



NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS & FORMER CHILD MIGRANTS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The National Library of Australia is conducting an oral history project to document the lifelong impact of institutional and out-of-home care. The interviews will ensure that the voices of many who were in care as children, their families, advocates, and people who worked in children's homes and in child welfare will be heard and their experiences remembered.

THE PROJECT SO FAR

A team of over 30 interviewers has been busy recording interviews all over Australia and even a few in the UK. One hundred interviews have been completed. More than half of these are available in full online at nla.gov.au/digicoll/ListentotheForgottenAustralians.html.

Some of those interviewed have had a lifelong search for work or have chosen family life. Others have had a range of careers, including in politics, business, law, defence, police and prison services, nursing, journalism, social work, education, the arts, the trades or in religious life.

“ First of all I was amazed there were so many of us— it tore my heart in two. It made me realise that I couldn't change the past that was there and others had been through. I'm glad I went (to the Apology) because in a way it freed me from that terrible abuse somehow. ”
YOONTHALLA



Rob Willis interviewing Patricia Kirby in Queensland



Further information

1800 204 290 (freecall from landline) | fafcm@nla.gov.au

Proudly supported by the Australian Government, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs



EXPRESSING INTEREST IN BEING INTERVIEWED

The Library is still looking for people to be interviewed so we can record a range of experiences of those in care at different periods and in both regional and metropolitan areas. Over 300 people have expressed interest in telling their story, many of whom have heard about the project from advocacy organisations. However, there are still gaps in the variety of experiences covered; we would particularly like to hear from people who were in care in Tasmania and in rural and regional Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia. We also would like to hear from people who were in care anywhere in Australia and who now live in the Northern Territory. If you are interested in being interviewed, please print out and return the Expression of Interest form available at nla.gov.au/oh/fa/cm/documents/EOLinbeinginterviewedV5.pdf or contact Renée on 1800 204 290.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION

Inside: Life in Children's Homes and Institutions **National Museum of Australia, Canberra Opens 16 November 2011**

The opening of this exhibition coincides with the second anniversary of the Prime Minister's Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. *Inside* will provide a chance for all Australians to broaden their understanding of a history that has affected so many of us but that was hidden for so long. Several of the interviews recorded by the Library will feature in the exhibition.

“ When I think of the pain
and all the things I've been
through in the past, it's not a
waste because you can turn
your misery into your ministry,
or your pain into your passion,
your mess into your message.
This is very much my
philosophy of life. ”

JANET

“ The National Apology
meant that our country
recognised what happened to us.
People thought it would change
things, that services would be
immediately accessible
to them—those things
haven't happened. ”

CAROLINE



HAVE YOU PUBLISHED A BOOK ABOUT LIFE IN CARE?

The Library aims to collect a copy of every book and magazine published in Australia. We are particularly looking for self-published autobiographies by Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants, which can be hard to trace. If you have published a book about your life, please contact Renée on 1800 204 290.