

Catholic Child Migration to Australia
from Scotland and Northern Ireland
1946-1950

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The Catholic Church in Scotland participated in a child migration scheme supported by the Australian and British Governments and sponsored by the Hierarchy of Australia between 1946 and 1950. Children between the ages of 5 and 14 were migrated for four main reasons, detailed in section 2.
- 1.2 The Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh managed the scheme in Scotland and Northern Ireland through the Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland [*known also as Australian Catholic Immigration Committee, Scotland and Northern Ireland*], based within the offices of the Catholic Enquiry Office, 6 India Buildings, Victoria Street, Edinburgh.
- 1.3 The Secretary (Rev Patrick Quille, Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh) of the Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland promoted the migration scheme to homes run by religious orders in Scotland and Northern Ireland and also circularized and promoted the scheme to local burgh and county councils throughout Scotland.
- 1.4 The number of child migrants from Scotland and Northern Ireland to Australia is not clear. Reports, memoranda and correspondence indicate different numbers, with confusing references to applicants, actual migrants, child/youth and adult migrants. It would appear that at least 200 child migrants were sent to Australia, with more migrants being included in the other categories.
- 1.5 The Catholic Church in Scotland does not have a record of the individuals who migrated. It is expected that the records of the homes in Scotland and Northern Ireland which are known to have had children migrated would indicate this in their own records.
- 1.6 The records of the activities of the Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland are sparse and limited in extent. It would appear that during the main transfer of diocesan archives to the Scottish Catholic Archives in 1993 and any previous transfers, the bulk of the records were not part of the records of the Catholic Enquiry Office. Research has not found these papers. It is not thought that they survive.
- 1.7 The migration scheme operated by the Catholic Church in Scotland was a part of the wider scheme promoted by the Catholic Church in Australia. Further details can be found in appendix 2.
- 1.8 There have been many media reports about the Migration Schemes and the apologies issued by the Australian and British Governments over the past few years. An example of the reports about the conditions some of the child migrants faced is found in appendix 3.

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2. The Migration Scheme

- 2.1 The Commonwealth and State Governments of Australia discussed the matter of immigration to Australia following the end of the Second World War with the object of increasing the population of the country by the addition of healthy and suitable child and adult migrants.¹
- 2.2 State assisted migration to Australia from Great Britain was promoted by the British and Australian Commonwealth and State Governments from 1946. It was expected to last for 8 years, migrating 17,000 migrants annually from Great Britain.
- 2.3 The scheme was to have three main components of migration:
1. Children from 5-14 years
 2. Youth from 14-19 years
 3. Adult and family groups²
- 2.4 The scheme for 5-14 year olds had four strands of eligibility:
1. Those who were destitute and without parents and who were in residence in children's homes
 2. Those whose parents were living but who for health or other reasons were unable or unwilling to provide for them
 3. Those whose parents may have been in a position to provide for them but who, for personal reasons considered it would be in the future interests of the children to emigrate while still young to Australia
 4. Those who would accompany their parents, or whose parents intended to follow them in the near future³

Permission of the parents or guardians was necessary and it was intended to give the migrant children greater opportunities and educate them for a wider range of occupations.⁴

- 2.5 Children were further selected following a medical examination carried out by duly appointed Medical Officers and an intelligence test carried out by Brother Conlon on his visits to the Homes.⁵
- 2.6 Following migration, all children were to complete primary education, after which the boys were to be given technical training to enable future careers as tradesmen or agricultural work; girls were to be trained for domestic service. Children showing 'special aptitude' would be allowed to continue to secondary education, with the boys further prepared for Public Service or University.
- 2.7 Complications were foreseen regarding the full Child Migration Scheme with regard to the political/general situation in Europe at the time, but the Australian Government Committee stated that 'full co-operation should be extended to all Church and Voluntary organization that are prepared to engage in Child Migration.'⁶
- 2.8 The costs associated with the migration scheme were met by various parties:

¹ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/8/1*, Copy letter dated 7 June 1946 from [Brother] P A Conlon, St Aquin's, 38 Strawberry Hill Road, Twickenham to The Right Rev Monsignor Craven, 27 Tavistock Place, Euston, London.

² *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/8/1*, Copy letter dated 7 June 1946 from [Brother] P A Conlon, St Aquin's, 38 Strawberry Hill Road, Twickenham to The Right Rev Monsignor Craven, 27 Tavistock Place, Euston, London.

³ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/11/5*, [1946?] Report regarding operation of migrant scheme.

⁴ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/8/5*, Minute of a confidential meeting held on 19 July 1946 held at the Catholic Enquiry Office, Edinburgh between Lady Margaret Kerr, Brother Conlon and Fr Quille.

⁵ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/8/5*, Minute of a confidential meeting held on 19 July 1946 held at the Catholic Enquiry Office, Edinburgh between Lady Margaret Kerr, Brother Conlon and Fr Quille.

⁶ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/8/1*, Copy letter dated 7 June 1946 from [Brother] P A Conlon, St Aquin's, 38 Strawberry Hill Road, Twickenham to The Right Rev Monsignor Craven, 27 Tavistock Place, Euston, London.

1. Costs of transporting children to the port for embarkation were met by the British Government
2. Costs of the passage to the final destination were met by Australian State governments
3. Costs of continuing maintenance allowances were payable by the Australian Government

No costs were incurred by the Church in Scotland or in Australia – further costs incurred by the institutions in Australia were met by Australian Government grants. No money was paid to the Catholic Church in Scotland for the migration of children – any funds paid to the Catholic Church in Scotland were to support the administration of a secretariat to progress the scheme.

- 2.9 The general scheme of migration to Australia seems to have encountered a number of problems during its operation. Problems included the inability to transport large numbers of people from Europe to Australia in the immediate post-war period; the overly optimistic view of how many migrants to Australia could be accommodated by Australia within existing housing stock and the implementation of the Children Act (1948) in Great Britain.
- 2.10 The Catholic Migration Scheme suffered from the same problems, and often had trouble in meeting the quotas set. In some cases, the administration of the scheme was found to be failing:

Homes – Emigration Scheme. Miss Manaldo returned from London on Emigration business, reports chaos resulting from Bro Conlon's handling of the situation. He has left for Australia. Apparently there is no official Adult Scheme yet formulated – acc to Australia House.⁷

and

Confusion re future plans⁸

- 2.11 Exactly when the Catholic Migration Scheme in Scotland came to an end is not clear. The operating finances were incorporated into the Catholic Enquiry Office accounts at the end of 1950, and it is not clear what happened thereafter. It does seem that the financial support from the Australian Hierarchy did not continue. It is unclear from the archives what happened to the office and staff.

⁷ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/121/1, Minute Book of the Archdiocesan Social Services Committee, 2 September 1947.*

⁸ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/121/1, Minute Book of the Archdiocesan Social Services Committee, 2 December 1947.*

3. Involvement of the Australian Government

- 3.1 A full report on the policy of child and youth migration to Australia can be found on the National Archives of Australia website, through the Research Guide 'Good British Stock: Child and Youth Migration to Australia':

http://www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/publications/research_guides/guides/childmig/pages/front.htm

The section relating to Catholic migration schemes has been reproduced in appendix 2 of this report.

- 3.2 The Commonwealth Government of Australia, through the Minister for Migration, and the British Government, granted a number of concessions to the scheme which was to be administered by Church organizations in Australia:
- a) Convent boarding schools will be permitted to admit and train migrant girls, provided the Convents receive Government approval, and the same applies to our Children's Homes and Institutions
 - b) Two thirds of the building and equipment money necessary to provide accommodation for migrant children will be defrayed by the Governments concerned
 - c) Repayment of the Governments' advances will not be necessary unless the Homes and Institutions concerned fail to carry out their original purpose
 - d) Permits for materials and buildings for the accommodation of Migrants will be recommended for priority
 - e) Maintenance allowance for Migrant children has been raised from 13/3 per week to 17/3d
 - f) The passage expenses of the children's escorts will be entirely defrayed by the Governments concerned
 - g) In the event of foreign migrant children being accepted, the Minister for Migration recommends that the Commonwealth Government should become responsible for the payment of the full passage money for such migrants and their escorts
 - h) Transport for Migrant children will be paid by the United Kingdom Government to the port of embarkation in the United Kingdom
 - i) Full maintenance allowance will be paid for student migrants in Australia to the age of 16 years
 - j) In the event of permission being given to accept Catholic children from foreign countries, arrangements can be made with the Church authorities in these countries to convey the children to Australia under Catholic supervision, and the superiors, if so desired, may be selected from the countries concerned
 - k) The Minister has the power to grant the guardianship of Migrant Children to those who control the Institutions
 - l) The State Governments are responsible for the payment of the fares of all Migrants from the ports of disembarkation to their final destination
 - m) Although the placement of Migrant Children in private families does not find favour with the Migration Authorities at present, yet the proposal has been rejected only while the Homes and Institutions can absorb all the Migrant Children offering.⁹
- 3.3 By 1950, further general advice and information was being given to potential migrants from agencies such as the Commonwealth Branch of Australia on behalf of the Australian Government with regard to finances, cost of living and banking services.¹⁰ A Financial Information Service was established in Australia House, London to support this in Great Britain.

⁹ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/8/6*, Copy letter dated 2 October 1946 from Archbishop J D Simmons, Co-adjutor Archbishop of Sydney, to The Rev Denis G Murphy, Secretary, The Catholic Child Welfare Council, Birmingham, outlining the migration scheme.

¹⁰ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/10/3*, Letter dated 8 March 1950 from the Financial Information Service, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Australia House, London to The Secretary, Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, 6 India Buildings, Victoria Street, Edinburgh.

4. Involvement of the British Government

- 4.1 The British Government acted in a facilitating manner to support the desire of the Australian Government to increase the population of Australia following the Second World War. In addition to providing finance for the migration of individuals, in a Scottish context the Secretary of State for Scotland had a role in ensuring the well-being of the children and youths being considered for the scheme.
- 4.2 The Children (1948) Act altered and clarified the way in which the child migration scheme could operate. Prior to the 1948 Act, permissions for the migration of children under the age of 12 in some cases were approved by the local authority Parental Authority Officer (Guardian), whilst in other local authorities, the Parental Authority Officer stated they did not have the authority to grant such permission, referring on to the Secretary of State for Scotland.¹¹
- 4.3 From 1948, the Secretary of State for Scotland stated that he would be prepared to give consent for the emigration of children maintained by a local authority provided that the provisions of the Act were complied with in regard to guardianship and that the child be over 10 years of age and therefore capable of an opinion. Where a child was under the age of 10 years, and had no personal guardian or relative to whom to go to in Australia permission would not be given. Under the Migration Agreements between the British and Australian Governments, the Minister of Immigration was regarded as the guardian of all children emigrated from this country until they reach the age of 21 years, but this ruling was not accepted by the Scottish Authorities. The Catholic Church in Scotland wished that the anomaly would be clarified and the emigration of children would proceed again.¹² It is unclear from the records extant what resolution was reached in this case.

¹¹ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/121/1*, Minute Book of the Archdiocesan Social Services Committee, 24 April 1947.

¹² *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/11/1*, Report on Australian Immigration, October 1949.

5. Involvement of the Catholic Church in Australia

- 5.1 The Catholic Church in Australia controlled many of the children's homes for boys and girls approved by the British and Australian Governments for the purpose of the maintenance, education and general training of migrant children from Great Britain until they were 16 years of age, and beyond it, in the case of those completing a course of secondary education, in preparation for trades and practical training in farming methods in Australia.¹³
- 5.2 The Catholic Church in Australia was concerned that migration schemes being instigated by other organisations would have an adverse effect on the faith of young Catholics who might be emigrated without proper guidance from the Catholic Church and due concern for their religious needs. A number of individuals became involved in promoting Catholic migration to Australia. In the administration of this, two principal figures from Australia and of relevance to Scotland and Northern Ireland were:

Conlon, Brother A (1875–1957)

Louis Conlon was born in County Westmeath, Ireland, 1875 – his father was a National School teacher – and commenced training for the Christian Brothers in 1891. He was sent on the Australian mission as a young man and spent 17 years teaching (later Headmaster) at Waverley College, Sydney. In 1928, he came to Western Australia as principal of the Brothers College, St George's Terrace and was, therefore, aware of the Tardun scheme and plans for Catholic child migration from an early stage. By 1930, he was a member of the Brothers executive but over the next 20 years spent much of his time and energy establishing the Agricultural College at Tardun on a firm basis and arranging child migration to Catholic institutions in Western Australia.

Nicol, Rev W A

Father Nicol, Federal Director of Australian Catholic Immigration, Australian Hierarchy from 1948. Rev Nicol was based in London during 1948 and at various subsequent periods, having a peripatetic role in Australia and Great Britain.

- 5.3 The scheme operating in the period immediately post 1946 was similar to that promoted by Br Conlon in the 1930s, when he migrated some 110 children from Britain to Australia.¹⁴
- 5.4 The Australian Catholic Immigration Committee was established and had an office in London from 1948 until at least 1949. The Director in 1949 was Rev W A Nicol.¹⁵ Rev Nicol was resident during 1948 and perhaps 1949 in Nazareth House, Hammersmith Road, London, with the office at 29 Edbury Street, London, before it moved to St Stephen's House, Westminster, London. The Australian Catholic Immigration Committee took over the work that Brother Conlon and the various Catholic Associations and Societies had been undertaking.¹⁶ The Committee had offices in London and Edinburgh for the administration of the scheme in Great Britain.
- 5.5 The Australian Hierarchy supported the scheme principally through finance and operating a central administrative structure to enable various Church organisations in Australia to negotiate with the Australian State authorities to oversee the immigration of Catholic children, and the co-ordination of a network of offices outwith Australia for the local migration schemes.

¹³ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/9/5*, Letter dated 25th April 1947 from [Brother] P A Conlon, [redacted] Twickenham, to Very Rev P F Quille, Edinburgh.

¹⁴ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/8/5*, Minute of a confidential meeting held on 19 July 1946 held at the Catholic Enquiry Office, Edinburgh between Lady Margaret Kerr, Brother Conlon and Fr Quille.

¹⁵ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/10/1*, Letter dated 26th September 1949 from Margaret [unknown], Australian Catholic Immigration Committee, 140 St Stephen's House, Westminster to Miss N Menaldo, 6 India Buildings, Victoria Street, Edinburgh.

¹⁶ *Scottish Catholic Archives, AccM2006/20*, Report on Progress of the Australian Catholic Migration Scheme [1948].

6. Involvement of the Catholic Church in Scotland

- 6.1 The Catholic Church in Scotland, through the Catholic Enquiry Office in Edinburgh, represented the interests of the Australian Hierarchy in Scotland through the Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- 6.2 The Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland was, with funding from the Australian Hierarchy, to provide secretarial, advertising and other services for the promotion and support of the scheme.
- 6.3 The work of the Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland was based in the Catholic Enquiry Office, 5 India Buildings, Victoria Street, Edinburgh. The Hierarchy of Scotland determined that this office would conduct the business on behalf of the Church in Scotland, and after subsequent agreement also, the Catholic Church in Northern Ireland.
- 6.4 The Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland was to forward the names, ages, addresses and other necessary details of the prospective migrants to the Catholic Migration Secretaries in various States in Australia, in order to have the intending migrants nominated by the Catholic Migration committee concerned and have those nominations accepted by the State and Commonwealth Governments of Australia.¹⁷
- 6.5 The Catholic Church in Scotland promoted the scheme to all burgh and county Public Assistance Officers, circulating them with information about the scheme. It also enabled and encouraged visits by Brother Conlon to Catholic Homes in Scotland.

¹⁷ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/9/11*, Agreement between the Hierarchy of Australia represented by their Secretary, His Grace, the Most Rev J D Simonds, DD, Co-adjutor Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Rev P F Quille, Secretary, Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Catholic Enquiry Office, 6 India Buildings, Edinburgh 1. Signed by PF Quille, PA Conlon, The Australian Bishops' Migration representative in the United Kingdom and witnessed by Margaret Kerr, 8 May 1947.

7. Administration of the Migration Scheme in Scotland and Northern Ireland

- 7.1 Rev Patrick Quille of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh was appointed Secretary of the Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland and oversaw the work of the migration scheme in Scotland. He was assisted by a full time administrative secretary who oversaw the day to day work – Miss Norah Menaldo.
- 7.2 Miss Norah Menaldo started work on the scheme on 2 Feb 1947.¹⁸ She is definitely still working there on 26 September 1949¹⁹ but it is not clear for how long thereafter. Payments of salary are found for 7 months in 1947, the rate being £20 per month plus employers NI contributions, and 10 months in 1948.²⁰
- 7.3 Funding for the administration of the scheme came from payments made to the Archdiocese by the 'Australian Fund'; Rev J Quille, Australia Scheme; Rev P Quille; Sr Mary Cookston; Rev Fr Nicol, Sidney and Australia. During 1948, £347/-/2 was disbursed on items such as office administration; the salary and NI of the secretary, Miss Norah Menaldo and expenses. Further information regarding the origin of funds indicate that sums of £398/8/0 and £99/13/9 were sent 'from Australia' between June 1947 and December 1948.²¹ During 1949, similar expenses are incurred to the value of £414/10/6. In 1950 the expenditure dropped to £58/15/6 with the reduction in work seemingly reduced also.²²
- 7.4 Sums of £500 were provided to the Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement for Scotland and Northern Ireland by the Australian Hierarchy from 1947 for one year. It is possible that this subvention was continued into the following year.²³
- 7.5 The Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh maintained the finances for the scheme in Scotland, running income and expenditure accounts for the Australian Immigration Scheme from 21 Jan 1948 until 31 December 1951.
- 7.6 It would appear that the visit of Fr Nicol in 1950 from London to meet with Fr Quille and Miss Menaldo may have been the point where the administration of the scheme was returned to the London office of the Australian Catholic Immigration Committee.²⁴
- 7.7 The archives of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh do not adequately show what happened to the scheme in the long-term. References to the scheme and its administration simply cease.

¹⁸ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/12/3*, Financial notes regarding the administration of the Emigration Scheme, dated 14 October 1948.

¹⁹ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/10/1*, Letter dated 26th September 1949 from Margaret [unknown], Australian Catholic Immigration Committee, 140 St Stephen's House, Westminster to Miss N Menaldo, 6 India Buildings, Victoria Street, Edinburgh.

²⁰ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/12/3*, Memo dated 14 October 1948 and headed 'Catholic Enquiry Office – Miss N Menaldo'.

²¹ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/12/1*, Memo dated 1 February 1949 regarding the Emigration Account.

²² *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/40/2*, Financial Account Sheets for Various Funds, Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

²³ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/9/15* Letter dated 31 May 1948 from Rev Patrick Quille, India Buildings, Edinburgh to Most Reverend Bishop Toohey, St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, Australia.

²⁴ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/10/1*, Letter dated 26th September 1949 from Margaret [unknown], Australian Catholic Immigration Committee, 140 St Stephen's House, Westminster to Miss N Menaldo, 6 India Buildings, Victoria Street, Edinburgh.

8. Records and archives of the Migration Scheme

8.1 The records and archives of the migration scheme located at the Scottish Catholic Archives are minimal in extent. Using the SCA database which contains the catalogue records of the archives of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh as the principle source of information, a number of searches were made using the following terms (each discovery of documents allowing for new terms to be used):

- Conlon
- Menaldo
- migration
- Australia
- Nicol
- Quille
- Catholic Council
- Overseas settlement

Using the term 'migration' returned all terms which included 'migration' (emigration and immigration).

Unsuccessful searches were made with terms such as:

- Simonds [Co-adj. Archbishop of Melbourne]
- Christian Brothers
- Flint [English migration agent]

The following results were returned:

Reference	Title	Dates	Scope and content
DE/40	Finance: General	1879-1995	Endowments; Bequests; Funds; investments; correspondence regarding Annual Returns; Covenant Centre
DE/40/1	Finance ledger	1927	Endowments; bequests; funds; with names of Trustees and Note of Investments as at June 1927 (includes Australian Migration Scheme)
DE/121	Social Work: Archdiocesan Social Services Committee	1946-1948	Minutes of meetings; synopsis of minutes of Diocesan Committee meetings; ledger for Social Services
DE/121/1	Minute Book of Archdiocesan Social Services Committee	1946-1948	Topics discussed include orphanages; approved schools; immigration and emigration; sites and property; YCW; education
DE/121/2	Synopsis of Minutes of Diocesan Committee Meetings	8 Apr 1948-8 Jun 1948	
DE/132	Social Work: Migrants and Refugees	1926-1980	Emigration to Canada; emigration to Australia; refugees from the near East and Europe; seasonal workers; Scotland's Travelling People; christian

DE/132/8	Emigration to Australia: Correspondence	1946	prisoners in the USSR Letters regarding UK and Australian Governments having agreed a new Immigration policy including a child migrant scheme; details of scheme; support for scheme from Catholic Council for Overseas Settlement; Report on meeting at Catholic Enquiry Office between Lady Margaret Kerr, Brother Conlon and Fr Quille regarding Australia wanting children aged 5-14; concessions granted by Australian government to encourage immigration policy
DE/132/9	Emigration to Australia: Correspondence	1947-1948	Correspondence between Rev P Quille and Brother Conlon regarding children from Smyllum suitable for emigration scheme; possible children may be obtained from non Denominational Homes (Catholic children); proposed circular encouraging child emigration; list of Authorities to whom circular was sent; Agreement between the Hierarchy of Australia and Rev P Quille, secretary, for Catholic Council for British Overseas Settlement, for Scotland and Northern Ireland; Statement on the Progress of the Australian Catholic Migration Scheme (Scotland and Northern Ireland); up to date list of children required immediately
DE/132/10	Emigration to Australia: Correspondence	1949-1950	Arrangements for meeting with Father Nicol of Australian Catholic Immigration Committee; 'Answers to Banking Questions usually asked by new settlers leaving for Australia'; information supplied by Commonwealth Bank of Australia; banking advertisements - 'Finance for Farms'; 'A Home of Your Own' Reports on migration
DE/132/11	Emigration to Australia: Reports and Memoranda	1949, [20th cent]	
DE/132/11/1	Report on Adult and Child Migration	1949	
DE/132/11/2	Migration Scheme from the United Kingdom to Australia	[20th cent]	
DE/132/11/3	Australian Bishops' Scheme to deal with Catholic migrant children	[20th cent]	
DE/132/11/4	Apparent failure of Australian Bishops' Scheme	[20th cent]	

DE/132/11/5	The Catholic Migration Scheme	[20th cent]	Its support from the Hierarchies and its mode of operation
DE/132/11/6	Draft of The Catholic Migration Scheme	[20th cent]	
DE/132/12	Emigration to Australia: Notes and Expenses	1947-1949, [20th cent]	Emigration Account; notes of expenses; rough notes regarding scheme

Extracts relating to the Emigration Scheme from the Archdiocesan Social Services Committee (DE/121/1-2) are to be found in appendix 1, sections 1 and 2 of this report.

Minutes of the Hierarchy of Scotland (DE/19/2-3) were also consulted and references found in the minutes of meetings are to be found in appendix 1, section 3 of this report.

- 8.2 In a recent transfer of material from the General Secretariat of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, the contents list of a 'Letter Box' of the Secretary to the Hierarchy with contents dating from the 1930s to 1960s was found to indicate a file relating to Australian migration. The contents of the file are listed below. The information given supports the extracts given of the Hierarchy minutes and importantly provides copies of annual reports not found elsewhere.

Reference	Title	Dates	Scope and content
AccM2006/20/	Scottish Catholic Migration Scheme to Australia	1947	Numbers of children sailing on the 'Ormonde'
AccM2006/20/	Report on progress	[1948]	Report on progress of Australian Catholic Migration Scheme
AccM2006/20/	Copy of letter sent to Fr Quille for the Edinburgh Enquiry Office	24 May 1948	Letter from Bishops' secretary W H Mellon requesting that the Australian Hierarchy continue to sponsor emigration from Scotland
AccM2006/20/	Australian Catholic Migration Scheme: Scotland and N. Ireland	1 Feb 1949	Quarterly progress report on adult and child migration
AccM2006/20/	Australian Catholic Migration Scheme: Scotland and N. Ireland	Jun 1947-Apr 1948	Statement of the progress of the Catholic Scheme of Migration to Australia
AccM2006/20/	Australian Catholic Migration Scheme: Scotland and N. Ireland	Jun 1947-Apr 1948	Statement of the progress of the Catholic Scheme of Migration to Australia

- 8.3 Contact has also been made with the Director of the St Andrew's Children's Society in Edinburgh to ascertain if any records had been transferred to the Society from the Catholic Enquiry Office at any point in the past. This confirmed that no records were extant there.
- 8.4 Research using similar terms has been undertaken in the databases of the National Archives of Scotland, the National Register of Archives for Scotland, the Scottish Archives Network catalogue, the National Archives (UK and Ireland) and the National Register of Archives. Whilst there are a few items found in other archives, there are no records to be found of the organization operated by the Catholic Church in Scotland.
- 8.5 It is assumed that the records of the homes where the children were sent from will have records of the names and further details in their own archives. They are not held by the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh or the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

9. Numbers of migrants involved

- 9.1 Calculating the number of child migrants involved is very difficult. Reports giving numerical information often conflict, overlap and quite possibly duplicate/repeat. Unfortunately, the quality of the information simply doesn't allow accurate figures.
- 9.2 The following figures show that at least 183 and at most 387 children were migrated to Australia from Scotland and Northern Ireland between 1946 and 1950. It is not possible to determine how accurate these figures are. These figures do not include the adult and family group figures that often appear with the child migrant statistics.

Details	Reference	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Total
Good Shepherd Convent, Edinburgh (sent to Western Australia)	DE/132/11/1		7	7	1		15
Nazareth House, Lasswade (sent to Western Australia)	DE/132/11/1		27		1		28
Nazareth House, Aberdeen (sent to Western Australia)	DE/132/11/1		11				11
Nazareth House, Cardonald (sent to South Australia)	DE/132/11/1				1		1
Nazareth House, Derry (sent to Western Australia)	DE/132/11/1		13				13
St Joseph's, Termonbacca, Co Derry (sent to Western Australia)	DE/132/11/1		27				27
Nazareth Lodge, Belfast (sent to Western Australia)	DE/132/11/1		23				23
From private homes (sent to South Australia and Western Australia)	DE/132/11/1		2				2
Group of Scots children sent with children from England and Wales to Adelaide	DE/132/9/13			?			?
Unspecified (Scotland and Northern Ireland)	DE/121/1		150				
Unspecified (Scotland and Northern Ireland)	AccM2006/20/	63		7			70
Unspecified (Scotland)	AccM2006/20/		47				47
Total		63	110/ 157/ 307²⁵	7/ 14²⁶	3	0	183/ 237/ 387

- 9.3 A report from October 1949 states that a total of 120 children have migrated to date. It additionally states that there are approximately a further 102 Catholic children waiting to emigrate under the scheme. It is not clear if these children did migrate or not.²⁷
- 9.4 The discrepancies in the figures might relate to the Edinburgh office not having been in operation from the beginning of the scheme in Scotland.

²⁵ The figures of 110/157 are given because it is likely that the 47 unspecified children given are already included in the previous figures – however, since both reports have minor discrepancies, it is thought best to include both. The Archdiocesan Social Services Committee indicates that 150 children were due to depart in August 1947. This number is not included elsewhere in any other surviving reports.

²⁶ Similar to note 17, it would appear that different reports may have provided the same information. It should remain recorded as 7/14.

²⁷ *Scottish Catholic Archives, DE/132/11/1, Report on Australian Immigration, October 1949.*

Appendix 1 Archives of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh

1.1 Extracts of Minutes of the Archdiocesan Social Services Committee DE/121/1

24 Sep 1946	Emigration - from a letter received from Brother Conlon it appeared that all institutions had replied to his communication with the exception of Rutherglen and Smylleum. Full details of the Adult scheme would be made available to the Committee after the meeting of the English Hierarchy.
1 Oct 1946	Emigration - this matter is well in hand.
8 Oct 1946	Emigration - Fr Quille [reported] that he had been asked by Br Conlon in a reply to his letter to suspend publication of the scheme until after the meeting of the English Hierarchy.
15 Oct 1946	Emigration - information had just been received from Br Conlon giving lists of the children concerned from the various Homes and provisions made by the Australian Hierarchy and Govt and by Card Griffin for their spiritual and temporal well being.
22 Oct 1946	Emigration - Fr Quille, had as a result of last week's letter from Br Conlon, circularized all Homes - to date only two had replied.
5 Nov 1946	Emigration - Bro Conlon has communicated to Fr Quille a document designed for the PAs concerned embodying the Govt's sanction of the scheme.
12 Dec 1946	Emigration: Bro Conlon has been provided with lists of children at Aberdeen, Lasswade and Colinton, he will cover the Glasgow area, Edinburgh and Aberdeen; Fr Quille reported and suggested in addition that he visit the Working Boys Home unofficially this last because of difficulties re conscriptions and protestant sensitivities - the Adult Scheme had not yet been published.
17 Dec 1946	Emigration - Bro Conlon had recruited 89 children so far for his scheme. He did not visit the Working Boys Home, the Adult Scheme is not yet public.
24 Dec 1946	Emigration - Adult Scheme - His Grace would like to handle this from the Enquiry Office. Bro Conlon is to see to this arrangement and the payment of the men by Australia House.
31 Dec 1946	Emigration - Fr Quille reported on having been received a refusal from the Australian Govt's Authorities to pay the expenses of those referred to in minutes of last meeting. He will write for further details.
29 Jan 1947	Emigration - Bro Conlon has written to Fr Quille re Information Office to be set up. The Australian Hierarchy may pay salary of an official - agreed that £250 and expenses be asked.
11 Feb 1947	Emigration - Letter from Bro Conlon received Fr Quille reported, he has cabled the Committee's proposals to the Australian Hierarchy. Some children are due to leave shortly. Fr Quille has notified the Homes concerned.
8 Apr 1947	Emigration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arch Simmonds has agreed to the proposal to appoint a paid secy for Scotland and one for England to deal with Adult Emigration - this agreement awaits the approval of the Australian 'Episcopal Committee' 2. Bro Conlon has been approached re the case of mothers wishing to accompany the children 3. 340 children are scheduled for Emigration - 1947 - of these Lasswade 18, Colinton 10, other figs not yet available. The Authorities have been approached re their release 4. The scheme works on 2 age groups - 5-14 and 14-19. Fr Macfarlane drew attention to the Working Boys' Home and its falling into this second category. Fr Quille will see Bro Conlon about this - the situation is complicated by the Military Service Laws.
15 Apr 1947	Emigration - Fr Quille saw Bro Conlon while he was in London at the weekend.
24 April 1947	Emigration - Fr Quille reported having received a letter from Bro Conlon - 340 out of 400 passages for Catholic adults and children in 1947. Lasswades forms and Aberdours all filled; Smyllum poor response. Trouble is Dundee and Lanarkshire PA's - Dundee has taken the matter up with Bro Conlon. Fr Quille advised Rev Mother to do the same with Lanarkshire Colinton - some complication over permits from Glasgow PA children. Fr Quille saw Ramsay and Ford - the latter pointed out that no local authority could give permits for under 12s to leave the country. Fr Quille advised local authorities to see St Andrew's House and Australia House. Australian Bishops have agreed to pay salary of secretary to handle emigration for 12 months, with poss renewals.
29 April 1947	Emigration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secy accepted by Australian Hierarchy. Fr Quille has approached one of two likely candidates 2. Bro Conlon is coming to Edinburgh on 7th May.
6 May 1947	Emigration - Fr Quille has circularized all Scottish Burgh and County authorities.

15 May 1947	<p>Emigration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fr Quille reported that as a result of Bro Conlon's visit last week, the Secretarial job with salary of £400 has been agreed to by His Grace and its scope is to extend to Ireland. A candidate for the post is being sought 2. Applications for Emigration have been dealt with by Fr Quille.
29 May 1947	<p>Emigration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many applications received 2. Secy – in view. Miss Manaldo.
3 Jun 1947	Emigration – Miss Manaldo Secy has arrived.
10 Jun 1947	Emigration – going well. Papers notified.
18 Jun 1947	Emigration – scheme is going ahead successfully.
25 Jun 1947	<p>Emigration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shipping difficulty – escort problem outlined by Fr Quille 2. 100 children, most from N Ireland are scheduled to emigrate so far.
1 Jul 1947	Emigration – report prepared for Hierarchy
8 Jun 1947	Emigration – total applications 213 adults – 141 Scotland; 72 N Ireland. Children 106, Scotland 60, N Ireland 46.
15 Jul 1947	<p>Emigration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 150 children due to sail August 21st; others Sept or Oct – for Western Australia. Medical examination of candidates began 14th ult 2. UK Govt acc to Bro Conlon, is making an equipment allowance. Fr Quille is handling details of this 3. £210 cheque for Secys salary is expected soon.
4 Aug 1947	<p>Emigration</p> <p>Probable assurance of a special boat for North. Eng and Scots children in October or November. The children from North Ireland are going with those from the South of England in August. The emigration scheme is now open to Poles with British degrees or British wives.</p>
27 Aug 1947	Emigration – Miss Manaldo to go to London re Emigration situation. She is to see Bro Conlon.
2 Sep 1947	Homes – Emigration Scheme. Miss Manaldo returned from London on Emigration business, reports chaos resulting from Bro Conlon's handling of the situation. He has left for Australia. Apparently there is no official Adult Scheme yet formulated – acc to Australia House.
16 Sep 1947	Homes – Emigration. First batch sail on Oct 10 th . Fr Quille has been asked to provide a chaplain – by Sat 20 th inst.
23 Sep 1947	Emigration – Fr Quille submitted statistics which have already been presented to His Grace.
7 Oct 1947	<p>Emigration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Colinton – four permissions received from Glasgow PA 2. 47 children to sail 10th Oct 3. Fr Mullen of Burntisland has written to Fr Quille re Emigration. <p>Emigration – SVP are paying £5 per caput grant to over 14s emigrating to Australia.</p>
14 Oct 1947	<p>Emigration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First batch off to Australia as per plan 2. Glasgow PA has given permission to three Colinton children – additional to the four mentioned last week 3. No sailing in November – no information as to the next sailing 4. Fr Mullen (Burntisland) – his case referred to the Enquiry Office.
4 Nov 1947	Emigration – There is a sailing for Australia in November, but, Fr Quille has been informed, there will be no vacancies for Scottish children.
2 Dec 1947	<p>Emigration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children have arrived safely. Letter of appreciation received by Fr Quille from Arch Prendeville of Perth, Australia 2. Confusion re future plans. No immediate hope of sailing.
9 Dec 1947	Emigration – a release has been given to the Press re the Adult scheme and the hitches attendant thereon.
16 Dec 1947	<p>Emigration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Catholic Caledonian Society of Australia is ready to nominate emigrants for Australia 2. Bro Conlon wants domestic servants from Scotland - £2-10 per week. Regarded as very poor wage.
15 Jan 1948	<p>Emigration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fr Quille reported on the possibility of some 30 children emigrating under the English scheme 2. Requests for domestics received from Australia

3. It is hoped that the remainder of the children due to emigrate will leave soon.
- 8 Apr 1948 Emigration – Australian Scheme well in hand. A report submitted by Miss Menaldo.
- 13 Apr 1948 Emigration – Uproar Dispatch over the need for Protestant Emigrants to Australia – Catholic ‘monopoly’ rant by Protestant Minister given wide publicity. Agreed that nothing be done by us, since allegations are all made against the Australian Authorities who must defend themselves if they deem it worthwhile.
- 4 May 1948 Emigration – Fr Quille reported that the scheme ends soon. Are the Australian Hierarchy willing to extend it? No reply from Br Conlon. Are the Scottish Hierarchy willing to take the scheme over? In view of the fact that Emigration is on the crest of the wave just now, it was suggested by Fr Quille and agreed by the Committee that a report be submitted to the Hierarchy of Scotland at their next meeting.
- 8 Jun 1948 Emigration
1. Fr Quille has arranged for the schemes continuance for another year. While in London, Fr Quille saw Emigration Authorities (Australian) – 2 ships are to leave shortly from the Clyde, he will try to get some 300 families away
 2. Lady Margt – in pursuance of her commission re Canada and S Africa Emigration has seen shipping agencies in Edinburgh and London. The flow of emigrants to these countries is not very large meantime. The Agencycs however will welcome any help re Catholic Emigrants.
- 26 Aug 1948 Emigration
1. An extra £90 has been voted by the Australian Hierarchy. A priest from Australia is to arrive sometime in Sept to discuss policy.
 2. 8 families are due to leave for Australia in the near future.
- 2 Nov 1948 Emigration – Fr Nicol from Australia called – he is to report back to Australia re future policy. He contemplates setting up his HQ in London and an outpost in Edinburgh.

1.1 Synopsis of Minutes of Diocesan Committee Meeting – 4 August 1947-14 October 1947, DE/37/2/3

B. OTHER HOMES AND ORPHANAGES

2. Lasswade. Holycot visited by Fr L A Glancey. It is due to open soon. There is a long waiting list for present vacancies resulting from emigration.

C. EMIGRATION

1. Lasswade. Mr Caldwell, Australian Minister of Emigration visited Lasswade and saw 29 children accepted by the Emigration Officer. He was pleased with all he saw. There are 7 children also emigrating from Colinton.
2. Miss Menaldo travelled to London concerning Emigration situation to see Br. Conlon. She reported chaos resulting from Br Conlon's handling of the affairs. As yet no official adult scheme has been formulated, according to Australia House.
3. Poles. Emigration scheme is now open to Poles with British wives or with British degrees.
4. Date of sailing. 1st batch of 47 children sailed on 1st October according to plan. Fr Quille provided a chaplain and submitted statistics to His Grace.
5. Fr Mullen of Burntisland has written to Fr Quille regarding Emigration and his case has been referred to the Enquiry Office.
6. SVDP are paying £5 per child, grant to cover all over 14 years who are immigrating to Australia.
7. No sailings in November and no information as yet regarding future sailings.

1.3 Minutes of meetings of the Scottish Hierarchy

13 May 1947 – DE/19/2/3

Immigration to Australia – Archbishop McDonald intimated that the Edinburgh Inquiry Office were attending to the work, as far as Catholics in Scotland were concerned, in connection with the Government scheme for immigration to Australia.

11/12 May 1948 - DE/19/3/2

Emigration to Australia – With regard to emigration to Australia the meeting was informed that large numbers of people were still desirous of settling in Australia. The Australian Hierarchy had sponsored a scheme of emigration from this country for the past two years, but now it would appear that they were discontinuing their activities in this regard. The meeting was agreed that the Australian Bishops should be asked to continue their emigration schemes and organisations for a further period. The Edinburgh Inquiry Office was prepared to carry out the work as far as this country was concerned.

30 Jun 1948 – DE/19/3/3

Emigration to Australia – with further reference to the question of Emigration to Australia, it was reported that Bishop Mellon had written to Father Quille. The Edinburgh Inquiry Office was taking up the matter with the Australian Hierarchy.

13 October 1948 – DE/19/3/1

Emigration to Australia – A brief report was given about the work done by the Catholic Inquiry Office, Edinburgh.

Appendix 2 Extract from 'Good British Stock: Child and Youth Migration to Australia' – National Archives of Australia Research Guide

The Roman Catholic Church

Child migration to Canada was a regular, but small-scale feature of Catholic 'rescue' for deprived British children from 1872. The emigration to Canada continued until the Depression in 1930. When the Canadian government finally refused entry to unaccompanied children, Catholic carers saw Australia as a possible destination for the youngsters.

Father J Nugent of Liverpool headed the first Catholic organisation to send children to Canada. He made arrangements through parish priests to place the children with local families in Quebec and Ontario. In 1874, Cardinal Manning started the 'Crusade of Rescue' within the Archdiocese of Westminster and under Father Richard Seddon children were sent to the eastern townships of Quebec and the Ottawa area. In another part of London, Father A Douglas, Manager of St Vincent's Orphanage, placed some of his older boys in the prairie provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In 1899, Catholic child migration was coordinated from the Westminster 'Crusade of Rescue' and a central receiving institution, St George's Home, was established in Montreal and managed by the Sisters of Charity. The home provided the focus for juvenile emigration until it was closed in 1935. Overall, some 5 000 children were sent to Canada by Catholic organisations during the heyday of child emigration, about 5–8% of the total.

In Australia Catholic interest in juvenile migration came late, after the successful work already commenced by the Dreadnought Trust, Barnardo's, Fairbridge and the Big Brother Movement. It was associated with the founding of the Knights of the Southern Cross in Perth in 1922 as a Catholic counterpart to the Freemason Lodge. One of the Knights' objectives was increasing Catholic migration to Western Australia, and more specifically child immigration.

In 1926, the Knights' executive found ready support from Brother Paul Keaney, the newly-appointed Director of the Clontarf orphanage near Perth. Brother Keaney with financial support from the Knights, planned a farm school at Tardun near Mullewa, west of Geraldton, to cater for the farm training of older Australian boys in care and also for British child migrants. Keaney's plans were not successful at this stage: the Director of the 'Crusade of Rescue' in Britain, Father Hudson, was unwilling to change his long-standing arrangements for sending children to Canada, and in Australia the Commonwealth government was not prepared to provide a subsidy on Fairbridge lines.

However, the farm school at Tardun was established for local youth in care after an epic pioneering struggle in the depth of the Depression. Meanwhile, Canada refused entry to unaccompanied children and Catholic carers in Britain were more responsive to placing some of their children in Australia. As economic conditions improved during the mid-1930s, assisted immigration revived. Farm schools were in vogue. The Fairbridge mystique was widely acclaimed.

By this time, the Christian Brothers were managing child care for Catholic boys and young men in four coordinated institutions, at Clontarf and Castledare orphanages in the suburbs of Perth, at the farm school at Tardun and on the new property at Bindoon, one hundred kilometres north of Perth, a property recently donated to the Order by a wealthy benefactor. It seemed relatively easy to integrate child migrants from Britain within the four orphanages according to their ages and talents. The British, Commonwealth and Western Australian governments were willing to assist with maintenance of the children.

In this situation, the Western Australian bishops arranged for Brother A Conlon to proceed to London to negotiate for one hundred child migrants with the British Catholic Rescue Societies in 1938. Conlon's task took longer than he anticipated, but over 1938–39 some three groups of boys, 114 in all, sailed for Western Australia to be educated and trained within the Christian Brothers four orphanages, collectively referred to as 'the Scheme'. While he was in Europe, Brother Conlon explored the possibilities of bringing Maltese children to Western Australia, but negotiations broke down at this stage. There were also tentative arrangements to bring a party of girls to the Nazareth Sisters Home in Geraldton, WA but the outbreak of war in September 1939 placed those plans on hold for the duration.

As has been mentioned before, during the war a transformation occurred in Australia's immigration policy, and in the new mass migration plans, child migration figured prominently. Catholic Church leaders – late arrivals on the Australian juvenile migration scene – responded to government policy with the fervour and dedication of recent converts. A few months before Arthur Calwell's August 1945 launch of the government's revitalised immigration policy, Bishop Gummer of Geraldton wrote to the Prime Minister requesting permission to renew child migration to the Tardun scheme and to Nazareth House, Geraldton. The Prime Minister's Department advised Gummer to inquire in six months time when the war might be over and the migration scene clarified. However, the letter mentioned the 'extreme shortage of shipping', the housing problem in Australia and the priority of repatriating ex-Service personnel.

In the heady enthusiasm for immigration, Archbishop Prendiville wrote to Cardinal Griffin in London offering to take 2 500 British orphans into the Western Australian Catholic orphanages during the first eighteen months of peace. The Colonial Office, the Australian government and the Christian Brothers were appalled at the suggestion of such ridiculous figures. However, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference arranged with the Christian Brothers to allow Brother Conlon to accompany Archbishop Simmonds to Europe in April 1946; Simmonds to explore the possibilities of bringing large numbers of war orphans from devastated continental Europe to Australia, and Conlon to arrange a lift of British child migrants to the Tardun scheme. The Immigration Department funded the exercise.

Conlon arrived in London months before either the British government or the Catholic agencies were in a position to negotiate seriously. There were no ships available to transport migrants to Australia. A frustrating sixteen months passed during which Simmonds realised there were no appreciable numbers of war orphans from Europe to be obtained, and Conlon arranged the first postwar lift of 340 child migrants to Western Australia. Both men realised that there were relatively few youngsters in a changing Britain suitable for child migration.

During this 1946–47 trip to Europe, both Archbishop Simmonds and Brother Conlon visited Malta to explore the migration possibilities: the Archbishop to explore the overall migration scene and Conlon to arrange juvenile immigration. Eventually some 280 to 300 child migrants were to come to Western Australia from Malta between 1950 and 1965. Meanwhile the arrival of over 300 child migrants to Western Australia in 1947 filled the available spaces in the Catholic homes and for three years few children arrived under Catholic auspices. However, as the first arrivals graduated to the work force after 1950, the Catholic authorities made exceptional efforts during the years 1950–56 to recruit further youngsters to Catholic orphanages around the country. However, most went to Western Australia.

After this exceptional effort and enthusiasm for child migration after World War II, it is ironic that Catholic child migration from Britain terminated quite suddenly in 1956, though children already in the Australian homes stayed until their graduation. Changing styles of child care had made little or no impact on the large Catholic institutions managed by volunteer church workers, none of whom had any social work qualifications. The Home Office was aware of this and urged British carers to move towards fostering for deprived Catholic children. The crisis came in 1956 during the visit of the Fact-Finding Mission which was already opposed to child migration in principle and out of sympathy with institutional care.

The Mission produced a bland public report, but its more confidential notes were made available to interested parties in Britain, though not to the Australian government. Australian child care was deemed backward, and Catholic child care unsuitable for British children. Physical and sexual abuse was not the issue, institutionalisation and untrained carers were the problem; the answer was foster care, and so during the next few years most deprived Catholic children were fostered, and no more British Catholic children were sent to Australia.

Youth migration through Catholic agencies was also a post-World War II development and some one hundred young men were sponsored to Victoria by the Young Catholic Workers Movement. In addition, the director of the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee, Monsignor G Crennan, arranged for some young refugees living in Austrian and Italian camps, escapees from Communist-dominated eastern Europe, to settle in Australia.

After World War II, child migration under Catholic auspices approached one-half of the total number of children brought to Australia. The volume of records in the National Archives reflects this reality and the coverage is comprehensive. However, it does need to be stressed that over the last ten years while there have been searing controversies regarding some Catholic orphanages during the child migration era, there is only a little here which bears on these controversies. No file contains material on the sexual abuse issue, since the matter was not raised at the time in such a way that comments were recorded in the written records, at the national level. Otherwise, former residents, family historians and specialists will find much relevant material in these files.

There were three principal Catholic orders associated with child migration in Australia. The Christian Brothers were founded in 1802 in Waterford, Ireland by a former businessman, Edmund Rice. Rice had been born in 1762, apprenticed to his uncle's wholesale provision business as a teenager, and married in his early twenties. His wife died in childbirth leaving him with a mentally-retarded daughter and during the following years his mind turned to establishing a society of religious brothers for the education of poor boys. Rice's first school was established in 1802 and by the time of his death in 1844 there were one hundred brothers managing schools in the British Isles, Gibraltar and New South Wales. Thereafter, the order grew rapidly numbering almost 4 000 members in the early 1960s, with a large presence in Catholic education in Ireland, Australasia and North America. In the 1990s there were some 500–600 Christian Brothers in Australia and 1 700 worldwide.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded in 1831 in Dublin, Ireland by Catherine McAuley with the objective of 'a most serious application to the instruction of poor girls, visitation of the sick, and protection of distressed women of good character'. The order grew rapidly and became the largest women's religious order in the English-speaking world, with a substantial presence in Great Britain and Australia, being numbered in the thousands.

The Poor Sisters of Nazareth were established in London in 1851 by Mother St Basil (Victoire Larmenier, 1827–78) under the patronage of Cardinal Wiseman. The original group of sisters left France to begin work in England at the Cardinal's request. Their objective was care of the aged, together with the care and education of underprivileged infants and children. Their headquarters are at Hammersmith in London. Numbers in the order peaked in the 1960s with over 1 000 sisters working in the British Isles, the United States, Australia and South Africa. In the 1990s the order numbered 400–500 sisters.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1903–38

A1

Recorded 1916–28 Department of Home and Territories (CA 15)

by: 1928–32 Department of Home Affairs [II] (CA 24)

1932–38 Department of the Interior [I] (CA 27)

Quantity: 337.14 metres Location: Canberra

Catholic Immigration Society, NSW, 1928–30 [c.100 pages]

A1, 1932/7362

This concerns an abortive plan to introduce Catholic youths from the UK into the rural NSW Diocese of Lismore in the years just prior to the Depression, on the model of the Big Brother Movement. On 10 January 1929, Father (later Bishop) T B McGuire, the Vicar-General, requested from the clergy the names of prospective employers for the proposed youth migrants. The Australian High Commission cabled the Prime Minister's Department to encourage the initiative, which was receiving support from the Catholic Emigration Society (UK) and from Father Martindale's recent mission to Australia. It noted that 'as a general rule, the Roman Catholic bishops in the UK are opposed to migration'. In Melbourne, a memorandum of the Development and Migration Commission noted, 31 January 1929, that: Father William Nicol, Mullumbimby via Lismore had said the Catholic people of the area could absorb 500 domestics and 250 'boys'. In the past the Catholic community has not taken any active part in migration matters and it is thought that this initiative presented a favourable opportunity of enlisting their cooperation not only now but more particularly for the future... I think an expenditure of £250 on a project of this kind (a recruiting trip to the UK for Father William Nicol) would be worthwhile if it resulted in the Catholic Church being allied with us in our migration. The government did not wish to involve the churches in support of assisted migration. Father Nicol was booked to leave for London on the *Ormonde*, 20 July 1929, the British and Australian governments sharing the cost of his fare. However, Britain and Australia were drifting into recession and in view of 'the unsettled condition of employment generally' the plans to recruit young men for work in the Lismore diocese were cancelled, and so was Father Nicol's trip to London. After World War II, Father Nicol was to become the Australian bishops' representative in the UK, 1949–53.

Catholic Immigration, Queensland, 1929 [28 pages]

A1, 1932/7421

The Hon. Secretary, Catholic Immigration Society of Queensland, a body which had been largely inactive for some years, wrote to the Development and Migration Commission in Melbourne, 20 August 1929, 'to obtain any rules which

could govern a body like ours'. A week later, Mr J Mulvaney reported to the DMC on a recent trip to Queensland to stimulate youth migration. Mulvaney had met with Catholic migration representatives. He wrote: There were in all about twelve persons, in addition to two boys for farm work who had that morning arrived in Brisbane under an arrangement made between the Catholic Immigration Society of Brisbane and the Catholic Emigration Society of London. The Queensland body has been inactive for some time. However, they had a representative on the New Settlers League. There is a copy of the Constitution of the NSL (Victorian Branch) and a report on a meeting of the State Council of the NSL (Victoria), 14 December 1928, at which the British representatives, Skevington, Bankes Amery and E T Crutchley were present.

Clontarf orphanage – Western Australia, 1928–30 [33 pages]

A1, 1932/7433

This deals with the abortive plans of the management of Clontarf Orphanage, Perth, WA to bring child migrants to the Tardun scheme in the late 1920s. Brother P Keaney made his application to the Lands and Immigration Department in August 1927. Their reply in February 1928 was tentative:

I am prepared to agree to the proposal of your institution to bring boys into the state from the UK, provided that your institution can bring the Commonwealth and British governments into line, but the State's subsidy would be on the same basis as the Fairbridge Farm School, ie 4/3 per child, per week. The Fairbridge Farm School operates under Agreements with British, Commonwealth and state governments, and any representations to the Commonwealth on the matter should be made... to the Prime Minister's Department, and would then... be passed to the Development and Migration Commission... for consideration.

This was the procedure followed. In June 1928, the Commission reported, opposed to Commonwealth subsidy: Whilst the scheme is praiseworthy from a humanitarian point of view, the cost is too great to permit of justification of Commonwealth subsidy from the business angle of migration. The request was refused. In September 1928, the Prime Minister replied to Senator E Needham, WA that the request for financial assistance was unable to be granted. The approach was renewed via Senator P J Lynch in 1930 with a similar result.

Child Migration from Malta, 1935–37 [15 pages]

A1, 1937/10182

This deals with an enquiry by the Commissioner for Malta to the Department of the Interior regarding assisted immigration of Maltese children on the same basis as Fairbridge children. As financial assistance to immigrants at the time was confined to those from the United Kingdom, the proposal was not considered favourably.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1948–65

D400

Recorded 1948–66 Department of Immigration, SA Branch (CA 959)

by: Quantity: 435 metres Location: Adelaide

Child migration – Catholic youths sponsored by the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee, 1954 [14 pages]

**D400,
SA1954/5622**

This concerns the arrival under Catholic auspices of three groups of Yugoslav/Croatian youths, 60 in all, average age sixteen years, to South Australia. This migration took place on Monsignor G Crennan's initiative. The young men and women were in Italian refugee camps after their escape from Communist-ruled Yugoslavia. The plan was to apprentice or otherwise employ them immediately on arrival. After their arrival in Adelaide they were to be placed at Woodside (Army) Camp for a few days. The Good Neighbour Council and the Croatian Catholic Club were assisting in making arrangements for reception and after-care. The Catholic Immigration Office, Adelaide, was managed by Father L Roberts who was coordinating arrangements in South Australia.

Child Migrants for Goodwood Orphanage, 1949–57

**D400,
SA1954/7424**

Assisted migration – Triestian parties of youths – Catholic Immigration Committee, 1955

**D400, SA
1955/321**

Child Migration – Child and Youth Organisations – St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, 1946–48

**D400,
SA1955/8736**

CASE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1946–

J25

Recorded 1946–74 Department of Immigration, Qld Branch (CA 958)

by: Quantity: 1652.67 metres Location: Brisbane

European Permanent Admissions under the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee sponsorships, Qld, 1947–66 [26 pages]

J25, 1955/2814

There is a list of state members of the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee in 1947. The file is relevant in part to child migration, but concerns the general immigration scene as viewed from Brisbane. Coverage is patchy. There were discussions in 1958, followed by an application for '120 European minors during the twelve months commencing 1 July 1958'. Youth migrants were obviously intended, but it is not clear from this file whether any young people arrived under the nomination.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES (NON-BRITISH EUROPEAN MIGRANTS), 1939–50

A434

Recorded 1945–50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

by: Quantity: 12.45 metres Location: Canberra

State Catholic Immigration Committee – Registration as agent, 1949–50 [5 pages]

**A434,
1949/3/25955**

T O'Neill, Hon. Secretary, Catholic Immigration Committee, Queensland, wrote to the Chief Migration Officer,

Brisbane, 24 October 1949:

I hereby apply, on behalf of the Queensland State Catholic Immigration Committee, for permission to continue lodging nomination forms for foreign and other migrants.

This was approved, 6 December 1949.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 5 (BRITISH MIGRANTS), 1945-50

A436

Recorded 1945 Department of the Interior (II) (CA 31)

by: 1945-50 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

Quantity: 5.04 metres Location: Canberra

Survey of State Organisations to deal with Youth Migration, 1946 [4 pages]

**A436,
1946/5/5075**

In mid-1946, a Conference of Commonwealth and State Immigration Ministers recommended that a survey be conducted of the voluntary organisations in each state capable of assisting with youth migration. In this file, Queensland Premier E M Hanlon, wrote to Prime Minister Ben Chifley, 25 September 1946, that no such organisations were working in Queensland, and so:

... for the time being, the State Migration Authority will exercise control in youth migration and will deal with individual nominations for farm learners and group nominations from organisations like the Salvation Army.

The survey did not go far, but youth migration was discussed at the Premiers Conference in December 1946.

CEMWA: Request for children from Malta, 1938-50 [38 pages]

**A436,
1949/5/1220**

The information relates to the post-World War II period, 1946-50, with the exception of two items, one giving conditions governing child migration from Malta to Christian Brothers institutions in Western Australia, the other a related letter. Some of the material concerns child migration generally and is not limited to the Maltese situation. Brother Conlon wrote to Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, 19 February 1946, while he was on a tour of Catholic dioceses in rural NSW and Queensland, and said:

There is keen interest in the Commonwealth's great scheme of immigration.

He asked Calwell for a passage to the UK as quickly as possible so that he could commence recruiting. Meanwhile, Captain Curmi, the Commissioner for Malta indicated, 12 February 1947, that:

The government of Malta would favour the emigration of children... for RC institutions in Western Australia...

but transport remained a problem and the claims of other classes of migrants would have to be met before those of child migrants could be considered. There is a copy of the 1938 agreement between the Christian Brothers and the government of Malta, but the agreement had never been implemented. By this stage, Brother Conlon was in the UK and wrote to Calwell, 23 November 1946:

I find that the numbers available will be far short of the number applied for by the bishops.

Most of the remaining correspondence concerns plans to bring Maltese children to Western Australia which involved policy as well as practical issues. The material includes a copy of an inspection at St Mary's Agricultural School, Tardun, 1948 and some newspaper cuttings regarding Maltese child migration.

CEMWA - Equipment Allowance Payments - Child Migrants, 1947-49 [57 pages]

**A436,
1950/5/5597**

There are lists throughout of children who arrived in Western Australia under Catholic auspices from 1947 onwards, their dates of birth, age, ships on which groups travelled and the British institution from which they were sent. Mr F A Atkinson, Secretary of the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association applied for the equipment allowance on 19 December 1947 to the Secretary, Department of Immigration, Canberra. He asked for 'early remittance' of the monies, 'as all institutions have been subjected to heavy initial expenses'. However, the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association procedures were astray and the equipment allowance was not paid for months. Heyes wrote to the CMO, Perth, 7 January 1948:

The UK subsidy must be requested through the relative Association's Head Office in the UK. It was thought that the details of the scheme were known to Brother Conlon.

He added that the equipment allowance could only be paid 'after you have verified the ages of the children against the documents sent with them from London'. However, some documentation had gone astray or had never been sent. Three months later, Father Stinson was trying to arrange payment and hackles were rising all around. On 30 April 1948, Heyes advised Perth that 'a cheque is on the way' but it is not clear from this file if the payments were ever finalised.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, MULTIPLE NUMBER SERIES, 1951-55

A445

Recorded 1951-55 Department of Immigration (CA 51)

by: Quantity: 22.5 metres Location: Canberra

Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, Perth, 1938-50 [75 pages]

A445, 133/2/8

This file is linked to A461, 1349/1/7 (described later in this section). Most of the material covers the period 1946-50, but there is some correspondence relating to migrant children and their admission to Catholic institutions in Western Australia immediately before World War II. There is a copy of the agreement, under the Empire Settlement Act, between the Secretary of State, Dominion Affairs and the Catholic Emigration Association (UK), dated 30 September 1938, for the maintenance of the children under the Tardun scheme, which included:

... in the case of boys who have completed a course of secondary education at Tardun, to use their best efforts to provide such boys as are suitable with an opportunity for acquiring farms on their own account, or to place them in suitable employment.

Appendix III sets out the course of training for the boys at the institutions. Copy of the agreement between the Secretary and the Christian Brothers of Western Australia for part-payment of annual interest on the buildings at Tardun, 1938-52, up to £5,000 overall. There is some correspondence concerning Maltese child migration and the

problems of escorting the children to Australia. The report of the four-man team inspections at Castledare and Clontarf, 1 May 1947 is included. The recommencement of child migration was in the offing. In Canberra, Sir Tasman Heyes was concerned, 15 June 1947, that child migration was being resumed before the institutions were ready: 'Unfortunately the Group Nominations for WA were approved and scheduled to London before they were referred to the office of the UK High Commission... now we find that some of them [institutions] are quite unsatisfactory in their present condition.

However, by 12 November 1947, 234 boys had arrived for placement. There are a number of reports by various departmental officials of the institutions, including the 'Notes of the Conference', 4 February 1948, at the office of the Under Secretary, Lands and Immigration Department, over the situation at St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, Bindoon.

CEMWA – Request for children from Malta, Part 2, 1950–53 [c.250 pages]

A445, 133/2/90

The first Maltese child migrants arrived in Perth, boys to be spread around the four Christian Brothers orphanages. There was comment on the state of the ship on which they travelled, the *Ocean Triumph*, but Mr E A Mernbery wrote to the CMO, in Canberra, 26 April 1950:

The children were of good physique, very neatly attired and well-mannered... it appeared obvious that much care had been taken in selecting these migrants.

There are applications for the equipment allowance, lists of Maltese children arriving, correspondence regarding the various forms required to support applications for the equipment allowance, and a useful two-page summary of 'General Policy' under the 1946 Guardianship Act. Much of the correspondence is completely routine, concerned with recruiting Maltese children to fill nominations. However, few Maltese child migrants arrived. Mr R U Metcalfe reported to Heyes, 7 August 1952 on a meeting between Father Stinson and Messrs Wheeler and Nutt before Stinson left to replace Father Nicol as Federal Catholic Immigration Committee representative in London:

On questions of financial assistance, Wheeler indicated that there was considerable tightening up and new grants were unlikely. With regard to Bindoon and the other homes, the irregular procedure had been the chief cause of the hold-up in payments. Father Stinson recognised that details, plans and specifications should be made available at the outset.

Later, Father Nicol's report on a visit to Malta, 1–6 May 1952 is appended. Nicol spoke of opposition in Malta to allowing child migrants to proceed to Western Australia: (a) there was an unfortunate letter written by a child to its relatives regarding treatment received in WA – allowing capital to be made out of a very small matter by political opponents to migration; (b) apathy of the orphanage authorities in sponsoring candidates for transfer overseas; (c) past instability of the government without sympathetic Ministers in Cabinet.

Federal Catholic Migration Committee. Child Migration – General. Part 3, 1954–55 [50 pages]

A445, 133/2/147

This concerns both arrangements to bring Maltese child migrants to South Australia and Monsignor G Crennan's project to recruit Croatian (Yugoslav) refugees from camps in the Trieste area. The arrival of escapees from communist regimes in eastern Europe interested the media and there are numerous newspaper clippings included. Their flavour may be gleaned from the headlines: 'Yugoslav boys for Adelaide'; 'Yugoslav youth seek haven in Australia'; 'Escaped from Tito' and 'Croatian boys settling down happily now'. The number of youths who arrived is unclear, but fewer than one hundred.

Youth Migration – Young Christian Workers Movement, Hawthorn. Victoria, 1950–55 [c.300 pages]

A445, 133/2/101

During 1949–50, Father F W Lombard, Director of the Young Catholic Workers Movement (Victoria) visited the UK to assess the possibilities of bringing young British workers to Australia on lines similar to that of the Big Brother Movement. Early correspondence includes Father Lombard's application for financial assistance to renovate the YCW hostel at Hawthorn, the acceptance of the YCW as 'an approved organisation' to bring youth migrants to Australia' and its plans to place the young men in employment and private accommodation after a three-months settling-in period at the Hawthorn hostel. Father Lombard was optimistic that the movement could recruit and bring 'up to 150 youths' per year. The Immigration Department was more sceptical, but eventually £12,000 was made available to prepare the hostel. Thirty-eight British youths were selected and of these, 16 arrived in September, and a further 18 prior to Christmas, 1950. There is a copy of the agreement between the Commonwealth and the Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation. In May 1951, Father Lombard submitted a brief report in the context of a request for urgent release of the Commonwealth and state funds promised for the hostel renovations. He wrote:

I visited Britain to organise a scheme for obtaining nominations... a total of 49 nominated British migrants have arrived. Already 15 boys have left the hostel, five are working with farmers; nine apprenticed; nine (others) working with the PMG; ten are in private homes in the suburbs. However, the financial burden is a heavy one.

This was the rub. With staff costs the Hawthorn hostel was running at a loss and much of the material concerns financial affairs and the problems associated with recruiting suitable boys from Britain. Fewer than 100 had arrived. Sir Tasman Heyes wrote to Monsignor G Crennan, 7 May 1952, about the same numbers arriving at Hawthorn hostel in view of the £16,000 government grant which the YCW had received. Crennan investigated and reported to Canberra: the problem was the heavy loss in managing the Hawthorn hostel; many of the boys were apprentices who could not afford much money for their board and lodging; and the YCW wanted to withdraw as quickly as possible from youth migration. This came as a 'bombshell'. Monsignor Crennan interviewed Immigration Department officials but the financial problem was insurmountable. The remainder of this large file concerns the termination of YCW involvement with youth migration, the disposal of the Hawthorn hostel, and the repayment of a substantial part of the original government grant.

Federal Catholic Migration Committee. Child and Youth Migration. General. Part 2, 1953 [29 pages]

A445, 133/2/124

This contains material concerned with the visit of Monsignor G Crennan, Federal Director, Federal Catholic Immigration Committee and Father C Stinson, Director, Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association to Canberra after Stinson's return from a fifteen-month recruiting trip to the UK, Malta and Western Europe. There is a copy of his 16-page report, which formed the basis for discussions with the Immigration Department, and the Department's own memorandum on the talks. The issues discussed included: the Federal Catholic Immigration Committee London office; recruitment of juvenile migrants; the situation at St John Bosco's Boys Home, Glenorchy,

Tasmania; the low-level of intelligence among many Catholic child migrants; the special difficulties recruiting girls; and Father Stinson's attendance at a Conference of Catholic Charities in Rome where delegates from the Scandinavian countries had denounced his efforts as 'immoral and inhuman'.

Castledare – St. Vincent's Orphanage, WA, 1948–51

A445, 133/2/47

Bindoon – St. Joseph's Farm School, WA, 1948–51 [31 pages]

A445, 133/2/33

This contains a range of reports on the institution by various departmental officials over the four years covered. The first is the team inspection at Bindoon on 19 January 1948, which led to the crisis meeting, 4 February, at the office of the Under Secretary, Lands and Immigration Department. The critical issues discussed were: provision of suitable furniture and educational facilities; female staff; lockers; medical review of all boys and wages for the older trainees. Key documents can turn up in more than one file since many government departments were concerned with child and youth immigration, including Child Welfare, Health, Immigration (Commonwealth), Immigration (State) and Transport. There is a copy of the 'Agreement for Service with Board and Lodgings' under the Child Welfare Act, 1947 (Sections 51 and 54). On 14 April 1950, a three-man team visited Bindoon 'to review the migrant inmates' with a view to placing the boys over 16 years of age in outside employment. Three months later, the inspectors returned to monitor this process and reported, 3 July 1950:

It appears that, at last, action is being taken to place the majority of the older boys out in positions [in the community].

There is also correspondence concerning the application for financial assistance from State and Commonwealth for the Bindoon building program and concerning the so-called 'Apprenticeship Scheme' which St Joseph's claimed to be implementing.

St. Mary's Agricultural School – Tardun, WA, Part 1, 1945–51

A445, 133/2/41

St. Joseph's Home for Children – Neerkol, Rockhampton, Qld, 1948–51

A445, 133/2/36

St. Josephs Orphanage and St. Vincent's Foundling Home, Leederville, WA, 1948–51 [c.100 pages]

A445, 133/2/40

This contains a number of inspection reports and associated correspondence. Most of the comment was positive; the homes were running smoothly. On 18 October 1948, Messrs F Mather and G Denny were impressed with the 'growth and [healthy] appearance of the migrant children'. The Education Department inspector, Mr J Telford, reported, 26 July 1949:

The manner in which the immigrant children have settled down is worthy of special mention, this being a notable feature of every class... The general atmosphere of the school leaves nothing to be desired.

There is discussion of the poor health record of some children and their general educational retardation, for reasons associated with their institutional upbringing during the war years in Britain. In 1950, there is correspondence regarding the possible arrival of Maltese child migrants.

St. Joseph's Orphanage and St. Vincent's Foundling Home, Leederville, WA, 1951–54 [c.120 pages]

A445, 133/2/144

The first prominent item is 'Application for Recognition as an Approved Institution for Maltese children' – a Joint Report by Messrs G Bartley (Commonwealth) and L Alexander (State), dated 20 August 1951. They found two establishments sharing the one block, catering for 340 girls (and some very young boys), staffed by 28 Mercy Sisters, 'one of the finest orphanages in the state'. They recommended 'Approved' status for Maltese child migrants. In fact, there were delays in gaining recognition. The CMO Rome, Mr J Cliffe reported, 28 July 1951:

This matter has been shelved for a long time by the Nationalist government (Malta) because they were unable to agree on a clear cut policy towards child migration.

Months passed before formal approval was granted in December, but this did not bring Maltese girls to Leederville. The Immigration Department advised almost a year later:

The Maltese authorities did not process the [requested] applications for twenty girls aged 5 to 10 years old for this institution. The latest information to hand concerning Maltese child migration mentions that the response has been poor.

Much of the material concerns plans for Maltese child migration.

Mater Dei Orphanage – Narellan, 1949–52

A445, 133/2/19

Murray Dwyer Boys Orphanage, Mayfield and Monte Pio Girls Orphanage, West Maitland, 1946–51

A445, 133/2/20

Murray Dwyer Boys Orphanage, Mayfield. Monte Pio Girls Orphanage, West Maitland, 1951–53

A445, 133/2/21

St. Patrick's Orphanage – Armidale NSW, 1949–54

A445, 133/2/42

St. Joseph's Orphanage – Cowper – NSW Part 1, 1949–54

A445, 133/2/37

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE RECORDS, 1945–50

PP6/1

Recorded 1945–50 Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962)

by: Quantity: 36.5 metres Location: Perth

Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, 1950

PP6/1,
1950/H/5355

Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, 1950–52

PP6/1,
1950/H/6784

Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association, 1950–52

PP6/1,
1950/H/7318

Castledare – St. Vincent's Orphanage – Queen's Park, Inspection and Progress Reports, 1948–51 [34 pages]

PP6/1,
1949/H/1169

In September 1949, Sir Tasman Heyes requested the Lands and Immigration Department, Perth to check that

Improvements promised had occurred at Castledare Junior Orphanage; specifically he enquired regarding female staff, fly-proofing the kitchen, the sanitary facilities and the conditions of the dormitories. He had seen two reports, one from May, from State Immigration and one from June, from the Child Welfare Department. The Under Secretary replied that the Catholic authorities were aware that 'no further admissions to Castledare will be approved while the present over-crowding of the classrooms exists'. Three weeks after the request from Canberra, Castledare was inspected again by Messrs Bartley and Brown from the Immigration Office in Perth. They found 'a vast improvement' though another fifteen boys had been placed at the home. There is mention that the Catholic authorities will apply for government financial assistance for the renovations requested.

Castledare – St. Vincent's Orphanage – Queen's Park. Government Financial Assistance, buildings etc, (Loan 1), 1950–51 [25 pages] PP6/1,
1949/H/2757

This concerns the correspondence surrounding the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association application for Commonwealth and state subsidy to assist in funding the renovations to the kitchen and scullery at Castledare. Complications arose from the fact that the renovations were complete before the application for assistance was lodged. It is not clear from this material whether the application was approved or rejected.

Clontarf – St. Peter's Orphanage, Victoria Park – inspection and progress reports, 1948–50 [32 pages] PP6/1,
1949/H/1167

This contains inspection reports and related correspondence. Mr J Marriott, the Child Welfare Department, Institution Officer, visited Clontarf on 15 January 1948 after 32 child migrants were placed there. He reported along the following lines:

... in company with the Manager, Brother Crowley, made an inspection of the premises and saw each of the 32 migrant boys in residence... [they] appeared to be in good physical condition... [but] rather severe sunburn... good spirits... school vacation... enjoyed immensely... picture shows... picnics... buildings spotlessly clean.

On 19 July 1949, two inspectors representing Immigration and Child Welfare Departments visited Clontarf and the report of each is in the file. Mr J Mather (Immigration) wrote:

57 child migrants; 132 others [boys]... Brother Crowley discussed the possibility of obtaining a specially trained teacher to take charge of the backward children... All the boys appeared to be in good physical condition... Bed Wetters dormitory, I regret to report, is far below the general standard of the institution... dining-room and kitchen not up to standard... the children appear to be happy... the general atmosphere of the institution is excellent.

There is correspondence around the issues of renovations of sub-standard facilities, building permits and possible government financial assistance.

Clontarf – St. Peter's Orphanage – Government financial assistance, buildings etc, 1952 [1 page] PP6/1,
1949/H/2754

There is one sentence: 'Governmental Financial Assistance for Clontarf buildings, 20 May 1952. NIL'.

Bindoon – St. Joseph's Farm School – Inspection and Progress Reports, 1948–50 [17 pages] PP6/1,
1949/H/1168

Two inspectors visited Bindoon on 13 July 1948 and their reports commence this file, which is one of reports and associated correspondence. One felt 'a sense of improvement' but the institution faced many problems, one of which was the boys' education. Mr M E Neck, the School Inspector, wrote:

Brother Keaney hopes that the Technical class room will be equipped and completed for use within six months. He has had difficulty in obtaining machinery and tools.

Another Inspector wrote on 3 August 1948:

At present a number of boys sleep on verandas which in wet weather is not altogether desirable...

He added that wages for the trainees had to be arranged. There is a copy of Mr F Mather's more detailed comments of 7 September 1948 when he attempted to get the older boys' training program organised systematically. After Mather's report, there is no further inspection (evident from this file) until the Inspector of Schools, Mr C Radbourn, arrived fifteen months later. He wrote, inter alia, on 13 December 1949:

The boys are very backward, practically all have been in institutions in the UK all their lives... war... dislocation... Educationally, practically all of these boys are retarded, some very badly.

The roving inspector from the Scottish Home Office, Miss H R Harrison, arrived in April 1950 and was wonderfully impressed by Bindoon. Sir Tasman Heyes was informed, 28 April, that 'Miss Harrison considered Bindoon the best of the RC Homes she has ever visited'.

Tardun – St. Mary's Agricultural School – Inspection and Progress Reports, 1949–51 [28 pages] PP6/1,
1949/H/1166

The first item is a summary by G Bartley, Immigration Department, 13 October 1949, of the numbers of child migrants in Catholic institutions in Western Australia which includes these interesting facts:

317 British children now accommodated... five in employment; six with foster parents; 7 joined their own parents who arrived later and three have died.

Otherwise the main subject of the material is a series of inspections made by Mr J Abbott, the Country (Child Welfare) Inspector, based in Geraldton, in 1950 to St Mary's Agricultural School, Tardun and correspondence which followed Abbott's reports. The issues appeared to be possible overcrowding when 30 anticipated Maltese child migrants arrived and government financial assistance for renovations and floor coverings in the dormitories. The last item has Mr E R Denny, Immigration Department, explaining to his superiors in Canberra that in the Tardun climate 'floor coverings are not essential' and the overall position at the institution 'may be considered satisfactory'.

Nazareth House – Geraldton – inspection and progress reports, 1948–51 PP6/1,
1949/H/1165

Nazareth House – Geraldton – Government financial assistance, buildings etc, 1949 PP6/1,
1949/H/2756

St. Joseph's Orphanage – Leederville, Inspection & Progress reports, 1948–50 PP6/1,
1949/H/1163

Recorded by:	1959-73 Department of Immigration, WA Branch (CA 962) Quantity: 49.56 metres Location: Perth	
	Child migration – CEMWA – subsidies, 1952-78 [88 pages]	K403, W59/86
	This contains lists of child migrants who came to Catholic orphanages in Western Australia after 1952 in the context of Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association applications for the Commonwealth government per capita 'equipment allowance'. There is evidence that there were endless troubles checking names and dates of birth; personal papers supposed to be received from England did not always arrive, necessitating further negotiations. From July 1955 until early 1962, the Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association did not claim the equipment allowance at all, and 56 children arrived during the interim – most being the 'second wave' of Maltese child migrants who came in the early 1960s.	
	Castledare Catholic Home, 1951-57 [45 pages]	K403, W59/89
	This concerns inspections and associated correspondence of the Castledare (Junior) Christian Brothers Orphanage in Perth, Western Australia. Mr K R Crook from the British High Commission visited Perth in July 1951 and reported on Castledare to the Head, Immigration Department, Canberra: A good deal of work has been done on this Home and many of the objections to it have been removed. John Moss visited five months later and filed a mixed report, 6 December 1951: The Recreation Hall is used as classrooms. This must be considered a very unsatisfactory arrangement... permits are required for building... The general appearance of the children is quite satisfactory. They were free, open and cheerful. However, there was need to improve the ablutions and fly-proof the kitchen. Moss reported in another letter to the High Commission around the same time: Apart from these points, I was favourably impressed by the conditions prevailing at the Home. The renovations were delayed, there were money problems, and a further 20 boys arrived on the <i>Ormonde</i> , 21 August 1952. However, over the following year new classrooms were constructed and opened, 6 December 1953. There is correspondence over Castledare's acceptance as a suitable place for Maltese child migrants. There is little correspondence after 1953. However, in 1957 there were further problems in the wake of the visit of the UK Fact-Finding Mission of the previous year. Mr A L Nutt at the Immigration Department wrote, 25 June 1957: The staff is inadequate for the number of children in residence. Specifically it was the lack of female staff which mattered. Castledare was dropped from the list of 'approved institutions' recognised for the care of British child migrants. Nuns were promised, but a community proved impossible to find. A matron was engaged and eventually after protracted negotiations Castledare recovered its approved status.	
	Castledare Catholic Home – Government Financial Assistance, 1950-55 [150 pages]	K403, W59/91
	This concerns the tortuous negotiations around the request for, and processing of, the application for government financial assistance under the two-thirds building grant for approved homes taking child migrants. Mr H E Smith, Lands and Immigration Department, Perth explained the problem which generated the extensive file: The Catholic Episcopal Migration and Welfare Association did not submit this application prior to completing the work. However, the renovations were 'essential' and 'WA was willing to pay its one-third' after assessment of costs. The Chief Migration Officer replied, 25 July 1950, with a request for plans and receipts, but there were few: The work had been done, day by day, and no plans or specifications were available. A year passed and routine correspondence accumulated. Then on 24 July 1951, the State Building Inspector, Mr W Fortune reported on 'the haphazard way in which the contract was carried out' and added: Future contracts in which Commonwealth and State monies are involved must be prepared by a competent architect and the [Housing] Commission notified before commencement of work. There was a further application to fund more improvements in March 1953, but it is not clear from this file if any monies were ever paid.	
	Castledare Catholic Home – general inspection, 1948-54 [50 pages]	K403, W59/92
	Most correspondence is concentrated on the 1948 crisis. A four-man team visited Castledare in July and reported on an unsatisfactory situation which commenced when the Principal appeared 'unshaven and obviously not prepared for a snap visit'. Many of the children were sleeping on urine-soaked mattresses; the kitchen fly-blown; the recreation room being used as a classroom. Mr E R Denny wrote that 'the Catholic authorities be advised that the conditions which exist cannot be tolerated'. The response is discussed in the material. The most important item is the summary of the Castledare situation, penned by Mr W Garnett of the UK High Commission to Mr A L Nutt at the Immigration Department, 12 January 1951: I visited Castledare in 1944... very unsatisfactory... my impression (after going over my reports) and with vivid recollection of what the place looked like when I last saw it, was that the authorities responsible for Castledare have been very dilatory in effecting essential improvements, even assuming that the institution is capable of being adapted to meet modern requirements. The Immigration Department reacted defensively to the British official's comments, and in May 1951 a team inspection at the institution reported in positive terms. Later reports are equally encouraging.	
	Clontarf – Policy, 1947-59 [20 pages]	K403, W59/93
	This contains scattered material across almost ten years, though most of the correspondence is centred on the recommencement of child migration in 1947. There is a useful chart, 'Placement of Migrant Children in RC institutions in Western Australia'. However, much of the material is duplicated in other files. There is reference towards the end of Monsignor G Crennan's plans to place six refugee Croatian youths, 17-18 years old at Clontarf to learn English before placement in the work force. It is not clear if the plan proceeded.	
	Clontarf – government financial assistance, 1950-55 [2 pages]	K403, W59/95
	This contains material on the plans of Monsignor G Crennan, Federal Director of the FCIC, to place refugee youths at Clontarf.	

Clontarf – general inspections, 1947–56	K403, W59/96
Clontarf child migrants – accidents, 1955–67	K403, W59/97
See also file PP352/1, WA12229, listed later in this section.	
Bindoon Catholic Home – government financial assistance, 1949–57 [104 pages]	K403, W59/87
This provides detailed material on the complicated story of partial government funding for the massive buildings at Bindoon. The decision to provide funds to institutions to upgrade certain facilities was made at a Conference of Migration Officers held at Canberra, 16–17 December 1946, and ratified by the government soon afterwards. The costs were to be shared equally by Commonwealth, State and the institution concerned. In the case of St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, however, the application for assistance was lodged in mid-1949 after some buildings were almost completed. Father Stinson, Director, CEMWA, wrote to Arthur Calwell, 19 July 1949: Approximately a month ago I submitted to the State Housing Commission plans for extensions to Bindoon Boys' Town. I applied for a permit to commence building operations... of laundry block, technical workshops, dormitory block and staff quarters... estimated cost... £43, 864. I now wish to make formal application for the one-third Commonwealth government Grant. One year passed, and when State and Commonwealth Immigration officers arrived to assess the situation, 21 July 1950, it was in the context of Bindoon's capacity to take further groups of child migrants, including Maltese children. Much of the building work was already finished; other developments had commenced. On 3 August 1950, Mr G Bartley wrote that: Brother Keaney's methods are unorthodox; he has obtained all building materials from every source possible; the majority of the construction work has been done by the boys... under the direction of two Italian stonemasons. Time passed; more inspections are noted in the file; before a team arrived from the Public Works Department and Commonwealth Child Migration Office, 9–13 October 1950. Their combined report is dated 9 January 1951, and includes the following comments: The only drawings of the buildings available were very incomplete floor plans... no specifications are available... no receipts... although the procedure is quite irregular, the Hon. Minister for Lands agreed to recommend on this occasion that the state government pay one-third of the cost of all buildings considered essential for the use of the migrant children. The boys had received no wages. However, this was far from the end of the saga and correspondence after 1951 records further visits, followed by the decision to pay £30,944 (half each Commonwealth and State) in instalments as buildings were completed, furnished and inspected. The last payment is dated 21 January 1957, by which time Brother Keaney had been deceased for almost three years.	
Bindoon Catholic Home – general inspection, 1947–56 [68 pages]	K403, W59/88
The first item is an inspection report of St Joseph's Farm and Trade School, Bindoon, 26 May 1947, by the Assistant Under Secretary, Lands and Immigration Department, Perth before the arrival of postwar child migrants. He writes: ... the institution is essentially a Farm School intended for the rural training of youths after each boy has completed his primary education. The place was not suitable for primary school boys; the nomination should be reduced from 100 boys to 50. The child migrants arrived in three groups between October 1947 and January 1948, and there is an inspection report by three departmental officers, 19 January 1948. They listed certain matters for 'urgent attention': provision of suitable furniture and educational facilities; female domestic staff; lockers; medical review of all boys; and wages for trainees. The file has a number of departmental reports and related correspondence on the home which had become controversial. On 4 April 1948, Mr S R Denny made a further review of the institution's progress and reported: The position could be considered satisfactory for the time being. He advised another inspection 'at an early date'. However, there is nothing here from April 1948 until August 1949. There is a handwritten memo, 20 October 1949: A Conference with Mr W E Smith (Lands and Immigration Department), mentioned that conditions at Bindoon and Tardun are far from satisfactory; boys are working and not receiving proper education; some boys are acting improperly indicating insufficient control. If the British authorities were aware of the conditions it may create uneasiness and probable cessation of selection of children under the scheme. The Ministers are in conference and perturbed regarding the position. There are further reports concerning costing the buildings at Bindoon; John Moss's comments, 11 December 1951; and a report by Mr G Bartley of the Commonwealth Immigration Department, 12 August 1952 in which he writes: Many of the boys are approaching the age when they must leave Bindoon and it is an urgent necessity that the Review Committee visit to discuss their future with the lads. There are reports and newspaper cuttings of the opening of the new buildings at Bindoon, 4 October 1953. The final section deals with the visit of the British Fact-Finding Mission in 1956; the unpleasant scene between the Principal and Mr J Ross, the Mission's leader; and the subsequent inspections ordered by the Immigration Department. This is an important file on the most controversial of the child migration institutions.	
Tardun Catholic Home – government financial assistance, c.1947–57	K403, W59/120
Tardun Catholic Home – general inspection, c.1948–57	K403, W59/121
Nazareth House Catholic Home – general inspection, c.1947–78	K403, W59/109
St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's Catholic Homes – government financial assistance, 1948–54	K403, W59/112
St. Vincent's and St. Joseph's Catholic Homes – general inspections, c.1947–58	K403, W59/113
St. Joseph's, c.1959–84	K403, W59/925

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, CLASS 1 (GENERAL PASSPORTS), 1939–1970**A659**

Recorded 1939–45 Department of the Interior [II] (CA 31)

by: Quantity: 101.25 metres Location: Canberra
Catholic Emigration Association, London – Scheme to emigrate children to Catholic institutions in Western Australia, 1937–44 [300 pages] A659, 1945/1/499

This commences with Archbishop Prendiville (Perth) writing to Prime Minister J A Lyons, 8 November 1937, regarding 'financial assistance to a scheme to emigrate children from England to our Catholic institutions in Western Australia'. Lyons passed the request to the WA government. There, the Deputy Premier, M F Troy, indicated cooperation and on 20 January 1938, Brother Conlon sent Lyons a detailed statement regarding plans for the Catholic child migration scheme. The Minister for the Interior, John McEwen, approved and agreed to the inclusion of Irish youth in the scheme. Wheeler warned, 7 February 1938:
 Child migration is spectacular, but extremely costly.
 During much of 1938 Brother Conlon was in Britain and there is correspondence around applications for financial assistance for capital costs for additions to the St Mary's Agricultural School at Tardun. In the event, the UK government allowed £250 per annum towards interest payable on loans for capital works at Tardun for a fifteen-year period. R H Wheeler at the Interior Ministry, Canberra, warned again, 21 July 1938:
 I fear the RC Church has been rather hasty in introducing children from overseas.
 There are lists of the Catholic children who arrived for the Tardun scheme, Inspector's reports, claims for maintenance payments, correspondence over the medical and psychological tests which intending child migrants were given; and plans to bring girls from Britain to the Sisters of Nazareth at Geraldton.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, 1934–50

A461

Recorded 1934–50 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

by: Quantity: 143.82 metres Location: Canberra

Child migration to Catholic institutions, WA, 1937–45 [196 pages]

A461, M349/1/7

This file contains letters regarding government financial support for Catholic institutions in Western Australia involved with British child migrants, specifically St Mary's Agricultural School, Tardun, managed by the Christian Brothers. There are details of other Christian Brothers institutions; and an aid to Fairbridge. Additional support was requested: extension of the maintenance subsidies to girls, boys over 14 years of age and girls from Ireland, for accommodation extensions and exemption from customs dues for equipment. The first item has the Deputy Premier, WA, Mr M Troy advising Prime Minister J A Lyons that 'experience has shown child migration to be the most successful form of immigration attempted in recent years' and thus supporting the plans of the Catholic Emigration Society (UK) to send children to the Tardun scheme 'on the same lines as the Fairbridge Farm School'. The State was willing to contribute towards the maintenance of the children; advised the Commonwealth to do likewise, which was eventually arranged. There is a useful three-page summary of government financial arrangements for supporting the various child migration schemes, dated 20 May 1938; and a second summary, dated 15 July 1938, which summarises government support for capital works. There are detailed lists of the first Catholic child migrants to arrive at Tardun.

Immigration – Clontarf orphanage, 1928–30 [46 pages]

A461, R344/5/1

This file is linked to A445, 133/2/8 (described earlier in this section) and relates to the immigration of poor orphaned boys to Catholic institutions in Western Australia. It contains a request by the Clontarf Orphanage for government assistance similar to that given to the Fairbridge Farm School. The Development and Migration Commission strongly opposed the grant, 6 June 1928, in a memorandum to the Prime Minister:
 The Commonwealth has subsidised the Fairbridge school for some years, but it should be stated that the granting of such subsidy was strongly condemned by the Commonwealth Immigration authorities (at the time). The scheme is unsound economically from a migration point-of-view, in that lads of working age could be recruited at a much lower cost than that involved in the introduction of young children under the Fairbridge scheme.
 Senator Pearce granted the Clontarf orphanage representatives an interview but denied the request for assistance, 4 July 1928: 'work of that character is best carried out under private auspices'. A summary of Commonwealth assistance to Fairbridge is enclosed. In 1930, the matter was again raised with the new ALP government by Senator P J Lynch, Labor, WA. However, the reply was again negative: 'The maintenance of institutions of that description is essentially a State function'.

Application for financial assistance – Young Christian Workers Movement, 1950

A461, R344/5/1

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1926–30

CP211/2

Recorded 1926–30 Development and Migration Commission (CA 243)

by: Quantity: 23.94 metres Location: Canberra

Training – Clontarf Orphanage – Ministerial Approval, 1928

CP211/2, 74/28

Clontarf Orphanage – Application for Financial Assistance, 1928 [7 pages]

CP211/2, bundle 105

The principal item is a memorandum from the Development and Migration Commission to the Minister of the Interior regarding an application by Clontarf Orphanage, WA, for a Commonwealth subsidy on Fairbridge Farm School lines. The application was rejected:
 ... from a migration aspect, the large cost per head that the Commonwealth would be required to bear does not justify the granting of assistance...
 the Minister replied, c. 11 June 1928.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES (LEGAL), SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH 'WA' PREFIX, 1944–69

PP352/1

Recorded 1944-69 Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office, WA (CA 890)
by: Quantity: 27 metres Location: Perth

Clontarf bus accident – Public Subscription Fund – Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office, c.1944-69

The file concerns a bus accident involving child migrants and contains correspondence between DCS and the Child Welfare Department, preparation of the trust deed by DCS, notes of meetings of the fund trustees and a statement about the disbursement of the funds to the recipients. The file includes a list of names of the child migrants. There is more information regarding the accident in K403, W59/97, listed earlier in this section.

PP352/1,
WA12229

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES, 1953-

Recorded 1953-74 Department of Immigration (CA 51)
by: Quantity: 3346.4 metres Location: Canberra

Child migration – St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Goodwood South Australia, Catholic, 1947-60 [c.200 pages]

This concerns recruitment of girls for the South Australian home and their education. Brother Conlon wrote to Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, 18 October 1947:

The Archbishop of Adelaide asked me when leaving for England at the beginning of 1946 to get him some girls for the orphanage in Adelaide.

Calwell explained the procedures: the Goodwood orphanage would have to be inspected both by British and Commonwealth representatives prior to recognition as 'an approved institution' for the reception of child migrants. There were delays: a team inspection was arranged in March 1948 and reported:

The present inmates appear naturally contented and happy; they present a well-cared-for appearance.

Meanwhile it proved difficult to find girls in the UK for child migration: girls were easier to foster and there was still unlimited work for older girls in domestic service. However, 28 migrant girls arrived, 19 January 1949, but four were 15-16 years of age on arrival. Father Roberts was appointed 'custodian' of the children. A proposal was discussed to bring Maltese girls to Goodwood; Captain Curmi, the Commissioner for Malta in Australia agreed to investigate the possibilities, but Maltese authorities, reflecting public opinion on the islands, were unwilling to send girls to Australia. There is some correspondence on the problems created when one of the older girls absconded from Goodwood and the orphanage did not want her returned. The Secretary, Child Welfare Department Adelaide, advised Father Roberts, 10 January 1951:

The welfare and care of every immigrant child of whom you are the custodian is your responsibility... While we are prepared to do anything to help in such cases, the responsibility must remain with the approved organisation sponsoring the child's entry to Australia.

There is some important correspondence on evolving Maltese child migration policy. The CMO, Australian Legation, Rome wrote to Canberra, 22 December 1951:

Child migration has been shelved by the Nationalist government [Malta] for a long time because they were unable to agree on a clear cut policy on child migration.

Meanwhile, at Goodwood the Mercy Sisters did not want any further child migrants. John Moss commented, 14 December 1951:

Some of the migrants who came were very difficult and clearly too old. There is no likelihood of any further nominations.

On 7 May 1952, Heyes told Father Roberts:

You will be interested to know that final arrangements are in hand for parties of Maltese children to come to Catholic institutions in Western Australia.

However, on 3 July 1952, the Commissioner for Malta, Captain F Stivala announced that Maltese girls for migration could not be found, and added:

... the position is that, notwithstanding the advantages inherent to this scheme, the response in Malta has been poor and it is for this reason that the outstanding nominations cannot be fulfilled.

Father Nicol advised, c. August 1952:

It is very difficult to find suitable child migrants from Malta; there is a background of opposition to child migration to Australia.

The CMO, Rome advised, 20 March 1953 that only one Maltese girl was available and she was not sent.

Child Migration. St. Joseph's Girls Orphanage, Kenmore, Goulburn NSW (Catholic), 1950-54

The Sisters of Mercy orphanage, Kenmore was five kilometres from Goulburn, NSW and catered for 90-100 children. The Child Welfare Department Director, R H Hicks, noted, 16 February 1950, that 'it is regarded as a well-conducted establishment'. However, he added that there were other NSW orphanages which had approved status, but which had received few or no child migrants. Kenmore had applied for status as 'an approved institution' to receive child migrants, at a stage when the Home Office (London) was imposing administrative delay on new applications (1950-52). In fact, the Home Office wanted another full inspection. Hicks summarised the results of the second inspection, 26 April 1951:

Although it is felt that it would be difficult to raise any strenuous objections to conditions in the home, it is felt that there is a great deal of room for improvement... staff inadequate... senior girls held too long... ablution section unsatisfactory... they are hardly in a position to provide for an additional group of children.

Time passed, and almost two years later, 8 January 1953, Monsignor G Crennan, Director, FCIC, announced that approval had been granted to place twelve migrant girls at Kenmore and there was talk of bringing Maltese child migrants in addition. All this proved abortive however and Kenmore was filled with local children.

Child Migration. St. Brigid's Orphanage, Ryde NSW (Roman Catholic), 1949-55 [88 pages]

This has some similarities with the previous file: a Catholic NSW orphanage offering to take some child migrants at a time when it was difficult to gain sufficient British children to fill existing applications, and at the same time, the Home Office was delaying the approval of new applications. In the first folio, Father W Nicol, Federal Catholic Immigration

A446,
1956/67269

A446,
1956/67263

A446,
1956/67262

Committee Federal Director before moving to London in 1949 wrote, 30 June 1949:

... regarding the custodianship of all Catholic migrant children coming to Australia under the age of twenty-one. The Federal Catholic Immigration Committee will accept the offer of custodianship of these children. Father Nicol was himself the official custodian. There is much correspondence on the attempts to achieve 'approved' status for St Brigid's to accept child migrants, combined with the plain fact that relatively few children were available in the UK or Malta for placing in Australia. St Brigid's had to proceed through the same steps to Home Office approval as did Kenmore. It was not until 17 January 1952 that the British authorities gave their seal of approval, two and a half years after the first approach. In essence, the Home Office was opposed to child migration, the Dominions Office was sympathetic, and the British Cabinet was prepared to let it proceed until child migration died a natural death.

Young Christian Workers Movement – Youth migration – Part 1, 1948–54 [c.150 pages]

**A446,
1974/76807**

On 28 July 1948, Mr Ted Long, President of the Young Christian Workers, wrote to Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell to request advice on a YCW scheme to immigrate young workers to Australia from overseas. Long requested financial assistance with purchasing a suitable building for use as a hostel for 25 to 30 young men, mainly apprentices, for a three-month settling-in period before they were placed in private homes. Calwell was supportive but indicated there would be no monies for routine maintenance. However, the two-thirds building subsidy would be available. On the strength of this the YCW found and purchased a suitable property at the corner of Patterson & Oxley Roads, Hawthorn (Victoria) which had been conducted as a guesthouse and was known as 'The Terricks'. Almost immediately, the problems of renovations and refurbishing became urgent; and few formalities and inspections had been arranged. In July 1949, Father F W Lombard wrote to Calwell that:

... although the YCW purchased a hostel some eight months ago, we have only received six nominations from Britain, whereas we had hoped to receive nearly 200 each year.

Lombard suggested he proceed urgently to the UK to recruit suitable youths through the British Young Christian Workers Movement. Meanwhile, the Victorian Government had inspected the property and agreed with the renovation proposals, but on 8 September 1949, Long requested the actual monies from governments, the two-thirds subsidy 'forthwith' as 'we are being pressed for repayment of the loan'. There were further delays. Long wrote again to Sir Tasman Heyes, 18 November 1949 that his Committee was 'financially embarrassed'. There were further delays and some correspondence in the file over bringing first Baltic refugees and later Maltese workers to Australia via the Hawthorn hostel. Meanwhile, it was revealed that the YCW was not yet classed as an 'approved organisation' for introducing youth migrants, and the Department of Immigration was awaiting the return of Father Lombard from the UK to see if he had secured clear arrangements for recruiting suitable British lads. It was not until March 1950, fifteen months after the purchase of the hostel that the YCW secured approved status and an agreement was signed between the Commonwealth and the RC Trusts Corporation over assistance for purchase and renovations at the YCW hostel. In due course the monies were made available.

CORRESPONDENCE FILES, ANNUAL SINGLE NUMBER SERIES WITH OCCASIONAL 'G' [GENERAL REPRESENTATIONS] INFIX, 1956–

A463

Recorded 1956–71 Prime Minister's Department (CA 12)

by: Quantity: 701.38 metres Location: Canberra

Brother F P Keaney (Bindoon), Honour, 1953

A463, 1959/3608

This contains a small booklet on 'the scheme' which linked the four Western Australian Catholic orphanages in their reception of child migrants. Otherwise there is a single letter in which the Deputy-Secretary, Prime Minister's Department writes to another officer, 2 April 1953:

Brother Keaney is in charge of a farm and industrial school, more commonly called 'Boys Town', Bindoon, Western Australia... he is approaching 80 years of age. I am quite certain that the Christian Brothers Order would be extremely delighted if the remarkable achievement of Brother F P Keaney could be recognised. Any recognition (MBE) would be received by the Order with deep gratitude.
(Brother Keaney died in 1954 in his mid-60s.)

Appendix 3 Irish Times - Irish religious to fore in Australian abuse scandal

Wed, Nov 18, 2009

ANALYSIS: Many of the children abused in Australia, prompting this week's apology by the prime minister there, came originally from Ireland, writes **MARY RAFTERY**

THERE IS always one story that haunts you, so graphic and disturbing it is almost too terrible to contemplate.

In over a decade of researching the experiences of people all over the world whose childhoods were destroyed by state-sponsored abuse, one of the worst I came across was that of a small, blue-eyed boy at Tardun, an orphanage in western Australia. He was one of the tens of thousands apologised to on Monday by Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd, as that country at last faces up to the savage abuses suffered by so many taken as children into state-funded care.

This boy had been sent to Australia from the UK. He told his story to a British House of Commons select committee established in the late 1990s to investigate the child migrant schemes.

Tardun was one of the more notorious of Australia's 500 or so children's institutions. It had all sorts of Irish connections. It was one of four such institutions run by the Christian Brothers, who were tightly controlled by their Irish leadership, based at the Dublin headquarters in Marino. They even named another of their western Australian institutions Clontarf - it is to be found in Waterford, a suburb of Perth.

Many of the brothers working in the Australian institutions were first generation Irish. These included Br Paul Keaney, the infamous resident manager of Bindoon (another Christian Brothers-run boys' orphanage) up to the 1950s, who was born in Rossinver, Co Leitrim.

Thousands of boys passed through these institutions. Most were Australian, who, like so many Irish children, ended up in care during the middle decades of the 20th century for reasons of poverty and disadvantage.

Thousands of others, however, had been sent from institutions throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, with the promise of a new life of sunshine and hope. And among these were to be found a surprising number of Irish children, born to Irish mothers fleeing the censorious atmosphere in this country and hoping to keep their pregnancies secret by going to England.

There are no precise figures so far, but it has been estimated that up to a quarter of those sent might have Irish parents.

In 1998, in what remains the most damning picture of Australia's children's institutions, the House of Commons select committee reported that "the worst cases of criminal abuse in Australia appear to have occurred in institutions run by the agencies of the Catholic Church, in particular the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy".

The report went on to say that some of the abuse investigated "was of a quite exceptional depravity, so that terms like 'sexual abuse' are too weak to convey it".

Then comes the indelible account of the blue-eyed boy: "Those of us who heard the account of a man who as a boy was a particular favourite of some Christian Brothers at Tardun who competed as to who could rape him 100 times first, his account of being in terrible pain, bleeding and bewildered, trying to beat his own eyes so they would cease to be blue as the Brothers like his blue eyes, or being forced to masturbate animals, or being held upside down over a well and threatened in case he ever told, will never forget it".

With evidence of this kind coming from a British parliamentary committee, and substantiated over and over again by various Australian senate committee reports, the wonder is that it has taken the Australian government so long to apologise.

The pressure for such an apology has been building for a quarter of a century as thousands of former children in care began to trace their origins and uncover the sordid saga of their forced migration. Many had great difficulty tracking their families throughout Britain, but none more so than those whose mothers turned out to be Irish.

Giving birth in the relative anonymity of a British hospital was regarded by thousand of Irish women as preferable to facing the stigma of an unmarried pregnancy going full term in Ireland and resulting in a birth. Many of these mothers gave up their children to various British-based agencies. In some cases, the babies ended up in state-run children's homes, in others they were given into the care of religious orders. A number were also adopted and fostered.

Their fate was much fought over by self-styled Irish protection and rescue organisations, who patrolled the wards of Liverpool and London maternity hospitals, pleading with Irish mothers to bring their babies home and give them up to religious orders. The idea was to ensure the children would be raised as Catholics. The fact that many of them would end up in Irish industrial schools was of little concern.

Those Irish babies who remained in Britain were usually placed in institutions run by Catholic nuns, principally the Nazareth Sisters. And these institutions in turn provided the bulk of the thousands of Catholic children sent to Australia under a scheme jointly run by the Australian and British governments, which lasted until the late 1960s.

There was a promise that these children, many as young as three years old, would be placed with Australian families who would treat them as their own. This, however, became a reality for very few.

Almost all of the Catholic children were sent immediately to institutions run principally by the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy - the two congregations also most prominent in the management of the Irish industrial schools. Given the scale of migration from the UK, it is at first glance peculiar that there was no similar scheme for children to be shipped out directly from Irish institutions to Australia. That this one misery at least was not visited on the multitude of children in Ireland's industrial schools is thanks largely to Eamon de Valera, according to Alan Gill in his seminal history of child migration, *Orphans of the Empire*.

In 1938, the head of the Christian Brothers in Australia, Br Louis Conlon, was in the midst of a major and highly successful campaign to increase the number of children (and consequently income by way of grants) being sent from the UK to Australian Catholic institutions. He approached the Irish government, seeking to extend the scheme to Ireland. The response from the cabinet secretary was a terse note to inform him that his suggestion for a child migrant scheme was "not approved". According to Alan Gill, this was "almost certainly based on the personal views of de Valera, who opposed child migration, and indeed migration in general, as a solution to the new State's problems. His supposed "prejudice" in this matter was aired in a gossip column in the *Irish Independent*, which criticised his stance".

For those Irish children who did end up in Australia, it would seem that the least we as a nation could do for them now would be to provide every assistance, including financial, to allow them to trace their roots and their families. It was we as a society who hounded their unhappy mothers from our shores. We should now open our arms to their children.

Mary Raftery is a freelance journalist who, with reporter Mick Peelo, produced and directed the documentary *Cardinal Secrets*.