

were in breach of the New South Wales Child Welfare Act at the time, which prescribed how corporal punishment should be administered to 'inmates' of 'institutions'.

15. Psychological - Many children at Fairbridge were demeaned by staff with comments that they were unworthy and in the institution because no one wanted them. In my view the worst psychological abuse was as the result of children being denied any affection for their entire childhood. Most of the Fairbridge children, some from the age of four till they left the school at seventeen lived in a world of emotional privation, with no adult ever offering encouragement, warmth, affection, comfort, love or support.

What action was taken if the abuse came to light while I was at the institution?

16. I was not aware while I was at Fairbridge of any action being taken against any abuser. When later researching the book 'The Forgotten Children', I came across limited information that suggested two senior adult male members of staff were 'moved on' for reasons that included sexual abuse. They were the principal, Richard Beauchamp, in 1940.⁴ [Exhibit 1. Beauchamp archives], and the principal Jack Newbury, in 1969.⁵ [Exhibit 2. Newbury archives]. There were also rumours at the time that the After Care Officer W. Phillips was sacked because he left Fairbridge abruptly in 1962 amid rumours of sexually abusing both boys and girls.⁶ On several occasions the long serving Principal F.K.S. Woods was also subject to investigations for sexually or physically abusing children. [See paragraphs 62, 63, 66, and 67].
17. Research into others who were sexual abusers at Fairbridge, even if there was a record kept, is difficult because access to the relevant files is restricted. The Fairbridge Foundation of New South Wales, The Australian Federal Government, the New South Wales State Government and the UK Fairbridge Society all restrict access to the majority of their files.

Was there an investigation into any abuse you reported?

18. Not applicable in my case.

If you told someone in authority about the sexual abuse, what did you do after you reported it?

19. Not applicable in my case.

⁴ The Forgotten Children p.110

⁵ The Forgotten Children p.127

⁶ The Forgotten Children p.127