

19th August, 1953

Dear Sir,

Selection of Child MigrantsCopy should be
sent to the
Director, etc.

Further to discussion at the Conference of Commonwealth and State Officers held on 15th August, 1953, the following is an outline of the procedure adopted in the United Kingdom for the selection of child migrants:-

- (i) The children are pre-selected by the voluntary organisations concerned - in some instances by Australian representatives of the Institutions.
- (ii) Application forms, and whatever relevant documents are available (school history etc.) are submitted by the voluntary organisation to Australia House. These are examined closely by a specially qualified children's officer who is an Australian and a trained social worker. The papers are not made available for inter-views until she is satisfied that the child concerned appears suitable.
- (iii) Before interviews are arranged a special check is made to see whether the children in question have ever been previously put forward for selection.
- (iv) Children approved at this stage are then interviewed by a Selection Officer who is specially briefed and instructed to pay particular attention to intelligence. Selection officers invariably conduct conversation with each child individually.
- (v) Medical examination of children considered suitable is carried out by an approved doctor and subsequently when reports are returned to Australia House, the files are made available to the Chief Medical Officer for final decision. The Social Worker is available for consultation where necessary.
- (vi) Where there is any doubt whatsoever regarding a child's mental capacity, the Chief Migration Officer, London has been authorised to obtain psychological assessments including an I.Q. test, at our expense.

(Note - Many organisations arrange these tests and the results are shown in the forms mentioned in stage (ii) above).

A recent report from London disclosed that of 110 children submitted for migration no less than 28 were referred or rejected outright which indicates that the screening given is effective.