

CHILD MIGRANTS TRUST

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Patron
The Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen
KG, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE

International Director
Margaret Humphreys OAM
Hon. MA, CQSW

Trustees
Professor Patricia Higham
Michael Hoare MBE
The Hon. Joan Taylor MBE

Project Evaluator
Mervyn Humphreys MA, MSc

27 April 2009

Mr Elton Humphery
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

5 pages

Dear Elton,

Information requested by the Committee during the hearing 8/4/09

1. CMT current former Child Migrant client numbers by State, at 31/3/09:

Victoria	148
NSW & ACT	153
Queensland	90
SA & NT	24
Tasmania	18
Western Australia	532
TOTAL	965

These figures represent active cases for individual former child migrants at various stages of service engagement. Statistics do not include family members who receive the Trust's services through marital or family counselling, or retrieval of records. Similarly, 'one-off' consultations concerning a range of matters including citizenship, tracing relatives or State Government redress schemes are not included.

2. South Australian State Government Funding for CMT services

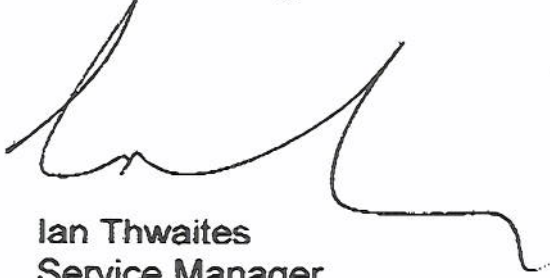
The following correspondence is provided:

- Letter from CMT dated 11/4/2004 to Minister Weatherill, requesting further funding following expiry of the 2001/04 grant.
- Acknowledgement from Minister's office, dated 19/5/2004, advising of a formal response 'at the earliest opportunity.'

No further correspondence was received. In discussion with a senior department officer some considerable time later, the Trust was advised a decision had been taken by the Minister to fund the Centre for Grief and Loss.

Since then, the Trust has continued to provide counselling and family reconnection services to former Child Migrants in South Australia through its federal grant. This work is primarily provided by telephone, supported by visits to Adelaide in response to specific client need, generally 2-3 times annually. No funding has been received from the South Australian State Government since 2004.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Thwaites', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ian Thwaites
Service Manager

Child Migrants Trust Inc.
A.B.N. 22692168722

Gifts of \$2.00 & Upwards Are Deductible For Income Tax purposes

International Director:
Margaret Humphreys OAM,
C.Q.S.W., Hon. M.A.

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11th May 2004

The Honourable Jay Weatherill
Minister for Families and Communities
12th Floor, Terrace Towers
178 North Terrace
Adelaide
South Australia

Dear Minister,

Child Migrants Trust

I am writing to thank you for your Department's financial contribution to the Trust's professional services for South Australian former Child Migrants over the past three years. The grant has enabled the funding of regular visits to South Australia by the Trust's specialist social worker based in Melbourne, to meet with former Child Migrants living in Adelaide and rural areas of the State. The Trust currently provides independent counselling and support for family reunions to 28 former Child Migrants resident in South Australia.

Much remains to be done to help former Child Migrants in South Australia establish their identities and reclaim family connections, following forced separation from their mothers and fathers as young children during the post war years. Through regular reports and liaison, the Trust has kept the Department informed of its work and outcomes. The Trust's Senior Social Worker, Ian Thwaites has discussed this request for further funding with Cynthia Beare, Manager of the Adoption Information Service, and was advised and encouraged to bring this matter to your direct attention.

Following the 2001 Senate Inquiry into child migration, the Federal Government established a three-year family reunion fund, to assist former Child Migrants return to the United Kingdom to meet with their mothers, fathers and significant family members after a lifetime of cruel separation. To be told your parents are dead when they are very much alive must count as one of the most serious

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betrayals of a child's human rights. The Trust has sought to help as many people as possible access funds from the federal grant, now in its second year.

The Trust has reunited many South Australians with their families and more are planned for the coming year. The financial support of the South Australian State Government is crucial if we are to reunite former Child Migrants with their families before it is too late – time is not on our side.

Minister, former Child Migrants are a unique group of people who suffered terrible abuse as children, including the loss of family and institutional abuse which is well documented by the Australian Senate report, following the British inquiry on child migration. The Trust has an outstanding track record of providing specialist services in South Australia over the past seventeen years.

Your assistance is requested to help the Trust continue its humanitarian work. An extension of the Department's grant will directly help more former Child Migrants to meet their families, using federal funds for reunion travel. The Trust's work has shown time and again that it is never too late in the life cycle for older people to reclaim their identities and reunite with family members separated in childhood.

We are happy to provide any further information that would assist this application. We look forward to continuing this productive partnership which has assisted so many former Child Migrants and their families in South Australia.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Humphreys OAM
International Director

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NAME: EWHN

PB

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The Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Minister for Families and Communities
Minister for Housing
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Disability



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Mr Margaret Humphreys
Child Migrants Trust
228 Canning Street
NORTH CARLTON VIC 3054

Dear Ms Humphreys

The Minister for Families and Communities, Housing, Ageing and Disability, Hon Jay Weatherill, MP, has asked me to acknowledge your letter of 11 May 2004, requesting the Ministers assistance in helping the Trust continue its humanitarian work.

The Minister is having the matters you have raised examined and will forward a response to you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Gay Henderson
Office Manager

19/5/2004