

Section 21 Notice (dated 1 October 2018) ResponsePART 1 - Child Migration 1 January 1900 to 31 December 1930

- (a) What policies and/or procedures did the Organisation and its establishment(s) have in place in relation to child migration?

As far as the Congregation is aware there was no formal written policy or procedure for child migration within the Congregation. There is no documentation held regarding any such policy.

- (b) Was there a particular policy and/or procedural aim/intention?

The aim and intention of the child migration scheme was to offer children a better future in the new colonies and to spread the catholic faith. The scheme was run in conjunction with the British and Australian governments.

In the document "*Confidential Briefing Paper 2009: Sisters of Nazareth & Emigration by Dr. Peter Hughes 10 December 2009*" produced to the inquiry, it is stated that the stance of the Sisters of Nazareth was reactive to public policy and the catholic initiatives taken by Cardinal Manning in child care policy.

- (c) Where were such policies and/or procedures recorded?

No records are held of any policies relating to child migration.

- (d) What did the policies and/or procedures set out in terms of the following?

- Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent
- Selection of children to migrate including age, gender and background
- Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration
- Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once child had been migrated
- Obtaining consent of child
- Obtaining consent of parents of child
- Obtaining of consent of others e.g. Secretary of State
- Responding to requests for information from former child migrants
- Other issues

The Sisters were invited to participate in the emigration scheme which was initiated by the British and Australian Governments and the Catholic Church. Guidelines provided by the governments were followed:

- The majority of children were sent either to the Congregation's own Houses or those of other religious Congregations and Orders within Australia. There is little information held in the archive as regards the checking of suitability by the sisters of the places where children were sent. The Congregation can only speculate that as the other

institutions were run by other religious organisations, the sisters at that time would have had no reason to think the homes would be any different than their own homes.

- It is understood from evidence heard at the IICSA that some children were told they were going to Nazareth Houses, but on arrival were sent to homes run by other religious orders. It is not possible to determine from the information held for the children who migrated from Scotland what they were told before and after migration.
- The sisters selected children for proposal to the Australian and Church authorities, with whom the final decision rested. There are no records in the archive of any official guidance or advice on the criteria applied in choosing children as candidates for emigration. An entry was located in the Chapter Minutes 1925 (DA/1/3 pg. 277 – 278) which states "*Care must be taken in the selection of the children so as to send out sensible, well developed healthy girls who are likely to turn out well, otherwise they may not get a good name for Nazareth House and we may not be able to continue sending them.*"
- Little or no information was given to children and/or parents after the children had migrated.
- Where parents or guardians of children were known to the Sisters they were asked for their consent to the migration of their children. Otherwise the Local Superior or her delegate would consent in accordance with their status *in loco parentis*.
- The Sisters first selected the children however they were then subject to routine immigration processes before they were accepted by the Australian authorities.
- All child migrants went through an official process where "an emigration officer from Australia House, London, examined them and they had educational, medical and psychological assessments."
- All requests for information from former child migrants have been answered as fully as possible by the General Archivist at Hammersmith Nazareth House.

The above information is obtained from "*Confidential Briefing Paper 2009: Sisters of Nazareth & Emigration by Dr. Peter Hughes 10 December 2009.*"

(e) Who compiled the policies and/or procedures?

There were no formal policies and procedures prepared by the Congregation. Guidelines were compiled by the British and Australian governments.

(f) When were the policies and/or procedures put in place?

Government guidelines were put in place when the Sisters were first asked to send children to Australia.

(g) Were such policies and/or practices reviewed?

The Sisters did not have their own policies and procedures to review. This was a government programme.

(h) If so, what was the reason for review?

N/A.

(i) What substantive changes, if any, were made to the policies and/or procedures over time?

The Sisters were not in a position to change government guidelines.

(j) Why were changes made?

The Sisters were not in a position to change government guidelines.

(k) Were changes documented?

No records are held regarding changes to guidelines.

(l) Was there an audit trail?

There are no records held of an audit trail.

PART 2 - Child Migration 1 January 1900 to 31 December 1930

(a) Did the Organisation and its establishment(s) adhere in practice to its policy/procedures in terms of child migrants relating to the following?

- Identification and checking the suitability of the places where children were sent
- Selection of children to migrate including age, gender, background
- Provision of information to the child and/or his/her parents before migration
- Provision of information and records to children and/or their parents once child had been migrated
- Obtaining consent of child
- Obtaining consent of parents of child
- Obtaining of consent of others e.g. Secretary of State

- Responding to requests for information from former child migrants
- Other issues

Yes, to the best of our knowledge. The Congregation adhered to the guidelines relating to child migration as passed on to them by the British and Australian governments.

(b) How was adherence demonstrated?

- No formal policy or procedure documentation of the congregation or government has survived in the general archive. The Sisters in each House adhered to the guidelines: the majority of children were sent either to the Congregation's own Houses or those of other religious Congregations and Orders within Australia. There is little information held in the archive as regards the checking of suitability by the sisters of the places where children were sent. The Congregation can only speculate that as the other institutions were run by other religious organisations, the sisters at that time would have had no reason to think the homes would be any different than their own homes.
- It is understood from evidence heard at the IICSA that some children were told they were going to Nazareth Houses, but on arrival were sent to homes run by other religious orders. It is not possible to determine from the information held for the children who migrated from Scotland what they were told before and after migration.
- The Sisters tried to ensure that they adhered to the guidelines given to them with regard to the selection of children.
- Information was given to the children by government officials.
- As far as the Congregation is aware little or no information was given to children and/or parents after the children had migrated.
- Consent was obtained wherever possible.
- All requests for information from former child migrants have been answered as fully as possible by the General Archivist at Hammersmith Nazareth House.
- All children's papers were checked prior to migration.

(c) How can such adherence be demonstrated to the Inquiry?

There are no records held pertaining to adherence to the government guidelines. The Congregation do have some surviving records consistent with the Congregation's own record-keeping guidelines such as comments about children emigrating, dates and destinations in Observation and Disposal books.

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- (d) Were relevant records kept demonstrating adherence?

There are no records held pertaining to adherence to the government guidelines. The Congregation do have some surviving records consistent with the Congregation's own record-keeping guidelines including comments about children emigrating, dates and destinations in Observation and Disposal books.

- (e) Have such records been retained?

There are no records held pertaining to adherence to the government guidelines. The Congregation do have some surviving records consistent with the Congregation's own record-keeping guidelines including comments about children emigrating, dates and destinations in Observation and Disposal books.

- (f) If policy/procedure was not adhered to in practice, why not?

N/A.

- (g) How many children were sent as child migrants from the organisation's establishments, and where were they sent?

The records indicate that between 1900 and 1930, a total of seven children were sent as child migrants from Nazareth Houses in Scotland, as follows:

Aberdeen

Two children were sent from Aberdeen to Canada.

Glasgow

Five children were sent from Glasgow to Brisbane.

- (h) What was their age and gender?

Aberdeen: Two girls, one aged 15 years old. The other girl's date of birth is not recorded.

Glasgow: Five girls, aged between 15 and 19.

- (i) Over what time period were children migrated from the organisation's establishments?

Children in Scottish Nazareth Houses were migrated from 1899 to 1955.

- (j) Who funded the child migration?

The British government funded child migration: they agreed that children

under 12 years old should go free and children over 12 years would go under the existing assisted passage scheme costing 5-10 shillings per child. The Congregation were also reimbursed from the Australian Migration Scheme for the cost of outfits provided to the children prior to migration.

(k) Who received the funding in relation to migrant children?

The Congregation.

(l) In general terms, how much was this funding?

This amounted to around 5-10 shillings per child.

(m) How did the organisation/establishment respond to requests for information from former child migrants?

All requests for information from former child migrants have been answered as fully as possible by the General Archivist at Hammersmith Nazareth House.