

2.4 UK Government figures for child migrants sent to **Fairbridge institutions in Australia** 1947-65 totalled 997.⁵ We have suggested that perhaps another 140 children were sent by Fairbridge 1966-70, bringing Fairbridge's total to 997 + 140 = 1137. As noted, we cannot calculate the cost of Assisted Passages for any child sent to Australia post-war. What we can estimate is the cost of outfitting these children: 1137 x £4 = **£4548**. Assuming again that the UK Government was committed to funding the maintenance costs of these child migrants for on average 8 years, we can be reasonably sure that the costs of the 448 children migrated 1947 - 1953 would have been entirely supported at the rate of £26 a year, for 8 years on average: £26 x 448 children x 8 years = £93,184. We can also be sure that the estimated 380 children migrated 1962-1970 (240, 1962-1965, plus a more uncertain 140, 1966-70) would have been maintained at the 1962 rate of £52 a year for 8 years on average: £52 x 380 children x 8 years = £158,080. For the 309 children migrated 1954 – 1961, we have assumed that half would have been subsidised on average at £26 a year for eight years - £26 x 154 children x 8 years = £32,032, and the other half at £52 a year = £64,064. In sum, the total cost of annual maintenance for Fairbridge children sent to Australia 1947-1970 may have been **£347,360**. Aggregated costs of outfitting and maintenance would by these calculations be at most around **£351,908**. Alternatively, at 2016 prices, that equates to £3000 x 1137 = **£3,411,000**. The more precise figure of £2969.52 gives an aggregate of £3,376,344. So, with the caveat that several assumptions have had to be made, **£3,400,000** is our best current gross price calculation.

2.5 Since the **Northcote Children's Trust** was an associated operation, we add some further calculations. Post-war, Northcote sent 112 children to Australia, all between 1947 and 1958. Outfitting costs at £4 a head would therefore have been 112 x £4 = **£448**. Using the model in para 9.4, 83 would have been maintained at the £26 rate for on average 8 years: £26 x 83 children x 8 years = £17,264; and the other 29 possibly half at the £26 rate: £26 x 15 children x 8 years = £3120, and half at the higher £52 rate = £6240, producing a probable total of around **£26,624**. Aggregating the costs of outfitting and maintenance produces a total of **£27,072**. Again, using £3000 per child as our figure at 2016 prices, the gross cost at 2016 prices would be around **£336,000**.

2.6 These figures suggest in aggregate a British government expenditure on Fairbridge and Fairbridge-related operations at 2016 prices of **£4,792,000**. On this model one could calculate costs for the other six UK-based sending societies.

3. Is it possible to assess whether the overall funding for the programmes, from the range of sources you describe in your report, was considered sufficient to ensure adequate care for the children?

3.1 This is a difficult question to answer, because as we will discuss in more detail below, levels of funding varied at different times and places, voluntary organisations were able to draw on different levels of financial support from donations and other income in addition to government funding, and evidence from published accounts can be inconclusive or unavailable.

⁵ EWM000080, Constantine, 'Child migration to Australia', Appendix, p.126.