

# Gordon Homes for Boys

1951 – 1969

**Other Names:**

- Gordon Homes
- Gordon Cottage Homes
- Gordon Boys' Cottages

## Details

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The Gordon Homes for Boys opened in Highett in 1951. Formerly, services had been provided at the Gordon Institute in Melbourne. The Homes accommodated boys aged between 5 and 14 in cottage homes. In 1969, the Home became the Gordon Homes for Boys and Girls.

The Gordon Homes for Boys were located on the Nepean Highway in Highett.

It was reported in *The Age* that in 1954 there were 42 boys between the ages of 4 and 18 living at the Gordon Homes for Boys. The majority of boys lived in one of two cottages run by cottage 'parents'; Fort Cottage housed boys up to 10 years of age and King Cottage housed boys between 11 and 14 years old. The older boys lived in the 'William Shum Hostel' where they could "look after themselves".

In July 1956, the 'Gordon Boys' Cottages' was declared an approved children's home under the Children's Welfare Act 1954.

In 1962 an existing house in Rowans Road adjoining the home was bought and converted to a working boys hostel.

The new Homes at Highett reflected a philosophical change in child welfare, away from dormitory-style accommodation, towards cottage homes. The Homes shifted to a model of 'scattered family group homes' in 1967 and eight group homes were operating by the early 1970s enabling accommodation of girls and sibling groups.

From 1969, The Gordon Homes for Boys was known as The Gordon Homes for Boys and Girls.

## National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

In 2021, the Victorian government has agreed to be a funder of last resort for this institution. This means that although the institution is now defunct, it is participating in the National Redress Scheme, and the government has agreed to pay the institution's share of costs of providing redress to a person (as long as the government is found to be equally responsible for the abuse a person experienced).

## Gallery



## The Gordon Homes for Boys and Girls

**Description:** 1125 Nepean Highway, Highett

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Gordon Institute (1886 - 1951)
  - **Gordon Homes for Boys (1951 – 1969)**
    - The Gordon Homes for Boys and Girls (1969 - 2000)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Family Group Homes run by Gordon Homes \(1964 - 2000s\)](#)

### Resources

- O'Neill, Cate, [Six years on from the national apology](#), Find & Connect web resource blog, 16 November 2015
- [Victoria Government Gazette Online Archive 1836-1997](#), 1836 - 1997. *Relevance:* Gazette 94, 25 November 1964, p.3602
- Pearson, Robert James, *Little and Fattie: twins writing through dark glasses*, 1999
- Name withheld, [Submission no 214 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Mulholland, David, [Submission no 294 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Harrison, Stephen, [Submission no 401 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Cherrie, Bryan, [Bryan Cherrie Submission to Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other organisations](#), 4 February 2013
- [Gordon Institute](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Gordon Homes for Boys
- [She Will Work at Boys' Home](#), The Age, 24 March 1954
- Savidis, Penny, [Sex abuse Royal Commission urged to hold public meetings in regional Victoria](#), Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers, 2014

## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [GordonCare for Children Records \(c. 1951 - c. 2012\)](#)
  - ['Closed' Agency and General Correspondence Files \[Charities Board of Victoria\] \(1923 - 1983\)](#)
  - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/gordon-homes-for-boys/>