

# CHILD MIGRANTS TRUST

## *Family Restoration Fund*

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## Family Restoration Fund

### Background

The FRF aims to help reunite former child migrants with their families, participate in significant family events or urgently visit family members in times of crisis such as serious illness or death. It seeks to remove some practical obstacles to family life that impact on former child migrants through distance and the cost of international travel.

The Child Migrants Trust will administer the Family Restoration Fund using a grant from the UK Government. CMT was established in 1987 to provide a specialist professional social work, counselling, family research and advisory service for former child migrants world-wide, and to facilitate family reunions. The Trust will work with other agencies representing former child migrants to encourage and support applications to the Family Restoration Fund.

### Scope of the FRF

The Fund will cover practical costs arising from travel to and from the United Kingdom, or wherever family members now live, as well as multi-stop travel within countries including economy air fares, transfers, accommodation, passport & visa fees, travel insurance and medical insurance costs. Accommodation costs will be limited to £1,000 **in total**, where family accommodation is unavailable or not an appropriate option during the visit.

Funding is available to meet the basic travel costs for a carer (economy return air fare; transfers & insurance), where there is medical support to evidence the need. The FRF aims to be responsive and flexible and includes an option for reverse applications, enabling up to two family members to travel where the former child migrant is considered medically unfit to travel. Requests will be considered on a case by case basis. The FRF is not means tested.

### Exclusions

The Fund will not be available for holidays or other recreational travel; for hardship relief or income support, or to support non-travel expenses such as funeral costs, genealogy services, legal fees, medical costs etc.

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A.B.N. 22692168722

Gifts of \$2.00 & Upwards Are Deductible For Income Tax purposes

The FRF is not available for those who left the UK through voluntary youth migration schemes or those sent from other countries outside the UK, such as Malta.

### **Priorities in the first year**

As high demand is expected, applications will be initially limited to the following priorities:

- Applications from former child migrants already known by CMT or another support agency to be awaiting their family reunion but prevented through lack of funding;
- Applications from former child migrants seeking their first family reunion. This means a first reunion ever and does not mean a first reunion funded through government schemes.
- Requests for urgent travel, for example following a family crisis such as serious illness or death, will be considered as priority applications even where the visit is not a first reunion. We will ask for evidence that the need to travel is urgent.

***Any former child migrant believed to meet the priority criteria should be referred to the Trust, or an approach made to CMT by their support agency on their behalf, as soon as possible.***

### **Application process**

A simple, straightforward application process that can, in most cases, be managed over the telephone is the intention of the FRF. Forms and guidelines will be available online through the CMT website from the week beginning 20 September 2010. A two-part application process that initially establishes eligibility with basic information; to be followed later with greater detail of travel planning and estimate of costs, has been designed. Feedback and suggestions regarding the application process will be welcome.

Former child migrants already working with another agency may apply to the FRF through their support worker. A written authority to apply on behalf of the former child migrant should be sufficient to ensure clarity of responsibilities and permission to exchange information.

### **Travel arrangements and professional services**

It is anticipated that most applicants will arrange their own travel, once their application has been formally approved in writing. Where appropriate, skilled assistance to manage complex family relationships, particularly initial reunions, is available and will be offered. Some former child migrants may need assistance to trace and engage missing members of their family. This area of specialist practice remains at the heart of the Trust's work.

CMT has written to all former child migrants for whom we hold a current address, regarding the Family Restoration Fund. Over the coming months there will be a range of initiatives to raise awareness. Your assistance in promoting the Fund and developing a broad understanding of this resource across the child migrant community is appreciated.

Please feel free to contact CMT to discuss any aspect of the FRF.

Ian Thwaites  
Service Manager  
10/9/2010