



Social Work on the big screen

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) says that the movie [*Oranges and Sunshine*](#) is a reflection of the power of the profession to work with people and address the Government policies that affect their lives.

Oranges and Sunshine is a portrayal of the British Social Worker, Margaret Humphreys, who uncovered the forced migration of British children to Australia. She assisted these children, as adults, to reunite them with their British families, and persuaded the British and Australian Governments to formally apologise for the policy.

The movie is an accurate reflection of social work values. It successfully walks the line of following Margaret Humphreys' story while simultaneously enabling the voices of the children (now adults), who were permanently removed from the families and deported to Australia, to be heard.

Oranges and Sunshine also demonstrates how the profession addresses issues at the level of individuals and families, but never loses sight of the wider context in which these issues occur.

Maria Harries AO, an AASW member who has worked with children who were deported to Australia, said, "Margaret Humphreys stands tall amongst her colleagues as a social worker who lives up to the ideals of her profession. She identified the profoundly damaging policy of sending unaccompanied children - so-called orphans - from the United Kingdom to Australia. And she never let up on the pressure to address the consequences of this practice. She continues to work tirelessly with former child migrants and their families and with social workers and colleagues in other organisations to address the deep emotional and mental scars that resulted from this forced migration of children. *Oranges and Sunshine* is a welcome testament to her determination and energy and is a tribute to the lives of the many families she touched."

Professor Bob Lonne, AASW National President, said, "Margaret Humphreys' work embodies the best of social work. Few other professions would respectfully address the personal and family issues and then tackle the Government policies which had caused these problems. The movie enables the stories of the former child migrants to shine through."