

# St John's Boys Town

1941 – 1954

**Other Names:**

- St John's Home
- St John's Boys Town Inc
- St John's Boys Home
- Boys Town

## Details

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St John's Boys Town was the new name given to St John the Baptist Home for Boys at Brooklyn Park in 1941. It was run by the Brothers of St John the Baptist as an orphanage for boys older than 12 years of age. It was located at Marshall Terrace, Brooklyn Park. In 1942 the running of the institution was taken over by the Salesians of Don Bosco. In 1954 St John's Boys Town became known as 'the boarding section of Salesian School'.

The reformatory St John the Baptist Home for Boys was renamed St John's Boys Town in 1941. It was run by the Brothers of St John the Baptist under the control of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board and was located at Marshall Terrace, Brooklyn Park. As part of a rationalisation of the prevailing situation in Adelaide, it was decided by the newly arrived Archbishop Matthew Beovich that the Brothers of St John the Baptist would look after older boys, with younger boys from three to twelve years of age being sent to St Joseph's Orphanage, Largs Bay.

By 1942 the number of boys in care had risen to almost fifty. Internal problems within the order, combined with concerns about the management of the Home, led to the handing over of control. By command of the Archbishop the Salesians of Don Bosco replaced the Brothers of St John the Baptist. The order of the Brothers of St John the Baptist was suppressed and ceased to operate. Several options were offered to the remaining brothers, which included transfer to another religious congregation.

On taking over, the Salesian priests and brothers applied to alter the name and rules of the home to put a new focus on education and training. In 1954 full authority to accept day-boys for both technical and secondary studies was granted and the name 'Boys Town' was discontinued. A new building was erected so that the number of residents could be increased and the home became known as 'the boarding section of Salesian School'. Despite the official name change the Home continued to be referred to as St John's Boys Home in correspondence for some years.

## Gallery

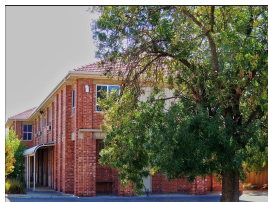
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**The Boys Town Chapel and Hall**

**Description:** This is an image from the former site of St John's Boys Town and St John the Baptist Home for Boys.

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Boys Town - Later Salesian College

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## More info

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### Chronology

- St John the Baptist Home for Boys (1898 - 1941)
  - **St John's Boys Town (1941 – 1954)**
    - The Boarding section of the Salesian School (1954 - 1984)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Brothers of St John the Baptist \(c. 1892 - c. 1941\)](#)  
Brothers of St John the Baptist ran St John's Boys Town under the control of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board.  
Date: 1941 - 1942
- [Salesians of Don Bosco \(1922 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1942 - 1954

#### Related Events

- [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay \(1907 - 1960s\)](#)  
From 1941 older boys from St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay were placed at St John's Boys Town, Brooklyn Park.
- [Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board \(1927 - 1966\)](#)  
The Salesians of Don Bosco ran St John's Boys Town under the control of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board.  
Date: 1941 - 1942

#### Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

### Resources

- Walsh, Dave, [Life in Magill Youth Training Centre](#), Weekend Notes, 18 April 2014
- O'Neill, Cate, [Not just paper: the importance of 'non-traditional' records](#), Find & Connect web resource blog, 22 October 2015
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, [A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families](#), November 1999

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## Records

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

## Records held by other organisations

- [Records of St John's Boys Town \(1941? - 1984?\)](#)
  - [Records of the Social Welfare Department and predecessors \(1849 - c. 1987\)](#)
  - [Minutes - State Children's Council, later the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board \(1886 - 1965\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. These 20 volumes of handwritten and typed minutes include some entries relating to St John's Boys Town.
  - [Annual Reports of the State Children's Council and the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department \(1887 - 1960\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. These six volumes of bound yearly reports contain updates on developments at Homes under the control of the State Children's Council, including St John's Boys Town.
  - [Correspondence files \('CW & PRD' and 'SW' files\) -Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department and successors \(1927 - c. 1979\)](#)  
Held by State Records of SA. This series of correspondence files relate to many different subjects and include correspondence related to Homes run by the Catholic Church.
  - [Miscellaneous correspondence and reports, St John's Boys Town \(1893 - 1962\)](#)  
Held by Professional Standards Office Records Service of the Catholic Church. These miscellaneous documents include items relating to the establishment and the rules and regulations of the Home.
  - [Former Residents' Folders \(1900s - current\)](#)  
The Former residents' folders, held by the Professional Standards Office, may contain information relating to St John's Boys' Town
  - [List of Residents, St John's Boys Town \(1942 - 1942\)](#)
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