

# After the Orphanage

## Life Beyond the Children's Home

Suellen Murray, John Murphy, Elizabeth Branigan, Jenny Malone

Over the twentieth century, more than half a million children were institutionalised across Australia as a result of illegitimacy, the death or illness of their parents, family breakdown or the intervention of the state. While there is some literature on the experience of growing up in an orphanage, we know very little about what happens in people's lives after institutional care.

*After the Orphanage* is the first book to look at how people who grew up in care adjusted to life in the outside world. Drawing on interviews with people who lived in orphanages and group homes in Victoria and who left between 1945 and 1983, the book explores how these childhood experiences affect people's identities, their employment opportunities, their intimate relationships and their health. It casts light on an important aspect of Australian social history that is often ignored or left in the shadows, but whose effects continue to be felt today.

### Comments

'A useful and insightful addition to the literature ... [which will] add to the rich fabric now being woven in this field'.

– Andrew Murray, Senator for Western Australia 1996-2008, who initiated two Senate inquiries into children who were put in care

### About the Authors

**Dr Suellen Murray** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Applied Social Research at RMIT University. Her areas of research include Australian social policy, the history of domestic violence services and social policy concerned with violence against women.

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**Dr Elizabeth Branigan** is a researcher whose areas of expertise include marginalised and sole-parent families and motherhood and activism. She is the Academic Programs Coordinator at the Australian Centre for Human Rights Education and was most recently a post-doctoral fellow at RMIT University.

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isbn/9781921410901.htm](http://www.unswpress.com.au/isbn/9781921410901.htm)

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