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Roman Catholic Half Caste Mission, Melville Island Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Carrieton,  
South Australia

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

B246

PART No.

C.8960/57

REFERENCE TO OTHER FILES

B245 O.B.S.H. - *See Keats*

SUBJECT

ROMAN CATHOLIC HALF CASTE MISSION. MELVILLE ISLE.

AND

CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART

CARRIETON. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

*LITTLE FLOWER - SANTA TERESA -*

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SENDING OFFICER MUST NOT INITIAL HIS OUTWARD ENTRY.

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11-13	<i>McGAWOY</i>	<i>29/1</i>	<i>R/S</i>				
	<i>R/S MCGAWOY</i>	<i>1/2/71</i>	<i>R/S</i>				
	<i>R/S MCGAWOY</i>	<i>1/3/71</i>	<i>R/S</i>				
	<i>R/S MR GILLS</i>	<i>16/7/71</i>	<i>R/S</i>				

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B246

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6. Current Northern Territory Institutions for child endowment purposes:

Welfare Branch Children's Receiving Home,  
(Bradshaw House), Alice Springs.  
Welfare Branch Children's Receiving Home,  
(Dundas House), Darwin.  
Welfare Branch Adolescent Home,  
(Palmerston House), Darwin.  
Welfare Branch Assessment and Training Centre,  
(Essington House), Darwin.  
Aborigines Inland Mission,  
(Retta Dixon Homes), Darwin.  
Cottage Homes, Finke River Mission.  
St. Mary's Children's Village, Alice Springs.  
Australian Missionary Society, Alice Springs.  
Methodist Overseas Mission,  
(Somerville Homes), Darwin.  
East Arm Settlement, Darwin.  
Daly River Mission.

7. The Daly River Mission is continuing to claim for approximately 40 children who are orphaned or neglected. The Aboriginal mothers at the Mission receive direct payment of their endowment.

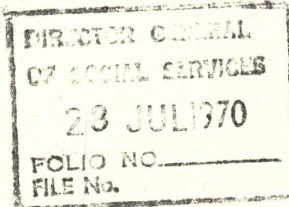
8. Your advice would be appreciated when the approvals have been revoked for the South Australian Institutions mentioned in paragraph 2 and the Northern Territory Institutions listed in paragraph 4 above.

*R. Dowell*  
R. DOWELL,  
DIRECTOR



# Commonwealth Social Services

A.M.P. Building  
1 King William Street  
Adelaide, S.A.



Box 481D, G.P.O.  
Adelaide, S.A. 5001  
Telephone: 51 7400

Please quote: A.63/3/1

27 JUL 1970

**Director-General of Social Services,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.**

## Child Endowment - Revocation of Approval as Endowed Institutions

With the introduction of direct payments of child endowment for Aboriginal mothers residing on Missions and Government establishments in South Australia and the Northern Territory, endowment has ceased to be paid on an Institutional basis.

2. Consequently, it is recommended that the approval for the undermentioned South Australian Institutions be revoked forthwith.

Koonibba Children's Home  
Musgrave Park Cattle Station "Amata"  
Ernabella Mission  
Yalata Lutheran Mission.

3. Regarding the Northern Territory, most Mission Institutions have ceased to claim on an institutional basis since the introduction of direct endowment payments to Aboriginal mothers.

4. It is therefore recommended that the institutional approval for the undermentioned establishments be revoked.

X Santa Teresa - Little Flower Mission  
X Port Keats Mission  
Bathurst Island Mission  
X Melville Island - Garden Point Mission  
X Croker Island Mission  
Angurugu - Groote Eylandt Mission  
Numbulwar - Rose River Mission  
Goulburn Island Mission  
Elcho Island Mission  
Millingimbi Mission  
Yirrkala Mission

5. After the revocation of the approvals for the above-mentioned Missions, the eleven Northern Territory establishments remaining as approved institutions for child endowment purposes are listed below, with their full titles which differ in some cases from the information previously known.

(11)  
S.A. 7  
~~83~~ //


Remover from B245.  
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General file number: B.245 or 255 P. Archival

Director (Benefits ):  
(through Assistant Director (Benefits))

Re: Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart  
Carpenter S.A.

According to folio 10 of B.587 the abovementioned institution is no longer operating as an endowed institution and it is recommended that the approval for the purposes of Part VI of the Social Services Act be revoked.

  
Clerk (Benefits) 29/6/65

322/344.

26th August,

The Rev. E.M. Henschke, M.S.C.,  
Roman Catholic Presbytery,  
ALICE SPRINGS. N.T.

Dear Sir,

I have to advise that the Minister for Social Services has recorded his approval to the recognition of the Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Carrieton, South Australia, and Roman Catholic Half- caste Mission, Melville Island, Northern Territory, as institutions for the purposes of the Child Endowment Act.

The Minister's approval provides -

- (1) that endowment be paid -
  - (a) as from the date of lodgment of claim in respect of those children who were inmates on that date of the foregoing institutions; and
  - (b) as from the date of admission in respect of children admitted subsequent thereto.
- (2) that no endowment shall be paid to the institutions in respect of any child for any period for which payment has already been made to a parent or guardian.

The Deputy Commissioner of Child Endowment, Adelaide will communicate with you in the course of a few days and will supply you with the necessary forms and Guide to Procedure.

(Sgd) F. H. ROWE,  
D.S.S.

Yours faithfully,

*The Murphy*  
*Res. note*  
*26/8*  
*27/8*

DESPATCHED  
26 AUG 1942

(F. H. ROWE)  
Director-General.

*File*

322/344.

26th August,

2.

The Rev. E.M. Henschke, M.S.C.,  
Roman Catholic Presbytery,  
ALICE SPRINGS. N.T.

Dear Sir,

I have to advise that the Minister for Social Services has recorded his approval to the recognition of the Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Carrieton, South Australia, and Roman Catholic Half-caste Mission, Melville Island, Northern Territory, as institutions for the purposes of the Child Endowment Act.

The Minister's approval provides -

- (1) that endowment be paid -
  - (a) as from the date of lodgment of claim in respect of those children who were inmates on that date of the foregoing institutions; and
  - (b) as from the date of admission in respect of children admitted subsequent thereto.
- (2) that no endowment shall be paid to the institutions in respect of any child for any period for which payment has already been made to a parent or guardian.

The Deputy Commissioner of Child Endowment, Adelaide will communicate with you in the course of a few days and will supply you with the necessary forms and Guide to Procedure.

Yours faithfully,

(F.H. ROWE)  
Director-General.



(8)

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES CENTRAL OFFICE
19 AUG. 1942
File No. 344

and when the children return to the Northern Territory, where the cost of their maintenance may be less.

These institutions come within the scope of the definition of "institution", and it is therefore recommended that -

1. The Roman Catholic Half-caste Mission, Melville Island, Northern Territory, and the Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Carrieton, S.A., be approved as institutions for the purposes of the Child Endowment Act.
2. Endowment be paid -
  - (a) as from the date of lodgment of claim (C.E. 4) in respect of those children who were inmates on that date; and
  - (b) as from the date of admission in respect of children admitted subsequent thereto.
3. No endowment be paid to the institutions in respect of any child for any period for which payment has already been made to a parent or guardian.

*J. H. Rowe*  
 Director General.  
 17/8/42. *RD*

Approved.  
*E. J. Holloway*  
 Minister for Social Services.  
 17/8/42.

*D/C Commr advised*  
*RD*  
 26/8/42

(7) 7

Child Endowment Act.

Application by charitable institution or organization for Minister's approval as "Institution" for the purposes of Section 4 of the Child Endowment Act.

Name of Institution	(a) Roman Catholic Half-caste Mission (b) Convent of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.
Address of Institution	(a) Melville Island, Northern Territory (b) Carrieton, South Australia.
Name and address of applicant	Rev. W.M. Henschke, M.S.C., Roman Catholic Presbytery, ALICE SPRINGS.
Applicant's official designation	Business Manager.
Gross income of institution for twelve months ended 30. 6. 42.	£540
Amount of financial assistance received from - (a) Commonwealth Government (b) State Government by way of: (i) Subsidy (ii) per capita maintenance payments during the period in question	(a) £540 _____ (b) (i) - _____ (ii) - _____
Number of children under 16 years of age at present resident in the institution	(a) 27 (b) 37

The Minister.

Section 4 of the Child Endowment Act defines "institution" as a charitable institution or organization (including a charitable institution or organization maintained by the Commonwealth or a State) ~~or mainly dependent upon financial assistance from the Commonwealth or a State approved by the Minister~~ approved by the Minister, but does not include a hospital for the insane maintained by the Commonwealth or a State or mainly dependent upon financial assistance from the Commonwealth or a State.

These institutions are conducted by the Society of Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (Roman Catholic). Their object is the maintenance, care and education of half-caste aborigines residing on the Melville Island Mission. Owing to war conditions the half-caste girls have been removed from Melville Island and are temporarily accommodated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Carrieton, South Australia.

The Mission receives a grant from the Commonwealth Government which includes -

- (1) Sums for assistance in establishing welfare stations, formerly in the North but now also in South Australia;
- (2) The sum of 1/- per day, per child, towards the cost of clothing and maintenance.

The Minister for the Interior has decided that no action is to be taken to alter the existing arrangement for the payment of 1/- per day to the Mission authorities for each Northern Territory half-caste maintained by them at places outside the Northern Territory even though child endowment may be granted. The decision is to be reviewed, however, if

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.  
14 AUG 1942  
RECEIVED

(6) 6

The Puerbytery.  
Hindmarsh - S.A.  
August 11<sup>th</sup> 1942

No 322/344.

To F. H. Rowe. Esq.  
Dear Sir.

On account of the raids in Darwin, our mission is divided at present, i.e. our mission on Melville Island.

Father W. Cannon is still there with the boys. The sisters had to come south and brought the half-caste girls with them and a few boys.

For this reason I wish to register two places, Melville Island & Carnarvon South Australia.

When times are normal again the sisters and girls will return to Melville Island and the mission will again be united.

Yours faithfully,  
W. M. Idenshko, M.S.C

P.S. I am leaving Adelaide in a few days time for Alice Springs.

So my address for the future will be, Puerbytery  
Alice Springs.  
Northern Territory.

Paper  
14/8

Child Endowment Act.**APPLICATION BY INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION  
FOR APPROVAL OF MINISTER.**

Attention is directed to the following definition of "institution" in Section 4 of the Act:—

"Institution" means a charitable institution or organization (not being a charitable institution or organization maintained by the Commonwealth or a State or mainly dependent upon financial assistance from the Commonwealth or a State) approved by the Minister.

I, SISTER ANNONCIATA  
(Full name in block letters.)  
of CONVENT CARRIETON SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
(Full postal address.)  
being the SUPERIOR  
(Insert "Manager", "Superintendent", or other title.)  
of the CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART  
(Full name of institution.)  
situated at CARRIETON SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
(Full address of institution.)

hereby apply for the Minister's approval of the above-named institution (or organization) as an institution for the purposes of the *Child Endowment Act* 1941.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in reply to the questions and requests hereinafter set out is true and correct in every particular.

Questions and Requests for Information.	Answers.
1. What was the total gross income of the institution from all sources during the twelve months ended on 30th June last?	£ 540-0-0.
2. What amount of financial assistance, if any, was received from (a) the Commonwealth, or (b) a State, during the same period (included in the amount shown in answer to the previous question)?	(a) Commonwealth .. £ 540-0-0 (b) State .. .. £ nil
3. What is the estimated total gross income of the institution from all sources during the twelve months ending on 30th June next?	£ 666-0-0
4. What is the estimated amount of financial assistance, if any, to be received from (a) the Commonwealth, or (b) a State, during the same period (included in the amount shown in answer to the previous question)?	(a) Commonwealth .. £ 666-0-0 (b) State .. .. £ nil
5. What is the total number of children under sixteen years of age at present resident in the institution?	Thirty-seven.

NOTE.—Please attach a copy of the Constitution or Objects of the Institution (or Organization) also a copy of the last annual statement of receipts and expenditure of the Institution. Any explanatory comments on the matters appearing in such statements should be furnished on the back hereof.

Declared at Adelaide, S.A.  
the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 1943

W. M. Henschke, M.S.C.  
Signature of Applicant.

Before me\* † P. P. Campbell  
Minister of Religion

\* The person before whom this declaration is made to sign here and add the title by which he takes the declaration, such as "Justice of the Peace," &c.

† The declaration may be made before any of the following persons:—A minister of religion; a State school head-teacher; a member of the police force of the Commonwealth or of a State; a police, stipendiary or special magistrate of the Commonwealth or of a State; a justice of the peace; a barrister or solicitor; a notary public; an officer of the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury, the Commonwealth Department of Social Services or the Department of Trade and Customs; a commissioner for affidavits; a commissioner for declarations; a Registrar of Pensions; a councillor of any municipality or shire; a member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth or of any State.

## COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Child Endowment Act.**APPLICATION BY INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION  
FOR APPROVAL OF MINISTER.**

Attention is directed to the following definition of "institution" in Section 4 of the Act:—

"Institution" means a charitable institution or organization (not being a charitable institution or organization maintained by the Commonwealth or a State or mainly dependent upon financial assistance from the Commonwealth or a State) approved by the Minister.

I, WILLIAM CONNORS  
(Full name in block letters.)  
of MELVILLE ISLAND via DARWIN. NORTHERN TERRITORY  
(Full postal address.)  
being the SUPERINTENDENT  
(Insert "Manager", "Superintendent", or other title.)  
of the CATHOLIC MISSION MELVILLE ISLAND. NT  
(Full name of institution.)  
situated at MELVILLE ISLAND. via DARWIN. NORTHERN TERRITORY  
(Full address of institution.)

hereby apply for the Minister's approval of the above-named institution (or organization) as an institution for the purposes of the *Child Endowment Act 1941*.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information given in reply to the questions and requests hereinafter set out is true and correct in every particular.

Questions and Requests for Information.	Answers.
1. What was the total gross income of the institution from all sources during the twelve months ended on 30th June last?	£ 540-0-0
2. What amount of financial assistance, if any, was received from (a) the Commonwealth, or (b) a State, during the same period (included in the amount shown in answer to the previous question)?	(a) Commonwealth .. £ 540-0-0 (b) State .. .. £ nil.
3. What is the estimated total gross income of the institution from all sources during the twelve months ending on 30th June next?	£ 550-0-0
4. What is the estimated amount of financial assistance, if any, to be received from (a) the Commonwealth, or (b) a State, during the same period (included in the amount shown in answer to the previous question)?	(a) Commonwealth .. £ 550-0-0 (b) State .. .. £ nil.
5. What is the total number of children under sixteen years of age at present resident in the institution?	Twenty-seven.

NOTE.—Please attach a copy of the Constitution or Objects of the Institution (or Organization) also a copy of the last annual statement of receipts and expenditure of the Institution. Any explanatory comments on the matters appearing in such statements should be furnished on the back hereof.

Declared at Adelaide, S.A.  
the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 1942

Before me\*†

B. T. Campbell  
Minister of Religion

W. M. Denacko, M.S.C.  
Signature of Applicant.

\* The person before whom this declaration is made to sign here and add the title by which he takes the declaration, such as "Justice of the Peace," &c.  
† The declaration may be made before any of the following persons:—A minister of religion; a State school head-teacher; a member of the police force of the Commonwealth or of a State; a police, stipendiary or special magistrate of the Commonwealth or of a State; a justice of the peace; a barrister or solicitor; a notary public; an officer of the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury, the Commonwealth Department of Social Services or the Department of Trade and Customs; a commissioner for affidavits; a commissioner for declarations; a Registrar of Pensions; a councillor of any municipality or shire; a member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth or of any State.

(3) 344.3

322/344.

22nd July,

2.

The Rev. W.M. Henschke, M.S.C.,  
Catholic Presbytery,  
DARWIN, N.T.

Dear Sir,

I refer to our correspondence of September and October, 1941 regarding the approval of the Minister to the recognition of -

Little Flower Mission, Alice Springs;  
Our Lady of the Sacred Mission, Port Keats;  
and  
Bathurst Island Mission to the Aborigines.

as institutions for the purposes of the Child Endowment Act.

It is noticed that although the Half-caste Mission at Melville Island is under your control no application has been made for the Minister's approval to its recognition for Child Endowment purposes.

I should be glad of advice therefore as to whether this Mission is still functioning and if so, whether it is desired to claim endowment in respect of the children maintained therein.

Should you desire to make application on behalf of the Melville Island Mission, Form C.E.3 should be completed and returned to this office, whilst Form C.E.4 should be completed and forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Child Endowment, C.M.L. Building, King William Street, Adelaide.

Yours faithfully,

(Wm. F. ROWE,

Per T.H.P.

(F.H. ROWE)

Director-General.

DESPATCHED  
/ /  
22 JUL 1942

Enclosure.

copy of letter placed  
on other two files.  
94.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

30th July, 1942.

The Director-General,  
Department of Social Services,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Child Endowment - Methodist Overseas Missions in  
Northern Territory.

I refer to your memoranda of the 9th and 24th June and the 15th July regarding the payment made by this Department to the Methodist Overseas Missions in respect of half-caste Northern Territory children transferred to the care of the Society.

The question as to whether any reduction should be made in the amount of 1/- per child per day in the event of the Society receiving payment in respect of the children under the Child Endowment Act has now been considered by the Director of Native Affairs (Mr. E.W.P. Chinnery). A copy of the memorandum dated 7th July submitted by Mr. Chinnery in this connection is attached.

The Minister has decided that so far as this Department is concerned no action is to be taken to alter the existing arrangement for the payment to Mission Societies of 1/- per day for each Northern Territory half-caste maintained by the Societies at places outside the Northern Territory. This decision is to be reviewed if and when the children return to the Northern Territory.

Apart from the Methodist Overseas Missions, similar arrangements for the care of half-caste children have been made with the Church Missionary Society (Church of England) and a Roman Catholic Missionary organization. The Church Missionary Society has a number of Northern Territory half-castes in homes in Sydney while children of the Roman Catholic faith are being accommodated in a home at Carrieton, South Australia.

(Sgd.) J.A. CARRODUS.

S E C R E T A R Y.

COPY

The Secretary:

---

I have seen Mr. Pitt of the Department of Social Services regarding matters referred to in memoranda 321/321 of the 9th June and the 24th June.

The position is as follows:-

"There is no per capita grant to Missions in regard to Aborigines but towards the end of each financial year (about April) an annual subsidy is paid to each Mission on recommendations made by the Director of Native Affairs through the Administrator. These recommendations are based on Mission services providing general welfare to aboriginals during the year.

Last year these grants were as follows:-

Church Missionary Society	£1019
Roman Catholic	735
Methodist	1193
Lutheran	694
Aboriginal Inland Mission	<u>200</u>
	£3841

The subsidies for 1942-43 will be specially considered about February next in the light of welfare services rendered during the period under review in relation to the economic conditions affecting the rendering of such services.

In addition to the annual subsidies paid on behalf of aboriginal welfare, special grants are made to the Roman Catholic, Methodist and General Missionary Society Mission in connection with their establishments for the welfare and special training of half-caste children, most of whom were formerly provided for in the Government half-caste institutions at Darwin and Alice Springs.

These grants include -

- (1) sums for assistance in establishing welfare stations formerly in the North but now in South Australia and New South Wales;
- (2) sums towards salaries of teachers and welfare workers engaged in this service; and
- (3) the sum of 1/- per day per inmate towards the cost of clothing, sustenance and maintenance.

Owing to the favourable living conditions in the Northern Territory establishments where fish, game and native foods and tropical fruits are procurable and very little clothing is needed, the sum of 1/- per day was considered adequate but now that war conditions have compelled the removal of these children South, the expense of maintaining them will no doubt be substantially increased because of the heavier cost of clothing, foods to produce a balanced diet, and other items necessary in the South but not required in the Northern Territory.

To meet this additional cost in the South establishments will register as Institutions to bring them within the scope of Child Endowment grants.

Notwithstanding this additional relief provided by the Child Endowments grants it is recommended that no reduction be made in the present per capita grant of 1/- per day in respect to half-caste children as long as war conditions compel the Missions to train the children South.

A reply on these lines is suggested.

(Sgd.) E.W.P. Chinnery  
Director of Native Affairs.

7.7.42



A885

COMMONWEALTH ARCHIVES OFFICE

Applicant S/S

Request No. 5566

Date 30 JUL 1970

COMMONWEALTH ARCHIVES OFFICE

Applicant S/S

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