



Australian Government

Department of Families, Housing,
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Find and Connect services

AUGUST 2011

As part of the National Apology to the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants on 16 November 2009, the Australian Government announced \$26.5 million over four years would be invested in a range of Find and Connect services for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants.

In consultation with care leavers and state and territory governments, the Government is taking a staged approach to the implementation of a suite of important services through the Find and Connect funding. These services will help Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants access professional counselling services, trace their personal and family histories and reunite with family members, where possible.

The National Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Consultative Forum performs a key advisory role in service system development and planning for Find and Connect implementation. This National Consultative Forum draws on representatives from care leaver advocacy groups, cultural institutions, archivists, past providers, and representatives from state and territory governments.

In June 2011, Minister Macklin announced more than \$3 million in the first stage of the Government's investment. This first stage will deliver:

- A national Find and Connect web resource to assist with the search for records held by past care provider organisations and government agencies. The University of Melbourne has been funded to develop this resource and undertake the research required to build a comprehensive directory. The web resource will be available towards the end of 2011.
- Funding for the Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN) to expand its counselling services and strengthen its national advocacy role on behalf of Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. You can contact CLAN on freecall 1800 008 774 during business hours or at www.clan.org.au for more information.
- Funding for the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) to continue its advocacy work and expand its national Ambassador program. This program focuses on educating service providers and the broader community about the history of Forgotten Australians, with an emphasis on educating the community about the special needs of care leavers as they age. You can contact AFA on 02 6273 4885 or at www.forgottenaustralians.org.au.
- Funding for the Child Migrants Trust (CMT) to extend its social work outreach services for Former Child Migrants to engage with them wherever they live around Australia. You can contact CMT on 03 9815 2022 or at www.childmigrantstrust.com.
- Funding for the International Association of Former Child Migrants (IAFCM) and their Families to support their information sharing and social connections program for Former Child Migrants. You can contact the IAFCM on 03 9815 2011 or at iafcm.hh@optusnet.com.au.

The Government will work with community agencies and the states and territories to encourage timely access to and the supported release of historical records to care leavers.

The Government is also supporting two major national history projects as part of its Find and Connect funding.

- The National Library of Australia is implementing a national oral history project to record the lives of a selection of care leavers. Information on the project is available at www.nla.gov.au/oh/fafcm.
- The National Museum of Australia is preparing to open an exhibition on 16 November 2011 entitled Inside: Life in Children's Homes and Institutions. Information on this project is available at www.nma.gov.au/blogs/inside. As part of the exhibition, the Museum has also developed an education package which can be accessed at http://www.nma.gov.au/education/school_resources/events/forgotten_australians/. This study unit will be published in *Studies of Society and Environment* magazine in September and all secondary school libraries will receive a copy.

For enquiries or further information about Find and Connect, email findandconnect@fahcsia.gov.au.