

Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie

1901 – 1920

Other Names:

- Home of Rest
- Salvation Army Industrial School for Senior Protestant Girls
- Collie Homes No.3 and No.4
- No. 1 Girls' Home
- Home of Peace

Details

The Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls was established at Collie in 1901. It was an industrial school (reformatory) for 'senior Protestant girls' but also admitted girls under 12. When it closed in 1920, the girls were sent to the Seaforth Salvation Army Girls' Home, Gosnells.

The Salvation Army opened an 'industrial school' (reformatory) for 'senior Protestant girls', admitting its first girls on 26 September 1901, nearly 5 kilometres from the township of Collie, Western Australia. It was one of three institutions set on 8,093 hectares of land held by the Salvation Army. The establishment of these institutions received wide publicity and glowing accounts were published in the newspapers in the early 1900s.

In 1902, there were 12 girls at the Home in June and 19 girls in December, aged from around 6 to 14 years. They were taught sewing, cookery, housework and domestic duties, according to government reports, and played 'croquet, rounders, and various other games' as well as 'parlour games' and performing musical items.

In 1903, an item from the Salvation Army's newspaper, the *War Cry* reported that there were 32 girls at Collie, all of whom had been 'saved' (that is, they had become Salvationists).

Another *War Cry* item in October 1905 gave a description of the 'happiness' of girls who were 'gathered from all over the State' to live at the Home. Children included those who were referred by child welfare authorities and those who were private admissions. In 1905, this included at least one Aboriginal child and a girl who was blind.

In 1908, the three Children's Homes at Collie were vilified in the *Sunday Times* newspaper, which alleged children suffered overwork, unduly harsh punishment and poor food and living conditions. In the words of the newspaper, the Homes were 'coffinages'.

'General instructions' regarding punishment at the Home were included in the Salvation Army's 'Punishment Book'. Discipline was meant to be 'mild and firm' with corporal punishment a 'last resort', but could be 'inflicted in the presence of a witness' for 'absconding, offences against morality, for gross impertinence, or for wilful and persistent disobedience'. Corporal punishment was not meant to be used for 'trivial breaches of discipline' and boxing children's ears was 'strictly forbidden'. All cases of corporal punishment were to be recorded in the Punishment Book immediately after the child was punished. The date, 'detail of the offence, number of strokes administered, and the name of the witness' were to be recorded. The instructions also gave guidance for 'light punishments' for other offences. These included: taking away a child's privileges and confining the child to a room 'but not in darkness'. It was also allowed to reduce the quantity or quality of food allowed to a child, who could be

given 'eight ounces of bread and water' instead of the normal meal, 'but no child must be deprived of two meals in succession'. The punishments were intended to comply with the Regulations of the *State Children Act 1907*.

A letter of appreciation of the *The Daily News* Orphans' Christmas Cheer Fund in 1915 gives an insight into life at the Girls' Home at Collie. The letter shows that donations enabled the children to occasionally have extras that were not part of their daily experience:

The money has been spent in presents, cards, and edibles for Christmas Day, and a picnic on Boxing Day. Letter, 27 December 1915 published in The Daily News 2 December 1916, p.10

In 1920, the institution closed. Some girls were sent to the Seaforth Salvation Army Girls' Home in the Perth suburb of Gosnells, and 56 others were sent to the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe.

Gallery



Salvation Army Girls Industrial School, Collie, 1906

Description: 'Salvation Army Girls Industrial School, Collie, 1906' is an image included (after p.22) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools* for the year ending 31 December 1906. This image shows approximately 50 girls in white dresses or aprons standing or sitting in three rows in front of a timber cottage. Six female staff members, also wearing white aprons and white hats are standing or sitting with the girls. Several sets of wooden juggling clubs are laid out on the ground in front of the girls.



The young residents of the Collie Girls Home, 1901-1920

Description: 'The young residents of the Collie Girls Home, 1901-1920' is a digital copy of an item that is part of the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA, Artefacts series of records. The item is a photocopied excerpt from *The War Cry* dated 21 March 1992 that is on display in the museum. The image of the Collie Girls' Home is undated but would be 1901-1920.

More info

Chronology

- **Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie (1901 – 1920)**
 - Seaforth Salvation Army Girls' Home (1920 - 1942)

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army, Australian Territory \(1880 - 1921\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Salvation Army Industrial School for Boys \[Collie\] \(1901 - 1920\)](#)

- [Collie Boys' Home \(1902 - 1920\)](#)

The Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie was located on the same land owned by the Salvation Army in Collie, as the Collie Boys' Home.

- [Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie \(1904? - 1924?\)](#)

Some historical sources say that girls were sent from the Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie to the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie in 1905.

- [Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe \(1918 - 1969\)](#)

When the Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie closed in 1920, 56 girls were sent from Collie to the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe

Date: 1920 -

Related Legislation

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

The Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie was classed as an industrial school within the meaning of the *State Children Act 1907*.

Resources

- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012
- Western Australia. Charities Department, *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, 1899 - 1907*. Relevance: 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907
- Battye, JS, [The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia \(1912\)](#), 1912. Relevance: p.505-506
- Kirkham, John C, *Southern Soup-Soap-Salvation, a compendium of Salvation Army Social Services in the Australian Southern Territory*, 2003
- The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territorial Headquarters (Vic), [Submission No. 46 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care: Appendix A: Children's Homes - A list of openings, closings and function](#), July 2003
- *West Australia*, The Victory, 1 September 1921
- *The Chief in the West*, The Victory, 1 October 1919
- *Distinguished Visitors at the Boys' Home, Collie, W.A.*, The War Cry, 20 July 1918
- *Salvos given a caning*, Sunday Times, 19 November 1995
- [Salvation Army Settlement, Collie](#), Southern Times, 25 May 1901

Other Resources



Title: The Army's Homes for Wayward Girls

Type: Image

Date: 18 July 1908

[Details](#)



Title: Settlement Work at the Collie

Type: Image

Date: 1 June 1902

[Details](#)



Title: General instructions

Type: Image

Date: 1907 - 1920

[Details](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
- [Children's Homes Files, Western Australian Salvation Army Homes \(1897 - 2012\)](#)
- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
- [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
- [Correspondence Files, Colonial Secretary's Office, Chief Secretary's Department \(1883 - 1983\)](#)
- [Files - Department of Aborigines and Fisheries \(1909 - 1920\)](#)

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