

Magill Industrial School

1869 – 1898

Details

The Magill Industrial School opened in 1869 at Magill as a government Receiving Home for State children who had been housed at the Grace Darling Hotel, Brighton. The Girls' Reformatory, Magill shared the site from 1881 to 1891 as did the Boys' Reformatory, Magill from 1869 to 1880. In 1898 the Industrial School moved to Edwardstown and became the Edwardstown Industrial School.

In 1866 with the passing of the Destitute Persons Relief Act, the government was given the responsibility of establishing an Industrial School for children who had been charged as neglected or destitute children. These were terms used in the Act to refer to children who for various reasons were in need of care.

The foundation stone for the Magill Industrial School was laid on 21 October 1867 but no children were admitted until the end of 1869. That year 157 children were transferred to the School from temporary accommodation in the Grace Darling Hotel at Brighton.

Despite its name, the Industrial School was not an industry training school but a receiving depot for all children who had been made wards of the State. These children came from a wide range of situations and included children who had been deserted, orphaned or deemed neglected. They remained in the School until other suitable accommodation was found for them with a foster family, in service or in another institution. Boys and girls who had been committed to the care of the state because of an offence, also passed through the Industrial School before being sentenced to a reformatory.

Initially both the Boys' and Girls' Reformatories run by the government were also located on the site of the Industrial School. In 1890 the girls were moved out to the Girls' Reformatory at Edwardstown. The Industrial School then moved into the vacated girls' quarters. The Boys' Reformatory, Magill also shared the Industrial school site for two periods, from 1869 to 1880 and again from 1891 to 1967. Between 1880 and 1891 boys convicted of offences were sent to the Boys' Reformatory Hulk, Fitzjames. Some boys from Magill Industrial School whose behaviour was considered unacceptable were also sent to the Boys' Reformatory Hulk.

During the mid-1890s between 30 and 40 children were accommodated in the Industrial School at one time. However, over 300 children passed through the School during the year. Space in the School was limited and overcrowding a constant problem. The Destitute Board and its successor, the State Children's Council, often complained that it did not have the appropriate facilities to educate the children placed there. Most were transferred on to a reformatory or were placed into service as soon as possible. There was also continuing concern at the Industrial School sharing the same site as the Boys' Reformatory.

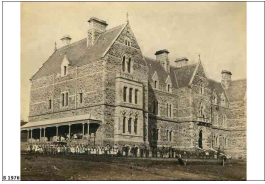
On 21 January 1898, the Industrial School moved from Magill to the former premises of the Girls' Reformatory at Edwardstown. From that time it became known as the Edwardstown Industrial School.

Gallery



[Magill Industrial School, Adelaide]

Description: This photo is incorrectly labelled by the National Library of Australia as St Vincent de Paul Orphanage, Adelaide.



Magill Orphanage, Woodforde

Description: The library description states: Magill Orphanage at Woodforde, soon after its construction. Dressed in white pinafores, the little girls are all lined up on the left, whilst the boys are lined up on the right. Various staff members are included in the group and two women look on from a balcony.



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

- **Magill Industrial School (1869 – 1898)**
 - Edwardstown Industrial School (1898 - 1949)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Destitute Board, South Australian Government \(1849 - 1886\)](#)
Date: 1869 - 1886
- [State Children's Council \(1886 - 1927\)](#)
Date: 1886 - 1898

Related Events

- [Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Destitute Poor, South Australia \(1867\)](#)
- [Way Commission, Province of South Australia \(1883 - 1885\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Destitute Asylum \(1851 - c. 1917\)](#)
- [Brighton Industrial School \(1867 - 1869\)](#)
Children were transferred from temporary accommodation in the Brighton Industrial School to Magill Industrial School.
Date: 1869 -
- [Boys' Reformatory Hulk, Fitzjames \(1880 - 1891\)](#)
Some boys from the Magill Industrial School were sent to the Boys' Reformatory Hulk, Fitzjames.
- [Girls Reformatory, Magill \(1881 - 1891\)](#)
The Girls' Reformatory, Magill, occupied one wing of the Magill Industrial School.
- [Boys Reformatory, Magill \(1891 - 1967\)](#)
The Boys' Reformatory, Magill, was located within the same building as the Magill Industrial School.

Date: 1891 - 1898

Related Legislation

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

Records

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

Records

- [Records created by the Destitute Board \(c. 1845 - 1927\)](#)
 - [Records of the Social Welfare Department and predecessors \(1849 - c. 1987\)](#)
-

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/magill-industrial-school/>