

from the government, Nottinghamshire politicians had to write once more to Leaders of County Council political groups, requesting financial assistance for the Trust. Again the result was verbal support but the belief that this should be the responsibility of Government.

9. The Australian Senate undertook an Inquiry into Child Migration “Lost Innocents: Righting the Record” which reported in 2001. This describes “*a very sorry chapter in Australia’s history*”. Two significant results were an Australian Travel Fund and also funding for memorials to former Child Migrant in each of the five key States involved. In contrast, there is only one memorial in the UK, established in 2007 - a Memorial Plaque and tree planted outside Nottinghamshire County Council’s main building by the River Trent. The County held a re-dedication of this “memorial” with a new information board in October 2014.
10. But for the assistance of the Council there would be nowhere for former Child Migrants to visit. The vast majority who return to the UK and call at the Trusts’ office in Nottingham also wish to visit the County Council and their “memorial”.
11. The State Government in WA assisted the Trust to obtain money from LotteryWest to establish a permanent building as a base in Perth. Meanwhile, in the UK, the Trust was still working from rented property, which is hardly a satisfactory situation. Indeed, an obvious need for a group of people with such a difficult start in life would be a permanent base, somewhere they could call “Home”.
12. The establishment in 2010 of a £6million Family Restoration Fund, following the public apology to former Child Migrants by the former Prime Minister, Rt Hon. Gordon Brown, MP, was very well received. This Fund has ensured that those who were separated for most of their childhood and beyond are able to travel to meet their families once they have been found by CMT.
13. Despite concerns being expressed and requests for the Fund to be renewed, both by the Trust and former Child Migrants, there were long periods of unhelpful uncertainty about the future of the Fund, despite its considerable success in reuniting hundreds of families and rebuilding thousands of relationships.
14. Following the 2010 apology by the Government on behalf of the nation, there was an expectation that a post-apology strategy would be developed, especially when the then Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, MP stated “*That the country would never forget former Child Migrants.*” However, to the Trustees, it feels as if subsequent administrations are not prepared to honour those sentiments in full but are willing to dilute them if possible with half-hearted measures.