

# Centacare Catholic Community Services Sydney

1967 – 2011

## Details

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Centacare Catholic Community Services Sydney was the welfare arm of the Catholic Church until 2011, when it changed its name to CatholicCare. It had previously been known as the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau.

In the 1960s the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau had changed the nature of Catholic institutions by centralising admissions and requiring parents to pay maintenance. It had also introduced social work principles, including individual and family case work. All these reduced the numbers of children coming into care. Institutions also introduced more family-style accommodation, in the form of cottages and units, and phased out dormitory-style accommodation.

In the early 1970s Centacare developed a foster care programme. This began as respite from institutions, but evolved into a system that linked the child with its natural parents and the foster family, in the hope of eventual family reunion. This offered an alternative to institutional care for families in crisis. Under these policies, the numbers of children in Catholic orphanages and homes fell to such an extent that most were closed.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Catholic Family Welfare Bureau (Archdiocese of Sydney) (1941 - 1967)
  - **Centacare Catholic Community Services Sydney (1967 – 2011)**
    - CatholicCare Sydney (2011 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Related Organisations

- [St Anthony's Home Croydon \(1925 - 1980\)](#)  
Centacare staff worked closely with the Sisters of St Joseph at St Anthony's Home Croydon
- [St Gerard's \[Home\] \(1980 - 1985\)](#)
- [St Joseph's Cottages \(1980 - 2003\)](#)
- [Centacare Adoption Services \(1993 - 2011\)](#)
- [Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service \(1994 - current\)](#)  
Centacare Catholic Community Services Sydney established the Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service in 1994.  
Date: 1994 - 2011

## Resources

- Burford, Sister Kath R.F.J., *St Anthony's Family Care*, 1989
  - Burford, Sister Kathleen, [\*A history of St Anthony's Home Croydon\*](#), July 1989
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