

their status, make informed choices and implement their decisions on this important issue

152. The Child Migrants Trust has a unique role in Australia regarding citizenship issues for former Child Migrants. The Trust's advocacy has led to reforms so that former Child Migrants sent to Australia in the post-war period no longer have to pay a fee to obtain Citizenship. The Department of Immigration has established a protocol with the Trust to enable all former Child Migrants to benefit from this concession.
153. CMT works closely with the International Association of former Child Migrants and their Families (IAFCM&F), hosting joint events, consulting to ensure that services are relevant and working together on matters of policy and campaigning.
154. Participation in media, cultural and campaigning activities to promote their own justice agenda, has been identified by clients as an important strand of their recovery. CMT encourages former Child Migrants to challenge common myths regarding child migration as a way of taking control of their own history and legacy.

### **Funding**

155. The full potential of the Trust to reunite families has been frustrated by decades of struggle for funds. There have been three broad stages in terms of Government funding for the Trust's work with the first two stages each lasting for about ten years. The first stage involved a very minimalist response by the UK Government, both in terms of its extremely limited acceptance of its responsibilities for former Child Migrants and its equally limited funding for their services. Denial played a key role at this stage and funding was more a token gesture than a serious attempt to tackle the problem.
156. The Trust proposed to the Department of Health that an initial effective level of service could be provided with a grant of £111,000 to begin in April 1990 followed by a grant of £92,000 in each of the next two years. However, the Trust received only £20,000 in the first year with no further grants for the following two years. Funding resumed again in April 1993 but after annual grants of £30,000 over the next three years, the Trust then received £25,000 in 1997-98. The Trust's original request for a total of £295,000 over three years resulted in a single grant of merely £20,000. Even over a nine year period, the total grants fell well short of the original target by more than £100,000.