

St Joseph's Home for Boys

1925 – c. 1967

Details

St Joseph's Home for Boys in Surrey Hills was the new name given in 1925 to the St Joseph's Home for Destitute Children. It accommodated boys aged between 4 and 12. In around 1967, the name changed to St Joseph's Home for Children.

In late 1946, St Joseph's Home for Boys received a small number of boys, transferred from a Tasmanian institution. Boys' Town was situated in Glenorchy, Tasmania. When the Salesians of Don Bosco took over the management of Boys' Town in 1946, some of the younger children from Boys' Town were transferred to the Sisters of St Joseph at Surrey Hills.

According to Jenkinson, by the mid 1950s St Joseph's accommodated Catholic boys aged from 6 to 12 years of age. Approximately half were Wards of the State. In 1956 accommodation was available for 112 boys within large dormitories of 12 to 29 beds.

By the mid 1960s fewer boys lived at the Home given the introduction of the Catholic Family Welfare foster care and adoption programs. Approximately 80 children aged from 5 to 9 years were accommodated with siblings under 5 years also accepted. The percentage of children who were Wards of the State had increased. Children would only be accepted for private placement if they were referred through the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau.

Gallery



St Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills, boys in the grounds



St Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills, dormitory



St Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills, bathroom



St Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills, building



St Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills, gathering in the grounds

More info

Chronology

- St Joseph's Home for Destitute Children, Sisters of St Joseph (1890 - 1925)
 - **St Joseph's Home for Boys (1925 – c. 1967)**
 - St Joseph's Home for Children, Sisters of St Joseph (1967 - 1991)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart \(1866 - current\)](#)
Date: 1925 - 1967

Related Organisations

- [Boys' Town \(1945 - 1956\)](#)

Resources

- James Jenkinson Consulting, [Guide to out-of-home care services 1940-2000 - Volume One: Agency Descriptions](#), November 2001
- Murray, Suellen, John Murphy, Elizabeth Branigan, Jenny Malone, *After the orphanage: life beyond the children's home*, 2009
- Swain, Shurlee, *Traces in the archives: evidence of institutional abuse in surviving child welfare records*, Children Australia, 2007
- McFadyen, Roy, *At a cost*, 2005
- Wheatley-Kenyon, Patrick, *In the shadow of a legend: an Aussie's search*, 2004
- Szablicki, Ryszard, *Orphanage boy: through the eyes of innocence*, 2007
- Collins, William Michael, *The early years 1928-1935: the Company of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament (Grey Sisters)*, 1953
- Miller, Wayne, [Submission no 15 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Davis, William, [Submission no 227 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Sheedy, Anthony James, [Submission no 283 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Walker, Charlie, *Charlie, the ratbag orphan : an orphan survivor in Australia*, 2010
- Walker, Alan Charlie, [Transcript of Alan Charlie Walker's presentation to the Family and Community Development Committee: Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations](#), 18 February 2013
- Cade, Mark, [Submission No 38 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- [Heritage Display](#), MacKillop Family Services website, 2013
- [St Joseph's Home\(s\) for Children \(1888-1997\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to St Joseph's Home for Boys

- [*Charlie Walker interviewed by Rob Willis in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \[sound recording\]*](#), 23 February 2010

Records

For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

Records

- [MacKillop Family Services Records, Victorian institutions \(1857 - current\)](#)
 - ['Closed' Agency and General Correspondence Files \[Charities Board of Victoria\] \(1923 - 1983\)](#)
 - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
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