

# Kildonan Homes for Children

c. 1960 – c. 1993

## Details

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Kildonan Homes for Children came into being in around 1960, following the sale of Kildonan's children's Home in Burwood. From the early 1960s, Kildonan ran family group homes in Melbourne's eastern suburbs as well as a foster care program. From 1982 Kildonan operated residential units solely in Melbourne's inner northern suburbs. In 1993, the organisation became known as Kildonan Child and Family Services.

In around 1958 Kildonan opened its first family group home in property within the grounds of the Children's Home in Burwood. It housed up to eight children with a cottage father and mother.

Following the sale of Kildonan's home in Elgar Road, Burwood in the early 1960s, Kildonan Homes for Children began a new program of residential services with a family group home program, based on professional social work and foster care principles.

Several homes in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne were purchased as Kildonan moved away from 'institutional' care towards the family group home model.

By 1962 Kildonan was operating family group homes in Blackburn, Box Hill, Syndal, North Balwyn and Surrey Hills. At various times, Kildonan family group homes were also located at Burwood, East Malvern, Canterbury, Hawthorn, Richmond, and Wattle Park.

Children entered Kildonan's family group homes from the Admission Centre in Hawthorn. The Admission Centre also accommodated children experiencing placement problems.

The Kildonan Foster Care Program was established in the early 1960s and sought to place children with private families. The Foster Care Program was funded by the sale of Kildonan's home in Burwood. The funds enabled Kildonan Homes for Children to expand its program options by developing a sophisticated foster care and family counselling program based on professional social work and foster care principles.

In 1963 Kildonan opened new administrative offices at 19 Canterbury Road Camberwell and in 1964 commenced a program of day care for children of school age who would otherwise be in institutional care.

Following a further review of its operations in 1979-1980 Kildonan Homes shifted its residential care focus to the inner urban region. The focus was to remain on medium to long term care rather than short term/emergency placements, complementing long-term foster care or adoption where indicated. In 1979 it ran Family Group Homes in country Victoria Sale and Bairnsdale.

By 1982 all of Kildonan's residential care work was focused on the inner urban region, specifically Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond. This program was known as the Kildonan Residential Units.

In 1985 Kildonan consolidated its presence in the Inner Urban region by moving its administrative headquarters to Collingwood.

In 1989, Richmond Community Care Inc. took over the management of the three residential units formerly managed by Kildonan.

In 1993, the organisation became known as Kildonan Child and Family Services. In that year, Kildonan merged with Whittlesea Family Services.

In 2007 Kildonan Uniting Care became the custodian of records of the programs run by Kildonan Homes for Children.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Kildonan, Burwood (1937 - c. 1961)
  - **Kildonan Homes for Children (c. 1960 – c. 1993)**
    - Kildonan Child and Family Services (c. 1993 - 2007)

### Related Entries

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- [The Presbyterian and Scots' Church Children's Aid Society \(1895 - 1965?\)](#)
- [Kildonan Residential Units \(c. 1958 - 2003?\)](#)  
Date: 1960 - 1993
- [Kildonan Admission Centre \(c. 1960 - 1982\)](#)  
Children were transferred from the Kildonan Admission Centre to family group homes run by Kildonan Homes for Children. Some children experiencing placement problems were also referred to the Admission Centre.  
Date: 1960 - ?

#### Related Organisations

- [Methodist Babies' Home \(1929 - c. 1974\)](#)
- [Presbyterian and Methodist Child Care Service \(1971 - 1977?\)](#)
- [Kilmany Family Care \(c. 1978 - 2002\)](#)  
Kilmany Family Care used the clerical services of Kildonan Homes for Children, but it operated independently of the Kildonan Council.
- [Richmond Community Care Incorporated \(1989 - current\)](#)

### Resources

- Dunin, Joan, *They're Home From Homes*, The Sun News-Pictorial, 29 July 1966
- Carter, Isabel, *Experiment in Loving*, The Herald, 15 October 1960
- [Kildonan Homes for Children \(1881-2001\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance*: See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Kildonan Homes for Children
- [From the collection of Uniting Church Archives - Synod of Victoria](#), Victorian Collections, No date. *Relevance*: This collection includes material relating to Kildonan Homes for Children

### Other Resources



**Title:** Kildonan Annual Reports Front Covers

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 1957 - 1962

[Details](#)

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## Records

### Records held by other organisations

- [Kildonan UnitingCare Records \(1881 - 2001\)](#)
- [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/kildonan-homes-for-children/>