

Singleton Boys' Home

1920 – 1923

Other Names: • Singleton Home

Details

The Singleton Boys' Home was run by the Aborigines Protection Board in Singleton after the Board took over the management of the Singleton Home and St Clair Mission from the Aborigines Inland Mission in 1920. It was a home for boys aged from four to fourteen who had been removed from their families and NSW Aboriginal stations and reserves under the *Aborigines Protection Act* for 'training'. Children were transferred between this Home and Cootamundra Training Home. The Singleton Home was closed and replaced by the Kinchela Training Home for Aboriginal Boys in 1923. The building was demolished.

Historian Christine Brett-Vickers wrote to Find & Connect in 2012 to share her understanding of the Singleton Home, which she had derived from studying George and Jennie Smith, the AIM missionaries who ran the Singleton Children's Home from 1910 until 1920:

By 1918 there were 50 children living in a home designed for less than 20. The Board did not increase funding and, indeed bought the home from its owner, Sir Albert Gould, and then ousted the mission. There must have been plans then and talk of making the home a boys home ... the missionaries tried to resist this but in the end broke down.

After the Board took over, many of the children were sent to other Aboriginal institutions. Dr Brett-Vickers says:

There was a great transition of children from Singleton in June 1920 as the board sent the younger boys to Bomaderry and the girls to Cootamundra & Bomaderry had to send its older boys, between 10 and 14 in age to Singleton & and the girls to Cootamundra.

From 1920 it was referred to as the Singleton Boys Home by the Board. It only took in boys from the ages of 10 to 14. But the home was run down, condemned and demolished in 1923 and the lot [were] moved to Kinchela.

Gallery



Sunday school scholars, teachers, missionaries. Cherbourg AIM Church [Singleton Home]

Description: This image from the Australian Indigenous Ministries pictorial collection 1908 to circa 1960s is described by *History of Aboriginal Sydney* as being of the Singleton Aboriginal Girls' Home.

More info

Chronology

- Singleton Aboriginal Children's Home (1910 - 1920)
 - **Singleton Boys' Home (1920 – 1923)**
 - Kinchela Training Home for Aboriginal Boys (1923 - 1970)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Aborigines Protection Board, State Government of New South Wales \(1883 - 1940\)](#)

Related Glossary Terms

- [Homefinder \(1890 - 1920s\)](#)

Related Legislation

- [Aborigines Protection Act 1909, New South Wales \(1909 - 1969\)](#)
- [Aborigines Protection Amending Act 1915, New South Wales \(1915 - 1969\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home \(1908 - 1988\)](#)
- [Cootamundra Training Home \(1911 - 1969\)](#)

Resources

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, [Remembering the Mission Days: stories from the Aborigines' Inland Mission](#), No date
- Horton, David, *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture*, 1994
- Miller, James, *Koori, a will to win*, 1985
- [Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation Website](#), 2014

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Departmental Records relating to State Wards, New South Wales \(1918 - current\)](#)
- [Australian Indigenous Ministries Aggregated Collection of Records and Pictorial Material, 1903-2003 \(1903 - 2003\)](#)
- [Bartrop family slides relating to the Aborigines Inland Mission, 1909-1930s, 1945-1950, 1971 \(1909 - 1971\)](#)

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