'Journeys and Homes: Colebrook experiences'

Sue Hosking

University of Adelaide

Abstract

In 1908 the South Australian government appointed Senior Constable W G South to the position of Protector of Aborigines. From the following year the general child welfare law, the State Children's Act 1895, was used to remove 'half-caste' children from their families on the grounds of 'destitution' or 'neglect'. A child could be deemed 'neglected' if he or she 'sleeps in the open air, and does not satisfy the Justices that he or she has a home or a settled place of abode'. This resulted in different kinds of journeying, as missionaries set out to 'rescue' children, establishing Homes for them at a distance from their relatives who, as 'bush natives', were considered beyond the influences of 'civilization'.

Drawing upon autobiographies, journals and letters, this paper examines the effects of the movement of Aboriginal children from the North of South Australia to the suburbs of Adelaide, through a series of Homes (Colebrook Home).