FIND & CONNECT

Department of Human Services, State Government of Victoria

1995 – December 2014
Other Names: • DHS

Details

In 1995 the Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS) became responsible for dealing with children placed in the care of the state. This child welfare ‘function’ has been the responsibility of many different government agencies in Victoria since 1864. Most records of the predecessor agencies of DHS remained in the custody of DHS. Other records were held by Public Record Office Victoria (PROV). On 1 January 2015 the Department of Human Services ceased to exist and its functions were transferred to the new Department of Health & Human Services (DHSS).

More info

Chronology

- Health and Community Services, State Government of Victoria (1992 - 1995)
  - **Department of Human Services, State Government of Victoria (1995 – December 2014)**
    - Department of Health & Human Services, State Government of Victoria (January 2015 - 2021)

Related Entries

Ran
- Departmental Family Group Homes, Victoria (1956 - 2000s)
- Malmsbury Youth Training Centre (1965 - 2023)
  Date: 1995 - 2014
- Acheron Youth Training Centre (c. 1966 - 2008)
  Date: 1995 - 2014
- Melbourne Youth Justice Centre (1993 - current)
  Date: 1995 - 2014
- Melbourne Youth Residential Centre (1993 - current)
  Date: 1999 - 2014

Related Events
- Ombudsman's investigation into the storage and management of ward records by the Department of Human Services, State of Victoria (July 2011 - February 2012)

Related Organisations
- Public Record Office Victoria (1973 - current)

- Adoption and Family Records Service, Department of Human Services (c. 1984 - November 2010)
  Freedom of Information requests for wardship files dated 1986 or earlier were processed through AFRS from 1995 - November 2010.
- Corporate Integrity, Information and Resolutions Unit, Department of Human Services (2010? - 2013)
- Family Information, Networks and Discovery, Department of Health & Human Services (November 2010 - June 2019)
  FIND was established by the Department of Human Services in 2010.
  Date: November 2010 - 2014
- The Ward Records Plan Project (2012 - current)

Related Legislation

- Children and Young Persons Act 1989, Victoria (1991 - 2007)
- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (2007 - current)

Resources

- Public Record Office Victoria, *Retention and Disposal Authority for Records of Child Protection and Family Services Functions, Version 2020 (PROS 08/12 VAR 5)*, 2020
- Department of Human Services, *The Home-based Care Handbook*, September 2007
- Burke, Gabrielle; Limbrick, Sheree, *Looking After Children (LAC) in Victoria*, Training Implementation. Final Report., September 2003
- Placement and Support, Children Youth and Families Division, *Looking After Children in Victoria (LAC)*, State Government of Victoria, Australia, Department of Human Services Website, September 2008
- *Age Round Table on child protection*, The Age, 26 November 2009
- Zwartz, Barney, *Search boys' homes for corpses: ex-ward*, The Age, 5 February 2013

Records

Records held by other organisations

- Records of Victorian Adoptions (c. 1908 - current)

You can view this page online by visiting https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/department-of-human-services/