

# Correspondence Relating to the Custody and Welfare of Children under Various Acts

1887 – 1954

URL: <http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?detail=1&type=S&id=SWD1>

**To access these records:**

Please contact Adoptions and Permanency Services:

Postal Address: PO Box 538, Hobart TAS 7001

Phone: (03) 6166 0422

Aftercare Support Program Phone: 1300 654 583

Adoptions and Permanency Services Email:  
[adoption.services@communities.tas.gov.au](mailto:adoption.services@communities.tas.gov.au)

After Care Support Program Email: [aftercaresupport@communities.tas.gov.au](mailto:aftercaresupport@communities.tas.gov.au)

Website: <https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/children/adoptions-and-permanency-services/>

**Reference Number**

Quote this number to access your records: Tasmanian Archives Series Number, SWD1

**Records Location**

These records are held by [Tasmanian Archives \(2011 - current\)](#)

## Details

---

The Correspondence Relating to the Custody and Welfare of Children under Various Acts contains the case files of children brought to the attention of the state. The records were created by the government departments with responsibility for child welfare. These records comprise correspondence associated with the provision of 'care' for children in a variety of circumstances.

## Access Conditions

**D75 Years**

D75 means these records are closed to the general public for 75 years from the date of the last entry in them (that is, 75 years from the end of the child's 'case'). 75 years after this date, the records become available to the public, on 'open access'.

For records in the closed access period, People wishing to access these records should contact Adoptions and Permanency Services After Care Support Program, which is run by the Department of Communities Tasmania. Applicants will be required to fill out a Personal Information Protection (PIP) form. How access is provided once permission is granted will depend on the file. Usually Adoption and Permanency Services request it back and

then provide access or copies. Staff at the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office may be able to assist you in finding other relevant records.

The Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office web site lists the name of each child made a ward of state between 1898 and 1932.

Many of the open access files in this series have been digitised, and are available to be viewed online.

## Records

The files include correspondence with birth parents, foster parents, and state children. There are also inspectors' reports and inter-departmental memos. Each file is titled with the name of a child or family, and opens with the child's committal form which has details of birth parents, religion, and reasons for committal.

A few of these files are administrative, for example, NCD 3270 contains documents about the Citizens' Committee re Boarded-out Children.

The titles of the files change with different periods of government administration.

Gaps in numbers occurred when files still in use were moved into another set of files. These files might be found in the subsequent or a related series to SWD1. The titles of the files show cross references to files that may also be found in a subsequent or related series.

Some of the abbreviations used by the government departments are: NCD – Neglected Children's Department, CSD – Children of the State Department, CGD – Charitable Grants Department, SSD – Social Services Department, ILP – Infant Life Protection, BTS – Boys Training School.

Sometimes the Department followed the progress of an individual in an unofficial capacity, for instance, noting marriage notices from the local newspaper. Similarly, the Department attached enquiries made after a case was closed or the individual had been discharged. These later additions to the case files do not make a difference to access. That is, it is possible to find files on open access which have folios added after their official end date. However, researchers are not supposed to use this additional material without permission.

## More info

---

### Organisations in these records

#### Related Organisations

- [Central Committee for Boarding Out Destitute Children \(1881 - 1896\)](#)
- [Neglected Children's Department, Colony of Tasmania \(1896 - 1901\)](#)
- [Police Department, State of Tasmania \(1898 - 2004\)](#)

The correspondence contains the case files of wards of state which include police reports about individual children.

- [Neglected Children's Department, State of Tasmania \(1901 - 1918\)](#)  
This archival series contains the files of children committed to the 'care' of the Neglected Children's Department.
- [Children of the State Department, State of Tasmania \(1918 - 1934\)](#)  
This archival series contains the files kept on each ward of state by the officials of the Children of the State Department.
- [Social Services Department, State of Tasmania \(1934 - 1961\)](#)

#### Related Archival Series

- [Correspondence Relating to Children Placed in Nursing Homes \(1934 - 1953\)](#)  
If a child mentioned in the Correspondence Relating to Children Placed in Nursing Homes became a ward of

state, he or she would have a case file in the series entitled Correspondence Relating to the Custody and Welfare of Children under Various Acts. Its archival number is SWD1.

---

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/correspondence-relating-to-the-custody-and-welfare-of-children-under-various-acts/>