

STATEMENT FROM JOAN TAYLOR

1. My full name is The Hon. Joan Evelyn Taylor MBE. I am the Chair of the Trustees of the Child Migrants Trust whose vital work I have supported since 1987 when I was Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council Social Services Committee. It was that Council which for many years had to shoulder a large part of the financial burden of responding to the national disgrace of child migration, while the UK government seemingly refused to accept its moral and legal responsibilities to former child migrants.
2. In 1987, I held the post of Chair of Nottinghamshire County Council Social Services Committee and requested a meeting with Margaret Humphreys, then a Nottinghamshire Social Worker, after reading the Observer newspaper articles in July concerning her work with child migration. As a direct result of that meeting, I arranged for Margaret Humphreys to present a report to the Social Services Committee in September 1987. I wanted the Committee to hear how Margaret had dedicated her own time and money to help finance an investigative trip to Australia during that summer. It was rare to request a social worker to present a report in person to the Committee, yet I believed this unique occasion demanded such an input.
3. On 16th September 1987, the Social Services Committee received a full and frank report on the background and development of [her] work with former Child Migrants. The three political parties on the Committee agreed to support the work of the Child Migrants Trust until substantial and secure funding could be obtained from the relevant Government Department. In total, Margaret Humphreys' secondment lasted for a total of over 15 years due to the very slow and inadequate Government response.
4. Immediately following that decision, in November. I wrote to the then Home Secretary, Rt Hon. Douglas Hurd, MP, requesting some financial assistance with the employment of [Mrs] Humphreys. None was forthcoming.
5. It wasn't until nearly three years later, in 1990, that the Trust received its first ever grant from the Department of Health (£20,000) . As this was inadequate to pay for the necessary staffing required, I personally wrote to every social service committee Chair in the country requesting some funding for the Trust.