

Public Charities and State Children Department, State of Western Australia

1 January 1908 – 1 January 1917

Other Names:

- State Children's Department
- Charities Department

Details

The Public Charities and State Children Department was established in 1908, following the passage of the State Children Act of 1907. This Act established the State Children's Department which operated in conjunction with the Public Charities Department and was known as the Public Charities and State Children's Department. Previously, child welfare had been the responsibility of the Superintendent of Poor Relief and Charitable Institutions, part of the Colonial Secretary's Office. In 1917 the title of the Department was changed to the State Children's Department.

The State Records Office website provides an overview of the Public Charities and State Children Department:

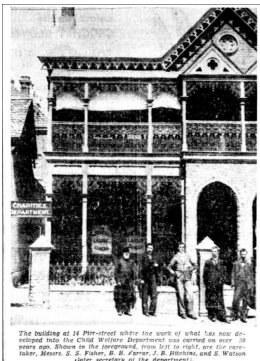
Responsibility for, and activities aimed at the protection of children culminated in the passing of the State Children Act of 1907 (proclaimed March 1908). This Act established the State Children's Department which operated in conjunction with the Public Charities Department and was known as the Public Charities and State Children's Department. The Act also established the first Children's Court in January 1908, which was responsible to the State Children's Department.

In 1917 the title of the Department was changed to State Children's Department.

A letter of appreciation for the donation from *The Daily News* Orphans' Christmas Cheer Fund in 1915 gives an insight into life as a State Child, where donations from the public gave extras to the children that were not part of their normal life:

430 poor children benefitted from your generosity. Each of the children were granted 2s. 6d...I again sincerely thank you on behalf of the large number of children whose Christmas was rendered happier by your liberality than it might have been otherwise. Letter, 3 February 1916 published in The Daily News 2 December 1916

Gallery



Charities Department building

Description: This is a picture from an article in *The West Australian* newspaper, which is published on the National Library of Australia's website, 'Trove'. The picture illustrates a 1938 article about the history of child welfare in WA. It shows the old 'Charities Department' and some of its staff outside their building at 14 Pier Street, Perth. This photo is undated. The date included is an estimate.

More info

Chronology

- Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions (1874 - 1908)
 - **Public Charities and State Children Department, State of Western Australia (1 January 1908 – 1 January 1917)**
 - State Children Department, State of Western Australia (1 January 1917 - 22 December 1927)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Government Receiving Depot \(1907 - 1935\)](#)
Date: 1908 - 1917

Related Events

- [Coronial Inquiry into the death of George Jones and the management of Swan Boys' Orphanage, State of Western Australia \(2 June 1911 - 13 July 1911\)](#)
The coronial inquiry into the death of George Jones and the management of Swan Boys' Orphanage made recommendations about inspection practices in the Public Charities and State Children Department.
Date: 1911 -

Related Organisations

- [Colonial Secretary's Office, Colony of Western Australia \(1890 - 1924\)](#)
In 1908, the Public Charities and State Children Department took over responsibility for child welfare from the Colonial Secretary's Office.
- [Alexandra Home for Women \(1916 - 1950\)](#)
The Public Charities and State Children Department placed young women at the Alexandra Home for Women.
Date: 1916 - 1917

Related Legislation

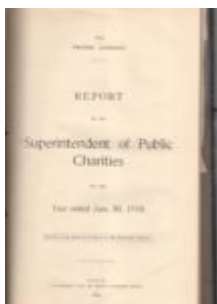
- [State Children Act 1907, Western Australia \(1907 - 1948\)](#)

Resources

- *Annual report of the State Children Department*, 1908 - 1927
- [Labour of Love](#), *The West Australian*, 23 January 1941
- Battye, JS, [The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia \(1912\)](#), 1912. *Relevance:* p.504
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003

- [Swan Orphanage reforms](#), Western Mail, 22 July 1911. *Relevance:* The Colonial Secretary responded to recommendations about practices in the Public Charities and State Children Department from the coronial inquiry into the death of George Jones and the management of Swan Boys' Orphanage

Other Resources



Title: Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities, 1910

Type: Image

Date: 1910

[Details](#)

Records

Records held by other organisations

- [Records of the Department of Child Protection and Family Support, and predecessors \(1894 - current\)](#)
 - [Hillcrest Records \(1912 - 1974\)](#)
 - ["Care for Children - Committees \(Boarding Out Committee \(Perth and District\)\) - Agendas, Minutes and Working Papers - JULY 1908 to MAY 1935" \(25 August 1908 - 19 May 1936\)](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)

Files created by the Public Charities and State Children's Department are held in this series at the State Records Office of WA.
 - [Former Child Migrants Referral Index \(1913 - 1968\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/public-charities-and-state-children-department/>