sending her to the Pres-
 byterian Ladies' College at
 Burwood, and when she
 finishes school she can be a
 nurse if she wants to. Or a
 singer, or any other darned
 thing she likes."

Good swimmer

"Joyce has brought her
 bathers with her," Mrs Tobias
 said. "She was the champion
 swimmer at Katherine
 School."

Mr Tobias gestured at the
 driving rain through the win-
 dows.

"How about a swim this
 morning, Joyce?"

Joyce giggled, shivered, and
 huddled closer to the radiator.

We had morning tea, and
 Joyce downed two cups of tea

in quick succession.
 "She's a one for the tea,"
 said Mr Tobias. "If you
 I drank beer as we drink
 we'd be drunk all the time
 wouldn't we, Joyce?"
 chuckled.

Joyce laughed back, shiv-
 ering her white, gleaming tea

It was time for the Tob-
 to leave with their new dau-
 ter for a shopping orgy: school
 uniform, raincoat, thick school
 dresses.

The big, shining Rolls
 Royce was waiting outside
 under the portico.

Joyce ran a hand lovingly
 over the gleaming duco
 before she hopped into the front
 passenger's seat.

"Maybe you'll be driving
 some day, Joyce," beamed
 Mrs Tobias. ♪

MATRONS OF HONOR



Adopted aboriginal girls Christine (left) and Faye led the bridal party through a confetti shower as they left the church. Behind the children are their foster-sister, Lorraine, and her husband, Raymond Penrose.

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Tucking into pavlova and brandysnaps at the bridal table, the children, Christine (left) and Faye, were oblivious of the speeches. They wore velvet headbands with a large white carnation at each side and carried pompon bouquets of white carnations. Laurie Kimber took the pictures.

Two small aboriginal girls adopted from a Northern Territory mission station into a Melbourne businessman's home had a day of packed excitement when they went to their first wedding. The bride was their foster-sister, 18-year-old Lorraine Deutscher, and the thrilled youngsters were her flowergirls.

THE little girls, Christine, 6, and Faye, 4, were adopted by the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Deutscher, of East Brighton, who met them during a tour of the Territory. Christine and Faye now attend a local school and kindergarten, and Sunday school in the Male Street, Brighton, Methodist Church, where Lorraine married Mr. Raymond Penrose. The bride made her own silver-threaded white brocade gown, and Mrs. Deutscher made the children's dresses from similar material, cut like the bride's in the Empire line. Bridesmaid Jill Neigham, a schoolfriend of Lorraine's, wore the same material in an aqua shade.

Mr. and Mrs. Deutscher have two other children - Vernon, aged 20, and Trevor, 14. And to help Mrs. Deutscher manage this large family is 21-year-old aboriginal girl Doris Simpson.

Doris, like Christine and Faye, came from the Methodist Mission at Croker Island, 180 miles from Darwin. She was doing domestic work there when Mrs. Deutscher asked her to join the family.

Doris is paid a salary for her work in the Deutscher home, but like the little ones she calls Mr. and Mrs. Deutscher "Dad" and "Mum."

THE AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY May 6, 1959

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A BIG DAY FOR THREE SISTERS

FOR Melbourne girl Lorraine Deutsher, April 14 was a day of days . . . her eighteenth birthday, and her wedding day—but for two little aboriginal girls, it was even more exciting and wonderful.

For weeks, Christine, 6, and Faye, 4, the two aboriginal girls who were adopted three years ago by Lorraine's wealthy parents, Mr and Mrs W. A. Deutsher, had dreamed of Lorraine's wedding day, when they would put on their new dresses of pale pink brocade and follow their "big sister" down the aisle.

On April 14, Lorraine, who comes from Brighton, was married to Raymond Pearce at the Methodist Church, North

WOMAN'S DAY with WOMAN, May 4, 1959

Brighton. For Christine and Faye, who are used to going to bed at 7.30 every night, it was the latest they had ever been up.

Christine and Faye's appearance as flower girls at Lorraine's wedding crowned two happy years as members of the family in the palatial Deutsher home in Milliard Grove, Brighton.

They were adopted in 1957. Mr and Mrs Deutsher, on holiday in the Northern Territory, saw the two little aboriginal waifs and decided to give them the advantages of education and environment which their own children had.

On the day of the wedding, Christine and Faye went straight back to bed after

breakfast, and slept most of the day before the ceremony.

At the reception at the New Alexandra Hotel, Faye and Christine sat at the bridal table and ate turkey, ham, jellies and a trifle with the hundred guests.

The little aboriginal girls whose adoption by the kindly Deutshers has been such a success, are doing well at school. Faye goes to kindergarten and Christine to Gardenvale State School. Both are above average in their classes.

Now Lorraine is married, the young sisters are planning how they will make up to Dad and Mummy for the loss of "big sister." #