

Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital

1908 – 1999

Other Names:

- Queen Alex
- The Alex

Details

The Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital (the Queen Alex) opened in Hampden Road, Battery Point in 1908. Initially, a private board ran it but in 1950 the government took over. In 1980, it moved to a new building in Argyle Street, adjacent to the Royal Hobart Hospital. Over its lifetime, many adoptions took place from the Queen Alex. It closed in 1999.

The Queen Alex was an initiative of women's groups who wished to provide more help to women in childbirth. Funds for the Hospital came from money raised to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII and other public subscriptions. It was named after Queen Alexandra and commemorated the reign of Queen Victoria.

The Queen Alex, which had a capacity for 11 mothers, was in a new custom built double storey brick building. The *Mercury* described its rooms as 'large and airy'. The wards on both floors had double doors which opened onto a 'large octagonal hall'. The Chief Health Officer, JSC Elkington, had approved the plans as 'embodying the latest hygienic principles'. The *Mercury* report of its opening said:

The hospital is built on the most approved sanitary plan, there being no projections on which germs and dust may accumulate and the angles of the walls and ceilings are rounded off. There are no skirting boards, and all the doors have a smooth surface, there being no panels or moulding.

After the government took over the management of the Queen Alex it became increasingly close to the Royal Hobart Hospital, also run by the government. This explains why, in 1980, it moved to Argyle Street to a purpose built building adjacent to the Royal.

Many adoptions took place from the Queen Alex with an unknown number of them being forced.

The Queen Alex closed in 1999 and the government sold the new building in Argyle Street to a private consortium that used it to establish the Hobart Private Hospital.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Public Health Department, State of Tasmania \(1904 - 1956\)](#)

- [Department of Health Services, State of Tasmania \(1956 - 1989\)](#)
- [Department of Health, State of Tasmania \(1989 - 1993\)](#)
- [Department of Community and Health Services, State of Tasmania \(1993 - 1998\)](#)
- [Department of Health and Human Services, State of Tasmania \(1998 - current\)](#)

Related Events

- [Joint Select Committee on Adoption and Related Services 1958-1988, Tasmania \(1999\)](#)

Related Glossary Terms

- [Forced Adoption \(c. 1940 - c. 1970\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Royal Hobart Hospital \(1938 - current\)](#)

The Royal Hobart Hospital took over the Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital in 1980.

Related Concepts

- [Adoption in Tasmania \(c. 1920 - current\)](#)

Resources

- Senate Community Affairs References Committee, [Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 29 February 2012
- Cunningham, Anne, *Background paper for the Minister of Community and Health Services on issues relating to historical adoption practices in Tasmania*, 4 December 1996
- Rimon, Wendy, [Hospitals](#), The companion to Tasmanian history, 2005
- Senate Community Affairs References Committee, [Official Committee Hansard. Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practices. Friday 16 December 2011. Hobart](#), 16 December 2011

Records

Records held by other organisations

- [Ante Natal Record Cards, Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital \(1924 - 1953\)](#)
- [Admission Registers, Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital \(1908 - 1962\)](#)
- [Hospital Registers of Admissions and Discharges with Details of Charges, Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital \(1908 - 1947\)](#)
- [Patients' Charts with Details of Births and Subsequent Hospitalisation, Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital \(1916 - 1947\)](#)
- [Patient Charts - Maternity, Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital \(1947 - 1979\)](#)

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