

St Anthony's Home

1943 – 1976

Details

St Anthony's Home was the new name given in 1943 to St Anthony's Children's Home, in Kew. It was run the Sisters of St Joseph, and accommodated boys aged between 3 and 6. In 1976, the Home closed and services were transferred to St Anthony's Family Service, in Footscray.

In November 1955, St Anthony's Home was declared an approved children's home under the Children's Welfare Act 1954.

In 1958 St Anthony's purchased a residence next door to the existing Home and established a family group home for 8 children.

In the 1960s the Home again changed its admission policy so that girls were accepted so long as they were siblings to boys in the Home's care. The age range was also extended so that boys did not normally leave, usually for St Vincent's Boys Home, until they were 10 years old.

By the late 1960s the capacity of the Home had been reduced to accommodate approximately 70 children. In the main Home children were accommodated in groups of 15 to 18, while a group of 8 children lived in the family group home.

In 1972 Sisters of St Joseph who had also trained as social workers, supported professional child care staff to improve the standard of care in the Josephite Homes. The Sisters began to review their child care services- including St Anthony's, St Joseph's Broadmeadows and St Joseph's Surrey Hills- as a whole and moved towards smaller group care. This included providing family group homes, foster care, adoption and fostering of babies, the occasional adoption of older children, and a 24 hour a day emergency care service for children.

By 1976 the Order moved from the Wellington Street Kew site to focus more fully on child care needs in Melbourne's western suburbs.

Gallery



St Anthony's Home, Kew, building



St Anthony's Home, Kew, buildings [rear]



St Anthony's Home, Kew, bedroom



St Anthony's Home, Kew, children in cars



St Anthony's Home, Kew [title altered from original]

Description: This is a digital copy of an image that appears in K.E. Burford's *Unfurrowed Fields*. It was initially published here with the title "The original 'Roslyn House' given to the sisters by Mr and Mrs Stuart Patterson in 1925 for an orphanage, St Joseph's Liverpool Road Croydon", however it has since been identified as a picture of St Anthony's Home in Kew, Victoria, not of St Joseph's Home for Children, Croydon, New South Wales.

More info

Chronology

- St Anthony's Children's Home (c. 1921 - 1943)
 - **St Anthony's Home (1943 – 1976)**
 - St Anthony's Family Service (1976 - 1997)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Family Group Homes run by St Anthony's, Victoria \(1972 - 2000s\)](#)

Run by

- [Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart \(1866 - current\)](#)
Date: 1943 - 1976

Related Organisations

- [St Joseph's Nursery \(1959 - 1976?\)](#)
St Joseph's Nursery was situated nearby to St Anthony's Home, Kew.
- [St Joseph's Home for Children, Sisters of St Joseph \(1967 - 1991\)](#)

Resources

- Szablicki, Ryszard, *Orphanage boy: through the eyes of innocence*, 2007
- 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

- Kennedy, Isobel, *Where Little Boys Live*, The Sun Women's Magazine, 4 June 1947
- [Heritage Display](#), MacKillop Family Services website, 2013
- [St Anthony's Home \(1921-97\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance*: See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to St Anthony's Home
- *St Anthony's on the move*, Hops, Steps and Jumps: quarterly news from the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria, 1976
- [Charlie Walker interviewed by Rob Willis in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \[sound recording\]](#), 23 February 2010
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, [A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families](#), November 1999

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [MacKillop Family Services Records, Victorian institutions \(1857 - current\)](#)
- [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/st-anthonys-home/>