

Records of Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home

1930s – 1970s

To access these records: Please contact the General Manager Services, Uniting Communities:

Postal Address: GPO Box 2534, Adelaide SA 5001

Phone: (08) 8202 5111

Email: enquiries@unitingcommunities.org

Website: <https://www.unitingcommunities.org/>

Records Location

These records are held by [Uniting Communities \(2012 - current\)](#)

Details

The collection of records relating to Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home held by Uniting Communities covers the date range 1930s to the 1970s. The collection includes administrative records such as minutes of meetings, matron's reports and miscellaneous documents about the running of the home. Unfortunately the collection does not include admission records or personal files about residents.

Access Conditions

All personal information held by Uniting Communities is accessible upon request and is only limited in special circumstances. Proof of identity is required. Information affecting the privacy of others will be deleted from copies of documents made accessible. Contact Uniting Communities for further information.

Records

The collection includes Minutes of the Board of Management and the Women's Welfare Department, Superintendent's and Matron's reports, miscellaneous documents and photographs. The majority of photographs of children are unidentified.

Unfortunately no admission records or personal files of children have survived. For some years it was understood that some of these records had been destroyed in a fire. Recent research has revealed that a fire occurred at the Kate Cocks Home on Tuesday 8 July 1975. Media articles and photographs show that the fire, which started in a dormitory bedroom, destroyed the room and its contents. The rest of the building suffered smoke and water damage. There is no evidence to confirm the loss of records in this fire.

Correspondence dating from 1988 and 1999, shared with the Find & Connect web resource by Uniting Communities, shows that at the closure of the Home in the late 1970s personal records of all children were handed over to the Department of Community Welfare and dealt with under Government policies of the time. A response from the Adelaide Central Mission to an inquiry about records in July 1988 stated that:

We have recently discovered that the more personal background information was destroyed at that time and so is now unavailable. This was no doubt done to ensure confidentiality, however I wish to say that I am very sorry that it is not possible for you to get this information on your early life.

This fact was confirmed again in correspondence from the Department of Human Services to the Adelaide Central Mission in August 1999:

Unfortunately during the 1970s and 1980s some records were destroyed as the policy then was that it was improper for the Government to retain information for extended periods about former clients. It is therefore a possibility that there may be some records which are unable to be provided. This policy has since been reversed and all records are valued and carefully preserved.

Uniting Communities expresses its deep regret that client records have been destroyed.

Gallery



Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home - Fire damage

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

More info

Organisations in these records

Related Organisations

- [Kate Cocks Memorial Babies' Home \(1954 - 1976\)](#)

Includes

- [Historical information, Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)
 - [Babies Home Minutes, Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1940 - 1948\)](#)
 - [Minutes, Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1940s - 1970s\)](#)
 - [Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home Records \(1940s - 1980s\)](#)
 - [Matron's reports, Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1944 - 1956\)](#)
 - [Minutes of the board of management, Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1948 - 1964\)](#)
 - [Girls Home \[Minutes\], Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1948 - 1961\)](#)
 - [Conference Committee \[Minutes\], Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1948 - 1954\)](#)
 - [Conference Committee 1957-62 and Conference Committee 1962-68 \[Minutes\], Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1957 - 1968\)](#)
 - [Girls Home \[Minutes\], Kate Cocks Memorial Babies Home \(1961 - 1967\)](#)
-

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