

Morning Star Boys' Home

c. 1936 – 1975

Other Names:

- Morning Star Reformatory School
- Morning Star Youth Training Centre

Details

The Morning Star Boys' Home in Mount Eliza (Mornington) was established in 1932, and run by the Franciscan Brothers. It was a training centre for young offending boys. Morning Star ceased operation in September 1975.

In 1932, the Archbishop of Melbourne received a bequest, part of the purpose of which was 'to found a farm to train delinquent or orphan boys to country life'. The legacy was given to the St Vincent de Paul Society of Victoria which used it to acquire a property on the Mornington Peninsula.

The Franciscan Friars entered into an agreement with the St Vincent de Paul Society, to provide educational, correctional and residential care services at Morning Star. The Society retained control and ownership of the property and its finances, and was responsible for its maintenance. Later, the Society returned the property to the Archdiocese, with which the Franciscans continued the original agreement.

Research conducted by the Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN) in 2012 into the Victorian *Police Gazettes* indicated a high rate of absconding from Morning Star. Members of CLAN gave evidence to the Victorian Inquiry into handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations in December 2012. Leonie Sheedy, presenting the findings of the research into absconding, said: 'Thousands of children absconded from homes as their only way of getting away from abusers.' In February 2013, the Inquiry heard allegations of widespread abuse of children at Morning Star.

The closure of Morning Star in 1975 placed further strain on government-run services for youth, particularly at Turana and Malmsbury.

In 2002, the former dormitory wing became part of a boutique 'country house' hotel.

Gallery



Morning Star Youth Training Centre

Description: This is a copy of an image published in the annual report of the Social Welfare Department for 1970-1.



Modern gymnasium at Morning Star Youth Training Centre

Description: This is a copy of an image published in the annual report of the Social Welfare Department for 1970-1.



The Chapel, Morning Star Youth Training Centre

Description: This is a copy of an image published in the annual report of the Social Welfare Department for 1964-5.



Morning Star Estate

Description: This is an image from 2011 of the former Morning Star Boys' Home. This webpage is no longer in operation. this URL is taken from the wayback machine and is dated 13 March 2019.



Art - Sculpture - Statue in Boys' Home - Madonna and child in wrought iron at Morning Star Boys' Home, Mornington

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Franciscan Friars \(1839 - current\)](#)

The Franciscan Friars provided educational, correctional and residential care services at Morning Star.

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia \(2003 - 2005\)](#)
- [Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations, State of Victoria \(17 April 2012 - 2013\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [St Vincent de Paul Society \(1854 - current\)](#)

The St Vincent de Paul Society retained control and ownership of the property upon which Morning Star was situated, and was responsible for its finances and its maintenance.

Date: 1936 - 1975

- [Padua Hall \(1945 - 1960\)](#)

Padua Hall has been described as an 'adjunct' to the Morning Star Home.

Resources

- Patterson, Jeffrey & Hillman, Robert, *What a life!*, 2005

- Lloyd, John, [*Submission no 210 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care*](#), 2005
- Turner, Laurence, [*Victoria's Unwanted Children - 6: Willing Hearts Handicapped by Lack of Cash*](#), The Herald, 31 October 1952
- Rule, Andrew, [Two sides to the story of orphan care Read more: http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/two-sides-to-the-story-Two-sides-to-the-story-of-orphan-care](http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/two-sides-to-the-story-Two-sides-to-the-story-of-orphan-care), Sydney Morning Herald, 20 November 2009
- Zwartz, Barney, [*Life at boys' home was 'torture'*](#), The Age, 25 March 2013
- Davis, Wayne, [*Transcript of Wayne Davis's presentation to the Family and Community Development Committee: Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations*](#), 25 March 2013
- Johnson, Max, [*Transcript of Max Johnson's presentation to the Family and Community Development Committee: Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations*](#), 15 February 2013
- Savidis, Penny, [*Sex abuse Royal Commission urged to hold public meetings in regional Victoria*](#), Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers, 2014

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Victorian Government Wardship and/or Out of Home Care Records \(1864 - current\)](#)
The Victorian Government Records relating to Wardship and Adoption contains records relating to residents of Morning Star Boys' Home who were wards of the state. The whereabouts of client files from the Home are not known.
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/morning-star-boys-home/>