

multigenerational problem spanning decades. Will it be left to our children to continue the pursuit of justice?

- 14.15. During 2005, I met with the British High Commissioner, Baroness Helen Liddell, at the Commission in Canberra, along with Harold Haig, founder member of the Association and long serving secretary. We discussed our concerns and frustration at the lack of any meaningful response by the British Government to our plight in the years following the Health Select Committee Inquiry.
- 14.16. It was a frank discussion. We thank the High Commissioner for her forthright views. Her message was distressing, tough and confirming! *'You will have a very long wait. The British Government are waiting for you all to die.'* We spoke with journalists immediately afterwards outside the High Commission.
- 14.17. The engagement with the British Government at the time of the Apology in 2010 was a refreshing moment of truth and recognition. The exhibition on child migration held in Westminster Hall was the first time the truth was in stark evidence in Our Country and the responses from the public confirmed our view that nobody who cares for children could tolerate what was done to us.
- 14.18. We wish to give full credit where it is due. The post Apology developments of the Family Restoration Fund and improved funding for CMT have made a real difference.
- 14.19. But there were no cultural or educational initiatives to build a lasting understanding of our experience and help learn the lessons from the past. There was complete refusal to consider issues of redress, or more importantly a judicial Inquiry to determine what was needed. Government decided itself they had done enough. Today, it seems child migration still remains largely unknown to the general public, and even to many in government.
- 14.20. Soon after the UK 2010 apology, we alerted the British Government when the Queen was due to visit an institution in Western Australia, which today offers services for indigenous children, after its dark past as a place of torture and despair for British child migrants. This came at a time when CMT and the Association's request to participate in the annual Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) had been denied.
- 14.21. We were alarmed that Her Majesty probably had no idea of the significance of that institution, Clontarf, to hundreds of abused British children. However many former child migrants viewed the occasion as yet another slight and a failure to take account of our history – all within a year of the nation's Apology.