

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY TIMELINE

Highlighting

# Commonwealth Contribution to Forced Adoption



©Origins SPSA Inc

Supporting People Separated by Adoption

Dear Senators,

6<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Please accept this submission, which you have authority to publish.

It is a timeline in response to part (a) of the terms of reference of the current Senate Inquiry into the role of the commonwealth, if any, in contribution to 'forced adoption.'<sup>1</sup>

Images throughout highlight key themes related to the adoption of children under the auspices of:

- Department of Social Services (Australian/Commonwealth Association of Social Workers)
  - o economic motive
- Department of Health
  - o Government-funded "sterility clinics" (also foundling hospitals and maternity homes).
- Department of Immigration
  - o Eg: New Zealand adoptions – "Motherhood of Man – Beating the Abortionist".

The adoption of children is now a matter for statutory child protection authorities, in keeping with the current emphasis of social policy on family preservation and early intervention (Adoption by non-kin viewed as a last resort measure to protect endangered children). Clearly, historically governments had objectives in mind that were authoritarian, contrary to the best interests of the child, and discriminatory.

Highlighted in this timeline is evidence that the Commonwealth Government sanctioned the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW), from 1946,

- to promote social work throughout the commonwealth;
- to interpret the aims and objectives of social work to the public;
- to co-ordinate activities of State social workers; and
- to represent the Commonwealth in the international sphere in matters pertaining to social work.

National uniformity of practise was achieved due to the latter sanctioning of the Commonwealth government, flowing from policies indicated by headings below:

- o The "rehabilitation of the unmarried mother":
  - hiding mothers in maternity homes for the protection of the (perceived) 'respectability' of family in community – 'ex-nuptial pregnancy' and 'illegitimacy' as sources of 'disgrace' and 'scandal';
  - illegal hospital practices;
  - silencing mothers – the trauma of separation as penance for (perceived) adultery/sacrifice to provide married parents for her infant.
- o Adoption "in the best interests of the (illegitimate) child":
  - kidnapping<sup>2</sup> illegitimate infants at birth;
  - imprisonment of those infants in locked adoption nurseries;

---

<sup>1</sup> The term 'forced adoption' in this document refers to the practice of unlawfully removing a child at birth for adoption whether or not opposed to the will of that child's mother and father, as an act opposed to the common law of the Commonwealth as well as Adoption law.

<sup>2</sup> Justice Richard Chisholm described this practice as "kidnapping in a non-technical sense" (NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into past adoption practise (1950-1998).

- marketing of the healthy of those infants / institutionalizing the “unadoptables” and “hard to place”<sup>3</sup>.
- Case-by-case distribution of financial and other assistance to unmarried mothers<sup>4</sup>
  - withholding knowledge of available assistance;
  - advertising benefits in a discriminatory fashion.

The following Timeline is also intended to exemplify the primary objects of voluntary welfare agencies which engaged in forced adoption practices in 20<sup>th</sup> century Australia, suggesting a movement of varying religious and political persuasion in reaction to:

- the emancipation of unmarried mothers as contrary to the preservation of the Christian ideal (of marriage materially sustained by the father as head of the home and sole provider);
- opposition to “cradle to grave” social services from 1946 due to fear of National Socialism; invocation of the principle of Subsidiarity as relative to the Christian ideal (hence, theme of Government working with existing welfare bodies who in turn worked with the heads of families to remove ‘illegitimate’ infants;
- support of ‘single’ motherhood as endangering the morals of the Nation<sup>5</sup>; the deserving poor – the widow; the undeserving poor – the “unmarried” mother;
- the single pregnant woman and her progeny as “feebleminded” (eugenics) / the ‘fitter’ married couple (childless and deserving).

Still today, in the US, the concrete fact of a single mother and her child is regarded by influential clerics as an occasion of scandal from which innocence should be defended:

The social situation of the mother and child does not change after Confession and the completed penance; and yes, no matter who has argued to the contrary since I first broached the subject over a year ago, it is an ongoing scandal. Until her situation as a “single mother” changes, it is not advisable the woman should be included in all the normal social life at the parish, e.g. youth groups, etc. An unwed mother can get support from certain more mature members of the parish for her spiritual and temporal needs without appearing ostentatiously for the confusion, and, yes, the scandal of the little ones.<sup>6</sup>

Most respectfully submitted for and on behalf of Origins SPSA Inc,

Ms. Lizzy Brew  
Secretary Origins Inc

<sup>3</sup> Identifying now as Forgotten Australians. See also, Journal of the AASW (Feb 67) re “unadoptables”.

<sup>4</sup> As per submissions to this Inquiry,

<sup>5</sup> Council of Churches letters to Prime Minister: The Right Honourable R. G. Menzies P.M., Submission 105, retrieved 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2012, from

<<http://www.aph.gov.au/House/committee/fhs/adoption/subs/sub197.pdf>>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.traditioninaction.org/religious/k011rpUnwedMothers\\_Stretenovic.html](http://www.traditioninaction.org/religious/k011rpUnwedMothers_Stretenovic.html)


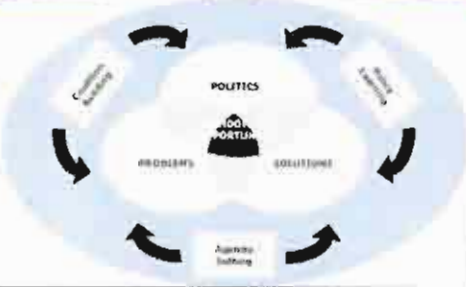



## **BABIES BEST IMMIGRANTS**

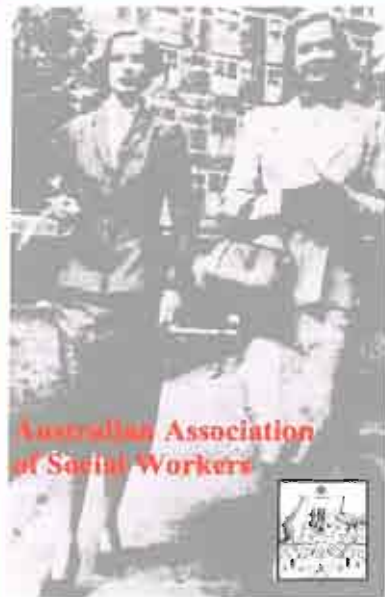
This country badly needed an increase of population, and the best immigrants we could get would be those from Australian cradles, said Archbishop Mannix at Broadmeadows Foundling Home yesterday. The occasion was the annual inspection of the hospital, where 240 babies are cared for by the Sisters of St Joseph. Praise of the usefulness of the institution was voiced by Cr Nettlefold, Lord Mayor, and by Messrs Cremean and Mullins, MLA's. The appeal for funds at the institution realised £1,150

2

<sup>2</sup> 1943 'BABIES BEST IMMIGRANTS.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 29 November, p. 6, viewed 26 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article11798948>

# HISTORY TIMELINE KEY

Image	Image Correspondence
	<p><b>The Commonwealth of Australia</b></p>
	<p><b>Policies expressed or implied by commonwealth government officials and the consequences of the latter</b></p>
<p>LEAGUE OF NATIONS</p>  <p>SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS</p>	<p><b>League of Nations</b></p>
	<p><b>United Nations</b></p>
	<p><b>Commonwealth Department of Social Services</b></p> <p><b>Financial Assistance to Unwed Mothers</b></p>



**Commonwealth / Australian Association of Social Workers – formed from out of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services in 1946**



**Scholars / Scholarships**



**GERMANY**

**NSW**



**Victoria**



**Queensland**



**Western Australia**



**South Australia**



**ACT**



**Northern Territory**



**Tasmania**







**Britain**



**Canada**



**USA**



**New Zealand**



**POPULATION**



**Medical profession**



**Social Work Profession / medical almoners**



**Psychopathology of the unwed mother**



### Hate speech and propaganda towards the “unwed mother” and her “illegitimate” offspring:

Theme of the unwanted (“illegitimate”) baby – See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia (at sub 170b: <[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/comm\\_contrib\\_former\\_forced\\_adoption/submissions.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/comm_contrib_former_forced_adoption/submissions.htm)>)



### Age of Mother – was age a factor per se, in the forced removal of infants for adoption?



### Legal and political

See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia



### Babies for adoption; demand for babies



### Forgotten Australians

How many of the children rejected by forced adoption eugenics could identify as Forgotten Australians?








### Forced Adoption Eugenics



The practice of “deferred” adoption, all babies were subject to a medical examination to assess “suitability for adoption”.

‘This image was frequently used by eugenics organizations. The text describes eugenics as “the self direction of evolution” and declares that “like a tree eugenics draws its materials from many



	<p>sources and organizes them into a harmonious entity.” The tree's roots include genealogy, biography, biology, mental testing, psychology, anthropology, and statistics.<sup>3</sup></p>
	<p><b>Church of England</b>  See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p> <p><b>Strongly associated with eugenic practices</b></p>
	<p><b>Catholics / Catholic</b>  See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p> <p><b>“Defending the reputation of highly respectable families”</b> – K. Burford, History of St Anthony’s Home for Unmarried Mothers, Additional Information at: <a href="http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/comm_contrib_former_forced_adoption/submissions.htm">http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/comm_contrib_former_forced_adoption/submissions.htm</a>)</p>
	<p><b>Presbyterians and Methodists</b>  See also: History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p> <p><b>Puritanism</b></p> <p><b>Themes of rehabilitation and punishment</b></p>
	<p><b>Salvation Army</b>  See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p>
	<p><b>Rescue Homes</b>  See History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p>




<sup>3</sup> The Adoption History Project, “Eugenics”, extracted 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2011, from <http://pages.uoregon.edu/adoption/topics/eugenics.htm>

	<p><b>Women working during the war</b> See History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p>
	<p><b>Black Market Babies / “Barren Wives” / Sterility clinics</b> See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p>
	<p><b>Spinsters</b> See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p> <p>It is interesting to note that the members of the Montreal Council of Social Agencies – of the administrative level of the Council and its Financial Federation – were all unmarried women, according to Anne Frances MacLennan’s “Charity and Change: The Montreal Council of Social Agencies' Attempts to Deal with the Depression” (Department of History McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, April 1984)</p>
	<p><b>Savings to governments via adoption of children</b> See also, History Timeline of Adoption in Australia, for further examples.</p>
	<p><b>Promotion of adoption / advertisement regarding how to adopt/babies for adoption</b> See History Timeline of Adoption in Australia</p>



# HISTORY TIMELINE

## Commonwealth Contribution to Forced Adoption

DATE	ARTICLE
<p>1903</p> 	<p><b>In a Woman's Mind By Comrade Mary<sup>5</sup></b>            The deputation from the Prevention of Cruelty Society that waited upon Premier Philip last week to urge the adoption of the Affiliation Act and State Children's Act of South Australia, were patriots out to save their country. In South Australia a woman who declares that she is to become the mother at some future date of an illegitimate child, can get the father bound over to pay £10 towards the confinement expenses, through the provisions of an Affiliation Act, and because the mothers are not in dire straits for money at that time fewer illegitimate infants die in that State than in any of the States. South Australia, too, has a Children's Court, where boy and girl offenders are tried in a private room away from the degrading associations of a police court, and the good result of this reform is proved by the fact that since the establishment of the Juvenile Court in Chicago three years ago the number of boys under the age of 16 lodged in the country goal has been reduced from 575 to 20.</p>
<p>1917</p> 	<p><b>Mrs. White ventilated a grievance in pointing out that in some institutions where mothers and their young infants were cared for, the girl-mothers were exploited by the regulations, which made them give their work for nothing. Girls who have been in these places invariably despise them. One girl said "she would rather do two years at Long Bay than two months in a home."</b></p> <p>- 'CHILD WELFARE CONFERENCE', <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i> (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 25 May, p. 8, viewed 21 September, 2011, <a href="http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15704785">http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article15704785</a></p>
<p>1918</p> 	<p><b>"The unmarried mother – a study of five hundred cases with an introduction", by William Healy. Published 1918 by Heinemann in London<sup>6</sup></b></p> <p>See pp. 27-8 – examples of the psychopathology of unmarried mother, which is later referred to as "the problem of the unmarried mother."</p>

<sup>5</sup> 1903 'In a Woman's Mind.'. *Worker* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1890 - 1955), 5 September, p. 5, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article70902902>





Above: Front Page of a text used by social workers in the US, Britain and Canada:

'A form of record for hospital social work including suggestions on organization', by Gertrude L. Farmer, Published 1921 by J.B. Lippincott company in Philadelphia [etc.]

Top right: p. 50-51

Bottom right: p. 29



RECORD AS RESEARCH MATERIAL

It is necessary, I believe, to bear in mind in regard to perhaps the greater bulk of hospital social case records, that the material in them will not, as a general thing, be of much value either for research work along hospital social work lines, or for the use of those outside the hospital wanting to make studies in Health Insurance, the effects of sickness on economic efficiency, the effects of material relief on social efficiency. Social records, day by day, short enough to be practical, or feasible, to keep explanatory enough to serve as memorizers and guides to action taken, or contemplated, reservoirs for monthly and yearly statistics, are not fertile as fountains of such information, however it may flatter us social workers to think they are. Questionnaires, special studies, with carefully expanded headings, will continue to be necessary. I heard a wise social worker (Miss Zilpha D. Smith) say once that "if you want to get any special information out of a social record you must arrange beforehand that it shall be put in."

It would undoubtedly be feasible, as noted above, in certain special types of cases, as unmarried maternity and illegitimacy, where there is active interest and discussion in regard to the causative factors and treatment, to arrange to include certain headings in the extension folder, and this was one of my chief reasons for wanting a record form which permitted this occasional indefinite expansion. There can, of course, be no question that social records must be available for teaching and demonstrating social case work. This is one of their great excuses for being. I think, however, that unless used with very good judgment, there would be grave danger of turning a practical record into a sterilized questionnaire.

Psychopathology of the Unmarried Mother

*Suggestive List of Social Problems*

<i>Home and Family Problems</i>	<i>Occupational Problems</i>
Family Discord	Unsuitable Employment
Marital Discord	Industrial Disablement
Bad Home Conditions	Industrially Handicapped
Abnormal Home Conditions	Need of Occupational Guidance
Lack of Family Coordination	Need of Change of Occupation
Poor Home Environment	
Neglected Home	<i>Problems of the Individual</i>
Broken Home	Drug Addiction
Desertion	Intemperance
Maternal Incompetence	Inebriety
Paternal Irresponsibility	Sex Delinquency
Maternal Irresponsibility	Immorality
Paternal Neglect	Insanity
Incompetent Home Making	Feeble-mindedness
	Protection of the Individual
<i>Child Welfare Problems</i>	Protection of the Community
Neglected Child	Unmarried Maternity
Stubborn Child	Unmarried Pregnancy
Physically Handicapped Child	Friendlessness
Orphan	Unemployability
Half Orphan	A Drifter
Illegitimate Child	A Social Derelict
Motherless Child	Maladjustment to Environment
Juvenile Delinquent	Prostitution
Educational Neglect	Suicidal Ideas
Bad Heredity	Need of Expert Medical Care
Feeble-Minded Child	
Adolescent Instability	<i>Problems of Poverty</i>
	Maladjustment to Environment
Inadequate Income	Chronic Poverty and Phy- Disablement
Irregular Income	
Unemployment	



1921



**THE LAWS OF ADOPTION. LEGAL RIGHTS OF PARENTS AND CHILDREN. LONDON<sup>7</sup>**

The Departmental Committee appointed to report on the question of the adoption of children recommends an act giving legal recognition to adoption, thus securing to the adopter and the child rights and duties similar to those of natural parents and children and also State supervision of adoptions not receiving formal legal sanction. It recommends also the legitimating of children born out of wedlock by the subsequent marriage of the parents. The committee draws attention to the great increase of cases of adoption owing to bereavements caused by the war, and the desirability of protecting people who adopt children against parents, claiming the adopted child when it has reached the wage-earning age.

1925

**Australian Royal Commission on Health to examine VD, the falling birthrate and the high maternal and infant death rate.**



WILL HE SO COME BACK AGAIN?

<sup>7</sup> 1921 'THE LAWS OF ADOPTION.'. The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 23 May, p. 5. viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23471489>



# ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

## The Government Bill

The proposals of the Government in the way of legislation concerning the adoption of children were explained in the House of Assembly by the Attorney-General (Hon. W. J. Denney) on Tuesday.

He said the measure, which was an important one, dealt with the very conflicting interests which arose, and which had given cause for great misgivings between the natural parent and the person who adopted a child. He explained that under the English law there was no power which prevented a parent from having the control and custody of a child. In many countries Parliament hesitated to take away that natural power, even although the parent was agreeable to the transaction. The object of the Bill was to give to persons who adopted children a legal status as regarded such children, provided the adoption had been sanctioned by an order of a special Magistrate. Under the common law the rights of the parent to the custody of the child continued undiminished, notwithstanding that he might have entered into the most solemn agreement to waive all his rights to such custody; and at common law it made no difference that the parent had neglected the child and allowed the adopting parent to care for and educate it for years. The absence of any legal right on the part of adopting parents to retain the custody of the children had given rise to great hardship in many cases where children had been adopted. It had also prevented adoption in many cases where it would have been highly beneficial to the children. At present children who would be adopted by childless couples and others if a method were available by which the adopting parents might make the child completely their own were left to the State to maintain, and it was generally admitted that life in a private home was much better for a child than the community conditions which must prevail in the best managed State institutions.

### Methods of Adoption.

The main provisions of the Bill were contained in clauses 3 and 4. The former stated by whom a female child, and the latter by whom a male child, might be adopted. The procedure for establishing the binding relationship of adopting parent and adopting child was an application to a Special Magistrate for an order. To prevent adoption for mercenary reasons a clause forbade the receipt by the adopting parent of any consideration, except by consent of a Special Magistrate or a Judge of the Supreme Court. The legal effect of an order of adoption, on the child's side, was that

Court. The legal effect of an order of adoption, on the child's side, was that the child acquired the status of a child of the adopting parent, with all the consequent rights and obligations. That, however, was not to apply in case of rights arising under instruments executed before the adoption, nor so as to give the adopted child any share in the rights of real children except so far as those rights accrued directly through the adopting parent. Some objection might be raised to the Bill on the ground that an order of adoption finally put an end to all the rights of the natural parent to the adopted child, and poor persons might, conceivably, be compelled by straitened circumstances to give up children, whom they would, but for poverty, be willing to keep. The answer to that objection was that there was little likelihood that poor persons would avail themselves of the provisions of the measure in order to obtain proper maintenance for their children. There was no need for such persons to do so, since under the State Children's Act or the Destitute Persons Act, according to the circumstances of the case, there was adequate provision for ensuring the proper maintenance of any child whose parents could not afford to keep it, and at the same time ensuring to the parent the right to take over the maintenance of the child if at any time he or she became in a position to support it. Orders of adoption were only made with the consent of the parents and after full enquiry, and no doubt the officiating Magistrate would advise any parent who merely wanted to part with a child to secure its proper maintenance that there was no need to take the extreme step of having the child adopted for that purpose.

Mr. Anthony adjourned the debate until to-day.



1925 - From article at left:

Some objection might be raised to the Bill on the ground that an order of adoption finally put an end to all the rights of the natural parent to the adopted child, and poor persons might, conceivably, be compelled by straitened circumstances to give up children, whom they would, but for poverty, be willing to keep. The

answer to that objection was that there was little likelihood that poor persons would avail themselves of the provisions of the measure in order to obtain proper maintenance for their children. There was no need for such persons to do so, since under the State Children's Act or the Destitute Persons Act, according to the circumstances of the case, there was adequate provision for ensuring the proper maintenance of any child whose parents could not afford to keep it, and at the same time ensuring to the parent the right to take over the maintenance of the child if at any time he or she became in a position to support it. Orders of adoption

were only made with the consent of the parents and after full enquiry, and no doubt the officiating Magistrate would advise any parent who merely wanted to part with a child to secure its proper maintenance that there was no need to take the extreme step of having the child adopted for that purpose.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> 1925 'ADOPTION OF CHILDREN'. The Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), 19 August, p. 9, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57295547>

# BIRTH RESTRICTIONS.

## Sterilization of the Unfit.

### Important American Decision

WASHINGTON, May 2.

One of the most important legal decisions affecting the practice of social eugenics given by the Supreme Court of the United States was announced to-day. The Court upheld the law of the State of Virginia providing for the sterilization of the feeble-minded. The case dealt with an order by the superintendent of the State Colony of Epileptics and Feeble-minded for the operation of salpingotomy to be performed on a feeble-minded young woman, the mother of an illegitimate feeble-minded child and whose own mother was also feeble-minded.

The woman's guardian brought an action on the ground the Virginia law was void, as it conflicted with the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution, in that it denied plaintiff due process of law and equal protection under the laws.

Mr. Justice Holmes (who is a son of the late Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes) in his judgment, said:—"It would be better for all the world if, instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or let them starve because of their imbecility, society would prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle sustaining compulsory vaccination is broad enough to cover the proposition of sterilization."

9





# MARRIAGE AGE TO BE RAISED BY STATE BILL APPROVED

SYDNEY, Friday.

The State Cabinet to-day decided to introduce legislation to raise the marriage age to 16 in the case of boys, and 15 in the case of girls.

A bill will also be introduced providing for the guardianship of infants in order to conform with the existing law in England increasing the right of a mother to be consulted in the guardianship of her children.

This legislation is consequent on a promise made by the Attorney-General to a recent deputation representing various women's organisations.

Cabinet also resolved to amend the law relative to distribution of money from intestate estates.

**National Library of Australia**

10



## SHOULD MARRIAGE AGE BE RAISED? S.A. Women Agree It Should Be 14 For Girls

11

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article54262961>

<sup>10</sup> 1929 'MARRIAGE AGE.', *The Canberra Times* (ACT : 1926 - 1954), 31 August, p. 5, viewed 3 January, 2011.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article1012738>

<sup>11</sup> 1929 'SHOULD MARRIAGE AGE BE RAISED?.', *The Register News-Pictorial* (Adelaide, SA : 1929 - 1931), 25 June, p. 3, viewed 13 December, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article53451852>

# HUMAN DEFECTIVES

## And the Question of Sterilisation

Dr. Michael Kelly, M.B., B.S. (Bunbury), writes.—

One of the most regrettable characteristics of our generation is its proneness to be led from the paths of truth by means of catchwords which stimulate the senses, while leaving the reasoning powers untouched. A movement is initiated by cranks and propagandists, actuated by sincere motives; and, by means of specious reasoning, great publicity and flamboyant catchwords an army of supporters is enlisted who do not realise the implications of the procedure they advocate. Finally, political pressure is brought to bear, and an unjust law finds its place on the statute books.

Such a movement is the campaign for the "Sterilisation of the Unfit," which was advocated so strongly in the editorial columns of a recent issue of your paper. The truth about these theories is so seldom given to the world that the public are being led willy-nilly to support a movement which is founded neither on facts nor in reason and justice, and public opinion is being enlisted in the cause of a procedure which is an offence both to natural morality and to Christian tradition.

There is no doubt as to the existence of the evil of mental deficiency and the necessity for a greater understanding of the subject. But the protagonist of sterilisation habitually distorts the real nature of the question by misstating certain truths and exaggerating others. He boldly asserts that the proportion of feeble-minded persons in the community is rapidly increasing, that these defectives are always perpetrating horrible outrages; that they reproduce at an alarming rate. He also infers, though he does not openly state, that the large majority of weak-minded persons are born of mentally deficient parents. Facts show the opposite to be true in all four cases.

The proportion of defectives is not increasing; weak-minded people are not more likely to be criminals; they are not more fertile than normal parents; and statistics show that a negligible proportion of the total number of defectives is born of defective parents.

We are told that mental deficiency will die out if all defective persons are sterilised. Let us examine this statement, and take as our example the State of New South Wales, and figures supplied by Dr. Grey Ewan, the Superintendent of the Newcastle Mental Hospital. In N.S.W. there are about 10,000 insane, and a further 10,000 classed as mentally defective. Of this total about 3400 are in institutions, detained on account of dangerous tendencies or a simple inability to care for themselves. Of the remain-

ing 10,000 about 50 per cent. are physically capable of procreation. That gives us the figure of 5000 defectives, to whom the method of sterilisation could apply.

Now it is generally recognised about 10 per cent. of the population are potentially defective; that is, they have some hereditary taint in their family; and it is into this class that the overwhelming majority of defectives are born. Thus, in N.S.W. the method of sterilisation could apply to only 5000 out of nearly 300,000 potentially defective, and thus sterilisation could not possibly reduce mental deficiency in the next generation by more than 2 per cent.; that is, its effect would not be noticeable.

The laws of heredity are not fully understood; mental deficiency is certainly hereditary in most cases, but not in all. Dr. Ewan says: "Our knowledge of genetic science does not allow us to predict the result of any mating, and certainly does not warrant us in advocating any legislative sanction for sterilisation."

The protagonist of sterilisation will

reply: "What of sexual perverts and those guilty of crimes against children?" Science shows that these, as a general rule, cannot be defined as mentally deficient. Sterilisation would be of no use in their case; the more radical method of castration would have to be performed as a preventive. But it is astonishing that a procedure so mutilating, so inhuman, resulting in such destructive changes to the personality, the most precious of all man's possessions, should be advocated at the present day.

The British Cabinet lately appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the question of lunacy and mental deficiency in England. This commission was composed of numerous medical men, well-known scientists, and psychiatrists, and eminent public men. It sat for over a year, taking evidence from all the known authorities in England, and many on the Continent, and in America. The report, a lengthy one, was delivered in June of this year, and deals fully with every aspect of lunacy and its prevention and cure. One of the members of this committee was Sir Henry Brackenbury, who is the president of the council of the British Medical Association. This eminent man delivered a summary of the report of a speech to the B.M.A. in July last, in the course of which the following remarks may be found:—

"Many aspects of this subject are not realized by the man in the street, many of the defectives are those of



### Human Defectives and the Question of Sterilisation<sup>12</sup>

Major Church, member of the House of Commons, introduced a Bill to legalise sterilisation, pointed out that there were 300,000 mental defectives in Britain, of whom only 25,090 were in institutions. The Bill was rejected by 167 to 89. This Bill was supported by the Bishop of Birmingham (Dr. Bernard Mr. H. G. Wells, and other notable people.)

<sup>12</sup> 1932 'HUMAN DEFECTIVES', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 6 November, p. 11 Section: Second Section, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58690363>

# NEW GERMAN LEGISLATION

## STERILISATION OF UNFIT

### BILL BEING PREPARED

Berlin, July 1.

A Bill to authorise the sterilisation of the unfit is being prepared by the Minister of the Interior (Herr Frick) in consultation with medical and other experts. The object is to prevent the transmission of hereditary disease and in time to have a healthy normal population. The Minister says the care of lunatics costs four shillings a day, and cripples and deaf mutes cost six

shillings a day, while normal unskilled laborers receive only half a crown a day. The Germans have overglorified mannish women in athletics, and the professions and have ignored mothers of several children. The undue scientific education of women has militated against family life. Germany must produce more healthy children.

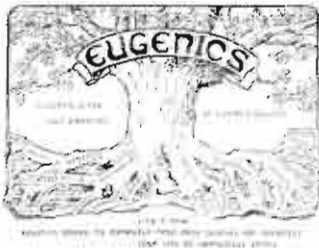


<sup>13</sup> 1933 'NEW GERMAN LEGISLATION', Northern Standard (Darwin, NT : 1921 - 1955), 4 July, p. 1, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48061080>



1934

## Australian Women's Weekly



### Babies-World's Greatest Problem Today - Opposing Forces in Fight for Safety! By Our Special Commissioner<sup>14</sup>

The world's greatest problem today is, in one word "babies." Never before has medical science concentrated, as it does today, on the problems of infant welfare...It is estimated that there are not only a number of mentally defective individuals at large in society-about one in every two hundred-but the number of inmates in the asylums is increasing. It was 3.43 per 1000 of the population in 1927, 3.45 in 1928, 3.46 in 1929, 3.51 in 1930, and 3.54 in 1931...

There is an increase in the proportion of feeble-minded individuals at large in society, he considers. Feeble-mindedness is not only a financial burden on society. From the ranks of the mentally unfit, to a What does the future hold for these babies of today...

The reasons for feeble-mindedness are many, but one is most important. A feeble-minded child nearly always has a feeble-minded parent. If one were to stamp out all the feeble-minded individuals at present alive, it would not entirely eliminate the possibility of the trait cropping up again. Reformers contend that the essential means of restoring the quality of our race is either to make the unfortunate mentally deficient pay the penalty of their disease with death, or to prevent them from having children.

To give instruction in birthcontrol does not help, because only those who are not feeble-minded have the insight, and the strength of mind to practise it. There would just be the same number of feeble-minded individuals born and-fewer children to better-class parents. Sterilisation has been suggested as a remedy. This does not interfere with an individual's life in the smallest particular, except to prevent reproduction. Sterilisation is legal in Great Britain and Australia already for therapeutical means, such as to remove cancer. But, even if the patient wishes it surgeons do not dare to operate in other than therapeutic cases.

In the Middle Ages, as a result of mutilation of offspring by parents so that they might gain sympathy in their begging, a law was passed prohibiting mutilation of the body. This law stands in the way of modern English society's ridding itself of mental defectives. Voluntary sterilisation is, however, legal and very successful throughout Switzerland, in most of U.S.A., and in Alberta, Canada.

GERMANY goes a step further and makes this operation compulsory in certain cases. All those people so hereditarily sick that they might be expected to communicate disease to their children are to undergo an operation, which may be enforced by the police. The cost is estimated at 20 marks, and a period in bed of four days in the male, and of 50 marks and eight days in bed for females. Four hundred thousand persons have come under the law, and the first cost is estimated at 14 million marks. Yet, as the annual cost of the hereditarily sick is 350 million marks, this is considered not unsatisfactory. The chief opposition to this enactment is said to come from those with strict religious beliefs.

<sup>14</sup> 1934 'BABIES—World's Greatest Problem TO-DAY.', The Australian Women's Weekly (1933 - 1982), 7 July, p. 4,



## ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

### Safeguarding Foster Parents

In a recent case a mother endeavoured to have restored to her a child who had been legally adopted under the Children's Adoption Act. The State Ministry has decided to submit an amending bill in the coming session of Parliament to define more clearly certain provisions in the act. The amendment will provide that where a child has been adopted legally the foster parents shall be regarded as the parents, and that the father or mother of the child who has originally agreed to its adoption shall have no further claim to it in law. 15

1934

THE MARRIAGE AGE  
'Now 26 countries have put illegitimate children on the same footing as legitimate children for care in health and social matters. Up to 1926 the marriage age in this country for girls was 12 and for boys 14. When Japan, China, and Turkey as a result of discussions at Geneva, raised the marriage age to 15 and 16 we followed suit.'<sup>16</sup>

## WORLD CRUSADE FOR CHILD WELFARE

Home Discipline  
Breaks Down

GENEVA VIEWS

1935



## SOCIAL SCIENCE.

Sydney Women Students in  
Canada.

TORONTO, Feb. 7.  
Sixteen women graduates and students of the Board of Social Study and Training, Sydney, received a welcome at the University of Toronto. They are pursuing the study of social problems, and will visit schools of social work in Canada and America.

17

viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47478914>

<sup>15</sup> 1935 'ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 1 May, p. 12, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12234318>

<sup>16</sup> 1934 'WORLD CRUSADE FOR CHILD WELFARE.', *The Mail* (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 8 September, p. 16, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58857966>

<sup>17</sup> 1935 'SOCIAL SCIENCE.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 9 February, p. 15, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17149255>

<p>1935</p> 	<p><b>RACIAL BETTERMENT – THE CLAIMS OF EUGENICS<sup>18</sup></b>          In spite of the expenditure of £407,545,000 on social services in England and Wales in 1930 ... it was estimated that one person in every 10 was too dull or too unhealthy to engage in industry, one in every 120 was mentally defective, and one in every 300 was certified insane ... Those of us who at home urge the claims of eugenics find ourselves for the most part crying in the wilderness.' said Lord Horder...</p> <p><i>You in Australia have already ploughed your first furrow and it would not be like you if it were not a straight one. Eugenics is the study of agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations, either physically or mentally.</i></p> <p>- <b>President of the British Medical Association (Sir James Barrett)</b></p>
<p>1937</p>  <p><b>Best interests of adopters</b></p>	<p><b>Alterations To Adoption Of Children Act<sup>19</sup></b>          Alterations to the regulations under the Adoption of Children Act passed by the Executive Council yesterday provide that the identity of the child proposed to be adopted shall not be disclosed to the applicant for the order for adoption, and that the identity of the adopting parent shall not be disclosed to the child to be adopted. There are many cases where people who want to adopt children are prepared to do so only when they may feel assured that they will not be troubled at any future time by the original parents. If the original parents are not satisfied with the arrangements made, they need not agree to them.</p>
<p>1937</p> 	<p><b>Birth Rate Decline Danger to the Nation<sup>20</sup></b>          Asserting that the declining birth rate was endangering not only the countries of the British Empire but all civilised countries in the world the new member for Lilley (Q) ... urged the Federal Ministry to extend its maternal and infant welfare work. He said that population was Australia's vital need. The Commonwealth could not expect to receive large numbers of migrants from the British Isles where the birth rate was also declining seriously.</p>
<p>1937</p> 	<p><i>"I am Expecting a Baby" – Says 15- Year-Old Girl – Sorrowful German Spectacle Unwed Girl-Mothers and Amazing Crop of Babies How German Cradles are Being Filled To-day"<sup>21</sup></i></p>

<sup>18</sup> 1935 'RACIAL BETTERMENT.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 14 September, p. 20, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32898571>

<sup>19</sup> 1937 'Alterations To Adoption Of Children Act.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 9 September, p. 13, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article30775352>

<sup>20</sup> 1937 'INFANTS' HOME.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 22 September, p. 8, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17402377>

1938

## CHILDREN'S CHARTER



*...experiments were being made in placing children in private homes...*



*...interesting examples of experiments in different social situations...*

### CHILD WELFARE. Investigations at Geneva

With regard to problems of child welfare, the work of the League of Nations has undergone considerable development during the past 15 years. The present meeting of the Advisory Committee on Social Questions has just reaffirmed the famous "Children's Charter," first put forward by the "Save the Children" International Union, and adopted by the Assembly of the League in 1924. This charter was a declaration of the rights of the child, and has special bearing on tragic events of our own day.

It declares, for example, that, in times of emergency and of disturbance or of war, the child should be the first concern of the authorities. The child represents the most precious heritage of mankind and should be the first object of care in any emergency. During the past few years, the League has published a series of studies showing what provision is made for ensuring the well-being of children in different countries...

It had been found that, in many countries, experiments were being made in placing children, not in institutions, but in private homes. In the first instance, this placing of children in families has applied, not to delinquent children, but to orphans, abandoned children or children whose parents had been plainly shown to be unworthy of parental authority. Experts on child care in general agreed that the best possible thing that can be done for any child is to give him a home. He should, in the first instance, be left in his own home if the only difficulties there are material ones. Poverty itself, they declared, should never be considered sufficient reason for taking a child out of his home; in that case, the parents should be assisted by the social authorities to keep the family group together.

*Nor should illegitimate children be taken away from their mothers, except for the gravest of moral reasons. Social workers have usually found that it is happier for the child to have one parent than to be an orphan, and in the case of an illegitimate child it is often the best possible thing for the mother to be allowed to keep him.*

But in cases where a child has no natural home, the design of the authorities responsible for the placing of children is to find him a second home to replace what he has lost. With this purpose in view, the committee recommends that the home in which a child is placed should resemble the one he has lost in so far as possible, with particular reference to race, language and religious instruction.

The committee has been engaged in examining the text of a report which is to be published this year on the placing of children in families. This report will summarise the experience of social authorities and voluntary workers in some 38 countries. It gives a number of interesting examples from experiments in different social situations throughout the world. The report will conclude with the principles on which the League experts consider that the placing of children in families should be based.

<sup>21</sup> 1937 "I am Expecting a Baby" —Says 15-Year-Old Girl., Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 31 October, p. 13 Section: First Section, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58793264>



This statement is prefaced as follows: Since civilisation itself is transmitted through the child, his wellbeing becomes a primary concern of organised society. Society everywhere recognises the home and family as the natural primary agency for the care, guidance and control of the child during his years of immaturity and dependence. It is, however, incumbent upon the community to provide such security and protection for the family as will enable it to discharge its responsibilities adequately, and further to encourage and, if need be, compel it to do so.<sup>22</sup>

“The Department chooses a baby for your inspection...If you like the baby the Department selected for you, you may keep it for a probationary period”<sup>23</sup>



**1** If you wish to adopt a baby, you may make inquiries at the Child Welfare Department. This department handles eighty-five per cent. of adoption cases—others are handled privately or by solicitors. Trained and experienced Adoption Officer will carefully investigate your background so she can find the baby who will be best suited to you. Unguided, you might be swayed by impulse to take a baby who would be quite unlike you when he grows up.

**2** The department chooses a baby for your inspection. It is estimated that eighty per cent. of children to be adopted are born out of wedlock; the parents of others cannot or will not keep them. The natural parents sign a document, surrendering all rights to the child. Before the child is shown for adoption, doctors carefully examine it to see that it is healthy and normal, free from disease. If so required, a blood test can also be obtained.

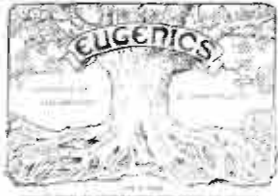
**3** If you like the baby the department selected for you, you may keep it for a probationary period which can be adjusted to suit you. Adopting parents generally come in to the department long before the period expires, want to sign legal papers applying for full custody; so then they can look upon the little mite that they have become endeared to as their very own. Nothing of the child's history is kept from the adopting parents; the department gives full particulars. Their efforts to prevent a child being adopted blindly have met with unparalleled success.

**4** The final decree is signed before a Commissioner for Affidavits, referred to a judge. Then the child is legally adopted. Except in cases where both natural and adopting parents are known to each other personally, the department keep secret from the natural parents the whereabouts of their child. Since the formation of the department in 1908, there have been 1817 children adopted; the majority over the last ten years. Present yearly average for adoptions in this State is in the vicinity of 100.

1938

A study of the population of Germany today<sup>24</sup> showed that the present rate of increase could not last and that the highest

<sup>22</sup> 1938 'CHILD WELFARE'. The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 1 June, p. 6, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42082985>



point attained in the population "drive" had not been high enough to meet the nation's needs, **said the director of physical education at the University of Melbourne (Dr. F. Duras) in an address to the Eugenics Society of Victoria last night.** He spoke on "Eugenics in Germany Today."

1938



### **NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN<sup>25</sup>**

CANBERRA Thursday — To inaugurate a national campaign for physical fitness the Government has decided to form at once a national coordinating council under the chairmanship of the Minister for Health (Senator Foil). The Commonwealth will also invite State Governments through their Ministers for Health and Education to co operate by forming related State councils, a conference will be convened at an early date to set in motion Australia-wide plans to awaken interest of individuals and organizations in the campaign.

In 1938 and 1944 two ESV members proposed draconian measures to encourage the 'fit' to have more children. On 7 July 1938, Dr Fritz Duras gave a lecture on 'Eugenics in Germany today' which was reported in the *Age*.<sup>1073</sup> Duras, the Director of Physical Education at Melbourne University, described the measures taken by the Nazis 'to improve the quality and quantity of the race' as 'one of the most interesting biological experiments in the world'.<sup>1074</sup> He made a similarly sinister-sounding proposal in October 1938, reminding the Federal Government of the importance 'of enlisting the help of the health authorities and the medical profession' in the national fitness campaign.<sup>1075</sup>

- 1996, Diana Wyndham, **Striving for National Fitness: Eugenics in Australia, 1910s – 1930s**<sup>26</sup>



**'Pictured above are participants in the "fitter families" contest at the Georgia State Fair in 1924. Such contests were held all over the United States to educate the public about the importance of eugenics in decisions about reproduction and family-making. They originated in "better baby" contests during the 1910s.'**<sup>27</sup>

<sup>23</sup> 1938 'Another Maginot Line Against Hitler Czechs Build "Impregnable" Frontier; Barrier of Electrified Steel and.', *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 1 May, p. 9, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58807056>

<sup>24</sup> 1938 'IN A SENTENCE OR TWO—'. *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 8 July, p. 2, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12434058>

<sup>25</sup> 1938 'NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 25 November, p. 1, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article38700128>

# Perth Man Marries 1000 People in 18 Months

FIVE HUNDRED Perth couples have been married by a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man in the last 18 months.

This man is not a minister of religion; he is the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Perth—Mr. W. H. Mathews.

The number of marriages performed in Perth during the past 18 months has exceeded 500. This is a record for the city, and is due to the fact that Mr. W. H. Mathews, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, has been performing the duties of a minister of religion since he was appointed to his post in 1915. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man, and his work is a most interesting one. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months, and his work is a most interesting one. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months, and his work is a most interesting one.



Mr. W. H. Mathews, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Perth.

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Perth is Mr. W. H. Mathews.

He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months.

His work is a most interesting one.

He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man.

He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months.

His work is a most interesting one.

He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man.

He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months.

His work is a most interesting one.

He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man.

He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months.

His work is a most interesting one.

He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man.

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Perth is Mr. W. H. Mathews. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man.

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Perth is Mr. W. H. Mathews. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man.

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Perth is Mr. W. H. Mathews. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man.

## Young Mothers

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Perth is Mr. W. H. Mathews. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man.

## Disparity in Ages

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Perth is Mr. W. H. Mathews. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man. He has been married by 500 couples in the last 18 months. His work is a most interesting one. He is a quiet, unassuming, middle-aged man.



1938 'Perth Man Marries 1000 People in 18 Months', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 10 July, p. 3, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58811380>

<sup>26</sup> Extracted 21<sup>st</sup> September, from, <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/2123/402/1/adt-NU2000.0015whole.pdf>  
<sup>27</sup> The Adoption History Project, "Eugenics", extracted 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2011, from <http://pages.uoregon.edu/adoption/topics/eugenics.htm>





**Adoption Association: Demand for Children Exceeds the Supply<sup>28</sup>**  
 The National Children Adoption Association sends children to various parts of the British Empire including Australians... The demand for these children exceeds the supply – and girls are preferred, being regarded as more companionable in later life than boys.

## CHILD WELFARE.

### League Reviews Nations' Progress.

The persistence of the tendency for Governments to take more direct interest in the organization of child welfare work is again a feature of progress in different countries, as disclosed by documents summarized by the Child Welfare Information Centre of the League of Nations.

Centralizing authorities were set up by certain South American countries in 1937. In 1938, France organized the Permanent General Secretariat of the High Council for Child Welfare established during the previous year under the chairmanship of the Minister of Public Health.

The adoption of children has again received attention, the Australian Government having issued an ordinance for the authorization of adoption under restrictions and conditions. The United States of Mexico has now lowered the age at which a person may adopt from 40 to 30 years. Bolivia has established a national Minors' Welfare Society to exercise state protection over children and minors in general, and in particular, deserted children and children born out of wedlock. This society, with departmental and provincial committees, is under the direct control of the Ministry of Labour. The decree which brings this about outlines the functions of the Minors' Welfare Society and the methods to be followed in maternity and child welfare work.

In Ecuador, social welfare homes have been established under Government supervision to take charge of children and adolescents at various stages of their lives. In Switzerland, a new Penal Code was adopted by national referendum in July last year and comes into force on January 1, 1942, the interval being prescribed in order that each Canton in the Swiss Confederation may adapt its own legislation to the provisions of the new code. The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labour has published a summary of the laws affecting child welfare passed in 1937 by forty-three States.

#### In Belgium.

Belgium has been interested in defining the functions of the educational and scholastic Cinema Centre of the National Scholastic Museum. This centre is responsible for facilitating the use of educational films under the Convention of October 11, 1923. Another Belgian decree has set up a board to supervise the provision of films in cinema programmes suitable for families and children. Under this decree, the exhibition of films to minors under 16 years of age is subject to

this decree, the exhibition of films to minors under 16 years of age is subject to conditions by which the board will be guided in carrying out its duties. The board has the right also to authorize, without viewing and subject only to the formalities set out in the decree, the exhibition of films at performances not organized for profit and having an exclusively educational character. Documentary and news films may be licensed without being viewed.

A new measure in Italy makes provision for family loans granted to promote the founding of Italian families and their development. Besides giving rebate of taxation to parents who have five or more children alive and dependent on them, the decree authorizes various concessions to married people with families. In Germany, a new law establishes compulsory vocational training at prescribed schools for periods of three, or in agricultural occupations two years. The responsibility of third parties for the fulfilment of obligations of school attendants is defined.

To assist necessitous mothers who have to provide for children under 13 years of age and have no husband or other person to support them, the Japanese Government has secured statutory approval of various measures. The assistance comprises the maintenance and education of children, employment or provision of work at home for the parents, medical attention and, where necessary, funeral expenses granted by the mayor or head of the village in which the mother lives, in collaboration with the welfare officers.

A Belgian decree has given special facilities for the establishment of playing-fields by public bodies and private organizations of a non-commercial character under certain conditions subject to Government approval. Playing-grounds have attracted the attention of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which has passed a law empowering local authorities to close certain streets so that they may be used as playgrounds for children who otherwise would have no such opportunity. The streets are closed by orders prohibiting the use of them by vehicles either generally or on particular days or during particular hours, so long as reasonable access to premises situated in the street or road is maintained.

#### Swedish Activities.

In Sweden, contributions from public funds for the maintenance and education of orphans up to the age of 15 have been approved so long as the children are Swedish nationals and habitually resident in Sweden, with the proviso that the King in Council may approve reciprocal extension of this privilege to the nationals of foreign countries. The cost of child welfare contributions is borne by the State and local authorities. The right to such contributions is unalienable so that it cannot be affected by processes

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

<sup>28</sup> 1939 'ADOPTION ASSOCIATION', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 2 February, p. 23, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17547115>

that it cannot be affected by processes for the recovery of debts. Advance payments of maintenance contributions to children up to the age of 16 have also been sanctioned in Sweden when the respective fathers are liable under a decision of the court or a written agreement, to pay such contributions. Sweden has organised an extensive service of district midwifery. The kingdom is divided into districts each of which must have at least one resident midwife. The division is carried out by the Medical Board, which determines the number of midwives to be assigned to each district. The professional duties of district and reserve midwives are defined by the law and the emoluments attaching to the post are determined.

#### Theatrical Tours.

To deal with the problem of the engagement of girls to go abroad on theatrical tours, the German Government has issued orders to the competent authorities for making the provision of the necessary passports dependent on the personal character of the manager and the nature of the undertaking. Consultation with the Reich Central Office for the Campaign against the International Traffic in Women, attached to the Reich Criminal Police Office in Berlin, is prescribed.

In the colonies of the Netherlands East Indies, measures have been taken to strengthen the law against persons who commit offences against the morals of children. Among the provisions is the prescription of a penalty for anyone who exhibits any writing, picture or object likely to disturb such morals. In France and the United Kingdom, as well as in the Straits Settlements, similar action was taken to protect children and young persons in other respects. In New Zealand, the abolition of whipping as a penalty inflicted by Children's Courts has been approved.

These are just a few of the notable advances made in various countries in the world towards the provision of protection for children and specific facilities for their progress and welfare.

29

1939

LEAGUE OF NATIONS



SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS

#### ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN<sup>30</sup>

The League of Nations has just published a short study on the legal position of the illegitimate child in the principal countries of the world. The study includes a chapter on the unmarried mother's rights. The last part of the volume deals with social insurance laws (which, in many countries, are favourable to illegitimate children), and with special social welfare measures, including public assistance and preventive health measures. Copies are on sale by the authorised agents for the publications of the League of Nations in the Commonwealth: IT A. Goddard, Ltd. 255A, George-street, Sydney.

<sup>29</sup> 1939 'CHILD WELFARE.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 26 April, p. 7, viewed 24 September, 2011. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46385605>

<sup>30</sup> 1939 'ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 12 October, p. 8, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46430590>



# THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

## DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### *“Rehabilitation of the Unwed Mother”*

#### UNWANTED CHILDREN.

##### Improved Conditions Sought.

One of the most effective ways of reducing the percentage of illegitimate births in any country would be to improve housing, general living and working conditions and the standard of education. This was the advice given by the advisory committee on social questions of the League of Nations by Judge Inge Debe, chairman of the Norwegian Committee on Social Legislation, who was invited to take part in the committee's discussion last month on social problems connected with illegitimacy.

The status and treatment of illegitimate children has long claimed the attention of league experts. It was first raised in 1927 when the women's committee of the International Federation of Trades Unions, Amsterdam, submitted a memorandum concerning the rehabilitation of unmarried mothers and the protection of illegitimate children. The league's first service to social authorities dealing with this problem was the publication in 1929 of a compilation of special measures existing in the different countries for the protection of illegitimate children. At this time, too, a resolution was adopted whose terms are eloquent of the humanitarian (rather than legalistic) approach made by league experts to this problem:

The committee considers that more effective protection should be ensured to illegitimate children and, to this

end, decides to keep the question on its agenda; and it also urges that for the future, in all questions of protection and assistance, the illegitimate child should be as well treated as the legitimate child, due respect being paid to the rights of the family.

##### Social Insurance.

The position of illegitimate children in law and in fact has thus appeared on the social questions committee's agenda year after year. The basis of their discussion was broadened in 1932, when the International Labour Office published a report on the position of illegitimate children in respect of social insurance. This report showed the growing tendency in a number of countries to treat illegitimate children in the same way as legitimate in regard to social insurance benefits.

From 1932 on, each year has seen a new advance in work in this field. Public authorities in every country are becoming aware of the importance of ensuring the legal title and the social well-being of the child who has the misfortune to be born outside the normal family unit. Unless special provision is made, the illegitimate child may live as an outcast.

His inferior legal status makes his economic position precarious, and his position tends to create problems of social adjustment not only for himself but for those near him.

One useful suggestion made by the league's social committee was that a type of birth certificate might be drawn up which would make no reference to the fact of illegitimacy. Such an abridged birth certificate might be used in all cases to establish identity where information regarding parentage was not required.

##### Publications.

The "Study on the Legal Position of the Illegitimate Child," which appeared in May of this year, has been published to give a general idea of the position of illegitimate children throughout the world today.

It contains an analysis of the legal aspects of the question and makes a survey of devices by which the authorities in different countries attempt to ensure the legal protection of the child and of his mother. This part of the study includes consideration of special measures concerning registration of births and official documents disclosing illegitimacy; acknowledgment of illegitimate children; re-establishment of legitimate status of children; inheritance rights in respect of the mother's family and the father's family; guardianship rights and obligations of the mother, father and both parents jointly; official guardianship; maintenance rights and obligations of the mother, the father and both parents jointly.

The study further gives information about measures provided in social insurance laws which are applicable to illegitimate children, and special social welfare measures for the protection and welfare of illegitimate children. Annexed to the study is a table showing, for some 46 countries and territories, the proportion of illegitimate to legitimate births in the years 1927 to 1935. A similar table compares mortality rates of illegitimate with legitimate children.

The recent meeting of the league's advisory committee on social questions examined the draft of the companion study which is now being prepared on the social aspects of illegitimacy. The conclusion of the experts who are working on this report is that the social and financial position of the unmarried mother is always precarious; indeed, social authorities in some countries have found that a significant number of women have gone into prostitution in order to help support their illegitimate child. Their study will conclude fittings with a survey of measures being taken in the different countries to protect the health and the social position of the unmarried mother and her child.

31

<sup>31</sup> 1939 'UNWANTED CHILDREN.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 14 October, p. 11, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46431213>

1939

## MARRIED AT 12 AND 13

CANBERRA. Friday.

Two girls of 12 and 13 were married in Australia last year. This fact is revealed in returns released today by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Wilson).

During the year there were also 17 brides of 14 years, 129 aged 15, 596 aged 16, 1629 aged 17, and 2786 aged 18. The youngest bridegroom was 14, but 15 boys married at the age of 15, 101 at 17, and 347 at 18.

The girl of 12 was married to a man of 22.

The oldest bride was 82, and oldest bridegroom 88.

However, the average age of brides was 25.0 years, and of bridegrooms 29.5.

### 17 Marries 37

The 62,411 marriages celebrated during the year included these age discrepancies: Man of 34 married to a woman of 70; another aged 22 married to a woman of 49, and a lad of 17 married to a woman of 37.

On the other hand, a man of 64 married a girl of 17; another aged 42 married a girl of 14, and a third, aged 75, married a woman 50 years his junior.

At 9.05 per thousand, the marriage rate showed an increase during the year. Civil officers conducted 8 per cent. of the weddings, compared with 6.64 in 1937.

National Library of Australia 32



1939



### Illegitimate Children: Hess States Nazi Policy<sup>33</sup>

The Deputy Leader of the Nazi Party (Herr Hess) has declared his willingness to become the godfather of all illegitimate German children whose fathers are killed in the war. He made this declaration in a letter to the mother of an illegitimate child whose father was killed in Poland. The letter, which has been published prominently in all German newspapers, proceeds: We are no longer concerned with antiquated and man-made traditions, principles and morality. Germany today needs robust, healthy children who will be prepared to take the place of the men we are now losing. The birth of a child is a true symbol of Christmas. Therefore, we extend our protection to all children who need it. Childbirth is the fulfillment of a woman's life and Germany needs children.

<sup>32</sup> 1939 'MARRIED AT 12 AND 13.', *Advocate* (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954), 4 November, p. 7, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article68332750>



<p>1940</p> 	<p><b>Birth Rate Decline<sup>34</sup></b>  Details of Australia's rapidly declining birthrate are given in figures released by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) yesterday. The natural increase per 1000 of population in 1921 was 15.1 per cent. This had fallen to 7.1 in 1935 and in 1938 was 7.8.</p>
<p>1940</p> 	<p><b>Crown Street Women's Hospital, Almoners Department established<sup>35</sup></b>  Dr. Harry Bailey was the psychiatrist at the notorious Crown Street Women's Hospital where many children were stolen. He also worked in London under Dr William Sargent, and in Canada under the even more notorious Dr Ewan Cameron of MK ULTRA and psychic driving infamy. Bailey later opened his own private hospital, Chelmsford Private Hospital in Pennant Hills. The questionable practices carried on there eventually lead to a Royal Commission.<sup>36</sup></p>
<p>1940 <b>1,164 registered adoptions in NSW</b></p>	<p><b>METHODIST BABIES' HOME – Experiment in Social Welfare<sup>37</sup></b>  It is ten years since this home was built in South Yarra by the young men of the Methodist Church. In ten years they have rescued over 500 babies from neglect, poverty and malnutrition. No neglected baby is ever turned away. No charge for the maintenance of the babies is ever made.</p> <p>The home is for the babies of the very poor. In ten years over 400 babies and little children have been adopted into the homes of people of the right kind. There they will be the usual liability in their parents' lives until they reach young manhood and womanhood. Then, having been trained for their future life they will become a real asset to their people and to the nation. <b>No baby is allowed to be adopted until the medical experts pronounce it as A1 class "for adoption."</b> As this rule is never to be broken, the people of Victoria know now that they can rely on the Methodist Babies' Home.</p>
<p>1940</p> 	<p><b>Family Life Watched<sup>38</sup></b>  In Germany through the system of social workers, the government knows exactly how each family lives, and on what they spend their money. Through these social workers the State checks the private lives of the employees and can compute the minimum wage necessary to keep them alive.</p>

<sup>33</sup> 1939 'ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 28 December, p. 4, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46345894>

<sup>34</sup> <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2527530>

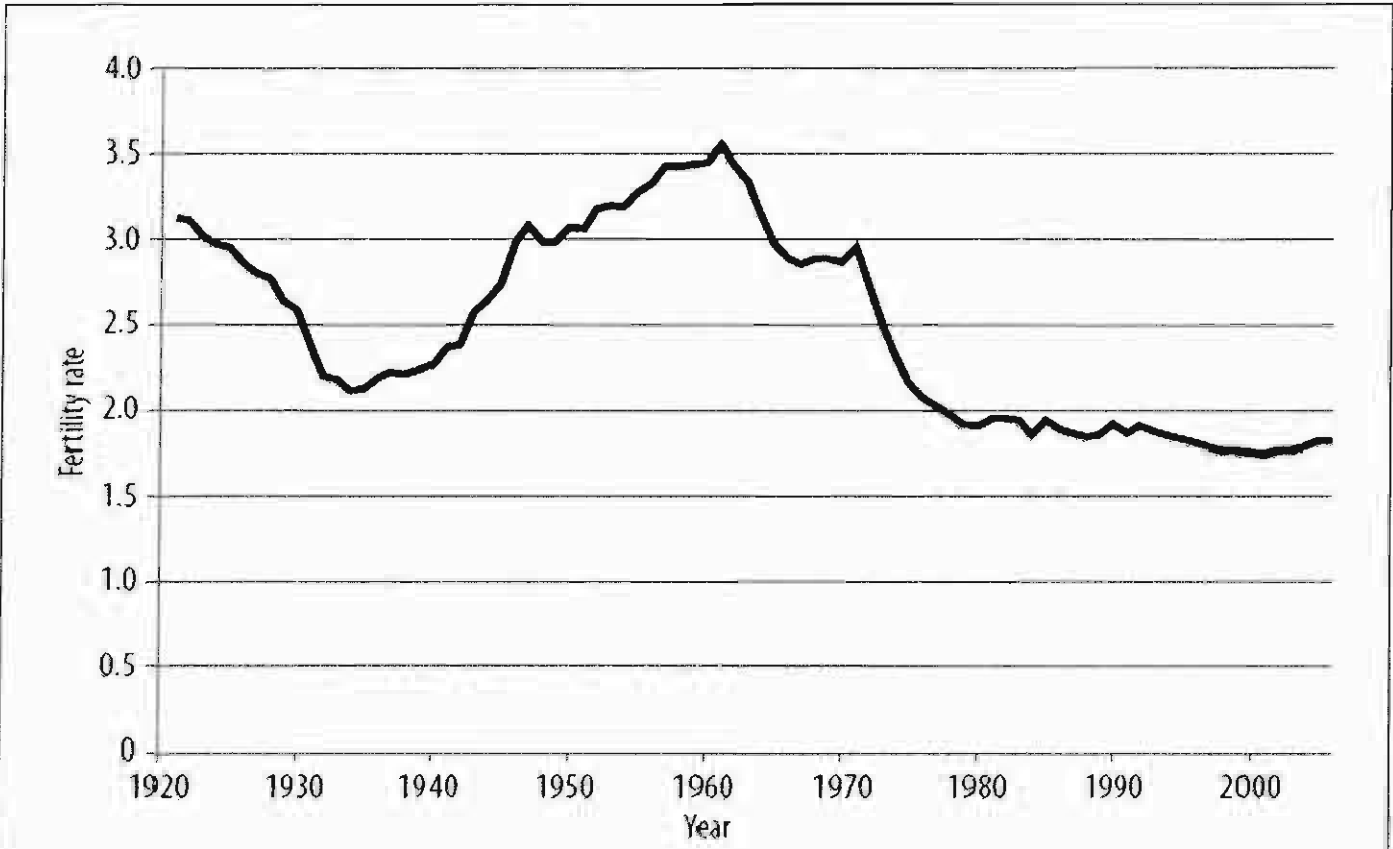
<sup>35</sup> 1940 Crown Street: A Family Remembers, Book 68 of 300, isbn0646173308, first edition 1944, Crown Street Centenary Committee

<sup>36</sup> <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bailey-harry-richard-12162>

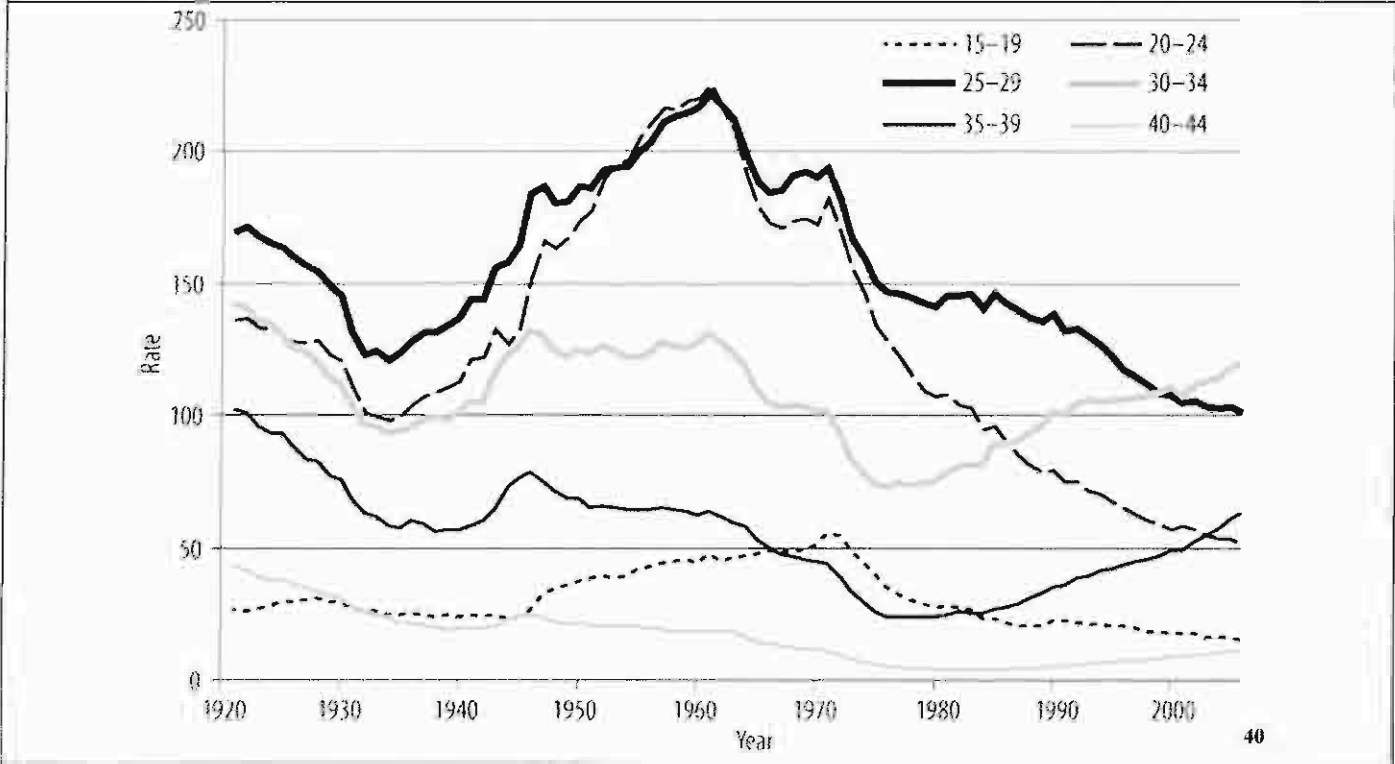
<sup>37</sup> 1940 'METHODIST BABIES' HOME.', Gippsland Times (Vic. : 1861 - 1954), 1 April, p. 4, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63272033>

<sup>38</sup> 1940 'Nazi Life from Cradle to Grave.', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 8 September, p. 7 Section: SUNDAY TIMES SPORTING SECTION, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58983181>

39



40



<sup>39</sup> <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/rp41/rp41.html#figure1>  
<sup>40</sup> <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/pubs/rp41/rp41.html#figure3>



1941<sup>41</sup>



## S.A. Women Urge Higher Marriage Age

ADELAIDE, Thursday.—Strong representations will be made by League of Women Voters to have the marriage age of minors raised to 18 for boys and 16 for girls.

“The present age is 12 for girls and 14 for boys, and we consider this entirely too young,” said the secretary (Miss B. Stevens) to day.

South Australia’s marriage age was based on an old English law, she said, although to day in England the age at which minors might marry was 16 for both boys and girls.

National Library of Australia

1941



### Fewer foundlings for adoption<sup>42</sup>

The reason proposed for fewer babies being available for adoption is that their mothers have found employment in war industries. Berry St foundling home (Victoria) receives 200 applications for one baby. Female babies in demand as companion for adopting parents. Foundling homes have a waiting list for baby girls.

1941



“Uniform Law on Adoption of Children Planned”

ORIGINS OF SECRECY PROVISIONS IN ADOPTION LEGISLATION

### Big Increase

There was a great increase in the demand for permission to adopt children, Mr. Hanlon continued. A large proportion of childless women in this country were anxious to have children. In Queensland the authorities had great difficulty in finding suitable children to meet the demand for adoption. Childless women went to great lengths to conceal the fact that they could not bear children. Often they would go to another State to adopt a young child, failing to realise that, on their return, the adoption had no force in law.

“We are proposing to the other States that the whole question of adoption should be handed over to the Commonwealth for a uniform adoption law,” said Mr. Hanlon.

43

<sup>41</sup> 1941 'S.A. Women Urge Higher Marriage Age.', *Advocate* (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954), 23 May, p. 2, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article68508261>

<sup>42</sup> 1941 'FEWER FOUNDLINGS FOR ADOPTION.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 19 June, p. 8, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8167778>

<sup>43</sup> 1941 'UNIFORM LAW ON ADOPTION OF CHILD PLANNED.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 24 October, p. 5, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article41936786>

Childlessness linked to abortion and the quest for secrecy provision of adoption legislation

Mr. J. B. Barnes (Ind., Bundaberg) asked why people who wanted to adopt children could not have children of their own.

Mr. Hanlon said that the majority of childless couples would have children if they could. The Director-General of Health and Medical Services (Sir Raphael Cilento) could give Mr. Barnes an idea of that by the number who wrote to him asking for advice on the question of parentage. Some cases of childlessness were due to malpractices and the Government was trying to reduce this number.

One reason why war was waged on preservatives in food was that they were harmful to reproduction.

Abortion, after all, was to a great extent a social problem. It was most difficult to stamp out by law.

1942



#### ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

Sir: I protest against the attitude of 22 members of the Legislative Assembly in voting against the amendment to include in the Miners' Pensions Bill unfortunate children born out of wedlock. The attitude of Mrs Weber makes me feel ashamed to be a member of the same sex. All honour to the 13 members who voted in the minority. - B. D.I CRISFIELD (Dandenong).

The 22 members who voted against pensions for children born out of wedlock are to be commended. It is against the sanctity of the marriage tie and would encourage the breaking of God's law. Our lads are fighting for honour and sanctity of home, as well as freedom. Environment in which the child is reared is recognised as the most important factor in juvenile crime. Every citizen owes to the community a moral duty to oppose any pension that would lower the standard of citizenship.<sup>44</sup>

1942



Report reveals there are in excess of 90,000 endowed children in the Commonwealth, representing an annual liability of 11,828,011 pounds.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>44</sup> 1942 'ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 9 December, p. 11, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12008724>

<sup>45</sup> 1942 'Pensions Bill Up By £3m.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 12 December, p. 3, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50148493>



## Venereal Disease is Hideous Enemy Within Our Shores

### Almost as Dangerous to Australia as the Japanese Menace

to deal with the problem. Venereal disease had recently made its appearance in towns that had previously been free from it. It was spreading all over the country and was not peculiar to any class of woman. Strangely, in New South Wales and Queensland, venereal disease was less prevalent among professional prostitutes than among allegedly decent females.

### HAMPERED BY HUSH-HUSH POLICY

46

1943<sup>47</sup>

### 495 ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS IN 6 MONTHS

The Health and Home Affairs Minister (Mr. Hanlon) told Mr. J. F. Barnes (Ind., Bundaberg) in Parliament yesterday that in 1941 1061 unmarried women had babies. For the six months ended June 30 1942, the total was 495.

From July 1, 1942 to date there had been seven cases of rape and six cases of attempted rape reported.

Article above reads<sup>48</sup>

*The Minister for Home Affairs Minister (Mr Hanlon) told Mr. J. F. Barnes (Ind., Bundaberg) told Parliament yesterday that in 1941, 1061 unmarried women had babies. For the six months ended June 30, 1942, the total was 495.*

## U S SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN

### "Cradle to Grave"

From Our Own Correspondent  
LONDON, Thursday  
President Roosevelt has sent to Congress a "new Bill of Rights" for post-war America, which is regarded as one of the most revolutionary schemes for national prosperity ever proposed. It is a "cradle to grave" social security programme. Framed by the National Resources Planning Board, of which the President's uncle, Mr. Frederick Delano, is chairman, it is based on President Roosevelt's conception of the "Four Freedoms"—freedom of speech and religion, freedom from want and fear. The report has the underlying motif that "it is the declared policy of the US Government to maintain a high level of national production and consumption, and to plan for the dynamic expanding of the national economy on the basis of a \$125,000,000,000 national income."

abilities.

### DISABILITY INSURANCE

In the sphere of social security the board proposes: (1) Permanent and temporary disability insurance; (2) extension of the present old-age and other insurances; (3) improved unemployment compensation laws; (4) adequate security for those in the armed forces and their families.

In any postwar plan the board mentions 3 essential safeguards to democracy: (1) Prevention of monopolies; (2) right of labour to collective bargaining for fair wages and hours; and (3) farmers to share in the new benefits. The board declares: "We need to see clearly the kind of world towards which we are headed in order to maintain the fighting spirit of our armed forces, and the ardour of the industrial worker. We need to stir the imagination and aspirations of all peoples, free or temporarily enslaved, for the new goals which can be reached when the war is won."

It is not expected that the report will be adopted by Congress this session. The House of Representatives recently refused the President's request for an appropriation to keep the NRPB going for another year.





The report has many aspects in common with the Beveridge plan in Great Britain, but goes beyond the

<sup>46</sup> 1943 'Venereal Disease is hideous enemy within our shores', (Brisbane, Qld. : 1890 - 1955), 18 January 1943, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/printArticleJpg/71447104/3?print=n>

<sup>47</sup> 1943 'U S SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 12 March, p. 12, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article11333008>

<sup>48</sup> 1943 '495 ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS IN 6 MONTHS.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 9 April, p. 3, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42024925>



<p>1943</p> 	<p><b>Many Wartime Homes Are Waiting to Adopt Babies<sup>49</sup></b>          Contrary to the general idea, Miss Cocks said that many unmarried mothers whose babies are cared for at the home, do not wish their babies to be adopted.</p>
<p>1944</p> <p>I sent them both to specialists who reported that they were puzzled at their infertility, as there seemed to be no reason on either side.</p> <p>In due course the adoption was arranged and carried out.</p> <p>Within a year a baby was born to the Abdols.</p> <p>50</p>	<p><b>Shortage of Babies<sup>51</sup></b>          Over 100 people in this State are waiting to adopt babies, but there are not enough babies available. Most babies are adopted when they are about three weeks old, and are usually illegitimate children born in metropolitan hospitals, and whose mothers either cannot or do not want to look after them... Most babies are adopted when they are about three weeks old, and are usually illegitimate children born in metropolitan hospitals, and whose mothers either cannot or do not want to look after them.</p>
<p>1944<sup>52</sup></p>	<p><b>"Populate or Perish"</b></p>
<p>1944</p> 	 <p><b>Brisbane City Mission calls for married, Australian citizens prepared to adopt a child regardless of its sex, adding that the baby will be healthy.<sup>53</sup></b></p>
<p>1944</p> 	<p><b>More Boys Born Out of Wedlock In Queensland<sup>54</sup></b>          The apparent increase in the numbers of illegitimate boy babies is providing a problem for the Queensland State Children's department which has to find homes for them. There are now so many little boys awaiting adoption that the department has had to advertise.</p>

<sup>49</sup> 1943 'WOMAN'S REALM.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 23 July, p. 3, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46763546>

<sup>50</sup> 1944 'Clinics For The Childless To Boost Birth Bate.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 15 January, p. 3, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48781449>

<sup>51</sup> 1944 'SHORTAGE OF BABIES.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 15 January, p. 4, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46781789>

<sup>52</sup> 1944 "'Populate or Perish".', *Army News* (Darwin, NT : 1941 - 1946), 11 April, p. 2, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47691963>

<sup>53</sup> 1944 'BABIES FOR ADOPTION.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 8 May, p. 3, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42027316>

1944

**Emphasis on individual responsibility**

**Removing the cause of the problem**

**The Problem of the Unmarried Mother**

**Scope of social services addresses the "problem" of the unmarried mother**

**SOCIAL SERVICE Opportunities for Development<sup>55</sup>**

Social service meant any work done, not for financial profit, but for the good of the community and the individual, said Mrs W. F. Jones in an address at the annual meeting of the Emergency Housekeeper Scheme for the Women on the Land on Thursday afternoon.

Dealing with the development of social services, Mrs Jones instanced the Charity Organisation Society of Britain. This was still one of the most live and vital organisations of its kind in the world. Its aim was to meet people's needs - and needs were by no means always financial - by assistance, advice, guidance with children, help with domestic problems and so on. Social service must always be advising, helping and informing the individual; it must always be work among personalities. There was no such thing as mass social work and many schemes of social welfare of government origin failed because this important fact was overlooked. Social welfare work was done in two directions - firstly, provision of immediate relief to those in need of assistance; and secondly, prevention of further distress by work aimed at the removal of the cause.

Many problems were personal and could not be met in the first place by legislation. People had to be handled individually with tact, knowledge and understanding. But the evil causes of distress could be dealt with by legislation. There were, Mrs Jones added, many opportunities for further development of social service in this country. For instance it was a blot on the community that there should be no home where delinquent children could be sent for proper treatment. Briefly outlining the scope of social service she mentioned hospital almoners, housing and property management, youth activities, maternity and child welfare, relief of distress from various causes, and assistance to Invalids, industrial workers, the incapacitated, unmarried mothers, aged poor, deserted wives, aliens, discharged prisoners, inebriates and others.

1944

**ILO Plans For World Social Security**

PHILADELPHIA, Thurs. - A vast "cradle to the grave" world social insurance scheme submitted to the International Labour Organisation conference yesterday by the ILO Social Security Committee became the subject of a bitter debate. The plan covers sickness, maternity, invalidity, breadwinners' deaths, unemployment, emergency expenses, and accidents. It is considered even more comprehensive than the British Government's Beveridge report. Mr Tomlinson, a British Workers' delegate, moved that the proposal be sent to the Governments for their observations, and that the whole subject be placed on the agenda for the next conference. He said that Britain was anxious to make a real addition to the international Labour code, but such addition could not be obtainable if only general principles were recommended which individual Governments could interpret as they pleased. Mr Tomlinson's motion was defeated, and the first and second resolutions dealing with income and security, were adopted. The third resolution dealing with medical care will be dealt with next - AAP

**ILO Plans For World Social Security<sup>56</sup>**

PHILADELPHIA, Thurs. - A vast "cradle to the grave" world social insurance scheme was submitted to the International Labour Organisation conference yesterday by the ILO Social Security Committee became the subject of a bitter debate. The plan covers sickness, maternity, invalidity, breadwinners' deaths, unemployment, emergency expenses, and accidents. It is considered even more comprehensive than the British Government's Beveridge report. Mr Tomlinson, a British Workers' delegate, moved that the proposal be sent to the Governments for their observations, and that the whole subject be placed on the agenda for the next conference. He said that Britain was anxious to make a real addition to the international Labour code, but such addition could not be obtainable if only general principles were recommended which individual Governments could interpret as they pleased. Mr Tomlinson's motion was defeated, and the first and second resolutions, dealing with income and security, were adopted.

<sup>54</sup> 1944 'More Boys Born Out of Wedlock In Queensland.', The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 25 March, p. 14, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55883510>

<sup>55</sup> 1944 'SOCIAL SERVICE.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 26 April, p. 4, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44807501>

1944



## HOSPITAL AIDING BIRTHRATE

To help couples wishing to have children, a sterility and sub-fertility clinic has been started at the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, Rose Park.

This was announced at today's annual meeting by the president (Dr. T. G. Wilson).

He said it was not often realised that the absence of children, or the birth of only a single child, far from being voluntary, was in many cases a great tragedy for married couples.

Investigation and efficient treatment could overcome sterility in a considerable proportion of cases.

The clinic would be supervised by the University's director of obstetrics (Dr. Joynt).

The committee hoped that as the clinic's existence became wider known it would fulfil a definite want in community life.

57

1944



## MORE MATERNITY HOSPITALS URGED Innovation Of Sterility Clinic

58

1944



### The Counsellor says...Claims of Baby First Concern<sup>59</sup>

There is a tendency on the part of some to begrudge any kindly help given to the mothers of babies born out of wedlock, but such people would do well to consider the fact according to statistics, approximately 40 per cent of all first babies born in Queensland are conceived out of wedlock.

<sup>56</sup> 1944 'ILO Plans For World Social Security.', *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 12 May, p. 2, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26007709>

<sup>57</sup> 1944 'HOSPITAL AIDING BIRTHRATE.', *The Mail* (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 1 July, p. 14, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57690164>

<sup>58</sup> 1944 'MORE MATERNITY HOSPITALS URGED.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 3 July, p. 6, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article43210742>



1944



## STERILITY CLINIC

BRISBANE, August 31 Mr Foley stated to-night the first sterility clinic in Queensland would be opened at the Brisbane Women's Hospital next week. It would make medical investigations into aspects of childless marriages. Where the result of the investigation suggested, treatment might be effective, it would be carried out at the hospital.

60

1944



### Girls most sought for Adoption<sup>61</sup>

Nearly 200 families in South Australia were waiting to adopt children, Miss Bampton, senior inspector of the foster mothers' branch of the Children's Welfare Department, told me this week. Most of the babies go to their new homes when aged about two weeks. Last year 245 children under seven were adopted and 52 over seven.

Baby girls are in big demand. 'Men always like little girls.'

1944



## New Clinic Popular

**W**HEN the first sterility clinic in Queensland was opened at the Brisbane Women's Hospital yesterday the attendance was much larger than had been anticipated.

Announcing this last night, the general superintendent of the Brisbane and South Coast Hospitals Board (Dr A. Pye) said that those who attended represented a good cross-section of the community.

The clinic was inaugurated by the board to investigate the medical aspects of childless marriages.

The clinic will be conducted each Thursday from 9.30 a.m.

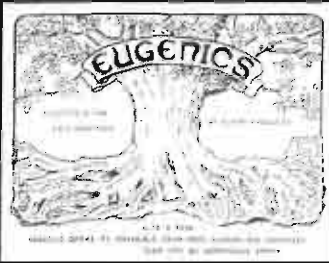
62

<sup>59</sup> 1944 "'THE COUNSELLOR" SAYS.... CLAIMS OF BABY FIRST CONCERN.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 25 May, p. 5, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42010461>

<sup>60</sup> 1944 'STERILITY CLINIC.', *Townsville Daily Bulletin* (Qld. : 1885 - 1954), 2 September, p. 4, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article61940816>

<sup>61</sup> 1944 'BABY GIRLS MOST SOUGHT FOR ADOPTION.', The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), 14 October, p. 9, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57691282>

1944



### Adoption of Children in Wartime<sup>63</sup>

Reports from overseas and the opinions of child welfare officers here seem to indicate an almost world-wide desire just now to adopt children. Most foundling homes have had in the past long waiting lists of 'parents' wanting to adopt... In these days there are few risks in adopting a child, for family histories are investigated, blood tests are made to ensure that babies have no hereditary diseases, and special tests in standards of behaviour are given to ensure that they are of normal intelligence.

1944

*"Most unmarried mothers are not from the slums, but from respectful middle and upper class homes."*



## Many Girls Under 15 in U.S. Having Babies

From "The Mail" Special Representative in U.S.A.

NEW YORK Saturday — Dr. J. F. Gasterson, on retiring as chief physician of the Salvation Army at Birmingham, Alabama, disclosed that during his 20 years of hospital work he delivered 2,067 illegitimate babies.

He said he had noted a sharp increase recently in the number of births to girls under 15, and attributed the situation to "home conditions and false ideas of patriotism."

Most unmarried mothers, he stressed, were not from the slums, but from respectable middle and upper class homes.

"These girls are not bad. They are your relatives and mine. They are pitiful victims of our own failure," he said.

**National Library of Australia**

The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 20 May 1944, page 2

1944

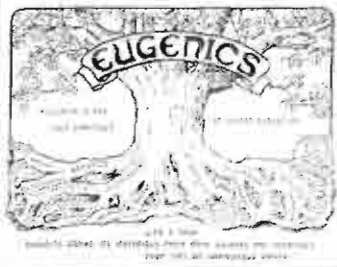
### Children for the State: Nazis fostered illegitimacy<sup>64</sup>

Conclusive proof that Hitler encouraged German troops and young women to produce illegitimate children in the interests of the German State is seen in the discovery near Liege of a special maternity institution

<sup>62</sup> 1944 'New Clime Popular.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 8 September, p. 4, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48951383>

<sup>63</sup> 1944 'Adoption of Children In Wartime.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 29 August, p. 7, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article11358658>

<sup>64</sup> 1944 'CHILDREN FOR THE STATE.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 14 September, p. 2, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17920596>



which provided pre-natal and after-care for unmarried mothers. Young women, the majority of whom did not see the fathers after the birth of their children, were sent to Germany with their babies. There they became the charge of the German State, which proceeded to bring up the children in the Nazi tradition.

1944

## 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL MARRIES MAN AGED 25

SYDNEY, July 31.—A 12-year-old schoolgirl was married at the Dulwich Hill Methodist Church yesterday to a man aged 25. She was formerly Joanne Davey, of Marrickville. Her husband is Mr J. Moores, of Marrickville. They are a professional adagio dancing team known in Sydney as the Varasviennas. They have been dancing together for four years.

It is believed that this is the first time a 12-year-old girl has been married in New South Wales.

The girl's mother said yesterday that she had consented to the girl's marriage because the couple expected that their dancing would take them away on tour together."

The Rev. R. A. Gibbons, who officiated at yesterday's ceremony, said: "I know that some clergymen would have refused to marry a 12-year-old girl, but in the special circumstances I agree that it was for the best." He added that the bridegroom was a decent young fellow.

The Registrar-General (Mr R Willis) said today: "There is nothing to prevent girls of this age marrying if they have their parents' consent."

The vice-president of the Teachers' Federation (Mr M. McKinnon) said that attendance at school was compulsory until the age of 15. He added: "I do not expect that this obligation will be enforced in this case and I do not suppose any school would want a married pupil."



65

<sup>65</sup> 1944 '12-YEAR-OLD GIRL MARRIES MAN AGED 25.', Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 1 August, p. 3, viewed 13 December, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56314007>



# OUR POPULATION

## IMMIGRATION PLANS.

### Advisory Council's Views.

Article titled "OUR POPULATION IMMIGRATION PLANS – Advisory Council's Views"<sup>66</sup>

#### PRE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CARE TO BE BROUGHT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

'A wide range of social reforms and plans to stimulate a steady influx of suitable Immigrants after the war will be put before the appropriate Federal and State ministers almost immediately as a result of a meeting of the Population and Migration Advisory Council held in Perth yesterday. Members present included representatives of prominent public bodies.

The president of the executive (Mr J. H. Gaffney) was in the chair. Holding that a policy to achieve a rapid increase of population by immigration was inseparable from one for social reforms and stimulation of the natural increase, the meeting resolved to urge an extension of family endowment to include the first child and a higher rate of payment; marriage loans of £200 at a low rate of interest and repayable if there should be no children born within the first five years, but otherwise, one-third to be written off at the birth of the first child, half of the balance to be written off at the birth of the second, and the whole of the outstanding amount to be written off at the birth of the third; also that the wages, of any man marrying before reaching 21 years of age be subsidised from Government funds to equal the basic wage. Other reforms advocated were...

- including instruction in mothercraft to girls over 14 years of age and the raising of the school-leaving age to 16 years;
- provision of domestic assistance in the home during a mother's confinement and
- the bringing of pre-natal and post-natal care under the supervision of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services;
- control of the sale of contraceptives;
- provision of "clean" birth registrations for illegitimate children by the use of a fictitious father's name...

Members were unanimous in the view that no suitable person should be excluded from the Commonwealth, provided that he or she be of essentially European stock, but that the Commonwealth Government should determine the distribution of migrants until naturalised in order to prevent the formation of foreign colonies. Child migration was favoured and it was decided to urge the Commonwealth Government to take immediate steps to implement that policy, using existing institutions until they are fully occupied and any vacant military establishments suitably converted until proper Institutions can be erected, the children to be wards of the Commonwealth until they attain the age of 18 years.

<sup>66</sup> 1944 'OUR POPULATION.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 9 September, p. 4, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44977541>

While favouring the adoption and fostering of children by reputable people, members were of the opinion that extreme caution ought to be exercised to ensure that such children were not used for cheap labour or domestic drudgery. It was decided to recommend the appointment of an employment officer to supervise employment of State wards.<sup>67</sup>

#### Commentary on the above:

Regarding the recommendation for the provision of "clean" birth registrations for illegitimate children by the use of a fictitious father's name'. This is possibly an explanation for why so many original birth certificates of adopted people record the father as unknown; the practice of not naming the father could readily be interpreted as an act of fraudulent concealment, as many mothers claim that they provided the name of the father though birth certificates fail to reflect that. And if it was the case that the father whose name did not appear on the birth certificate was married, the child automatically was his legally; furthermore, if the adoption order was put through after its parents married, it would also be invalid. Any child born after 1st August 1962 was deemed to be a child of the marriage whether or not the relationship leading to that child's conception was legally adulterous; this decision was made in the High Court of Australia (The Marriage Case, 1st August 1962).

1944

**ALL AUTHORITIES  
AGREE: IN BABY'S  
BEST INTEREST TO  
REMAIN WITH  
MOTHER**



#### Plea to assist single mothers<sup>68</sup>

CANBERRA, Friday. — About 1500 children of unmarried mothers were born in the last year in one State — Queensland — alone, and this part of Australian child population cannot be ignored.

With this comment on illegitimate children in her report to the National Health and Medical Research Council, Miss Constance Duncan, of the Commonwealth Health Department, urged measures to protect the child and prevent the mother becoming dissolute. All authorities were agreed that not only was it beneficial from the baby's point of view that the mother should keep the child, but to ensure the rehabilitation of the girl it was essential that she assumed responsibility for her baby, said Miss Duncan.

Medical testimony was that most prostitutes began by having an illegitimate baby, and that if there had been provision for such unmarried mothers to retain the children and be employed many would not be so engaged. Two suggestions had been made to improve this: — A maintenance allowance be granted to unmarried mothers for a certain period, say, for the first 12 months of the child's life, sufficient to keep the child and herself. Establishment of special hostels where such women could live with their children, and where the children could be cared for while the mother took employment and maintained her child either in whole or in part. Miss Duncan added that 'a solution to the problem of illegitimate children and their welfare would be found if organisations already caring for unmarried mothers and their children were encouraged to assist.

<sup>67</sup> 1944 'OUR POPULATION.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 9 September, p. 4, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44977541>

1944



## Infertility: ~~So~~

**G**OVERNMENT assistance for the establishment of nine sterility clinics in Australia has been recommended as part of measures to combat the declining birth rate. That such clinics may be a material factor in the question seems to be shown by the fact that a sterility clinic opened three months ago at the Brisbane Hospital has averaged 20 new cases daily.

There is no doubt that the medical profession possesses considerable knowledge of how the chances of fertility may be increased, but it is not on an organised basis or readily available.

Steps are being taken in England by the British Social Hygiene Council to start a fertility clinic at which specialists will give unpaid service, and the council is appealing for £25,000 for the scheme. The idea is that fees will be charged only to those who can afford them, and that diagnostic facilities employing the most advanced techniques will be available to all.

Incidentally, experience in both Australia and England has disproved the general assumption that infertility in marriage is normally attributable to the woman. Some faults can be remedied, although others are beyond medical skill and in this respect the incorporation with such a clinic of facilities for adoption of children would be invaluable.

69

1944



## Fatherless Children<sup>70</sup>

About 1500 children of unmarried mothers were born in QLD last year. This is an alarming figure, revealing the extent of moral decline under war conditions... The Federal Government now has a report suggesting provision for these cases in two ways: a maintenance allowance for the mother in the first year of the child's life, or hostels in which the child and mother could live while she was established in employment... Financial provisions alone will not solve the problem. **The Government must work in closely with bodies which seek to combine material benefits with opportunities for moral and spiritual re-establishment.**

<sup>68</sup> 1944 'PLEA TO ASSIST SINGLE MOTHERS.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 9 December, p. 2, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48958239>

<sup>69</sup> 1944 "'Oii[?]a" LOOKS at LIFE.', *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 9 December, p. 12, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26048700>



1945



## MELBOURNE STERILITY CLINIC MELBOURNE<sup>71</sup>

The medical officer in charge of the new sterility clinic the women's hospital has been surprised by the number of young couples attending. In many cases these are service marriages. Of all cases examined one in three have proved sterile. Various factors have proved there is little hope of such unions being otherwise. Adoption has been suggested, and through the almoners' department of the hospital it has been made possible. The cause of childlessness in one case out of 10 lay with the husband. In two-thirds of childless marriages there are reasonable chances of parenthood, and it is expected that 60 per cent, by direct treatment will have children. One of the sad features of the clinic is the number of people of advanced years, who have passed the peak of fertility and who, on examination, have to be told that some slight medical treatment would have put them right years ago. Although they can be helped, age is a limiting factor. Women Rearing 40, who previously thought they were sterile, might now have had large healthy families, if they had been treated earlier.

1945



## PLANS TO INCREASE BIRTHRATE Nine Sterility Clinics Recommended

CANBERRA, May 7.—Further recommendations on medical measures necessary to increase the birth rate in Australia will be made by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council after an interim meeting to be held in Canberra on May 22.

A medical sub-committee of the council has recommended Government assistance for the establishment of nine sterility clinics—two each in Melbourne and Sydney at women's hospitals and one each in Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

It proposes that a grant of £100 to each of the hospitals should be made to cover the expenses of two years' investigation by the clinic. Physical examination of husbands as well as wives is stated to be necessary for efficient working of a sterility clinic.

Government action is still awaited on a series of other recommendations made by the council last December. These include a home help scheme for all mothers with young children recommended by the Commonwealth Health Department welfare officer, Miss Constance Duncan.

National Library of Australia

72

<sup>70</sup> 1944 'Fatherless Children.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 11 December, p. 2, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48952560>

<sup>71</sup> 1945 'MELBOURNE STERILITY CLINIC.', *Townsville Daily Bulletin* (Qld. : 1885 - 1954), 9 January, p. 3, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article61943226>

1945



CANADA

U.S.A.

**SOCIAL STUDIES DIRECTOR Miss N. Parker's Appointment<sup>73</sup>**

Miss Norma Parker, who is at present in America under a fellowship from the Commonwealth Fund of America, studying mental health problems has been appointed acting director of social studies at the University... Miss Parker succeeds Miss Elizabeth Govan who intends to return to Canada when Miss Parker arrives. Miss Govan has been acting-director of the Board of Social Studies for several years, and has played a big part in the expansion of the social studies courses and social welfare work in Australia. She has no particular plans for her future after her return to Canada. Other posts held by Miss Parker in social welfare work have been: Almoner at St. Vincent's Hospital after she returned from the National Catholic School of Social Work in Washington, assistant tutor director to the Board of Social Studies, and the first psychiatric worker appointed by the Department of Public Health. Miss Dorothy Sumner, **who has been appointed case work tutor to the Board of Social Studies**, will arrive in Australia shortly. She is a master of arts of the University of Syracuse and **did her social work training at the New York School of Social Work**. She has had considerable experience with the Community Service Association of New York and in Chicago, and has supervised the work of students at the New York School of Social Work.

1945



*The question needs to be asked, how many newborn infants rejected by adoption eugenics comprise the Forgotten Australians?*

**TREND TOWARDS FALL IN POPULATION<sup>74</sup>**

If the present trend continued, Australia's population would reach its maximum about 1960, and would begin a steady decline about 1980, said Mr B. Douglas, immigration officer of the Social Services Dept., addressing the Launceston 50,000 League yesterday. This indicated the importance of developing an immigration formula that would meet all sides of the question. It was recognised, however, that the first obligation was to return and establish in work the 50,000 Australian men and women in the services. After 150 years of settlement we have only seven million persons to occupy 3,000,000 square miles in Australia, said Mr Douglas. "During the past 60 to 80 years the natural increase has been steadily declining, and we are barely maintaining that increase.






*"Twenty per cent of Australian marriages are childless, 22 pc produce one child, and 24 pc two children. We are relying on the other 34 pc with three or more children to carry on the natural increase in population. Twenty seven per cent of the population does not marry, and in the war we lost thousands of our best young men for the second time in 25 years."*

<sup>72</sup> 1945 'PLANS TO INCREASE BIRTHRATE.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 8 May, p. 10, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article43492113>

<sup>73</sup> 1945 'SOCIAL STUDIES DIRECTOR Miss N. Parker's Appointment.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 15 March, p. 6, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27930022>

<sup>74</sup> 1945 'TREND TOWARDS FALL IN POPULATION.', *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 4 September, p. 6, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26142062>



	<p>Any immigration plan should be based on attraction and not compulsion, said Mr Douglas. There should be careful selection in the country of origin, and organised reception of migrants in Australia. The development of primary and secondary industries on a vast scale should precede any influx. Decentralisation, housing, social services, and assisted passages should all fit into the migration plans. A Federal proposal to bring children from Europe had been discussed, and it was suggested that an experiment be made first with a cottage scheme in Tasmania. It was not proposed at present to send British children to Australia for adoption.</p>
<p>1945</p> 	<p><b>SOCIAL SERVICES. Transferring State Workers<sup>75</sup></b>  <b>CANBERRA, July 19</b></p> <p>About 270 State public servants will be transferred to the Commonwealth Public Service for the Government's social service schemes. This figure was given at a meeting of Federal Labour Caucus today. Members stressed that the Government must obtain civil servants who would administer the programmes sympathetically.</p>
<p>1945</p> 	<p><b>EXTENSION OF ALMONERS' WORK<sup>76</sup></b></p> <p>A new attitude toward all types of problems—particularly social problems—and a growing realisation of the close connection between social conditions and health had arisen in Britain, Mrs J. L. Hepburn, of the Red Cross Social Service Department, said at the seventh annual meeting of the Institute of Hospital Almoners at the Town Hall yesterday. Mrs Hepburn has recently arrived in Australia from Great Britain, and said that Britain was watching the progress of the social services here with great interest.</p>
<p>1945</p> 	<p><b>Brighton Babies' Home Building Fund<sup>77</sup></b></p> <p>The organising secretary of the Brighton Babies' Home (Rev. F. W. Brasher) says that the problem of illegitimacy is inseparable from the life of society, and everything should be done to eradicate the birthmark of illegitimacy from the child. This can largely be done through the system of effective adoption carried on at the Brighton Babies' Home. The adoption of the baby into a good home immediately lifts the problem as far as the child is concerned and is in many cases the complete solution.</p>
<p>1945</p> 	<p><b>1695 Born Here Out Of Wedlock<sup>78</sup></b></p> <p>Number of illegitimate births in Queensland has doubled during the war. Figure for the year ended June 30 is the highest yet. The report of the State Children's Department for the year shows 1695 illegitimate births. For the year ended June 30, 1939 the number was 857. Reference to past reports of the department shows a gradual increase in illegitimacy during the war. Figures for years ended June 30 since 1939, with numbers of illegitimate births in parentheses, are:— 1940 (933), 1941 (839), 1942</p>

<sup>75</sup> 1945 'SOCIAL SERVICES.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 20 July, p. 8, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article51759152>

<sup>76</sup> 1945 'EXTENSION OF ALMONERS' WORK.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 September, p. 10, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article978847>

<sup>77</sup> 1945 'Brighton Babies' Home Building Fund.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 4 October, p. 6, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48670755>



(978). 1943 (918) and 1944 (1493). Of the 1695 in the latest report, 351 were born to married women and 363 to de facto wives. Notices of the deaths of 63 illegitimate children under six years of age were received during the year. Of the 821 adoptions approved last year, 668 were of illegitimate children.

1945



### 454 CHILDREN IN STATE CARE<sup>79</sup>

A total of 454 children were being maintained by the State, said the annual report of the Director of Social Services (Mr H. R. Read) tabled in the House of Assembly last night...The rate of payment to foster mothers, exclusive of child endowment, remained unchanged, and compared favourably with that paid in other States...During the year five wards of the State were legally adopted, and 11 privately boarded out children, under the supervision of the department, were also adopted.

1945



## STERILITY CLINIC WORK FAVOURED

CANBERRA, Thursday --Sterility clinics had been so successful in helping childless couples to become parents that the National Medical and Health Research Council had recommended the Government to continue the grants for their research, the Director-General of Health (Dr. F. McCallum) said to-night.

Dr. McCallum said the women's hospital in Melbourne had examined 355 women who regarded themselves as sterile. During the same period of less than a year in Adelaide 93 couples, in Brisbane 512 women, and in Sydney 366 women were examined.

80

1945



### Pooling Knowledge For Common Good<sup>81</sup>

The importance of the interchange of knowledge and experience between workers in various fields of community welfare has been emphasised in Adelaide during the past week when visitors from other States have both contributed to and gained by meetings and discussions held in this city. Interstate delegates to the conference of supervisors of social service training arranged by the Social Workers' Association of South Australia, have been warm in their praise of Adelaide hospitality and appreciative of the keenness and enthusiasm of their South Australian colleagues in the social service field...

*Miss Norma Parker, acting director of social studies training at*

<sup>78</sup> 1945 '1695 Born Here Out Of Wedlock.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 11 October, p. 1, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50267706>

<sup>79</sup> 1945 '454 CHILDREN IN STATE CARE.', *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 7 November, p. 22, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26155108>

<sup>80</sup> 1945 'STERILITY CLINIC WORK FAVOURED.', *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 23 November, p. 1, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50253340>

<sup>81</sup> 1945 'Pooling Knowledge For Common Good.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 28 November, p. 3, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48679426>



Sydney University, who, with Miss Dorothy Sumner/case work tutor on the staff, spoke at the meeting of developments in USA, said yesterday that the Adelaide conference, which was devoted to the whole question of the professional education of social workers, was the first of its kind held in Australia and marked the beginning of some thing new in Australia so far as social work was concerned...



Miss Parker said, "There is no doubt that in Adelaide, as in Melbourne and Sydney, there is now a very general acceptance of the importance of proper training for those people engaged in one field or another of social service. In New South Wales the State Government, through its whole child welfare programme now recognises the fact that training is essential, and recent moves by the Commonwealth Government show a similar acceptance of the principle. We feel that now that principle is established our next step must be to make sure that our standards are on the highest possible level. This recent conference might be regarded as a stock-taking among the supervisors of training in the three States of what is being done."

1945



**United Nations Organization may care for illegitimates<sup>82</sup>**

The maintenance of the children of unmarried mothers – a problem that has become international – is to be tackled by the social council of the United Nations Organization...**An official of the Unmarried Mothers Association said, We are not concerned about the welfare of the mothers, but their children.**

<sup>82</sup> 1945 'U.N.O. May Care For Illegitimates.', *The Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 7 December, p. 3, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article17962059>



1945



“Married women adopting babies were so intent on hiding the child’s identity...”

“...they would tell neighbours and friends they were expecting a baby of their own, and would arrange adoptions from a specified date...”

## STATE CHILDREN

### MANY BABIES ADOPTED

#### IN LAST HALF YEAR

BRISBANE, Dec. 30.—In the last six months 239 babies—many of them only a month old—have been adopted in Queensland. For the last statistical year more than 1,000 children under one year old were adopted. They came from city and country hospitals.

Mothers have nothing to do with their babies after adoption, and are not told the name of the new parents.

The State Children's Department Director (Mr. W. Smith) said last night that married women adopting babies were so intent on hiding the child's identity that they would tell neighbours and friends they were expecting a baby of their own, and would arrange adoption from a specified date.

“We do what we can to fall in with their plans, and arrange for adoption of a baby on a date asked,” said Mr. Smith.

“We naturally are anxious to see adopting parents to have the child brought up as one of their own, as this way leaves even ‘nosy’ neighbours in the dark.”

83

1946



## COMMONWEALTH FUNDING OF STERILITY CLINICS FOR MARRIED COUPLES

The Royal Adelaide Hospital authorities established the sterility clinic a year ago, having received an annual grant of £300 for the purpose from the Commonwealth Government. Official reports state that the clinic has achieved a fair degree of success in overcoming sterility in women, but that results have been disappointing so far in the case of men. However, the authorities consider that men should seek advice at the clinic.

<sup>83</sup> 1945 'STATE CHILDREN.', *Cairns Post* (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), 31 December, p. 3, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42463702>

<sup>84</sup> 1946 'CHILDLESSNESS IN S.A.', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 25 July, p. 8, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article35706387>



1946



The year 1946 witnessed an Australian referendum that proposed to extend the powers of government over a range of social services. The question put was carried and inserted into section 51 of the Australian Constitution: *Section 51 of the Australian Constitution grants the commonwealth legislative power. Prior to this amendment the only social services provision was s51(xxiii) that gave power to legislate for invalid and old-age pensions. This amendment introduced s51(xxiiiA) ... Notably, federal legislation already existed on a number of these issues despite the lack of a clear constitutional basis: child endowment payments were introduced in 1941, widow's pensions in 1942, and unemployment benefits(commonwealth) in 1945.*

1946



### **Growing Popularity of Babies Heartening<sup>85</sup>**

A recent report to the Commonwealth Government advocated that all unmarried mothers should be encouraged to keep their babies, and that special children's homes should be provided for them. There is a tendency to put the mother's obligations and the gratification of her natural maternal feelings before the ultimate welfare of the child. But there is no doubt that adoption into a good home offers the baby the best opportunity of a normal happy life: and this, after all, should be the major consideration

<sup>85</sup> 1946 'Of Interest to WOMEN.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 22 November, p. 6, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49365493>

1946



### From Bassinet to Crematorium – Scope of Govt Social Services<sup>86</sup>

An interstate conference of government social workers was told yesterday that the Commonwealth social service was so comprehensive that it "looked after people from the bassinet to the crematorium."

In saying that, Mr J. P. Collopy, Deputy Commissioner for Social Services in Victoria, said that so far social service work conducted by the Commonwealth had been chiefly palliative, and assistance was "handed out" with little consideration for the reasons behind the circumstances of the people who needed help. It was to social workers that the department now turned to investigate cases and watch the channels into which assistance went, and how it was used.

The conference, which is being attended by social workers attached to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, was opened by Mr T. H. Pitt, Acting Director-General of Social Services.

## "From Bassinet To Crematorium"

### Scope of Govt Social Services

An interstate conference of government social workers was told yesterday that the Commonwealth social service was so comprehensive that it "looked after people from the bassinet to the crematorium."

In saying that, Mr J. P. Collopy, Deputy Commissioner for Social Services in Victoria, said that so far social service work conducted by the Commonwealth had been chiefly palliative, and assistance was "handed out" with little consideration for the reasons behind the circumstances of the people who needed help. It was to social workers that the department now turned to investigate cases and watch the channels into which assistance went, and how it was used.

The conference, which is being attended by social workers attached to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, was opened by Mr T. H. Pitt, Acting Director-General of Social Services.

The conference will continue every day this week with round-table discussions.

1946

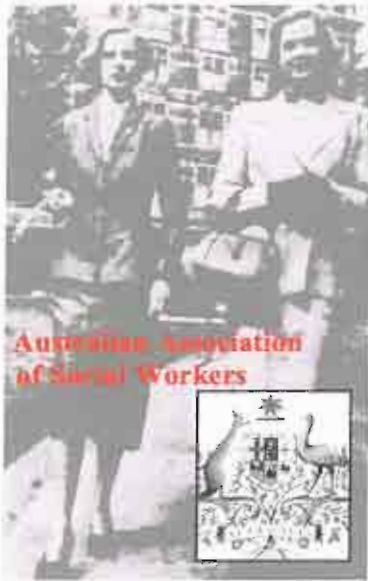
### Article titled 'Social Service':

Sums allocated to the department were spent on old-age, widows' and invalid pensions, child endowment and unemployment and sickness benefits. These payments rested for justification not only on the grounds of simple humanity, but on the belief that it was actually "good business" to provide at least some measure of protection against the hazards of life. However, to provide a minimum of protection was not enough. Australia had made generous provision for social services, but it should also be willing and eager to learn from other countries to see in what direction our own social services could be improved. In this connection, it was noteworthy that the increased use of social research and the greater employment of trained social workers was taking place in England, Canada and the United States.<sup>87</sup>

<sup>86</sup> 1946 "'From Bassinet To Crematorium"', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 10 September, p. 7, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22330328>

<sup>87</sup> 1946 'SOCIAL SERVICE.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 10 May, p. 11, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50340412>





# COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Commonwealth Association of Social Workers  
and Research Bureau

(otherwise known as the Australian Association of Social Workers, whose archives are restricted and held in the Melbourne University Library)

1946

## Social Worker In Perth

It was important to let people know what resources of the community were available to them when they required assistance, the administrative officer of the social work and research section of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, (Miss Lyra Taylor) said yesterday. Miss Taylor, who arrived in Perth this week from Melbourne is making one of her regular



MISS LYRA TAYLOR

This article from 15 April 1950 (National Library) refers to the AASW as the Commonwealth Association of Social Workers, and that is indeed what it was.

## Women's News: Association Formed By Australian Social Workers<sup>88</sup>

An Australian Association of Social Workers has been formed at the inter-state conference of social workers in the Commonwealth Department of Social Services which is being held in Melbourne this week.

The association will be a coordinating body for the State associations of social workers, and will speak for them on matters that affect the Commonwealth, and speak for the Commonwealth in international affairs connected with social work.


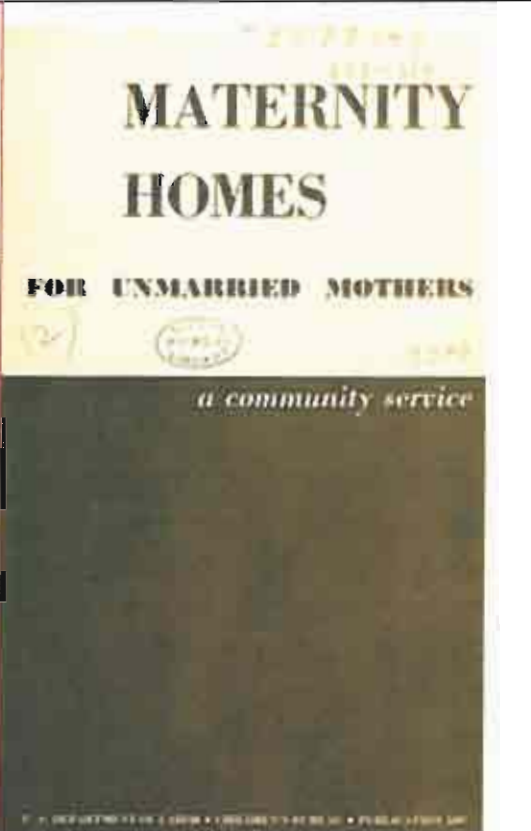




Miss Norma Parker, who with Miss Elvira Lyons is a delegate from New South Wales, has been appointed chairman of a provisional committee. The executive committee will sit first in Sydney, with sittings rotating between the capitals every three years.

Miss N. Cameron and Miss K. Smith, of Sydney, are N.S.W. departmental representatives at the conference, which is under the general direction of Miss Lyra Taylor<sup>89</sup>, head of the Department's Social Service Bureau. Miss Dorothy Sumner, of Chicago, who is at present attached to the staff of the Board of Social Studies at Sydney University as casework lecturer, is attending the conference, and next week will conduct two courses of lectures, one specially for all the State social workers and research officers attached to the Commonwealth Department.

<sup>88</sup> 1946 'Women's News Association Formed By Australian Social Workers.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 12 September, p. 7, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27910131>



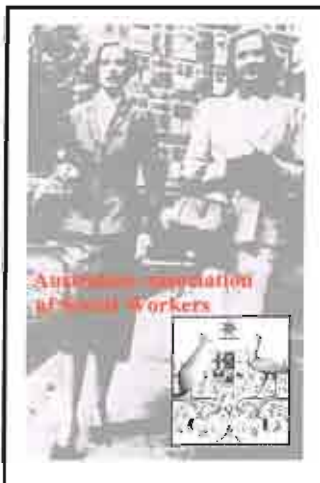
<p>1946</p> 	<p>“Maternity homes for unmarried mothers: a community service”, Maud Morlock and Hilary Campbell, 1946, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., Washington, retrieved 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, from <a href="http://openlibrary.org/books/OL262102M/Maternity_homes_for_unmarried_mothers">http://openlibrary.org/books/OL262102M/Maternity_homes_for_unmarried_mothers</a></p> <p>Extract in next row (pp. 34-35) details practice of compulsory breast binding, which was widespread in Australia.</p>
<p><b>Must the mother nurse her child?</b></p> <p>The question of early separation of mother and baby is closely related to the policy of maternity homes in regard to the nursing of the infant by the mother. Here also the individual approach is important. Nevertheless, many homes state in their requirements for admission that the mother must nurse the child for a minimum period, some of them for as little as 3 weeks, if she is physically able to do so. The basis of this requirement is the belief that for physical and perhaps emotional reasons every mother should nurse her child and the established fact that a child who is breast fed has a better start in life. Exceptions to this rule are rarely made even though the situation of the mother seems to warrant it. Another practice that does not allow for individual choice is the practice in a few homes of drying up the milk of all mothers immediately after delivery.</p> <p>Actually, it would be well if exactly the same advice about nursing her baby could be given to an unmarried mother as is given to one who is married. Even with married mothers, health and social situations may arise in which the physician recommends artificial feeding of the infant. Three differences have to be considered, however, that make immediate artificial feeding more often necessary for the unmarried mother—the possibility of early separation of mother and child in adoption; the frequent need of the unmarried girl to return to work at once; and the danger that the mother required to nurse the child against her wishes or her considered judgment may interpret it as punishment and develop emotional difficulties that may harm her and her child. Her objection, if she is about to relinquish him, may be sound.</p>	
<p>1946</p> 	<p><b>OLD TYPE OF SOCIAL AID GONE<sup>90</sup></b></p> <p>The older school of social workers, the 'Do Gooders,' was rapidly passing away. Miss Lyra Taylor, chief research officer of the Commonwealth Department of Social Service, said last night... Miss Taylor predicted increased international outlook and scope in all fields of social work. It was vitally important that the temporary exchanges of social workers between different countries should continue. She did not favour the exclusive use of the expert in social work. While it was desirable to have more trained personnel, other welfare workers and interested voluntary bodies were essential.</p>
<p>1946</p> 	<p>A recent report to the Commonwealth Government advocated that all unmarried mothers should be encouraged to keep their babies, and that special children's homes should be provided for them. There is a tendency to put the mother's obligations and the gratification of her natural maternal</p>

<sup>89</sup> Miss Lyra Taylor was a Committee member of the Montreal Council of Social Agencies, of the administrative level of the Council and its Financial Federation, according to Anne Frances MacLennan's "Charity and Change: The Montreal Council of Social Agencies' Attempts to Deal with the Depression" (Department of History McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, April 1984)

<sup>90</sup> 1946 'OLD TYPE OF SOCIAL AID GONE.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 4 October, p. 6, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49359504>

feelings before the ultimate welfare of the child. But there is no doubt that adoption into a good home offers the baby the best opportunity of a normal happy life; and this, after all, should be the major consideration.<sup>91</sup>

1946



**Women's News: Social Workers' Conference in Sydney Next Year<sup>92</sup>**

At a meeting of the **Federal Council of the Australian Association of Social Workers** in Sydney at the weekend, it was decided to hold an Australian Conference of Social Work in Sydney next year. **The theme of the conference will be Australia's contribution to social security.** An attempt will be made to evaluate present social work, both statutory and voluntary, and to highlight Australian achievements in social service work. **The Australian Association of Social Workers is the newly-formed national body of professional social workers from social workers associations in various States.**

Delegates in Sydney for the council meetings include Misses Julie Day and Nell Cameron (Western Australia), Mrs. Suzanne Brookman, and Miss Ruth Cleary (South Australia), Misses Alison Player, and Helen Clark (Victoria), and Misses Mary Pillenger and Margaret Grutzner (Queensland). Misses Elvira Lyons and Norma Parker represented New South Wales.

**INTERNATIONAL MEETING**

Detailed reports of meetings of the International Conference of Social Work held in Brussels recently, which were attended by Miss Jean Robertson as an official observer for the Australian Government, were discussed. Miss Robertson said that social and economic problems facing social workers in formerly occupied countries in Europe were almost overwhelming. She added that there was a strong desire for some machinery to enable social workers of all countries to work in co-operation.

Office-bearers of the Australian Association elected at the week-end were as follows:-President, Miss Norma Parker; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. G. Wheaton, Misses Lyra Taylor, Miss Katherine Ogilvie, Miss Dorothy Sumner; honorary secretary, Miss Margaret Grutzner; assistant honorary secretary, Miss Viva Murphy.

1947

**MORE SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITY URGED<sup>93</sup>**




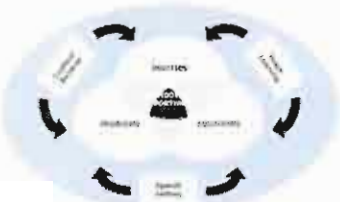
**Increasing Australian participation in world social service activities was urged last night by Mr F. H. Rowe, Director-General of Social Services, speaking at the annual meeting of the Victorian branch, Australian Association of Social Workers.** Mr Rowe said that Australia must be represented at the September Hague conference, which

<sup>91</sup> 1946 'Of Interest to WOMEN.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 22 November, p. 6, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49365493>

<sup>92</sup> 1946 'Women's News Social Workers' Conference In Sydney Next Year.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 16 December, p. 7, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18014135>

<sup>93</sup> 1947 'MORE SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIVITY URGED.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 March, p. 14, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22415813>



	<p>would decide where the next international conference of social service workers would be held. Social service workers, during the next few months, must become articulate, formulate public opinion, and ensure that representatives to the Hague conference were selected. New branch officers elected: President, Miss Helen Clark; vice-president, Mrs C. Kitchen; secretary, Miss J. Sambell; treasurer, Mr R. Burke; employment secretary, Miss G. Norman; executive committee, Miss J. Raymond, Miss J. Anderson, Miss E. Monson, Miss O. Dodd, Miss R. Hoban, and Mr H. McKenzie.</p>
<p>1947</p> 	<p><b>SURVEY OF WELFARE SERVICE<sup>94</sup></b>  <b>An informative survey of community work undertaken by social workers in the Commonwealth Social Services Dept. was given yesterday by Miss Kathleen Corvan, social worker of the department in Tasmania. She was speaking at a meeting held under the auspices of the United Nations' Association at the Town Hall, yesterday. Mr J. Modridge was chairman. "In a country of 7,500,000 people and with £70,000,000 spent annually on social services that tend to increase, demand for trained administrators and service personnel will become greater," Miss Corvan said.</b></p>
<p>1947</p>  	<p><b>Social Workers' Important Job<sup>95</sup></b>  Miss Jean Ritchie, a social worker attached to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services in Brisbane, is spending a week in Sydney meeting members of the Board of Social Studies at Sydney University, and workers in her own field. It is proposed to start a Board of Social Studies at Brisbane University next year.</p> <p>"There is still a great need for social workers," Miss Ritchie said, "although many agencies who should have them do not. Private agencies can fill in the gaps not touched by Government Departments. Social work should be recognised as largely preventive, and trained workers can do an important job in the community..."</p> <p><b>Miss Ritchie is one of several women attached to the Commonwealth Departments of Social Services in each State - a member of the team of trained social workers established by the head of the Social Services Research Bureau, Miss Lyra Taylor, who has been attached to the Department since 1944.</b></p>
<p>1947</p>	<p><b>VALIDATING MEASURE. Legal Foundation For Legislation. CANBERRA. May 15<sup>96</sup></b>  The Social Services Declaratory Bill, to give effect to powers conferred by the Referendum and to place on a legal foundation to existing social</p>

<sup>94</sup> 1947 'SURVEY OF WELFARE SERVICE.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 29 April, p. 5, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26378781>

<sup>95</sup> 1947 'Social Workers' Important Job.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 22 May, p. 14, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18027083>

<sup>96</sup> 1947 'VALIDATING MEASURE.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 16 May, p. 10, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46312141>





services legislation, was passed by the Senate today. The Minister for Health and Social Services (Senator McKenna) said that although the Government previously had specific power to enact social service legislation only on invalid and old-age pensions, it had provided many other benefits under its power to appropriate public moneys. The High Court decision on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act showed that this power could be used only for purposes stated or implied in the Constitution. Parliament had been acting on too wide a view. Existing Acts would be validated from December 1946, so that prosecutions could be launched for offences such as fraudulent claims for pensions or other benefits committed since then. Parliament now had power to make laws for maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services, student benefits and family allowances.

1947:



### **GROWTH OF SOCIAL SERVICES<sup>98</sup>**

It is anticipated that the total expenditure on social services by the Commonwealth during the year 1947-48 will amount to £72,060,000.

This was stated by Senator Mc Kenna, Minister for Health and Social Services, in the Senate when he introduced the Social Services Consolidation Bill, "It will be apparent," he said, "that what in effect is taking place amounts to a redistribution of the national income."

As a consolidating measure the Bill repeals the whole of 42 Act of Parliament, and it repeals portions of seven other Acts, all of which are listed in the schedule. It consolidates the law in relation to social benefits which fall broadly, under the headings of Invalid and Old-age Pensions, widows' pensions, maternity allowances, child endowment, unemployment and sickness benefits.

"With the passage of time," the Minister said, "certain portions of the existing legislations have become obsolete, making their repeal desirable, whilst differing provisions in sections of a somewhat similar character in the Acts relating to the various benefits have produced confusion and anomalies. The main objectives in the consolidation are to eliminate obsolete sections, remove anomalies, simplify drafting, amalgamate certain sections of the administration, to modernise the legislation and to present it as a symmetrical part of a well-defined pattern of social security.

### **COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY**

Whilst the Bill was, to a considerable extent, a consolidating measure, he said it was also in many important ways of amending and creative nature. In recent years there had developed in the peoples of enlightened countries a recognition of the fact that care of the aged, the infirm,

<sup>97</sup> 1947 'Couples want to adopt babies; law says 'no'', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 18 November, p. 7, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22520598>

<sup>98</sup> 1947 'GROWTH OF SOCIAL SERVICES.', Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 22 May, p. 7, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56782635>



Australian population  
of 1950 and 1960

## Couples want to adopt babies; law says 'no'

**Adoption laws prevented many children from getting a good home life, Matron G. Lloyd, of the Alexandra Babies' Home, Ballarat, said yesterday.**

Many of the mothers with children in the home paid nothing towards the upkeep of their children and did not visit them.

Yet they refused to give their consent to adoption into good homes where the children would get many opportunities they would otherwise be denied.

She had an immense list of couples wanting to adopt babies, and one young couple had been waiting two years. Most couples wanted girls.

widowed, unemployed and sick could not properly be left to individuals and to organisations set up for charitable purposes. It was now an accepted principle that these were matters of community responsibility, to be implemented and administered at the governmental level without discouraging charitable efforts. The basic idea was to assure to every individual, as far as was humanly possible, "man's most precious possession, peace of mind."

In reviewing the history of the social service legislation of the Federal Parliament, Senator Mc Kenna said that the referendum of September 28 last had resulted in power being conferred upon the Parliament to make laws with respect to "the provision of maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorise any form of civil conscription), benefits to students and family allowances."

"This alteration of the Constitution," he went on to say, "not only confirmed the Commonwealth power to provide social services benefits of a type already in existence, but has given it also almost unlimited power in new and important fields of social service..."

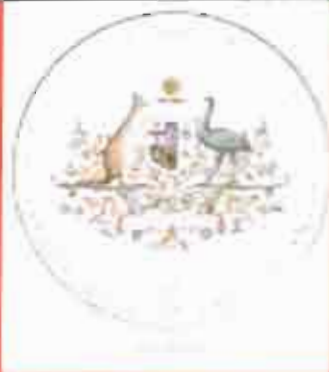
Child endowment is paid in respect of nearly 1,000,000 children and the cost is approximately £20, 000.000 per annum. There are some 43,500 widows drawing pensions at a yearly cost of £3,300,000. There are fewer than 10,000 people receiving unemployment benefit and about 9000 receiving sickness benefit, the two costing, at present rates, approximately £1,750,000 per annum. This year it is estimated that there will be more than 22,600 funeral benefits, involving the expenditure of some £220,000. It is of interest to note that the Department of Social Services last year issued more than 2,000,000 cheques, and that on every working day in the Sydney branch alone more than 2000 separate pieces of correspondence are received. There are not many homes in Australia which do not have a direct and beneficial association with the department."

## SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU

Senator McKenna ... made special reference to the Social Research Bureau, which was established in November 1944 on the recommendation of the joint committee. Though its development had been retarded by the shortage of trained personnel, a great deal of useful work had been accomplished, he said. Trained social workers had been introduced into the administration and their skills employed in difficult cases of child endowment, unemployment and sickness benefits, age and invalid pensions, and in the rehabilitation program.

"These workers," he said, "render a professional service acquired by their specialised training to many people for the purpose of assisting them to attain satisfying relationships and standards of life in accordance with





their particular wishes and capacities. Concurrently with this day to day work, the Bureau has a program of social research directed towards the evaluation of the actual human and social effect upon people of the Commonwealth's total social welfare program and of specific portions of that program. The research officers have also made a comprehensive survey of social service agencies and facilities throughout the Commonwealth and have established and are maintaining association with more than 200 official and non-official social service bodies outside Australia.



"Through these associations an increasing store of up-to-date, reliable facts on overseas developments in social welfare is being amassed. At the same time there is provided a channel for the dissemination overseas of authoritative information on current social activity and in the Commonwealth. In an era when the value of international knowledge and understanding can hardly be over-emphasised this exchange of information is of great importance and significance... From July widows' pensions will be paid fortnightly, instead of each four weeks as at present.



# SOCIAL SERVICES REDISTRIBUTE THE NATIONAL INCOME

(From Our Special Representative)

**CANBERRA, May 16.**—It is anticipated that the total expenditure on social services by the Commonwealth during the year 1947-48 will amount to £72-000,000. This was stated by Senator McKenna, Minister for Health and Social Services, in the Senate last night, when he introduced the Social Services Consolidation Bill. "It will be apparent," he said, "that what in effect is taking place amounts to a re-distribution of the national income."

As a consolidating measure the Bill repeals the whole of 42 Acts of Parliament, and it repeals portions of seven other Acts, all of which are listed in the Schedule. It consolidates the law in relation to social benefits which fall broadly under the headings of Invalid and Old-age Pensions, Widows' Pensions, Maternity Allowances, Child Endowment, Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

"With the passage of time," the Minister said, "certain portions of the existing legislation have become obsolete, making their repeal desirable, while differing provisions in sections of a somewhat similar character in the Acts relating to the various benefits have produced confusion and anomalies. The main objective in the consolidation are to eliminate obsolete sections, remove anomalies, simplify drafting, amalgamate certain sections of the administration, to modernise the legislation and to present it as a symmetrical part of a well-defined pattern of social security."

## COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

While the Bill was to a considerable extent, a consolidating measure, he said it was also in many important ways of an amending and creative nature. In recent years there had developed in the peoples of enlightened countries a recog-

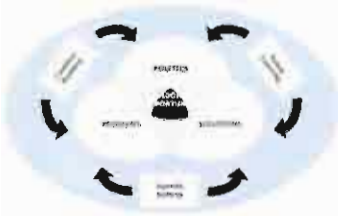
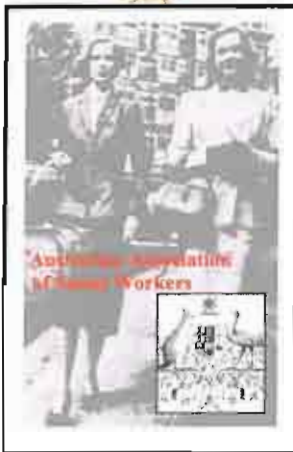
nition of the fact that care of the aged, the infirm, widowed, unemployed and the sick could not properly be left to individuals and to organisations set up for charitable purposes. It was now an accepted principle that these were matters of community responsibility, to be implemented and administered at the governmental level without discouraging charitable efforts. The basic idea was to assure to every individual, as far as was humanly possible, "man's most precious possession, peace of mind."

In reviewing the history of the Social Service legislation of the Federal Parliament, Senator McKenna said that the

Service legislation of the Federal Parliament Senator McKenna said that the referendum of September 28 last had resulted in power being conferred upon the Parliament to make laws with respect to the provision of maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorise any form of civil conscription), benefits to students and family allowances.

"This alteration of the Constitution," he went on to say, "not only confirmed the Commonwealth power to provide social service benefits of a type already in existence, but has given it also almost unlimited power in new and important fields of social services."

1947



### Meeting Needs Of Australian Family<sup>100</sup>

Social services in the modern sense embodied much more than financial aid, Miss Lyra Taylor of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, said last night in an address on "Social Services fix the Family."

**The United Nations Social Commission, she said, had defined social services as "organised activities for promoting the physical and mental welfare of the members of a community by close personal contact, which may involve direct assistance to the individual or have in view the improvement of his environment."**

The majority of people thought of social services strictly in terms of financial help. This was particularly true in relation to those services made available and administered by statutory bodies, whether at the Commonwealth, State or municipal level. Obviously until Governments had provided a sound underpinning of economic security for all citizens, it was impossible to embark to any great extent on social services of a different kind...Miss Taylor urged that these services should not be regarded merely in terms of money spent, but of economic security.

**Furthermore, she added within the last two years 16 trained social workers and two social research workers had been added to the staff of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. These were people who by their special training in human relationships were qualified to develop that personal contact between the department and its beneficiaries recommended by the United Nations Social Commission.**

1947



### Importance Of Voluntary Organisations<sup>101</sup>

When the Director-General of Commonwealth Social Services (Mr. F. H. Rowe) was in Adelaide last week, he had some interesting things to say about the importance of voluntary social agencies, in view of the trend in this country as elsewhere, for Government control in a wide field of social welfare activities.

While it had come to be recognised in recent years that certain types of social services must inevitably become the responsibility of Governments, Mr. Rowe said it was also accepted that voluntary agencies or organisations must continue to play an important part in fields in which many of them had been the pioneers. There should be no attempt to discourage those members of the community who realised and accepted their responsibilities for the wellbeing of their fellow-citizens...Rather than discourage them the Government wished to encourage the growth and development of voluntary social agencies and there was an admirable degree of co-operation between existing agencies and the Federal and State Governments. Mr. Rowe said that his department had done a great deal to wards awakening a social conscience throughout the Commonwealth by emphasising the importance of the trained social worker and research

<sup>100</sup> 1947 'Meeting Needs Of Australian Family.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 27 May, p. 11, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article30530651>



worker. He hoped to see the day when all Governmental and voluntary bodies were staffed by trained people.

The schools of social studies at Sydney and Melbourne Universities had been persuaded to take increased numbers of students to help to meet increasing demands. Another important development in the department, Mr. Rowe said, was the establishment in 1944 of a social research bureau, of which Miss Lyra Taylor was the officer in charge. Through this bureau constant touch was kept with social welfare activities all over the world, and the information compiled was available to all interested.

**Mr. Rowe pointed out that councils of social service and such groups as the Australian Association of Social Workers could do a great deal to influence public opinion in a way which Government officers could not, by calling attention to existing evils and helping to decide what was the best way to deal with them.**

1947



### **Population Survey For 1945<sup>102</sup>**

Issued today by the Commonwealth Statistician Dr. Roland Wilson...One man married at 90 and three at 15. There were nine brides at 14 and 109 at 16. The number of marriages dropped from the wartime peak of 12,011 a thousand in 1942 to 852 in 1945. More minors married than in any year except 1944. The birth rate was the highest since the end of World War I and the number of illegitimate births was a record 7,195, although the percentage was slightly lower than in 1944.

<sup>101</sup> 1947 'Importance Of Voluntary Organisations.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 25 June, p. 11, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article35983845>

<sup>102</sup> 1947 'FATHER AT AGE OF 87.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 22 July, p. 4, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article35988773>



# We are in the First Phase

By PAUL McGUIRE

**L**AST WEEK I wrote of the superstition of the Monstrous State and of the Chiffley-Evatt scheme to nationalise the banks as a symptom of its infection here. I repeat that I should not care a tuppenny damn if the banks only were involved. But it raises for Australians the question of how far we are to admit the excessive enlargement of the State.

● *The growth of the Monstrous National State is the major phenomenon of modern politics.*

● *The State in many countries has grown far beyond its proper function.*

● *It has increasingly usurped rights and responsibilities which properly belong to the human person and his other social instruments.*

When the State grows beyond its proper functions it chokes and corrupts the social body. It confines and restricts liberties at home. In the world at large it has become the immediate cause of two world wars. Its conflicts threaten another economic crisis and a third world war unless we get sense enough to check its aberrations and reduce it to its proper part in human affairs.

The economic, cultural, and moral life of a man should not be boxed up within the political and geographic frontiers of the National State. Commerce, art, science, religion cross the political frontiers and cannot properly be subdued to the political instrument.

If we are to grow towards world order and its tranquillity which is peace, we must allow the free growth of economic, cultural, and moral communities amongst the peoples of the world.

the world.

● *But the modern National State everywhere resists the growth of international community.*

● *In Russia and Nazi Germany we have seen it seek to isolate its peoples, to establish economic autarkies, to slam down its iron curtains even on the life of the mind.*

In the great expansions of the XVIII and XIX centuries the world began to grow towards community. Asia and Africa were opened to the ideas and commerce of the world. New nations were founded to flourish in the Americas and Australasia. We were beginning to grow towards One World when we traded freely goods, ideas, techniques; when the Basuto rode a bicycle built in Birmingham; when European scientists fought the tsetse fly, hookworm, and malaria; when we began to eat Alaskan salmon; when we began to clothe the world in Australian wools.

● *But as the Monstrous State develops it reacts violently against a world community.*

● *It pushes up fantastic tariff barriers and imposes controls on the economic, social, and intellectual life of the people.*

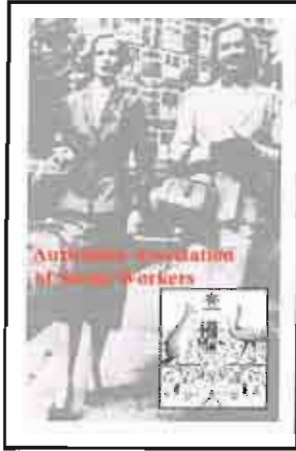
● *It seizes the instruments of education and information. It censors and prescribes.*

You may say that it has not yet done so here. But its appetite grows upon what it feeds. As governments

impose one control on another and as the mess they make develops they discover that criticism is a luxury they cannot allow their sets.

One thing leads to another in this race's progress. I am willing to bet that the banking legislation will presently be extended to voluntary credit-unions and co-operative enterprises (building societies, for instance) which deal like the banks in loans and credits. It all goes in what is now a drearily familiar

1947



### SOCIAL WORKERS TO CONFER FOR FIRST TIME<sup>104</sup>

The first annual conference of the **Australian Association of Social Workers** will be held in Sydney from next Friday until Sunday. More than 100 social workers from the other States are expected to attend. Members of interstate Schools of Social Work **and representatives from Commonwealth and State Government departments will also be present.** The first session, which will be held on Friday evening at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Macquarie Street, will be opened by the president of the Association, Miss Norma Parker, the senior lecturer in the Social Casework Department of Social Studies at Sydney University

1947



### Did you know<sup>105</sup>

... that illegitimate births notified totaled 1398—the lowest since 1942. that applications to adopt children continue to increase, but because of the decline in the illegitimate birth rate there is a waiting list of more than 100 willing to adopt babies of either sex. These facts are taken from the report of the Director of the State Children's Department (Mr. W. Smith) tabled in Parliament yesterday

1947



**T**HE test-tube baby is likely to make his debut in Sydney soon. Five women have become pregnant after artificial insemination at the Women's Hospital, Crown St. Their husbands will be the fathers of the children

Crown St. has a sterility clinic where protracted examination of husbands and wives who have been unable to have children is made, the tests sometimes extending over months.

When examination has revealed that couples cannot have children, the clinic advises them to adopt a family.

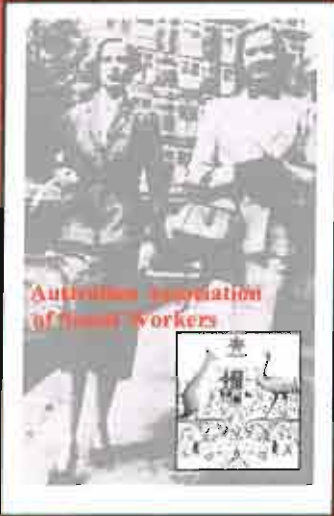
Where women are selected for artificial insemination the donor system is not used. One reason is that the legal consequences of artificial insemination here are not yet clear.

106

<sup>104</sup> 1947 'SOCIAL WORKERS TO CONFER FOR FIRST TIME.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 1 September, p. 9, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18040964>

<sup>105</sup> 1947 'DID YOU KNOW...!', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 2 October, p. 2, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49652342>

<sup>106</sup> 1947 'TOPICS of the WEEK IN Mellourn[?] Sydney.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 27 September, p. 4 Supplement: The Mercury Magazine, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26425807>

<p>1947</p> 	<p><b>Social Workers Organise</b><sup>107</sup></p> <p>A group of social workers in Hobart recently formed a State branch of the <b>Australian Association of Social Workers. There are branches in all other States. It was explained that the association was constituted a year ago to co-ordinate the activities of State associations and to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas.</b> Other objects were to promote and develop professional social work throughout the Commonwealth, and to promote and maintain standards of professional training and practice.</p>
<p>1947</p> 	<p><b>Home Life Lost Because of Law</b><sup>108</sup></p> <p>Adoption law is preventing many children from...getting a good home life, Matron. G. Lloyd of the 'Alexandra Babies' Home, Ballarat said yesterday: Many of the mothers with children in the home paid nothing to wards its upkeep yet they refused to consent to adoption into good homes where the children would get many opportunities they were otherwise denied. Matron Lloyd said she had an immense list of couples wanting to adopt babies. One young couple had been waiting two years. Most couples wanted girls.</p>
<p>1948</p> 	<p><b>SOCIAL WORKER American Lecturer In Perth</b><sup>109</sup></p> <p>A West Australian was mainly responsible for the decision of Miss Dorothy Sumner, an American social service worker, to come to Australia. For the past 21 years Miss Sumner has been a case-work lecturer in social science at Sydney University, but she has given up her vacation to visit all the social centres in Australian capital cities <b>at the invitation of the Department of Social Services.</b></p> <p>While Miss Sumner was in the United States she met Miss Norma Parker, a prominent social worker from this State....She (has) since been busy lecturing in Sydney, besides interesting herself in the practical side of the work Perth is the first of the capitals in which she will survey the Department's work. In the time that she has been in Australia Miss Sumner has noticed an awakening in the community to the need for skilled social workers.</p>
<p>1948</p>	<p><b>Good Social Plan, But Workers Are Few</b><sup>110</sup></p> <p>The Commonwealth Government had a progressive social service scheme, but there were not enough social workers, Miss Dorothy Sumner, an American social worker said in Brisbane last night. Great progress had been shown in a</p>

<sup>107</sup> 1947 'Social Workers Organise.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 13 October, p. 11, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26428721>

<sup>108</sup> 1947 'Couples want to adopt babies; law says 'no'.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 18 November, p. 7, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22520598>

<sup>109</sup> 1948 'SOCIAL WORKER.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 9 January, p. 15, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46882713>

<sup>110</sup> 1948 'Good Social Plan, Bui.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 18 February, p. 4, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49652590>





short time by the Social Services Department, and it already compared favourably with those in Britain and America, she said.

Miss Sumner has visited all State capitals in the last six weeks as consultant to the Commonwealth Social Services Department. She was brought to Australia in 1945 by the Sydney University to lecture on social studies. She said that Australia had an advantage over America because social service work here was uniform in all States. In America it varied, depending on the State's financial status. Remaining to Brisbane until Saturday, she will endeavour to assist social workers in this State. She will return to America in May.

1948



### **SOCIAL SERVICE Lack Of Trained Workers<sup>111</sup>**

There are only 13 social workers in Western Australia and not one psychiatric social worker," said the Commonwealth Director of Psychology in the Repatriation Department (Dr. A. Stoller) in a lecture to social workers at the University. "Outside the metropolitan area there is no service worth talking about." Dr. Stoller said it was estimated that 30 to 40 social workers could easily be absorbed in this State at present and that ten of those should be psychiatric social workers. There were a few untrained workers attempting to do the job of the trained social worker, but however good the personality and standard of that individual, she must be handicapped by her lack of training. The shortage in this State was one which must be overcome if a reasonable social health were to be attained. Conditions were progressively falling behind world standards and now was the time to act.

1948



### **How Smart is Baby?<sup>112</sup>**

Psychology Professor A. R. Gilliland and associates at North western University have developed a new test to learn just how smart a baby is. The test is said to be unique in that it measures intelligence of babies as young as four weeks. It consists of 40 items, with tests made by trained examiners. Some of them are whether the baby does his fingers around a rattle, blinks or averts his eyes from a ray of light, focuses on an object, makes searching head movements at the sound of a rattle, reacts to a ringing door-bell, or investigates a scrap of paper placed on his face.

The test was developed at the request of adoption agencies, which want to determine a child's intelligence at the earliest age possible.

<sup>111</sup> 1948 'SOCIAL SERVICE.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 5 May, p. 3, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46907847>

<sup>112</sup> 1948 'How Smart is Baby?.', Cairns Post (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), 19 June, p. 4, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42587974>

# Liberals And The Social Service State

By ERIC D. BUTLER, Campaign Director Victorian League of Rights.

A MAJOR feature of Socialist propaganda is the insistence that it is the function of Government to provide the individual with security from the cradle to the grave.

*So successful has this propaganda been that even non-Socialist parties have succumbed to the electoral attractions of collectivist social service schemes which must eventually lead to the destruction of all personal liberties.*

It was the Social Service State, introduced by the German Socialists late last century, which sapped the independence of the German people and paved the way for Hitler. We cannot walk the same road that the Germans walked and reach a different destination. Bismarck appropriately described the social service schemes as "golden chains around the necks of the workers."

## How Fabians Infiltrated

It was from Bismarck's Germany that the English Fabian Socialists borrowed most of their ideas, ideas which have been since propagated in all English-speaking countries. Bearing in mind that Hitler was the logical result of the Social Service State in Germany, it is not surprising that the chief speaker at the Fabian International Bureau's conference in 1942 stated that:

*"There is not much difference between the basic economic*

*techniques of Socialism and Nazism."*

After outlining how the Fabians infiltrated into all the parties in Great Britain, Bernard Shaw, himself a prominent Fabian Socialist, has said that they soon had members of

that they soon had members of all parties advancing ideas "that would never have come into their heads had not the Fabians put them there."

It is all too obvious that Australian non-Labour parties have also adopted Socialist ideas without realising what is involved if they persist with them. The Liberals, in particular, would do well at present to read Beatrice Webb's recently published book, *Our Partnership*, in which there is much evidence of how Beatrice and Sidney Webb helped formulate the social policies of the English Liberal Party.

*The English Liberals had such a poor understanding of their own principles that they allowed the Fabian Socialists to use them to import from Germany early this century the blueprints of the Servile State.*

## Whither Australian Liberalism?

- Do Australian Liberals understand their principles any better than did the English Liberals?
- Are they also prepared to seek political power by competing with the Labour-Socialists in offering the bribe of the Social Service State, irrespective of the future price to be paid?

These are questions which competent students of the real Socialist menace are asking.

The basic feature of the Social Service State is that the Government should compulsorily take from the individual an increasing amount of his money and only permit him to get some of it back under terms dictated by an increasing army of officials. The individual is offered a cart-horse security at the price of his personal lib-

113

<sup>113</sup> 1948 'Liberals And The Social Service State', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 14 October, p. 2, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22680817>



## CONFERENCE IN U.S.A.

AUSTRALIA will have excellent representation at the International Conference on Social Work to be held at Atlantic City, U.S., next month. Miss Lyla Taylor, administrative officer of the Social Work and Research Sections of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, will leave Sydney today to attend the conference. Miss Marion Urquhart, national social service director of the Australian Red Cross Society, will leave by Skymaster on April 4 at the invitation of the American Red Cross. The president of the Australian Association of Social Workers (Miss Norma Parker) is expected to leave by air at the end of this month.

At left: 1948 'Roundabout', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 19 March, p. 7, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article43760281>



1948



### CHILD WELFARE PAYMENTS<sup>114</sup>

An increase of 5/ a week in allowances paid by the Child Welfare Department to a number of women with dependent children had been approved by the State Government, the Minister for Child Welfare (Mr. Watts) said yesterday.

These women included deserted wives, unmarried mothers and women with sick husbands who had not benefited by the recent increase in Commonwealth pensions, he said. The additional State assistance, which would apply from next Wednesday, would involve expenditure of over £1,000.

1948



### OUTLAWING GENOCIDE PARIS, Nov. 26<sup>115</sup>

Speaking over the United Nations radio yesterday, the President of the General Assembly (Dr. Evatt) said that the present draft international convention on genocide was "epoch making and one of the major achievements of the present Assembly."

Dr. Evatt described genocide as:

*"the crime of committing any deliberate act which is intended to destroy or cause serious harm to groups of human beings because of their race, religion or political opinion."*

The convention to outlaw this crime was the result of tremendous effort which occupied the cream of the world's international lawyers over two years, he said. Dr. Evatt said that the convention meant "moulding within the framework of an internationally acceptable legal document the very different legal systems of 58 nations and the divergent ideas of 58 different lawyers."--Reuters.

<sup>114</sup> 1948 'CHILD WELFARE PAYMENTS.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 29 October, p. 8 Edition: 1st EDITION, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47138766>

<sup>115</sup> 1948 'OUTLAWING GENOCIDE.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 27 November, p. 6 Edition: 3rd EDITION, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47145270>



1949



Minister for Education discloses that in 1948, 3,939 applications for adoptions had been received but that only 625 adoptions could be arranged. There is a two-year wait for girls and a one-year wait for boys.<sup>116</sup>

1949



### 200 Waiting to Adopt Babies<sup>117</sup>

The State Children's Department has a list of 200 couples waiting to adopt babies.

1949



### Almoners' annual conference<sup>118</sup>

The first annual conference of the Australian Association of Hospital Almoners, which opens today will be continued tomorrow. Members from New South Wales and South Australian branches will attend. The conference will include a State branch dinner at the Wattle tonight. Guest speaker will be Major-General Kingsley Norris, whose subject will be "Social Medicine." **Guests will be received by Miss Isabel Strahan, president of the Australian Association and Miss N. Pancourt, Victorian president.**

1949



### Single Mothers<sup>119</sup>

*There were many vacancies in two Brisbane homes conducted by Church authorities, for expectant unmarried mothers, the Health and Home Affairs Minister (Mr. Jones) said in Parliament yesterday. Mr. Lukins (Q.P.P., Maree) had asked whether Mr. Jones would consider a means of finding adequate accommodation for unmarried mothers.*

<sup>116</sup> 1949 'TRAFFIC IN BABIES.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 25 January, p. 8, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47640337>

<sup>117</sup> 1949 "'Black" market in babies here, too?.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 26 January, p. 6, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22702909>

<sup>118</sup> 1949 'Almoners' annual conference.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 29 January, p. 12, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22693721>

1949



## GIRL, MOTHER TO BECOME SISTER TO HER BABY

LONDON, Thursday.

A 16-year-old girl will become a sister to her illegitimate baby because the girl's parents have received legal permission to adopt the baby.

In making the order in the Chancery Division, Mr. Justice Vaisey warned that an ostensible relationship between the mother and child was unnatural and that its creation might sow the seeds of grievous unhappiness, both for them and for the adopters.

The judge said his principal reason for making the order was his belief that he could rely on the good sense and good judgment of the adopters to handle the situation as it developed.

"Let them never forget they owe a continuing, unescapable duty to the young mother as well as the child," he added.

National Library of Australia

1949



### Social Workers' Conference<sup>120</sup>

The second Australian conference of social workers will be held in Melbourne in September. This was stated in the report presented last night at the annual meeting of the **Victorian branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers**. During the conference the Victorian branch will be host to about 300 social workers from all States. A special sub-committee has been formed, and plans are well in hand. The branch has about 90 members at present. New members welcomed during the year included 14 recently qualified social workers.

<sup>119</sup> 1949 'Single mothers.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 17 March, p. 5, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49934141>

<sup>120</sup> 1949 'Social Workers' Conference.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 25 March, p. 8, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22718629>





<p>1949</p> 	<p><b>To save groups</b><sup>121</sup></p> <p>CANBERRA, Thursday. — A Bill to approve Australian ratification of the international convention on the prevention and punishment of genocide was introduced in the House of Representatives. In his second reading speech on the Bill the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) said genocide meant the wholesale or partial destruction of religious, racial, or national groups.</p>
<p>1949</p> 	<p><b>Roundabout Miss Lyra Taylor</b><sup>122</sup></p> <p><b>Miss Lyra Taylor of the headquarters stay of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services</b>, who is paying a brief visit to Adelaide, will address a meeting tonight of the 3A branch of the <b>Australian Association of Social Workers</b> on "<b>Trends in Social Welfare.</b>" Last year Miss Taylor represented Australia at the meetings of the International Conference on Social Work held in <b>Atlantic City and New York</b>, and later spent some months in research on the social adjustment of young people. This research was sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation and included visits to <b>Canada and England as well as study in America.</b></p>
<p>1949</p>  	<p><b>SOCIAL WORKERS URGED TO STUDY THE INDIVIDUAL</b><sup>123</sup></p> <p>Social workers must not regard their work as a general problem but rather as an individual one, Dr Clive Fitts, honorary physician at the Royal Melbourne Hospital said at the conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers on Saturday. He emphasised the need for a human approach to the medical problem and the help that must be given to the patient to help himself...</p> <p>Other points stressed were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Limitation of social work in Australian industry.</li> <li>. <b>Overlapping of social work with churches and other bodies engaged in social activities.</b></li> <li>. Understanding of mental outlook needed by the social worker.</li> <li>. Need for a central authority, and the co-operation of everyone in the community.</li> <li>. The importance of management approach to people on the job.</li> </ul> <p>... <b>Miss Lyra Taylor, administrative officer, social work and research division, Commonwealth Department of Social Services</b>, also spoke. Mr S Greig Smith, secretary of the Citizens' Welfare Service, presided. Also present were <b>Miss Norma Parker, directress of the Board of Social Studies at Sydney University</b>; Miss Kate Ogilvie, directress of almoner training in Sydney; and <b>Miss Isobel Strahan, president of the Australian Association of Hospital Almoners.</b></p>

<sup>121</sup> 1949 'To save groups.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 20 May, p. 5, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49677030>

<sup>122</sup> 1949 'Roundabout.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 6 July, p. 9, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36674812>

<sup>123</sup> 1949 'SOCIAL WORKERS URGED TO STUDY THE INDIVIDUAL.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 29 August, p. 6, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22774871>



<p>1949</p> 	<p><b>National Conference of AASW<sup>124</sup></b></p> <p>More than 200 interstate delegates are expected to attend the second biennial conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers to be held in Melbourne from August 26 to 28. Of these 17 will be from South Australia, the largest group from here that has yet attended a conference on social work in Australia. One significant feature in connection with South Australia is the number of agencies who have not only given leave to staff members to attend the conference, but are also covering their expenses, which indicates the importance attached to the opportunity to meet and discuss with workers in other States questions of mutual interest.</p>
<p>1949</p> 	<p><b>Why Adoption Babies Are Few<sup>125</sup></b></p> <p>“With a State illegitimacy average of 350 annually why are hundreds of people on the child adoption waiting list? Mainly because a single mother in these more tolerant days often marries a man who was not the father of her offspring and then the pair have legitimacy conferred upon the child by adopting it. In giving this answer yesterday, Child Welfare Dept. Secretary A. L. Young made the unexpected observation that the present illegitimacy was practically identical with the peak war period...Reasons why unmarried women now held on to their children were mainly economic, Mr. Young said. Higher wages and greater help from Commonwealth and State sources had increased their independence.”</p>

<sup>124</sup> 1949 'National Conference Of A.A.S.W.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 19 August, p. 11, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36682067>

The SA delegation included the president of the SA branch. Miss E. M. Porsyth (senior social worker. Commonwealth Social Services in SA). Miss D. P. Pearce (director, social services. Red Cross). Miss B. LeCornu (Repatriation General Hospital. Miss C. Douglas (chief almoner. RAH), and Miss B. Matters (assistant almoner, RAH). Misses C. J. Bosworth, E. F. Bennett and SJDJV. (Commonwealth Social Services). Miss P. Sandford (Medical social worker. Commonwealth Employment Services, Miss N. P. Bates and Mr. C. Harris (Family Welfare Bureau), Miss H. Buckley (TB Association). Mrs. M. Sugg (Legacy Club). Miss J. MacLennan C of E social welfare office). Misses A. Stanton and Shaw (Children's Welfare Department), Miss M. Cornish (Children's Hospital almoner), and Miss Hilda Wilson (Immigration Department). The president of the conference was Mr. S. Greig Smith, secretary of the Citizens' Welfare Services. Victoria. It was opened by the Minister for Health and Social Services (Senator McKenna). Speakers at a symposium on rehabilitation included Dr. dive Fitts (honorary physician. Royal-Melbourne Hospital), Dr. George Burniston (acting Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation. Commonwealth Department of Post-war Reconstruction), Miss Alison Player (chief almoner Royal Melbourne Hospital and director of studies for the Australian Association of Hospital Almoners.

<sup>125</sup> 1949 'Why Adoption Babies Are Few.', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 4 September, p. 3, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59494415>

# NEED SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

**QUEENSLAND** needs a School of Social Studies to train social workers, according to the annual report of the Queensland branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers.

Because there is no training centre in Queensland girls from this State who wish to become social workers have to attend the courses at Sydney or Melbourne Universities.

Demand for social workers in hospitals, clinics, and Government departments is growing all over Australia, the report states.

Southern States, because they train their own workers, take nearly all those available. Few are left for Queensland's needs.

Some organisations in Queensland employed social workers for the first time this year.

They include the Immigration Department, where Miss Natalie Dow handles social and personal problems for immigrants, and the Labour and National Service Department, whose social worker, Miss Valerie Morton, deals with employment problems, particularly among disabled persons and the Brisbane Clinic.

## No 'takers'

Seven other positions for social workers advertised this year were not filled.

They were three for the Repatriation Department, two for the Immigration Department, one for the State Psychiatric Clinic, and one for Townsville General Hospital.

The association president, Miss J. Hartshorn, said last night that a special committee was investigating the possibilities of establishing a social studies course at Queensland University. However, no recommendation had been made and no funds allotted.

At Melbourne University the course takes three years and at Sydney University two years.

At Sydney the course has been established since 1940 but previously a special board trained workers.

Miss Hartshorn said that Queensland girls who wished to do the course at southern Universities could obtain assistance from the Queensland University Commission, but the number assisted was limited.

126

1949



### The Work that Women Do<sup>127</sup>

It is those who have diplomas in social science who are eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers. It is therefore a professional body, its objects including **the promotion of professional social work throughout the Commonwealth; interpretation of the aims and objects of social work to the public; the co-ordination of activities in various States; and representation in matters pertaining to the Commonwealth in the international sphere.**

1950



### SOCIAL CASE HISTORY



### Investigating Sterilisation<sup>128</sup>

The old controversy broke into the open again recently when the ageing Bishop of Birmingham, longtime advocate of sterilisation, told a Birmingham audience "six to 10 per cent" of Britain's 50,000,000 people are "mentally below par" and should lose their right to have children. The Church of England has been studying the problem for nearly a year. A report by a picked committee on sterilisation — one of the thorniest questions facing the established church — is being drafted. It will be handed up to high church authorities in January, a committee spokesman said. The committee of eight, picked by the church's powerful Moral Welfare Council, includes clergymen, doctors, married women, a social welfare worker, and a moral theologian. Whether its report will embody recommendations for church action or merely state its findings is still a closely-kept secret.

Another secret is the names of the committee men. The committee's spokesman said: "We have been investigating the problem from the Christian point of view and the question is solely whether sterilisation of the unfit is legitimate in the eyes of the church."

The spokesman said the committeemen considered case histories put before them by social workers and others for and against sterilisation. The committee was set up after social workers and doctors, who felt sterilisations should be carried out in several cases, asked the morality council for an opinion. Among the cases studied were those of insane men from families in which insanity was frequently recurring and women habitually bearing illegitimate children.

The Bishop of Birmingham Dr E.W. Barnes, said in his speech: "We must have medically controlled sterilisation of the grosser forms of unfitness. At least 90 per cent of feeble-mindedness is inherited. A time is quickly coming when sterilisation of the unfit will have to be essential in our social organisation. Such sterilisation may well be, in fact, the

<sup>127</sup> 1949 'The WORK that WOMEN DO.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 13 October, p. 15, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26666447>

<sup>128</sup> 1950 'INVESTIGATING STERILISATION.', Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 2 January, p. 5, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article56928789>



complement of the welfare State."



Illegitimacy figures have bounded upward since 1931 in England and Wales. The 4.41 per cent figure for 1931 rose to 6.4 in 1943, to 7.3 in 1944, to 9.4 in 1945...In the early thirties a storm over sterilisation — led by Dr Barnes and dramatised by the unnamed surgeon's "illegal act" — culminated in a Government report. This suggested that voluntary sterilisation be legalised for mental defectives and "carriers" who might transmit grave disabilities to their children. No action was taken.

In 1937 the Health Minister (Sir K. Wood) said : "There's no question that opinion in this country is growing in favour of sterilisation, but we cannot disguise from ourselves the fact that opposition remains and that there is still much conflict on opinion, particularly on religious grounds."

The Roman Catholic Church, through Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, has come out flatly against sterilisation. In 1933 the Holy See protested to German authorities against sterilisation in the Third Reich. Said " L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO," official Vatican organ:

*"Governments have now become  
zoological inspectorates.  
Nations have been changed into  
national breeding studs."*



1950



### Baby Queue<sup>129</sup>

**Most commodities are plentiful enough, these days to eliminate any need to queue up for them. Supply is catching up to demand with one big, or, rather, little exception. Babies. Adopted ones. Lucky applicants for this perishable form of goods must wait at least six months. Others have to wait tip to 18 months to two years. Each year a thousand or more babies are adopted in this State. Last year it was nearly 1200...The babe to be adopted must be free from abnormalities and in a good state of health.**

<sup>129</sup> 1950 '[?]', Cairns Post (Qld. : 1909 - 1954), 13 January, p. 8, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article42653639>

1950



### *Young Mother "Too Excited To Speak"<sup>130</sup>*

*A 13-year-old mother left hospital yesterday with her four-day-old baby daughter. The mother, who married her 20 year-old husband a year ago, said she was "just too excited to say anything."*

1950



### **MARRIAGE HABITS**

## **TWICE WED AT 17**

**CANBERRA, Saturday.**

—In Australia last year about 12 girls married at the age of 14, an analysis issued by the Commonwealth Statistics Bureau shows.

The most popular marrying age for men was 23 and for women 21.

In the year only 18 boys married at under 17 years of age.

One of the 14-year-old brides married a man of 33.

The oldest bridegroom, who was 88, married a woman of 46.

One girl, who had been divorced, married again when she was 17, and one widow married again at the same age. <sup>131</sup>

<sup>130</sup> 1950 'Young Mother "Too Excited To Speak"', *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 1 February, p. 4, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26680583>

<sup>131</sup> 1950 'MARRIAGE HABITS TWICE WED AT 17', *The Sunday Herald* (Sydney, NSW : 1949 - 1953), 12 March, p. 3, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18476335>

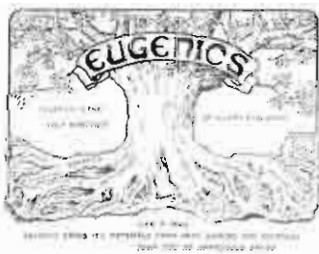
1950



### IMPORTANCE OF CAUSES IN SOCIAL DISTRESS<sup>132</sup>

What really mattered in social work was to get at the underlying cause of a person's difficulty, Miss Lyra Taylor told a meeting of the Tasmanian branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers in Hobart last night. Miss Taylor is officer in charge of the Social Work and Research Division of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. A New Zealander, she did many years of social work in England and Canada. She said one of the greatest developments in social work had been specialised training for social workers. "However, I do not believe that everybody engaged in social work in the community should be highly trained," Miss Taylor said. "The function of voluntary social workers is to pioneer all kinds of social effort, and to see that the Government does its duty. "People who have not been specially trained in modern schools of social work have made, and will continue to make, a tremendous contribution to the good of the community. We must never lose sight of that. "Nearly every new piece of social improvement has been conceived by some person who has not had any training in social work."

1950



### Answers to readers' questions: Do you believe in the science of eugenics?<sup>133</sup>

"The most hopeful way is to give unborn babies, not a better biological inheritance - which is a slow and doubtful project but a better social inheritance, which can be as rapid as we have the will to make it. The eugenist wants all babies to be born of fitter parents; I suggest that a more hopeful plan is to see that all babies are born into a fitter world. More hopeful, and more practicable. What nobody knows as yet is how much of a person's character depends on heredity and how much on environment."

1950



### Reception For British Social Workers<sup>134</sup>

Leading women social workers were among the guests received by the Minister for Social Services, Senator Spooner, and Mrs. Spooner, at a reception at the Wentworth Hotel last night in honour of the general secretary of the National Council of Social Services of England, Mr. George E. Haynes.

They included the president of the Australian Association of Social Workers, Miss Norma Parker, Miss Kate Ogilvie, Miss Ruby Board, and Miss Helen Halse Rogers. Mr. Haynes is touring Australia and New Zealand under the direction of the British Council. Representatives of Commonwealth and voluntary State social services were also among the guests.

<sup>132</sup> 1950 'IMPORTANCE OF CAUSES IN SOCIAL DISTRESS.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 23 March, p. 6, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26691427>

<sup>133</sup> 1950 'Answers To Readers' Questions.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 8 April, p. 18, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47840407>

<sup>134</sup> 1950 'Reception For British Social Worker.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 9 May, p. 11, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18170657>



1950



### Wanted – a Baby<sup>135</sup>

...unmarried mothers of illegitimate babies form the largest adoptable group who do not wish to part with their babies ...  
“(unmarried mothers) may enter a home any time before the child's birth and a sickness benefit is paid for six weeks before and after birth”; “the comfort and help given during these difficult days and the training received in caring for the baby makes the girls fiercely determined not to part with it.

### Wanted—A Baby



THEY are very similar, the letters which arrive from time to time. “My husband and I have been married for six years. We both love children and hoped to have some of our own, but as it does not seem likely we will have any, could you please tell us how to set about adopting one.”

The procedure of adopting a baby is a comparatively simple matter: the difficulty lies in finding one to adopt. In Western Australia during the last financial year, 183 adoptions were granted, an advance of 30 on the previous year's figures. But these inquiries are a mixture and it is a big but—the Child Welfare Department alone has application to adopt, a visit is no less than 215 couples on its list waiting for a tiny helpless scrap of humanity on which to lavish their care and love. Inquiries specify a girl, this number, 152, have been proved and the remainder resent applications into which inquiry will be made before they are transferred to the proved list.

1950



### So you've decided to adopt a baby<sup>136</sup>

A probationary period of at least six months is the rule, during which time the progress and development of the child are carefully checked. If at the end of that time the new parents are not satisfied that a suitable child has been allotted to them, they may return it before the adoption is made legal.”

1950



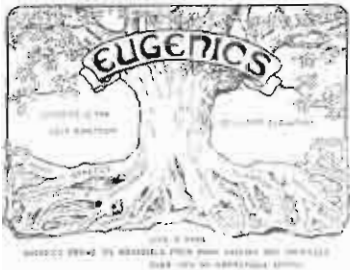
### Social Worker's Mission<sup>137</sup>

Miss Ethel Cannon, senior social worker of the Department of Social Services, has left by air for Melbourne. She is president of the **Australian Association of Social Workers** (Western Australian branch) and will attend a meeting of the national council of that body in Sydney next Saturday.

<sup>135</sup> 1950 'Wanted—A Baby.', *Western Mail* (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 25 May, p. 31, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article39103357>

<sup>136</sup> 1950 'Your home is childless— SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO ADOPT A BABY!.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 June, p. 8, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article22836870>

<sup>137</sup> 1950 'Social Worker's Mission.', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 20 June, p. 10, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47869767>



## TOO MANY "PARENTS"

# The babies will not go around

can be very deceptive.

By  
**Ron Stephens**

**Not all are  
adopted**

**ONE** market shortage that shows no sign of easing in Victoria with the advancing years is the shortage in the baby market.

Foundling and babies' homes and the Children's Welfare Department are

unanimous that the number of childless couples wanting to adopt children is increasing and further outstripping the available supply.

In Melbourne, at least, the outlook for a physically and mentally normal baby, boy or girl, is very bright indeed.

Most of them have excellent prospects of adoption into comfortable, happy homes, where none of the sweetmeats of life are absent and the blessings of a normal parental environment are assured.

One cannot help reflecting sadly that thousands of babies are born each year into poverty-stricken homes which can offer them little more than a legitimate name.

This shortage of babies for adoption is not reflected in official statistics, but then figures can be very deceptive.

THE figures show that in 1948 (the last year for which figures are available) 1,533 babies were born out of wedlock, but only 1,145 were adopted. Additionally as the statistic will hasten to point out, adoptions are not confined to babies born in that year, and some babies adopted are not illegitimate.

How come the shortage?

The secretary of the Children's Welfare Department, Mr Pittard, explains it this way:

Quite a number of unmarried mothers do not want to have their children adopted. They prefer to keep them themselves in institutions. Few young women today would find it hard to get employment well enough paid to enable them to sustain a child if they really wanted to.

Some babies taken in by institutions are physically or mentally afflicted and unsuitable for adoption. These do not represent a large proportion, but



**C**OUPLES who attend the Women's Hospital are given regular advice over a period of two years. If they have no children in that time they are advised to adopt a child.

In a number of cases, women who despairing of having children of their own, have adopted children, have given birth within a year. One woman who adopted two boys gave birth to two boys several years later.

# HERE'S HOPE FOR THE CHILDLESS

By **DON GREENLEES**

**A**NTI-STERILITY clinics now operating in many large women's hospitals are helping to increase our national birth rate.

These little publicised clinics have already added thousands to Australia's population since the war.



Melbourne has two — at the Women's Hospital and the Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital.

Although it is not a new idea, concern over our falling birth rate in 1945 set midwifery experts organising these clinics to assist childless couples to parenthood.

The Women's Hospital clinic alone treats more than 300 couples a year, and records 80 babies a year who, but for their efforts, would probably not have been born.

★  
**D**R. A. R. LONG, super-  
intendent of the

fault can be corrected by painless methods.

About 30% of women treated suffer from a minor disability which can usually be remedied by carbon dioxide gas under pressure.

In other cases it is necessary to probe marital histories.

Doctors say that often where there seems to be no reason for childlessness some change in mode of living will bring children.

In a number of cases, women who, despairing of having children of their own, have adopted children, have given birth within a year.

One woman who adopted two boys gave birth to two boys several years later.



## Would you like to own this baby?<sup>140</sup>

Welfare worker's task:

- To act on behalf of infertile/childless married couples;
- to place a baby with sound hereditary background.

Article also relates:

- that the mother permitted to hold her baby will decide to keep it;
- that Australian hospitals have a system whereby a mother signs

<sup>139</sup> 1951 'HERE'S HOPE FOR THE CHILDLESS.', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 7 June, p. 2, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23059665>



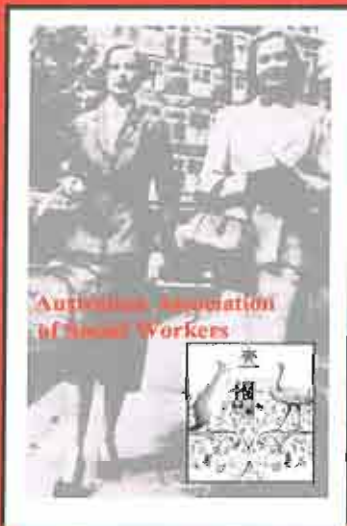


- the surrender papers before the birth of the child and is not allowed to see the child;
- it is believed that it is better that the mother sign away the child before she has a chance to change her mind;
- babies are kept in a home for twelve months if they are not medically cleared for adoption;
- racial background must be matched to avoid it becoming public
- knowledge that the child is adopted, which would cause the child suffering.



**Miss Isobel Strahan (president of the Australian Association of Hospital Almoners) recommends that there be a probationary period not less than six months within which a child may be returned if not suitable to a couple. She says, "You can't guarantee that the child will be 100 per cent perfect...environment is the main thing."**

1951



#### Adoptions 'Forced By Housing'<sup>141</sup>

**Some young married couples were being forced by the housing shortage to offer their first child for adoption, a Victorian delegate, Miss T. Wardell told the biennial conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers in Adelaide yesterday.** The conference, which is being held for the first time in Adelaide, is attended by about 100 delegates from all States. **Miss Wardell said she knew of two or three cases of young married people who intended to have a family, but found their first child an embarrassment when they sought accommodation. 'It is strange to find such willingness to surrender a child, but the pressure of housing is responsible, she added.'**

#### Foster Parents

**The chairman of the SA Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board (Mr. F. J. McNally) who was chairman of the session said that it was unfortunate that the parents were not told they could place their children in the care of foster parents until their housing difficulties were over.**

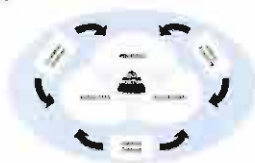
Miss Hazel Smith of the NSW Child Welfare Department, in an address to the conference, outlined these main defects in child welfare work in Australia:— Lack of uniformity in the States, with each State deficient in some respect. Lack in Australia of any provision for the care of mentally defective children. Lack of knowledge of epileptic children, and the need for their early discovery and treatment. The need for more trained child

<sup>140</sup> 1951 'Last year the Victorian courts sanctioned the adoption of 1,042 babies... WOULD YOU LIKE TO OWN THIS BABY?.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 20 July, p. 1 Supplement: The Argus Magazine, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23061983>

<sup>141</sup> 1951 'Adoptions "Forced By Housing".', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 27 August, p. 3, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45724592>

welfare workers with a professional approach. The lack of foster homes. The conference study group suggested that a council should be formed on Commonwealth level to undertake research into existing child welfare facilities and the need for improvement. The conference, which will continue until tomorrow, will hold sessions today on medical and psychiatric social work.

1950



### Trained Social Workers Will 'Pay Dividends'<sup>142</sup>

The appointment to the Commonwealth Department of Social Services of trained social workers and the inauguration of library and research services within that department were 'tremendously important developments which would pay handsome dividends soon,' the Director-General of Social Services (Mr. F. H. Rowe) told the annual meeting of the SA branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers last night. Stressing the need for close co-operation between Governments and voluntary organisations, Mr. Rowe said that he was continually amazed at the quantity of good social service work being done by those organisations, which were able to 'round off the very rough edges of an official procedure.' It was not true, he said, that because Governments were providing income security, there was nothing left for voluntary organisations to do. Officers elected: — President, Miss E. M. Forsyth; vice-presidents, Misses H. Buckley and N. Bates; secretary, Miss S. Jefferis.

1950



### Trained Workers In Social Agencies<sup>143</sup>

The SA branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers has been invited to act as the host branch for the third national conference of the AASW to be held in Adelaide in August 1951. This was announced at the annual meeting of the branch last week. The steady growth of the appreciation of the importance of the trained worker in the general field of social service is indicated in the number of social agencies in Adelaide, in which trained social workers are employed at the present time. These include the Family Welfare Bureau (3) SA division, Australian Red Cross Society (3) Kindergarten Union of SA (1) SA Tuberculosis Association (1) Crippled Children's Association (2) Church of England Social Welfare Office (2) Local Board of Health (1) Catholic Social Service Bureau (1) Education Department (1) Parkside Mental Hospital (1) Royal Adelaide Hospital, almoner department (2) RAH radiotherapy clinic (1) RAH chest clinic (1) Children's Hospital (2) Repatriation General Hospital (2) Commonwealth Department of Immigration (4) Commonwealth Department of Social Services (3) Children's Welfare Department (4) Housing Trust of SA (1) YWCA (1) Church of Christ Social Welfare Dept (1)

<sup>142</sup> 1950 'Trained Social Workers Will "Pay Dividends"', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 20 September, p. 12, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45677411>

<sup>143</sup> 1950 'Trained Workers In Social Agencies.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 27 September, p. 13, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45670969>



## Year's Work Reviewed

The annual meeting of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers took place last night, when the president (Miss Ethel Cannon) reviewed the past year's activities. The group had taken an active part in arranging opportunities for the discussion of topical social questions, and these meetings had been well attended by the public, the president said. The publicity sub-committee had arranged for a number of speakers to give addresses, and these included Mr. George Haynes, secretary of the National Council of Social Services of Great Britain, who spoke on the necessity for voluntary organisations to help in social welfare. Miss Lyla Taylor, from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, spoke of the present state of social work in Australia and the possibilities of future development.

144

1950



**PICTURES upper left: Baby Michael, 18 months, may really have the ball at his feet if the home remains open. Right: Jacinta, dark-haired,**

**They're the nicest lot of kids you'd find**<sup>145</sup>

"BETTY," a three-months-old baby with clear blue eyes and a deep-throated chuckle, was rejected by her mother at birth because she had a hare-lip. Yesterday she was one of the 210 babies and toddlers who played, romped, laughed and grew fat at St. Joseph's Foundling Home, Broad-meadows. Yesterday the babies ate £80 worth of butter, eggs, bread, and milk, which is a rate that is far beyond the home's present means. It cannot carry on. Last year the home had a deficit of £16,000; and so far this year there is a bank debit of £7,000.

The Government grant of £1,500 last year was "eaten up" in six weeks. "Our position is desperate," the sister-in charge said.

Not all the children can be adopted, because some are mentally deficient or physically defective. Some others have girl mothers who are single. "The home is run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and it does not want to close," a

<sup>144</sup>1950 'Year's Work Reviewed.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 12 October, p. 14, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article47891614>

<sup>145</sup> 1950 "'They're the nicest lot of kids you'd find...'", The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 28 November, p. 3, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23021143>



blue-eyed, and 11 months old, does not know of the home's desperate need.

**FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS**  
Include those who identify as infants rejected by the Australian adoption industry and left to languish in institutions

sister said . . . "Just look at those young babies!" And on the second floor of the main hospital building, with sunlight streaming through the big bay windows, and each in his or her little pink bassinet, were the nicest lot of little kids you'd see in a day's march – anywhere. Last night, Mr. McDonald, Premier, said his Government would consider giving financial aid to St. Joseph's Babies' Home. He would ask for a report from the Children's Welfare Dept.



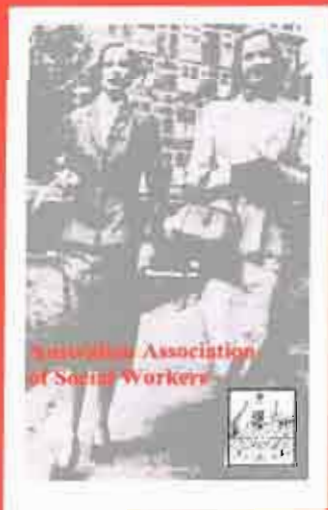
1951



### State Children's Department director reports<sup>146</sup>

- four hundred QLD couples waiting to adopt;
- 900 applications received since July last year;
- adoption increasing because becoming known;
- rare for a child past six months to be adopted;
- Child welfare expert Lady Cilento claims that baby should be adopted preferably as soon as it leaves the hospital.

1951



### Social Work Conference In Adelaide<sup>147</sup>

The third biennial conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers will be held in Adelaide. Most of the sessions will be held at the University, with an open session on the evening of August 27, at which Mr. Paul McGuire will be the speaker. Special stimulus will be given to discussions by the fact that a number of the speakers have returned recently from abroad where they had opportunity of studying developments in social work. Mrs. A. G. Wheaton, lecturer in charge of the Board of Studies in Social Science, University of Adelaide, who attended a number of international and national conferences in Europe last year, will be the speaker at the opening session on the evening of August 24, and the speaker at the closing session on August 28, will be Miss Katherine Ogilvie, director of training, NSW Institute of Hospital Ailmoners, who has also been abroad recently. Subjects for discussion during the conference include 'Family Case Work,' to be introduced by Miss Dorothy Davis, an American, who is supervisor of the welfare service of the Australian Red Cross in Sydney; 'Child Welfare,' introduced by Miss Hazel Smith, of the Child Welfare Department, NSW; 'Medical and Psychiatric Social Work,' on which Miss Helen James, medical social worker, SA, and Miss Margaret Grutzner, psychiatric social worker, Repatriation Department, Sydney, will speak; 'The Contribution of Social

<sup>146</sup> 1951 '480 Wait for "gift" babies.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 8 June, p. 5, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50113280>

<sup>147</sup> 1951 'Social Work Conference In Adelaide.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 3 August, p. 11, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45722362>

	<p><b>Work to Community Organisation</b>, introduced by Dr. Dora Peyser, PhD., NSW; and 'Group Work,' introduced by Mr. A. Livingstone, lecturer in group work, University of Melbourne. The conference committee in, Adelaide includes the convener, Miss A. Mitchell, the president of the SA branch of the association (Miss M. Forsyth) ; and Mrs. C. Boehm, conference secretary.</p>
<p>1951</p> 	<p><b>U.N. FELLOWSHIP MISS MADGE FORSYTH<sup>148</sup></b>  <i>Senior social worker in the Commonwealth Department of Social Services in SA</i> has been informed that she has been awarded a United Nations Fellowship to study case work methods in the US for six months next year from January to June. The fellowship is awarded from the Social Welfare training Section, Technical Assistance Administration, UN Headquarters, New York. Miss Forsyth is president of the SA branch of the Australian Social Workers' Association which will hold a conference in Adelaide at the end of this month.</p>
<p>1951</p> 	<p><b>Developments in Social Services<sup>149</sup></b>  The SA Council of Social Services has arranged a meeting...at which Miss Kathleen Ogilvie, director of training, Almoners' Institute, NSW, and chief almoner at the Royal Sydney Hospital, will give an address on developments in social services abroad...Miss Ogilvie is coming to Adelaide to attend the conference of the <b>Australian Association of Social Workers.</b>"</p>
<p>1951</p> 	<p><b>Busy Program For Social Workers<sup>150</sup></b>  Delegates, who are coming from every State, to the third national conference of the <b>Australian Association of Social Workers</b>, have a busy programme ahead of them. Even the weekend is being filled with working sessions. The rational president of the AASW, Miss Norma Parker, who is director of the Board of Social Studies, Sydney University, will preside at the opening session tomorrow night in the Lady Symon Hall, Union Building, Adelaide University, at which Mrs. A. O. Wheaton lecturer in-charge, Board of Studies in Social Science, Adelaide University, will speak on the theme of the conference, 'Social Work at Home and Abroad' ... Family case work, child welfare, medical and psychiatric social work, group work, and the contribution of social work to community organisation will be subjects for plenary sessions.</p>

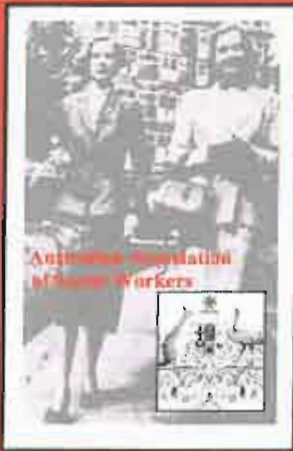
<sup>148</sup> 1951 'U.N. FELLOWSHIP.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 15 August, p. 7, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45721150>

<sup>149</sup> 1951 'Developments In Social Services.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 18 August, p. 7, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45726394>

<sup>150</sup> 1951 'Busy Program For Social Workers.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 23 August, p. 7, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45719167>



1951



Australian Association  
of Social Workers



### Aiming At National Standards<sup>151</sup>

The Formation of an Australian Council of Social Service; which will hold its first meeting in Adelaide next Wednesday marks an important development in the attitude towards social service in Australia.

**Headquarters of the Australian Council is in Melbourne, with the Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University (Professor G. W. Paton) as president.**

Adelaide was chosen as the place for this first meeting because of the presence here of a number of the leading social workers in the different States who are attending the conference of the **Australian Association of Social Workers**. Professor Paton will preside. There have been for some time Councils of Social Service in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland, each working as an independent unit, and each with its own journal providing a medium for presenting information about various fields of social service and dealing with social problems. The establishment of a Federal body, linking the State councils, will, it is hoped, strengthen the whole scope and standard of social work in Australia by putting it on a national level.

**It will be possible, also, to make a unified approach to Governments and voluntary organisations in relation to social service, generally bringing Australia into line with non-governmental organisations in other countries.** On the international level it will strengthen relations with social welfare bodies in other countries, and also Australian representation at international conferences such as the International Conference of Social Work and others concerned with worldwide sociological research and activities.

<sup>151</sup> 1951 'Aiming National Standards.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 24 August, p. 11, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45730377>



# Homes for all babies here

**P**ARENTS in Victoria need not offer children for adoption because of the housing shortage.

Mr. E. J. Pittard, secretary of the Child Welfare Department, said last night that a number of private institutions in the State would take in young children.

Young couples, he said, could place their children in these institutions until their housing difficulties were solved.

There was, however, no Government institution to provide a home for these children, said Mr. Pittard.

He had heard of no case of a young couple seeking to have their child adopted because of the housing shortage.

In Adelaide on Sunday Miss T. Wardell, Victorian delegate to the Australian Association of Social Workers, said that some young couples were offering children for adoption.

This was necessary, she said, because the parents could not find accommodation.



152

1951



## Social Worker On Adoption Cases<sup>153</sup>

Although some parents had at first offered their children for adoption because of housing difficulties, no actual cases of children being lost to their parents were known to social workers in Victoria, Melbourne social Worker Miss T. Wardell said yesterday. At the biennial conference of the **Australian Association of Social Workers** in Adelaide on Sunday Miss Warden brought forward the plight of young parents in trying to keep their young children and to obtain housing. 'It is the Job of the social workers to try to help people in such cases,' said Miss Wardell. 'In all the cases I mentioned at the conference, through the efforts of social workers, the parents were able to keep their children.'

<sup>152</sup> 1951 'Homes for all babies here.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 28 August, p. 3, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23064533>

<sup>153</sup> 1951 'Social Worker On Adoption Cases.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 28 August, p. 10, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45730142>

1951



### Australian Council Of Social Service<sup>154</sup>

Delegates of councils of Social Service in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland and a number of delegates to the recent conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers who were present as observers, attended the conference yesterday of the newly - formed Australian Council of Social Service, of which Professor G. W. Paton (Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University) is president. This was the first interstate conference held since the Australian Council was formed early this year, and discussion was concerned mainly with its future objectives...

**One of the principal matters discussed was the formation of a national committee to affiliate with the International Conference of Social Work,** which will hold its triennial conference in Madras in 1953.

It was suggested that such a national committee should be as widely representative as possible, consisting of representatives of both statutory and voluntary organisations and voluntary as well as professional workers. A sub-committee was appointed to advise the Australian Council on the convening of such a committee. **It includes the president and secretary of the Australian Council, Miss K. Ogilvie, a vice-president of the NSW Council and director of training, NSW Institute of Almoners, Professor G. L. Wood, University of Melbourne, Mr. A. Livingstone, acting director of the Board of Social Studies at Melbourne University, and Dr. Stoller, senior psychiatrist in the Repatriation Division of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.**

**Other subjects dealt with were the relationship of the Australian Council with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and with their national and international bodies.**

**United Nations social welfare fellowships in relation to assistance to fellows doing research in Australia and to the need for Australian social workers to do research in other countries, particularly in fields in which expert knowledge is lacking in Australia.** The conference also discussed the possibility of establishing an Australian Social Service Journal.



BRITAIN



CANADA



USA

1951



### St Joseph's Babies' Home in Broadmeadows, Victoria

- will shut if unaided by funds;
- Federal and State governments failing to "give adequate support" to volunteer organizations;
- Mentally or physically deficient children are unadoptable.

<sup>154</sup> 1951 'Australian Council Of Social Service.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 30 August, p. 7, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article45716810>



Article:

**YOU'D LIKE TO ADOPT A BABY?**

*"If you want a child and can't have one go East down Hay Street until you come to the old Tramways buildings. Then turn off into a narrow alleyway past a sign which says LOST PROPERTY until you come to the door of a small office... If you are approved your name will be added to the already long waiting list for children from the following sources:*

- . Neglected Children.
- . Children of medically fit unmarried mothers
- . Abandoned children.
- . Orphans and others under the care of the Welfare Dept."



Adoption eugenics incorporates the practice of discouraging the adoption of unhealthy children, as implied above, and placing the healthy ones into socially fitter families.

**YOU'D LIKE TO ADOPT A BABY?**

If you want a child and can't have one go East down Hay Street until you come to the old Tramways buildings. Then turn off into a narrow alleyway past a sign which says LOST PROPERTY until you come to the door of a small office.

There, when you knock at the door you'll probably be told to wait.

If you are, your wait will be a long one—3 years for a girl and 2 years for a boy.

Child Welfare Dept. Supreme Court which has a waiting list of 200 applicants with medical certificates stating their inability to reproduce, is experiencing considerable difficulty keeping up with the constant demand from outside persons to adopt children.

With a thoroughness that costs us unity to its front-parked staff, the Dept. will examine your credentials and assess your suitability as a parent and as a candidate for a child probably yet another born but conceived.

On a standard form you'll answer personal inquiries into your own history, status and health.

You will be required to answer questions relating to your status, property owned, your religion, your conditions in court (if any) and your private income.

You will be asked to say by what Christian name your adopted child will be known.

This will be a prelude to a personal examination of your circumstances and an inspection of your home conditions. (Location is not important.)

Information is furnished under the provisions of The Adoption of Children Act 1951-1949.

The 1951 Act says that a neglected child, under the age of 21 subject to certain provisions may be adopted from institutions by either of a prescribed form by a judge of the Supreme Court.

A neglected child is one whose parents are either in the opinion of the judge has ceased to be suited for and abandoned by its parents, or one of them is dead.

If you are approved your name will be added to the list. You will be asked to sign a form to be filed in the office.

- Neglected Children
- Children of medically fit unmarried mothers
- Abandoned children
- Orphans and others under the care of the Welfare Dept.

Last year 181 children were legally adopted, their ages ranging from a few months to 20 years.

Of these 71 were under 12 months.

Of the 109 over 12 months, 51 were under 18 years, the rest 58 were 18 years and over.

Child Welfare Dept. has over 200 approved adoptive parents.

Many of them have adopted children of specific sex, eye and hair colorings so that their "new babies" will look more like one of the family.

In some cases children are the chosen choice.

Children born to their mothers in various of their pregnancies, parents and their own 8 months or so old in production.

By 1951 police Protection Act many children of Protestant and Roman Catholic children are sent to Catholic homes.

Atheists have little chance of securing a child.

Atheists have little chance of securing a child as too many "good Christian homes" are waiting for children.

Adoption Act prohibits single people adopting children of the opposite sex unless they are 20 years older than the child.

An age limit of 45 is set down.

An unmarried mother may change her mind about giving her child out for adoption at any time before a Court order has been made.

In some cases mothers must be given a chance to recall their children after they have been placed in a private home, but only where a Court order has not been made.

Possibilities of children being given love and affection come before material considerations.

A good working class home is considered to be as suitable as that of a wealthy family.

Cost of adoption is usually under £5.





1952



### Expand social service<sup>156</sup>

Australia needed to develop more social services, such as individual case services, one of the Commonwealth leading social workers said yesterday. She said Australia was not becoming a social State, nor was it running the risk of chronic dependency because of its social services. She is Miss Kathleen Crisp, assistant administrative officer of the Commonwealth Social Services Department social work and research division.



Miss Crisp

Miss Crisp is...recently returned from a nine months tour of the United States and Canada on a United Nations Welfare Fellowship. 'Unless you have some feeling of security, how can you expect people to battle through unemployment and other vicissitudes of life?' she asked. 'I think that our present social service provisions are good. I believe in them. But we do need to develop more services, such as individual case services...

In America they say that individualised case work is necessary to prevent chronic dependency. I do not think we run that risk here. We have broad benefits available to all. Everyone does not need financial assistance. Some may need support in a social emergency. A person out of work, for instance, may find it difficult to accept financial relief and still feel he is retaining his self-respect. Case work services can help him overcome this.' Miss Crisp, a friendly Victorian joined the Commonwealth Service in 1945 and became assistant administrator in 1948. **'There is a great shortage of social workers,' she said. 'The Australian Association of Social Workers has a membership of between 500 and 600...'**

1952



### Seek social study help<sup>157</sup>

Queensland University Senate has asked the Government to provide funds for a social services course. The Vice-chancellor (Mr. J. D. Story) said yesterday that this decision was made at the Senate's last meeting. Establishment of such a course had been considered since 1938. Ready to start Mr. Story added that the course already had been formulated, and could be started as soon as funds were obtained. The Australian Social Workers' Association State branch president (Miss A. K. Blackall) said in The Courier-Mail yesterday that her association was in complete agreement with the Courier - Mail editorial, 'Causes of Crime,' on Tuesday. This had emphasised the urgent need for a course in social work at the University.

COUNTRY EDITION, Section: Sporting Section, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59544301>

<sup>156</sup> 1952 "'Expand social service"., The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 2 July, p. 3, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50531543>

<sup>157</sup> 1952 'Seek social study help.'. The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 4 July, p. 5, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50536822>

# Help Unmarried Mothers

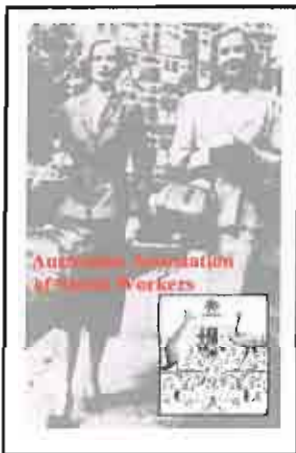
**AUCKLAND, November 10.**—Eighteen Australian girls have crossed the 'Tasman' in recent months to have babies born in Auckland. They had heard about the help given unmarried mothers by the Motherhood of Man Movement here. The movement has cared for a total of 193 unmarried mothers in the past year and has also arranged for the adoption of 173 babies.

The president (Mrs J. R. Sovak) said today: "We are out to beat the abortionist. The movement, started as a war measure in 1943, now includes a day nursery at a private home for an average of 48 children. The movement hopes to purchase a large house soon."



F58

1953



## Need for more social workers<sup>159</sup>

A National Council of Social Service was needed in Australia. Miss Helen James said in Brisbane last night. **A South Australian, Miss James represented the Australian Association of Social Workers (of which she is vice-president) and the Australian Red Cross Society at the Sixth International Conference of Social Work at Madras in December. Miss James said that Councils of Social Service were needed in all States—at present they existed in Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia—and that they should be fully representative of all voluntary and statutory organisations. In addition, there should be private members from all professions and every walk of life. Juvenile delinquency, child welfare, maternal welfare, hospitals, and community organisations were all fertile fields for the social worker, Miss James said. Miss James is a medical social worker, and is a lecturer at the Adelaide University.** She is in Brisbane to report on the Madras Conference, which was attended by 900 Indian delegates and 300 representatives from 31 different countries.

<sup>158</sup> 1952 'Help Unmarried Mothers.', Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954), 11 November, p. 1, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57305638>

<sup>159</sup> 1953 'Need for more social workers.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 13 February, p. 8, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50565536>



1953

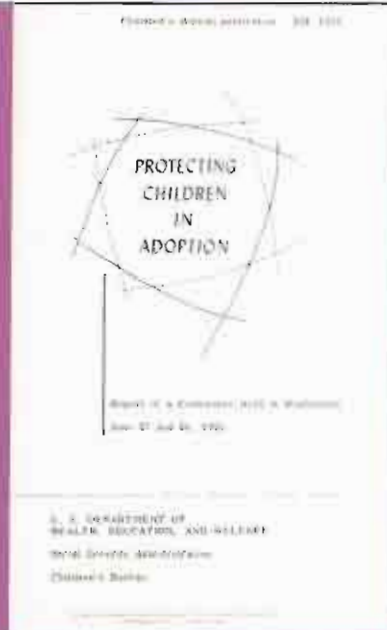


### SHOULD UNWED MOTHER GIVE UP HER CHILD?<sup>160</sup>

*"The most able, competent and better-adjusted unmarried mothers are the ones who give up their babies for adoption,"* said an American social worker, Miss Margaret Thornhill, yesterday, when she was guest speaker at the Feminist Club. Miss Thornhill is in Australia on a Fulbright scholarship studying the "unwed mother and her child."

*"The unmarried mother," she said, "needs more help than medical care and accommodation. She needs a skilled case-worker who can help her to examine her own situation and decide not only what is best for her child but, just as important, best for her. "This help should begin as soon as the girl becomes known to a social agency-it should not wait for the arrival of the baby, nor should it end there."*

Adoption of illegitimate children, she said, had not only become acceptable, but very popular. There were now many more would-be parents than unmarried mothers. Although the outlook on illegitimacy was changing, the child who had no legal father had still "a hard row to hoe."



1953



### *Proud Mother Aged 12<sup>162</sup>*

*A 12-year-old mother proudly displayed her three-day-old daughter today. The girl-mother, Mrs. Mary Tristan, who married an airman in June, 1952, gave birth to a 6lb. 11oz baby on Thursday.*

<sup>160</sup> 1953 'SHOULD UNWED MOTHER GIVE UP HER CHILD?.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 15 July, p. 9, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18388329>

<sup>161</sup> Protecting children in adoption. Report of a conference held in Washington, June 27 and 28, 1955.

[Compiled by Margaret A. Thornhill]

<[http://openlibrary.org/books/OL29510M/Protecting\\_children\\_in\\_adoption.](http://openlibrary.org/books/OL29510M/Protecting_children_in_adoption.)>



# The Problem Of The Unmarried Mothers

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT

EVERY YEAR, about 7,000 illegitimate babies are born in Australia.

The figure is startling because it represents about one out of every 25 of the total births, and it is a problem that has worried sociologists for years. Latest official figures—for 1950—show that 7,324 births out of 190,591 were illegitimate, and this was the lowest proportion for nine years.

MANY of the children born out of wedlock are adopted by people whose married happiness lacks only babies of their own. Their origin, more often than not, is successfully veiled and they take their places in our social order.

*But what of their mothers? What sort of girls are they? What is the background to this episode in their lives and how do they face up to it in a community that still—unhappily—is inclined to be cruel?*

Those are questions which the Australian Association of Social Workers—an organisation whose members include hospital almoners and trained welfare workers—has just set out to answer in New South Wales.

They want, above all, to help one of society's most tragic figures—the unmarried mother.

They have been studying the problem for years, but a fortnight ago they began the systematic collection of information which they hope will be significant.

If they can find out what sort of homes the girls come from, what their parents are like, what schooling they have had, what jobs they do, whether they have ever been married, and a few other things like that it may help to pinpoint the causes, psychological and emotional, that

logical and emotional, that led to their lapse and therefore reveal more effective ways of dealing with this social problem.

## Some Come From Far Away

Matron Smith, of the Bethesda Pre-maternity Home in Camperdown, Sydney—one of the wide range of existing institutions—has received many such girls into her care. The home is run by the Sydney Rescue Work Society, and any unmarried girl who is going to have a baby can ring the front door bell and ask for help.

They come from many kinds of family and even from as far as Tasmania and New Zealand. The society advertises in many country newspapers offering its help. About 70 girls a year pass through Bethesda—and none is pressed to answer any question she would prefer not to discuss.

Matron Smith invites them all into her private sitting-room, where there is a comfortable sofa and some deep easy chairs and where the only hint of office atmosphere is a telephone against one wall and a sloping desk near the window.

Sometimes they arrive unexpectedly from distant country places, unaware that it would have been better to seek help first from the Rescue Work Society's central office

help first from the Rescue Work Society's central office in the city.

The motive that has brought them there is the same every time—they wish to get away from surroundings where they are known. Most of the girls who seek shelter at the Bethesda Home come there in the fifth or sixth month of

their pregnancy, when their mothers have found out, but others leave their families before anyone knows they are going to have a baby.

There are a few details that Matron Smith must ask. Name, age, medical information, occupation, something about the father. But the girl need not tell anything about him if she does not want to. The home has room for only 16 at a time, and if Matron Smith decides a girl is acceptable she explains the conditions.

The charge is £3 a week, but no girl is turned away just because she may have no money. If she is medically fit she can help with the domestic work in the home or give a hand taking care of the patients in the South Sydney Hospital for Women, just across the street, which is run by the same society as the Bethesda Home, and where the girl herself will become a patient when her baby is due.

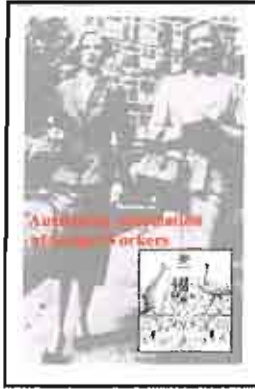
She is paid the award rate for her work—about £8 a week; and there are a few simple rules about hours. The first shyness and self-con-

163

<sup>162</sup> 1953 'Proud Mother Aged 12.', The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), 23 June, p. 5, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27165192>

<sup>163</sup> 1953 'The Problem Of The Unmarried Mothers.', The Sunday Herald (Sydney, NSW : 1949 - 1953), 28 June, p. 12, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18504211>

1953



### Value of Association of Social Workers<sup>164</sup>

On March 30 at 8 p.m the annual meeting of the SA branch of the **Australian Association of Social Workers** will be held In the YWCA board room. The speaker will be **Miss E. M. Forsyth, senior social worker, Commonwealth Department of Social Services**, who studied social work in the US last year on a United Nations Fellowship, and is a former president of the branch. The annual report of the SA branch contains interesting evidence of the value of the opportunity afforded by membership of the association in bringing the combined thinking and experience of professional experts to bear on the complexity of modern social problems. During the year several sub-committees, established by the executive, have given valuable assistance to voluntary organisations concerned with specific activities.

1953

Article typifying hypocrisy and hate speech against unmarried mothers

(article continued over page)



## Sometimes we brand our babies'

**U**NMARRIED mothers who hit the headlines in widely publicised disputed-baby cases are not only storing up trouble and tribulation for themselves but are adding insult to injury and heaping it on the head of the innocent child.

To begin with, a mother's deep and abiding love, which

TO begin with, a mother's deep and abiding love, which moves her to make life-long sacrifices for the happiness and well-being of her offspring, doesn't happen overnight.

A mere seed at the first sight of her unlovely infant, her love for the child grows and develops side by side and step by step with the child's progress.

**T**O many of the "natural" mothers who part with their unwanted babies—without a pang, it seems—when they are only a few days' old, the infant isn't a personality at all. It is just another bundle of humanity.

It seems unlikely then, that a few months later, a surge of "the milk of human kindness" could be the real and unselfish motive for her taking the now thriving and happy child from

<sup>164</sup> 1953 'Value OS Association Of Social Workers.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 24 March, p. 9, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48301584>

thriving and happy child from the protective arms of its dotting foster-parents.

What's more, when a legal battle results, as it so often does, it draws morbid and widespread attention to the unfortunate circumstances of her child's birth and indelibly brands him with a social stigma which otherwise would no doubt have been forgotten.

When a baby is legally adopted by a married couple, it has all the advantages of a good home (the State usually makes sure of this) and a name it can be proud of; consequently it grows up in a normal environment into a socially well-adjusted young person.

**YOU** see, following legal adoption, an infant's birth certificate establishes beyond doubt, so far as the world and posterity are concerned, that the new parents are the rightful (and, to all intents, natural) ones. No-one can legally dispute it.

Legal adoption is no easy road to parenthood. The pangs of childbirth are soon over and soon forgotten but a long drawn-out labour of love is required to bring searching and humiliating State inquiries and legal battles to successful fruition



165

1953



### Segregate Subnormals?<sup>166</sup>

Social welfare officer [Miss Wilga Fleming](#), told interstate delegates to the Sub Normal Children's Assn. Conference today that the Australian Government was not doing as much as Governments overseas for sub-normal children.

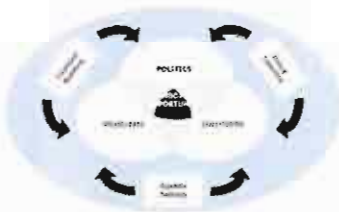
She also suggested the segregation of sub-normal children in families when brothers and sisters reached adolescent age because she claimed they could retard the social life of the other children. Miss Fleming also said parents tended to cut themselves off from society when they had a sub-normal child. That did not allow such children to reach the limit of ability.



<sup>165</sup> 1953 'HERE IT IS AGAIN! MORE OF... THIS and THAT by Ruth Allen.', *Western Mail* (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 7 May, p. 34, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article39357568>



1953



### Time Lapse Before Adoptions<sup>167</sup>

A child which an unmarried mother wishes to surrender for adoption should be taken immediately by the adopting parents, said Miss Joyce Cox at a meeting of the National Council of Women. Miss Joyce Cox said she was speaking on behalf of Dr Irene Sebire, who was unable to attend the meeting. "To prevent psychological disturbance in the child, the transfer should be made without waiting for the ratification of the Equity Court of the agreement between the two parties," she said. Mrs. Preston Stanley Vaughn said that it should be made illegal for adopting parents to take the child before the papers had been signed in Court, but that the indefinite period of time now allowed a mother to make up her mind about the adoption of her child should be shortened. Matron Constance Fall, Matron in charge of King George V Hospital, suggesting a two month lapse of time, said that to shorten the period too much would not be in the best interests of the mother, who was not in a fit state to decide the child's future in the first weeks after her confinement.

**Miss Wilga Fleming, representing the Social Workers Association said: "If an unmarried woman is given guidance throughout her pregnancy by a trained social worker or agency, as is the case in America, she will have made up her mind about the child's future by the time it is born."**

1953



### Social Workers To Confer<sup>168</sup>

The national conference of the **Australian Association of Social Workers** will begin in Sydney on Monday. The main topic of discussion will be : The contribution of social work to the study and service of family needs."

1953



### Should the Adoption Law be Changed?<sup>169</sup>

Recommendations to avoid a repeat of the Mace v/s Murray case are suggested, including:

- Documents necessary for the adoption order should be completed within one month of the mother's initial consent to the adoption of her child;
- The child should not be delivered to the adopting parents until agreement is final;
- The Government should appoint a committee of social workers to

<sup>166</sup> 1953 'Segregate Subnormals?;', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 19 April, p. 8, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59552638>

<sup>167</sup> 1953 'Time-Lapse Before Adoptions.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 25 September, p. 11, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27524182>

<sup>168</sup> 1953 'Social Workers To Confer.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 30 September, p. 2, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18380006>

<sup>169</sup> 1953 'Should The Adoption Law Be Changed?;', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 1 October, p. 2, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18390934>

examine and report on the Child Welfare Act.

Unmarried mother not permitted to see her baby, according to article: "Obviously, he cannot stay with his natural mother who, in all probability, has not been allowed to see him. If he is not sent immediately to the adopting parents, he most certainly should not be placed in an institution where he will be deprived, at an important period in his life, of a relationship with a mother."

1953

### To Join Social Science Staff At University<sup>170</sup>

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR Miss Margaret Thornhill, a graduate of Western Reserve University, of which Mrs. Hall is also a graduate, who is in Australia on a Fulbright Scholarship, will arrive in Adelaide on November 15 from Sydney, and will spend a fortnight here. She is interested in the interpretation of social work to the community through community organisation, and has made a special study of the problem of the unmarried mother.



1953



### Fulbright Scholar's Experience In Child Welfare<sup>171</sup>

Miss Margaret Thornhill, a Fulbright Scholar who has been attached to the Social Studies Department of the University of Sydney, will arrive in Adelaide on Sunday and will spend a busy fortnight here. The Department of Social Science at the University of Adelaide, the SA branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers, and the SA Council of Social Service are all anxious that social workers in Adelaide shall take full advantage of the visit of Miss Thornhill, who has had wide experience in the US, particularly in relation to child welfare and community organisation.

She will conduct seminars for the supervisors' group of the AASW at the University ... in the office of Miss J. McLennan, assistant lecturer, Social Science Department, and hon. secretary of the SA branch of the AASW... Miss Thornhill will address a general meeting of staff and committee members from local institutions on 'The Child in the Institution.' The SA Council of Social Service has arranged a conference on the same theme... for the benefit of those who work with children in homes and institutions in SA. Problems will be approached from the aspect of administration, the child, and the community. Miss Thornhill's extensive experience has included child placement, foster home care, adoptions and children's court work... She spent more than six years in community organisation, being responsible for co-ordinating the work of all local child welfare agencies, and for setting up standards of child care. She has also been associated with training of institutional staff. She holds the degree of AB from Michigan University and MSS from Western Reserve University.



<sup>170</sup> 1953 'To Join Social Science Staff At University.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 30 October, p. 15, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48917090>



1953



STUDY OF THE  
UNWED MOTHER

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY  
OF THE UNWED  
MOTHER

ADOPTION IN  
THE BEST INTERESTS  
OF THE  
'ILLEGITIMATE' CHILD

MARRIAGE WILL NOT  
SAVE THE UNWED  
MOTHER

## Studying Our Social Problems And Our Approach To Them<sup>172</sup>

Keen interest is being taken by social workers particularly those associated with institutional aspects of child welfare, in the visit of Miss Margaret Thornhill, Fulbright Scholar, who will conduct seminars in Adelaide during the next fortnight with 'the child in the institution' as the main theme.

Although Miss Thornhill speaks with special authority on institutional care and other aspects of child welfare based on wide experience in the US, her interest and knowledge covers the much wider field of social problems generally, the human values involved, and the attitude of the community towards them. Since April she has been attached to the Social Studies Department of the University of Sydney, where she has found opportunity to study at first hand the social problems and the social services of this country and compare them with the American scene.

She said yesterday that she had found very marked similarities in the problems, but considerable difference in the approach to and the handling of many of them. Here as in every other country, the basic social problem was that of the child who for one reason or another, was deprived of the care and affection he should receive in his own home, the child who for his own good needed to be separated from his parents. This point led to comment on one aspect of this problem of which Miss Thornhill has made special study, that of the child of the unmarried mother.

'As far as any direct policy on this question is concerned,' she said, in America we have none. Wherever possible each case is dealt with individually. But practice and experience over many years have shown that adoption is in the best interests of both mother and child. The woman whose behaviour deviates from the moral code is under a social handicap that is very difficult to overcome, and in the majority of cases a handicap that is personal as well as social.

In the past it was assumed that the only psychological difference from the normal relationship of mother and child was in the absence of the marriage certificate. Our experience has disproved that assumption as a general thing, just as experience has proved that a forced marriage has no basis for future happiness, either for the parents or for the child. Lack of any depth of relationship, of appreciation of the true basis of marriage, militates against any prospect of success for such marriages or of a happy, stable home atmosphere for the child.'

Miss Thornhill's attitude to the value to the community of trained

<sup>171</sup> 1953 'Fulbright Scholar's Experience In Child Welfare.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 10 November, p. 11, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48923667>

<sup>172</sup> 1953 'Studying Our Social Problems And Our Approach To Them.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 17 November, p. 7, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48919075>



social service is summed up in her definition of social case work as 'an accumulation of common sense over many years of trial and error through experimentation.' The core of case work, she added, was drawn from all the other professions confirmed with the humanities.

## Bill Removes Difficulties In Adoptions

A Bill now before the Legislative Assembly envisages reciprocal arrangements with other States in Australia and other countries in the British Commonwealth for the adoption of children.

The Bill, if passed, will empower the Minister for Child Welfare to make such arrangements.

Moving the second reading yesterday, the Premier (Mr. Hawke) said that the provisions of the Bill were required urgently to meet some difficult and rather distressing cases.

Another amendment in the Bill provided for the registration of the birth of a child.

It gave the Registrar-General power to register a birth and meet the wishes of the adopting parents in that matter.

173

<sup>173</sup>1953 'Bill Removes Difficulties In Adoptions.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 25 September, p. 8, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article52930620>

1953



### Future Of Social Welfare<sup>174</sup>

"Miss Lyra Taylor, administrative officer of the Social Work and Research Division of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, returned to Australia recently after spending several months studying social welfare developments in the UK, Canada and the US. She will visit Adelaide early next month. The SA Council of Social Service and the SA branch, **Australian Association of Social Workers**, have cooperated to arrange a ... which Miss Taylor will speak on 'Hopes and Fears for Social Welfare.' Professor Mark Mitchell will preside."

1954

**Constitution of the Queen Victoria Hospital in Annandale NSW** amended to have its primary object changed from general maternity to obstetric and social facilities to accommodate unmarried mothers and their babies.

1954



## Adoption

**DR. NORVAL MORRIS'** disclosure that more than 750 orphaned babies in Victoria go out to "unchecked" parents each year should be carefully noted by the State Government. So must his other criticisms of the State's laws of adoption.

New legislation is now being framed to clear a path through the jungle of the State's child welfare laws. We hope **DR. MORRIS'** facts and opinions will be considered by Cabinet before the bill is given final shape.



175

1954



### Adoption Aids Barren Wives<sup>176</sup>

An effective psychological treatment, used in the past by family doctors, is being widely adopted. Often a barren couple consulting their physician in a small town would be advised to adopt a baby to fill the void. The adopted infant, cuddled and pressed to the foster parent's breast, often produced physiological changes in the body of the woman, resulting in natural conception. Today, when diagnosis fails to disclose the cause of deficiency in a childless couple, therapists advise: "Adopt a child and see what happens."

<sup>174</sup> 1953 'Future Of Social Welfare.', The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 24 November, p. 9, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article48923897>

<sup>175</sup> 1954 'Adoption.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 3 May, p. 4, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23430423>

<sup>176</sup> 1954 'Adoption aids barren wives.', The Sun-Herald (Sydney, NSW : 1953 - 1954), 3 January, p. 64, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12639123>





1954

Hundreds of parents are asking...

**IS OUR BABY  
SAFE?**

The Fry  
Case

The Mace  
Case

Each year 1000 mothers  
surrender their babies for  
adoption. Only 300 of these  
helpless babies are pro-  
tected by the supervision of  
reputable organisations.  
The other 700 are handed  
across surreptitiously in "private."

*Victorian article titled "Is Our Baby Safe?" reports fears of prospective adoptive parents following the Mace v/s Murray and the Joan Fry cases.*<sup>178</sup>

1954



### Acute shortage of social workers<sup>179</sup>

There was a 'terrific' shortage of trained social workers in Australia, Miss Lyra Taylor said yesterday. Miss Taylor is Commonwealth Social Services Department, Social Work and Research Division administrative officer. She is in Brisbane from Melbourne to sneak tonight on 'What the New School of Social Work Could Mean to Queensland.' The talk is sponsored by the **Australian Association of Social Workers**. **Miss Taylor is chief of the trained social workers employed by the Commonwealth department in each State...** The Queensland University next year would set up a course in social studies, she said.

<sup>178</sup> 1954 'Hundreds of parents are askin[?] IS OUR BABY SAFE?.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 15 May, p. 11, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article23414692>

<sup>179</sup> 1954 "'Acute shortage" of social workers.', The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954), 3 August, p. 3, viewed 19 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-artle50589830>

A Significant Conference between the Australian Association of Social Workers  
and Community Welfare Organizations and Hospital Representatives  
in the Sydney Metropolitan Area

# N.S.W. UNWED MOTHERS: REPORT SOON

**A report on the problem of unmarried mothers and their children will come before the State Government soon.**

The Acting Minister for Child Welfare, Mr. J. F. McGrath, said that he expected the report to be completed in about five weeks.

Members of a special committee of the Social Workers' Association of New South Wales have spent more than three months gathering material and preparing the report.

Mr. McGrath said that the State Government was very interested in the problem.

"The Department of Social Welfare and the Child Welfare Department already do important work in this field," he said.

"I shall give the report my closest attention."

## REPRESENTATION

The convener of the committee, Miss J. Gore, said that it consisted of representatives of the Child Welfare Department, Crown Street Women's Hospital, the Royal Hospital for Women, the King George V Memorial Hospital for Mothers and Babies, the Catholic Welfare Bureau, the Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies, "Bethesda," South Sydney Maternity Hospital, the Rachel Forster Hospital for Women, and the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital.

She said the report would cover the whole problem presented by unmarried mothers and their children, that facilities were available for their care and help, whether the facilities were

adequate, adoption procedure, leading-out of expectant mothers, attitude of the public, and similar questions.

Miss Gore said: "We hope it will be a very complete survey of the problem, especially as it exists in Sydney."

"What we all felt was the great need for more understanding."

## KEEPING TRACK

"For three months last year members of the group interviewed every unwed mother who approached any of the hospitals or institutions catering for them. We then followed her until the baby was born."

"Wherever possible we tried to keep track of the baby for several months afterwards as well."

"The report will also incorporate material gathered by the American Fulbright scholar, Miss Margaret Thornhill, who was here studying out care of unmarried mothers last year."

Miss Gore said she thought more accommodation should be available for unmarried expectant mothers.

At present the resources of the Sydney hospitals and homes caring for them were fully taxed all the year round.

"It is a field where the State Government could help," she added.

"Just what sort of accommodation is best for these young unmarried mothers is another problem the report will cover. Perhaps cottage homes or maternity homes are

best; often girls feel uncomfortable and unhappy in big institutions or hostels.

"If there was more accommodation fewer girls would suffer unnecessary hardship and misery."

## WAITING LISTS

The secretary of a well-known maternity hospital said that at some time during the year all the homes and hospitals caring for unmarried mothers had a waiting list.

"Sometimes we have as many as eight waiting to be admitted to our hospital alone," she said.

"It is not very good for them, for they are already under a great strain; and a long wait can force a girl to try other ways of getting rid of her baby."

REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATION OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS FORMED JUNE 11, 1953  
AT QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. E. S. Caldwell.  
Rev. H. J. Gidwell (Chairman) Member of Board of Queen Victoria Hospital.  
Mrs. A. Ford (Secretary), Sister Roberts (Nurse), Sister Annabella  
(St. Anthony's), Barbara Moon (Nurse), Mr. D. Crawford (Baptist  
Home Trust), Mr. H. Allen and Miss E. McDonald (Queen Victoria Hospital).  
Mrs. G. J. Carey (Nurse), Sister Sara Carey (Nurse),  
Major L. Hannon (Nurse), Miss M. Hannon (Nurse), Mrs. H. Hannon  
(Nurse).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.  
It was reported that Hospital Committees and District Committees should  
be formed to co-ordinate the work of the hospitals and to advise the  
Government on the subject.

- Mr. Gidwell: He spoke of present. He said that the committee  
had been formed to study the problem of the unmarried mother and to  
advise the Government on the subject.
- Mr. Gidwell: He said that the committee had been formed to study  
the problem of the unmarried mother and to advise the Government on  
the subject.
- Mr. Gidwell: He said that the committee had been formed to study  
the problem of the unmarried mother and to advise the Government on  
the subject.

As was agreed this committee will co-operate with the various groups of  
unmarried mothers and a great deal of work has been done in the  
last few months. The committee has held several meetings and has  
discussed the problem of the unmarried mother and the various  
aspects of the problem. It has also held several public meetings  
and has received a great deal of support from the public. The  
committee has also held several public meetings and has received  
a great deal of support from the public. The committee has also  
held several public meetings and has received a great deal of support  
from the public. The committee has also held several public meetings  
and has received a great deal of support from the public.

The committee has also held several public meetings and has received  
a great deal of support from the public. The committee has also  
held several public meetings and has received a great deal of support  
from the public.

The committee has also held several public meetings and has received  
a great deal of support from the public. The committee has also  
held several public meetings and has received a great deal of support  
from the public.

The committee has also held several public meetings and has received  
a great deal of support from the public. The committee has also  
held several public meetings and has received a great deal of support  
from the public.

The committee has also held several public meetings and has received  
a great deal of support from the public. The committee has also  
held several public meetings and has received a great deal of support  
from the public.

The committee has also held several public meetings and has received  
a great deal of support from the public. The committee has also  
held several public meetings and has received a great deal of support  
from the public.

The minutes of a meeting in 1975, detailing those welfare organizations in the Sydney metropolitan region which formed a committee with the Australian Association of Social Workers in 1953. The object was to study the unmarried mother and to share the ideas of Miss Margaret Thornhill who had been studying "the problem of the unmarried mother" in the US. Significantly, it contains a discussion around whether or not to permit the unmarried mother to nurse and feed her child.

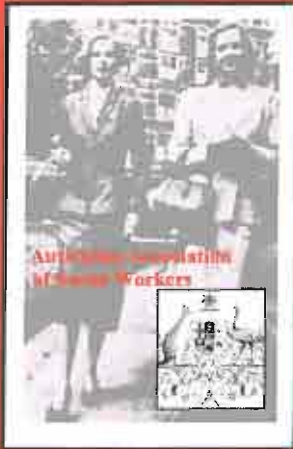
1954

**Govt to Consider A Report On Unwed Mothers<sup>181</sup>**  
**Outlines objectives of a report commissioned by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW), including that:**

- its members interviewed more than 300 unmarried mothers and, for three months in 1953, questioned every unwed mother who approached hospitals or institutions catering for them. Regarding impetus for that investigation, convenor of the committee Mrs J Gore stated: "A

<sup>181</sup> 1954 'Govt. To Consider A Report On Unwed Mothers.', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 13 August, p. 4, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article18439860>





surprising large number of girls – about 40%, in fact – left hospital with their babies and intended to keep them.” It was also reported that only a small proportion of NSW girls who become pregnant out of wedlock sought the help of social agents during pregnancy. Mrs J Gore, regarding the latter scenario, said: “This is to be regretted. We feel that doctors, nurses and clergymen who come into contact with the girls should encourage them to seek our help.”

The Report also noted:

- a lack of accommodation and other facilities for unmarried mothers during their pregnancy;
- more funds needed by social agencies catering for unwed mothers;
- most agencies unable to admit the girls until the sixth or seventh month of pregnancy; and
- with more funds the AASW could care for the girls earlier.

Mrs J Gore speculated: “We wonder how many of these girls will later decide to have their baby adopted; and if they keep them, whether they have the emotional and material ability to fulfill the needs of the child.”

1954



### **Child Available for Adoption**<sup>182</sup>

The head of a charitable organisation that runs several (maternity) homes in New South Wales, told The Canberra Times that a young unmarried girl, shortly to have a child, wants it adopted by a Roman Catholic couple. The organisation, which is non-sectarian, has arranged adoptions for babies for some years.

*A leading Canberra citizen vouches for a prominent official in Sydney financial, commercial and charitable circles, who suggests that his name or that of the home not be used, so that the mother, who will not see her child, will have no indication of its destination. An official in Canberra who has assisted in adoptions for several years said yesterday there was no legal bar to a couple resident in Canberra adopting a baby born in N.S.W. His office worked in close co-operation with N.S.W. Child Welfare authorities, he said.”*

1954

### **Should She Surrender her Baby?**<sup>183</sup>

Unmarried mothers throughout Australia can receive financial assistance before and after their confinement from the Commonwealth Social Services Department.

*The usual sickness benefit payments are available to these mothers for six weeks before and six weeks after their confinement. The rates are: £1/11 weekly for girls aged 16 to 18 years; £2/0/0 for the 18 to-21-years age group; and £2/10/0 for the 21-and-over group. In*

<sup>182</sup> 1954 'Child Available For Adoption.', The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1954), 13 August, p. 2, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2892871>

<sup>183</sup> 1954 'SURRENDER HER BABY?.', The Australian Women's Weekly (1933 - 1982), 8 September, p. 26, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46448400>



addition, if the mother decides to keep her child she can also receive a 5/- weekly payment for it for six weeks after its birth. As well as these benefits, unmarried mothers can claim child endowment of 5/- a week for the first child and the maternity allowance of £15 for the first child. In N.S.W., under section 27 of the Child Welfare Act an unmarried mother who wants to keep her child but cannot afford to support it may apply to the Child Welfare Department for regular payments.

1954

**Should She Surrender her Baby?<sup>184</sup>**

"We wonder how these unmarried mothers are going to manage," (Sydney Almoner) Miss Gore said, "and whether they will find them selves eventually forced to have the child adopted."



*"One theory strongly backed by social workers over seas is that although it is hard for the mother to give her child up, it may be better in the long run for the baby to be adopted into a family."*

The article relates the story of an unsupported, unwed mother counseled to surrender her baby: "Gradually, she began to respond to the understanding shown by the social worker and was able to plan for the welfare of the baby. She finally decided to surrender him for adoption."

1954

**Social Worker Urges Training Course In W.A.<sup>185</sup>**

Miss Lyra Taylor of Melbourne, administrative officer of the social work and research department of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, said yesterday that she hoped this State would plan soon to establish its own university course for social workers. She is in Perth for a week to confer with fellow social workers in the department here. "At present," she said, "young men and women from Western Australia who wish to qualify for one of the many and varied social work openings have to go to the Eastern States for training." This was unfortunate when there were so many demands for social workers in this State Next year, said Miss Taylor, the Queensland University would open a course in social work.



<sup>184</sup> 1954 'SURRENDER HER BABY?.', The Australian Women's Weekly (1933 - 1982), 8 September, p. 26, viewed 20 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46448400>

<sup>185</sup> 1954 'Social Worker Urges Training Course In W.A.', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 23 September, p. 19, viewed 22 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49881783>



## TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES

The Director of International Social Services, Mr. William T. Kirk, is in Canberra to discuss the establishment of an Australian branch of his organisation.

With headquarters in Geneva, the body has a consultative status with the United Nations.

When he arrived in Australia just over a week ago, Mr. Kirk, an American, had talks with the Commonwealth Director of Social Services and his staff in Melbourne.

In Canberra, where he arrived on Tuesday, he has conferred with Immigration authorities and the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration. He will leave for Sydney to-day to continue his talks.

Mr. Kirk said yesterday that

his discussions, both with Government representatives and voluntary organisations, had been encouraging. He hoped an International Social Services branch would be set up within the next few months.

The organisation has representatives in 58 countries of the world. Mr. Kirk said it was "past time" that a branch was established in Australia. The service, which has been functioning since 1921, is being extended to countries receiving significant numbers of migrants. It acts as a link between the social service organisations of different countries.

Mr. Kirk said the body would be of great assistance to migrants in Australia. In cases where families were separated, the organisation could help to care for migrants' dependents who remained in Europe, or act as a liaison between families of whom some members had migrated and others wished to come to Australia.

186

1954



Article titled, "Housemaid mother asks for her baby back" reports:<sup>187</sup>

- consent of the mother taken in hospital while she was distraught and upset;
- mother not permitted to see baby because it was to be adopted;
- a relative of the mother not permitted to see the baby;
- eight days after the birth of her child, the mother asks the nursing sister if she may leave the hospital but is told that she must sign adoption papers first;
- mother did not receive notice of adoption proceedings.

<sup>186</sup> 1954 'TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES.', The Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1954), 28 May, p. 4, viewed 24 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2907365>

<sup>187</sup> 1954 "'Susan was adopted without my consent' Housemaid mother asks for her baby back.', The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1956), 7 April, p. 3, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article26601640>



1954



## Babies for the Brave<sup>188</sup>

*Every adoption institute has its percentage of "unadoptables" – children with crippled limbs, bad heredity, blind, deaf, congenital hearts, mental defects.*

This article also relates the practice of allowing prospective adoptive parents to select a baby.

1956



## Bethesda Maternity Hospital Established

1956



**Social workers not to approach the mother in solicitation of her consent to the adoption of her child.**

(See attachment "A" in blue folder: Directors Report to the Queensland 1950s)

1955-56



1067 adoptions registered in QLD

1958

An example of the many similar articles linking Commonwealth Government funding to sterility clinics providing newborns from major maternity hospitals to childless married couples



Sterility usually needs the help of a specialist, and there are sterility clinics at most big hospitals.

Both partners of the marriage need to be examined, and it is quite useless to have trial courses of injections without having had very thorough preliminary examinations.

Much can be done to help those anxious to have children; failing success, adoption of a baby is often the answer.

I have frequently seen a woman, happy, contented and relaxed with, her adopted baby, become pregnant much too soon for her convenience.

This of course applies only to the nervous causes of sterility. The physical causes should be investigated when a woman has wanted a baby for two years without success.

189

<sup>188</sup> 1954 'BABIES FOR THE BRAVE.', Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 25 November, p. 4, viewed 21 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article39368506>

1958



Victorian Institute of Hospital Almoners and the Australian Association of Almoners amalgamate with the **Australian Association of Social Workers** in 1958 to form a Special Interest Group within the AASW – the Medical Social Workers Group. Some of the almoner/social work staff at the RMH are key figures in the evolution of the Associations and with the increasing professionalisation of social workers.<sup>190</sup>

*The Committee of Origins SPSA Inc calls for these records of the Commonwealth, stored in the University of Melbourne, to be opened to the scrutiny of a Royal Commission, based on evidence in this timeline of the close association of the Commonwealth Department of Social Services with the Australian Association of Social Workers.*

1961



## COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE ACT 1961

Authorizes the marriage of a person who has attained to the age of 16, who is below the age of 18, under exceptional circumstances.<sup>191</sup>

1963

Article reads: 'In rare cases, where the specialist finds some insuperable barrier to conception (sterility) which is likely to be permanent, he will introduce the infertile couples to an organization (usually a large public maternity hospital) where they can be put on a waiting list to adopt a new-born baby in due course...'

In rare cases, where the specialist finds some insuperable barrier to conception (sterility) which is likely to be permanent, he will introduce the infertile couple to an organization (usually a large public maternity hospital) where they can be put on a waiting list to adopt a new-born baby in due course. This waiting period can be up to two years.

192







<sup>189</sup> 1958 'Make a friend of your doctor.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 6 August, p. 54, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article51776275>

<sup>190</sup> <<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/archives/collections/pdfs/aasw.pdf>>

<sup>191</sup> 1961 Commonwealth Marriage Act, retrieved 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, from <[http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol\\_act/ma196185/](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/ma196185/)>





<p>1965</p> 	<p><b>The big query: WHY a falling birthrate?</b><sup>192</sup>  Staff reporter Kay Kearney says not so long ago it was fashionable to blame everything from juvenile delinquency to three-legged calves on The Bomb. That's been outgrown, thank goodness. Now The Pill gets the blame. On July 7, for example, the news broke that the birthrate for the first quarter of 1965 was the lowest for 22 years. To be precise, it was 19.47 per 1000 head of population, only slightly above the birthrate in the middle of World War II and 1037 fewer than for the same period in 1964. Most people had the answer pat. "Of course," folk muttered darkly, "it's The Pill."</p>
<p>1972</p>	<p><b>4,564 registered adoptions in NSW</b></p>
<p>1973</p> 	<p><b>Whitlam Government  Unmarried Mothers Benefit</b></p>
<p>1973</p>	<p><b>2,685 registered adoptions in NSW</b><sup>193</sup></p>
<p>1974</p>	<p><b>2,058 registered adoptions in NSW</b></p>
<p>1975</p>	<p><b>1,889 registered adoptions in NSW</b></p>
<p>1975</p> 	<p><b>WHERE HAVE ALL THE BABIES GONE?</b></p>  <p>A phenomenon that has hit Australia's prospective adoptive parents...</p> <p>... "I don't believe it's because unmarried mothers now get a better allowance from the Government - \$35 a week isn't all that much - no, it's just that people today are much more sympathetic to a girl who has a baby and decides to keep it," social work lecturer Mary McLelland told PATRICIA JOHNSON.</p> <p>194</p>
<p>1976</p>	<p><b>1,763 registered adoptions in NSW</b></p>
<p>1977</p>	<p><b>1,509 registered adoptions in NSW</b></p>

<sup>192</sup> 1965 'The big query: WHY a falling birthrate?.', The Australian Women's Weekly (1933 - 1982), 28 July, p. 4, viewed 23 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46448886>

<sup>193</sup> All adoption figures cited pp110-111 were retrieved 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2011, from <[http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlament/committee.nsf/0/56e4e53dfa16a023ca256cfd002a63bc/\\$FILE/Report.PDF](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlament/committee.nsf/0/56e4e53dfa16a023ca256cfd002a63bc/$FILE/Report.PDF)>

<sup>194</sup> 1975 'WHERE HAVE ALL THE BABIES GONE?.', The Australian Women's Weekly (1933 - 1982), 14 May, p. 57, viewed 25 September, 2011, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article44022040>



1978	<b>1,041 registered adoptions in NSW</b>
1979	<b>1,094 registered adoptions in NSW</b>
<p>1979</p>  <p>Image: Channel Nine newsman, Jim Waley, reporter for Documentary titled "The Baby Makers"</p>	<p>As well as examining artificial insemination, Waley looked at other solutions to the problem, including</p> <p>fertility drugs, test tube babies, micro-surgery and adoption. Adoption, he established, was once the simplest solution to the problem of infertility.</p> <p>But there is now a shortage of children for adoption. In 1972, he points out, there were 2100 babies available for adoption through the New South Wales government agencies alone.</p> <p>This year there will be barely 300. The waiting time to adopt a baby can be nine years. Waley suggests the reason for the delay is "possibly a shift in community attitudes towards single mothers."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">196</p>
<p>1979</p>  <p>"...since adoption had become so difficult, they are more likely to take medical advice than in the past..."</p>	<p>Meanwhile, in Australia, men and women can consult private practitioners in the country or city and, if that fails, go to a fertility clinic.</p> <p>The honorary director of the Crown Street clinic, Australia's oldest, says that one in six couples has some difficulty having a baby, and since adoption has become so difficult, they are more likely to take medical advice than in the past. A clinic sister remarked that many arrive at a fertility clinic only to learn some of the simplest advice for facilitating conception.</p> <p>For instance, pregnancy is more likely to occur if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The woman lies on her back with a pillow under her bottom during intercourse;</li> <li>Does not get up immediately after intercourse;</li> <li>Does not use a lubricant like baby oil or vaseline, which can kill sperm.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: right;">197</p>
1982	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Hospital Policy Circular 1082</h3> <p>The Health Commission distributed its Policy Circular to warn all medical staff that the practice of preventing unmarried mothers from seeing their babies, or putting obstacles in their way of asserting that right prior to a consent being signed was in breach of the Adoption of Children Act 1965 on mental health or legal grounds as well as being in breach of the mother's common law rights as a parent.</p>

<sup>195</sup> Ibid.

<sup>196</sup> 1979 "THE BABY MAKERS!", *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 22 August, p. 33, viewed 3 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55471083>

<sup>197</sup> 1979 'What's being done about INFERTILITY.', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 10 January, p. 18, viewed 5 January, 2012, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article58568196>

1982	<b>1,175 registered adoptions in NSW</b>
1983	<b>904 registered adoptions in NSW</b>
1984	<b>741 registered adoptions in NSW</b>



AASW

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS LTD  
 (INCORPORATED IN AUSTRALIA)

Head Office	Telephone	06 275 4176
175 St James Street, Sydney	Branch	081 281 000
175 St James Street, Sydney	Branch	08 222 2189
Postal Address	Website	http://www.aasw.org.au
PO Box 100, Sydney NSW 1587	Email	info@11000.aasw.org.au

### STATEMENT ABOUT ADOPTION

The Australian Association of Social Workers Ltd (AASW) expresses its extreme regret at the lifelong pain experienced by many women who have relinquished their children for adoption.

In doing this, we recognise that decisions taken in the past, although based on the best knowledge of the time, and made with the best of intentions, may nevertheless have been fundamentally flawed.

Many individuals and professions, social workers included, were in the past involved in the process that led mothers to give up their children for adoption. With the wisdom of hindsight, and with an awareness of the knowledge, resource, and support now available, we believe that in the same situations today, the same individuals and professionals would give very different advice. This in no way diminishes the pain felt by the mothers and children who were separated at birth.

12 June 1997

*The above Statement of Regret was offered to the recent 6th Australian Conference on Adoption held in Brisbane last June. It was decided not to read it out to the audience as it did not address the Social workers illicit complicity in past practices but was simply an acknowledgement of the grief caused by adoption separation, which was not what had been requested by the past adoption support groups.*

**AASW Apology: Rejected by the mothers**