

# History of Australian inquiries reviewing institutions providing care for children

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## Project team

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse commissioned and funded this research project. It was carried out by the following researcher:

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## Disclaimer

The views and findings expressed in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Royal Commission. Any errors are the author's responsibility.

The scoping review was conducted between January and March 2014 and papers and reports dated after this time were not included.

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**Royal Commission**  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

## Preface

On Friday, 11 January 2013, the Governor-General appointed a six-member Royal Commission to inquire into how institutions with a responsibility for children have managed and responded to allegations and instances of child sexual abuse.

The Royal Commission is tasked with investigating where systems have failed to protect children, and making recommendations on how to improve laws, policies and practices to prevent and better respond to child sexual abuse in institutions.

The Royal Commission has developed a comprehensive research program to support its work and to inform its findings and recommendations. The program focuses on eight themes:

1. Why does child sexual abuse occur in institutions?
2. How can child sexual abuse in institutions be prevented?
3. How can child sexual abuse be better identified?
4. How should institutions respond where child sexual abuse has occurred?
5. How should government and statutory authorities respond?
6. What are the treatment and support needs of victims/survivors and their families?
7. What is the history of particular institutions of interest?
8. How do we ensure the Royal Commission has a positive impact?

This research report falls within theme four.

The research program means the Royal Commission can:

- obtain relevant background information
- fill key evidence gaps
- explore what is known and what works
- develop recommendations that are informed by evidence, can be implemented and respond to contemporary issues.

For more on this program, please visit [www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/research](http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/research)

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## Executive summary

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This paper documents Australian inquiries into institutions providing out-of-home care for children between 1852 and 2013. It identifies three categories of inquiries. The first, dating from 1852 through to the post-war period, was concerned with establishing and refining the child welfare system; the second, dating from the 1860s to the 1990s, convened in response to allegations of abuse. The third, dating from the 1990s to today, focuses on hearing survivor testimony. The paper argues that an inability or unwillingness to recognise abuse, and a tendency to individualise the problem where it could not be ignored, may well have served the interests of the government and non-government institutions that provided child welfare services, but did little to protect the children entrusted to the children's 'care'.

# Overview of inquiries in Australia reviewing institutions providing care

## Scope and sources

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This document provides a survey of Australian inquiries since European colonisation that have investigated institutions providing out-of-home 'care' for children. It focuses on the period 1850 to 1980, looking at investigations which predate the move away from large-scale institutions. The major inquiries, both state and federal, since 1980 are examined in far less detail. The more recent inquiries included in this report are those focusing on the condition of children in out-of-home care, rather than those dealing with protecting children in their own homes or those dealing with sexual abuse in other institutional or community settings. Inquiries into the sexual abuse of children in boarding schools and immigration detentions centres, while raising similar issues to those in relation to out-of-home care, are also beyond the scope of this paper.

The full list of inquiries is included in Appendix 1. It was compiled from the Find & Connect Web Resource<sup>1</sup>, augmented by a targeted search of the TROVE digital newspapers collection<sup>2</sup>, and the major scholarly histories of child welfare in Australia.<sup>3</sup> It has also drawn on the knowledge of the state-based historians employed in the development of the Find & Connect Web Resource. The numbers cited in the discussion that follows refer to the inquiries as detailed in the accompanying appendix. The appendix also names specific institutions mentioned in each report, but does not extend to others that may have been mentioned in submissions or in the minutes of evidence. To be named was not necessarily to be condemned, as institutions could also be cited as examples of good practice.

The timeframe for completing this report did not allow for detailed research into archival or governmental papers, including minutes of evidence, which would have allowed for a more textured reading of the situations being explored. Inquiries solicit answers only to the questions they raise. Before 1990 it was rare for sexual abuse to be directly addressed, and in cases where it was raised, the information provided was often excluded from public reports on the grounds of morality. A more detailed research project which provided the resources necessary to access minutes of evidence and other archival material would allow a skilled historian to read into the silences to establish what was not being discussed, as well as the issues that made it into the public record.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>.

<sup>3</sup> Margaret Barbalet, *Far From a Low Gutter Girl: The Forgotten World of State Wards in South Australia 1887–1940*, Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1983; Penelope Hetherington, *Paupers, Poor Relief and Poor Houses in Western Australia 1829–1910*, Perth: University of Western Australia Press, 2009; Donella Jaggs, *Neglected and Criminal: Foundations of Child Welfare Legislation in Victoria*, Melbourne: Phillip Institute of Technology, 1986; Nell Musgrove, *The Scars Remain: A Long History of Forgotten Australians and Children's Institutions*, Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2013; John Ramsland, *Children of the Backlanes: Destitute & Neglected Children in Colonial New South Wales*, Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, 1986; Dorothy Scott & Shurlee Swain, *Confronting Cruelty: Historical Perspectives on Child Protection in Australia*, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 2002.

## Categorisation

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The inquiries surveyed here took a range of forms. At the peak were the Royal Commissions, although this format does not appear to have had a constant meaning across time and jurisdiction.<sup>4</sup> Also included are select committees of one or other house of the colonial or state parliaments, magisterial and coronial inquiries and investigations conducted by state departments, or, in a small number of cases, special interest groups aiming to influence government policy. Political context influences both the format and the impact of inquiries. Some, particularly in New South Wales, seem to be motivated more by political disputation than a desire to improve the lot of children. Where the political context changes after the establishment of an inquiry, often its import and momentum is lost.<sup>5</sup> At its most extreme, this change of context could mean that the inquiry did not proceed or that its recommendations were not recorded.

The prevalence of inquiries also appears to have been influenced by the structure of state children's departments in the different colonies/states. Jurisdictions like Queensland, which traditionally had a strong, centralised department between the late 19th century through to the mid 20th century, were less likely to be pushed into holding an inquiry than those where departmental control was weaker. This may also have been the case in jurisdictions where voluntary, philanthropic interest groups had access to policy makers, either through the existence of State Children's Councils (SA and NSW), or through the informal ties that existed in areas with small populations. In the 19th century, Victoria, which had a substantial population and a strong philanthropic sector with no direct access to policy makers, produced the largest number of inquiries. South Australia, which prided itself on the quality of its provisions for neglected children, seldom saw the need for any form of inquiry.

Across this broad range of inquiries three categories emerge. While these categories are indicative of change over time, there is considerable crossover. The earliest group of inquiries can be understood as part of the process of establishing and then refining the various systems that provided 'care' for children outside their families. These began in the 19th century but continued into the 20th century as the states grappled with new groups of children identified as being in need of 'care,' and negotiated or re-negotiated their relationship with the non-government organisations that controlled a substantial proportion of the facilities in which such 'care' was provided. The second group are inquiries that respond to a particular crisis, investigating causes and suggesting remedies to ensure that the incident does not occur again. These inquiries are categorised in the discussion below as damage control. The earliest of these takes place in the late 19th century and they continue throughout the 20th. The final group is predominantly a creation of the late 20th and early 21st centuries and is marked by a shift in focus from the policy makers to the victims whose testimonies constitute the greater part of the evidence. This categorisation corresponds closely to a pattern common across the Western world, a trend that has led historian Jeffrey Olick to describe

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<sup>4</sup> This was particularly the case in WA where Select Committees sometimes later were transformed into Honorary Royal Commissions. For example, see the 1943 Select Committee on Juvenile Delinquency. The means by which this happens is encoded in S8 of the *Royal Commissions Act 1968 WA*.

<sup>5</sup> In NSW, inquiries are as often reported in terms of their political import rather than their findings (examples are the 1920s inquiries, nos 37 and 38).

the early 21st century as an age of regret, in which governments turned from focusing on future policy to address the errors of the past.<sup>6</sup>

## Establishing a system

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During the 19th century, colonial governments were clearly focused on the future. They shared, in their different ways, a determination to avoid the introduction of the Poor Laws of England and Ireland which guaranteed, albeit at a very minimal level, a right to relief for the destitute. These governments sought alternative ways of meeting visible need. The earliest inquiries need to be understood in this context: as attempts by colonial governments to provide for children they saw as being both at risk and a potential risk in their current situations. Consequently, in 1852, in New South Wales, there was concern about the presence of destitute children in public spaces (inquiry number 1 in Appendix 1), and in Victoria four years later concern about the presence of children in prisons, either accompanying their parents or having been picked up under prevailing vagrancy provisions (inquiry number 2 in Appendix 1). The solution advocated in both cases was the children's confinement in child-specific institutions. (Note, subsequent bracketed numbers refer to the list of inquiries in Appendix 1.)

Many of the inquiries which follow were concerned with the form such institutions should take, and the role of government in their funding and development. Maximum economy was always a primary concern, but so was the necessity to train the children so they would not threaten the future of the colonies by following the bad example assumed to have been set by their parents. In Tasmania, inquiries focused on the pre-existing asylum established by the Imperial Government to house the children of convicts. A series of inquiries over a decade (3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10) recommended the separation of children from convicts and paupers, and explored a range of English models (industrial, pauper and reformatory schools) to provide them with training. The focus was not on the quality of care but on the quality of the outcome, sometimes combined with the promise that by making the children productive, the institution could become self-supporting. The inquiries also sought ways to make errant parents contribute to their children's care, a move designed to deter people from 'casting their children on the state'.

The systems developed in New South Wales and Victoria followed a similar pattern, and the next group of inquiries (11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18) reflect a disappointment in the results. Industrial schools did not make children industrious; they were plagued by disease, disorder and a sense that the children compared poorly with those growing up within families. So these inquiries made recommendations that the large institutions be dismantled and replaced by a system of boarding out. Children were to be placed with respectable working-class, and preferably rural, families in the hope that they would imbibe their industrious habits. An added attraction of boarding out was that it was far more economical than institutional care, and its early success is reflected in a further series of inquiries designed to reduce the cost to government of the grants paid to voluntary organisations, which had resisted the new trend (20, 21, 22, 25, 33). While there was considerable admiration for the order and economy with which Catholic and Salvation Army homes were conducted, there was no place for arguments about the need to enrich the quality of care. Institutions were to be removed

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<sup>6</sup> Jeffrey K. Olick, *The Politics of Regret: On Collective Memory and Historical Responsibility* (New York: Routledge, 2007), 12.



from high-value land, and costs were to be kept to a minimum so children would not grow up with a sense of entitlement to government assistance.

The late 19th century also saw the beginnings of a concern to segregate specific groups of children who were believed to be particularly at risk. In Western Australia, an 1883 inquiry recommends the removal of Aboriginal children from adult gaols (19), a recommendation extended to the rest of the Aboriginal population in the 1905 Roth Report (28). Roth argued that the Protector should be given extensive powers to institutionalise children from settlements across the state, a view repeated in the Mosley report 30 years later (49). A 1913–16 inquiry recommended that South Australia adopt a similar policy (32), with the Northern Territory later following suit (40, 45). An 1891 Western Australian report recommended that intellectually disabled children be separated from adults in the colony's lunatic asylum (23), a recommendation reinforced in four further reports over the next 40 years (27, 34, 39, 46).

The first half of the 20th century was a time of quiescence in relation to child welfare. Established state departments lumbered on, with little parliamentary interest except when scandals arose. From the late 1930s, however, concerns about what was perceived to be a rising tide of juvenile delinquency saw the child welfare system again exposed to public gaze. The shift began in South Australia where an inquiry for the first time highlighted the mental and physical distress experienced by children confined in the state's surviving institutions (51). A concern with delinquency is reflected in subsequent inquiries in Western Australia (52, 57) and Tasmania (55, 56), all of which combine an awareness that the current institutions were failing with a belief that a reformed institutional model could bring about behavioural change. By the 1970s, however, this faith was beginning to fail. The 1978 Tasmanian Inquiry (64) marked a shift away from institutional solutions.

## Damage control

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Concerns about order and economy left little space for inquiries to examine the quality of care or to articulate standards. However, there were instances in almost all jurisdictions where institutional abuse became public, forcing governments to respond. Inquiries rarely used such instances to reform the system. Rather a pattern emerges of authorities attempting to minimise reputational damage, closing down rather than widening the investigation as quickly as possible. For instance, the Tasmanian Legislative Council notes an inquiry into the conduct of the Matron at the Orphan Asylum but left no trace in the documentary record (4). An 1869 inquiry into the management of the New South Wales's training ship, *Vernon*, criticised the harshness of the punishments, but not their justification, recommending stricter supervision of the boys on board (10). Two 1870s inquiries produced a similar result. Although the allegations of excessive punishment were upheld, the solution was seen as lying in improving order in the institutions involved so that the need for such punishment did not arise (17, 18).

By the early 20th century some individuals were prepared to use allegations of excessive punishment to embarrass the people controlling institutions. After an internal dispute between members of the Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society and their founder, Selina Sutherland, the Victorian Government ordered an inquiry into allegations that, in her old age, the legendary child rescuer had taken to excessive drinking and was excessively punishing the children in her care. Loyal supporters rallied around and the allegations were rejected, although the evidence does suggest that a wider investigation may have been warranted (29). In 1936, allegations of poor food and

excessive punishment at St John's Homes for Boys led to an inquiry which was quickly shut down when church authorities assured the government that the superintendent had resigned on the basis of ill health and was being relocated to England (50).<sup>7</sup>

Victoria also saw a long-running struggle between leading philanthropic individuals and the Child Welfare Department that manifested in a series of inconclusive inquiries into allegations of ill-treatment at the Depot at Royal Park (30, 36, 41). New South Wales was forced to hold inquiries in response to similar allegations in relation to the cottage complex in Mittagong (38, 44) and later in Garth (48). Likewise, Tasmania investigated the treatment of boys in Ashley (43, 54), and Western Australia was forced to defend claims that the Fairbridge Scheme involved little more than child slavery (35).<sup>8</sup> The governments of Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales were also forced to launch inquiries into the treatment of children in mental health or other disability facilities (42, 53, 68, 72), again without leading to fundamental change.

Although many children died in 'care' there were only three instances in which the coronial inquiry led to criminal charges being laid. In 1896, the matron of Myora Mission, in Queensland, was sent to trial following the death of a four-year-old Aboriginal child. She entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to two years imprisonment but the sentence was immediately suspended and no time was served (24). The death of a child in the Swan Orphanage in Western Australia in 1911 led to an extensively reported coronial inquiry, at the end of which the matron was sent to trial for manslaughter, but the trial ended in her acquittal (31).<sup>9</sup> This was also the outcome in the case involving the death of a boy at Victoria's Seaside Garden Home for Boys. During the course of the investigation the superintendent attracted considerable support from others in the child welfare field, but faced trial for manslaughter before three different juries, each of which was unable to reach a decision (47). The subtext, at least in the latter two cases, was that although the behaviour that led to the deaths was lamentable, it was understandable given the difficulties posed by the types of children who were being 'cared' for. Although there were more inquiries into specific allegations of abuse, particularly in reformatories (58, 59, 60, 61, 65) and disability institutions (71), no more child welfare officials were sent to trial as a result of these investigations.

Sexual abuse was rarely raised in the context of these investigations, although occasional references to problems with immorality in the institutions (8, 16, 33, 38, 42, 58) would suggest that this absence was indicative of a silence around sexuality. Where immorality was mentioned, it was taken as referring to sexual behaviour among the children and the risk of moral contagion when innocent children were placed amongst the already 'depraved'. There was little consideration of the possibility that staff could be involved in sexual relationships with the children. While some of the peer-to-peer behaviour was clearly abusive, it was problematised through the eyes of the officials. There was little space at this point for the children to speak.

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<sup>7</sup> 'Management of Boys' Home Board Satisfied', *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic: 1848–1957), 23 October 1936, p. 7, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article11928410> (accessed 19 November 2013).

<sup>8</sup> 'State Children', *The West Australian* (Perth, WA: 1879–1954), 26 November 1920, p. 7, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article27792343> (accessed 17 November 2013).

<sup>9</sup> 'The Orphanage Sensation', *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA: 1902–1954), 18 June 1911, p. 3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article57715208> (accessed 19 November 2013).

In this context, the three cases in which sexual abuse was an explicit focus of the inquiry take on a particular significance. At the special inquiry ordered in response to the chaotic conditions at Victoria's first purpose-built industrial school in 1865–66 (8), it was alleged that a staff member had engaged in improper relations with adolescent reformatory schoolgirls, some of whom were rumoured to be pregnant. Other staff members reported that he had engaged in similar behaviour at the Princes Bridge Industrial School from which he had been transferred. Although the staff member was stood down in the face of these allegations, he was allowed to remain at the school, where his wife and daughter were also employed.<sup>10</sup> In a subsequent report his behaviour was largely excused on the basis of the 'character' of the witnesses who had 'sprung from the very dregs of society' and whose origins made 'the task of looking after them anything but easy or hopeful'. Characterised as incautious in placing himself in potentially compromising positions, the staff member was warned but left with his reputation intact.<sup>11</sup>

The second inquiry, which took place in New South Wales in 1897–98, related to the House for the Blind at Strathfield, where the superintendent, Harry Prescott, was charged with having had improper relations with several of the female residents (26). Although some of the complainants had been children at the time of the alleged offences, all were adult by the time the inquiry was established, and able to speak as knowing subjects without a threat to their own character. In the interests of public morality the government ordered the report not be printed. However, some allegations became public as a result of a later libel case launched by Prescott against the *Truth* newspaper which had reported the allegations, claiming that Prescott's wife had sent girls to him because he was lonely. By the time the case went to court, the home, which had been Prescott's personal mission, had closed due to lack of support. Prescott's libel case collapsed too when he withdrew his claim.<sup>12</sup>

The third instance (67) relates to a 1992–93 inquiry in Western Australia which examined a case in which children had continued to be sexually abused while in foster care. This took place in a very different discursive context, but again particularised the issue. It examined flaws in departmental procedure and practice that allowed the abuse to take place, but made no attempt to extend the inquiry to a more general level.

## Listening to the victims

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The practices of individualising accusations of sexual abuse, discrediting witnesses and minimising reporting in the interests of public morality were successful only while inquiries looked to experts rather than victims for the answers to the problems they were addressing. The inquiries since the late 1980s, which have actively sought survivor testimony, have broken open such silences. While residents of children's institutions had in the past been invited to give evidence before inquiries (16), their testimony was always corrupted by their status. The shift in focus is linked to the apology

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<sup>10</sup> 'Frightful Immorality at the Industrial Schools', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* (Beechworth, Vic: 1857–1918), 3 April 1866, p. 2, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article112908316> (accessed 19 November 2013).

<sup>11</sup> 'Prince's-Bridge Industrial Schools', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* (Beechworth, Vic: 1857–1918), 26 May 1866, p. 3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article112908922> (accessed 22 November 2013).

<sup>12</sup> 'That Newspaper Libel Action', *Evening News* (Sydney, NSW: 1869–1931), 24 August 1899, p. 6, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article113266917> (accessed 22 November 2013).

movement that has become increasingly evident across the Western world in the aftermath of World War II. Initially a function of recognising and remembering the Holocaust, apologies have since spread to the impact of war, racial discrimination and, more recently, social wrongs.

There is an increasing scholarly interest in the phenomenon of apology, with most accepting John Torpey's theory that it arises out of a 'declining trust in alternative visions of society'. Rather than organise to change, he argues, we now 'organise to mourn' with the result that history and memory have now become 'central to the political project'.<sup>13</sup> Through apology, Govier and Verwoerd have written, the wrongdoing is recognised, victims are repositioned as moral equals, and their right to harbour feelings of anger and resentment is acknowledged.<sup>14</sup> Apology, Melissa Nobles argues, is a political act, produced by 'organised groups and state actors' who, by focusing our attention on the past want to bring about change in the present and the future.<sup>15</sup> Through this process, people who in their childhood were the objects of state and charitable intervention, are now asserting their rights to recognition as equal citizens whom the state has wronged.

The new model of testimonial-based inquiry came to Australia with the Royal Commission into Deaths in Custody (66). An extensive series of inquiries followed, as different survivor groups claimed their right to speak (71, 72, 73, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83). Within this series of inquiries the willingness to speak about sexual abuse has seen the issue rise in prominence to the point where it has become the primary focus of the current Royal Commission. The terms of reference for the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families (69) made no mention of sexual abuse but the evidence presented noted more than 502 instances, earning the phenomenon its own section within the final report released in 1997.<sup>16</sup> The next two Commonwealth inquiries, *Lost Innocents* (71) and *Forgotten Australians* (72), followed a similar trajectory, with sexual abuse absent from the terms of reference but singled out for special treatment in the subsequent reports.<sup>17</sup> In the report of the inquiry into abuse in Queensland institutions (70), sexual abuse was clearly identified as one of four forms of abuse that were found to be endemic in the system.<sup>18</sup> By the time South Australia instigated its own inquiry early in the new century (78) the focus had narrowed, with sexual abuse positioned alongside deaths in care as the core subjects for investigation, as indeed it became for the recent Victorian inquiry (83).

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<sup>13</sup> John Torpey, 'Introduction: Politics and the Past', in *Politics and the Past: On Repairing Historical Injustices*, ed. John Torpey (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003), 1. Michael Cunningham, 'The Ideological Location of the Apology', *Journal of Political Ideologies* 16, no. 1 (2011): 117.

<sup>14</sup> Cited in Paul Muldoon, 'Past Injustices and Future Protections: On the Politics of Promising', *Australian Indigenous Law Review* 13, no. 2 (2009): 3.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 2. John Torpey, *Making Whole What Has Been Smashed: On Reparation Politics* (Cambridge, MS: Harvard University Press, 2006), 7

<sup>16</sup> Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, *Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families* (Sydney: HREOC, 1997). 162–7.

<sup>17</sup> Australian Senate Community Affairs References Committee, *Lost Innocents: Righting the record report on child migration* (Canberra: Senate Printing Unit, 2001). 75–80. *Forgotten Australians: A Report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children* (Canberra: Senate Printing Unit, 2004). 103–5.

<sup>18</sup> Leneene Forde, *Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions* (Brisbane: The Inquiry, 1999), iv, 87–91.

The long list of institutions named in these reports is evidence of the blindness to sexual abuse which marked earlier investigations. The limitations of the discourse around sexuality and sexual abuse in the past made it unlikely that earlier inquiries would make this a focus of their work. The feminist recasting of such discourses, which dates from the 1980s, created a new language in which behaviours previously seen as the acts of individual ‘perverts’ or ‘sex fiends’ could be seen as systemic, and represented as the core transgression of childhood innocence.<sup>19</sup> Institutions praised in the past for their order and economy now stand condemned for their failure to protect the children in their ‘care’. As recent inquiries have found, sexual abuse was endemic in institutional settings.<sup>20</sup> The inability of previous enquiries to recognise this reality, and their willingness to individualise the problem where it could not be ignored, may well have served the interests of the government and non-government institutions that provided child welfare services across Australia, but it did little to protect the children entrusted to their ‘care’.

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 276.

<sup>20</sup> Forde, *Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions*: 87. Mullighan, *Children in state care: Commission of inquiry: Allegations of sexual abuse and death from criminal conduct*: xiii.

## Appendix 1: Australian inquiries into institutions accommodating those under the age of 18, 1852–2013

	Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
1	1852–4	NSW	Select Committee on Destitute Children	Relief of destitute children and prevention of juvenile delinquency	Randwick Asylum	Saw establishment of Randwick Asylum as solving the problem
2	1856–7	Vic	Select Committee of Inquiry upon Penal Discipline	Children in prisons	Eastern Gaol Pentridge	Separate section for juveniles Chaplains to be appointed, with special oversight of juvenile prisoners
3	1861–2	NSW	Special Commission on the Benevolent Asylum, Sydney	Overcrowding	Benevolent Asylum, Sydney Orphans' School Destitute Children's School	Construction of a new building, and the placement of children aged three to 12 in the Orphans' or Destitute Children's School
4	1857	Tas	Legislative Council Inquiry	Conduct of the Matron	Orphan School	No record of outcome
5	1858	Tas	Joint Committee inquiring into	Conduct of charitable institutions	Queen's Asylum	Disapprove of convicts working with children

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
		Charitable Institutions			Parents made to pay for children's upkeep  Transfer from Imperial to colonial control	
6	1860	Tas	Commission of Inquiry	High mortality rates	Orphan Schools	Recommend improved diet, some new building, better supervision and training
7	1862	Tas	Select Committee on Industrial Schools Bill	Provision for young offenders		Recommend establishment of industrial and reformatory schools  Younger children to be placed in small homes and refuges
8	1865–6	Vic	Special inquiry	Excessive punishment  Improper practices between boys and girls  Staff accused of improper relations with girls	Sunbury Industrial School	Accused staff are stood down

	Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
9	1867	Tas	Royal Commission on Queen's Asylum	Reduce expenditure and improve training	Queen's Asylum	Asylum to function on the English pauper school model  Resisted calls for children to be farmed out
10	1869	NSW	Select Committee on the Training Ship Vernon	Management of the training ship	Training Ship Vernon	Criticises harshness of punishments, poor quality of supervision
11	1870	Vic	Royal Commission into Charitable Institutions	Administration of charitable institutions		Reports very positively on conditions in children's institutions, but advocates boarding out on the grounds of economy and the appointment of an inspector of charities to exercise oversight over institutions
12	1871	Tas	Royal Commission on Charitable Institutions	Administration of charitable institutions	Queen's Orphan Asylum	Recommends adoption of boarding out
13	1871	Vic	Royal Commission on Sanitary Conditions in the Industrial Schools	Sanitary conditions	Geelong Convent Industrial School St Kilda Rd Industrial School Sunbury Industrial School	Finds schools overcrowded  Calls for separation of non-criminal children from offenders



	Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
14	1871–2	Vic	Royal Commission on Penal and Prison Discipline	Operation of industrial schools and reformatories	Abbotsford Convent Sir Harry Smith reformatory Sunbury Girls reformatory	Recommends boarding out and more stringent admission requirements to industrial schools
15	1873–4	NSW	Public Charities Commission	Working and management of public charities	Biloela Parramatta Orphan Schools Randwick Asylum Vernon	Advocated boarding out
16	1878	Vic	Board of Inquiry	Follows an ‘outbreak’ at the Reformatory and investigates allegations of excessive punishment  Low morality	Jika Reformatory	Find claims of excessive punishment proven  Recommends closure and trial of the family system
17	1879	NSW	Select Committee on the Randwick Asylum	Reports of ill-usage of children at the Randwick Asylum	Randwick Asylum	Recommended dismissal of one staff member and removal of refractory boys to a reformatory

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
18	1883–5	SA	Royal Commission to report on the Destitute Act, 1881  Often referred to as the Way Commission	Work of the Destitute Board and its work with children	Destitute Asylum  Boys Reformatory Hulk, the Fitzjames  Girls Reformatory, Magill  Hardwick House  Magill Industrial School  The Orphan Home  And 7 other institutions	Recommended move from large congregate institutions to cottage style care  Segregation and classification of 'reformatory' children
19	1883	WA	Committee of Inquiry into the Treatment of Aboriginal Native Prisoners of the Crown	Provision for Indigenous population	Rottneest Island Prison	Recommends concentration onto missions which would provide training for children
20	1884	WA	Committee to Consider the Capitation Grant for Orphanages	Cost of caring for children in orphanages, level of state subsidy	St Joseph's Catholic Orphanage  Subiaco Boys Orphanage  Swan Boys Orphanage	Recommends increasing daily capitation grant from eight pence to one shilling

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
21	1888	Tas	Royal Commission on Charitable Institutions	Operation of charitable institutions	Boys' Home, Hobart Boys' Training School, Cascades Girls' Industrial Schools, Launceston Girls' Training School Reformatory, Hobart	Makes a series of recommendations about better/cheaper education and control of inmates
22	1890–1	Vic	Royal Commission on Charitable Institutions	Focus is on the funding and administration of charitable institutions but includes a clause to investigate disposal of children in subsidised orphan asylums	Abbotsford Convent Asylum and School for the Blind Ballarat Orphanage Deaf and Dumb Institute Geelong Protestant Orphanage St Augustine's	Removal of city-based institutions to less expensive rural locations  Concentration of female rescue work onto single site  Orphans to be boarded out in rural locations
23	1891	WA	Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly to consider and report as to what is necessary to place the Asylum	Mental health institutions	Fremantle Asylum Whitby Falls Hospital	Asylums not fit for purpose (children and youth were held in both asylums)

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
		for the Insane on a satisfactory basis as to Accommodation and Maintenance				
24	1896	Qld	Magisterial Enquiry	Death of a four-year-old child as a result of a beating by the matron	Myora Mission (Stradbroke Island)	Matron charged with manslaughter. Pleaded guilty and sentenced to two years jail. Sentence suspended under the <i>Probation Act</i>
25	1897–9	NSW	Royal Commission to inquire into the administration of metropolitan charitable institutions	Focus is on funding of charitable institutions	NSW Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Salvation Army Society for Providing Homes for Children	Praises efficiency of Salvation Army Condemns sectarianism of some institutions Found that institutions were inadequately equipped and lacking in order and care Encourages boarding out of orphanage children and defunding of George Ardill's work

	Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
26	1897–8	NSW	Royal Commission into the conduct and management of the house for blind women, Strathfield	Allegations of immorality	House for Blind Women, Strathfield	Recommends removal of subsidy and stronger government supervision
27	1900	WA	Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly appointed to inquire into the condition of the Fremantle and Whitby Falls Lunatic Asylums	Mental health institutions	Fremantle Asylum Whitby Falls Hospital	Discontinue use of the Fremantle Asylum (children were held there)
28	1905	WA	Royal Commission to Enquire into and Report Upon [inter alia] the Administration of the Aborigines Department and the Condition of	Wages paid to Aboriginal youth labourers, systems for the welfare of Aboriginal people in the State	Beagle Bay Mission Orphan School Broome Sunday Island Mission School	Increased authority of Chief Protector

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
		the Natives (Roth Report)				
29	1908	Vic	Magisterial inquiry	Allegations against Selina Sutherland of drunkenness and harsh punishment	Victorian Neglected Children's Aid	Magistrate found charges not sustained
30	1911	Vic	Committee of philanthropic men and women	Neglected children's depot	Royal Park Depot	<p>Recommends improved conditions at depot</p> <p>Adoption of NSW system of cottages for children who cannot be boarded-out</p>
31	1911	WA	Coronial inquiry	Follows death of a child at the Swan Orphanage	Swan Orphanage	<p>Condemns conditions</p> <p>Recommends greater departmental supervision</p> <p>Matron sent to trial on manslaughter charges but acquitted</p>
32	1913–16	SA	Royal Commission on the Aborigines	Condition of Aboriginal population	Point McLeay Point Pierce	Recommends that State take control of all Aboriginal children at age 10 and place them 'where they deem best'

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
33	1918	WA	Select Committee on the State Children's Act Amendment Bill	Administration of child welfare	Clontarf Karrakatta Home Open Door Home Perth Girls' Orphanage Pinjarra Farm School Redhill Reformatory Salvation Army, Collie Swan Orphanage	Praises the existing children's institutions but also commends boarding out
34	1919	WA	Select Committee to inquire into the management of the Claremont Hospital for the Insane	Inquiry into mental health system	Claremont Mental Hospital Whitby Falls Hospital	Recommends establishing a separate institution and Board of Commissioners for 'mental defectives'
35	1920	WA	Royal Commission to inquire into State Children's Department and Charities Department	Operation of State Children's Department	Fairbridge Farm School Monmouth Home for Incurable Girls Parkerville	Recommends segregation of mentally deficient  Denies claim of child slavery at Fairbridge

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
					Again advocates for boarding out	
36	1920	Vic	Parliamentary Inquiry	Conditions at Receiving Depot	Royal Park Depot	Condemns overcrowding and recommends children be moved to existing orphanages
37	1920	NSW	Royal Commission into Child Welfare Department	Administration of the Child Welfare Department	Receiving Depot	Leaves no trace
38	1920	NSW	ALP Committee	State Children's Relief Department (SCRB)	Mittagong Raymond Terrace	Finds 'depraved conditions' and recommends SCRB be disbanded
39	1921-2	WA	Royal Commission in Lunacy	Inquiry into mental health system	Claremont hospital	Recommends establishment of separate wards for imbecile children
40	1921-4	NT	Report on the Half Castes and Aboriginals of the Southern Division of the Northern Territory with Special Reference to the Bungalow at Stuart and the	Living conditions of all Aborigines in southern half of NT, including children at named institutions	The Half-Caste Institution, Alice Springs (The Bungalow) Hermannsburg Mission Station	Appointment of Aboriginal Inspector to patrol southern division on NT to investigate general conditions under which all Aborigines (sic), whether on stations, missions or in institutions, live



Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
		Hermannsburg Mission Station			<p>Establishment of a 'half caste' station separate from Aboriginal Reserve for training of half castes in 'industrial and domestic work'</p> <p>Commonwealth government to take over Hermannsburg Mission and appoint Salvation Army to run the Bungalow and the Mission on their behalf</p>	
41	1922	Vic	Parliamentary inquiry	Excessive punishment  Mixing of VD children with others at Royal Park Depot	Royal Park Depot	Left no record
42	1924	Vic	Royal Commission into Kew Mental Asylum CMO	Allegations of cruelty and immorality	Kew Idiot Asylum	Accusations not upheld
43	1925	Tas	Committee of Inquiry	Conditions within the State Home for Boys	State Home for Boys, Deloraine	<p>Greater classification of boys</p> <p>Discipline to be 'constructive'</p>

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
					Greater variety of activities	
44	1927	NSW	Royal Commission to Inquire into the Child Welfare Department's Administration	Administration of the Department	Mittagong	Department is vindicated
45	1928	NT	The Aborigines and Half-Castes of Central Australia and North Australia: Report of JW Bleakley	Investigate the condition of Aboriginal and half-caste people in the Northern Territory	Half-caste home Darwin – Kahlin Half-caste Bungalow – Alice Springs Mission Stations at: Bathurst Island Oenpelli Goulburn Millingimbi Roper River Groote Eylandt Hermannsburg Leper Lazarette Darwin	All illegitimate half-caste children under 16 years of age should be placed in government-subsidised mission homes for the purposes of education and vocational training (Ling)  That the Bungalow in Alice Springs be moved from the Telegraph Station to Jay Creek  All children with '50 percent or more Aboriginal blood' or 'with preponderance of other dark blood' be transferred to Hermannsburg Mission  'Quadroons and octoroons where such can be done without

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
					hardship to the mother, be placed in European institutions such as the Salvation Army Homes in Adelaide'	
46	1929	WA	Select Committee on the Mental Deficiency Bill	Segregation of people identified as mentally deficient	Claremont	Segregation and control
47	1934	Vic	Coronial inquiry	Death of boy raises questions as to unreasonable punishment	Seaside Garden Home for Boys	Superintendent charged with manslaughter but acquitted at his third trial
48	1934	NSW	Commission of Inquiry	Operation of the Garth Home	Garth Home	Condemned the standard of care and location of the home and recommended closure
49	1935	WA	Royal Commission to Investigate, Report and Advise upon Matters in Relation to the Condition and	Systems for Aboriginal welfare	Moore River Native Settlement	Increased control by Protector of Aborigines over the removal of Aboriginal children from families

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
		Treatment of Aborigines (Mosely RC)				
50	1936	Vic	Special inquiry	Allegations of poor quality of food, excessive corporal punishment	St John's Home for Boys	Inquiry abandoned when Superintendent fell ill and resigns
51	1938–9	SA	Inquiry into Delinquent and other children in the care of the State	Established to investigate the way in which the state was caring for children in its care, particularly those who had committed offences	Boys' Probationary School (Salvation Army, Eden Park) Central Depot Edwardstown Industrial School Seaforth Convalescent Home	Praises boarding out but condemns institutions for inflicting mental and physical distress
52	1943	WA	Select Committee (later designated an honorary Royal Commission) on Juvenile Delinquency	Provisions made for delinquents	Bartons Mill Prison Government Receiving Home Home of the Good Shepherd Swan Boys' Orphanage Seaforth Home	Separation of boys from adult prison, provision of girls' home

<b>Date</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Institutions named</b>	<b>Relevant recommendations</b>	
<b>53</b>	1950	WA	Royal Commission appointed to inquire into alleged cases of brutality at the Claremont Mental Hospital	Allegations of physical abuse	Claremont Mental Hospital	Better segregation of children, and training and supervision for staff
<b>54</b>	1951	Tas	Public Service Commissioner's Investigation	Allegations by a former staff member of harsh punishments	Ashley Boys Home	Findings minimised the issues that had been complained of in the light of the nature of the boys in the home
<b>55</b>	1951–3	Tas	Inquiry into management of Ashley Boys Home	Concern that boys did badly on release	Ashley Boys Home	Establish new home for younger boys and refurbish existing home  Emphasised need for quality staff
<b>56</b>	1952	Tas	Standing Committee on Public Works	Plans for rebuilding Ashley Boys Home	Ashley Boys Home	Echoes many of the recommendations that came from concurrent inquiry  Negotiate with NSW to provide facilities for 'incurable' boys
<b>57</b>	1954	WA	Investigation into the administration of the Child		Seaforth Home  Swan Homes	Facilities were substandard

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
		Welfare Department			The Department should establish its own training school	
58	1961	Qld	Commission of Inquiry into Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook	Primarily punishments. No specific mention of sexual abuse, but does note homosexual behaviour amongst boys	Westbrook	Nil
59	1965	Tas	Public service Commissioners Investigation	Allegations concerning conditions and treatment of inmates	Weeroona Girls' Training Centre	Found that Parliament had been misled as to conditions in the home, leading to the establishment of a Select Committee
60	1965	Tas	Select Committee Inquiry into Weeroona Girls' Training Centre	Focus was an accusation that Director of Social Welfare had misled the Parliament about operation of the unit	Weeroona Girls' Training Centre	Found to be an 'honest mistake'

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
61	1973–4	Tas	Inquiry into Weeroona Girls' Training Centre	Focus is on allegations of corporal punishment	Weeroona Girls' Training Centre	Found that the allegations were baseless
62	1976	WA	Committee of Inquiry into Residential Child Care	To examine the role and involvement of religious organisations providing residential child care	Castledare Clontarf Catherine Macauley Centre Good Shepherd Teen Centre Parkerville Methodist Homes for Children Sister Kate's Salvation Army: Cottesloe and Hollywood	The state should continue to nurture relationships with religious organisations
63	1978	Tas	Social Welfare Weeroona Inquiry	Focus is again on excessive punishment	Weeroona Girls' Training Centre	One claim is upheld; others dismissed
64	1978	Tas	Committee of Review into the <i>Child Welfare Act 1960</i>	Government and non-government child welfare services		Scrapping of Act and development of new community-based services

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
65	1983	NSW	Ombudsman's Report	Initial focus was on financial irregularities but shifted onto physical and emotional abuse	Brougham	Found allegations proven
66	1987–91	National	Royal Commission	Deaths in Police Custody and other places of Detention	Birralee Minda Remand Centre Rockhampton Prison SAYTC	An inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal children from their families
67	1992–3	WA	Duty of Care Inquiry	Sexual abuse of two children in state foster care		Changes in practices and procedures
68	1993–5	Qld	Criminal Justice Commission Inquiry	Abuses and neglect of clients and harassment of staff	Basil Stafford Centre	Closure of the Centre
69	1995–7	National	National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and	Tracing history and effects of removal. No specific reference	Castledare Cootamundra Kinchela	Monetary compensation to victims Apology



Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
		Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families	to sexual abuse in terms of reference	Sister Kate's	Record preservation and access	
70	1996	WA	Select Committee into Child Migration	Outcomes for people who had been sent to WA by British and Maltese governments as unaccompanied child migrants	Bindoon Castledare Clontarf Fairbridge, Pinjarra Methodist Children's Home Nazareth House St Joseph's Girls Orphanage St Vincent's Foundling Home Swan Homes Tardun Farm School	Establishing a Royal Commission
71	1996-7	NSW	Community Services Commission	Quality and standard of care at Hall for Children (disability home)	Hall for Children, Hazelbrook	Claims upheld. Institution closed

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
72	1996–8	NSW	Community Services Commission	Care and treatment of residents at Cram House	Cram House	Better accountability for funded services
73	1999	Qld	Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (Forde Inquiry)	Specifically addresses allegations of abuse, positioning sexual abuse as the third of four forms of abuse identified.	John Oxley Centre Moreton Detention Centre Nazareth House Riverview St Vincent’s Orphanage Silky Oaks Sir Leslie Wilson Centre Warilda Westbrook Wilson Youth Hospital	Mandatory reporting of all abusive situations  Increased regulation and supervision
74	2001	National	Inquiry into Child Migration	Unsafe, improper or unlawful care or treatment of children in institutions: sexual	Barnardos, Mowbray Park Barnardos, Normanhurst Bindoon	Compensation for victims  Recommended further investigations of conditions faced by other children in institutions

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
			abuse is the first of eight forms of abuse identified	Castledare Clontarf Dhurringle, Vic Fairbridge, Molong Fairbridge, Pinjarra Goodwood, SA Magill, SA Melrose, Parramatta Murray Dwyer, Newcastle Salesians, Tas St Vincent's, Neerkol St Vincent's, Westmead Tardun		
75	2003–4	National	Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care	Unsafe, improper and unlawful care or treatment of	Ashley Home, Tasmania Ballarat Orphanage Bayswater Boys' Home	Compensation for victims Files to be opened to investigate prevalence

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
			children in institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Berry Training Farm</li> <li>Bexley</li> <li>Bidura</li> <li>Bindoon</li> <li>Box Hill (Salvation Army)</li> <li>Brougham, Woollahra</li> <li>Burn Brae</li> <li>Burnside</li> <li>Carlingford</li> <li>Castledare</li> <li>Clontarf</li> <li>Gill Memorial, Goulburn</li> <li>Good Shepherd, Abbotsford</li> <li>Hartnett House</li> <li>Hopewood</li> <li>Kilmany Park</li> </ul>	Royal Commission to investigate criminal sexual assault

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
				Mater Dei, Camden	
				Melbourne Orphanage	
				Methodist Cottages, Brisbane	
				Morningstar	
				Nazareth Boys House	
				Nazareth House, Ballarat	
				Nazareth House, Brisbane	
				Nedlands (Salvation Army)	
				Queen Alexandra Home	
				Phillip House, Gosford	
				Riverview (Salvation Army)	
				Royleston	
				St Augustine's, Geelong	
				St Heliers	
				St John of God	
				St John's, Goulburn	

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
				St Joseph's, Kincumber	
				St Joseph's, Lane Cove	
				St Joseph's, Largs Bay	
				St Joseph's, Surrey Hills	
				St Vincent's Orphanage (Goodwood)	
				St Vincent's Orphanage (Neerkol)	
				St Vincent's, South Melbourne	
				Salvation Army Box Hill	
				Sandgate	
				Tardun	
				The Laurels	
				Turana	
				Westbrook	
				Westmead	
				Winlaton	

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
76	2003–4	Qld	Crime and Misconduct Commission	Abuse of children in foster care		Concluded that foster care system was broken and recommended the establishment of a new Department of Child Safety
77	2003–6	Tas	Listen to the Children: Ombudsman’s Report	Arose out of media Exposure of paedophilia in institution for children	Barrington Boys Home Gilburn Receiving Home Glendel Children’s Home Laroona Family Group Home Omaru Receiving Home Rochebank Hostel St Joseph’s Orphanage Weeroona Girls Training Centre	Ex gratia payments Counselling
78	2004–8	SA	Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry (Mullighan Inquiry)	Allegations of sexual abuse and death of children in state care	<u>Government institutions</u> Seaforth Home, 1921–75 Glandore Industrial School/Glandore Children’s Home, 1950–73 Struan Farm School, Naracoorte, 1947–69	Recommends strategies to keep children safe, encourages them to report abuse, and services to support them during and after the process

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
				<u>Non-government institutions</u>	
				Farr House, Anglican Church, 1860–1982	
				Kennion House, Anglican Church, 1886–1984	
				St Vincent de Paul Orphanage (Goodwood Orphanage), Catholic Church, 1866–1975	
				Convent of the Good Shepherd (The Pines), Catholic Church, 1941–74	
				Salvation Army Boys Home, Eden Park, 1900–82	
				Salvation Army Girls Home / Fullarton Children’s Home, 1900–86	
				Salvation Army Boys Home, Kent Town, 1929–72	



Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
				<u>Homes for Aboriginal children</u>	
				Koonibba Children’s Home, 1913–63	
				Gerard Mission Children’s Dormitory, 1946–61	
				Colebrook Home, 1927–81	
				Campbell House Farm School, Meningie, 1959–63	
				Kurbingai Hostel, 1958–62	
				Oodnadatta Children’s Home, 1924– 27, 1946–74	
				Otherway House, 1983–84	
				<u>Homes for children with disabilities</u>	
				Lochiel Park Boys Training Centre / Community Unit, 1958–present	
				Minda, 1898–present	

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
				<u>Government cottage homes</u>	
				Clark Cottage, 1963–79	
				Merrilama Cottage, 1960–79	
				Hay Cottage, 1968–79	
				Fullarton Cottage, 1970–79	
				Stirling Cottage, 1962–79	
				Pleasant Avenue Cottage, Glandore, 1975–79	
				Slade Cottage, Glandore/Somerton Park, 1973–88	
				Southern Region Group Home, Glenelg 1979–81, Glandore 1981–90	
				<u>Non-government cottage homes</u>	
				Smith Street Cottage, 1976–84	
				Kennion Cottage, 1984–unknown	
				Rose Cottage, 1988–93	

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
				<u>Government hostels</u>	
				Allambi Girls' Hostel, 1947–77	
				Davenport House, 1964–77	
				Elizabeth Grace Hostel, 1972–79	
				Nindee Hostel, 1971–present	
				Kumanka Boys' Hostel, 1946–80	
				Stuart House, 1964–90; North Adelaide Community Unit, 1990–97	
				<u>Youth shelters</u>	
				Exodus Youth Shelter, 1985– unknown	
				Unit Living, Marion, 1974–90	

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
				<u>Residential care units</u>	
				Gilles Plains Community Unit, 1979–90; Gilles Plains Assessment Unit, 1992–present	
				Hay Community Unit, 1979–88	
				Clarence Park Assessment Unit, 1989–92	
				Northern Region Admission Unit, 1979–90	
				Southern Region Admission Unit, 1979–90	
				Central/Western Region Admission Unit, 1979–86	
				Sturt Assessment Unit, 1995–present	
				Enfield Community Unit, 1990–present	
				Campbelltown Community Unit (Cornerways), 1995–present	

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
				North Adelaide Community Unit, 1990–97		
79	2005	WA	Independent Review	Allegations of abuse against children in state care	Bindoon	Reviewed substantiated allegations of abuse
80	2007–08	WA	Taskforce to identify the scope and extent of the 'stolen wages' issue, and to suggest policy options and administration issues	Wages held in trust for Aboriginal youth and adults	Carrolup Karralundi Mission Marribank Mogumber Moola Bulla Station Moore River Native Settlement New Norcia Mission Roelands Sister Kate's	Found wages held in trust could not be assured as having been paid. Recommends establishing a fund for ex gratia payments
81	2012	WA	Special Inquiry	Allegations of sexual abuse in hostels	Albany Residential College Carnarvon High School Hostel	Found systemic failures in governance of hostels

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations
				Craig House Dellahale House Hardie House John Frewer House Kartanup Merridin Residential College Narrogin Residential College St Andrew's Hostel St Christopher's Hostel Swanleigh	Recommended ex gratia scheme
82	2012–13	Qld	Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry	To review the progress of implementation of recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions and	John Oxley Youth Detention Centre 1. Early intervention 2. Building professional capacity in the child protection workforce 3. Stronger collaboration between sectors

Date	Jurisdiction	Title	Focus	Institutions named	Relevant recommendations	
			Protecting Children: An Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Foster Care; and a review of the effectiveness of the current child protection services system in Queensland		<p>4. Greater control by Indigenous people over child protection services in their communities</p> <p>5. Ongoing support to young people leaving care up to 21 years</p> <p>6. Adoption to be a consideration for children in out-of-home care</p> <p>7. Recommended closure of Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian</p> <p><a href="http://www.childprotectioninquiry.qld.gov.au/publications">http://www.childprotectioninquiry.qld.gov.au/publications</a></p>	
83	2013	Vic	Select Committee	Handling of child abuse in religious and other non-government organisations	<p>Bayswater Boys Home</p> <p>Box Hill Boys Home</p> <p>Morningstar</p> <p>St Augustine's Boys Home</p> <p>St Vincent de Paul's Boys Home</p>	Creating child safe environments