

# The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory

1921 – 2018

**Other Names:**

- The Salvation Army
- The Salvos

**URL:** <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/>

## Details

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The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory was one of two autonomous territories of this world-wide Christian Church in Australia. Its international headquarters are in London, England. The Southern Territory comprised the Salvation Army in Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory (Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory made up the Salvation Army Eastern Territory). In Australia, since 1882, the Salvation Army have established and run many institutions, programs and services for children. They ran children's Homes, reformatories and maternity Homes around Australia and conducted adoption, probation, child migrant settlement and fostering schemes. In 2018 the Salvation Army unified its Southern and Eastern Territories. In 2019, the Salvation Army (also known as The Salvos) continues to provide a range of community services in Australia, including out-of-home care for children and young people, aged care and family support services.

From 1880 until 1907, the Salvation Army's operations in Australia were conducted by the Australasian Territory. The Australasian Territory comprised Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga. In 1907, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga became a separate territory from the Salvation Army Australian Territory. The Australian Territory was split into the Southern and Eastern Territories in 1921, a structure that remained in place for nearly a century. A project to unify the territories of the Salvation Army in Australia – 'Australia One' – was announced in March 2016.

The Salvation Army was founded in London in 1865. By 1880, the church was active in Australia, conducting services in Melbourne and Adelaide. In 1881, the founder of the Salvation Army, General William Booth, despatched Captain Sutherland and his wife to Australia to commence a 'campaign' (*Illawarra Mercury* 1 April 1881). In 1883, Major James Barker established the Church's first permanent social program, the Prison Gate for discharged prisoners in Melbourne. In 1884, the Fallen Sisters Home was established in Carlton (an inner suburb of Melbourne) for women released from prison.

By the 1890s, the Salvation Army was setting up its first maternity Homes in Australia, including the Adelaide Maternity Home (established 1893), Rock Lynn House in Launceston, Tasmania (around 1895), a Home for Neglected Girls in Perth (1894) and The Haven in North Fitzroy, Victoria (1897). The Salvation Army was active in the adoption of children from their maternity Homes and hospitals. Many of its maternity Homes were not closed until the 1980s and 1990s.

The Salvation Army began establishing institutions for children in the 1890s, homes and industrial schools for 'neglected' boys and girls, as well as reformatories for 'convicted' children. The first of these was the Heidelberg Boys' Home, Victoria, established in 1893. Some of these earliest Salvation Army institutions – such as

Bayswater Boys' Homes in Victoria (established 1897) – operated continuously until the 1980s.

The Salvation Army's network of children's institutions in the Southern Territory continued to expand in the twentieth century. Most were large institutions and some also had sections for children and young people with intellectual disabilities (such as Seaforth Salvation Army Boys' Homes, Gosnells in WA). The Salvation Army's large institutions for children were progressively closed down from the mid-1970s into the early 1980s. The Salvation Army continued to provide out-of-home care for children and young people, through other models such as residential care and foster care.

From the late 1990s, government inquiries including the Forde Inquiry in Queensland and the Senate's Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care heard criticism of the Salvation Army and its treatment of children in its Homes.

In the 'Forgotten Australians' report (2004), the Committee stated that:

*the overwhelming majority of submissions to this inquiry from ex-residents of Salvation Army institutions in all States reported negative experiences in these institutions, often citing cases of extreme forms of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The Committee believes that there has been a notable reluctance by the Salvation Army to acknowledge past practices, in particular the nature and extent of abuse in its institutions.*

The Salvation Army subsequently issued an apology to former residents of its children's Homes:

*From 1894 to the 1970s The Salvation Army operated children's homes around Australia. The Salvation Army deeply regrets that not all the children in its care received the love and protection they deserved. Some of the children experienced great fear living with rigid and harsh discipline. Some became victims of physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. The Salvation Army acknowledges its failure with those children. The Salvation Army offers all persons who were hurt its unreserved apology.*

In December 2010, the international leader of the Salvation Army issued an apology to former residents of its children's Homes in Australia.

In October 2015, the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse held a public hearing in Adelaide into the experience of former child residents at institutions operated by the Salvation Army (Southern Territory) between 1940 and 1990 (Case Study 33).

## Gallery



### Girls' Home - Murrumbeena - Victoria

**Description:** This is an image of the Murrumbeena Girls' Home. The description provided for this image by Stonnington Libraries reads: "Belgrave was built in 1873 for Robert and Elizabeth Benson on 14 acres (5.6 hectares) of pasture land at the corner of Dandenong Road and Benson's Road (Belgrave Road). For further information on Belgrave and its use by the Salvation Army and on Benson see MP 395. This is a photograph of 'Belgrave' on the north-east corner of Dandenong Road and Belgrave Road, East Malvern/Chadstone (Murrumbeena). The photo shows the two storey house with slate roof and rendered walls and large glass conservatory."



**Box Hill Boys' Home**



**Spring Street West between Little Bourke Street and Lonsdale Street, Melbourne**

**Description:** Looking across street towards double storey building, signs at roof read: The Salvation Army Young Women's Hostel / Salvation Army Social Service Centre.



**Salvation Army Girls' Home, Sackville Street, Kew**

**Description:** "Blackhall", built ca. 1890. Acquired by the Salvation Army in 1915 and renamed Catherine Booth Girls' Home.



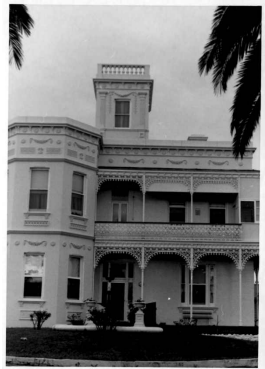
**Salvation Army Home near Boronia, Vic.**

**Description:** 'The Rose Series P.1761'



**The Salvation Army Boys' Home, The Basin, Vic.**

**Description:** The Rose Series P.3856



**Brunswick. "The Harbour" Salvation Army Hostel 20 Cohuna St.**



**The Haven Maternity Home, Melbourne**



**Girls Home, Brunswick, Victoria**



### Salvation Army childrens band, 1920s

**Description:** This is a digitised copy of a glass negative and is part of the group of five images titled 'Salvation Army in Western Australia [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The images shows a childrens band of the Salvation Army. It is not known whether these young musicians came from Salvation Army Children's Homes.

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### Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands

**Description:** This is an image of the entrance to the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands. The image is a digital copy of an item held in the Salvation Army Children's Homes, Nedlands Library Pictorial Collection.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- The Salvation Army, Australian Territory (1880 - 1921)
  - **The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory (1921 – 2018)**
    - The Salvation Army Australia (2018 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Rock Lynn House \(c. 1895 - 1960\)](#)
- [Bayswater Boys' Homes \(1897 - 1987\)](#)
- [The Haven \(1897 - 1988\)](#)
- [Elim Maternity Hospital \(1897 - c. 1973\)](#)
- [The Harbour \(1898 - 1994\)](#)
- [Cornelie Home \(1898 - 1903\)](#)  
Date: 1898 - 1903
- [The Bridge Rescue Home \(1899 - 1934\)](#)
- [Riddells Creek Girls' Home \(1900 - 1940\)](#)
- [Boys' Probationary School \(1900 - 1945\)](#)
- [Girls' Probationary School \(1901 - 1945\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys \[Collie\] \(1901 - 1920\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie \(1901 - 1920\)](#)
- [Collie Boys' Home \(1902 - 1920\)](#)
- [Graceville Centre \(1903 - current\)](#)
- [The Open Door \(1903 - 1922\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie \(1904? - 1924?\)](#)
- [William Booth Girls' Home \(1912 - 1972\)](#)
- [Box Hill Boys' Home \(1913 - 1984\)](#)
- [McBride Maternity Hospital \(1914 - 1975\)](#)
- [Catherine Booth Girls' Home \(1915 - 1976\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Children's Creche \(1915 - 1947\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Boys' Home \(1918 - 1965\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe \(1918 - 1969\)](#)
- [Allenby Lodge Young Women's Hostel \(1919 - 1984\)](#)
- [Seaforth Salvation Army Boys' Homes, Gosnells \(1920 - 1955\)](#)
- [Seaforth Salvation Army Girls' Home \(1920 - 1942\)](#)
- [Seaforth Salvation Army Boys' Reformatory \(1920 - 1955\)](#)

- [Spring House - Young Women's Hostel \(1921 - 1984\)](#)
- [Barton Vale Girls' Home \(1922 - 1947\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Young Women's Hostel \(1922 - 1988\)](#)
- [Hillcrest Maternity Home \(1922 - 1974\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Boys' Home, Kent Town \(1929 - 1972\)](#)
- [The Bridge Industrial Home \(1934 - 1977\)](#)
- [Tower House Young Women's Hostel \(1943 - 1978\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Boys' Home, Mount Barker \(1945 - 1982\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Girls' Home, Fullarton \(1945 - 1969?\)](#)
- [Maylands Salvation Army Home for Girls \(1945 - 1981\)](#)
- [Seaforth Toddlers' Home \(1945 - 1946\)](#)
- [Lyndon Lodge \(1946 - c. 2004\)](#)
- [Barrington Boys' Home \(1946 - 1981\)](#)
- [Kardinia Children's Home \(1947 - 31 January 1986\)](#)
- [Withnell House \(1952 - 1969?\)](#)
- [Carinya Youth Hostel \(1965 - 1980?\)](#)
- [Hollywood Children's Village, Salvation Army \(1965 - 1994\)](#)
- [Hillcrest Children's Home \(1966 - 1984\)](#)
- [Fullarton Children's Home \(1969 - 1986\)](#)
- [Withnell House Girls' Home \(1969 - 1973?\)](#)
- [Kindra Cottage Home, Bassendean \(1970 - 1975\)](#)
- [Joyville Cottage \(1972 - 1986?\)](#)
- [Cottesloe House \(1973? - 1979?\)](#)
- [McBride Hospital \(1975 - 1986\)](#)
- [Jacana Children's Home \(1976 - 1995\)](#)
- [Bayside Community Youth Hostel \(c. 1977 - 1994?\)](#)  
The Salvation Army took over the management of Bayside Community Youth Hostel in 1994.
- [Family Group Homes run by The Salvation Army \(Southern Territory\) \(1980s - 2000s\)](#)
- [Kurinda Cottage \(1981 - current\)](#)
- [Maylands Girls' Unit \(1983 - 1998\)](#)
- [Withnell House \(1984? - 1987?\)](#)
- [The Haven Day Care Centre \(1985 - 1990\)](#)
- [Brayton Youth Hostel \(1986 - current\)](#)
- [Alinjarra Cottage \(1986 - 1991\)](#)
- [Mirrabooka House \(1987 - 1998\)](#)

## Related Events

- [Redress WA, State of Western Australia \(2008 - 2011\)](#)  
People who were in Salvation Army Homes were eligible to make an application to the WA Government's Redress WA Scheme.
- [Apology by the General of the Salvation Army General Shaw Clifton, to care leavers of Salvation Army homes \(7 December 2010\)](#)

## Related Organisations

- [The Salvation Army Peninsula Youth & Family Services](#)
- [Territorial Social Programme branch of The Salvation Army \( - 2012\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Heritage Centre, Archives and Museum \( - 2012?\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Westcare \(c. 1980 - 2018\)](#)  
Date: 1980 -
- [Crossroads west \(1991 - current\)](#)  
Crossroads west delivers residential and other youth services for the Salvation Army in Western Australia.
- [Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA \(1993 - 2022\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army EastCare Network \(1995 - current\)](#)
- [Landsdale House \(1995 - current\)](#)  
Salvation Army, Western Australia oversees the running of Landsdale House through its administrative unit, Crossroads west.



- [Kalgoorlie Boulder Youth Accommodation Service \(1999 - current\)](#)  
Kalgoorlie Boulder Youth Accommodation Service was run by the administration unit of the Salvation Army, Western Australia called Crossroads west.
- [The Salvation Army Australia Museum \(2000? - current\)](#)

### Related Legislation

- [The Salvation Army \(Western Australia\) Property Trust Act 1931, Western Australia \(1931 - current\)](#)  
The Salvation Army (Western Australia) Property Trust Act 1931 gives some history about the Salvation Army in the Preamble.

### Related Concepts

- [Adoption in Western Australia \(c. 1896 - current\)](#)

## Resources

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- Senate Community Affairs References Committee Secretariat, Parliament of Australia, [Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children](#), 2004
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- Thompson, Richard, [Submission no 458 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2004
- Green, Dave, [Submission no 439 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
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- Eskey, Eileen, *Report on survey of children in salvation army care at Kew, Camberwell and Box Hill homes*, 1965
- Thompson, Angus, [Boys's Home Residents Seek Compensation for Abuse](#), Herald Sun, 21 November 2024
- Zwart, Barney, [Search boys' homes for corpses: ex-ward](#), The Age, 5 February 2013
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- Rogers, Captain Malcolm, [Transcript of The Salvation Army's presentation to the Family and Community Development Committee: Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations](#), 11 April 2013
- [Social Institutions of the Salvation Army](#), The Argus, 26 February 1898
- *The Salvos: Part 1*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation Compass, 2014
- [Salvation Army Child Care Centres](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Church of England Boy's Society Training Farm
- Sanz, Ken, [The 95-year divide](#), others: Connecting Salvos in Mission, 2016
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Report of Case Study No. 33: The response of the Salvation Army (Southern Territory) to allegations of child sexual abuse at children's homes that it operated*, July 2016
- [Ken Pound interviewed by Gwenda Davey in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 29 November 2010 - 13 December 2010
- [John Walsh interviewed by Hamish Sewell in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 28 March 2011

- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012
- *War Cry: The Salvation Army Magazine*, 1883 - 2020
- Joint Select Committee, Parliament of Tasmania, [Adoption and Related Services 1950-1988](#), 1999
- [Young mothers 'drugged, shamed' inquiry told](#), ABC news, 11 December 2011
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- McCotter, Denzil and Western Australia Department for Community Welfare, *Children in limbo*, 1981
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
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- [Salvation Army Rescue Work](#), Kalgoorlie Western Argus, 23 June 1903
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- *Welcomed to West Australia*, The War Cry, 25 September 1926

## Other Resources



**Title:** Apology by the General of the Salvation Army General Shaw Clifton, to care leavers of Salvation Army homes

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 7 December 2010

[Details](#)



**Title:** Hopetoun Maternity Hospital, Harvest Road, North Fremantle [later, 'Hillcrest']

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 2003

[Details](#)

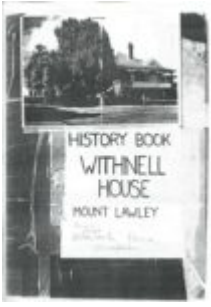


**Title:** Cornelia Home, Lincoln Street

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 2003

[Details](#)



**Title:** Withnell House History Book, cover

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 1948? - 1993?

[Details](#)

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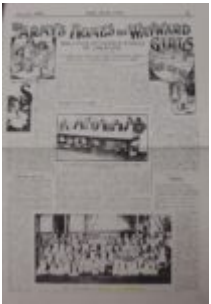
**Title:** Autograph Message No. IV

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 14 May 1910

[Details](#)

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**Title:** The Army's Homes for Wayward Girls

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 18 July 1908

[Details](#)

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## Records

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### Records held by other organisations

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
  - [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
  - [Salvation Army, Nedlands Library Local Studies Collection, Nedlands Library \(1918? - 2000s\)](#)
  - [War Cry \[30 May - 13 June 1942 issues\], National Archives of Australia \(1908 - 1964\)](#)
  - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
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