

# Boys Reformatory, Magill

1891 – 1967

**Other Names:**

- Boys Training School
- Reformatory for Protestant Boys

## Details

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The Boys Reformatory, Magill, reopened in 1891 at the Magill Industrial School, after the closure of the Reformatory Hulk, Fitzjames. It was run by the State Children's Council. From 1898 the Reformatory became a home for Protestant boys only. Catholic boys were sent to St John the Baptist Home for Boys, Brooklyn Park. In 1967 the Boys' Reformatory was officially renamed the McNally Training Centre.

In 1891 the Boys Reformatory, Magill, reopened at the Magill Industrial School. After the Girls' Reformatory was moved to Edwardstown, the Industrial School children were moved into the former Reformatory wing of the building. The reformatory boys were brought back to dry land from their increasingly damp dormitories on the Reformatory Hulk, Fitzjames. They were then housed in the newly renovated section of the building at Magill that had previously been utilised by the Industrial School.

At the beginning of the year 57 boys were accommodated at the Reformatory. In his first report from the new premises the Superintendent stated that the boys were 'settling down to their new abode'. He also noted that the farming and gardening work with which they were now occupied was 'more suitable than the limited way of employment possible on the Fitzjames.'

As on board ship, boys were trained in rifle and bayonet exercises and could become members of a fife and drum band. Religious and moral education classes were conducted at the school each day. On Sundays a staff member accompanied boys to various churches. For the first year boys received schooling from an Education Department teacher. In 1892 a teacher was appointed to the reformatory as a staff member. Among other subjects he taught practical crafts such as carpentry. An Education Department teacher was reappointed in 1913.

In March 1898, the Magill Industrial School was transferred to Edwardstown. At that time all the Catholic boys resident at the Boys' Reformatory, Magill, were moved to a denominational reformatory, St John the Baptist Home for Boys, at Brooklyn Park. The Boys' Reformatory, Magill, became a home specifically for boys of the Protestant faith. With the entire building available, inmates were separated into 'first' and 'second' class dormitories, based on their behaviour.

From October 1961 until October 1965, to relieve pressure on the Boys' Reformatory at Magill, selected boys who were above school age were moved from Magill, to Bedford Park Boys' Training Centre.

In 1967 the name of the institution was officially changed to the McNally Training Centre. The following year, after new buildings were completed, the original school and reformatory building was demolished.

## Gallery



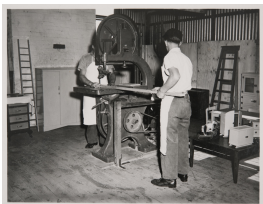
### South Australian views: album

**Description:** This image is of the Boys' Reformatory, Magill and the Boys Reformatory, Magill.



### Boys' Reformatory, Magill

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: 'Boys' Training School, Magill, a reformatory for delinquent boys and youths.'



### Boys Reformatory Magill, Carpentry workshop

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: The band saw in operation in the carpentry workshop, 1953.



### Boys' Reformatory Magill, Dining room

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: The boys' dining room showing table amenities, 1953.



### Boys' Reformatory Magill, Shoemaking

**Description:** This is a a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 2, the original caption states: Instruction is given in the manufacturing and repairing of boots and shoes, 1953.



### Premises of the old reformatory at Magill

**Description:** This image shows the building where the Girls Reformatory, Magill, Magill Industrial School and the Boys' Reformatory, Magill had operated. At the time of the photo the Boys Reformatory, Magill was run in the building.

## More info

### Chronology

- Boys' Reformatory Hulk, Fitzjames (1880 - 1891)
  - **Boys Reformatory, Magill (1891 – 1967)**
    - McNally Training Centre (1967 - 1979)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [State Children's Council \(1886 - 1927\)](#)  
Date: 1869 - 1927
- [Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board \(1927 - 1966\)](#)  
Date: 1927 - 1966
- [Department of Social Welfare, South Australian Government \(1966 - 1970\)](#)  
Date: 1966 - 1967

### Related Organisations

- [Magill Industrial School \(1869 - 1898\)](#)  
The Boys' Reformatory, Magill, was located within the same building as the Magill Industrial School.  
Date: 1891 - 1898
- [Boys' Reformatory, Magill \(1869 - 1880\)](#)  
The Boys' Reformatory at Magill ceased operating for 11 years from 1880 with boys being sent to the Reformatory Hulk, Fitzjames. The Boys' Reformatory, Magill reopened in 1891.
- [St John the Baptist Home for Boys \(1898 - 1941\)](#)  
St John the Baptist Home for Boys was established to provide alternative accommodation for Catholic boys committed to the government Boys' Reformatory at Magill
- [Kumanka Boys' Hostel \(1946 - 1980\)](#)  
Most boys came to Kumunka Boys' Hostel from the Boys' Reformatory at Magill.  
Date: 1946 - 1967
- [Struan Farm School, Naracoorte \(1947 - 1969\)](#)  
A group of eight boys from the Edwardstown Industrial School and the Boys' Reformatory, Magill, were the first boys to be sent to Struan Farm School, Naracoorte
- [Lochiel Park Boys' Training Centre \(1958 - 1995\)](#)  
Selected boys from the Boys' Reformatory, Magill, were brought to Lochiel Park daily to maintain the property before the training centre opened.
- [Bedford Park Boys' Training Centre \(1961 - 1965\)](#)  
Selected boys from the Boys' Reformatory, Magill, were transferred to Bedford Park Boys' Training Centre in 1961. When Bedford Park closed in 1965 a number of boys were sent to the Boys' Reformatory, Magill.
- [Brookway Park \(1965 - 1978\)](#)  
From 1965 school aged boys from the Boys' Reformatory, Magill, were sent to Brookway Park  
Date: 1965 - 1967

### Related Legislation

- [Destitute Persons Relief Act 1866, South Australia \(1867 - 1872\)](#)

### Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

## Resources

- Morley, Charles, *The Glandore Story: from Hulk to Haven*, 1995
- Walsh, Dave, [Life in Magill Youth Training Centre](#), Weekend Notes, 18 April 2014
- Spence, Catherine, *State children in Australia : a history of boarding out and its developments*, 1907

## Records

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

### Records

- [Records of the Social Welfare Department and predecessors \(1849 - c. 1987\)](#)
- [Records created by the Destitute Board \(c. 1845 - 1927\)](#)
- [Records of the South Australian Youth Training Centre \(1940 - 1999\)](#)

- [Correspondence files \('CW & PRD' and 'SW' files\) -Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department and successors \(1927 - c. 1979\)](#)  
Held by State Records of South Australia. These records consist of files of letters and other documents and may include correspondence related to the Reformatory.
- [Register of Admissions - Industrial School, Boys Reformatory School, and Girls Reformatory School \(1862 - 1882\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. This register is on microfilm. It contains information across two pages on each child admitted to the Boys Reformatory, Magill between 1869 and 1882.
- [Punishment Book, Boys Reformatory, Magill \(1911 - 1934\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. The punishment book from the Boys Reformatory, Magill. Access to this book is restricted for 80 years.
- [Conduct record, Boys Reformatory, Magill \(1933 - 1945\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. The conduct record from the Boys Reformatory, Magill. These records are restricted for 80 years.
- [Personal disposition advice forms - South Australia Youth Training Centre \(SAYTC\) \(1978 - 1993\)](#)  
Held by State Records of South Australia. These records contain information about the handover of youths from the Police or Court to the Remand Centre. They also cover SAYTC under its previous names.
- [Minutes - Gentlemen's Committee, State Children's Council \(1903 - 1911\)](#)  
Held by State Records of South Australia. This volume contains brief minutes relating to all aspects of the business of this committee. Many entries relate to individual children under the care of the Council.
- [Photographs of Departmental institutions, Social Welfare Department and Predecessors \(1945 - 1970\)](#)  
Held by State Records of South Australia. These photographs of institutions under the control of the Department of Social Welfare and its predecessors include photographs of the Reformatory.
- [Admission cards - South Australian Youth Training Centre, later Magill Training Centre \(1962 - 1995\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. This card index contains cards relating to the Boys Reformatory, Magill as well as McNally Training Centre and SAYTC.
- [Log books - South Australia Youth Training Centre, South Australian Youth Remand and Assessment Centre, and predecessors \(1961 - 1996\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. These logs record happenings and actions taken by staff during their shifts. Entries include names and many other details of boys. These records also cover SAYTC under its previous names.
- [Personal disposition advice forms - Magill Training Centre \(1940 - 1996\)](#)  
The series Personal disposition advice forms - Magill Training Centre, held by State Records of SA, contains some records relating to the Boys' Reformatory Magill
- [Register of Admissions - Boys' Reformatory Magill \(1877 - 1943\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. These registers list the names of children admitted to the Boys' Reformatory, Magill from 1877 to 1943 along with other information.
- [Index to admissions - Boys Reformatory, McNally Training Centre, Magill \(1877 - 1975\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. The volumes in this series provide an index to the Registers of Admissions to the Boys Reformatory Magill and the McNally Training Centre.
- [Visitors' Book - Boys' Reformatory, Magill \(1933 - 1968\)](#)
- [Register of New Committals \(1931 - 1968\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. This register contains general admission information relating to homes under the control of the Government and includes information on new committals to the Boys Reformatory, Magill.
- [Minutes - State Children's Council, later the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board \(1886 - 1965\)](#)  
Held by State Records of South Australia. These records consist of the minutes of meetings of the State Children's Council and the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board. They contain many entries relating to the Reformatory, some of which relate to individual boys.
- [Annual Reports of the State Children's Council and the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department \(1887 - 1960\)](#)  
Held by State Records of South Australia. These reports contain yearly updates on the Boys Reformatory.
- [Correspondence files \('SCD' files\) - State Children's Department \(1887 - 1927\)](#)  
Held by State Records of South Australia. These records consist of files of letters and other documents and may include correspondence related to the Reformatory.
- [Lists of state wards, Social Welfare Department and Predecessors \(1960 - 1960\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. These records include lists of state wards at the Boys Training School Magill, Home of the Good Shepherd and Vaughan House. These records are restricted for 80 years.