

16. Fairbridge NSW did advise London they were prepared to agree with the proposed reduction in the size of cottages from a maximum of 16 children per dwelling to 10, 'with a maximum of 12'. [Minutes of the Board of Governors Fairbridge NSW, 21 January 1959]. However, when I arrived at Fairbridge Molong in June 1959 and for the remainder of the life of Fairbridge as a child migrant centre there was no reduction in the maximum number of children per cottage.
17. Fairbridge NSW rejected the proposal that brothers and sisters should not be split up but allowed to stay in the same cottage. It argued it would be too expensive 'to add on to each cottage another dormitory and extra sanitary and bathing accommodation for girls.' [Minutes of the Board of Governors Fairbridge NSW, 21 January 1959]
18. Fairbridge NSW agreed with London that 'brothers and sisters' would be 'put in adjacent cottages' [Minutes of the Board of Governors Fairbridge NSW, 21 January 1959]. However, this never occurred and the girls continued to live in Rose, Lilac and Molong cottages that were on the eastern side of the village and not adjacent to the boys.
19. To my knowledge there was no further British Government inspection or inquiry into Fairbridge after the 1956 Fact Finding Mission. Nor did it conduct an assessment or audit of the 1957 agreement, which would have shown that none of the agreed reforms had been implemented.
20. After the signing of the agreement the British Government continued to fund the UK Fairbridge Society for Child Migration, which was the largest regular source of funding for Fairbridge Molong. Throughout the 1950's the UK Fairbridge Society provided Fairbridge Molong with between £20,000 and £30,000 a year. After the signing of the agreement and for 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962 the amount increased to a peak of more than £40,000 a year. [Ref: Annual Reports of the Fairbridge Farm Schools of New South Wales]

UK Fairbridge Society denial of responsibility for Fairbridge Farm School, Molong

21. In a number of statements to the IICSA the former Director (from 1993-2008) of the UK Fairbridge Society Nigel Haynes has claimed that the Molong Fairbridge Farm School separated from the UK Fairbridge Society in 1948 and subsequently operated independently of the control of London.
22. In a statement submitted to the inquiry by Mr Haynes titled 'A Brief History' (dated 3 May 2017), it is claimed that 'the Fairbridge Farm School separated from the UK Society in 1948 and was run autonomously from that time'. [INQ000160]
23. Mr Haynes has also lodged with the inquiry a copy of a statement prepared in May 2007 in response to the publication of my book, The Forgotten Children. In it is the claim: 'Management of Molong, the service at which abuse is alleged to have taken place, was in the hands of an independent body by 1948. We are not able to comment on specific allegations after this date'. [INQ000161]