

THE QUEEN WILHELMINA BENEVOLENT FUND

Het Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds

This fund is a charitable organisation which helps people of Dutch descent who are eligible for assistance from the Fund. In case of illness, disasters or whatever, the Fund will assist where possible. When there are financial difficulties, donations may be given, and where necessary, food.

parcels and clothing. It stands to reason that this organisation is always in need of money. Assistance is given in a confidential manner and is determined by the trustees, often on the advice of a social worker or a religious organisation. The Fund's capital is managed by 7 trustees.

This Fund is the oldest relief organisation in Australia. In March 1903, the then Consul-General of the Netherlands took the initiative to establish The Netherlands Aid Society in Australia and New Zealand. Its object was to give financial support to people in difficulties and to pay for the return fare of those who wished to go back to Holland. Money to return to Holland is no longer given. Furthermore, aid was given to people in search of work. It is, however, a fact that the people who received support in the early years were without exception seamen.

In the beginning it was a society with members. This changed in 1943, when H.M. Queen Wilhelmina gave her permission to the fund to use her name. At that time the Queen Wilhelmina Benevolent Fund was officially registered. There is close cooperation between the Princes Marijke Fund in Queensland, the P.D.B.S., the C.D.M.A. and the Ex-Servicemen & Women's Association.