

Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home

1954 – 1976

Other Names:

- Methodist Home for Babies and Unmarried Mothers
- Methodist Home for Babies and Girls
- Methodist Babies Home at Brighton
- Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home Incorporated
- Kate Cocks Memorial Girls Home Incorporated

Details

Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home was the new name given to the Methodist Home for Babies and Unmarried Mothers at Brighton in 1954. Run by the Methodist Church, it accommodated single girls who were pregnant or had given birth to their first child. It also took in other children in need of shelter and care. Many babies were adopted from the Home. Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home closed in 1976 and children were placed in cottage or foster care.

The Kate Cocks Babies' Home was the new name given to the Methodist Home for Babies and Unmarried Mothers at Brighton in 1954. The name honoured the work of Miss Kate Cocks who had been integral to the establishment of the Home.

The Home gave shelter to single girls who were pregnant or had recently given birth to their first child and also provided care for children who were orphaned or deemed as neglected. It also took in children whose parents were unable to care for them due to illness or other reasons. The Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home provided both short and long term care and also arranged adoptions.

Most women from the Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home had their babies at the Wyld Maternity Home, which was part of the premises. This part of the Home could accommodate up to seven mothers and their babies. Other women gave birth at the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital where they stayed for up to 12 days, before returning to the Home.

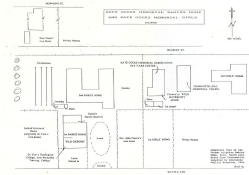
When the Adoption of Children Act 1966-1967 was passed, charitable agencies who arranged adoptions were required to apply to the Director of Social Welfare to operate as a private adoption agency. In November 1967 The Kate Cocks Memorial Adoption Agency was registered. This Agency, based at the Babies' Home, arranged many adoptions.

In July 1975 a fire, which started when clothes drying by a radiator caught alight, destroyed a bedroom in the Home. According to The Advertiser, a number of expectant mothers were evacuated but were uninjured. Other parts of the Home were water and smoke damaged.

By the mid-1970s more children were placed in cottage style homes or in foster care rather than adopted. As a result of these changes, the Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home ceased to operate as a residential institution for children in 1976. It continued to offer day care as part of the Central Methodist Mission's child care program. The Kate Cocks Memorial Adoption Agency closed in 1978.

Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Inquiry* (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Gallery



Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home and Kate Cocks Memorial Girls Home

Description: This is a copy of a plan showing the site of the Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home. It was published as an illustration to a chapter by Roslyn Paterson, 'Kate Cocks, a caring policewoman' (2005). The caption to this plan reads: 'Composite plan of the former Brighton Babies' Home, Hove, South Aust. drawn from information supplied by Deaconess Phyllis Bonython, 1994'.



Kate Cocks Babies Home

Description: This image was included in the Finding Your Own Way guide, Section 6. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home, Interior

Description: This image shows a picture of the nursery in Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home. This image is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home - Fire damage

Description: This image shows the fire damage to a bedroom in the Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home.



Old Oxford House, circa 1914

Description: This image shows the building Old Oxford House which later became Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home.

More info

Chronology

- Methodist Home for Babies and Unmarried Mothers (1937 - 1954)
 - **Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home (1954 – 1976)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [Women's Welfare Department of the Methodist Conference \(1936 - 1977?\)](#)
Date: 1954 - 1976

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)
Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home was mentioned in submissions 59 to the Inquiry Committee as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Related Legislation

- [Adoption of Children Act 1966-1967, South Australia \(1967 - 1989\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Queen's Home \(1902 - 1939\)](#)
Expectant mothers from the Kate Cocks Babies' Home gave birth to their children at the Queen's Home.
Date: 1937 - 1939
- [Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital \(1939 - 1966\)](#)
Some expectant mothers from the Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home gave birth to their children at the Queen Victoria Maternity Home.
- [Kate Cocks Memorial Adoption Agency \(1967 - 1978\)](#)
The Kate Cocks Memorial Adoption Agency was run out of the Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home

Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

Resources

- Paterson, Roslyn, *Kate Cocks, a caring policewoman*, Notable Cornish Women, 2005
- [Syd Graham interviewed by Karen George in the Bringing them home oral history project \[sound recording\] \(2000 - \)](#), 4 September 2000
- [Una Clarke interviewed by Karen George in the Bringing them home oral history project \[sound recording\] \(2000\)](#), 15 December 2000
- Abbott, Edith S, *Everybody's friend: The inspiring career of Miss Kate Cocks MBE*, 1939
- Hunt, Arnold D, *This side of heaven: A history of Methodism in South Australia*, 1985
- Shapley, Rev GW, *Miss Kate Cocks, Her life and work*, 1964
- *Adelaide Central Mission - A Photographic Exhibition 1901-2001*, 2001
- Kate Cocks Childcare, [Our Centres History \(Extracts from 2014 AGM\)](#), 2012
- UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide Inc and Uniting Church of South Australia, [Joint Submission to the Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices 2011 Inquiry - Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs](#), 2011

Other Resources



Title: Women escape fire at home

Type: Image

Date: 9 July 1975

[Details](#)



Title: Fire damage up to \$10,000

Type: Image

Date: 1975

[Details](#)



Title: Kate Cocks Admission Guidelines

Type: Image

Date: 1959

[Details](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Records of Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)
- [Records of Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1937? - 1976?\)](#)
- [Kate Cocks Babies' Home - Miscellaneous Records \(1964 - 1979\)](#)

This miscellaneous collection of records relating to Kate Cocks Babies' Home is held by the State Library of SA and includes a handwritten history of the Home, correspondence, balance sheets and bank deposit books.

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/kate-cocks-memorial-babies-home/>