



Archives ACT Finding Aid

Child Welfare Policy Records

ACT Government records

This finding aid is a guide to ACT Government records over 20 years of age available for public access that will assist research into child welfare in the Australian Capital Territory.

Legacy Records

Most of these records will be legacy records, pre-Self-Government in 1989, created by Commonwealth agencies. At various stages since 1911 when the ACT was created, the Commonwealth government contracted agencies of the New South Wales Government to administer and provide services. This means that many relevant child welfare records are held by the State Records Authority of New South Wales and so, are not in the ACT at all. The indexes to New South Wales archives are at: <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/>. To find Commonwealth archives go to the National Archives of Australia: <http://www.naa.gov.au>

Records Disposal Schedules

The records described in this finding aid are those created or received by government agencies that have been kept over time. Because government records are created for a business, administrative or legal reason, once their useful life has ended some records are legally disposed of. This means that not all records are kept forever. Records are disposed of legally through the authorised Records Disposal Schedules. These Records Disposal Schedules are legal instruments and are publicly available directly on the ACT Legislation website at: <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/a/2002-18/ni.asp> or through the Territory Records Office website at: <http://www.territoryrecords.act.gov.au/recordsdisposal>.

Closed records

Some records are not made available to the general public because of the following reasons outlined in Section 28 of the Territory Records Act 2002:

- a Documents affecting relations with Commonwealth and States;
- b Documents affecting enforcement of the law and protection of public safety;
- c Documents affecting personal privacy;
- d Documents subject to legal professional privilege;
- e Documents disclosure of which would be contempt of Legislative Assembly or a court.

Agencies must apply to close certain records or classes of records to public access before a declaration is granted. Specific welfare records are usually closed under c and e.

Child Migrants Guide

One publication that lists child migration records and their repositories in Australia is at:

<http://www.caara.org.au/index.php/publications/child-migrants-accessing-records-held-by-commonwealth-and-state-archives/>

Sample records available to the public

Legislation

Many of the publicly available archives deal with amending legislation, for instance;
68/37

REVISION OF CHILD WELFARE ORDINANCE 1957

68/1227

RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION INTO POLICY QUESTION INVOLVING CHILD WELFARE ORDINANCE

70/176

CHILD WELFARE ACT - AMENDMENTS PROPOSED ORDINANCE

76/221

HOUSING & WELFARE POLICY BRANCH - CHILD CARE - REVISION OF LEGISLATION
W1984/01306

LEGISLATION & LEGAL POLICY BRANCH PROPOSED CHILD WELFARE ORDINANCE
EXAMINATION OF LRC REPORT

87/8945

LEGISLATIVE COUNSELS OFFICE, CHILD WELFARE (SAVING & VALIDATION) ORDINANCE
87/13221

LEGISLATION & LEGAL POLICY BRANCH, PRESCRIPTION OF CHILD WELFARE LAWS FOR
PURPOSE OF SECTION 60H OF FAMILY LAW ACT

89/13414

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW & JUSTICE BRANCH, FAMILY LAW ACT PROPOSAL, CROSS -
VESTING OF STATE & FAMILY COURT JURISDICTION, CHILD WELFARE LAW MATTERS
STANDING COMMITTEE OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL (SCAG)

Inter-agency co-operation

Many of the publicly available archives deal with inter-agency co-operation, for
instance;

69/1630

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETINGS (INCLUDING CORRESPONDENCE) - PART 4

69/4068

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE ACT - FORMATION OF

73/1510

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - PART 5

76/964

HOUSING & WELFARE POLICY BRANCH - ACT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON CHILD
CARE - PART 4

119743

LIAISON WITH CHILD & ADOLESCENT UNIT COMMUNITY WELFARE BRANCH

Statistics, publicity and training

Many of the publicly available archives deal with statistics, publicity and training, for
instance;

71/3752

CHILD WELFARE STATISTICS IN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND AND NEW GUINEA - PART 3
W1980/02898

WELFARE BRANCH, CHILD CARE – BROCHURES

W1981/00239

WELFARE BRANCH, CHILD CARE SECTION - STATISTICS

W1983/03258

WELFARE BRANCH, CHILD CARE IN ACTION NEWSLETTER

0060019 – Later papers on Chief Ministers Dept file 90/13730

MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE TRAINING & EDUCATION PROGRAMS
COMMUNITY WELFARE BRANCH

119239

NATIONAL WORKING PARTY FOR CHILD PROTECTION COMMUNITY EDUCATION
CAMPAIGN COMMUNITY WELFARE BRANCH