

Sydney Female Mission Home

1873 – 1912?

Details

The Sydney Female Mission Home was established on 17 November 1873. It was an institution for single pregnant women. It also admitted some single mothers together with their infants. It was a Protestant organisation run by a committee of women, with a non-sectarian admission policy. It was located in premises on Elizabeth Street, Sydney, overlooking Hyde Park from 1873 until January 1885, when it relocated to 'Darlington House' on the Newtown Road (later called City Road). In 1895, it moved again to Forest Lodge. By 1897, it was in new premises in Glebe, 'The Willows' on Bridge Road, and by 1908 it had moved again to 'Bay View' on Glebe Point Road, Glebe. The closing date of this institution is unclear, it was still operating in 1912.

The Sydney Female Mission Home was unusual for its policy of admitting single women together with their infants. (This was also the practice for some of the women admitted to the Sydney Foundling Hospital in Paddington.) Its report from 1887 stated that 'A fundamental principle is to avoid, if possible, separating mother and child'.

The Sydney Female Mission Home operated without any form of government assistance from its establishment in 1873 until the 1890s.

Sometimes children born at the Sydney Female Mission Home were sent to the Ashfield Infants' Home. The Mission Home's annual report for 1895 mentioned a legacy from the late Thomas Walker who had also donated to the premises of the Infants Home in Ashfield.

Gallery



Darlington House, Darlington, Newtown Road

Description: This is a copy of an image of Darlington House, which was the location of the Sydney Female Mission Home from 1885 to 1895.

More info

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Sydney Foundling Hospital \(1874 - 1877\)](#)

The Sydney Female Mission Home and the Sydney Foundling Hospital were institutions that admitted some infants together with their (single) mothers.

- [The Infants' Home, Ashfield \(1877 - current\)](#)

Babies were sometimes placed in The Infant's Home, Ashfield from the Sydney Female Mission Home

Resources

- [Female Mission Home](#), The Daily Telegraph, 2 October 1907
- [Women's Conference at Sydney: Fifty-Two Societies Represented, Record of Great Social Work](#), The Mercury, 10 August 1911

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