

# Ward Index Cards

1960 – 1986

**To access these records:**

Please contact the Care Leaver Records Service:

Phone: (03) 9096 8449

Email: [clrs@dffh.vic.gov.au](mailto:clrs@dffh.vic.gov.au)

**Reference Number**

Quote this number to access your records: Public Record Office of Victoria Series Number, VPRS 16205

**Records Location**

These records are held by [Public Record Office Victoria \(1973 - current\)](#)

## Details

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Ward Index Cards provide a summary record of all interactions of an individual child or young person with the Victorian Social Welfare Department (and its successor departments) from 1960 to 1985.

## Access Conditions

Restricted Access – Records containing personal or private information about children are closed to public access for a period of 99 years. Care Leavers (and their families) can apply for access to records via the Care Leaver Records Service.

## Records

Arranged in alphabetical order by client surname, these cards record:

- name of child or young person;
- date and place of birth;
- religion;
- date admitted;
- reason for admission;
- names of parents and siblings if known;
- case allocation details;
- court details such as date of attendance, offence, sentence, expiry of probation, parole and supervision orders; and
- movement details including placements to youth training centres and children's homes, and discharge.

The Department first began to use index cards to control the records of clients (of or over the age of 14) in 1960. Prior to this, the Department used the system of the State Ward Registers to record information about children in its care. The client numbering system (ward numbers) dates back to 1864. Each child was allocated a number (in sequential order from 1 to 96,000) when they entered the care of the Department. These ward registration numbers were issued from the same sequence up until 1978, when the numbers reached over 96,000. From 1960, children were only allocated a ward number if they came into care aged under 14. Other children and young people were issued with a Youth Welfare Division (YWD) number – this happened if they turned 14 while in the Department's care, or they entered care for the first time at or after the age of 14. The numbering system changed in 1979, when ward numbers were replaced by the Family and Adolescent Services (F&AS) 4-digit

number, and the youth Correctional Field Services (CFS) annual single number. These numbering systems were in turn replaced with the Statutory Client Information System (SCIS) in 1986 and the Client and Services Information System (CASIS) in 1992.

This series is described in the finding aid published in 2016 by the Department of Health and Human Services, 'Finding Records'. It has been given a Public Record Office Victoria series number: VPRS 16205/P0002.

## More info

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### Organisations in these records

#### Related Organisations

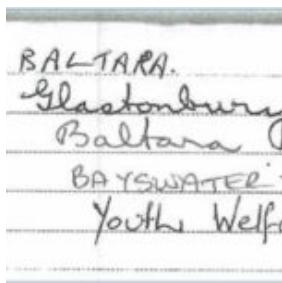
- [Social Welfare Branch, State Government of Victoria \(1960 - 1970\)](#)
- [Social Welfare Department, State Government of Victoria \(1970 - 1978\)](#)
- [Department of Community Welfare Services, State Government of Victoria \(1978 - 1985\)](#)
- [Community Services Victoria, State Government of Victoria \(1985 - 1992\)](#)

### Resources

- Department of Health and Human Services, [Finding Records](#), 2016

### Other Resources

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**Title:** Ward Index Card (detail, de-identified)

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 1970s

[Details](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/ward-index-cards/>