

# Senator Andrew Murray

Australian Democrats'  
Senator for Western Australia

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **RIGHTING THE RECORD**

### *Democrats welcome Government recognition of child migrant neglect and abuse*

The Australian Democrats welcome the Federal Government's response to *'Lost Innocents: Righting the Record'*, the report of the Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into child migration.

"The positive response to most of the recommendations is welcome. It signals a commitment to 'righting the record' for child migrants from the United Kingdom and Malta," said Senator Andrew Murray.

"For the many child migrants who live with painful memories of childhood neglect, abuse and assault, the Government's response will go some way to healing the injustices suffered.

"I applaud the Government's intention to contribute \$1 million annually for three-years to establish a travel fund to assist child migrants to visit their country of origin in order to re-establish connections with family members. However, I am concerned that the eligibility criteria for access to the travel fund have not been spelt out.

"With child migrants now aged in their 50s and 60s, this fund will only operate for a limited time, therefore, I trust that it will be reviewed after three years."

Senator Murray also welcomed the Government's acceptance that Maltese child migrants should have the same access to services provided to British child migrants.

"The committee recommended that the States also come to the party. The finance and programs required from them are modest and we look for their wholehearted participation," said Senator Murray.

Senator Murray said he was disappointed by the rejection of the committee's recommendation that child migrants be offered automatic Australian citizenship, with the provision for persons to decline citizenship.

"This was a key need for Australians who came here as young children after the war, who have paid their taxes and dues as Australians and have even fought for Australia," he said.

"The worst response is the Government's rejection of the recommendation that Francis Paul Keaney's MBE be cancelled. Keaney was a monster and to continue to allow him to sully the list of deserved recipients is a great mistake," concluded Senator Murray.

**To interview Senator Andrew Murray contact Ainslee McCallum on  
02 6277 5747 or 0417 174 302.**

**Senator Murray is a former child migrant.**

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