

the Little Children'. There were many more who told me confidentially of their abuse during private conversations which I did not include in the book or the documentary.

In your knowledge and experience, what effects did you observe of sexual abuse of the former child migrants with whom you spoke?

50. In speaking with former child migrants who had suffered sexual abuse, I noticed that they had seemed to experience guilt, shame, diminished self-confidence and low self-esteem.
51. I noted that some of the observation I made about the former Fairbridge children were similar to outcomes of a recent study by UNSW<sup>10</sup> into the long term outcomes of children in institutional care – including British child migrants - which revealed over 90% were abused and over 60% sexually abused. The respondents in the survey were predominantly undereducated, poorer, more likely to be unemployed, experienced homelessness, more likely to have been on the wrong side of the law and more likely to suffer more physical and mental problems. They were between 8 and 14 times more likely to suffer psychological stress; 65% reported suicidal ideation and 39% had attempted suicide. DPA

Other details about child sexual abuse related to child migration programmes that you have investigated as part of your work

52. See below.

Details relevant to institutional responsibility for child sexual abuse related to child migration programmes that you have investigated as part of your work

53. Based on my research I am of the view that there was widespread institutional responsibility for the sexual abuse of children at the Fairbridge Farm School at Molong.
54. In 2015 a successful legal claim was made against the Federal Government of Australia (the Immigration Minister of which was, under Federal legislation, the guardian of immigrant children at Fairbridge), the State of NSW (to whom the Immigration Minister delegated that guardianship, and which also had various inspection and licencing powers and functions in relation to schools in NSW), and the Fairbridge Foundation of NSW (which was pleaded to have run the school).
55. However, my research has led me to the view that the British Government and the UK Fairbridge Society (who were not part of the legal action) were both responsible for failing to take sufficient care to protect children at the Fairbridge Farm School at

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<sup>10</sup> I was a member of the study's Critical Reference Group