GUIDE TO OUT-OF-HOME CARE SERVICES
1940 - 2000

VOLUME ONE

AGENCY DESCRIPTIONS

Complied by
James Jenkinson Consulting
North Melbourne

November 2001
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# OUT OF HOME CARE SERVICES IN VICTORIA

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## VOLUME ONE - AGENCY DESCRIPTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

What is the ‘Guide to Out-of-Home Care Services’?

There are many people who were placed in out-of-home care services as children who would like to have a look at their files and records.

However, these records are held by organisations which may have changed their administrative and auspice arrangements over the years. This can make the search for records difficult.

It was felt that a guide which would identify previous service locations, link those locations to past and current auspice agencies and identify these agencies access to records policies could be of assistance.

A particular focus of the Guide to Out of Home Care Services are indigenous children and young people who were part of the ‘Stolen Generations’.1

Obviously other children and young people may also have an interest in obtaining their records including:

• State wards
• Immigrant children
• Indo-Chinese - refugee minors
• Sec 35 (voluntary admission to Wardship) children
• Adoptees - non-relative
• relative
• Protection and care clients
• Foster children - ward
• non-ward
• Children placed voluntarily in approved children’s homes
• Children placed as wards in specialist facilities (eg those caring for disabled or sight impaired children).

The Guide to Out-of-Home Care Services provides a resource to those professional agencies which assist people previously involved in the residential and substitute care system gain access to their records, if requested and where those records are available.

Agencies currently working with previous clients in this way include

• Department of Human Services Archival Services
• Department of Human Services Freedom of Information Unit
• ‘Link Up’
• The Adoption Information Service
• Child and family care agencies with historical links to earlier services

Scope

The Guide aims to list every government and community service organisation out-of-home care service established for children and young people in Victoria from 1940 to the present time. The listing will identify the service, its auspice at the time, auspice changes and current auspice agency policy on access to the records of children previously in care. The location of the records of defunct auspice organisations will also be noted where this information is available.

At this stage the Guide does not include information on Government psychiatric or intellectual disability services which may also have provided care for wards.

What were the Out-of Home Care/Substitute Care Services in question?

Out-of-home care services provide short and long term care for children and young people as a substitute for parental or home based care or as a response to the welfare and containment needs of young offenders.

Over the years these have included both government and community service organisation facilities and services such as:

• Babies Homes/Maternity Hospitals
• Reception Centres

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1 On 1 February 2000, the Miralaju Center met with the Hon Christine Campbell, Minister for Community Services to seek support for Community Services Organizations in implementing recommendations from the report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders ("the Bringing Them Home Report").

In response to this meeting, the Child Protection and Juvenile Justice Branch (CP&J) provided funds to the Archival Services Unit of the Business Development Branch to research the details of all Non Government Organizations involved in the placement and care of children since 1940.

The Project aims to be complementary to existing data, such as the publication A Piece of the Story and current initiatives to enhance access to records, such as the work of the Victorian Koorie Records Taskforce and the Children’s Welfare Association of Victoria.
- Orphanages/Children's Homes
- Family Group Homes/Cottage Homes
- Foster Care and Permanent Care Programs and Agencies
- Adoption Agencies
- Youth Hostels
- Secure Welfare Services
- Youth Training Centres - Government
- Non-Government
- Residential Youth Welfare Services
- Specialist residential facilities for children and young people
- Other approved community services


All of the major auspice agencies operating in Victoria were asked to provide the following information in relation to client records:

**Holdings**
- Institutions covered, time span of the records, nature of the records held.

**Arrangement**
- Location of records, indexing, searching aids (lists, registers etc).

**Access Policy**
- General availability of records and any specific restrictions to access.

**Access Procedures**
- Contact details for access to records, copies of any application forms, information on any fees, level of support given to ex-clients accessing records.

The information obtained from this process has been included in this volume of the Guide.

The right of non-government agencies to retain the confidentiality of their records and implement their own access policies is integral to the development of this Guide.

It is also understood that some agencies archival capacity may be limited and require development some time in the future.

**Guide Presentation**

At this stage of development the Guide has two major components presented on one floppy disk and in two separate hard copy volumes.

Component 1 - A searchable data base on disc containing all services down to family group home level, identifying service location and auspice agencies. (A hard copy of this material is contained in Volume 1)

Component 2 A separate brief historical overview of the major service and auspice entities, with details of agencies access to records policies. (Volume 2)

**Component 1. The Searchable Data Base (Using FileMaker Pro)**

The current version of the data-base lists over 1000 individual facilities or service entities. This information has been drawn from Department of Human Services archival files, annual reports and information provided by agencies and other sources. This can be searched by any key word in any field and a wide variety of lists and printouts can be generated.

**Component 2. Agency Descriptions**

This component consists of short historical overview of each major auspice agency or service, tracing its establishment, closure, amalgamation or relocation.

A summary of current auspice agencies access to records policies and contact details is included in this component where this information is available.

**Acknowledgement**

The material in this Guide relies heavily on memorandum, correspondence, reports and other material contained in the Department of Human Services archives. In addition, agency historical material ranging from small one page overviews to formal commissioned histories have been an invaluable source of information.

A general statement on sources and further reading has been included at the end of each entry, although it has not been possible to site the full range of sources used for each entry.

**Further Work**

A good deal of ground has been covered with this project, however it is acknowledged that there are omissions and areas needing further development. These issues will be addressed in later editions of the Guide.
A project of this nature also requires ongoing correction as information is cross checked and expansion as new information comes to hand.

Additional material or other suggestions to improve the Guide should be forwarded to:

James Jenkinson
2/23 Chapman Street
North Melbourne
Ph 9328 1664
Email: jjenkinson@mpx.com.au
DEPARTMENTAL CLIENT RECORDS

Access to Departmental Client Records for Wards, Youth Trainees, Probationers and other ex-Departmental Clients

The Department of Human Services has developed specific policies and procedures to assist people wishing to access individual or family records. It also provides services for people wishing to locate and reunify with other family members.

The following Departmental units assist with access to records and family reunion inquiries:

- Freedom of Information Unit
- Adoption Information Service
- Archival Services

Freedom of Information (FOI)
The Freedom of Information Act gives ex wards of the Department, juvenile justice clients and other clients of Departmental services the right to view the information in their records and files.

The FOI Act allows access to personal records irrespective of how long they have been held by the Department. In relation to individual records, the Department requires the personal approval and identification of the applicant. Information about persons other than the applicant which might be on the file is not provided.

A request must be accompanied by an application fee of $20. This application fee may be waived or reduced in cases of hardship. A charge may also be made for the provision of copies of documents.

A copy of the Department's Freedom of Information Form can be found on page xxx although requests in letter form will also be processed.

Applications under Freedom of Information Provisions should be made to:
Freedom of Information Unit
Department of Human Services
555 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000
96167777

Adoption Information Service (AIS)
The Adoption Information Service was established in 1985 under the Adoption Act 1985. Persons eligible to apply for records under the Adoption Act provisions are adopted persons, children of adopted persons, birth parents, birth relatives and adoptive parents. The legislation and the Adoption Information Service provide the opportunity for those separated by adoption to obtain information from adoption and court records and to locate their family of origin.

Counselling, support and assistance is available from AIS to assist people deal with the any emotional stress involved in accessing records as well as issues of loss and grief. Whilst AIS offers these services to Indigenous ex-clients of the Department, they often prefer to accept assistance from LINK-UP, the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency or other members of the Aboriginal community and are referred accordingly.

The AIS also provides an information service for ex-guardianship (ex-ward and juvenile justice) clients of the Department. The same range of service provided in the adoption situation are provided to ex-guardianship clients.

Actual access to files is still mediated through Freedom of Information provisions via the FOI Unit but AIS will facilitate access under those provisions. After receiving information from their ward or youth welfare files, clients may then contact AIS for assistance to locate their families, or to discuss the information they have received. Where a non-government agency has been involved, clients will be advised (and assisted) to contact the relevant agency directly to access any records held by that agency.

The Adoption Information Service can be contacted at:
Adoption Information Service
Department of Human Services
555 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph 96167777

Archival Services
The Department of Human Services Archival Services Section locates, and can release to the general public as 'open records', information on children 99 years after the creation of a record and 75 years for adults. These records may be held at DHS Archival Services in Bourke Street or at the Public Records Office in North Melbourne.

All other individual case files and registers held by Archival Services are 'closed' and available only within the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act or the Adoption Act 1984.
It is Archival Service's role to register and store all files for retrieval if required.

Generally, requests for client information are dealt with in the first instance by the Freedom of Information Unit and the Adoption Information Service, both of which work closely with Archival Services to facilitate the provision of information to ex-departmental clients.
AGENCY DESCRIPTIONS
ABBOTSFORD AND OAKLEIGH YOUTH TRAINING CENTRES (GOOD SHEPHERD CONVENTS):

Location: Clark Street Abbotsford
Castlebar Road Oakleigh

Auspice: Good Shepherd Sisters

The Abbotsford and Oakleigh Convents of the Good Shepherd provided accommodation and training for 'problem' Catholic girls in special sections of the convents. (The lack of similar services for 'difficult to control' Protestant girls who usually remained at the Receiving Dept at Parkville led to the establishment of Winlaton Youth Training Centre in 1956).

These two Catholic facilities, (and the equivalent homes for boys; Morning Star and Bayswater Boys Home No 1) were variously described as Reformatories, Training Schools or Juvenile Schools in Children's Welfare Department annual reports. They catered for wards referred by the Department as well as private placements.

The Oakleigh Convent Juvenile School was also known as St Margaret's.

From the early 1950s, these 'juvenile schools' aimed to 'bring about the good social adjustment of young people who have gone off the rails'. Education and training programs were the main levers to achieve this end.

By the late 1950s the juvenile schools were emphasising more therapeutic approaches to meet the needs of the girls in their care. A social worker was appointed at Oakleigh in 1969 and a flat accommodating 4 girls was established in the community as a half way house for girls who had left the centre. Oakleigh also established a Transition Unit within the Centre to prepare residents for the move back to the community.

Both centres began to place more emphasis on education and occupational counselling during the early 1970s. The Abbotsford Centre was converted its dormitory style accommodation to separate small units in 1972/73. At the time the Abbotsford Centre was concentrating on more emotionally disturbed girls and this move allowed for differential treatment and more individualised care.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd closed the Abbotsford Youth Training Centre in 1974 and consolidated their work with young people at Oakleigh.

The St Margaret's Centre at Oakleigh had separate assessment and residential units and a diversified treatment program for girls in the 14 to 16 year age range. State wards, probationers and private placements were catered for. Residents either went to school on campus or, if they were placed in the two external residential annexes, out to work or to school in the community. St Margaret's also conducted an after-care program.

The Training Centre at Oakleigh was closed in 1981.

Client Records
The National Directory of Records of Catholic Organisations 'A Piece of the Story' (1999) provides the following information in relation to the records of the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford.

Access:
The Archives are private and personal visitors are not catered for. Information is available in response to written inquiries only, either from former residents of the Home or other authorised persons.
Records:
Admissions and discharge records have been retained. Information relates only to the person in care, not to family members. Records of admission and departure contain only the names of girls, their place and date of birth and parents names.

The following information is provided in relation to the Oakleigh facility:

Access:
Access is available to former residents of the Home or other authorised persons.

Records:
Admission and discharge records have been retained.

The initial contact for both facilities is:
The Provincial Leader
Good Shepherd Sisters
PO Box 182
Abbotsford VIC 3067
Ph 9419 5773

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
The National Directory of Records of Catholic Organisations
A Piece of the Story 1999

ACHERON YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

Location: Near Buxton

Auspice: Social Welfare Department

The Acheron Youth Training Centre was established on the Acheron River near Buxton in 1966/67 as a holiday/adventure/work camp for trainees from Turana.

By 1970 it was operating as an independent centre with permanent staff.

Approximately 300 trainees a year went to Acheron in work groups. These trainees received instruction in building and grounds work as part of their treatment program. An additional 1500 trainees a year attended adventure camps at Acheron. From 1970, girls from Winlaton were also using the camp.

Structured and educationally focussed camps organised by the teachers from the Turana schools were also a feature of the Acheron program.

The Acheron Centre was administered from Turana until it was phased out in the early 1960s.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients can access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Departmental Annual Reports 1966 to 1982

ADOPTION

In general terms the 1928 Adoption of Children legislation allowed for adoptions to be arranged by a respected member of the community. Social Welfare Agencies engaged "confidential officers" to undertake this task while doctors, solicitors and clergy could also arrange adoptions. The legislation itself did not demand secrecy and identifying information was available to all parties at the time of the adoption.

Up until the introduction of the Adoption of Children Act (1964) the Department had no legislative mandate to be involved in the adoption field beyond making adoption applications on behalf of its own wards and acting as guardian ad litem.

There were no inspectorial, regulatory, agency approval, standard setting or monitoring requirements involving the Department in the 1928 legislation (or subsequent amendments).

The primary mechanism for monitoring the process of an adoption rested with the Court through its assessment of the documentation and affidavits presented to it.

The Adoption of Children Act 1964 introduced the provision that except where a child was to be adopted by a relative, adoptions could only be arranged by an approved adoption agency or the Department.

Under the 1964 legislation the Department recommended the approval of agencies to arrange adoptions. The Department could also recommend withdrawal of that approval. The Chief Secretary had the ultimate power to grant or refuse an application for approval. Agencies were required to provide for the counselling of parents, the investigation and selection of applicants to adopt and the supervision of the placement process until the
making of an adoption order. The agency was to provide adequate office facilities and to arrange adequate shelter for children accepted for possible adoptive placement or returned from a failed placement.

Confidential case records were to be maintained and the Principle Officer was to satisfy him/her self that the placement was satisfactory before sponsoring the application to the Court. Principal Officers had to be social workers or individuals, who, in the opinion of the Minister, had sufficient experience to carry out adoptions.

In 1966/67 twenty two agencies were approved as private adoption agencies.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia (Victorian District)
Hartnett House
Presbyterian Social Services Department
Church of Christ, Department of Social Services
Wangaratta District Base Hospital
Melbourne State Relief Committee of the Church of Later Day Saints
Melbourne Family Care Organisation
Echuca District Hospital
Methodist Department of Child Care
Mission of St James and St John
Salvation Army
Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society
Box Hill and District Hospital
Mission to the Streets and Lanes
Catholic Family Welfare Bureau
Royal Women’s Hospital
Church of England Diocesan of Gippsland (St Mary’s)
Seventh Day Adventist Welfare Organisation
Bethany Babies Home
Berry Street Babies Home and Hospital
Queen Victoria Hospital
Aborigines Welfare Board

By 1980, this had been reduced to the following nine agencies:

Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society
Catholic Family Welfare Bureau
Child Care Service of the Uniting Church
Lutheran Adoption Agency
Latter Day Saints Social Service Adoption Agency
Mercy Maternity Hospital
Mission of St James and St John
Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital
Royal Women’s Hospital

Client Records
The Adoption Information Service (AIS) was established by the Department in 1985 to assist people who have been separated by adoption and who want to get information or contact each other.

The AIS enables people to place their name on an information register, to obtain information and make contact. It also offers counselling and intermediary services.

Contact AIS on 9616 2822

The Victorian Adoption Network for Information and Self-Help (VANISH) is a cooperative self-help service involving adopted persons, adoptive parents and birth parents. VANISH provides a telephone advice and support service for people searching for information and/or advise about searching or making contact.

All VANISH services are provided free of charge

Contact VANISH on 9348 2111

ALEXANDER INFANTS HOME AND REFUGE

Location: 183 Scotts Parade Ballarat

Auspice: Ballarat Town and City Mission

On establishment, the Alexander Infants Home was housed in an old (1900) single story mansion type building located approximately two miles from Ballarat Station. In the late 1930s the Home comprised three dormitory/bedrooms, a diningroom, a large rumpus room, two bathrooms and toilets and a kitchen/scullery section. It also had three small playgrounds and a kindergarten

The Home had a capacity of 36 children. Most of the children were state wards, aged 15 months to fifteen years including children with handicaps. The home also acted as a feeder home to the Ballarat Orphanage.

In 1964 the Home changed its name to the Alexander Toddler’s Home

By early 1970 the home was under pressure from the Department to close because:

• its facilities were not readily adaptable to accept older children in order to keep siblings together
many of the children placed had parents living in Melbourne who found it difficult to visit.

Alexander Toddlers’ Home buildings were old and inconveniently designed and expensive to maintain.

financial resources were inadequate to allow a move to family group home care.

a number of its residents were suitable for home release or transfer to homes catering for older age group.

However, the critical overcrowding situation at Allambie meant that Alexander Toddlers Home had to be retained for Departmental placements for at least a further two to three years.

Following further review and discussions with the Department, the President of the Board of Management of Alexander Toddlers’ Home advised the Minister for Social Welfare that the Home would be closing in October 1973. Following assessment and final transfer of the children still in its care and despite spirited representations from the local community to retain it, Alexander Toddlers Home closed in 1974.

Client Records

The administrative records of Alexander Toddlers Home were lodged with the Ballarat Regional Library.

Sources and Further Reading

Department of Human Services archival files.

ALLAMBIE RECEPTION CENTRE

Location: 70 Elgar Road Burwood

Auspice: Social Welfare Department

Allambie, the Family Welfare Divisions main reception, treatment, classification and transit centre was established on the old Kildonan Children’s Home campus, Burwood in July 1961. All children admitted to the care of the Social Welfare Department were received at Allambie from that date or, in the case of children in the Ballarat area, the Ballarat Reception Centre. The establishment of Allambie was primarily aimed at reducing significant overcrowding at Turana. The admission of care and protection children to Turana ceased at the same time, with the exception of some 10 to 14 year old boys admitted to the new Baltara Reception Centre within the grounds of Turana.

When opened Allambie had accommodation for about 90 children in four separate Sections.

The girls ranged in age from two to fourteen years and the boys from two to ten years. The old nursery at Turana continued to be used for babies and toddlers until a new nursery was built at Allambie in 1964. The Education Department operated a school in the grounds of Allambie although some children attended schools in the community. A special reception foster care program was introduced by the Family Welfare Division in 1964 for children who needed an extended period of observation for health or other reasons before a placement decision was made.

Children were admitted to Allambie by policewomen or an officer of the Children’s Protection Society under a Safe Custody Order signed by a Justice of the Peace. Admissions were usually the result of family disruption or difficulty or a child’s ‘acting out’ or offending behaviour. Children were held at Allambie until a Children’s Court Magistrate made a decision as to whether a child should be admitted to the care of the Department.

Children not made wards were released home as soon as possible, placed on bonds or returned to Allambie by the Court for further assessment. Other admissions to Allambie included children who were already wards of State following a breakdown in home release, foster care or a child’s home placement.

A Placement Committee comprising the Director of Family Welfare, the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Medical Officer of Allambie and the officers in charge of the Children’s Homes and Child Care Sections met weekly at Allambie to determine the most suitable type of placement for more recently admitted children.

In the 1970s Allambie consisted of three large sections, ‘Waratah’, ‘Kurrajong’, and ‘Mimosa’. These accommodated groups of mixed age and sex which enabled sibling groups to be placed together. Other sections included the Nursery which accommodated babies who, for medical reasons, needed be kept separate from other children, ‘Tecoma’, which accommodated up to 10 school-age boys and ‘Heath/Cassia’ which accommodated 22 adolescent girls.

During the 1970s Allambie was the State’s major reception centre requiring the employment of over 160 child care staff rostered to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additional social work staff undertook casework and planning for the children in care.

During the 1960s and 1970s a continuing and significant problem for the Department was the
lack of suitable options for difficult to place children and young people. These included large sibling groups, babies, pre-school children, handicapped children, and late school age boys and girls with behavioural problems. Children in these categories stayed at Allambie and Turana for very long periods, contributing to serious overcrowding.

During the 1960s and 1970s the Government opened a number Departmental 'approved' children's homes and introduced alternative programs such as regionalised foster care in an attempt to overcome this problem. At the same time the Department was completing the regionalisation of its services which included reception care and regional case planning. These policies were supposed to reduce the need for a large central reception centre.

However, by the mid 1970s the number of children placed at Allambie reached an all time high. This was due in part to:
- approved Children's Homes, in pursuit of new suggested minimum standards tending to reduce rather than increase their bed capacity
- the delayed implementation of a scheme for funding of Approved Fostering Agencies which was to absorb some babies and pre-school children
- delays in the implementation of the Department's five year plan to increase its family group homes by 48 between 1971 and 1975
- the initial lack of impact of early regional prevention strategies to reduce admissions

By the mid to late 1970s and early 1980s the overcrowding at Allambie decreased as alternative reception and care programs were fully implemented, in particular the establishment of regional reception centres and reception foster care. In addition, the introduction of local preventive and support service and the use of State care only as last resort began to be reflected in significant reductions in the numbers of children in the statutory welfare system. At the same time case management of the children in Allambie, previously undertaken at the reception centre was being transferred to the new regional centres. The plan was to close Allambie as quickly as possible.

In the early 1980s Capacity was reduced to about 100 children and Allambie sections were re-configured as follows:
- 'Acacia', 'Correa' and 'Banksia'-Admitting Sections
- Heath/Cassia-Babies and toddlers
- 'Carinya'-Sibling groups and adolescents
- 'Lodge'-Sibling groups
- 'Kurrajong'-Mixed groups
- 'Waratah'-Mixed groups, also special needs children.

In 1985 a State-wide Services Redevelopment (SRD) team was established to examine all issues relevant to the redevelopment of existing state-wide residential services for children and young persons. The aim was to reduce the size and functions of central institutions such as Allambie, Baltara and Winlaton and to promote effective community based alternatives.

The SRD Teams first recommendation was to phase out Allambie and to redeploy resources to regional reception centres. The Allambie nursery was closed in May 1986 due to the increased use of reception foster care and other alternatives.

Despite these developments, regional placement of children with severe social, emotional and mental problems was still a difficulty with alternative difficult to find, and the closure of Allambie's was not completed until June 1990.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients can access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading.
Department of Human Services archived files and reports
Social Welfare Department annual reports

ANDREW KERR MEMORIAL HOME

Location: Tanti Avenue Mornington
Auspice: Mission of St James and St John

During the 1920s and 30s the Andrew Kerr Memorial Home at Mornington functioned as a large congregate care home run by the Church of England. During this time it was used mainly as a holiday home for under-privileged children.

In 1938 the Home was described in an Departmental Inspectors report as a two story stone and wood building on 11 acres near the beach at Mornington. Children slept in the large closed verandahs surrounding the building, with girls upstairs and boys downstairs.
The Mission of St James and St John assumed management of the Home in 1941 to expand its welfare based residential care program, primarily because of its capacity to accommodate both boys and girls. This allowed the Mission to keep siblings together when residential care was required. At this time the capacity of Andrew Kerr was about 55 children. This was reduced to about 30 in the mid 1950s due to staffing and building repair problems.

In 1955/56 extensive additions and renovations were effected. Bed capacity and staff were increased and the 'new' Andrew Kerr Memorial Home was opened in April 1956. At that point the home catered for non-delinquent Protestant boys and girls of school age. The Home had a capacity of 48 children. Girls still occupied renovated dormitories in the original building and the boys were accommodated in a new brick wing built on the grounds. Each dormitory had between four to eight beds. The children attended local schools. Up until 1968, Andrew Kerr boys were transferred to St Paul's Home for Boys, Newhaven when they reached 12 years.

In response to the lack of special education facilities in the Mornington area, the Home took the then unique step of employing a part time professional teacher on staff solely to help children academically during out of school hours. The home also had a guest room so parents travelling long distances to visit children could stay overnight.

In 1976 the Mission of St James and St John developed a proposal for the phasing out of their congregate/campus care homes (Andrew Kerr and St Luke's Bendigo) in favour of alternative forms of residential care and support services. These services were established the Loddon Campaspe, Westernport and Central Gippsland regions.

Two family group homes were established in Mornington to care for some of the children from Andrew Kerr. The Andrew Kerr campus was sold in 1980.

During this transition, the former superintendent's home at Andrew Kerr had been providing care for adolescents. In 1980, the Mission established a formal 'early adolescent unit' in this part of the Home.

Other scattered units were established in Barkly Street and Mitchell Street Mornington.

Peninsula Family Services was established in 1984 in Mornington to provide residential care for teenagers, marriage and family counselling volunteer services and a family group home for children and to carry on aspects of the work of the Mission of St James of St John and the Andrew Kerr Memorial Home.

Client Records
Enquiries about the possibility of access to client files from the Andrew Kerr Memorial Home should be made to:
The Operations Manager
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne 3003
Ph 9321 6133

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

ANGLICARE
Location: 12 Batman Street West
Melbourne

Auspice: Church of England, Anglicare

Anglicare was established in 1997 through the amalgamation of three major and long established Anglican organisations: the Mission to the Street and Lanes, the Mission of St James and St John and St John's Homes for Boys and Girls.

Anglicare has responsibility for the early records of a large number of homes, hostels, and other facilities conducted by the Church of England under a variety of earlier auspices. These include:

- Arms of Jesus Babies Home, East Melbourne
- Kedesh Home for Unmarried Mothers, Carlton and Kew
- St Agnes Girls Home, Glenroy
- St. Nicholas Boys Home, Glenroy
- Ramoth Toddlers Home, Ferntree Gully
- St Paul's Training Centre and Boys Home, Newhaven, Phillip Island
- St Luke's Children's Home, Bendigo
- St Barnabas Home, Phillip Island
- Butler House for Homeless Girls, Carlton and Fitzroy
- St Gabriel's Babies Home, Bairnsdale
- Andrew Kerr Memorial Home, Windor
- Blackburn South Cottages
- Beryl Booth Court, East Melbourne
- Buckland House, Newport
Cheltenham Home for Children (House of Mercy)
Brighton Children's Home/Brighton Family Centre/St Faiths/Unit 64
Darling Babies Home, East Malvern
Napier House, Fitzroy
St John's Home for Boys and Girls, Canterbury

Separate entries for each of these facilities can be found in this volume or in the Guide to Out-of-Home Care’s associated data base.

Anglicare now delivers over 100 programs and services administered on a regional basis, retaining a significant involvement in out-of-home care and support services for children and young people.

The agency manages a substantial foster program, provides residential care for children unable to be placed in foster homes, arranges permanent care and adoption placements and provides support to families caring for a child with physical or intellectual disabilities.

The needs of young people are met through an adolescent residential care program, crisis accommodation and support for homeless young people, a gender specific refuge for young women aged 12 to 16 years and other residential and support services targeting young women and young women with children.

Anglicare also operates an Adolescent Community Placement Program in the Northern, Southern and Eastern Regions as well as employment and training services for young people.

Other services provided through Anglicare focus on the needs of families and the community. These include:

- parent education
- a ‘Strengthening Families’ program
- family counselling services
- family and in-home support
- crisis accommodation
- family camps
- home-based care for children with disabilities
- support services for people with gambling problems and drug and alcohol addictions
- counselling for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence programs

Client Records
Inquiries about Anglicare’s policy and procedures in relation to earlier client records should be made in the first instance to:

The Director
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne VIC 3000
Ph 9321 6133

Sources and Further Reading
Information Brochure ‘Anglicare Victoria - for Families, Youth and Children’

ANTONIAN CHILDREN’S HOME

Location: 311 Church Street Richmond

Auscipe: Daughters of Divine Zeal
In 1959 the Daughters of Divine Zeal, an Italian Order of Catholic nuns established Antonian Institute for Children to provide residential care for deprived girls and boys of school age and Italian origin, including State wards.

The Home provided care for up to 24 children in a somewhat secluded, almost isolated, congregate care setting.

The Home’s name was changed to the Antonian Children’s Home in 1966.

The Antonian Children’s Home provided care for children during the 1960s and early 1970s, however, it was phased out from Departmental ward placements in the early 1970s as Departmental expectations regarding residential child care program standards changed.

Client Records
The records of the Antonian Children’s Home are now under the control of MacKillop Family Services. Refer entry for MacKillop for details of their access to records policy.

Former residents and their relatives should make application to the following address for information:

The Co-ordinator
Heritage and Information Services
MacKillop Family Services
155 Melbourne Avenue
Glenroy Victoria 3046
(Ph 9300 1011)

Resources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services Archives
MacKillop Family Services archival notes.
 APPROVED VOLUNTARY CHILD MIGRATION ORGANISATIONS: IMMIGRATION (GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILDREN) ACT

The Commonwealth Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act was introduced in 1946. This Act required unaccompanied migrants under 21 years of age to be placed under the guardianship of the Commonwealth Minister for Immigration who was empowered to delegate his powers to any officer or authority of a State with respect to immigrant children received into that State. The power was exercised in Victoria by the Secretary of the Children’s Welfare Department and successor Victorian welfare departments. This arrangement applied to both children under the direct nomination of a private person or by an approved organisation. The Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act empowered State Minister’s to approve organisations desirous of accepting the care and training of migrant children. These were officially known as ‘Approved Voluntary Child Migration Organisations’.

Organisations so approved were:
Northcote Training Farm, Bacchus Marsh
Methodist Peace Memorial Home, Burwood
‘Dhurringile’ Tatura (Presbyterian Social Service Committee)
St John’s Church of England Boys Home, Canterbury
St Huberts, Church of England Boy’s Training Farm, Yering
Nazareth House, East Camberwell (Sisters of Nazareth)
Young Christian Worker Movement Hostel, Hawthorn (closed in 1954)

However in 1949 only one organisation, the Northcote School with 40 children, was in active operation in Victoria.

By 1952 there were 280 children approved for placement in six of the homes listed above. The Young Christian Workers Movement, Hawthorn was also approved for the placement of 60 boys over school age but closed in 1954 without taking any children. From time to time immigrant children were transferred or placed in other approved children’s homes in Victoria.

The Children’s Welfare Department was also required to approve, prior to the acceptance by the State Immigration Office nominations of British minors who would come within the category of an immigrant child. The Department was to approve the nominators proposals for the care, custody, employment and accommodation of the children by the nominators. Where the welfare of the child was assured, that child was exempted from the Act.

From 1947 to 1962, 524 children came to Australia under the sponsorship of Approved Voluntary Child Migration Organisations, but by 1962 the scheme had ‘lost its original momentum’ as only ten children were so nominated in 1961/62.

The Department continued to have a role in the assessment of the proposed accommodation and suitability of non-institutional nominees of immigrant children and young people. An increasing number were the fiancées of ‘new Australians’ who had earlier settled in Victoria.

Client Records
Files on immigrant children are held at the Department of Human Services Archives. (Refer section on access to Departmental records on page xx)

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Children’s Welfare/Social Welfare Branch annual reports.

ASHENDENE BOYS HOME

Location: Falls Road, Olinda
Auspice: Victorian Government

Ashendene was opened on 5 December 1966 in what was a large private home at Olinda, about 32 Kilometres from Melbourne. It was purchased for use as a home for 28 boys aged 10 to 15 years and to provide a suitable outlet for boys from Turana and some of the older Allambie boys.

It was proposed that Ashendene be used in conjunction with Hillside, taking similar types of boys (ie difficult to place boys with a long history of institutional care and some offending behaviour). The main difference being the boys’ ability to use community schools as all Ashendene boys attended local schools rather than an on campus school. Most of the boys were Catholic, deemed not suitable for St Vincent’s or St Augustine’s and with little prospect of home release.

By 1977 the main intake was from Baltara; children with either home release placement or placement breakdowns from other children’s homes. In general Ashendene provided longer term care for older teenage boys with unstable placement histories.
In 1978 the capacity of the home was reduced to 24 as the building was considered to be overcrowded.

New premises were purchased in Croydon 1987/88 so that Ashendene could be relocated from Olinda. The new facility in Croydon, a regional medium term residential unit for up to eight male and female adolescents opened in November 1988.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Social Welfare Department Annual Reports 1966 - 1986

BALLARAT CHILDREN’S HOME

Location: 200 Victoria Street Ballarat

Auspice: Ballarat Orphanage Committee of Management

The Ballarat Orphan Asylum was established in 1866 as a non-denominational children's home catering for children of both sexes between the age of four to sixteen years.

The Asylum had been designed to accommodate up to 300 children, although this number was never reached. As was common at the time, the children at Ballarat Orphanage were involved in running the homes substantial farming operation.

In 1909, the institution's name was changed to the Ballarat Orphanage. A Boys Hostel and new Toddlers Block were established in the late 1920s.

Although anticipated capacity was never reached, the Ballarat Orphanage was still a large facility. In 1953 there were 198 children in residence of whom 144 were state wards.

In 1956 the Orphanage was described as "A large two story brick building with big airy dormitories taking from eight to twenty beds. It is divided into two separate blocks. The Toddlers, where children between five and nine years of age occupy a block consisting of dormitories, bath and toilet rooms, dining room, playroom, Sunday School Hall, playgrounds, a paddling pool and school rooms.

The main building consists of offices, seven boys and seven girls dormitories, recreation rooms, dining room, kitchen, work room, laundry, concert hall, library, playroom, and two separate toilet blocks".

There was a State primary school within the Home's grounds. Older children attending local secondary schools.

By the late 1950s the Home had established an 'approved juvenile hostel' for older working boys. This was closed in 1961.

The following overview of staffing, education and recreation arrangements in the 1950s gives some indication of the scale of these older style congregate care institutions:

- Staffing Main Home - 4 in laundry, 3 kitchen staff, 2 gardeners, 1 boiler attendant and storeman, 2 Housemasters, 2 seamstresses, 3 office staff, 1 farm manager and two assistants. 1 Matron and 6 assistants. Staffing Toddlers Block - 1 in charge and 5 assistants. Two night nurses and a reliever.

- 42 children go out to secondary schools and five to special retarded school. There are 3 children learning the piano, 3 singing and 2 elocution.

- A new sports oval has been built in the past 12 months, it consists of a football and cricket oval, 2 basket ball courts and 2 tennis courts.

- Numerous amenities are provided by different organisations. All children go out to church on each Sunday. Sunday School is held at the Home in the afternoon. The Toddlers Block is a complete unit including a playground and Sunday School. The farm produces all the milk, eggs and vegetables required by the Home".

From the early to mid 1960s the older buildings were gradually replaced. In 1966 the home consisted of an older section for 50 children aged five to nine years; a new unit divided into three sections for 54 boys; the 'W. Leach Cottage' for 40 girls and 20 boys and a separate unit (Farrell Cottage) for 30 senior girls.

In 1968, the Ballarat Orphanage changed its name to the Ballarat Children's Home.

In the early 1970s Ballarat Children’s Homes began a program of establishing smaller cottages and family group homes on its existing Victorian Street campus. During this period the Home began to admit pre-school children.

The cottage program was extended outside the campus setting with the building of a family group home at Black Hill in 1976.

By 1979/80 Ballarat Children's Home was accommodating between 40 and 65 children on the original Victoria Street campus and 36 children in six family group homes scattered around Ballarat. It was also conducting family aide and debt counselling programs.
An additional three family group homes were set up in 1981/82 to accommodate children affected by the closure of St Joseph's Children's Home, Sebastopol.

In 1981/82 Ballarat Children's Home established a Youth Support Unit to meet the needs of an increasing number of adolescents coming before court and into care. This facility provided residential accommodation and acted as an 'attendance centre' for young people.

However, both the Department and the Home agreed that the Victoria Street site was no longer appropriate for residential child care. This was due to the declining number of children actually requiring residential care when case plans were made for each child, the relatively low number of children from the region requiring residential care, changing referral patterns, the high cost of maintaining a large campus based facility, the positive impact of community support services on family functioning and the need to devise further alternatives to residential care. Consequently, the original campus based home was phased out in 1981.

In 1982 the Ballarat Children's Home changed it name to Ballarat Children's Homes to reflect the wider range of care options being provided.

A further change of name to Ballarat Children's Homes and Family Services occurred in 1984. The agency continued its involvement in residential care for children whilst introducing a range of other programs for adolescents and families.

Now called Child and Family Services Ballarat, the agency offers a wide range of youth, accommodation, community and family centred services. Its current out-of-home care services for children comprise one family group home, a foster care program, and an Adolescent Community Placement Program. The agency also maintains an Adoption and Permanent Care Program and a program called 'Supporting Placements at Risk'. These services are provided in Ballarat and surrounding regional centres.

Client Records
Child and Family Services Ballarat has established a confidential service which provides past residents access to their personal records and other memorabilia of the orphanage and children's home. The 'Heritage Support Service' provides access to early records including Admission Book details for the Ballarat Orphanage from 1866. The Service can also access resident's files from approximately the mid 1930s to the present day. A photographic collection is also held including photographs of past residents, staff and buildings.

The Heritage Worker is a trained counsellor and is able to provide support and counselling during the access process.

Requests for access must be made in writing. The Heritage worker then request identifying information regarding the ex-resident to assist the search. Applicants will also be requested to provide information as to their own identity and relationship to the ex-resident. A fee of $40 applies for non-pensioners. Information is released in accordance with Freedom of Information principles. Information relating to third parties, including information on siblings will not be released. Contact should be made in the first instance to:

Heritage Worker
Child and Family Services
115 Lydiard Street
Ballarat 3350
Ph 53321434

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services Archives
Child and Family Services Ballarat Time Line provided by the agency

BALLARAT RECEPTION CENTRE
(WARRAWEE)

Location: 28 Victoria Street Ballarat
Auspice: Social Welfare Department

The Ballarat Reception Centre was established by the Department in the old Ballarat Orphanage Boys Hostel in 1961. The Centre had accommodation for approximately 15 to 18 children up to 14 years of age. The Centre was named Warrawee (Aboriginal word for resting place) in 1964.

From 1962 to 1968 the Reception Centre also housed the Department's regional field officers for the Ballarat area.

Children placed at the Centre attended local schools and attended local youth clubs whilst awaiting the outcome of assessment or family intervention by regional social workers.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.
BALTARA RECEPTION CENTRE

Location: Parkville

Auspice: Social Welfare Department

Turana served as the Victorian remand and classification centre for boys from 14 to 17 years of age from the early 1950s. It also contained a section dealing with younger boys, known as the ‘Family Welfare Division’s Reception Centre at Turana’.

The Family Welfare Division recognised the need for a specialised reception facility additional to Allambie to cater for early adolescent boys. In 1968 the old Turana section ‘Parkside’ and three new sections were amalgamated to form a new and separate Family Welfare Division reception and remand centre called ‘Baltara’. This centre catered for boys in the 10 to 15 year age range.

During the late 1960’s Baltara’s capacity was approximately 60 to 80 boys. However, the number actually accommodated varied widely depending on the availability of vacancies in non-government and departmental children’s homes, the ultimate destination for many children following their assessment and classification at Baltara. In the 1960s it was not uncommon for over 100 boys to be resident at Baltara due to the lack of suitable children’s home placements.

New sections were added in 1968/69, bringing Baltara’s official capacity to 100. Baltara’s separation from Turana was emphasised through the establishment of its own school and administration block in early 1970’s.

Initially Baltara was divided into four sections, Parkside, Kinta, Mawarra, and Warrawong, each holding between 20 to 25 boys.

Parkside was a security and remand section with a capacity for 20 to 25 boys. This section was oriented to more disturbed or high community risk boys. It also acted as a remand centre for boys awaiting court appearances. Boys accommodated in Parkside included recidivists, absconders, and wards remanded on serious offences or posing a community risk, including sex offenders.

Kinta was a medium term ‘open’ section holding wards who could not be easily placed in available non-government or government children’s homes.

Mawarra was a short term treatment section with wards spending up to three months in this form of care. Boys making good progress were home released or moved on to other forms of care.

Warrawong was constructed as a security unit but initially used as a short term placement unit for more easily placed children awaiting transfer to other forms of care.

By 1975 additional sections had been introduced and existing section functions changed. Parkside remained as a security and remand sections. A new section, ‘Akora’, was established as a home release section for boys who could make an early adjustment back to the community following intensive treatment. Kinta became a placement section for care and protection remands and wards pending transfer to other children’s home. Mawarra functioned as a placement and long term section holding wards not easily placed in other children’s homes, including intellectually handicapped boys and boys with behavioural problems. Warrawong became an open/semi security placement, remand and internal classification section dealing with boys not requiring a full security placement at Parkside.

In 1971 Baltara management implemented a pilot ‘aftercare program’ providing supportive counselling to boys on home release.

In the mid 1970’s one wing of Parkside was opened as a new section (‘Alkoomi’) to provide a halfway house between a security environment and a fully open section. This section dealt with older boys who did not require long term placement but required intensive group counselling and activities before home release.

In 1985 the redevelopment of all state wide youth and child welfare facilities, including Winlaton, was begun. The Department aimed to reduce the size and functions of central institutions by promoting effective community based alternatives. Services for pre-adolescent and adolescent wards and offenders held in Turana, Winlaton and Baltara were the focus of early stages of the redevelopment. These institutions continued to operate in the short term, but as youth training centres solely for the purpose of providing appropriate programs for young people sentenced to detention.

In 1991/92, following the introduction of the Children and Young Persons Act the old style congregate care campus at Baltara was closed. In its place the Department developed small scale geographically dispersed residential and reception units within the community. These included secure welfare services and short and
medium term residential units.

**Client Records**
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

**Sources and Further Reading**
Department of Human Services archived files
Introduction to 'Beltara', Social Welfare Department Pamphlet (Undated)
Departmental Annual Reports 1966 - 1992

**BAYSWATER BOYS HOMES**

**Location:** The Basin

**Auspice:** Salvation Army

Following a request from the Government of the day, the first Salvation Army's home at The Basin was established in 1897 to cater for boys who had been placed in legal custody by the Courts and needed care and supervision. (Another similar reformatory home 'Morning Star' was established by the Catholic Church at Mornington). The name Bayswater Boys Home was adopted as this was the closest railway station.

Bayswater also had a separate junior section (Bayswater No 2 Home) which catered for boys who could not be satisfactorily placed at the Salvation Army's Box Hill Boys Home because they were a little too old and in 'danger of falling into criminal tendencies because of neglect'. The No 2 Home also catered for boys who had committed offences or were in need of care and protection. The No 2 Home provided a level of segregation from older and more serious offenders in the No 1 Home. The No 2 Home housed about 50 boys, including many who were 'educationally retarded'.

In 1930 some surplus to requirement buildings were transferred from Coode Island and set up as a third home in part of the extensive grounds at Bayswater. The 'No 3 Home' housed boys who were not classified as 'reformatory cases' or were not mentally or physically robust enough to cope at the No 1 Home. Bayswater No 3 Home was closed in 1947 and the boys transferred to a rebuilt and expanded No 1 Home in which had been completed in 1946.

From the 1950s Bayswater No 1 Home catered for up to 48 boys on referral from Turana with fixed sentences from the Children's Court.

Each boy had his own room in the refurbished No 1 home. The complex also contained a library, hobbies room, gymnasium, canteen and assembly hall. The Junior Home was also rebuilt, (still as a congregate care facility) in 1958, although attempts were made later to create groups and units within the congregate care set up.

The No 1 Home originally focussed on farming to provide training and direction for inmates, but later introduced a wide range of vocational training. The No 1 Home became known as the Bayswater Farm and Vocational Training Centre and finally, in 1960, as the Bayswater Youth Training Centre. At this time the administration of the Youth Training Centre and the No 2 Home were combined and the whole called the 'Bayswater Boys' Home'. (Refer separate entry Bayswater Youth Training Centre)

A 'cottage' accommodating 12 boys was established at the No 2 Home in 1962 to act as a 'half way house' between institutional care and return to the community. This brought capacity at the No 2 Home to 60 - 65 boys.

In 1973, the Salvation Army opened 'Lyndon Lodge' in Auburn as an aftercare hostel for boys from Bayswater Boys Home and 'Hayville' Child Care Centre Box Hill.

By 1976 the Salvation Army had reviewed the role and relevance of the Homes at Bayswater and a proposal to create a twofold residential child care facility of both family group homes and group care units had been developed. The family group homes would provide for those children, boys and girls, needing extended care and able to participate and benefit from family group home care. The group care units would provide for the more emotionally disturbed and socially disadvantaged boys in a semi-autonomous three unit situation with more concentrated staff input. This proposal was part implemented during the late 1970s using available facilities and staffing.

By 1979 the number of boys available for placement by the Department at Bayswater was diminishing, alternative methods of care were being used by the Department and the type and condition of the older building stock at Bayswater were of concern. The Department and the Salvation Army agreed to review all Salvation Army residential child care facilities in Melbourne.

These reviews, coupled with acknowledgement of trends in child care led to the closure of Bayswater No 2 Home in 1980. The reasons were consistent with developments elsewhere - the decreasing admissions, the higher
proportion of disturbed children needing specialist care, and desire of Departmental Regional Offices to place children in sibling groups and in their own regions or within adjoining regions in small community based facilities and placement of siblings together.

Further reasons included the large size of Bayswater Boys Home, its isolated location, and its policy of admitting only boys until the late 1970s. Resources released by the closure were transferred to Salvation Army Western Region Program. (See separate entry).

One cottage remained opened to accommodate children who were not transferred at the time but there were no new admissions to Bayswater.

The Bayswater Youth Training Centre was closed in 1987 following a Government decision to cease funding a non-government agency to run a statutory facility such as a Youth Training Centre.

Bayswater Boys Home became the 'Mountain Valley Youth Camp and Conference Centre'. The Youth Training Centre became 'The Basin Farm' part of the Salvation Army's Bridge and Employment Programs.

Client Records
Contact:
Salvation Army Heritage Service
69 Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9650 4851

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.
Draft Historical Notes 'Bayswater Boys Homes' by Lt Cl John Kirkman
Salvation Army Staff Guidance Books 'Bayswater Boys Home' and 'Bayswater Youth Training Centre' from Salvation Army Archives

BAYSWATER YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

Location: The Basin (Bayswater)

Auspice: Salvation Army

The background to the establishment of the Bayswater Youth Training Centre as one of the three major facilities conducted by the Salvation Army at the Basin is outlined in the entry for Bayswater Boys Home.

Briefly, in 1897 the Government requested the Salvation Army's to provide a facility to cater for boys who had been placed in legal custody by the Courts and needed care and supervision. (The other of these 'reformatory' homes established at the time was the Morning Star at Mornington, established by the Catholic Church). The name Bayswater Boys Home was adopted as this was the closest railway station.

The first Bayswater home (The No. 1 Home) always retained the function of catering for older and more serious offenders in a minimum security setting, whilst the other homes on the complex dealt with younger offending and non-offending boys or boys needing special supervision and support.

In addition to training in farm work, the Bayswater Youth Training Centre introduced an 'Apprentices Preparatory Course' in the mid 1960s in order to prepare boys for acceptance as apprentices. Bayswater YTC also had its own secondary school on campus, conducting abridged technical certificate courses and remedial teaching. Team sports and involvement in local cricket and football fixtures were an important part of the program. Group therapy and other treatment approaches were introduced in the mid 1970s.

In 1984/85 the Child Welfare Practice and Legislation Review recommended that the management of custodial centres for young people should be the responsibility of the State. Consequently closure of The Bayswater Youth Training Centre was negotiated with the Salvation Army and the facility ceased operations in 1987.

The Youth Training Centre became 'The Basin Farm', part of the Salvation Army's Bridge and Employment Programs.

Client Records
Contact:
Salvation Army Heritage Service
69 Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9650 4851

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.
Draft Historical Notes 'Bayswater Boys Homes' by Lt Cl John Kirkman
Salvation Army Staff Guidance Books 'Bayswater Boys Home' and 'Bayswater Youth Training Centre' from Salvation Army Archives
BENDIGO RECEPTION CENTRE

Location: 7 High Street Bendigo

A State's third regional reception centre was established by the Department on an experimental basis in the old 'Private Park Hostel' in Bendigo in 1965. The centre was unusual in that it was operated by a private family rather than the Department.

After operating for 18 months, it was found that the need for the facility was less than anticipated and it was closed in February 1966.

Client Records

Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

BERRY STREET BABIES HOME

Location: Berry Street East Melbourne

Auspice: Berry Street Babies Home Committee of Management

In 1887 the Victorian Infant Asylum was founded at Kew to "prevent infanticide, save infant life from the evils of infanticide and rescue mothers of illegitimate children". The Asylum was relocated to Berry Street in 1881. By 1908, it had changed its name to 'Berry Street Foundling Hospital and Infants Home'. The Home, under the control of a Committee of Management, was non-denominational.

By 1966 Berry Street consisted of a Mothercraft Training Centre and two main residential units - Berry Street for infants 0-18 months and Vale Street for toddlers 0-2 year old. Berry Street was declared an Approved Children's Home (Category 2) in August 1956. Vale Street was converted to an adult nursing home in 1960.

The organisation's name was changed to Berry Street Babies Home and Hospital in 1864. Berry Street was also an approved adoption agency under the Adoption of Children Act 1964. By 1968, Berry Street comprised the Training School for Mothercraft Nurses, the adoption agency, an Infant Life Protection (ILP) house, a long stay home for children to three years of age (the toddlers wing) and a small house for unmarried mothers.

The home's infant life protection work was seen as a critical agency function, particularly where family illness was putting pressure on mothers and Berry Street could provide respite and support.

By the late 1960s, 30 to 40 adoptions were being arranged annually from Berry Street.

During the 1970s Berry Street worked with the Department to identify emerging directions in child care and to redefine the role of the home in that context. By 1974 the home's orientation had shifted. Four family group homes had been established (two in Burwood, one in Ashburton and one in St Kilda), the mothercraft training function had been phased out, the toddlers wing converted to day care and the main building (nursery, administration, kitchen, dining room and single mothers accommodation) demolished in favour of four home units. These housed 24 children supervised by cottage parents.

Berry Street's aim was to provide short term, emergency and residential care for 'protection of infant' cases and State wards. Two flats were also established for short term family accommodation. The nurses home was converted to house the homes administration function and a social work service. The social work service coordinated family aid and family counselling services and a neighbourhood house. In 1975 Berry Street also provided short term care for 42 Vietnamese children brought to Australia in the official airlift.

In 1976 Berry Street made application to changes its Category 2 children's home classification to Category 1 as it was catering for a wider range of children than previously, ie it had ceased to be a babies home and hospital and moved the provision of child and family care, including residential care.

In 1977 the Department asked Berry Street to establish a family group home in Richmond to house children affected by the closure of St Cuthbert's Children's Home Colac. Because Berry Street was introducing 'new concepts of care, child minding and family help', it changed its name to Berry Street Child and Family Care in 1977.

The range of services provided by Berry Street Child and Family Care in 1978 consisted of a social work counselling service, a financial aide, a family aide program using volunteers, two temporary accommodation units each housing eight children, and information and referral service, a neighbourhood house in Richmond, a day care centre for 36 children and four family

DHS.3004.011.0389
group homes.

In 1980/81 the Burwood family group homes were sold and the resources moved to the Richmond area under Berry Street auspice.

In 1994 Sutherland Youth and Family Services Incorporated was amalgamated into Berry Street Incorporated. (See separate entry for Sutherland Children's Home).

During the 1990s Berry Street Incorporated the Sutherland Community Resource Centre - Watsonia as part of a range of integrated family support and community information and advocacy services for individuals and families in the northern region of Melbourne. Services and expertise were available in the areas of family violence; domestic violence outreach; youth and family mediation and family therapy; consumer support; emergency housing and housing and information referral; no cost loans; emergency relief and information and referral.

Now operating as Berry Street Victoria, the agency is the largest independent child and family welfare organisation in Victoria, with service centres in across metropolitan and country Victoria.

Client Records
Berry Street Victoria administers a 'Adoption and Heritage' program and holds many records from most of its predecessor organisations. Information held includes:

- Adoption records since 1975
- Admission forms and registers
- 'Boarding out' information
- Placement records
- Medical records
- Vietnamese War Orphan records (1975)
- Children of God (Sutherland) records
- Children's photographs from Berry Street and Sutherland
- Case files
- Policy and administration files

Berry Street’s policy is to make available to ex-clients all information concerning themselves, although storage and accessibility issues are currently a concern. Berry Street Victoria is considering the establishment of a comprehensive Heritage Service which index and locate include all past adoption and placement records and past and current client records in one central site.

People seeking records from Berry Street Victoria should contact
Adoptions Information Worker
Berry Street Victoria
PO Box 279
East Melbourne 3002
Ph 9429 9268

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archival files.
'Looking Forward, Looking Back': The Story of 'Berry Street' Child and Family Care. Beryl Penwill. 1979

BETHANY BABIES HOME

Location: Geelong West

Auspice: Committee of Management

Bethany Babies Home was established in 1868, initially as a women's refuge. It subsequently operated as a provider of accommodation for single women expecting a child and provided care for babies unable to stay with their mother. The home was non-denominational and administered by a Committee of Management.

On the completion of new buildings in the 1930s, capacity was increased to 40 babies. Bethany also operated as a mothercraft training school and maternity hospital. After the Second World War Bethany developed its reputation as a babies hospital, assisting premature and frail babies before their return to parents.

By the late 1950s capacity had been reduced to 28 children. In addition to acting as a residential care facility for unmarried mothers, Bethany provided residential care for a mixture of wards (about 10% of capacity), Infant Life Protection placements and privately placed children. The children were usually accommodated until they had reached four years of age. Bethany also functioned as an Approved Adoption Agency.

Bethany Babies Home was run as a small hospital, with a Matron in charge and uniformed mothercraft nurses providing day to day care. Attempts were made in the late 1950s by a new Matron to 'deinstitutionalise' the home and change past practices by assigning small numbers of children to particular staff and trying to individualize other aspects of care.

The number of children suitable for a placement at a babies home such as Bethany decreased during the 1960s and 70s. By the late 1960s and early 1970s, Bethany was advising the Department of Community Welfare Services that, due to the shortage of babies available for placement and the increase in available foster
care placements for slightly older children in the Geelong area, it needed to place more wards if it was to survive. Those children who were placed stayed for shorter and shorter periods, placing the home under severe financial pressure.

In order to maintain its client base, Bethany began to provide day care for babies and short term residential care for handicapped children providing respite for parents. The number wards increased to about 70% of placements as this provided some guarantee of income for an agency often in financial difficulty

In 1976 Bethany undertook a major review of its services in the light of:
- the reduction in the number of babies available for adoption
- the reduction in the number of pregnant single women seeking maternity home accommodation
- major changes in child care practice and philosophy, including the placement of children needing residential care as close to their parents as possible to facilitate a return home and the increase use of foster care and family group placements in place of congregate care.
- reduction in the numbers of very young children in Allambie suitable for referral to a babies home.
- the move of mothercraft suitable for referral to tertiary education sector.
- the general oversupply of age specific residential care facilities in the Geelong area.

The Bethany Management Committee proposed a move to the provision of family support services backed up by short term accommodation for emergency situations.

In 1977 Bethany Babies Home ceased to operate as a Babies home and began to function as a child and family care agency. A new program was devised to complement the service network in the Barwon Region. This involved:
- community involvement and development
- a counselling service
- a pre-school play centre
- subsidised day care
- planned temporary family housing
- emergency family accommodation
- temporary/emergency single accommodation
- temporary/emergency child care
- a youth hostel.

The agency operates today as Bethany Family Support and provides a wide range of counselling and support services to children, families and adults.

Client Files
Enquires regarding client records should be directed to:
Chief Executive Officer
Bethany Family Support
109 Gibb Street
North Geelong 3215
Ph 5278 8122

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
'A Refuge at Kilcare' The History of The Geelong Female Refuge and Bethany Babies' Home, Shurlee Swain 1985
Bethany Family Support Website www.bethany.org.au

BETH-EL CHILDREN’S HOME

Location: 12 Carinda Road Canterbury

Auspice: Private Proprietor

This small home was first established in 1963 in rented premises at 8 Amelia Street Caulfield. It initially catered for children placed under the Infant Life Protection Provisions of the Children’s Welfare Act 1958. It is unusual in that it was established by an individual (a nursing sister) and operated without a committee of management. The home moved to other rented premises at 15 Banool Avenue Kew in 1965.

Further moves occurred to rented premises at 16 Yerrin Street Balwyn and 12 Carinda Road Canterbury in the early 1970s. At this time the Victorian Government part funded the purchase of the Carinda Road property to ensure some degree of stability in the home’s location.

Changes in child care practice approaches, an oversupply of beds and low demand in the inner-eastern region saw the home phased out in the late 1970s with a cessation of funding first recommended in 1978. In 1978 and 1979 Children’s Home Section recommended that no more wards be placed at Beth-el. Although wards were no longer placed at Beth-el, there is a file note that suggests the home was still functioning with private placements in 1983.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.
BLACKBURN SOUTH COTTAGES

Location: Branksome Grove, South Blackburn
Auspice: Mission of St James and St John

The 'Blackburn South Children's Cottages' were established by the Mission of St James and St John in 1963/64 to accommodate selected children from St Agnes' and St Nicholas' following the closure of these two Homes.

The cottages were located on ten acres of land in what was then a rapidly growing outer suburban area. Initially the new facility provided accommodation for boys and girls from the age of 2 to 17 years. Two larger sixteen bed cottages accommodated girls only supervised by Matrons, later replaced with cottage parents. An additional family group home on the campus was for mixed family groups. Total capacity at that stage was 37 children.

The larger cottages were in effect small congregate care facilities with dormitory accommodation for young girls, cubicles for the older girls, a separate staff flat and daily domestic staff. The campus had a separate kitchen block for the preparation of cut lunches and the evening meal. Other meals were prepared in smaller kitchens in the cottages and family group home.

In the 1980s, the larger cottages were reduced in capacity from sixteen to six to better reflect 'normal' family living. At the same time, the children being cared for at Blackburn were both older, more difficult and not easily fostered. Work with the families of these children with a view to improved family functioning and return of the child became the priority for the newly named Blackburn Family Care.

By the late 1980s this form of family focussed residential care was losing favour to a wider range of family support and out-of-home care strategies. The inability of the Mission to find funding to alternative programs lead to the closure of Blackburn Family Services in 1988.

Client Records
Enquiries about the possibility of access to client files from Blackburn Family Services should be made to:

The Operations Manager
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne 3003
Ph 9321 6133

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

BOX HILL BOYS HOME - HAYVILLE CHILD CARE CENTRE

Location: 310 Elgar Road Box Hill
Auspice: Salvation Army

The Box Hill Boys Home was established by the Salvation Army in 1913 to care for 'orphaned and neglect boys of young age'. The Homes original intake was 40 boys who were inappropriately placed at the Army's Bayswater Home. Initially, Box Hill Boys also provided care for children affected by parental death during the Great War.

By 1917 the Home was caring for 100 boys in three sections, the original section 'Howard House'(No 1), 'Beulah' (or No 2), and 'Hayville' ( No 3). Later, the 'Edward Wilson Cottage' (or Home No 4) was constructed to care for 30 boys in small dormitories.

Although Beulah was demolished in 1948 to make way for additional playground space, the Homes capacity remained at about 150 boys.

A primary school conducted by the Education Department was attached to the Home. Secondary students attended local schools.

By 1964 the Salvation Army had recognised the need to develop scattered cottages for the boys and girls in its care rather than continue with outdated, inappropriate and difficult to maintain congregate care facilities in Box Hill, East Camberwell and East Kew . In addition, the Box Hill Boys Home was finding it difficult in its current context to care for the large number of educationally retarded boys with a history of offences and/or behaviour problems. These were the type of boy being increasingly referred to it from Turana.

Following discussions with the Department, it was agreed that Box Hill Boys Home would be reduced in size with the closure of its oldest section. A proposal that the Home be restructured to focus on the short term care of 10-14 year old boys with a history of educational retardation, truancy and minor offences did not proceed. However, the home continued to provide longer term care for a wide age range of difficult boys with educational problems.
In 1968 it was proposed to retain Number 4 section for 26 boys as a congregate care home and erect 6 cottages, each for 8 to 10 boys and cottage parents on the Canterbury Road frontage of the home. This proposal was also shelved after an unsuccessful approach to the Hospital and Charities Commission for government subsidy for the rebuilding program.

By 1970 the capacity of Hayville had been reduced to 50-60, with improved dormitory and 'section' arrangements.

By 1972 the Home consisted of three cottages (including the new Buckland and Grosvenor Cottages facing Piedmont Street) each housing 8 children (both sexes) and another unit housing 20 boys supervised by full time and relieving cottage parents. The Home was renamed 'Hayville' at this time.

In late 1970s it was realised that Hayville was in a region with an oversupply of residential facilities, that referrals were decreasing and that the buildings did not suit changing residential child care requirements and standards. In 1982, following discussions with the Department on residential child care needs in the metropolitan area, the Salvation Army decided to re-locate the Hayville child care centre resources to the north-western suburbs. Hayville was then administratively incorporated into the Salvation Army's child care centre at Jacana.

The Box Hill site became an aged care facility, the 'Hayville Village'.

Client Records
Contact
Salvation Army Heritage Centre
69 Bourke Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9650 4851

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.
Draft Historical Notes 'Box Hill Boys Home' by Lt Cl John Kirkman
Salvation Army Heritage Services files

BRIGHTON FAMILY CENTRE
ST FAITHS, UNIT 64
ST DAVID'S FITZROY

Auspice: Church of England Mission to the Streets and Lanes

The Mission to the Streets and Lanes was established in 1888 by the Anglican high church Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name. The Sisters undertook an early and significant venture into residential child care in establishing the Church of England Homes for Children at Brighton (See separate entry).

In 1973, in line with changing concepts of child care needs, which included the development of small (5 to 8 children) scattered family group home units in the community with cottage parents in charge, and the enlightened promotion of alternatives to institutional residential care of children, notably foster care, the Sisters of The Community of the Holy Name ceased to serve at the children's home at Brighton. The remaining children in care were suitably placed elsewhere.

The buildings at Brighton were then used for programs with a new focus and renamed 'Unit 64' and 'ST Faiths'. The old buildings became the base for a residential remedial program for adolescent girls and boys still attending school but with special needs. The boys social behaviour had brought them into contact with the police, the Courts, Departmental Youth Training Centres and Welfare Service, and led to their removal from home or the breakdown of existing residential placements.

The program provided an integrated program of residential and preventive care for children, mainly emotionally disturbed wards, who had experienced a number of unsuccessful placements elsewhere.

Brighton Family Centre and Unit 64 (64 Wilson Street, Brighton)

The Brighton Family Centre was established in 1968 to provide a family counselling, support and rehabilitation housing service to clients in Brighton and surrounding suburbs.

'Unit 64' was established in 1974 as an experimental residential treatment centre for emotionally disturbed, anti-social, acting out adolescent girls. The facility also provided emergency accommodation for short periods. A further section of Unit 64 initially provided semi-independent care in a 'flatting program', although this component did not continue.

In 1978/77 the Mission combined the Brighton Family Centre and Unit 64 program and extended the integrated programs focus to the southern region.

St Faith's Program. (62 Wilson Street, Brighton)

This program initially provided specialised temporary care with a treatment component for up to 7 children (boys and girls) between the
ages of 5 -15 years. The children were assessed as needing separation from their families for a short period (3 months) whilst individual and family problems were resolved. The program worked with both Departmental wards and children from private placements.

During the late 1970s the adolescent residential remedial components of the program were designated as cross regional (ie taking clients from outside the Southern Region) and the Mission created a new administrative structure for this aspect of the work. At this stage serious concerns about the Unit 64 buildings had emerged.

In 1982, after lengthy discussion with the Department about possible relocation sites the Department agreed that new buildings would be subsidized at 64 Wilson Street to continue the program, although there were a number of local objectors to the proposals.

However, after consideration of a range of factors, the Mission decided to close the Unit 64 program completely at the end of 1984.

St David's Fitzroy (St David's Street, Fitzroy)

St David’s was initially rented by the Mission to provide accommodation for young female prisoners on the release their from prison. A change in sentencing outcomes favouring probation and bonds meant that the need for such a hostel was no longer evident. The facility was re-established to provide a residential care and a treatment program for those residents from Unit 64 and the Social Welfare Department who could benefit from this form of care.

During the 1990s this agency operated from 131 Napier Street Fitzroy. Services provided included: family counselling and support; material aid; parent education; youth support; youth and family mediation; foster care; and accommodation for young women.

BURWOOD BOYS HOME

Location: 155 Warrigal Road Burwood.

Auspice Burwood Boys Home Committee of Management

Burwood Boys Home was a non-denominational Home founded in 1895 and incorporated in 1909. It operated under the control of a Committee of Management and was an approved institution under Sec 61 of the Children's Welfare Act 1928, ie an institution taking charge of neglected children. The Home itself was run as a farming community, providing fresh milk, fruit and vegetables and sending some produce to market.

In 1936, due to the wooden buildings on the Burwood site being considered unsuitable, the Home was deregistered and the residents moved to Minton Boys Home. It was not until a new brick structure was completed on the Burwood site that re-registration was granted in 1937/38.

The change to a cottage system commenced in 1953 when the first cottage ('Campbell Edwards House') was established.

In 1955 Burwood Boys Home's made application for approval as an Approved Children's Home. At that time the home accommodated about 70 protestant boys (including wards) aged 5 to 15 years. The children were educated at the Orana Children's Home pre-school and in local state schools. The Home was described as one of the best equipped in the State at the time.

To enable boys who had completed their schooling have cheap accommodation on commencing employment, 'The Palms' Hostel, accommodating eight boys, was established in New Street Hawthorn in 1940. Never popular with the senior boys who sought independence, The Palms was closed and sold in 1959. From 1972 senior boys remained on the Burwood site in a purpose built facility, Kemp Lodge.

By 1965 the Home consisted of a dormitory wing housing 36 boys, two large cottages, and a working boys flat. Two new cottages were planned at that time. The Home's records were described by a departmental inspector as 'excellent, comprehensive and up-to-date'.

In 1968 the Committee of Management proposed the acceptance of girls, the first of whom were admitted in 1972/73. By 1977, the Burwood Children's Home cared for 51 children of both sexes in five campus cottages and a campus youth hostel. The Home had an on-site education centre and was prepared to take children with moderate degrees of emotional disturbance and physical handicap.

A house in Surrey Hills was leased by the Home in 1973 to accommodate three boys deemed ready for independent living. This home was closed when this group moved to on to totally independent living. Two other houses were also leased at around this time and sub-let to young people in the transition phase from their Kemp Lodge accommodation.
In 1979 the Home's Future Planning Committee recommended that resources be moved to the Goulburn Region following an analysis of that region's needs. The 'Shepparton Project', consisting of a family group home, early adolescent unit and social work support was established in the early 1980s.

In 1983 a special project 'Home Based Aboriginal Child Care Worker' was contemplated to meet the needs of a particular family, but it is unclear whether this project went ahead.

By 1985 the Home commenced the total phase down of its campus care services and the further redirection of services to the Goulburn Valley Family Care agency auspiced by the Home. It also established a Welfare Education Program in the Inner Eastern Region.

Burwood Children's Home became the 'Child and Family Care Network' in 1986. Child and Family Care Network sold its Burwood campus in May 1986 and moved to the Melbourne Family Care Organisation site in Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley.

Child and Family Care Network current programs include an Education Centre for 5 to 12 year old children with social/emotional learning difficulties, a program for homeless youth continuing their education and a community support program providing emergency relief and crisis accommodation. Other programs focus on early intervention with children with disabilities or developmental delays and education initiatives aimed at community members and young people.

Client Records
Requests for information about ex-resident's records should be directed to:
The Executive Officer
Child and Family Care Network
583 Ferntree Gully Road
Glen Waverley 3150
Ph 9560 0188

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Report of Forward Planning Project (Burwood Boys Home and Goulburn Family Care) 1985 - Brenda Fitzpatrick
'We Care' Information brochures of the Child and Family Services Network.

CHRISTIAN ALTERNATIVE TO RECEPTION ACCOMMODATION (CARA)

Location: Glen Waverley
Auspice: Committee of Management

Prior to 1979 young women who were physically, sexually or emotionally abused were removed from their homes for their own protection and placed in Winbirra, the remand section of Winstan Youth Training Centre. This meant that abused non-offenders were placed with offenders awaiting court appearances. CARA was established in 1979 by a group of concerned individuals to provide an alternative to remand accommodation for non-offending young women.

CARA continues to provide accommodation, support and advocacy to young women aged between 12-17 years exposed to family breakdown or abuse. All referrals are made by the Department of Human Services. The service provides residential accommodation for girls as well as additional services such as counselling, skill building, conflict resolution, outreach and aftercare. A new program targeting young pregnant women is now being developed.

Client Records
CARA holds files of all clients from 1979. At this stage there are no established procedures for accessing the files, however CARA would be supportive of any ex-client requesting access to their files.

Client Records
Requests for information should be directed to:
Executive Officer
CARA
PO Box 1069
Glen Waverley 3150

Sources and Further Reading
Agency response to a request for information

'CARRY ON' CLUB - VICTORIA

Location: Carry On Club Home -
4 Union St Brighton
10 Harrison Street Mitcham
('Tracy Dutton House')

Auspice: Carry On Club of Victoria

In 1955 the Carry On Club of Victoria applied to the Department to have its home 'Hurlingham' at Brighton declared an approved children's home.
The home had been established in 1946 to accommodate up to 18 under privileged boys aged 10 - 16 who are sons of ex-service men and women. Some of these young people were also wards of State.

In 1963 Carry On Victoria reviewed its residential care policies and moved to accommodate children of both sexes in smaller home units. Hurlingham was closed in 1963.

In 1964, the Carry on Club purchased a property in Mitcham for use as a family group home. This home focussed on short term care of ex-service men and women's children of both sexes aged between 4 and 13 years.

Due gradual drop in the number of referrals of ex-service children and difficulties in finding wards who would fit the home's intake criteria, Carry On closed the home in 1970.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Service archived file.

SALVATION ARMY GIRLS HOME
(CATHERINE BOOTH GIRLS HOME)

Location: 26 Sackville Street East Kew

Auspice: Salvation Army

This Salvation Army home was originally established at Glenroy in 1897 and transferred to an existing large house in East Kew in 1915. The East Kew facility accommodated about 90 to 100 girls. By the 1950s capacity had been reduced to 60 protestant girls between four and sixteen years including a large number of wards. During the mid 1950s attempts were made to convert the large scale dormitories to smaller unit accommodation.

In the 1960s the home began accepting boys aged 2 - 8 years in order to keep sibling groups together.

In 1966 the home was described by a Departmental social worker as a 'great old mansion-type house with a number of hut-type buildings tacked on the rear offering accommodation of widely different quality and adequacy'.

By 1969 the Home's capacity had been further reduced to 48 with a increasing emphasis on providing small group care for girls in the four to sixteen year age group.

During the 1970s the number of referrals from the Social Welfare Department decreased. However, East Kew continued to operate at capacity following the transfer of children from the Salvation Army's East Camberwell home after that home was closed in 1972.

However, consistent with residential child care trends at the time, the Salvation Army began to consider closure and the redevelopment of the Catherine Booth Home to family group care in an area of high need in the early 1970s.

The fact that most of the children resident at East Kew came from other areas of Melbourne, including the northern and western suburbs and the feeling that 'a large percentage of children in our care at Kew experience difficulty in coping with social involvement in the local community of Kew because of cultural differences' gave added impetus to the Home's closure and the reallocation of available resources.

By 1975 planning was well advanced for a move of the residential operations from East Kew to Jacana in the north western suburbs. (Refer separate entry - Jacana Child Care and Family Centre)

Client Records
Contact
Salvation Army Heritage Centre
69 Bourke Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9650 4851

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.
Draft Historical Notes 'Catherine Booth Girls Home' by Lt Cl John Kirkman
Salvation Army Heritage Services files

CHILDREN'S PROTECTION SOCIETY

ROBIN HOUSE - FITZROY
SWAN HOUSE - TRARALGON
CURRAWONG HOUSE - HAMILTON

Auspice: Children's Protection Society

The Victorian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (VSPCC) was established in 1896 as a voluntary independent organisation to 'protect and befriend children'.

The Society was in the unique position of being the only organisation in Victoria other than the police whose officers were authorised to take out protection applications through the Children's Court.

In 1962 the Society established an approved children's home at 16 Gertrude Street Fitzroy.
The Society's administrative and protective services also operated from that address.

The home, a small temporary care unit called 'Robin House' provided residential care to children 'who had suffered mental and physical ill-treatment from parents and guardians, who were awaiting adoption, a place in another home or who had been abandoned or had no one to care for them'.

Accommodation was provided for 12 children between the ages of 2 and 14 years

In the late 1960s the Society explored the possibility of establishing a similar facility in the Latrobe Valley. Swan House was established in Traralgon in 1968.

By the mid 1970s, the Children's Protection Society had established an emergency residential facility at Hamilton. In 1976 the Society changed its name to the Children's Protection Society.

In 1976 Alys Keys House Heidelberg replaced Robin House.

Following a review of its residential services the Children's Protection Society withdrew from Alys Keys House in December 1985. Alys Keys House was purchased by the Department for use as a reception centre.

**Swan House - Traralgon**

Swan House was established in 1968 by the Victorian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to provide temporary care for up to 8 pre-school and school age children from families facing serious problems. Admissions were to be initially for 3 months only, with extensions only to be made if the situation of the family absolutely demanded it. Referrals were only accepted from local Shire and City welfare officers and hospital social workers.

It was also available for use as a temporary holding centre for newly admitted wards pending consideration by the Department as to long-term plans for their care and wards who were likely to be fostered or home released in the area. This obviated the need for the children to be sent to Allambie in Melbourne.

In some instances, children on safe custody orders were placed at Swan House by the police.

Swan House was operated on a dual control system by the VSPCC in Melbourne and a local committee of up to 18 members.

Swan House was initially established in rented premises in Traralgon. A gift of land enabled the VSPCC to re-establish Swan House in a new purpose-built facility in Sale in 1971. The new Swan House accommodated up to 16 children.

**Currawong House Hamilton**

Currawong House, was established by the Children's Protection Society in 1976 as a temporary emergency care facility to meet a shortage of short-term care in the Glenelg Region. The aim was to prevent children in need of such care being transferred to Melbourne. Oversight was provided by a local committee under the direction of the CPS in Melbourne.

The facility could cater for 8 children of both sexes from a few months to 15 years of age. Full-time emergency residential care was provided for children whose families were in a state of crisis. The period of residential care was not, if possible, to exceed six weeks. Admissions were made by the Department in the case of wards and by parents or guardians in the case of voluntary admissions. Cases were reviewed fortnightly.

**South Western Community Care Association Inc** was formed in 1991 through the amalgamation of Currawong House Hamilton, Glenelg Foster Care, South Western Tenant Support Services and Warrnambool Community Legal Aid Service. The agency changed its name to Community Connections (Victoria) in 1998.

During the 1990s the Children's Protection Society operated from 70 Altona Street West Heidelberg. It provided a sexual abuse treatment program, adolescent sex offender treatment and assessment, family support, parent education and resource program, child sexual assault prevention program and a personal safety (protective behaviours) program.

**Client Records**

Children's Protection Society records from 1896 to 1972, including client case files, have been lodged with the State Library of Victoria. Permission to access these records must be sought from the Children's Protection Society.

**Sources**

Department of Human Services archived files
CHRISTIAN BRETHREN FAMILY CARE (BETHANY)

Location: 123 Shannon Street Box Hill North
Auspice: Christian Brethren

The Christian Brethren entered the child care field in 1968 with a proposal to establish a family group home and a foster care program.

The 'Christian Brethren Family Care Committee' was established to oversee this development.

A family group home (Bethany) was opened at 123 Shannon Street Box Hill North in March 1969. The home had accommodation for up to eight children from four years to mid-adolescents and provided mostly long term placements for state wards. The Committee also had oversight of a small pre-adoptive and longer term foster care program.

Due to financial and staff recruitment difficulties Christian Brethren Family care advised the department in 1976 that no more long term placements would be accepted at Bethany and that the cottage would be sold once the children in residence had been placed by the Family Welfare Division.

This move allowed Christian Brethren Family Care to concentrate on its Temporary Emergency Care program.

Now known as 'Temcare' the agency organises temporary weekend care for children aged 0-15 years. The children are placed with private families as a respite for parents under pressure. Emotional and practical help is also provided to the families.

Client Records
All past Christian Brethren Family Care and Temcare records are held at the Temcare Office in Wheeler Hill. Access is by arrangement with

The Secretary
Temcare
127-133 Garnett Road
Wheelers Hill 3150
Ph 9790 0179

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Service archival files 'Temcare' Information Pamphlet

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Location: 64 Wilson Street Brighton.
Auspice: Mission to the Streets and Lanes

The Church of England Diocesan Mission to the Streets and Lanes established a children's home at 64 Wilson Street, Brighton in the 1890s and continued to care for children at that site until 1974. An adjoining house (66 Wilson Street, now the base for the Mission's Brighton Family Centre), was purchased and became a babies home.

In 1927 a new babies home was established by the Mission at Darling Road, Malvern. This property was sold in 1967.

The children's Home at 64 Wilson Street, Brighton originally provided accommodation in dormitories for about 40 children. In the 1960s the dormitory accommodation was altered to provide four flats, each with a house mother, in an endeavour to give the children a sense of belonging to a family unit.

Throughout the years from the Home's original establishment in 1864 until 1973, Sisters of the Community of the Holy Name, a religious order of women generally regarded as synonymous with the Mission, served as house mothers.

The Mission responded to changing concepts of child care needs through the development of small (5 to 8 children) scattered family group home units in the community with cottage parents in charge, and the enlightened promotion of alternatives to institutional residential care of children, notably foster care.

In 1973 the Sisters of The Community of the Holy Name ceased to serve at the children's home at Brighton and the remaining children in care were suitably placed elsewhere.

The buildings at Brighton were then used for a program with a new focus, Unit 64 and St Faiths. The old buildings became the base for a residential remedial program for adolescent girls boys still attending school but with special needs. The boys social behaviour had brought them into contact with the police, the Courts, Departmental Youth Training Centres and Welfare Service, and led to their removal from home or the breakdown of existing residential placements.
The program provided an integrated program of residential and preventive care for children, mainly emotionally disturbed wards, who had experienced a number of unsuccessful placements elsewhere.

Client Records
Refer MacKillop Family Services entry

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

‘CHURINGA’ - GREENSBOROUGH
ST JOHN OF GOD TRAINING HOME FOR RETARDED BOYS - CHELTENHAM

Auspice: Hospitaller Brothers of St John of God

In 1953 the Hospitaller Brothers of St John of God acquired the Methodist Homes for Children in Cheltenham following its closure and move to Burwood.

The Brothers vision was to establish a home and special school for mildly intellectually disabled Catholic boys aged 7 to 16, subsidised by the Mental Hygiene Authority.

The Home was situated on 20 acres on Nepean Highway Cheltenham and had a capacity of 100 boys including State wards unable to live with their parents.

The Brothers also operated Marian Lodge Training Centre adjacent to St John Of God. This facility catered for moderately retarded boys unable to follow a special schooling program but capable of benefiting from some form of training.

In addition, the ‘Yarra View’ Training Farm provided a sheltered workshop environment for mildly and moderately retarded boys over the age of 16 years.

In 1966 the Cheltenham site was sold to Myer and associated interests as the Brothers prepared to re-establish the home at Greensborough. The new home was to be called Churinga. This facility was to focus on more severely intellectually disabled boys, similar to those already cared for in Marian Lodge rather than the mix of boys cared for at Cheltenham.

Churinga was described as a ‘Centre of Community Living for Mentally Retarded Boys’.

The new facility commenced operations in 1967.

Churinga was purpose built and designed to provide a combination of residential care, training and treatment programs for non-educable intellectually disabled boys (including Wards) whose complete development was dependent on this mix of services. Capacity was 60-70 residents. Catholic and Protestant boys were accepted. A focus on the boys’ family was a key aspect of the program. A small day-centre program was also conducted. Some girls were admitted as day students in the latter years of the service.

St John of God Services Victoria is now the auspice for a wide range of services for people with disabilities, including Churinga Support Services.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

CONVENT OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
ALBERT PARK

Location: Danks Road Albert Park
Auspice: Good Shepherd Sisters

The Convent of the Good Shepherd, Albert Park was established in 1892 due to overcrowding at the Abbotsford Convent and continuing heavy demands placed upon the Good Shepherd Sisters during a time of severe economic depression in Australia. Initially the ages of the children ranged from 15 years upward. At a later stage, residential care was provided for younger girls. The operation closed in 1971. (From ‘A Piece of the Story. p102)

Source

DEPARTMENTAL FAMILY GROUP HOME PROGRAM

In 1956 the Department commenced a program to open 10 family group homes, each accommodating 8 children under the care of a cottage mother. The first two homes were opened in 1957 and all ten were occupied by 1958.
The Department's 1957 Annual Report gave a clear statement as to why it thought family group home care was preferable to congregate care for many children.

'Children who have to be taken into care by an organisation such as this Department can be cared for in a very much better way in small family groups in an ordinary house in an ordinary residential area rather than a large institution. It does not cut off the children from community life; they can be 'mothered' and receive love and close individual attention........; they can attend an ordinary and not an institutional school, church and Sunday school; they can participate in the same way as all other district children in local community activities and entertainments; brothers and sisters can be cared for together and emotionally disturbed and handicapped children can have their individual needs met' (p17).

The Department’s first family group homes were manufactured by the Concrete House Project of the Housing Commission to special design.

The Department’s first 10 family group homes were located in the northern suburbs and occupied by 1958. Children were selected for these homes as being in particular need of individual and specialised care and attention. Some of these children made significant progress in the family group home setting and were further placed in foster care or returned to their parents.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s the Department began to encouraged the non-government sector to move from congregate care facilities to family group home care.

By 1976 Victoria had over 230 government and non-government family group homes across the State.

From the early 1980s a wide range of community based residential options have been developed. Some continued the family group home model, others were specialised units using rostered staff. Adolescent, Transition, Reception and Emergency Care Units, now make up key elements of any regions residential care service system.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

DEPARTMENTAL YOUTH WELFARE SERVICES

Youth Welfare Services were non-residential facilities providing intensive community based treatment and supervision for young offenders as an alternative to a residential placement in a youth training centre.

The Department’s first service, the Hawthorn Youth Welfare Service was established in 1970. It had a throughput of approximately 100 young males per year, providing short term, non-residential care for 14 - 17 year old youths.

Youths who satisfied certain selection criteria were placed on probation to the Youth Welfare Service for six to twelve months. The first three months of this were spent in attendance at the service on three evenings a week and all day Saturday, with direct supervision reducing as the young person ‘adjusted to community demands for acceptable living’.

support, group work, individual counselling and crisis-intervention whilst living in the community.

In 1973/74 the Department of Aboriginal Affairs funded an Aboriginal youth support service at Brunswick. This was developed into an Aboriginal Support Unit in head office in 1976.

The Western Youth Welfare Service was opened in Ascot Vale in xxxx. It had a throughput capacity of 200 young people per year and was the Department’s largest community treatment facility. It functioned as a hostel/youth welfare service complex combining separate day and evening programs for older and younger groups of boys and girls. Day programs involve special work with young people experiencing extreme school problems, as well as assistance to young working boys along the pattern of existing youth welfare services. The day programs focussed on short term intense supervision aimed at providing young people with essential social survival skills. The Service’s residential hostel program focussed on short term programs aimed a preparing the Hostel’s residents for a return home or private board.

The Windsor Youth Welfare Service for adolescent females dealt with about 100 young women per year. It had a small residential unit...
which initially provided emergency accommodation and a program designed to provide a graduated transition to community living for female wards, many of whom have experienced long periods of institutionalisation. Group discussions and personal counselling formed the basis of the treatment program, which was supplemented by a variety of weekend activities in relation to employment, accommodation and general social functioning. Client contact continued for as long as necessary after the conclusion of the residential phase of the service.

By 1978 the residential component at Windsor had been converted to a two month program for 14 year old girls. The girls did not attend school or work, but were taught social skills in the residential setting.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

DON BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE AND HOSTEL
Location: Sydney Road Brunswick
Auspice: Salesian Fathers

The Don Bosco Youth Club and Hostel was opened by the Salesian Brothers in 1940. The vision was to provide a place for Catholic students and apprentices coming to the city to work as well as recreational facilities for local boys.

From 1951 staff and funding shortage saw the focus at Don Bosco shift as a matter of survival from broader youth activities to a concentration on the Centre's hostel function.

During the 1970s the multicultural nature of Brunswick was recognised by the Salesian’s and the Club moved to an inter-faith, ecumenical approach in its activities services and participants.

Following a fire in 1978, new buildings were erected on the Sydney Road site and the 'Don Bosco Youth Centre' was opened in 1981. At the same time Centre was opened to girls, as well as boys. The Centre provided a wide range of sport, recreational and social facilities and it was used by over 1000 young people each week.

During the late 1980s the old dormitory style hostel accommodation was replaced with individual rooms.

In 1999/2000 the Don Bosco Youth Centre and Hostel: "...continues to be an important meeting place, particularly for young people from disadvantaged families suffering unemployment and associated economic problems. In addition the Centre has always been a point of social contact for children and families of recently arrived migrants, who make Moreland and surrounding suburbs their first home base in Australia.

The Hostel continues to provide inexpensive accommodation for young residents, mainly from country areas who come to Melbourne for study or employment purposes. The residents enjoy the benefits of a homely atmosphere and have educational, sporting and recreational facilities with a responsive caring and supportive environment." (Don Bosco Annual Report 1999/2000).

The Hostel provides full supported accommodation for young men between 16 to 22 years of age. The Hostel also accommodates disadvantaged young persons, including young people from the Malmsbury Juvenile Justice Centre. Other young men are referred to the Hostel because of family breakdown or for respite from family difficulties.

Sources and Further Reading
Don Bosco Turns Fifty. Fr Jack Ayers 1990
Don Bosco Brunswick Youth Foundation Inc Annual Report 2000
DHURRINGILE FARM SCHOOL FOR MIGRANT BOYS

Location: Tatura
Auspice: Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church was involved in child migration in a small way and for a few years only. In 1947, prominent members of the Church in Tatura, northern Victoria purchased a country mansion at Dhurringile for use by British child migrants. The mansion already had an exotic recent history at the time as a prisoner of war camp and internment centre.

The home was administered by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and was that denomination's only foray into child migration. Children were sought from the welfare services of the Church of Scotland and the Quarrier Homes at Bridge-of-Weir near Glasgow.

The first 29 boys arrived in December 1950 and for a few years some 50 boys were in residence. These boys were Commonwealth wards on delegation to the children's Welfare Minister in Victoria.

Thereafter, the numbers dropped rapidly and the venture ended in 1964.

See the separate entry in this volume: Voluntary Approved Child Migration Organisations
Source
* Extract from National Archives of Australia Research Guild - Child and Youth Migration.

Relevant NAA Files:
Dhurringile Farm School for Migrant Boys. Part 1 1946-50 (150p) A445,133/2/25
Dhurringile Farm School for Migrant Boys. Part 2 1946-50 (150p) A445,133/2/106

ELLEN CONNELL HOME

Location: Fernshaw Road, Healesville
Auspice: Mission of St James and St John

This 'the country cottage for children' was established by the Mission of St James and St John in 1962 as a short term holiday/emergency care home for wards and non-wards. The home was bequeathed to the Mission by Mr John Connell, the licensee of Hosie's Hotel in the City. It was run by a married couple with children on the cottage/family group home system.

Although it had a capacity for 10-12 children the facility was never fully utilised for holiday placements and in 1965 the Mission applied for the home to be declared an approved children's home so that it could take children for longer periods as well as continue with emergency and holiday placements.

The home was declared an approved children's home in August 1965.

In 1968 the Department noted that the demand for short term placements of ward and non-ward children had declined and that the Ellen Connell home had experienced periods without short term placements.

In 1969 the Mission of St James and St John advised the Department that, 'for a number of reasons' Ellen Connell House was to close as a children's home although it would continue to be used as a holiday home for children from other Mission homes and members of staff.

This activity ceased and the property was finally sold in February 1973.

Client Records
Enquiries about the possibility of access to client files from the Ellen Connell Home should be made to:
The Operations Manager
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne 3003
Ph 9321 6133

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

FORREST HILL RESIDENTIAL KINDERGARTEN FOR EMERGENCY CARE

Location: Lake Road Forest Hill
Auspice: Free Kindergarten Union of Victoria

This kindergarten was affiliated with the Free Kindergarten Union of Victoria and was maintained by the Graduates Association of the Melbourne Kindergarten Teacher's College (later the Institute of Early Childhood Development).
The history of the establishment of the emergency care program was outlined by the Kindergarten in a letter to the Minister for Social Welfare in 1972. The property at Forest Hill was acquired by the Graduate’s Association during the depression years (1927) to provide a country holiday for needy children from inner-urban areas. As this need declined with increasing affluence in the community and better understanding of child care, a survey was conducted in 1959 to assess the possibilities of undertaking emergency residential care of pre-school children. The response from hospital almoners, doctors and child welfare agencies was enthusiastic and in 1960 the changeover took place.

Following the change over, the Forest Hill Kindergarten provided short-term residential care for groups of up to twenty children of preschool age (2 - 6 years) during times of family stress and emergency when it was impossible for the child to be cared for in its own home or in a normal family setting. The Kindergarten also accepted a small group of children for day care when similar emergencies arose. In 1969/70 the Kindergarten had an annual intake of 230 children.

Although registered with the Hospital and Charities Commission, the Kindergarten was not an approved children's home. The Kindergarten's Committee discussed applying for such approval however it elected to maintain independent control of intake policy and control the children's age range and length of time accommodated.

Following the regionalisation of emergency residential care by Community Services Victoria, emergency care placements to Forest Hill Kindergarten declined from 1983. Following a Departmental review, the Kindergarten's residential program was discontinued in 1988 and a new day care-kindergarten program commenced.

Following further Government funding difficulties all programs at Forest Hill began to close from June 1990 and the property was sold in 1991. Part of the sale proceeds was used to establish the Forest Hill Early Childhood Foundation. The Foundation now distributes funds to the Early Childhood Development field for projects which focus on the well-being, education and care of young children and families.

Client Records
Records were maintained for children attending the Emergency Care Kindergarten, however, as these records were regarded as confidential by the Management Committee, they were destroyed when the Centre closed in 1990.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Booklet: 'Forest Hill Residential Kindergarten, A History from Holiday Home to Emergency Care: 1926 to 1976'.

FORSTER LODGE
Location: Surrey Rd South Yarra
Auspice: Try Boys Society

The Try’s Society’s first Hostel for ‘homeless boys who wished to learn a trade’ was opened in July 1951 in South Yarra next to what was the Try Youth Club Building. In 1963 this hostel was demolished and a new purpose built hostel established to accommodate eight boys between the ages of 14 to 16 years. The majority of residents in the new hostel were State wards.

The Hostel closed in the early 1990s due to financial pressures brought about by required change in staffing arrangements. The building was sold to reduce the Try Boys Society overdraft. (See separate entry on Youth Hostels)

Client Records
Early records of the Try Youth and Community Services have been lodged with the LaTrobe Library of the State Library of Victoria.

Further information on records and current services can be obtained from:
Try Youth and Community Services
3rd Floor, 766 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9347 2655

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Try Youth and Community Services historical notes

FOSTER CARE

During the 1950s and 1960s, the community services sector had been experimenting with foster care, with many small and some larger agencies establishing foster care programs as alternatives to the placement of children in residential care or as a strategy for reducing the number of children already in residential care.
The Department made payments for individual wards under school age placed in non-government foster care places. During the late 1950s the Department often found to difficult to gain the permission of parents to place their children in foster care. By 1958, the Department introduced a team of field staff to increase the number of wards placed in the lower cost and socially preferred option of foster care. The Department felt that parents should have little say in the decision to foster and the acquiescence of parents was no longer regarded as a requirement.

The Department conducted its own foster care program for the placement of wards through the Foster Care and Adoption Section of the Family Welfare Division. During the 1960s, the Department mounted concerted publicity campaigns to recruit foster carers with mixed success as most prospective applicants 'where characterised by a lack of understanding of the true nature of fostering'.

Initially, most foster care placements were longer term in nature, sometimes becoming de facto adoptions. By the 1970s foster care was being defined as a service which enabled the placement of a child or children with a selected family for a planned period while work occurred with the natural parent with the objective of returning the child home or to a permanent placement.

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The different forms of foster care are:
- **Short/long term placement**
  - Up to 2 years
- **Emergency**
  - Up to 8 weeks
- **Reception**
  - Up to 3 months awaiting formal legal procedure
- **Pre-adoptive**
  - Up to 2 years (child with a consent awaiting adoption)

**Home release to relative**

**Ward placement with a relative**

Despite strenuous representation by the community services sector, supported by the Department, the administration of foster care programs (as opposed to individual placements) was not funded by the Government until 1975.

A $5000 establishment grant per agency was approved in the 1975 budget. This amount proved to be unacceptable to potential foster care agencies and the amount was increased by the Premier to $20,000 in 1976. Agencies were then paid $315 per placement (for both wards and non-wards - two wards needed to be placed for every one non-ward) and an ongoing maintenance fee of $10 per week.

In 1974 only two foster care programs were officially in the field, the Child Care Service of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches and Mercy Family Care.

The cost of providing foster care far exceeded the level of subsidy provided. In 1976 the Family Welfare Advisory Council's Rates Committee was asked to provide advice to the Minister on the need for an equitable foster care subsidy scheme.

In 1977 the first consolidated list of community based foster care agencies appears in the files. Two were foster care programs implemented by the Department's own regional centres. Two others were subsidised by the Department and the rest were community or agency supported.

**Indefinite Term Foster Care**
- Geelong Foster Care
- Child Care Service Broadmeadows
- Anglican Foster Care Northeast
- Central Highlands Regional Centre
- North Western Regional Centre

**Reception Foster Care**
- Geelong Foster Care
- Wodonga
- Wangaratta

**Emergency Foster Care**
- Geelong Foster Care
- Goulburn Community Care
- Cairnleithar (Melbourne)
- Broadmeadows Family Service
- Wodonga
- Wangaratta
- Maryborough Emergency Parents
- Bendigo Hospital
- Wimmera Foster Care (Protestant Church and Catholic Church)
- Careforce (Northeastern Region)
- Ballarat Emergency Foster Care
- Christian Brethren

In 1977/78 a budget policy proposal to develop regional reception foster care was developed. Reception foster care was to complement the use of reception centres and provide an additional service to the subsidized 'indefinite' foster care.
foster care programs run by the community service sector and the department. The regional administration of foster care made it possible for children to live in areas with which they were familiar and assisted continued contact with natural parents. Regionalised foster care also made it possible for agencies to develop services in line with local needs.

At this time nine emergency foster care services had already being developed by community service agencies, mostly in rural regions. These emergency foster care services provided care for children in private homes in their own locality when a temporary crisis disrupted regular parenting. The children involved were not wards and the foster care provided was seen as an additional family support service at regional level.

Departmental policies and procedures statements from 1979 summarised the situation as follows:

“As from July 1976 foster care has been the responsibility of the Regional Services Division. There is now a commitment to the planning and development of Regional family substitute care programs. Foster care assessments and placements can now only be done within the context of an approved substitute family care program, with the exception of specific foster care applications. The name ‘family substitute care’ implies a wider range of services than is often intended by the name ‘foster care’. It now includes pre-adoptive, emergency and reception foster care (as well as long term foster care). It is anticipated that private board, home release to relatives and Protection of Infants will all be incorporated. Thus a regional program can meet a range of needs under one auspice. Similar practice principles apply.”

Program documentation available at the time covered:

- Foster Care
- Temporary Emergency Child Care
- The Policy Framework for the development of foster care services in Victoria
- Requirements for the Approval of a Certified Agency
- Policy Statement on Special Needs Foster Care

A new foster care subsidy scheme was approved by the Premier on 20 March 1979:
- Establishment grant of $10,000 per agency
- 90% salary subsidy
- $6 per week child supervision fee
- One ward to every non ward to be placed by the agency
- Parents who foster non-wards to be payed a similar amount to foster parents of wards ($20 per week)

By August 1981, it was Departmental policy to hand over the operation of foster care programs to non-government agencies. This was dependent on the availability of viable agencies to take up the programs. In some regions, there were no agencies with the capacity to develop foster care programs or take over Departmental foster care services.

Approved foster care programs as at March 1983 were:

- Geelong Foster Care (Mercy) - plus sub office Colac
- Central Gippsland Foster Care (Gippsland Family Services)
- Central Highlands Foster Family Care (DCWS)
- Kilmany Family Care
- Glenelg Foster Care
- Goulburn Foster Care (DCWS)
- Inner East Foster Care
- Copelan Street Family Sharing Program
- FOCUS (Community Health Centre) - pending
- Fitzroy Social Planning Office - pending
- St Luke’s Family Care Bendigo
- Mallee Family Care
- North East Foster Care 239 Murray St Preston
- North West Foster Care - NOW Centre (Depart)
- Outer East Foster Care
- Careforce Foster Care Croydon
- SHAC Blackburn Baptist Church
- Kids-in-Care Ringwood
- Upper Murray Family Care Wodonga (plus sub-office Wangaratta)
- Wodonga Murray Valley Emergency Care Yackandandah
- Western Foster Care (DCWS)
- Foster Care Westernport - plus sub office Mornington
- Wimmera Foster Care (DCWS)

In May 1983 establishment grants were provided to

- Glenelg Foster Care Program
- Central Gippsland Foster Care Program
- Inner Urban North Foster Care Program

By 1983/84 Foster Care was provided in 16 regions by 21 non-government agencies and 3
departmental services. The final two regions (Wimmera and Southern) established foster care programs in 1984/85. A notable feature at this time was the development of reception foster care programs most regions. The number of foster care programs had increased to 32 non-government and three government services by 1990/91.

A more detailed listing of agencies operating foster care and associated services to 1990 is available in the database (refer Volume 1).

FRANCES BARKMAN HOMES

Location: Maleela Avenue Balwyn

Auspice: Australian Jewish Welfare Service/Jewish Community Services

The Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society was established in the late 1930s primarily as a support agency for Jewish pre and post-war migrants. By the 1980s the agency provided a wide range of aid and welfare services to the Jewish community in Victoria, including financial aid, accommodation for the aged, residential care for children and services to help the disabled. The agency’s welfare services also included adoption, probation work and general family casework.

In the late 1930s the Society leased an old mansion in Maleela Avenue Balwyn (‘Larino’) as a home for Jewish children from Germany and Austria accepted by Australia as ‘immigrant children’. After the Second World War the Society purchased the property to accommodate orphaned child survivors of the War and the Holocaust as well as immigrant children and young people in need of care or supported accommodation.

In 1948 the Larino Home was renamed ‘Frances Barkman House’ in memory of a member of the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society who played a key role in the establishment and maintenance of the Home.

By the mid 1950s Frances Barkman House was accommodating only a few ‘orphans of the post war group’. Children from broken homes or children of ‘working widows or invalids’ now made up the bulk of admissions.

A new Frances Barkman House was built on the Balwyn site in 1961/62. In addition to residential care the facility also provided general child care services. At the same time, the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society recognised that larger scale institutions were not the preferred way of meeting the accommodation and development needs of children. A shift to family group home care was recommended.

In the mid 1960s the Society established three family group homes in Caulfield known as the Frances Barkman Homes. The Maleela Avenue property was sold to the Social Welfare Department in 1964.

The group homes continued the function of the original Frances Barkman House. They accommodated children who were orphaned or children whose parents were unable to care for them. Almost all were private placements, with only a limited number of wards or Infant Life Protection placements. One house was in Arona Road Caulfield and another in Glen Eira Road. The Glen Eira Road home housed 7 children, with an emphasis on ‘problem children’ rather than children needing placement because of overt family breakdown. A home in Howitt Street Caulfield accommodated six children of varying ages for longer term stays. It also had two temporary care beds.

In 1979/80 the Glen Eira Road home was converted for use as a hostel for the intellectually handicapped.

In 1984 a community and residential unit for intellectually and physically disabled Jewish children between the ages of one to eighteen years was established in Arona Road Caulfield. This unit provided respite and emergency care on both a short term and longer term basis as required.

Following a review of the its child care services, the Society established the Frances Barkman Adolescent Unit and a foster care program in 1989.

Jewish Community Services now operates from 27 Alma Road, St Kilda. The agency provides casework and counselling services to the Jewish community of Victoria. Services include individual, relationship and family counselling and therapy, casework services, family skills enhancement (groups and individual), residential service for adolescents, foster care, financial counselling and financial assistance and psychiatric outreach and support.
Client Records
Jewish Community Services currently operates an informal process for responding to requests for information from former clients. In the first instance the inquiry is handled through the agencies duty/intake system. Any request to view a file is then referred to agency's Director of Family and Disability, who, in most instances, handles the matter with a face to face interview following a review of the file.

Inquiries regarding adoption cases are referred to an agency worker with training in adoption information work.

Jewish Community Services is currently developing an improved data base and storage system for archiving client files.

People wishing to obtain information from the agency should contact:
Jewish Care Victoria
25-27 Alma Road
St Kilda 3182
Ph 9525 4000

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.

GEORGINA HOUSE (GIRLS MEMORIAL HOME)

Location: Station Street, Fairfield
Auspice: Wesley Central Mission.

In 1922 Wesley Central Mission established the Fairfield Girls Memorial Home for pregnant, unmarried girls. Adoptions were also arranged at Fairfield if the mother desired to adopt. In their Centenary History of the Wesley Central Mission, Renata Howe and Shurlee Swain identify an interesting difference in the way this Home was run compared to other maternity homes for unmarried mothers of the period:

'...the younger women were expected, where able, to make a contribution to the cost of their care. The girls were treated as paying guests expected to help with 'household duties' although these...did take up four to five hours a day'. Inmates' contributions never covered the cost of running the home, but the fact that many did pay reinforced the genteel image of the institution'

The number of women accommodated at Fairfield Girls Home peaked at about 150 per year in the late 1960s but then fell dramatically to a handful by 1973. At this stage the Mission responded to a new need, women subjected to domestic violence, by creating a refuge known as 'Georgina House' in place of the Fairfield Girls Home.

In 1987 the facility at Fairfield was closed and the refuge operations were transferred to other houses in the community

Client Records
Wesley Mission Melbourne has developed an archives policy administered by an Archives Section. Certain access conditions apply, depending on the nature of the records being sought and the particular interests of the persons making the application.

Wesley Mission Melbourne archival holdings include the records from Georgina House. The Mission's archives are open by appointment. The Mission's Archivist is available weekdays (except Tuesday) between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm. Requests for access to archival material must be made to:
Wesley Mission Archives
148 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne 3000
Victoria
Ph 9662 2355

Fees and charges do apply in some instances, in particular enquiries related to genealogical and academic research

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Wesley Central Mission Archivist's notes

GLASTONBURY

Location: Colac Road Belmont Geelong
Auspice: Glastonbury Committee of Management

This home was established by a Steering Committee of prominent, wealthy and influential citizens from Geelong and district. The 'Geelong Protestant Orphan Asylum' was their response to concerns about the sudden increase in abandoned, orphaned and neglected children in Geelong following the discovery of gold in Victoria. Land was bought at Herne Hill and a building to accommodate 100 children was opened in August 1854. In 1909 the Home changed its name to the Geelong and Western District Protestant Orphanage.
In the mid 1920's the Committee felt that the Orphanage should be relocated to a more appropriate building, removed from the dust fall-out of the nearby cement factory.

In the 1930s a new home, designed to house approximately 85 children of both sexes between 4 and 14 years old was established on a new site at Belmont Geelong. The Home's eighty acres was also used for dairying and farming. A primary school was conducted on the grounds by the Education Department and secondary school children went to state schools in Geelong. By the mid 1950s the primary school was also catering for children from outside the home.

While applying for registration as an approved children's home in 1955 the Home took the opportunity to change its name to 'Glastonbury' - Geelong Protestant Orphanage. (Glastonbury was the name of the residence of one of the first patrons of the orphanage, James Austin).

The Home's first family group home was opened in 1974 at 22 The Avenue Belmont. In 1977 the Home's name was changed to Glastonbury Children's Home.

Glastonbury purchased St Cuthbert's Children's Home Colac in 1977 and continued the operation of the St Cuthbert's family group homes in Colac and Geelong. In 1980 Glastonbury commenced the conversion of all its congregate care facilities to scattered family group homes.

A family counselling services was established in 1982 and in 1984 the name of the agency was changed to Glastonbury Child and Family Services to reflect the agencies new directions and service philosophies.

Glastonbury currently delivers a range of alternative family care services, including family group home care (particularly for large sibling groups) and supported home based care for a range of other children. Additional alternative family care services include Foster Care, Kith and Kin Placements and Emergency Care.

The agency's family based services include Strengthening Families, Families First, Family Resource and Family Group Conferencing Programs. Glastonbury also auspices Colac Family Services and conducts a Child and Family Enrichment Program.

Client Files
Glastonbury's provides full access to previous client files provided there is no reference to a third party within the file. In some circumstances the client is allowed to read the file within an interview room and leave the file with the agency. More typically a photocopy of the material is presented to the client.

Counselling and support is provided by agency staff to clients accessing their files.

Previous clients wishing to access their files should contact:
The Chief Executive Officer
Glastonbury Child and Family Services
222 Malop Street
Geelong
Ph 5222 6911

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Glastonbury Child and Family Services Annual Report 2001

GRASSMERE CENTRE - DOVETON

Location: Cnr Photnia and Cedar Streets Doveton then at Narre Warren

Auspice: Uniting Care Connections

Grassmere was established in 1973 by a small group of welfare professionals who saw a need for non-residential supervision and support for young offenders in the Dandenong area. Grassmere was the original name for Doveton.

The Centre's services 'bridged the gap between probation for young offenders and confinement within a residential home'. The program involved the child, the family, the community and the child's peers.

Grassmere Centre had a capacity for approximately 85 young people per year. Based on voluntary support from within the community, the service provided a range of programs which children and young people could attend while they remained living at home. Grassmere did not have a residential capacity.

In the 1970s Grassmere also established 'Burremah', an educational unit for persistent truants.

During the 1990s Grassmere introduced a Adolescent Community Placement program, a Child Care Course for pregnant adolescents.
and a Youth Outreach Program for young 
offenders. The Burremah program was 
recommenced following the move to Narre- 
warren, providing counselling and training for 
children as a last resort before they asked to 
leave school.

In 1994 Grassmere Youth Services moved to 
Narre-waran. It also commenced programs in 
the Cardinia area in 1996.

Further innovative and high need programs 
were introduced in the late 1990s including 
'Strengthening Families', and the 'Real Deal' 
drug and drug education program.

Current Grassmere Youth Services programs 
include the Adolescent Community 
Placement Program which provides supported family based 
accommodation for ‘at risk’ young people. The Burremah Program and the ‘Discovering 
Connected Pathways’ programs provided short 
term intervention for up to 12 school students. 
The students in the program had learning or 
social/emotional difficulties and were at risk of 
dropping out of school. An alternative learning 
programs for year 9 and 10 students also at risk 
of prematurely leaving school as provided 
through Grassmere.

The Grassmere and Cardinia Youth Services 
Programs engage young people and their 
families through counselling, activities, support, 
information and referral and social and health 
skill building.

The Grassmere Youth Services is now part of 
UnitingCare Connections, a new organisation 
created through the amalgamation of a number 
of Uniting Church welfare agencies.

Client Records
Records relating to Grassmere can be accessed 
via a request to

Officer in Charge
Adoption Information Service
UnitingCare Connections
115 Hawthorn Road
Caulfield North
Ph 9530 0666

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
UnitingCare Connections Consolidated Historical Account 
and Time line: Workshop Summary, Linda Martin 2000
UnitingCare Connections Facts Sheet, Mission Statement 
and Program Overview

HARRISON HOUSE
Location: 50 Power Street Hawthorn
Auspice: Uniting Church of Australia

In 1960 the West Hawthorn Presbyterian 
Church opened 'The Arthur Harrison Boys 
Home' in Power Street Hawthorn. This facility 
providing hostel style residential care for up to 
nine youths. Its occupants were all wards of 
State and youths on probation from the courts 
or on parol from institutions. The project was 
staffed by volunteers until 1979.

1978, saw a name change to 'Harrison House 
Youth Hostel' and the employment of paid staff. 
At this time the hostel program was expanded 
to nine bed capacity. As well as longer term 
accommodation, one of the nine beds was kept 
for emergency or crisis accommodation to place 
someone at short notice. This also allowed the 
agency to accommodate a friend visiting who 
may have wished to stay overnight. Harrison 
House provided a halfway house - a place to 
 improve living skills before moving to 
independent living.

During the early 1980s Harrison House was 
accommodating or supervising up to 20 youths 
at any one time. As a reflection of the wide 
range of services provided, the agency's 
changed its name to Harrison House Youth 
Services in 1982. A community support 
unit/program commenced in 1983/84.

By the mid 1980s Harrison House Youth 
Services was responding to the needs of young 
people of both sexes by developing additional 
accommodation and community support 
services in the eastern suburbs.

In 1985, Harrison House Youth Services 
assisted a community group establish 'Courtney 
Youth Services' in North Melbourne. Courtney 
Youth Services was set up as a specialist youth 
hostel in rented premises for difficult girls. The 
Hostel was initially known as Hotham Hostel. 
Courtney Youth Services became autonomous 
in 1988

In 1987 Harrison House Youth Services 
received William Buckland Foundation funding 
to establish a motorcycle repair and retail 
business, however this project unsuccessful 
and closed soon after.

Harrison House Youth Services closed its 
Power Street hostel in 1987/88 and moved its 
hostel operations to an existing facility in.
Mitcham. A new project “Harrison Industries” commenced in the same year. A further name change to ‘Harrison Youth Services’ occurred the following year as the agency moved its centre of operations to Blackburn in 1990.

During the late 1980s and through the 1990s Harrison Youth Services established a wide range of new programs and service strategies including:
- Family Counselling (commenced 1989)
- Lead Tenant accommodation (1989)
- ‘Conjara’ Horticultural Project (1990)
- Family Care Unit, Box Hill (1990)
- Greenock House, a crisis/emergency community residential unit for intellectually disabled persons (1990)
- A range of ‘Home Accommodation for Kids in Need Housing Projects’ (1991)
- Outreach work with homeless young people (1991)

During the early 1990s the agency experienced some financial difficulties. In 1992, the Synod of the Uniting Church undertook a review Harrison Youth Service and, as a consequence, services and programs were rationalised.

Some existing services were retained and within the context of tighter budget control, new programs commenced including:
- A Respite House providing an early intervention and family reconciliation program.
- The Compass Accommodation Program, responding to the needs of people in the 25 to 65 age group, jointly auspiced with Canterbury Family Care
- An Intensive Youth Support Service, focussing on very difficult young people in the 14 to 16 year age range.

By 1992 Harrison Youth Services was back in surplus and it administrative headquarters was moved to Wantirna.

In 1994 the agency became Harrison Community Services. The agency operates from six locations in the eastern suburbs.

Although the agencies residential programs were discontinued in 1999/2000 due to funding shortfalls, the agency continues to provide support, counselling and skill building for adolescents, families, the homeless and people with disabilities throughout eastern metropolitan Melbourne.

Client Records.
Files relating to statutory clients of Harrison Community Services are kept for 7 years.

People seeking access to records held by Harrison Community Services should contact:
The Director
Harrison Community Services
PO Box 4503 Knox City
Wantirna South 3152
Ph 9887 1055

Sources and Further Reading
Brief History of Harrison Community Services. Agency document 2001
Harrison Community Services Annual Report 1999/2000
Department of Human Services archived files

HARTNETT HOUSE (MELBOURNE CITY MISSION BABIES HOME)

Location: 117 Albion Street Brunswick
Auspice: Melbourne City Mission

In 1900, Sister Hartnett of the Melbourne City Mission established a home for young women with babies in rented premises in East Brunswick. In 1903, the home transferred to the former Salvation Army Rescue Home in Albion Street Brunswick.

The Albion Street home functioned as a ‘pre-maternity home’ for pregnant mothers and was registered to care for babies. Sister Hartnett also arranged the adoption of some of the children in the home’s care.

Due to the poor condition of the original buildings, a new maternity home was built on the Albion Street site in 1913.

In 1947 a new ‘Toddler’s Home’ was built adjoining the pre-maternity home and in 1950 a nursery was added. The separate components of the home were amalgamated into one unit in 1955 and the home was named Hartnett House in 1958.

In the late 1950s the Home’s dormitories were changed to cubicles to afford more privacy to the expecting mothers.

In 1942 the Department noted that the Home had 22 infants and some mothers in the home, but only one State ward. At the next Departmental inspection (1949) the Home’s staff were described as ‘a floating population of training missionaries, kindergarten teachers and unmarried mothers who help with the work’.
(although there was always a mothercraft nurse on the staff). In 1949 there were eight State wards and 34 Infant Life Protection Infants in residence. By 1950 the Home staff consisted primarily of mission sisters most of whom were mothercraft nurses, still assisted by the mothers of the children.

Hartnett House was classified as a Category 2 Children’s Home in 1948

The Department undertook regular inspections from 1950 to the late 1960s. There were varying assessments of the Home and although most were positive, concerns were expressed about the crowded state of the site. By the late 1960s the Home consisted of the original 1920s house to which many other buildings had been added. This made for tightly packed complex on a small area providing a wide range of different programs.

In 1971/72 Hartnett House was providing the following services:
- A 24 bed maternity home for single girls
- A counselling and casework service, with a focus on single mothers
- An adoption agency (completing an average of 90 adoptions per year)
- A 32 bed babies home
- A 25 bed children’s home, with children cared for in small groups.

Physical care was described as excellent and children regarded very much as individuals. At this time an individual file was being kept by Hartnett House on each child, containing reception centre material, medical history, copies of correspondence and a very brief general report made by the Matron every six month or so.

By 1973 the Melbourne City Mission was renamed the Community Welfare Foundation and a new progressive board of management, including two Departmental representatives, had been appointed at Hartnett House.

In 1972/73 the Community Welfare Foundation noted a decline in the numbers of single mothers using the maternity home (a weekly average of only 9) and a decline in the number of finalised adoptions (down by 53 from 1971/72)

In 1974 the Department provided additional funding to Hartnett House due to the recent closure of the Methodist Babies Home, The Haven, Alexander Toddlers Home and Overton Residential Nursery. These closures resulted in insufficient outlets for pre-schoolers from Allambie where the numbers of such children had built up to serious proportions. However, the Community Welfare Foundation was considering whether it should continue running a congregate care children’s homes given current policy issues about the future place of such homes in Victoria.

In 1973 Hartnett House ceased its maternity home and adoption operations but continued as a children’s home.

In 1975 Hartnett House established a Family Centre for Disadvantaged Families to focus on the needs of a group of selected local families. In the late 1970s Hartnett House had become a multipurpose organisation focussing on the residential care of children, a registered day kindergarten, the family care centre and a registered day nursery. It also provided family support, and had organised key services into a ‘child development and enrichment centre’.

By the mid 1970s Hartnett House’s children’s home was catering almost exclusively for wards and it was reclassified as a Category 1 Children’s Home. However, by late 1977 concern was being expressed by the Department that the home’s intake policy had changed to focus on the needs of the families attending the family centre, many of whom had children who needed some form of residential care but were not wards. Further, the Home would not take children over eight years old into its residential care program.

In 1982 Hartnett house was allocated ‘conversion funding’ to allow it to stay in long term care. The funding required the closure of its long term residential unit and the establishment of two family group homes in the north west region. The Albion Street temporary care unit was transferred to a house in Brunswick in 1984.

During the mid to late 1980s Hartnett House continued to respond to the needs of the predominately migrant population in the Brunswick/Coburg area.

During the mid 1990s, mainly due to changes in funding by the Government, the longer term residential program and the Child and Family Development Unit was phased out. In their place the Mission established additional temporary care units and a long term youth accommodation unit.
The Albion Street property now provides the base for the Mission’s work in Melbourne’s northern region. A Children’s Accommodation Transition Service, a Children’s Centre, an Early Childhood Intervention Program and other child and family and youth oriented programs are coordinated from the Brunswick facility.

The Melbourne City Mission is one of Melbourne’s major welfare agencies. Services are focussed in the centre, west and north of Melbourne. The Mission’s programs cover:

- Aged services
- Children, Youth, Adult and Family Services
- Disability and Special Needs Services
- Employment, Education and Training Services
- Palliative Care
- Youth Accommodation Services

**Client Records**

The Melbourne City Mission’s Archive Policy requires that client records for all programs and kept for seven years. Archived files are held at the Mission’s head office in King Street Melbourne. Adoption and foster care records of children placed through Hartnett House from 1900 to the 1950s have been lodged with the Department of Human Service’s Archives.

The Mission’s client files are available to be read by clients themselves on request. Any person, other than the client seeking access to client records are required to lodge a separate application which would be assessed on freedom of information principles. Clients seeking information or early adoption/fostering records are referred to the Department of Human Services, Northern Region.

Clients seeking access to earlier archived records should contact:

Melbourne City Mission
19 King Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
Ph 8626 4444

Sources and Further Reading

Department of Human Services archived files

HEATHER ANDERSON HOME

**Location:** 23 Walker Street Moonee Ponds

**Auspice:** Private Proprietor

In 1967 a Miss Heather Anderson of Moonee Ponds made application to conduct a children’s home for up to four State wards. Miss Anderson was a member of the Church of Christ with some experience in working in a children’s home as a missionary in Lebanon. Whilst this application was being assessed Miss Anderson’s home was approved under the Infant Life Protection provisions of the Children’s Welfare Act. The facility functioned somewhere between a private foster home and a children’s home.

From 1968 to 1973 Miss Anderson cared for four children (two sibling groups). In 1973 these children were transferred to other placements the home ceased to function.

Sources and Further Reading

Department of Human Services archived files

HILLSIDE BOYS HOME

**Location:** Jells Road, Glen Waverley

**Auspice:** Social Welfare Department

Hillside opened in 1959 as an experimental project with a group of 30 school age boys to relieve the backlog of unplaceable children at Turana.

*The boys were of a type not acceptable in foster homes or in institutions as they had no interested parents or relations who could provide a reasonably decent home for them. They needed ‘Special School’ type of education because of intellectual retardation or of serious dislocation earlier in their schooling. For a number of years they have been deprived by their parents of the normal family experiences necessary for proper development.* (Children’s Welfare Department Annual Report 1959).

Hillside was formerly a large, single story private residence set in 10 acres overlooking the Dandenong Ranges. When established it had no neighbours to its boundaries. A primary school staffed by Education Department teachers was situated in its grounds.

The number accommodated varied between 30 and 40 boys at any one time. In 1962 the residents of Hillside were described thus ‘most are educationally retarded, many pre-delinquent
and some had long records or absconding from other placements'. The boys ranged in age from 10 to 16 years although occasionally boys as young as 6 years and as old as 17 years were placed at Hillside.

By 1966 the main source of admissions to Hillside were:
- Turana - mainly teenage delinquents
- Allambie - mainly 7-9 year old with school problems
- Family Group Homes - non-delinquent but uncontrollable boys of any age with school problems

In 1981 Hillside's capacity was reduced to 30. By this time the facility was surrounded by expensive family homes on all sides.

Hillside was closed following a regional review of residential child care needs in 1984/85.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources
Department of Human Services archived files
Departmental Annual Reports 1965 - 1984

**ILLOURA - CHILDREN'S HOME**

**Location:** Maleela Ave Balwyn

**Auspice:** Victorian Government (Department)

Illoura, located in Maleela Avenue Balywn, was originally the Frances Barkman Children's Home, owned and operated by the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society.

The Home was purchased by the Social Welfare Department in 1964 to alleviate overcrowding at Allambie. The first children were admitted in August 1965.

Illoura provided care for up to 36 children - boys approximately 5 to 9 years and girls approximately 5 to 15 years, many in sibling groups.

Illoura operated as three self contained units within a large two story building. There was a teenage unit, a unit accommodating young people over 10 years of age a family care unit for younger children and a few short term residents. By 1971, the Home had been reconfigured as four completely self contained units housing a balanced age range of children from 4 to 16 years of age on the first floor and from 12 months to 15 years on the ground floor.

By the early 1980s, Illoura's capacity had been reduced to 24, but it was only averaging 18 residents at any one time.

As part of the redevelopment of residential care resources Illoura was closed by the Department in 1984 and resources transferred to regional alternatives.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Departmental Annual Reports 1965 - 1984

**INFANT LIFE PROTECTION PROVISIONS**

Following the lead set in England Infant Life Protection (ILP) provisions were introduced in Victoria in 1883 to deal with the worst excesses of what was known as ‘baby farming’.

Baby farming involved women fostering very young children as a business. Donna Jaggs (1986) notes that although there would have been some people operating as foster parents might today: 'the public eye was taken more by reports of baby-farmers who brought about the children's deaths by callous or ignorant handling or who abandoned or killed them if parents' payments lapsed. It was taken, also, by reports of farmers who specialised in destroying unwanted infants for a fee or arranging for the be 'adopted', ie handed over to some other person' (p76)

Legislative Infant Life Protection (ILP) provisions were first introduced through the Public Health Amendment Act 1883, consolidated at the Infant Life Protection Act 1890 and carried over into the first Children's Welfare legislation.

The Act prohibited any person (apart from a parent) to retain or receive an infant under five years of age into a house to maintain it or arrange an adoption for a longer period than three days unless the house was registered with the Children's Welfare Department.
Payment for such boarding out were to be made by the parent or guardian through the Department. Where payments fell into arrears for a period of four weeks, the infant concerned "ipso facto" became a ward of the Department.

Exemptions applied to wards of the Children's Welfare Department, an infant cared for by a public charitable institution approved by the Minister or an infant who the Minister was satisfied was in the care of a relative or for other reason should be exempted. Many of the charitable institutions described in this volume applied to become Registered Institutions. The Department paid for the upkeep of wards in approved children's homes, private homes and registered houses.

Infant Life Protection provisions as such finished with the repeal of the Children's Welfare Act.

Source
Departmental Annual Reports

JACANA CHILD CARE AND FAMILY CENTRE

Location: Sunset Boulevard, Jacana
Auspice: Salvation Army

Following the closure of the Catherine Booth Girls Home in East Kew in 1975/76 the Salvation Army purchased land in Jacana, a suburb of the City of Broadmeadows.

By the mid to late 1970s The Salvation Army had developed a small 'cluster village' of three units spread out on the block to facilitate the units merging with the surrounding houses. One of these was a temporary care unit. They were not strictly scattered family group homes or a campus cottage system, but somewhere between small residential care units and family group homes.

Following a review the operation of the complex, the function of the temporary care unit was changed to longer term care 1978.

By the early 1980s the complex, known as the Salvation Army Child Care and Family Centre, Jacana was accommodating a total of 24 children. A social worker was employed to work with the families of children in care and, where possible, prevent further family breakdown where children had been returned to their caretakers.

By the late 1980s services provided by the Salvation Army at Jacana included emergency accommodation, respite care and parenting skills classes.

Client Records
Contact
Salvation Army Heritage Centre
69 Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9650 4851

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services Archives
Salvation Army Heritage Services Archives

KILDONAN CHILDREN HOME

Location: Elgar Road Burwood.
Auspice: Presbyterian and Scots Church Children's Aid Society.

The Kildonan Home for Children was established in 1881 when the Minister and congregation of Scots Church Melbourne became concerned about the care of children living in the central city area. The 'Neglected Children's Aid Society' came into being and its early work entailed the placement of children with private families in both city and country homes.

The original 'Kildonan' operated in North Melbourne until the work was transferred to a newly acquired property in Elgar Road Burwood in 1937.

The first recorded inspection by the Department was in 1940. At that time the Home provided accommodation for up to 50 boys and girls from two to eleven years of age. When the boys reached eleven they were sent on to Kilmany Park, Sale. The Home was built and conducted on a 'cottage system' and included a State school and a kindergarten. The 'cottages' were larger than later 'family group homes', accommodated up to 28 children supervised by rostered staff. An additional block accommodating 25 toddlers was completed in 1941.

By 1955 the Home was caring for up to 105 children. In 1958 Kildonan opened a family group home within the Home's grounds. This provided care for up to eight children supervised by a cottage mother and father.

In the late 1950's and early 1960 Kildonan and the Presbyterian Church had recognised some of the drawbacks of large scale institutional care. In 1960 Kildonan's began the development of a larger scale family group
home program. Initially this was to consist of up to eight family group homes and accommodation units as well as a separate Admission Centre.

In 1962 the original Kildonan Homes in Burwood, was sold to the Department to fund this new program. The Elgar Road site was later re-opened as the Allambe Reception Centre in xxxxx. Kildonan expanded its program options by developing a sophisticated foster care and family counselling program based on professional social work and foster care principles.

The new residential services were established to provide long term substitute care for wards and non-wards. They were seen as an integral part of the broader Child Care Service of the Uniting Church, offering placement for children from their babies home and a back up placement resource for breakdowns in foster care placement.

By 1962 Kildonan was operating family group homes in Blackburn, Box Hill, Syndal, North Balwyn and Surrey Hills.

The Admission Centre operated in the 1960s at 149 Victoria Road Hawthorn and catered for children from 3 to 18 years - preferably short term placements. Children from Kildonan's family group homes with placement problems were also referred to the Admission Centre.

In 1963 Kildonan opened new administrative offices at 19 Canterbury Road Camberwell and in 1964 commenced a program of day care for children of school age who would otherwise be in institutional care.

In 1978/79 the Uniting Church in Australia appointed a new Council to be responsible for the management and policy of family group homes and the development of family and child welfare services in East Gippsland. A new Gippsland based organisation, Kilmany Family Care, was created at this time. Whilst using the clerical services of Kildonan it was financially independently of the Kildonan Council. Kilmany family care was initially funded through the Uniting Church Department of Social Services (Interim) Task Group.

By 1980 Kilmany Family Care was operating four family group homes in East Gippsland, including a home staffed by Aboriginal house parents to care for Aboriginal children.

Following a further review of its operations in 1979/80 Kildonan Homes shifted it's residential care focus to the Inner Urban Region. The focus was to remain on median to long term care rather than short term/emergency placements, complementing long-term foster care or adoption where indicated.

By 1982 all of Kildonan's residential care work was focussed on the inner urban region, specifically Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond.

In 1985, Kildonan consolidated its presence in the Inner Urban region by moving its administrative headquarters to Collingwood.

During the 1990s Kildonan Child and Family Services provided services responding to the needs of vulnerable children, youth and families. Services included family preservation; youth and family support including counselling, employment and social skills; preventative and early intervention services for children, youth and families; housing services including emergency, referral and community housing; and specialist services including financial and relationship counselling.

In 1998 Kildonan Child and Family Services moved from the provision of family group home care to residential care for adolescents. From September 2001, the agency ceased all residential care activity focussing its expertise in early intervention, prevention and social advocacy.

Client Records
Kildonan Child and Family Services has developed a confidentiality/Privacy and Access to Records Policy.

Files of past and present service users will be made available to the persons concerned in line with Freedom of Information principles. Closed files with be made available to professional staff at the discretion of the agency's Client Services Managers or Director.

Access to individual files other than the above is only by the written permission of the person concerned for own use or consent for a third party to access his/her file.

Enquiries regarding access to client files should be made to:

Kildonan Child and Family Services
30 Cambridge Street
Collingwood 3066
Ph 9419 0222

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Kildonan - 100 years of Caring 1881-1981. Marjorie Robinson
KILMANY PARK FARM HOME FOR BOYS

Location: Sale
Auspice Presbyterian Church of Victoria

Kilmany Part Home was established by the Kilmany Park Farm Home Committee of the Presbyterian Church in 1924 in a 'magnificent' old Victorian building on the outskirts of Sale.

The home catered for Protestant boys 10 -16 years of age and had a capacity of 45 beds although 25 to 35 boys was considered the most appropriate number in child care terms.

The Director of Family Welfare visited Kilmany Park in 1964. His report reflects the character and physical fabric of this type of home at the time.

"The main building is a 2 story, brick structure with the dormitories upstairs. Three dormitories contain 5 beds, one 9 beds and the other, which is really an enclosed balcony, 12 beds. There is a kitchen, diningroom, various living rooms and a small chapel. Adjacent to the main building is a new, brick gymnasium - a large and substantial building. The boys appear to make very ample use of it and whilst there they were playing table tennis and cricket indoors. Generally the boys seem very interested in sport and take part in local competitions. Visiting teams also compete at 'Kilmany Park'. Although there is a chapel in the main building, the boys attend church and Sunday school outside.

(The Superintendent) is also responsible for the diary farm which consists of 550 acres. This is on irrigated land and helps support the home. The boys assist on the farm a little, but not to the extent that it interferes with their school work. The farm has a separate staff to the home.

The toilet and shower facilities are in an old building joined to the downstairs portion and are badly in need of renovation and renewal. "The Committee has this matter in mind".

Quite deeply disturbed boys and a small proportion of seriously offending boys were accommodated by Kilmany in the 1960's. Due to the lack of opportunity grade or remedial education facilities in Sale the boys had to have some educational potential.

By the mid 1970s the Department advised Kilmany Park the home was now considered too geographically isolated from the areas where the boys admitted to its care and their families resided. Its plant and buildings were also in urgent need of updating. Further, there had been a reduction in the number of the wards suitable for placement at Kilmany. As a consequence the Department commenced to phase down its admission of boys to the home.

The Department suggested that Kilmany consider the establishment of a general family service program, incorporating family group homes or a 'Grassmere' type centre.

In August 1975 the Department called a meeting of agencies who had established, or who had shown interest in establishing family and children's services in the Gippsland area, particularly Sale.

In 1976/77 the admission of boys to the Home by the Social Welfare Department continued to be phased down. At the same time a report 'Families and Children in Gippsland' prepared by the Gippsland Family and Child Care Planning Committee provided a context for a reappraisal of the role of Kilmany.

Kilmany Park ceased functioning at a children's home in December 1977.

In 1976/77 the establishment of family group homes in Sale and Bairnsdale within the framework of the 'Families and Children Report' was being actively considered by the Uniting Church. (At the same time the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency developed a proposal to establish an Aboriginal Child Care and Family Support Program at Kilmany Park, but it appears this initiative did not eventuate).

By 1978 the Uniting Church had purchased properties in Sale and Bairnsdale for use as family group homes under the auspice of a new agency, Kilmany Family Care.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

LADY DUGAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Location: Hamilton Road Malvern
Auspice: Social Welfare Department

To alleviate overcrowding at Allambie, the Social Welfare Department leased the 'Lady Dugan' home from the Red Cross in 1970, initially for a period of three years. The Lady Dugan Home was a large old mansion set in three acres of garden in residential Malvern.

About 34 children, all wards, were accommodated at Lady Dugan. The children's ages ranged from two years upward, but most were pre-school children between two to five years. School age siblings of this younger group were also placed at Lady Dugan. Children were placed at Lady Dugan from Allambie and the Department's two regional
reception centres.

Departmental plans to vacate Lady Dugan at the end of its three year lease depended on the establishment of a number of new departmental family group homes. Due to funding limitations the Department was unable to establish a sufficient number of homes until 1976.

Following transfer of children to family group homes and other placements Lady Dugan ceased to be a Departmental children’s home in April 1976.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Service archived files
Departmental Annual Reports 1966 - 1994

LEGACY HOSTELS AND HOMES

Auspice: Melbourne Legacy

Legacy was founded in 1923 by a group of men who had recently returned from service abroad in World War 1. These men came together to meet the urgent needs of the widows and children of comrades who did not return.

By 1955, Melbourne Legacy was operating four residences for children, young persons and young adults:

- **Blamey House**, 124 Balcombe Road Beaumaris accommodating children aged five to nine years (changed to boys aged fourteen and older by the mid 1970s)
- **Holmbush**, 1267 Burke Road Kew, accommodation children aged nine to fourteen years.
- **Stanhope**, 1245 Burke Road Kew, an educational hostel providing for young people in tertiary education. (Changed to girls fourteen and older by mid 1970s)
- **Harelands**, 5 Willsmere Road Kew, a hostel for Junior Legatees in employment but not quiet ready to live independently. (Changed to cater for boys and girls 6 to 14 years by the mid 1970s)

All of the residents were for the children of deceased ex-serviceman. From time to time these residences accepted children who were both children of ex-servicemen and women and wards of the State.

During the 1960s and 1970s Legacy experienced a reduction in the numbers of children requiring accommodation and care and an increase in the transfer of suitable older children from the hostels who were in employment to auxiliary accommodation in private homes, guest houses, etc.

By 1977 the number of homes had been reduced to two. The old “Blamey House” in Burke Road was closed. ‘Harelands’ was renamed Blamey House and provided...
accommodation for boys 13 years and older. Stanhope, which had accommodated girls 14 and older, was rebuilt to accommodate girls of all ages and boys up to puberty.

Blamey House was closed in 1980 and Stanhope was closed in 1982 due to the gradual reduction in the numbers of children and young people which would fit Legacy’s ‘children of ex-service personnel’ criteria for placement and support.

Client Records
Inquiries regarding client records should be made to

Legacy Melbourne
293 Swanston Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9663 3564

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

LISA LODGE / HAYESLEE

Location: 214 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat

Auspice: Lisa Lodge-Hayeslee Committee

Lisa Lodge Girls Hostel was established in 1970 to provide counselling and residential care for 15 to 19 year old girls.

The hostel was established by a group of eight Ballarat women whose work as Honorary Probation Officers (HPOs) brought them into contact with girls who were at risk in the community. The Hostel was non-denominational and was run by a committee of the eight HPOs.

The committee placed high priority on preventive care by assisting girls before they offended or came into contact with the courts. The hostel enabled girls in difficult home situations to remain in Ballarat, retain their normal employment or schooling and be close to friends and family.

Girls between 15 and 19 years of age were referred by schools, children’s homes, the Salvation Army, Children’s Protection Society, the Social Welfare Department, courts and the police. No more than eight girls were accommodated at a time. During the period 1970 to 1976 accommodation was provided for over 150 girls. About half this number were either State wards or probationers.

Lisa Lodge Committee became a company in 1973. Using a government capital grant and a bank loan the company purchased a property at 214 Armstrong Street South Ballarat to continue their hostel work. The project received Government recurrent funding for wages and other costs from 1976.

In 1976 the Lisa Lodge Committee set up a transition facility (Hayeslee House) to house seven early adolescent girls requiring placement following the closure of the Sisters of Nazareth children’s home (Nazareth House) in Mill Street Ballarat. These six children had special needs and could not be placed elsewhere. Hayeslee House was initially established in a house on temporary loan from Ballarat Children’s Home. In May 1977 Hayeslee House was transferred to premises in Clarkson Street Sebastopol.

The original Lisa Lodge Hostel was closed in 1994 and replaced with a Family Adolescent Support Team

In 2000/2002 Lisa Lodge-Hayeslee continues to provide specialised residential care at Hayeslee for young people with very complex needs. The agency also conducts a Family Adolescent Support Program (FAST) using local caregivers and High Risk Adolescent Programs in Ballarat and Horsham. Other activities include the Champions Mentoring Program which places agency clients in mentoring relationships with local volunteers, ‘Central Highlands Reconnect’ which works with young people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and a Family Reconciliation Program. Lisa Lodge-Hayeslee also manages the ‘Glendinning House’ program which provides crisis accommodation and housing advocacy for women over 21 years, the Young Persons Housing Program and ‘Gwens’ Place, a women’s refuge.

Client Records
Previous clients of Lisa Lodge/Hayeslee may access their records by contacting the agency. An agency worker would clarify if the client wished to see their whole file or just obtain a specific piece of information. If they wish to see the whole file, third party information would be deleted and the enquiry processed along as Freedom of Information principles. Lisa Lodge/Hayeslee would seek to give the maximum amount of information with the least ‘bureaucratic’ restrictions possible and would prefer to provide information through face to face contact.
People seeking information should contact:
The Executive Director
Lisa Lodge/Hayeslee
PO Box 695
Ballarat 3353
Ph 5331 3838

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Lisa Lodge-Hayeslee Information Kit
Lisa Lodge Annual Report 2001

LUTHERAN PEACE MEMORIAL HOME
Location: 25 Sackville Street Kew
Auspice: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia

The Lutheran Peace Memorial Home was established in October 1950 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia.

In 1956 the home had total bed accommodation for 42 children between the ages of 4 to 14 (raised to 15 for boys attending school and 15+ for girls attending school in the mid 1960s).

The home was described as an old type two story building set in a well kept garden with two downstairs dormitories for girls and two upstairs for boys.

Following Departmental concerns about the physical condition of the home, staffing and general child care practice issues, the home was assessed by the Family Welfare Advisory Council in 1966. In the meantime no new children (wards) were referred by the Department.

The FWAC recommendations to the home included:
* visits by Lutheran Board members and staff to other homes
* a move to family group home care
* increasing staff/child ratios
* increase training for staff
* use of the Council as advisors in the future planning of changes to the home.

The Department continued to express concern about the administration of the home, but things improved in 1968 with the appointment of a new Matron and increased effort by the Home’s Board to improve and modify its physical fabric.

The Family Welfare Advisory Council was again enlisted to advise the home and Board. The Council recommended that the Home consider working toward improving standards, increasing staff training and the employment of a trained social worker to develop a child care program and assist with the assessment of children and their families.

In 1970 the Lutheran Church established a family group home at 755 Station Street Box Hill to accommodate up to 8 children who were to old to remain at the Lutheran Home in Kew. This facility was known as the Lutheran Teenage Family Care Home.

In 1973 the Lutheran Church decided to move to family group home care and proposed the closure of the Sackville Street congregates care home and the acquisition of four or five cottage homes in the Blackburn/Ferntree Gully area.

By 1980 four family group homes had been established and the old teenage unit in Station Street Box Hill had been converted to become an administrative and welfare centre.

During the early 1980s discussions were held on the possible transfer of Lutheran resources to the Glenelg region in response to the reduction in the number of younger children needing residential care and the recognised over supply of residential beds for adolescents in the Outer Eastern Region.

In 1983 the Lutheran Welfare Centre established a foster care program in the Glenelg region, which became Glenelg Foster Care.

South Western Community Care Association Inc. was formed in 1991 through the amalgamation of Currawong House Hamilton, Glenelg Foster Care, Glenelg Family Care, South Western Tenant Support Services and Warrnambool Community Legal Aid Service. A further change of name to Community Connections (Victoria) occurred in 1998.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

LYNDON LODGE (HAWTHORN YOUTH HOSTEL)
Location: 27 Auburn Road, Hawthorn
Auspice: Salvation Army

Lyndon Lodge was initially established by the Salvation Army in 1946. The Army converted a large 40 years old private residence in Auburn (‘Talana’) to provide accommodation for up to thirty boys, mostly State wards.
The Salvation Army's aim was to provide housing for 'boys who had passed through (Army's) children and youth training homes, and yet desire to remain in the City area in order to learn trades, undertake advanced training courses, or having secured work in the City, desire suitable accommodation'.

Boys aged between 14 and 18 years were placed at the Hostel, following referral from a children's home and assessment by the Salvation Army. The Army was keen to maintain Lyndon lodge as a facility for 'helping boys anxious to improve themselves'. It was 'not intended as a place where irresponsible boys can find Board and Lodging'.

Boys admitted to Lyndon Lodge paid as much 'maintenance' as possible for their care from wages, but retained money for lunched, fares, clothing and pocket money.

By 1973 the Salvation Army felt that the building was not suitable as a Hostel and reviewed options in relation to Lyndon Lodge. One was to sell the property and purchase elsewhere, the other to re-design and renovate. Accommodation continued to be provided at Lyndon Lodge until the facility was ultimately relocated to Murrumbeena in 1987.

Client Records
Contact
Salvation Army Heritage Centre
69 Bourke Street 3000
Ph 9650 4851

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Salvation Army archived files

MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES

MacKillop Family Services was established in 1997 as a new organisation to provide those services for children, young people and families previously undertaken by agencies established by the Sisters of Mercy, the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of St Joseph.

Services amalgamated under MacKillop Family Service auspice included:
- St Anthony's Family Services, Footscray
- St Vincent's Boys Home, South Melbourne
- St Joseph's Home for Children, Flemington
- St Augustine's Adolescent and Family Services, Geelong
- St Vincent de Paul Children's and Family Services, Black Rock
- St Joseph's Babies and Family Services, Glenroy.
- Mercy Family Care Centre

Brief histories of these agencies are included in this volume.

The history of the Catholic Church's involvement in child welfare since 1841 and the background to the amalgamation these agencies to form MacKillop Family Services can also be found at the Website, www.mackillop.org.au).

MacKillop Family Services currently provides over 100 separate services in Melbourne and the Barwon Region. Services include home based and residential child care; training, education and youth support programs; disability services and family support and preservation services. Services are administered from offices in Footscray, South Melbourne and North Geelong.

Client Records
MacKillop Family Services has a well developed Heritage and Information Service based in Glenroy. This service was established to assist former residents and clients of MacKillop's founding agencies to access personal information now held by MacKillop Family Services. The Heritage and Information Service also retains very significant historical records on the development and administration of the founding agencies. MacKillop Family Services acts as the custodian of this information, however the files remain the property of the respective congregations of the founding agencies.

The Heritage and Information Service assists former residents and their relatives access records held by government departments (e.g. ward files), baptism records, birth, marriage and death certificates and provides advice on approaching the Department's Adoption Information Service.

Former residents and their relatives can make application to the following address for information.
- The Co-ordinator
  Heritage and Information Services
  MacKillop Family Services
  155 Melbourne Avenue
  Glenroy Victoria 3046
  (Ph 9300 1011)

Applicants are asked to provide
- Name, address, contact phone number,
- date of birth and name at birth if known
- Information about the home where they
might have been placed or the geographic location of the home.
- The name of any foster or adoptive parents or other carers
- Current identification
- Permission from any third party or relative if information is being sought on their behalf.

Whilst MacKillop's is not covered by the Freedom of Information Act, the agency seeks to reflect the principles of that legislation and apply specific congregational guidelines (if any) when assisting people access available information. MacKillop will provide assistance with the interpretation of sensitive information at the time of the release of information from the files.

Sources
MacKillop Family Services, 'Building Community Information Pamphlet'
MacKillop Family Services, 'Heritage and Information' information Pamphlet
MacKillop Family Services Website www.mackillop.org.au

MALLEE FAMILY CARE

Location: Mildura

Auspice: Committee of Management

Melbourne Family Care Organisation's (MFC) involvement in the Mallee region commenced in 1977 when it provided various forms of financial and consultative assistance to agencies in the area. Melbourne Family Care Organisation conducted a needs survey of the Mallee region, provided financial support to the Sunraysia Marriage Guidance Council, developed day care facilities for the children of itinerant pickers, established a regional bond fund and employed an Aboriginal liaison worker.

Melbourne Family Care Organisation also established a family group home in Swan Hill, undertook a family and community needs survey of the Kerang district and participated in the preparation of a proposal for a regional foster care program in the Mallee.

The agency set up an office in Mildura in 1979 to assume closer control and coordination of the family group home in Swan Hill and the regional housing bond fund scheme.

MFC's Mildura operation initiated or was involved in emergency housing in Sunraysia, volunteer family aid in Mildura, family support in Kerang and the development of financial counselling services in Mildura, Robinvale and Kerang.

It was always Melbourne Family Care's intention to see an independent agency develop from this activity and Mallee Family Care was formed in 1979.

Mallee Family Care initially focussed on programs to prevent the removal of children from their families and the development of services which would support dysfunctional families within their own communities.

Mallee Family Care now provides a wide range of children's and family services, community services such as legal advice and financial and problem gambling counselling and disability support services. The agency has offices across north western Victoria.

Client Records
Mallee Family Care has an Access to Client Records Policy covering client records created since the inception of the agency in 1979. Client files from all program areas administered by the agency are properly archived and kept indefinitely. This assists the agency with ongoing case management, performance review and policy development and research. In addition, the agency believes that an archival record of agency contact should be kept for later access by a child or family if desired.

Mallee Family Care believe it is a legal right of clients to have access to their files upon request. Files remain the property of the agency and may not be removed from the premises. Photocopied material of information directly relating to a client will be provided and the agency uses the principles in the Freedom of Information legislation as a guide to information release. No fees apply and counselling and support is provided to people accessing their files.

Requests to access a file can be written or verbal and should be directed to:
Manager - Research and Development
Mallee Family Care
PO Box 1870
Mildura 3502
Ph (03) 50235866

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Mallee Family Care Access to Records Policy Statement
MALMSBURY YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

Location: Calder Highway, Malmsbury
Auspice: Social Welfare Department

In 1965 the Department opened the first stage of a new Youth Training Centre at Malmsbury. On completion the Centre accommodated up to 150 male trainees in the 17 to 20 year age group in an open/medium security facility.

In addition to its ongoing secure residential function and the development of programs to meet the needs of young people needing custodial supervision, Malmsbury had become the main Centre for the Department's work release Program for Trainees. In 1976 this program was providing supervision and support to selected young offenders during the initial period of settling into the community prior to parole.

During the mid 1970s the dormitory style accommodation at Malmsbury was converted to smaller units with bedroom accommodation. This increased the options for classification and treatment available in the Centre.

Langi Kal Kal was closed in March 1993 as surplus to requirements leaving Malmsbury YTC as the major YTC for 17-20 year old offenders receiving a YTC sentence.

In 1994 planning commenced for a major redevelopment of Malmsbury aimed at consolidating all youth training centre functions for the 17 to 21 age group on a single site while improving the centre's safety, security and program capacity.

The new 75 bed centre at Malmsbury was opened in 1997.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.

MARILLAC HOUSE

Location: 3 Mavis Avenue East Brighton
Auspice: Daughters of Charity

Marillac House was established in 1943 by the Daughters of Charity as a residential school to care for 'dull and retarded children of school age', including children from the Daughters of Charity's Girls Orphanage in Abbotsford.

The home was created by converting an existing and very large residence in Brighton into a children's home to cater for 40 girls, including wards. In 1951, an adjoining building was purchased and converted into dormitories. By 1957 the home was caring for up to 80 children.

The home was conducted as a residential training school and hostel for girls from 5 to 18 years of age of any or no religious denomination. The home was designated a 'special school' by the Mental Hygiene Authority and was equipped with facilities for the accommodation, training and education of 'mentally retarded' children. At the time it provided the only residential accommodation for intellectually disabled girls outside of State institutions in Victoria.

In the 1950s the home consisted of a 'main house' with several dormitories upstairs of varying sizes, the largest containing 20 beds. Downstairs contained a kitchen and refectory (for meals). Older girls lived in this large house. The younger girls were cared for in a 'cottage' also containing dormitories. The home had a 'school block' with five school rooms teaching children grouped according to their ability.

By the late 1960s the accommodation provided was as follows:
Weekly boarders, privately placed and housed in dormitories (56 girls)
State wards, in two adjacent family group homes (16 girls)
Two hostels, one (Maryville) run in conjunction with the Youth Welfare Division and housing working girls, and the other (Mandurah) for sheltered workshop and other non-working older girls.

In 1987 the original buildings and school on the East Brighton campus were closed so that Marillac House could provide more targeted residential accommodation as well as outreach services.
In 1993, Marillac House began to offer outreach support for adults with an intellectual disability who were living independently in the community.

Marillac House Limited currently provides residential care in several houses as well as a wide range of outreach and other support services for children and adults with an intellectual disability in the southern metropolitan region of Melbourne.

Client Records
Marillac House Ltd has a Privacy and Confidentiality Policy which is guided by the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 and the Department of Human Services Confidentiality and Privacy Policy 1992.

It is Marillac House policy to retain files for the life of a client. This is in recognition of the need for disadvantaged and isolated clients to know their past. "For many clients, Marillac is family and the only source of medical, social and educational history".

It is the policy of Marillac House not to allow ex-clients examine their files. "Whilst respecting the right of clients to information, it is recognised that, in the past, details and assumptions were often recorded in a manner not in keeping with (current) privacy principles and may be a source of confusion, hurt and litigation".

Limited factual information may, however, be released at the discretion of the Director, provided that written informed consent is received from the ex-client or Guardian. No information relevant to adoption will be released.

Specific information may be accessed by a current professional worker provided that informed consent of the ex-client or Guardian has been forwarded to the Director. Where it is required by law, information may be released without consent.

Contact should be made in the first instance to:
The Director
Marillac House
47 Milroy Street
East Brighton 3187
Ph 9596 7946

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Service archived files
Marillac House Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

MELBOURNE CITY MISSION
Location: Melbourne

Auspice: Melbourne City Mission

The Melbourne City Mission was established in 1854, initially as an evangelical movement focussing on poorer people or people not exposed to Christian teachings. This work broadened to include charitable or welfare work and the administration of residential institutions responding to the immediate needs of those in poverty or distress.

From the 1960s the Mission's approach changed to a focus on the structural and policy issues of social problems, with responses developed within a professional social welfare context. The policy framework applied to the Mission's understanding of what needed to be done to achieve longer term societal changes as well as to the delivery of immediate welfare and related services.

Agencies conducted by the Mission of particular interest to this Guide (see separate entries) include:
- Elizabeth Fry Retreat (established 1885), later to become Swinborn Lodge
- Stopover - an emergency accommodation, housing and support program for young people.
- The Brunswick Maternity Home (established 1903) later to become Hartnett House, then the Citymission Family Centre

In 1970 the Melbourne City Mission changed its name to the Community Welfare Foundation as a reflection of the agency's moved to 'professionalise' its services and to distinguish it from other agencies. However, the change of name was not a total success, causing confusion in the community and a sense of loss of continuity with the agency's historical roots. The name reverted to Melbourne City Mission in 1979.

Currently, Melbourne Citymission is one of Melbourne's major welfare agencies. Services are focussed in the centre, west and north of Melbourne. The Mission's programs cover:
- Aged services
- Children, Youth, Adult and Family Services
- Disability and Special Needs Services
- Employment, Education and Training Services
- Palliative Care
- Youth Accommodation Services
Client Records
The Melbourne City Mission's Archive Policy requires that client records for all programs and kept for seven years. Archived files are held at the Mission's head office in King Street, Melbourne. Adoption and foster care records of children placed through Hartnett House, from 1900 to the 1950s have been lodged with the Department of Human Service's Archives.

The Mission's client files are available to be read by clients on request. Any person, other than the client themselves seeking access to client records are required to lodge an application which would be processed using freedom of information principles. Clients seeking information or early adoption fostering records are referred to the Department of Human Services, Northern Region.

Clients seeking access to earlier archived records should contact:
Melbourne City Mission
19 King Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
Ph 8626 4444

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.
Going Forward in Faith: A History of Melbourne City Mission.
Catherine Waterhouse. 1999
Melbourne City Mission: Community of Services Information Pamphlet

MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE
MELBOURNE FAMILY CARE ORGANISATION
FAMILY ACTION
OZ CHILD

Location: Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley
Auspice: Committee of Management

The St James Orphan Asylum and Visiting Society was formed in 1851 as a nondenominational Protestant organisation to give practical assistance and support to the needy Melbourne and to provide residential care to orphaned children.

In part response to the increasing numbers of orphaned and abandoned children during the gold rush of the mid 1850s, the Government allocated land in South Melbourne to the Society, then renamed the Melbourne Orphan Asylum, to establish a 'substantial institution' to accommodate these children. The institution was non-denominational and accommodated children of both sexes between the ages of 3 and 16 years.

In 1878 the Asylum moved to new complex of five large 'cottage' style buildings in Brighton. Each cottage accommodated about 30 children, supported by an administrative building, workshops, an on-site school and a detached hospital.

In 1926 the name changed to The Melbourne Orphanage.

Following the second world war, the Orphanage began to admit a wider range of children, including those who were not 'orphaned' as such but were from broken homes.

By 1955 this large home in Brighton had accommodation for about 150 children. The home continued to use the self contained 'cottage' system. Four cottages housed up to 30 younger children, two others held 12 and 8 older children respectively.

During the mid 1950s, consistent with international and local trends, the Orphanage commenced planning to move from the existing large campus based cottages to community based family group home care.

In 1961 Melbourne Orphanage moved its operations to Ferntree Gully Road Glen Waverley and commenced to implement a scattered cottage home scheme. The Ferntree Gully Road campus provided administrative and social work support.

1962 the home had opened seven largish family group homes in the area. Each home accommodated on average ten children. As the program progressed, the existing family group home format was changed and smaller units with less children were introduced. By 1963 Melbourne Orphanage had fourteen family group homes accommodating up to 105 children of both sexes ranging from babies to late teenagers.

Even at this early stage, Melbourne Orphanage introduced a focus on preventative work with families facing problems. In 1964 it circularised the social welfare field with an outline of the services it could provide in the eastern suburbs:

"Counselling, helping a family to make best use of community facilities, direct financial assistance, day care of children, emergency housekeeping service, the provision of a holiday for parents or children in order to give temporary relief, assistance in budgeting, guidance in general care and handling of children, provision of food and clothing, assistance with the education of children through help with fees, books, school clothing, travelling expenses etc. Where necessary we can arrange suitable placement of children with foster parents and also residential care, either of a temporary or permanent nature"
In 1965, in keeping with this change of direction, Melbourne Orphanage changed its name to Melbourne Family Care Organisation. In the late 1970s, Melbourne Family Care reduced its family group homes from fourteen to nine. By 1978 the residential services component of Melbourne Family Care Organisation was only one of a number of services offered to the community by the agency, including a limited foster care program.

Following a planning and policy review undertaken in 1977, Melbourne Family Care undertook to reduce its residential program even further, to decentralise and to emphasise preventive strategies in localities with limited existing services. Melbourne Family Care established Dandenong Valley Family Care (later Windermere Child and Family Services), Upper Murray Family Care and Mallee Family Care in conjunction with local welfare interest groups. Each of these agencies each became incorporated and legally independent after an initial establishment phase (see separate entries).

In 1987 the agency encapsulated its operational ethos of 'services, advocacy and research' in a new name, 'Family Action'. At this time Family Action substantially increased its financial support to the Children's Bureau of Australia and in 1990, handed over its research and information service to the Bureau.

In 1993, Family Action, the National Children's Bureau of Australia and Family Focus (re Family Focus - see separate entry under Swinburne House - Victorian Children's Aid Society) amalgamated to form Oz Child. Oz Child is a child focussed agency working within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to improve the quality of care, life opportunities and status of children.

Services provided included foster care; respite care for children with disabilities; assisting with placement of children with disabilities into family day care; shared family care; residential services for adolescents; learning centres to assist with learning disabilities, including assessment and treatment; research; information service; and the publication of a quarterly journal.

In addition to its head office operations in South Melbourne, Oz Child manages direct its wide range of direct services from three offices in the Dandenong area and offices in Bentleigh and Mornington.

**Client Records**

Oz Child's approach to records is that all previous clients are entitled to have access to their records and to photocopy any part of their files they wish to do so. Privacy Principle 7 and the Freedom of Information Legislation are used as a point of reference in managing this process, although Oz Child does not come under Freedom of Information Legislation.

Oz Child has in its charge records from Melbourne Family Care/Family Action records from the late 1850s and records from the Victorian Children's Aid Society/Family Focus from the around the 1970s. Earlier files for both organisations have been lodged with the State Library. Permission must be sought from Oz Child to access files held at the State Library.

Oz Child is currently in the process of putting the State Library held archive holdings as well as the closed foster and residential care files held by the agency on a single searchable data base. Ultimately all files will be stored in a dedicated room in their Head Office at South Melbourne.

Inquiries about files from Oz Child and its predecessor agencies should be made to:

The Chief Executive Officer
Oz Child: Children Australia Inc
Level 3/150 St Kilda Road
South Melbourne 3205
PH 9695 2200

**Sources and Further Reading**

Department of Human Services archived files
Oz Child: Children Australia: Historical Overview and Current Services
From Asylum to Action: A History of Melbourne Family Care, Donna Jaggs
Web Site www.ozchild.com.au

**MELBOURNE JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTRE**

***Location***: Parkville

***Auspice***: Department of Health and Community Services.

This purpose built high security centre was commissioned in 1993 to replaced the Turana Youth Training Centre (See separate entry). The Juvenile Justice Centre's construction represented a major break from the physical structures and service philosophies of the old Turana and was described in the Department's 1994/95 Annual Report as being 'at the cutting edge of correctional facility design'.

The new facility caters for 15 to 17 year old...
males. It consists of four 15 bed accommodation units, a program and recreation complex and a reception and admitting office within a secure perimeter. The program complex also provides accredited TAFE training and recreation programs managed by the YWCA.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Departmental Annual Reports 1993-2001

MELROSE TRAINING FARM FOR BOYS

Location: Harkaway - Berwick

Auspice: Try Boys Society

The Try Boys Society purchased a farm near Berwick in 1938 to 'provide a healthy home environment for 30 boys and youths and ....to train boys in farming and other agricultural pursuits'

The first boys accommodated came from another Try Boys Society facility 'Clifden' at St Andrews. After that boys were mostly referred by the courts.

Following the inspection required for declaration as an approved children's home under the 1956 Act the Department developed concerns about the home. These concerns related to the home's physical fabric, child care program and financial viability. At the time the Home accommodated 24 boys including 4 wards.

The issues raised by the Department were also recognised by a new Try Boys Society Committee established in 1957. In August 1957 the Try Boys' Society advised the Department that Melrose Boys Farm was closing immediately as the Society could not finance it any longer.

The boys were transferred to other institutions or the care of parents and guardians by the Department at very short notice with the cooperation of the Try Boys' Society.

Client Records
Early records of the Try Youth and Community Services have been lodged with the LaTrobe Library of the State Library of Victoria.

Further information on records and current services can be obtained from:

Try Youth and Community Services
3rd Floor, 766 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9347 2655

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Try Youth and Community Services historical notes

MENZIES HOME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
(Ex Minton Boys Home)

Location: Nepean Highway Frankston

Auspice: Committee of Management

In 1885 a 'Ragged Boys Mission' was established by concerned citizens in LaTrobe Street Melbourne. This Mission also operated a holiday home in Frankston, 'The Seaside' Home. In 1924 the Mission's Melbourne operations were closed and the boys transferred to Frankston. The Seaside Home was then renamed Minton Boys Home in recognition of Mr William Minton, the founder of the Ragged Boys Mission. Minton Boys Home was situated 'in an ideal position on the slope of Oliver's Hill, close to and over-looking the bay'. The Home was non-denominational and operated under a Committee of Management.

The Home had three large dormitories of 24 beds each and two smaller dormitories of 12 beds each. As usual with these larger 'rural' homes, Minton provided for itself with a vegetable garden, dairy herd and poultry rearing. An Education Department primary school operated in the grounds. Older boys attended local secondary schools. The Home also had a Hostel for older working boys in William Street Frankston.

By 1939 Minton Boys Home housed approximately 100 boys aged 4 to 14 years of age. It appears from the files that Minton housed a high number of intellectually disabled and difficult boys, and that the standard of care provided was of some concern to the Department due to insufficient numbers of direct care staff. One of the 24 bed dormitories was used entirely for boys who suffered from incontinence.

The President of the Minton Boys Home Committee from 1926 was Mr James Menzies, father of R.G. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia. The Home changed its name to the Menzies Home for Boys and Girls in 1943 in recognition of Mr James Menzies long term of service. Mr James Menzies died 1945 and his son, Mr J.L Menzies, succeeded him as President of the Home.
By 1955 the Homes capacity had been reduced to 75 boys. It was further reduced to about 55 boys by 1957 due to a reduction in referrals from the Department and the consequent change of one dormitory into a recreation room.

In 1961 the Menzies Boys Home Committee recognised the limitations of the existing single sex congregate care program and began to plan for the introduction of family group home accommodation for children of both sexes.

To this end the name of the Home changed to the 'Menzies Home for Children' and the Home began to purchase family group homes in the Frankston area. The original site was initially retained to provide residential care until the family group home program was completed. It also served as an administrative and recreation centre for the children in care until it was demolished in 1965. A new administrative building was established on the Nepean Highway, Frankston.

In 1965 the capacity of the six scattered units of the Home was 47 children aged between 3 to 16 years of age. A separate hostel in Frankston provided accommodation for an additional 10 older boys. Further family group homes were established over the next few years, including a cottage in Mount Eliza which cared for six physically handicapped children. This facility operated until 1983 when it was converted for use as a family group home.

The majority of children in the Homes care were Wards of State, although a small number of private placements were made. The age of the children accommodated in the family group homes ranged from newborn to 18 years.

An emergency care facility was established in one of the Menzies family group homes in 1987. This unit was also named Minton in honour of the Ragged Boys Mission founder. A second emergency care facility 'Hillview' was opened in 1989 in response to the increasing demand for such services.

Other programs and services initiated by the Menzies Homes for Children included:
- an Early Adolescent Unit at Seaford (1983)
- a Transition to Independent Living Unit in Frankston for 15 -17 year old clients moving to the community (1989)
- the Seaford Flats Project, consisting of three free standing flats clustered around an existing family group home for young persons from 15 to 19 years (1994 with an additional two flats in 1998/99)

In 2000 the Seaford Flats Program was reviewed and replaced by 'Out Place' a program providing more flexible options for local homeless young people.

The name of the agency changed to Menzies Inc in 2001 as a reflection of its shift to the provision of a broader range of youth and family services additional to residential care for children and young people.

Currently Menzies Inc administers seven family group homes including an emergency care unit; a supported residential program for adolescents learning to live independently, and a rental home for young people excluded from the rental market.

Client Records
Menzies Inc hold records from all of its predecessor agencies, back to and including the Ragged School Mission. The earlier records consist of mainly Admission Registers, card indexes and individual children's files. The holdings are not a complete record as some material has been lost. Records are held in an Archive Room at the Menzies Inc head office.

Menzies adheres to the regulations governing confidentiality of records. Every assistance is given to clients requiring access to their records and photocopies of information is given without charge. A check of the records is made by staff to ensure that no third party information it provided. Ex clients are supported and assisted with regard to accessing their records and to obtain a copy of any group photographs they require.

Requests for information should be made in writing to:
Chief Executive Officer
Menzies Inc
406 Nepean Highway
Frankston 3199
Ph 9770 2147

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Menzies Inc: Historical Notes and Agency Services - 1865 to 2001
MERCY FAMILY CARE - GEELONG
(ST CATHERINE'S GIRLS' ORPHANAGE - HIGHTON, GEELONG)

Location: Roslyn Road, Highton, Geelong
Auspice: Sisters of Mercy

In 1862 the Sisters of Mercy took over the care of 22 girls from St Augustine's Orphanage. These girls were then accommodated in 'Our Lady's Orphanage' Newtown on its completion in 1864.

In 1928 the new 'St Catherine's Orphanage, caring for up to 90 girls, was opened at Highton Geelong. The orphanage was extended to provide further accommodation and school facilities in 1935.

By the late 1930 the home was providing residential care for up to 174 girls from three to sixteen years of age. The Home and grounds were very large, consisting of a huge U shaped building and detached auxiliary buildings situated on 52 acres of land. St Catherine's also conducted a primary school and kindergarten in its grounds.

By 1954 the Home's capacity had been reduced to 85. During the 1950s an attempt was also made to soften and modify the Home's institutional feel by dividing the dormitories into smaller rooms thereby providing a degree of privacy for the children in care. St Catherine's then placed children in small groups based on family ties rather than an age-sex basis, under the supervision of an individual nun.

In 1958 the Orphanage was opened to boys whose sisters were already in St Catherine's care. By 1966 capacity had increased to 120 with boys up to about 10 years of age being accommodated.

By 1966 the on-campus school was taking children up to Form 2. Neighbourhood children also attended the school at St Catherine's.

1967 St Catherine's (now known as St Catherine's Children's Home) began to divide the original congregate care building into flats, each accommodating 10 to 12 children of varying ages. The flats were supervised by a nun and an assistant known as 'Auntie'.

In 1968 St Catherine's decided to stabilise numbers at about 100. In an effort to keep sibling groups together, the Home accepted babies and extended the upper age of boys being accommodated.

In 1972 St Catherine's advised the Department that it was reviewing its total program in the light of a number of pressures and issues. These included mounting maintenance and capital equipment costs, the lack of suitable accommodation for secular staff, and the need to channel funds into professional staff to provide family support.

St Catherine's decided to build a new small campus centre with provision for administration and a residential facility for children with special needs not ready to be placed in family group homes or foster care. In addition it embarked on a program of family group home acquisition and the development of a foster care program for the Geelong area.

By 1972/73, consistent with the then accepted policy shift to smaller, community based facilities, the Sisters purchased six local residences for use as family group homes and established the Geelong Foster Care program in 1974. By 1975 all the children who were still resident at Highton were transferred to either family group home or foster care and the home was later sold to fund the next phase of the St Catherine's development.

In 1975 the Sisters, established a new multi-service complex called the North Geelong Community and Family Centre at North Geelong, funded in part from the sale of the old Highton campus. The new facility consisted of an assessment and treatment centre (St Helen's) and two residential units. Other services administered from the centre included a diversified foster care program incorporating emergency reception and pre-adoptive foster care.

St Catherine's had also become concerned about a group not able to benefit from these services, i.e. emotionally deprived adolescents with a long history of institutional care. A large family home accommodating eight teenage girls was established as a hostel in Cansover Street West Geelong to cater for this group.

The North Geelong Community and Family Centre's name was changed to Mercy Family Centre in 1976.

The Mercy Family Care program and staffing policies were seen at the time as part of an integrated and regional program of family and child care services. The services were designed to cater for the needs of local families by preventing family breakdown, and to rehabilitate where possible using substitute care, casework support and professional services. Substitute care continued to be.
provided, but only as appropriate to the individual needs of the child and its family.

Mercy Family Care was amalgamated with MacKillop Family Services in 1997.

Client Records
Refer entry for MacKillop Family Services

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
MacKillop Family Services historical material

METHODIST BABIES HOME
COPELAN STREET FAMILY CENTRE

Location: 12 Copelan Street South, Yarra

Auspice: Methodist Home Mission Society
Methodist Department of Child Care

The Methodist Babies Home was established in 1929 by the Laymen’s Missionary Movement of the Methodist Church 'to rescue children from the slums and place them for adoption in Christian Families'.

The Home comprised four nursery 'wards' with a total capacity of about 52 babies. By 1956 it was catering for children from birth to 3 years and was registered as a Mothercraft Training School and a play centre. The Home also carried out adoptions in conjunction with the Methodist Mission in Melbourne.

In the 1960s the Home was caring for children who were wards and Infant Life Protection placements. However the majority were still privately placed, and many of the children of mothers who had been or were resident at the Methodist Central Missions’s Girls Home at Fairfield. A number of the babies in the Home were placed by the Home’s Adoption Service.

During the 1960s the Superintendent of Kildonan Children’s Home was appointed part time manager of the Methodist Babies Home leading to closer liaison between the two facilities (The Babies Home had been placing children at Kildonan for some time). In the mid 1960s the administration offices of Kildonan were located at the Babies home. Kildonan was sold to the Victorian Government after was changed from congregate to family group home care.

Significant structural changes to the Home were made in the mid 1960s. By then the original layout was considered inappropriate for good child care practice and new self contained arrangements for the care of babies and very young children were introduced.

A toddlers cottage was established at the rear of the main building for children up to three and four years of age. The working capacity of the home at this time was approximately 40 children.

By the early 1970s both the Methodist and Presbyterian Babies homes were under-utilized in relation to their actual capacity. This was due to there being in need for this form of care as mothers elected to keep their babies and the introduction of alternative forms of substitute care.

In 1971 the Presbyterian Babies Home and the Methodist Babies Home were amalgamated to form the Copelan Street Family Centre.

In 1972 a report prepared by the Foster Care Worker for the Methodist and Presbyterian Babies Home’s indicated that the majority of children presenting to the Homes could be catered for by a significant extension of the current foster care program. It was acknowledged that this would result in the closure of some, but not all, of the current residential care facilities.

In May 1973, the Methodist Church announced a new program of care for children still in residence at Copelan Street. The means of caring for babies and young children was to change so that families could participate more. Instead of being cared for by nurses in groups in one building, children would live with foster parents in ‘ordinary homes’. Foster care was also to be used for pre-adaptive children.

This program was introduced in 1974. The Copelan Street Family Centre also housed the Methodist Child Care Service. The Centre (and the broader Child Care Service) worked ‘toward building up family life (offering) a variety of programs to meet the needs of young parents, single mothers, deserted parents and others who can benefit from such help and support’.

The Child Care Service provided counselling for single mothers, including those living at the Presbyterian Sisterhood and those at the short term accommodation unit for single mothers and their children - 'Eden Court', Ascot Vale. Child Care Service social workers also staffed
the foster care and adoption programs sponsored by both the Methodist and Presbyterian child care departments and worked with families and children served by Kildonan and Orana Children's Homes, Kilmany Park farm-home for boys and the Presbyterian Babies Home.

By 1985, the Child Care Service was a multi service agency operating at local, regional and statewide levels. Services included daycare and kindergarten facilities, emergency housing, family support, foster care and special needs adoption.

In the 1990s Copelan Child and Family Services operated from 69 Wellington Street Windsor. The agency provided an integrated family based service to children and young people, ranging from early intervention and support services and the placement of children. Services included family counselling, family support, early parenting in-home support, child sexual abuse counselling, children's services, parent help and parents of adolescents program, group programs (Discovery), family residential (camping) program, adoption information services and adoption and permanent care.

Copelan Child and Family Services is now part of UnitingCare Connections, a new organisation created through the amalgamation of a number of Uniting Church welfare agencies. UnitingCare Connections coordinates over twenty seven separate child and family service programs in the eastern and southern regions of metropolitan Melbourne, including adoption and permanent care, family and financial counselling and a wide range of youth services.

Client Records
Client records from the Presbyterian Sister Hood, the Presbyterian Babies Home and the Canterbury Family Centre are held by UnitingCare Connections.

Records are accessed via a request to
Officer in Charge
Adoption Information Service
UnitingCare Connections
115 Hawthorn Road
Caufield North

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
UnitingCare Connections Consolidated Historical Account and Time line: Workshop Summary. Linda Martin 2000
UnitingCare Connections Facts Sheet, Mission Statement and Program Overview

MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE - COTTAGE BY THE SEA

Location: Queenscliff

Auspice: Committee of Management

The Ministering Children's League was founded in England in 1885 by the Countess of Meath. In 1890 a Ministering Children's League was established in Victoria. Land was bought at Queenscliff and the first cottage was built on a high point overlooking the sea and surrounded by a large garden. Initially, Cottage by the Sea offered care and accommodation for children recovering from an illness.

A Ministering Children's League centre was formed in Melbourne and Branches established throughout the State. A new 'Cottage by the Sea' replaced the original buildings in 1938.

The Cottage by the Sea was taken over by the Department of Defence from 1939 to 1942. The League continued its operations at two other locations, 'Happy Days' and 'The Lodge' both in Sandringham. The Lodge continued to operate as a holiday home for boys until 1953 with it was closed and sold.

From the 1960s the Cottage provided respite and emergency care for children whose families were under severe social, emotional or financial stress. The Cottage accommodated about 40 children each month for a period of three weeks - a total of 440 children each year.

The Cottage received most of its referrals from a network of agencies who had been using the facility for many years. These included the Melbourne City Council Social Work Department; the School Medical Service; a number of hospitals, most importantly the Royal Children's; a group of Infant Welfare Sisters, particularly in the Heidelberg area and a number of older general welfare agencies such as the Supporting Mothers' Association

In 1998, the name Ministering Children's League was changed to Cottage by the Sea, Queenscliff incorporated. The agency continues to provide short term relief care in a holiday environment for children in need. Cottage by the Sea, Queenscliff draws is admissions from a referral network of over 200 agencies. More than 600 children were accommodated at the Cottage in 1999/2000.
Client Records
Initial inquiries should be made to
Cottage By The Sea, Queenscliff Inc
Board Secretariate
818 Camberweli Road
Camberweli 3124
Ph 9813 0646

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.
Cottage by the Sea, Queenscliff Inc: Annual Report
1999/2000

MIRALLEE RECEPTION CENTRE
Location: Chaffey Avenue, Mildura
Auspice: Victorian Government

The Mildura Reception Centre was opened in July 1963. It was the second of two non-
metropolitan reception centres established after the introduction of the Social Welfare Act in
1960. The Mildura Reception Centre served northern and western Victoria. The other non-
metropolitan centre 'Warrawee' located in Ballarat, served central and south western
Victoria.

The Mildura Reception Centre had accommodation for approximately ten to twelve
children up fourteen years of age. It was established in what was said to be the second
oldest building in Mildura in 'Mildura's best and oldest residential area' about one mile from the
centre of town.

The two new regional reception centres dealt with children admitted on Protection Applications
or Safe Custody Orders. Those children made wards remained at the Centre until suitable
arrangements were made for their future.

Parents, relatives and friends were encouraged to keep in contact with the children in the Centre
and to be involved in planning for their future. The children attended local schools and
churches.

The Centre was managed by a professional social worker and staffed by a cottage mother, a
relieving cottage mother, a child care worker and domestic staff. Initially referrals were also
accepted from the New South Wales area of the Sunraysia District along the Murray River.

The Reception Centre also acted as the regional office for the Social Welfare Department. In addition to managing the

reception function the social worker in charge undertook field work duties in connection with
foster care and home release placements. She was also expected to take 'Non-Parent Assistance' applications and provide family
counselling. A Probation and Parole Officer was also located at the Centre.

In 1967, the centre was named 'Miralee', an Aboriginal word meaning 'the black swan'.

In 1969 a new Regional Office was established in the business centre of Mildura. Miralee retained its residential reception care functions. Because of the lack of children's homes (including family group homes) in the Mildura region, Miralee operated at a 'quasi' children home for the area, with some children remaining in residence for many months.

In 1980 the Department 'purpose built' a new 'Miralee' Reception Centre. However design
flaws limited its full effectiveness and the 'old building' was retained to provide accommodation for children unable to be
housed in the new building.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental
clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Departmental Annual Reports from 1963

MISSION OF ST JAMES AND ST JOHN
Auspice: Mission of St James and St John (Anglican Church)

The Mission was established in 1919 to provide, among other services, homes for
young Anglican boys and girls in need. The focus was on homes for children, delinquent
boys, and 'fallen' women. The Mission developed to become a major welfare service
provider in Victoria until its amalgamation in 1997 with the Mission to the Streets and Lanes
and St John's Home for Boys and Girls to form Anglicare.

In 1925 the Mission opened the 'Arms of Jesus Babies Home' in East Melbourne and 'Ramoth'
for toddlers in 1927. The Arms of Jesus Babies Home was sold to the Freemasons and Ramoth
was closed in 1932.
By 1923 the Mission had opened four additional homes for children and four homes for 'problem cases'. The homes for children were; 'St Gabriel's Balwyn' for babies (taking over the function of Arms of Jesus Babies Home), 'St Luke's' Bendigo for toddlers (taking over the function of Ramoth), 'St Nicholas' for school boys and 'St Agnes' for school girls both at Glenroy. The homes for 'problem cases' were; 'St Pauls and St Barnabas' Phillip Island for problem and truant boys, 'Kedesh' (Carlton then Kew) maternity home for unmarried mothers, 'Fairhaven' Fairfield rescue home for girls and 'Butler House' for after care. By 1935 the Mission had also established a School of Home Crafts in East Melbourne.

St Agnes's Girls Home and St Nicholas' Boys home were opened in 1926 on adjoining lots in Glenroy. Kedesh provided support and a place for distressed pregnant girls. In 1926 the Mission established an adoption agency at Kedesh.

The Mission's first residential care 'cottage' opened at St Agnes in 1941, providing accommodation for 12 girls.

The Mission assumed management of the Andrew Kerr Memorial Home Mornington in 1941. Andrew Kerr home was previously a large congregate care home run by the Church of England, mainly as a holiday home for under-privileged children. It was acquired by the Mission because of its capacity to accommodate both boys and girls which would allow siblings to be kept together.

The 'Eileen Connell Children's Holiday Home was opened at Healesville in 1955.

By the mid 1950s St Pauls Phillip Island was seen by the press at the time and subsequently by the Mission as 'old fashioned' in its approach to difficult adolescents and it was closed in 1955. In 1956, St Nicholas Boys Home was condemned by the Health Department and closed. Its boys were transferred to St Pauls which had been reopened as a children's home rather than a reformatory.

The 1960s saw the Mission's first steps towards policies of 'normalisation' for children in care and the 'de-institutionalisation' of its facilities.

In 1963 St Agnes' Girls was closed and its girls moved to three cottages in Blackburn South. These were still similar to congregate care homes with dormitory style bedrooms and a central kitchen. The Minna Johnson cottage for mothers and babies was opened at St Gabriel's in 1969.

The 1960s saw the Mission develop a social work service and the 1970s the closure of all its older congregate care facilities. St Paul's was closed in 1973 and it children placed at the Blackburn South Cottages. Ellen Connell Holiday Home was also closed in 1973 due to the increasing use of holiday hosts and encouragement of interaction between children in care and their families. St Gabriel's babies home was closed and sold in 1975 due to the growth of pre-adoptive fostering and the rising cost of mothercraft training. St Luke's and the Andrew Kerr memorial homes were closed and their children moved to scattered cottages in 1977-78.

The Mission undertook a general service re-orientation in the 1970s with a focus on family and specialist services. In 1978 the Mission's first regional family counselling service was opened in Williamstown. A pilot foster care program commenced in Williamstown in 1979. In 1980 'Buckland House' Newport was opened to provide emergency and short term residential care for up to 8 children. Additional family group homes were opened in Werribee and Altona North in the early 1980s.

The move to provide services in areas of resulted in the opening of 'Thurana' family group home Traralgon in 1976. In 1978 the Mission took over Community Services Victoria's 's family aid program and in 1979 the Mission launched Gippsland Family Services in the parish centre of St Mary's Church Traralgon. During the 1980s Gippsland Family Services had established 'The Manor' an emergency house for families in crisis, a handyman service, a family extension (foster grandparents) program and Central Gippsland Foster Care in Moe.

The Mission had been involved in the Westernport area since 1941 when it took over the management of the Andrew Kerr Memorial Children's Home. By 1978 the last Andrew Kerr children had been moved to family group homes in Mornington. The Mission then established Peninsula Family Services in Mornington to provide family counselling, residential care, a big brother/sister program and a youth house.
In 1979 St Paul’s Newhaven was converted to a holiday camp for disturbed and disadvantaged children and young people.

The move to smaller scale and more family oriented services was reflected in the establishment of ‘Beryl Booth Court’ on the site of the old home craft hostel in 1980. Beryl Booth Court consisted of 8 small flats and was opened as a response to child abuse to accommodate ‘at risk’ lone parent families. Mission staff taught good parenting skills in a supportive environment.

Blackburn Cottages became ‘Blackburn Family Services’ in 1980 and the number of children in the each cottage was reduced from 16 to 6. By 1986 the service had changed to family focussed residential care work, with staff working with both the children and their families to assist with reunion wherever possible. Blackburn Family Services was closed in 1988 due to funding issues.

The 1980’s saw changes as Kedesh as well. In 1979 a flat was purchased nearby to accommodate mothers needing support during the first few months following birth. A pregnancy counselling and parents support service was established in 1982. In 1986 Kedesh at Kew was closed and replaced by the Kedesh Hostel in Box Hill which provided accommodation for six single pregnant mothers.

The Missions Adoption Information Service was launched in 1985. At the same time planning commenced for the provision of regionalised adoption and permanent care services in the western suburbs.

The Mission expand into the outer eastern suburbs with the creation of Yarra Valley Family Support (previously Lilydale Family Support) in 1987. Services initially offered included family and individual counselling and family aides. In 1988, Lilydale’s ‘Kids in Care’ foster care program joined Yarra Valley Family Support. Further services were added and by 1982 the agency was know as ‘Yarra Valley Family Services’.

A building program in the late 1980s saw Yarra Valley Family Support relocated to Castella Street Lilydale, Gippsland Family Services move to new premises in Church Street Moe and Western Family Services move to larger offices in Somervile Road Yarraville.

By April 1987 a new Adoption and Permanent Care program was operating as part of Western Family Services. The Mission’s second Permanent Care program opened as Gippsland Family Services in 1992.

Financial pressures resulted in the transfer of Peninsula Family Services and the Thurana Early Adolescent Unit to other agencies in 1988.

Outreach components of Western Family Services were opened in Werribee and Melton in the early 1990s. These components provided family and financial counselling and ADDCARE drug and alcohol services.

In 1991 Beryl Booth was closed and replaced by a ‘Choices’ centre for young women and their children at Berry Street.

1994 saw the closure of Buckland House emergency residential program for western suburbs children. The facility became the Yarraville Family Group Home.

An Adolescent Community Placement Program was established at Western Family Services in 1994.

In the late 1990s, the Mission, operating from headquarters in Batman Street West Melbourne described its role as follows. To help disadvantaged families overcome their difficulties, support children in crisis and advocate for change in social conditions which create hardship for families. Services involved: foster care and permanent care; family support and a range of specialist counselling services including family sexual assault, problem gambling, alcohol and drug and financial counselling. Other services include parenting and disability services.

Anglicare was established in 1997 through the amalgamation of three major and long established Anglican organisations: The Mission to the Street and Lanes, the Mission of St James and St John and St John’s Homes for Boys and Girls.

Anglicare now delivers over 100 programs and services administered on a regional basis, retaining a significant involvement in out-of-home care and support services for children and young people.

Client Records
Enquires about the possibility of access to early Mission of St James and St John records should be made to:

The Operations Manager
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne 3003 Ph 9321 6133
NAZARETH HOUSE

Location: Mill Street Ballarat

Auspice: The Poor Sisters of Nazareth

Nazareth House was established in 1888 by the Poor Sisters of Nazareth to cater for aged people and children who needed care in the Ballarat district.

Nazareth House was situated about three miles from “St Joseph’s Home, Sebastopol” a “sister house” run by the same Order. These two institutions catered for Catholic children of both sexes from infants up to sixteen years of age.

St Joseph’s cared for infants and toddlers of both sexes. Girls were transferred to Nazareth House on reaching six years of age, whilst boys over six years remained at St. Josephs.

The first recorded Departmental inspection of Nazareth House was in 1938. The home was described as ‘a Sisterhood with the rear portion a home for Aged Men and Women’. The home also had accommodation for 140 children.

The Inspector observed that:

“The Institution is situated in one of the best parts of Ballarat surrounded by a large property. They are at present milking 10 cows and keep enough fowls to supply the Home in eggs all year through. Staff kept: 19 Sisters, who are assisted by some of the inmates. The Home is very well equipped for its purpose. School is held in the Home. School rooms (were) especially built for the comfort of the children within the last 4 years. They are without doubt the finest school rooms I have seen in any Institution and very well furnished. Bathrooms and conveniences are modern and most satisfactory.”

Nazareth House was a congregate care facility, although attempts were made over the years to sub-divide the large dormitories into smaller sections.

During the 1950s Nazareth House accommodated an average of 100 girls at any one time. By 1965 the Home’s capacity had been reduced to about half that number. By the 1970s the Home was taking young male siblings of girls admitted.

In the early to mid 1970s the Department was encouraging Nazareth House to more fully explore family group home possibilities or to phase out the home altogether.

In 1976 Nazareth House advised the Department that it was seeking alternative placements for residents and closing its children’s wing.

The ‘Lisa Lodge Committee’ in Ballarat established a Community Unit to accept six Nazareth House girls with strong Ballarat ties and no other appropriate Ballarat placement. All other children were transferred to other placements. Nazareth House still operates today as an aged care facility.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.
Catholic siblings from Melbourne requiring residential care to be kept together. Capacity was limited to about 60 children, essentially in a congregate care situation in a very vast complex which still included the elderly persons homes.

By early 1970s Nazareth House recognised the growing trend toward smaller scattered family group homes staffed by cottage parents. Due to staffing and financial issues, Nazareth House Camberwell decided to phase out its work with children in favour of an increased commitment to aged care using its existing facilities. This occurred in 1975.

Nazareth House Camberwell still operates today as an aged care facility.

NORTHCOTE SCHOOL CHILDREN’S HOME

Location: Bacchus Marsh
Auspice: Committee of Management then Social Welfare Department

The Northcote School, established in the early 1950s was the first home to be approved by the Commonwealth and Victorian Government’s to accommodate immigrant children from the United Kingdom. The Home was administered by a non-denominational committee of management.

From 1950 to 1962, the home accepted only unaccompanied English migrant children, but following the demise of the Immigrant Children’s Program in 1962, the Home began to accept local children, including State wards.

In 1976, the administration of the Northcote Children’s Home in Bacchus Marsh was transferred to the Social Welfare Department. It then operated as a Departmental children’s home accommodating boys and girls up to school leaving age in cottages in a campus setting.

However, the numbers of children placed at Northcote was never large and decreased over time. This was a reflection of the Department’s policy to provide alternative residential care as close as possible to their own parents, families and communities. Improved prevention services also reduced the number of children who needed this form of care.

The facility was closed in 1979 and the funds released used to fund replacement family group homes and to support other regional family service programs.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document. The records of Immigrant Children are also held by the Department of Human Services.

Sources and Further Reading
Social Welfare Department Annual Reports

NUNAWADING YOUTH RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Location: Nunawading
Auspice: Community Services Victoria

Established in 1991, this Departmental facility catered for male and female clients of the Department aged between ten and fourteen years. It also maintained a youth training centre function. Nunawading Youth Residential Service catered for male and female clients

A decrease in referrals as a result of diversion programs and community based sentencing saw the closure of Nunawading in 1999/92. Its functions were consolidated at the former Baltara Reception Centre Site Parkville and the new facility named the ‘Parkville Youth Residential Centre’.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Departmental Annual Reports 1991 - 1996
ORANA - (METHODIST PEACE MEMORIAL HOMES FOR CHILDREN)

Location: Pt Nepean Road, Cheltenham Elgar Road, Burwood

Auspice: Methodist Church

The Methodist Help and Rescue Mission was established at Carlton in 1888 and operated there until 1891 when it moved to Cheltenham. The Home was controlled by a Ladies Committee working under the Methodist Home Mission Department.

The Home at Cheltenham made early ventures into a form of cottage care with small group care becoming the preferred model of operation. The Homes at Cheltenham were also one of the first in Victoria to sponsor staff training.

Following World War II, “Orana” was conceived as a Peace Memorial of the Methodist Church of Victoria and Tasmania. However it was recognised that a new model of operation was necessary to provide more adequate care under modern conditions and to provide for child migrants from Britain. A new facility was also needed to bridge the age-gap between the Methodist Babies Home and the Cheltenham homes.

In 1953 the homes at Cheltenham were sold to the St John of God Order for work with intellectually disabled children.

The Methodist Peace Memorial Homes transferred to 87 Elgar Road Burwood which officially opened in March 1953.

The Home catered for Protestant boys and girls aged between 4 and 14 years of age. In 1955 the Home’s capacity was 78 children. Methodist Peace Memorial Homes was approved as a voluntary child migration organisation and authorised to accommodate child migrants from the United Kingdom (see separate entry on ‘Approved Voluntary Child Migration Organisations’).

The Home at Burwood was established as a campus cottage system with up to twelve children in each cottage under the supervision of a cottage mother. A special pre-school cottage accommodated twelve children under six years of age. Evening meals were prepared in a central kitchen and taken to the cottages. A kindergarten was conducted on site and was open to children from the local community. School age children attended local State schools. Because the home took boys and girls it was able to take sibling groups. The home preferred longer term placements.

In 1967 the numbers in each cottage were reduced from twelve to ten following the purchase of an off-campus family group home in 9 Alisa Avenue East Malvern and the transfer of children already resident at Orana to the new facility.

In the early 1970s Orana introduced a specialist treatment concept for the more disturbed children in its care. This involved professional staff from external agencies working intensively with Orana staff, children and their families on campus. At the same time the numbers in each cottage were further reduced to eight following the establishment of a new family group home in the institutions old clinic. In 1977 numbers were further reduced to six per cottage as a response to staffing issues and to improve the level of care available to the increasingly difficult children being accommodated.

In 1977/78 Orana reviewed its policies and programs. The aim was to develop a model of residential child care and support services sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of difficult to place children currently not being cared for in the States existing network of services.

Orana adopted the following service strategy in 1980:

- Residential care for children at the Elgar Street campus focussing on intensive therapeutic and remedial assistance for difficult to place children and adolescents
- An emergency residential placement unit
- A long term care unit for children needing more intensive care than that provided in a normal family group home.
- A transitional care unit
- Two interim family group homes
- A youth and aftercare service, including an early adolescent unit.

Orana also provided support to the Uniting Church for the establishment of family group homes in the Wimmera region. (See separate entry - Wimmera Community Care)

In addition Orana undertook to transfer some of its existing residential staff resources to a foster care program being established in the same region.
By the mid 1980s Orana was describing its program as ‘primarily residential, though ancillary components for education and work experience, after care and family support are included’. Orana was operating as a multi-regional service giving priority to children whose families were resident in the eastern and southern suburbs of Melbourne.

As Orana Family Services the agency provides family strengthening and support services, community development, residential care for children and youth and children’s education and support services within the City of Hume.

Summary of Predecessor Agencies
Methodist Help and Rescue Mission
1888 - 1900
Methodist Babies Home
1900 - 1928
Methodist Homes for Children
1929 - 1945
Methodist Peace Memorial Home for Children
1945 - c1951
Orana Peace Memorial Homes for Children
1951 - c1970s
Orana Family Services 1970s-current

Previous Client Records
Orana’s client records are fairly extensive with some dating back to the late 19th century. However the degree of detail available varies. Records created since the 1970s have much more information than earlier files.

All previous client records are retained in a fire proof room at Orana’s Meadow Heights offices. Files are listed by client name and admission and discharge registers have been retained.

Orana’s policy re access to records is fully compliant with the provisions of the Freedom of Information legislation. Clients requesting access to records are required to make such request in writing, detailing their name and date of birth. No financial costs are involved.

Where clients are Victorian residents, and depending on the nature of the files content, Orana encourages ex-clients to access their records with social worker support on-site due to the sensitive nature of some of the material.

Requests should be directed to:
The Projects Manager
Orana Family Services
21-27 Hudson Circuit
Meadow Heights 3048
Ph 9302 2700

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
‘Orana’ A Primer of Residential Child Care c1960s

OVERTON RESIDENTIAL NURSERY

Location: 243 View Street Bendigo
Auspice: Overton Bendigo Residential Nursery Committee

Overton Residential Nursery was established in 1962 by the Bendigo Creche Committee.

Overton was described by a Departmental social worker as follows:
‘a large single story house of middle-twenties vintage set in a good residential street close to the centre of Bendigo. Extensive alterations have been made to provide sleeping and toilet facilities, the result containing a small wing for tiny babies, and six bedrooms for older children with the usual service, toilet and bathing facilities’.

Overton was approved to function as a subsidised residential nursery (under Health Department Regulations), a house registered to take children under 5 years under the Infant Life Protection provisions and an approved children’s home. It was not approved to operate as a day nursery. Its residential capacity commenced at 17 and rose to approximately 30 by late 1973.

A combination of changes in child care philosophy, the lack of suitable local children for placement due to the development of other facilities in the region as well as ongoing financial pressures led to the closure of Overton in January 1974.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services Archives

PADUA HALL

Location: Kew
Auspice: Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans)

‘Padua Hall’, Kew was established in 1945. It provided a halfway house between Morning Star Youth Training Centre at Mt Eliza and final community release for Catholic Wards of State. These wards had been committed to Morning Star for an indeterminate period by the Courts under legislation of the time.
Although Padua Hall was an adjunct to the Morning Star Centre, it was an entirely separate entity, a private facility run by the Order of Friars Minor, the Franciscans. There was no written agreement or arrangement with the Melbourne Archdiocese which owned the property. Nor was there any written agreement with the Victorian Government.

Under the 1954 Victorian Children's Welfare Act, all sentences from the Courts became determinate which resulted in Padua Hall no longer being able to fulfill its original purpose and it became financially non-viable. It was then in effect a Franciscan supported boarding house offering short-term accommodation for young men. Padua Hall closed in September 1960.

(From 'A Piece of the Story' p110)

Source

PARKVILLE YOUTH RESIDENTIAL CENTRE

Location: Parkville
Auspice: Department of Health and Community Services

A decrease in referrals as a result of diversion programs and community based sentencing saw the closure of the Nunawading Youth Residential Service in 1991 and its functions consolidated in Parkville at the former Baltara Reception Centre site.

The new Parkville Youth Residential Centre provided separate accommodation for males and females and offered a range of security options for young people in custody. The Centre's proximity to Turana (later to become the Melbourne Juvenile Justice Centre) enabled support services to be rationalised. The new site was better suited to cater for the smaller number of clients requiring this form of care and supervision.

The Centre caters for 10 to 20 year old females and 10 to 14 year old males. The Centre's Remand and Classification Unit processes 17 to 20 year old males.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Source
Department of Human Service files and annual reports

PIRRA GIRLS' HOME

Location: Lara
Auspice: Department

Pirra Children's Home was opened by the Social Welfare Department in 1961. The Home was established in one of Victoria's oldest colonial mansions at Lara, near Geelong.

The home catered for about 25 to 30 'difficult, late school age girls', mostly referrals from Winlaton who could not be placed in non-government facilities.

Many of the girls placed at Pirra thrived with the supportive and community focussed programs at Pirra and could be further placed in foster care or returned home. Others were found to be unsuitable for care in an open institution and had to be transferred to youth training centres.

Pirra was closed by the Department c1980

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources
Department of Human Services archived files
Departmental Annual Reports 1961-1980

PRESBYTERIAN BABIES HOME
(CANTERBURY FAMILY CENTRE)

Location: Camberwell
Auspice: Presbyterian and Scots Church Children's Aid Society

The Presbyterian Babies Home was established in 1928 in Lansdowne Street East Melbourne. The Home was the vision of the Committee of Management of the Presbyterian Sisterhood, a home for mothers and Babies auspiced by the Presbyterian Church. It had two main functions, the care of very young children needing specialist substitute care and the training of infant welfare centre staff and mothercraft nurses.

The Home relocated to larger premises in Camberwell in 1933. The Home's capacity at around this time was 70 children.

In the Homes first fifteen or so years, most
referrals were voluntary placements by parents and clergy. In the main the children needed care because they were premature, frail or sick. Most of these children returned their parents once their health or dietetic needs had been met. (By comparison, the majority of children at the Methodist babies home had been involved with a care and protection application and were subsequently adopted).

After the Second World War, the Home moved away from its rather specialised focus on physical needs of babies to the provision of substitute care for children needing day care, short term and intermediate accommodation due to family breakdown or financial crisis. Support was also given to parents whilst the child was in the Home’s care.

The Presbyterian Babies Home was registered as an Approved Children’s Home under the Children’s Welfare Act 1954 and began to admit wards of State. A professional social worker was employed by the Home in 1961 and a foster care program was introduced in the mid 1960s. The provision of counselling and support to parents saw admissions decline and children staying for shorter periods in the Home.

In 1966 the admission ages for both the Presbyterian Babies Home and Kildonan Children’s Home changed. The upper range at the Babies Home was reduced to 2 years from 3 and lower range for Kildonan reduced to 2 years. This brought children into the family group home care program at Kildonan at a younger age.

From 1970 the very close alliance between the Presbyterian Babies Home and Kildonan came to an end as both these organisations became part of a wider network of services being coordinated through the Presbyterian and Methodist Child Care Service.

The Presbyterian Babies Home function within this network was to provide temporary care for children and a small number of infants awaiting adoption. Counseling and support continued to be provided to the families of children in care with a view to returning children home as soon as possible.

In 1974 the Presbyterian Department of Social Services conducted an inquiry into the present and future use of the Babies Home and recommend that the Home move to small group care. Mothercraft nurse training was phased out in 1975.

In 1977 a committee was established to make recommendations on the transfer of a number of programs and services managed and funded within the structures of the former Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches.

These included adoption, inter-country adoption, foster care and residential programs e.g those operating in the campus family group home programs at Orana, and Kildonan Family Group Homes. Additionally there were ongoing experimental facilities (i.e. Copelan Street Family Centre) and drug and alcohol treatment programs at Moreland Hall to be rationalised. The Committee made recommendations on the transfer of these programs to regional and local church auspices.

Considerable discussion occurred between the Uniting Church and the Social Welfare Department on the future of the Home at Camberwell and other aspects of the Church’s welfare programming.

At this time operations at the Babies Home had consolidated around residential care for children under 5, in particular short term placements where work with the family was a prime consideration.

In 1978 the Presbyterian Babies Home became the Canterbury Family Centre. The Centre provided a therapeutic and diagnostic program, respite and temporary care on a 24 hour basis and assessment of families and children for future service needs. The Centre had a statewide focus with a very wide range of referral sources. The Centre also provided longer term care to some handicapped children for whom there were no alternative placements. At this stage capacity was 30-35 children in the Centre’s new on-campus residential units.

In 1985 the Canterbury Family Centre established a ‘Family Admission Program’ which allowed an entire family to admitted to one of its residential units for assessment, support and work on family functioning. A number of additional innovative programs were introduced over the following ten years. These included localised ‘Families First’ programs in Dandenong, Camberwell and Croydon, a family support crisis oriented service (FICSS), a community based support service for young pregnant and parenting women (“Starting Out”) and a Challenging Behaviours consultancy.

The Canterbury Family Centre is now part of UnitingCare Connections, a new organisation created through the amalgamation of a number of Uniting Church welfare agencies. UnitingCare Connections coordinates over
twenty seven separate child and family service programs in the eastern and southern regions of metropolitan Melbourne, including adoption and permanent care, family and financial counselling, and a wide range of youth services.

Client Records
Client records from the Presbyterian Sister Hood, the Presbyterian Babies Home and the Canterbury Family Centre are held by UnitingCare Connections.

Records are accessed via a request to
Officer in Charge
Adoption Information Service
UnitingCare Connections
115 Hawthorn Road
Caulfield North

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
History of Canterbury Family Centre: 1928 to 1980. Anne Vranisan
UnitingCare Connections Consolidated Historical Account and Time line Workshop Summary Linda Martin 2000
UnitingCare Connections Facts Sheet, Mission Statement and Program Overview

PROVIDENCE
Location: Bacchus Marsh
Auspice: Catholic Dutch Migration Committee

In 1957 'Providence' was initially established by the Dutch Migration Committee as a small hostel (capacity approximately 16) in a disused private hospital in Bacchus Marsh. Its function was to care for the children of Dutch 'New Australians' whilst their mother or family were indisposed. It also provided some temporary accommodation for migrant families.

In 1958 the Catholic Dutch Migrants Committee decided against continuing with short term family care and changed the function of the facility to that of a 22-25 bed children's home/hostel. This was declared an Approved Children's Home in April 1958 to allow it to accommodate wards of State. The age range of children accommodated was between 2 and 16 years.

Staff were almost exclusively Dutch migrants. Children attended local Catholic primary schools and Bacchus Marsh High School.

In 1963 Providence took possession of an old weatherboard house close to the main home for use as a 'family group home'. This was closed when, in 1965, a new purpose built family group home was opened in Sydney Street Bacchus Marsh.

In 1967 Providence established three new family group homes on land near the Bacchus Marsh station bringing the Homes capacity to 40 children. The original Stanhope street facility was sold soon after. One further cottage was opened in the early 1970s. At this stage the Home presented as a campus cluster of five cottages in one circular court.

In the late 1970s Providence Children's Home was phased down due to the general decline in the numbers of children coming into care and the introduction of the policy of placing those children who did come into care close to their families in regionally based facilities. Very few of the children placed at Providence were from Bacchus Marsh and District.

Following the further placement or home release of those children left at Providence, the home formally closed in December 1978.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL
Location: Keppel Street Carlton
Auspice: Victorian Baby Health Centre Association

The Carlton Refuge or Carlton Home as it was sometimes known was established in Keppel Street Carlton in 1857.

The Carlton Refuge provided maternity care for married and unmarried mothers and residential care for infants and toddlers unable to be at home with their mother. The Home also operated a day care centre for children. Most of the residents were mothers or children on private placements.

The Children's Welfare Department used the Carlton Home as a maternity home for wards, a foster home for infant wards and for children requiring placements under the Infant Life Protection provisions of the Children's Welfare Act.

By the late 1940s the home was in a bad state of repair although every effort was made to keep the facilities presentable and effective.

In the 1950s the Carlton Refuge was renamed the Queen Elizabeth Maternal and Child Health
Centre. It also operated as an Infant Welfare and Mothercraft Training School.

The Queen Elizabeth Maternal and Child Health Centre provided after-care for nursing mothers and babies transferring from maternity hospitals and specialized care for babies referred by private practitioners and the Social Welfare Department. The babies were not 'sick' in the ordinary sense, but were premature, frail or had feeding or similar problems.

The facility was renamed the 'Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Mothers and Babies. At this stage it had accommodation for 10 nursing mothers and babies and 15 additional babies. It also conducted a Health Centre subsidized by the Melbourne City Council which provided a service to all mothers living in the Carlton area.

The facility was declared a Category 2 Approved Children's Home in January 1965.

During the early 1970s the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Mothers and Babies commenced a major rebuilding program and changed its frontage to Lytton Street Carlton.

In the late 1980s the facility changed its name to the Queen Elizabeth Centre. The Centre provided the following integrated services:
- Mothers and Babies Unit (inpatient and outpatient services)
- Children's Unit
- Care by Parents Units
- Day Nursery
- Maternal and Child Health Centre
- Community Outreach Nurse (follow-up service)

Its function was described as the promotion of social and community health and preventive medicine centred around child development and family care. Because of the unique nature of its services, it received referrals from metropolitan, regional and statewide health, hospital and community agencies.

The Queen Elizabeth Centre relocated to Noble Park in the mid 1990s.

Client Records

Inquiries regarding the possible availability of earlier client records should be made to:
Queen Elizabeth Centre
53 Thomas Street
Noble Park 3174
Ph 9549 2777

RESURRECTION HOUSE

Location: Aberfeldie Street Essendon

Auspice: Sisters of the Resurrection

Resurrection House was established by a Polish Order of Roman Catholic nuns in Essendon in 1952.

The facility was run primarily as a day and boarding school for boys and girls, however from time to time wards were placed at the facility. Resurrection House was registered under both Infant Life Protection and Approved Children's Homes legislative provisions.

Residential capacity was originally 80 children and 32 day students. The residential capacity was reduced to 60 in the mid 1960s due to concerns about overcrowding. About ten wards were placed as Resurrection house at any one time.

In 1971 the Sister's advised the Department that it would be terminating its function as an approved children's home due to a shortage of staff and a desire to focus resources on educational rather than specialist child care activities. No further ward placements were made from that time.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.

SALVATION ARMY WESTERN REGION PROGRAM - WESTERN REGION FAMILY SERVICE

Location: Devonshire Road Sunshine

Auspice: Salvation Army

Following the closure of Bayswater Boys Home in 1980 the Salvation Army and the Department of Community Welfare Services (DCWS) decided to establish residential units in the Western Region in two stages phased over the period 1980 -1982.

In 1980 the Salvation Army Western Suburbs Project Steering Committee commenced the planning task. This culminated in the use of DCWS residential child care conversion funds for the development of 'Cornwall Cottage' Family Group Home in March 1982 and 'Beech Court' Adolescent Unit in November 1982, both in Sunshine.

In February 1981, the Carinya Youth Hostel

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
was opened in Footscray.

On completion the project had set up a professional support unit and three residential units. ‘Type A’ units accommodated adolescents and children and ‘Type B’ units either large sibling groups or special needs groups. These were not family group homes in the traditional sense but residential units with rostered staff because of the special needs of the children and young people accommodated. These services were incorporated as Western Region Family Service January 1982 (later to become Crossroads Child and Adolescent Services).

Client Records
Contact
Salvation Army Heritage Centre
69 Bourke Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph650 4851

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Salvation Army Heritage Services archived files

SHARECARE
Location:  Abbotsford
Auspice:  Committee of Management

Established in 1983, Share Care is a small, community based and managed foster care program servicing the City of Yarra. The program arranges respite and emergency and longer term care and accommodation for children in the homes of approved caregivers. The agency shares premises with a Maternal and Child Health service.

Share Care’s aim is to strengthen and support families and assist with the prevention of family breakdown and the permanent placement of children away from their families.

Client Records
Sharecare has a general policy of access to records held on children/families involved with its program, although storage of past records is an issue for a co-located agency of this size.

Source

ST AGNES’ HOME FOR GIRLS
Location:  Glenroy
Auspice:  Mission of St James and St John

St Agnes’ Home for Girls was established by the Mission of St James and St John in 1926.

St Agnes’ Home (and its ‘brother’ Home for Boys, St Nicholas, adjacent in Glenroy) catered for children aged 6 to 14 years. Capacity at St Agnes’s was about 50 children. Male and female siblings were separately placed in these Homes, but close contact between them was maintained with visits and outings.

In 1938 St Agnes’ Home was described as an older two story building on 40 acres of land, which was also used for dairy farming. Sleeping arrangements were as follows, 'Balcony 15 beds, Nursery 8 beds, Sleep-out 12 beds, Dormitory 15 beds'.

The home was always crowded and a new building accommodating 23 senior girls was opened in 1941. St Agnes children attended local primary and secondary schools.

St Agnes’ Glenroy was closed in 1963 and its children prepared for transfer to the new campus cottage facility in Blackburn.

‘Blackburn South Cottages’ opened in October 1963 (see separate entry).

Client Records
Enquires about the possibility of access to client files from St Agnes’ Home for Girls should be made to:

The Operations Manager
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne 3003
Ph 9321 6133

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
ST AIDAN'S ORPHANAGE - CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Location: St Aidan's's Road Bendigo
Auspice Sisters of the Good Shepherd

St Aidan's was established in 1905 at the request of the Bishop of Bendigo to cater for the many homeless Roman Catholic children in the Bendigo diocese.

Until the 1970s St Aidan's operated as a congregate care statewide residential facility catering for delinquent girls, children in need of care and protection and intellectually disabled women.

The institution was divided into two major sections with the section geared to the care of delinquent girls and intellectually disabled women called St Mary's.

St Aidan's was one of Victoria's larger, almost self-contained institutions. An Inspectors Report from 1958 is worth repeating in some detail as it provides a good description of the size and self contained nature of many of the larger institutions of the day:

'St Aidan's is an extensive two storey brick building consisting of three large blocks. The Orphanage', where 100 girls ranging from three years to seventeen are accommodated. The 'Boys Block', which houses 30 boys whose ages range from three to nine years and the 'Re-education Centre' which accommodates 110 older girls. A new block has recently been completed, it consists of four large dormitories upstairs and four class rooms, an assembly hall, locker rooms and toilet block on the ground floor.

The convent is set on a 45 acre block on the outskirts of Bendigo. There are several acres of garden around the building and a large fruit and vegetable garden. They have their own cows and fowls and bake their own bread. There is a swimming pool and dressing shed in the grounds.

There are 22 Sisters in charge of the inmates, four teaching Sisters in the school, registered by the State and qualified to teach. A qualified nurse looks after the health of the children. The house Doctors are Dr Grant and Dr Gorman who attend regularly and Dr Doherty visits for dental work.

The children attend school in the Orphanage grounds. On leaving 8th grade the children are trained in the work for which they are most fitted. If they have the ability they may take a commercial course or continue their schooling at a secondary school. The Orphanage runs a laundry on a commercial basis and many of the girls in the Re-education Section work in the laundry. Others learn sewing and cooking and some typing and cooking.

A trained physical culture teacher visits the Orphanage regularly for physical training. The girls of St Euphrasia's section have a very excellent orchestra directed by one of the Sisters and taught by a visiting music teacher. They also have visiting teachers for dancing, dramatic art, cooking and hair dressing. In the auditorium the children have concerts and see films at regular intervals.

The Orphanage is spotless and the children look suitably clad and well nourished and well cared for.'

By 1970 St Aidan's had established self contained flats or units for junior section children in place of the old dormitories. More of the children were also 'going out' to school with what were described as excellent results. The number of children and young people in the institution had been reduced to approximately 100.

The early 1970s the Order was confronted with a dilemma. Originally established for the care of delinquent girls and homeless children, the Order found itself responsible for about 150 elderly women who had been involved with the Order's institutions for most of their lives, were usually intellectually disabled, becoming senile and totally independent on the Order for care in the absence of family, friends or other facilities.

During the early 1970's the Sisters ceased caring for delinquent girls but continued their involvement with children and intellectually disabled women.

In 1972 the senior section was renamed 'Maryfield' and the junior section was renamed 'St Aidan's Children's Centre'.

St Aidan's Children's Centre provided care for approximately 50 children aged 3 to 16, the majority of whom were wards of State. All of these children were accommodated in separate units in groups of ten children cared for by a Group Mother and a Group Assistant.

The school at St Aidan's was phased out in the early 1970s and all children attended local schools. St Aidan's continued its strong emphasis on education with many older girls going on to nursing at age 16 -17.

In 1974 St Aidan's developed the following plan in relation to child and family care.
- Restrict all admissions to the northern region of Victoria
- Establish an emergency care unit to provide accommodation for families in a crisis situation

2 St Euphrasia's was the senior 'Re-education' section of St Aidan's Orphanage
• Purchase a house in Bendigo to serve as a family group home employing cottage parents to care for the children
• Employ a social worker to provide supportive service for staff, assess suitable foster parents and work with families of children.

By 1977/78 St Aidan's had established five family group homes in the Bendigo area for 30 long term residential care children, aiming to normalise and deinstitutionalise the nature of residential care offered.

However, in June 1980 St Aidan’s advised the Department that it was terminating its involvement in residential child care in December 1981. A number of factors influenced this decision, including the increasing cost of providing care, staff recruitment difficulties and the fact that some of the children in long term care were reaching middle adolescence and needed alternative arrangements.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.

ST ANTHONY'S HOME
ST ANTHONY'S WELFARE (FAMILY) SERVICES - WESTERN SUBURBS

Location: 43 Wellington Street Kew
Auspice: Sisters of St Joseph

St Anthony’s was a Catholic institution under the control of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

It was originally established at Kew in 1921/22 to cope with the overflow of toddlers from the Order’s ‘Foundling Home’ in Broadmeadows.

Initially, the Home catered for boys and girls. Due to the lack of suitable accommodation for both sexes the home decided in 1943 to admit only boys aged three to six years.

When first inspected in 1942 by the Children’s Welfare Department, St Anthony’s was caring for 140 children, 57 of whom were wards. The home had its own nursery school, kindergarten and primary school.

In 1958 St Anthony’s purchased a residence next door to the existing congregate care facility and established a family group home for 8 children.

In the 1960’s the Home again changed its admission policy so that girls were accepted so long as they were part of a family whose boys were also in the Home’s care. The age range was also extended so that boys did not leave (usually for St Vincent’s Boys Home) until they were 10 years old.

By the late 1960s the capacity of the home had been reduced to around 70 children, with one group of eight living in the group home next to the grounds and the other children in groups of 15 to 19 children in the main complex.

In 1972 the Sisters of St Joseph introduced professional social workers (who were also Sisters of the order) to improve what was always considered by the Department to be a good standard of care in the Josephite Homes.

At the same time the Order began to view their child care services (St Anthony’s, St Joseph’s Broadmeadows and St Joseph’s Surrey Hills) as a whole.

By 1976 the Sister’s of St Joseph’s were providing:
• Child care ‘flats’ where a Sister could care for about eight boys and girls
• Family group homes where a married couple in a suburban home provided by the Order could care for four, five or six (usually sibling) children
• Adoption and fostering of babies (in conjunction with Catholic Family Welfare) and foster care and occasional adoption of older children (in conjunction with the Social Welfare Department)
• 24 hour emergency care of children in a ten bed unit called ‘Ten Ready Beds’ (in conjunction with the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau)

By 1976 the Order decided to move from the Wellington Street Kew site to focus more fully on child care needs in the western suburbs. The strategy was to work toward the prevention of family breakdown, but to also provide good quality residential care for children where breakdown was inevitable. Facility administration and family support was provided from offices in Commercial Road Footscray. The program had a distinctive feature in that it committed resources to a limited number of multi-problem families over an extended period of time. These families had been unable to use the existing welfare structures and required long term and intensive involvement.

Residential care was provided by St Anthony’s through four family group homes in the area. A form of ‘group foster care’ was provided by married couples in their own homes.
In addition, St Anthony's community based program provided support (family aides, volunteers etc) to families in the community. Agency staff also worked with families in St Anthony's drop in centre (also in Commercial Road Footscray) and provided emergency residential care for children and mothers of families involved with the St Anthony's program.

This service became part of MacKillop Family Services in July 1997.

Client Records
Historical and client records of St Anthony's Children's Home Kew and St Anthony's Family Services Footscray are accessed through the MacKillop Family Services Heritage and Information Service. (See MacKillop Family Services entry).

Sources and Further Reading
DHS Archive files
MacKillop Family Services historical material

ST AUGUSTINES BOYS HOME

Location: Valley Road Highton (Geelong)

Auspice: Christian Brothers

St Augustine's Orphanage was a Roman Catholic institution under the control and management of the Christian Brothers. It was initially established at Newton, Geelong in 1857 by the Friendly Brothers and taken over by the Christian Brothers in 1878. In 1859 the Sisters of Mercy assumed responsibility for the care of the girls at St Augustine's and proceeded to establish a new home for girls at Highton in 1862.

In 1939 St Augustine's transferred to a new purpose build facility at Highton, Geelong. When inspected by the Department in 1956, the Home consisted of a two story E shaped building containing seven dormitories (12 to 46 beds) on the first floor, an 'ablution block', and separate laundry, kitchen and dining room set in 300 acres of 'fair grazing land', which was farmed to support the Home.

At one stage, St Augustine's was the largest children's home in Victoria. During the Second World War, St Augustine's capacity peaked at approximately 350 Roman Catholic Boys aged between 9 and 16 years of age.

Education was provided on campus by the Christian Brothers. Boys not attending school received instruction in farming or worked in Geelong.

In the 1964 the home was renamed St Augustine's Boys Home.

By 1965 only three of the large dormitories were in operation - with these being progressively divided up into cubicles. In addition, smaller self contained residential facilities for younger boys were also being established on site.

During the 1970s the dormitories were extensively modernised to provide comfortable living areas, remodelled bathrooms and kitchenettes. The home's capacity had been progressively reduced so that by the early 1980s it accommodated between 75 - 80 boys.

At this time St Augustine's was catering for mostly non-wards from areas outside Geelong and district who were admitted directly from home or from Baltara. Children in need of care and protection and care and control were accommodated and many boys with behavioural and emotional disturbance were in the Home's care.

In the late 1970s concerns were expressed by the Department that the Home was still operating with a central dining room, laundry, kitchen for main meals, surgery and clothing store and that the Home's reduced capacity was still higher than recommended in the 1976 Inquiry into Child Care Services. Consistent with many other larger homes, St Augustine's was also experiencing financial difficulties.

In the early 1980s the Department of Community Welfare Services undertook a review of St Augustine's which concluded that the agency needed to develop a different and more appropriate range of services in relation to particular target populations.

The Christian Brothers had some concerns about aspects of this departmental review and the Brother's and the Department further and jointly reviewed the future of the agency.

In 1985 the joint Working Party recommended a change of agency focus to the needs of adolescents and families in the wider Geelong area. The agency was renamed 'St Augustine's Adolescent and Family Services'.

Following the closure of the facilities at Highton in 1988, St Augustine's Adolescent and family Services moved to Whittington, Geelong.

St Augustine's became part of MacKillop Family Services
Services in 1997.

Client Records
Historical and client records of St Augustine's are accessed through the MacKillop Family Services Heritage and Information Service. (See MacKillop Family Services entry).

Sources and Further Reading
DHS Archival Files
Review of St Augustine's Boys' Home (DCWS) 1982
St Augustine's Working Party Report (Christian Brothers' Order and DCS) 1985

ST CUTHBERT'S HOME FOR BOYS

Location: Colac

Auspice - Church of England - Diocese of Ballarat (Conducted by a Board of Management)

St Cuthbert's was established in 1948 in a large two story brick building overlooking Colac originally built in 1900. Although nominally a Church of England facility, the Home was operated by a Board of Management consisting of local citizens of Colac and district.

The Home was best suited to the care of boys who had no behavioural or physical problems. Boys slept in four small upstairs dormitories accommodating seven to eight beds.

In 1953 the Home's capacity was 36 boys although actual placements fell well short of this through the 1950s. The age range accommodated was 5 years to school leaving, and the Home accepted both wards and private admissions. All boys attended local State schools.

Despite constant representations to the Department for additional placements in the 1950s and early 1960s, St Cuthbert's was not extensively used by the Department to place wards. Wards without behavioural problems of school age could be placed closer to Melbourne and their families. In addition there were few boys in the care of the Department from the Western District.

However, the number of wards at St Cuthbert's did increase in the mid to late 1960s as state wide pressure was placed on Victoria's residential child care system.

During this time St Cuthbert's admission policy was changed to allow for the placement of girls.

In 1969 St Cuthbert's established a cottage home of the edge of the property to house older boys. This increased the Home's capacity to 48. In 1970 another section of the Home, previously used as accommodation for the Home's Principal-Supervisor was modified to become a family group home. An emergency care unit also operated on the campus bringing total capacity to 61.

Finding and retaining staff (particularly qualified staff) was a constant issue for St Cuthbert's. The gradual increase in capacity accentuated the problem.

In 1972 St Cuthbert's applied for funding to convert its existing congregate care facilities to family group homes. Departmental concerns regarding St Cuthbert's priority for 'conversion' funding in terms of the Colac area's need for additional residential child care beds were expressed at the time. Given this, two new cottages were opened in 1975.

In the mid 1970s the statewide policy shift from congregate care to small unit or family group care and the placement of children closer to their parents was being implemented by the Department.

For many years most of the children placed at St Cuthbert's had come from outside the Colac area. Placements dried up as more diverse care options were made available within other regions. The lack of continuing placements and an increasing shortfall between income and expenditure placed additional pressure on the agency.

Following investigation and review, St Cuthbert's Board and the Department concluded that it was not financially viable to replace the large, 'surplus-to-local needs' Colac complex with smaller scattered units in the same area and St Cuthbert's should be closed.

The Home was officially closed in December 1977. Children still resident at the time of closure St Cuthbert's were transferred to other children's homes, home released or placed in foster care or residential units established in regions closer to their families.

Two of the four family group homes previously operated by St Cuthbert's were purchased by Glastonbury Children's Homes in Geelong to maintain a continuing residential child care capacity for Colac and surrounds.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
ST GABRIEL'S BABIES HOME

Location: Balwyn
Auspice: Mission of St James and St John

The Mission of St James and St John opened the Arms of Jesus Babies' Home in East Melbourne in 1925. This was the first of a 'chain of children's homes' in which the Mission 'shall be responsible for the whole life of the child'. In 1933 the Arms of Jesus Babies' Home was sold to the Freemasons so that the Mission could establish a purpose built babies home elsewhere.

The St Gabriel's Babies Home Balwyn, complete with mothercraft training facilities, was officially opened in 1935. It had capacity for about 45 babies and toddlers, including wards and pre-adoptive placements. The home also accommodated some intellectually disabled children awaiting further placement by the Mental Health Authority.

In the 1960's the Mission commenced to change its operations from large congregate care institutions to smaller unit, closing some of its homes altogether.

In 1969 the Mission opened the 'Minna Johnson Cottage' for mothers and babies at St Gabriel's, a development consistent with the move to smaller cottage based facilities.

The growth of pre-adoptive fostering and the rising costs of training mothercraft nurses were the reasons for the closure and sale of St Gabriel's to the Mental Health Authority in 1975.

In 1974 a new 'Minna Johnson Cottage' was opened at 8 Wandeen Street North Balwyn to accommodate the children from the original St Gabriel's Minna Johnson Cottage.

Client Records
Enquires about the possibility of access to St Gabriel's Babies Home records should be made to:
The Operations Manager
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne 3003
Ph 9321 6133

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

ST JOHN'S HOMES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Location: Canterbury
Auspice: Anglican Church

The St John's Home for Boys was established by the amalgamation of St Martin's Home for Boys (Auburn) and St John's Evangelist Home for Boys in Canterbury under the same management committee in 1926. The Church of England provided the overall auspice. The home was named after a benefactor, John Hindson who had donated his Canterbury mansion 'Shrublands' to the Home.

St John's Home for Boys Canterbury provided accommodation for up to 75 boys aged 5 to 15 years, some of whom were State wards. In 1944 the home established the St Martin's Hostel on the Canterbury grounds for senior boys who would otherwise have had to leave at 15 years of age.

In 1949 St John's became an approved voluntary child migration organisation providing accommodation for migrant protestant boys aged 5 - 11 years from England. (See separate entry on Approved Voluntary Child Migration Organisations)

St John's had planned to convert from congregate care to self contained cottages as far back as 1955 but it was some time before the concept was actually introduced. A pilot 'cottage' was introduced at Sandringham in a house rented from the Ministering Children's League. Although this cottage accommodated 20 boys, it was a significant change from existing congregate care arrangements then operating in most children's homes. This cottage was known as 'St John's by the Sea'.

In 1955, St John's opened four flats in a new wing on the Canterbury campus but communal dining arrangements were retained.

St John's was declared an Approved Children's Home on 29 December 1955.

In 1956 St John's changed its admission policy to include girls so that siblings could be kept together.

In June 1959 St John's commenced construction of its first true cottage, a self contained home in its own grounds on the Canterbury site. In 1961 a second cottage was built, again for boys and girls, in Doncaster and two years later a third and fourth followed at Nunawading and in Rochester Road.
canterbury. Further family group homes were later established at Doncaster and Nunawading.

In 1963 St John's again changed its name, this time to St John's Home for Boys and Girls.

In the early 1960s the concept of preventive welfare was emerging in Victoria. In 1965, St John's opened the 'Family Welfare Clinic' which aimed at keeping families together in times of stress. The Clinic also supported the parents of children in St John's residential facilities.

Up until 1965 St John's focussed on caring for family groups of younger children and boys aged 10 years and over.

However, in 1968 St John's responded to the urgent need to provide residential care for problem adolescents by establishing two new hostels in conjunction with the Church of England Boys Society (Molloy House and Fernhurst). These were halfway houses for young people on Children's Court probation. The original 'Shrublands' mansion on the Canterbury campus was restored to serve as a hostel for fourteen working boys coming from the country to work.

In 1969 'Field House' was established at 53 Prospect Hill Road Camberwell to accommodate boys over 13 years with academic potential and in 1971 St John's opened Hindson House, a campus on the sea front at Portsea consisting of three self contained cottages each housing six children. In 1971 Wilson, Butler, Reynolds family group homes were also opened on the Canterbury campus. By this time St John's client base was mostly State wards.

In 1973 St John's CEO advised the Department that the agency would establish:

A community counselling service
A foster care service
A residential cottage service
A treatment service for more disturbed children.

The community-based preventive program, 'Care-Force', was established by St John's Homes in 1976. It was designed to provide a multi-service strategy to deliver an integrated range of services on a regional basis. The aim was to strengthen family functioning at the local community level and reduce the need for residential placement. St John's established two Care-Force teams, one in Preston for the north-eastern region and one in Canterbury to service the eastern region.

In 1978 St John's proposed the closure of Shrublands and its re-establishment in the Inner Urban region and the closure of Molloy House and its re-establishment in the Coburg/Brunswick area. The hostel at Surry Hills was to be transferred to the Outer Eastern Region. The family group home in Doncaster and Field Cottage were to be relocated to the North Western Region.

Facilities remaining in the Inner Eastern Regions were Birch and Read Cottages, Canterbury; Appleby Hostel, Mont Albert; St Martins Hostel, Canterbury (converted to a specialist hostel) and the three family units on the Balwyn Road, Canterbury campus. The three campus family group homes at Sorrento were to be phased out or relocated over three to five years depending on need in the area.

The old Shrubland building at Balwyn Road was converted to a 'Resource Unit' which provided casework, consultation and education services for St John's.

The Care-Force concept, originally established in February 1976 in the north-eastern region was expanded to adjacent regions. By 1979 there were four Care-Force teams.

In 1974 St John's moved back to residential (non-family group home) care for 'socially and emotionally disturbed' children using rostered staff to fill a perceived gap in available services.

In 1974 St John's and the Church of England Boys Society established a hostel in Reservoir for school age boys and 'George Hall Cottage' 10 Bell Street Box Hill in 1976.

St John's Home for Boys and Girls has amalgamated with the Mission of St James and St John and the Mission to the Street and Lanes to form Anglicare.

Client Records
Enquires about the possibility of access to early Mission of St James and St John records should be made to:

The Operations Manager
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne 3003
Ph 93216133

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
ST JOSEPH'S ORPHANAGE - CONVENT OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Location: Abbotsford

Auspice: Sisters of the Good Shepherd

St Joseph's or the 'orphanage section' of the Abbotsford Convent operated separately from the sections dealing with difficult older girls and grown women.

St Joseph's was one of Victoria's larger children's homes with a capacity of 100 - 120 girls in 1965. Overcrowding was an issue when numbers reached 120 girls. The girls' ages ranged from 3 to 17 years.

St Joseph's was accommodated in a corner of the convent grounds in one of the oldest buildings on the Abbotsford site. Children and adolescent girls slept in four main dormitories and there were about twelve single rooms for the oldest girls.

The home was run on boarding school lines with the children in St Joseph's attending the large school associated with the Convent.

In 1970 the Convent advised the Department that it was establishing family units for older girls resident in the Youth Training Section of the Convent. To do this, the number of girls being cared for at St Joseph's would be reduced. No further placement of girls under five would be accepted.

In 1971 the Convent closed St Joseph's completely. This was due to fact that the buildings did not lend themselves to the adaption necessary to meet residential child care standards and a shortage of staff. In addition, Abbotsford Convent felt it needed to respond to the increasingly acute needs of 'delinquent' girls and focus its resources accordingly.

Client Records
Historical and client records of the Good Shepherd Convents are accessed through the MacKillop Family Services Heritage and Information Service. (See MacKillop Family Services entry).

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Service archived files.

ST JOSEPH'S BABIES HOME

Location: Campbellfield Road Broadmeadows

Auspice: Sisters of St Joseph

St Joseph's Foundling Hospital was established in 1901 as a purpose built infant's home with accommodation for up to 300 babies. The home was built on a property of 300 acres and operated under the control of the Sister's of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. This Order also conducted children's homes in Kew (St Anthony's) and Surrey Hills (St Joseph's).

Following protracted negotiations in the early 1930s St Joseph's Foundling Hospital contracted with the State Government to accommodate and care for an additional 60 infant State wards in new buildings funded by the Government. At this time St Joseph's was already accommodating between 180 to 175 non wards at any one time.

St Joseph's was a very large institution providing residential care for children and accommodation for expectant mothers, mainly single girls. From 1931 St Joseph's also operated a mothercraft training school. In 1940, a Children's Welfare Department inspector noted that St Joseph's was accommodating 130 mothers and 260 children, of whom 73 were wards and 17 Infant Life Protection babies. On top of this, the Home ran a dairy herd of thirty cows, a piggery and a large poultry farm.

By 1956, Departmental inspectors noted that there were only six unmarried mothers and 120 children in the home. Staff recruitment difficulties, the increasing use of foster homes and the fact that parents were being dissuaded from placing their children in institutions were cited as the causes of the downturn in numbers. As a consequence, two of the Home's nurseries were closed.

In 1957 one of the two closed nurseries on the site was converted to a mother's quarters and a new block for unmarried mothers was constructed. Consequently, the number of unmarried mothers being accommodated increased to about 40.

By 1965 the Home was under some pressure due to the increasing numbers of children being referred for placement. It was the only Roman Catholic babies home of its type operating in Victoria. At the same time, the home was having to deal with an increasing number of
intellectually disabled and psychologically disturbed children for whom there were no suitable further placements available.

During the late 1960s the Home operated with four completely self-contained nurseries accommodating about 20 children. At the time accommodation was provided for a range of age groups in one nursery, rather than transferring a child between age specific nurseries. This allowed the child to remain in familiar surroundings for a longer period. The high standard of care at this Home was consistently commented on by the departmental professional staff. Mothercraft nurses in training provided a good deal of individual attention to the children in care.

In 1967 the name of the Home was change from the St Joseph's Foundling Hospital to 'St Joseph's Babies Home'.

The function and orientation of St Joseph changed in the late 1960s. Instead of being a place where young children were nurtured for an appreciable period following placement at the Home, the Sisters of St Joseph increasingly felt that young babies should not be cared for in large institutions. The ethos of the Order demanded that its primary responsibility was to the unmarried mothers it served.

By the early 1970s, the Home had two major functions, the care of unmarried mothers and the tending of babies for adoption. The vast majority of the 90 babies in care were awaiting adoption through the Catholic Church's approved adoption agency, the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau. The average stay for these children was only a matter of months, apart from a percentage who were unsuitable for adoption and needed alternative placements.

In 1972 the three children's homes administered by the Sister of St Joseph obtained the services of two Sisters who were also social workers. The Order began to make forward plans for its child care service as a whole by developing proposals to break up St Anthony's Kew into family group homes and establish a temporary care unit.

The future role of St Joseph's Babies Home was also carefully considered in the light of changing trends in child welfare, including the decreasing numbers of babies and toddlers needing longer term institutional care, the increasing need for temporary care for the same group, and the number of older State wards needing longer term care. Further, the cost of running a Mothercraft Training School had escalated dramatically as the trainees were now paid an award wage and, in any event, unmarried mothers needed help and support in keeping and caring for their own children.

Generally, the Order was seeking to close its large institutions and function more specifically and locally at Broadmeadows and Carlton. By the end of 1976, St Joseph's had moved from the old complex at Broadmeadows to establish the St Joseph's Babies Home Glenroy. St Joseph's became increasingly involved in foster care and maintained a small four bed residential unit, predominantly for babies awaiting adoption. It also undertook some counselling activity for single mothers. In 1985 St Joseph's established a small residential unit for single pregnant women at Loongana Avenue Glenroy.

St Joseph's became part of MacKillop Family Care in 1997

Client Records
Historical and client records of the St Joseph's Broadmeadows are accessed through the MacKillop Family Services Heritage and Information Service. (See MacKillop Family Services entry).

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

ST JOSEPH'S NURSERY
Location: Gellibrand Street Kew
Auspice: Sisters of St Joseph

Initially an annex of St Joseph's Carlton when this agency was undergoing renovations in 1959. St Joseph's Nursery was then retained to provide temporary care for twelve pre-school age children and subsequently declared an approved children's home. St Joseph's Nursery was situated at the rear of St Anthony's Kew

Source
Department of Human Services archived files

ST JOSEPH'S HOME (Nazareth Boys House)
Location: Grant Street Sebastopol
Auspice: Sisters of St Joseph

Established in 1888, St Joseph's Sebastopol catered for boys and nursery children from the Ballarat area who needed care and accommodation. This institution, under the
control and management of the Sisters of Nazareth, was situated about three miles from "Nazareth House" Ballarat, a 'sister house' run by the same Order. It was a farm home on 180 acres with a large dairy herd, a piggery and over 800 fowls.

The Home catered for Roman Catholic children of both sexes from infant to six years and boys only six years to sixteen years of age. The girls, upon reaching six years of age were transferred to Nazareth House.

In the late 1930s St Joseph's had accommodation for 140 children. The Home had a kindergarten and primary school on campus. Older children went to local Catholic secondary schools. About 10 older residents were employed at the home as 'farm boys'.

In 1961, the Home's name was changed from St Joseph's Home to 'Nazareth Boys House'.

There were extensive renovations in the 1950s however, accommodation still consisted of predominately large dormitories. By the early 1960s capacity had risen to about 170 children. Nazareth Boys House then comprised a new section for 70 babies and infants of both sexes under five and three large dormitories (further subdivided) for boys over five years. Capacity was reduced by about twenty when the subdivision of the dormitories was completed.

From 1973 Nazareth Boys House began admitting girls over five years of age. To reflect this change in intake policy, the name of the facility reverted to the original St Joseph's Home in 1975. A relatively high number of intellectually disabled children were also being admitted at this time.

By the mid 1970s concerns were being expressed about the relative isolation of Nazareth Boys House, its congregate care style of operation and the fact that most of the children accommodated were from Melbourne rather than the surrounding region. Rising costs were also an issue and referrals to the Home were in decline. By 1978 the home was only accommodating the minimum necessary (60 children) to remain financially viable.

Closure of the home was recommended by Departmental officers in 1978. However, the Sisters of St Joseph felt that the work could continue with a regional focus on socially deprived mildly physically and intellectually handicapped children.

Following local, political and community reaction to the recommendation to close the home the Department undertook a final round of discussions and consultations. This process aimed to reassess local, community and statewide residential care needs within the context of current child care policy directions. Nevertheless, the original recommendation stood and residential child care activity ceased at St Joseph's in December 1980.

Client Records

Historical and client records of the St Joseph's Sebastopol are accessed through the MacKillop Family Services Heritage and Information Service. (See MacKillop Family Services entry).

Sources and Further Reading

Department of Human Services archived files

ST JOSEPH'S HOME FOR CHILDREN - SURREY HILLS AND FLEMINGTON

Location: Cnr. Kent Road Surrey Hills

Auspice: The Sisters of St Joseph

St Joseph's Home for Children was established in South Melbourne in 1889 and moved to Kent Road, Surrey Hills (a 'large red brick gothic structure of convent like appearance') in 1893. The home was originally established by the St Vincent de Paul Society and transferred to the Sisters of St Joseph in 1890.

By the mid 1950s the Home catered for Roman Catholic boys from six to twelve years of age. Capacity in 1956 was 112 with children accommodated in large dormitories of 12 to 29 beds. About 50% of the boys at St Joseph's were State wards.

By the mid 1960s the capacity of the Home had been reduced to about 80 children and the age range had been changed to boys between 5 and 9 years. Exceptions were allowed to enable slow boys to continue schooling at St Joseph's own primary school after 9 years of age and to accommodate siblings younger than 5 years. At this stage a higher ratio of wards to private placements was evident due primarily to the introduction of foster care and adoption program at Catholic Family Welfare.

Accommodation had been reduced to four 17 beds dormitories by 1965. Children would only be accepted for private placement if there were referrals through the Catholic Family Welfare.
By 1969 St Joseph’s was accommodation both boys and girls within the age range 2 to 10 years for boys and 2 to 12 years for girls.

At this time accommodation arrangements had been consolidated as four self contained campus 10 bed units by the end of the 1960s. In addition, St Joseph’s established two family group homes near their main campus in Surrey Hills. A Temporary Care Unit was also introduced at this time.

In the early 1970s the three children’s homes controlled by the Sisters of St Joseph (St Joseph’s Broadmeadows, St Anthony’s Kew and St Joseph’s Surrey Hills) retained the services of two Sisters who were also social workers. They assisted the Order view its child care service as a whole and undertake more integrated planning of future service developments.

While each home retained a considerable degree of autonomy, they met together to overview all services offered, especially shared services such as the Temporary Care Unit.

The Temporary Care Unit (the old ‘Karingal’ Unit on the Surrey Hills Unit campus) had a separate goal from the broader child care scheme. Children were placed in this 10 bed unit to prevent a their family’s functioning deteriorating while professional social work support was provided to the family as a whole. Children aged 12 months to 12 years were referred to the Temporary Care Unit via the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau. The maximum length of stay was three months. The Catholic Family Welfare Bureau was also responsible for any further placement or action required with the family after the three months, including negotiating a further placement in a St Joseph’s facility if the case plan indicated this.

The Sisters of St Joseph’s continued to review their child care operations in the light of changing policy and practice, in particular the move away from congregate care to smaller regionalised residential care facilities.

In the mid 1970s St Joseph’s Surrey Hills established a service presence in the western suburbs, then considered a high need and low resource region.

By 1979/80 the Order acknowledged the unsuitability of the congregate care building and its location in a region oversupplied with residential child care facilities (Inner Eastern) and closed the Surrey Hills campus in 1981.

St Joseph’s extended its family group home program into the Inner Urban Region. The Order was already operating family group homes in the Inner Eastern Region and in the north western suburbs. The Temporary/Emergency Care Unit was also relocated from the Inner Eastern Region to the inner suburbs. Management and administration of St Joseph Homes for Children was consolidated at Flemington in 1981.

In 1991 the Christian Brother’s assumed auspice responsibility for St Joseph’s Flemington.

The service became part of MacKillop Family Services in 1997

Client Records
Historical and client records of the St Joseph’s Surrey Hills are accessed through the MacKillop Family Services Heritage and Information Service. (See MacKillop Family Services entry).

Resources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

ST LUKE’S TODDLERS’ HOME

Location: White Hills, Bendigo
Auspice: Mission of St James and St John

The first toddler’s home of the Mission of St James and St John was opened at Ferntree Gully in 1927. This home operated until 1932, at which time the Mission leased ‘Langley Hall’, the original residence of the Bishop of Bendigo situated some three miles from the centre of Bendigo. Even in the 1950s the buildings were described by Departmental Inspectors as large and old fashioned.

St Luke’s had a capacity 45 to 50 children aged 18 months to 5 years. The children were housed in three groups according to age. School aged children attended local schools and there was a kindergarten on campus.

In 1976 the Mission advised the Department that it was closing St Luke’s as a congregate care home and converting to family group homes. By the late 1970s St Luke’s comprised two units accommodating between six and seven children (mostly adolescents) in Bendigo and Eaglehawk. During this transition phase St Luke’s third family group home was transferred to the Western Suburbs.
In 1977 the Diocese of Bendigo had developed a proposal for the transfer of the auspice of the Bendigo based child care services of the Church of England from the Mission of St James and St John to the Diocese. In 1979 the St Luke’s Family Care Council of the Diocese of Bendigo was created to provide a multi-service agency for the development of a range of family support and substitute care programs.

By 1981 St Luke’s Family Care was operating two early adolescent units in Bendigo for children aged 10 to 16 years, a regional foster care program, a youth accommodation program, including a youth residential unit for eight young people (15 to 19 years), a youth community placement program and a kindergarten with the capacity to take children with special needs in small groups as a preventive program. (The kindergarten was subsequently closed and community kindergarten resources used)

In 1981, St Luke’s also assumed responsibility for two family group home previously run by St Aidan’s Children’s Centre Bendigo.

The agency now operates as St Luke’s Anglicare. The agency operates with 100 staff throughout the central and north western Victoria delivering a wide range of services including intensive family services, out-of-home care services, youth accommodation and support and residential care for children.

Client Records
Inquiries regarding the availability of client records should be made to St Luke’s Anglicare at their Bendigo office.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
St Luke’s Anglicare Website: www.stlukes.org.au

ST NICHOLAS’ HOME FOR BOY
Location: Glenroy
Auspice: Mission of St James and St John

This institution, under the control of the Church of England Mission of St James and St John was established in 1926 to accommodate Protestant boys between the ages of 6 and 14 years. The boys, including wards, were admitted to the St Nicholas’ Home by the Department or from St Luke’s Toddlers Home in Bendigo. It had a capacity of 50 beds.

The Mission of St James and St John also controlled St Agnes’ Home for Girls 6 - 14 years on an adjacent property. This allowed sibling groups to have some level of contact.

In 1956 the Mission advised the Department that it was establishing new child residential facilities in the Blackburn area and that St Nicholas’ would be closed and sold. Most of the wards accommodated at the time were transferred to St Paul’s Home, Newhaven.

Client Records
Enquires about the possibility of access to client files from St Nicholas’ Home for Boys should be made to:
The Operations Manager
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne 3003
Ph 9321 6133

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Billykids and ‘Home Kids’: The Story of the Mission of St James and St John, Joanne Monk and Gina O’Donoghue 1995

ST PAUL’S CHILDREN’S HOME
Location: Newhaven, Phillip Island
Auspice: Mission of St James and St John

Two homes operated at Newhaven on Phillip Island in the 1920s and 30s. One, the ‘Seaside Garden Home for Boys’, was originally established as a non-denominational home for ‘Unruly, Destitute and Truant Boys.

In 1934 this facility was handed to the Mission of St James and St John and became attached to an adjoining home, the ‘St Paul’s Training School for Boys’ which had been established by the Mission at Newhaven in 1928. The Seaside Garden Home was renamed St Barnabas. However, this part of the home (then the junior section) was closed in 1939 due to financial concerns.

In 1939 St Paul’s was described by the Children’s Welfare Department as follows:

"The institution has accommodation for 60 boys and the present policy of the management is to confine their work to boys (delinquent or otherwise) up to the age of 14 years. At the moment there are 45 boys of whom 15 are wards of the Department. In addition to conducting general farm work the school possesses two fine adjuncts not in existence in any similar institution, viz., a well equipped engineer’s shop and a fine carpentry shop where a reasonable course of
technical training is given to boys adapted therefore. The boys attend the adjacent State School which is in charge of Mr J Catron, a teacher who is keenly interested in the 'problem' cases and who has a very good influence over the boys.

By the early 1950s, the Mission realised that its approach to the care and control of difficult adolescents at St Paul's was 'old fashioned' and that the 'supply of delinquent boys for St. Paul's was 'drying up'. In 1956 the Mission of St James and St John advised the Department that as it was closing its St. Nicholas' Boys Home in Glenroy and building a new one, possibly in Blackburn.

As a temporary measure it advised the Department it would be transferring the St Nicholas's boys from Glenroy to St Paul's and the St Paul's boys back to the Department's receiving depot at Royal Park. St Paul's then operated as a congregate care home for about 50 non-delinquent protestant boys between 8 and 16 years of age.

In 1973 the Mission implemented the partial closure of St Pauls due to a significant drop in the number of children at the home - fifteen only in 1973. The reduction in numbers was due to the availability of vacancies at Andrew Kerr Home and the development of family group homes by the Mission in the Blackburn as well as the development of alternative services in other areas.

By 1979 St Pauls had ceased operation as a children' home and was re-established as the 'St Paul's Discovery Centre'. This project was funded by the Commonwealth Schools Commission and targeted socially disadvantaged children through a program to facilitate the making of new discoveries about oneself, about human relationships and about the interaction of man and the natural environment.

Client Records
Enquires about the possibility of access to client files from St Paul's Children's Home should be made to:
The Operations Manager
Anglicare
12 Batman Avenue
West Melbourne 3003
Ph 9321 6133

ST PAUL'S RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR BLIND CHILDREN

Location: 3 Fernhurst Grove Kew

Auspice: Villa Maria Society for the Blind

This establishment was opened in February 1957 as a residential school for blind and partially blind children of any (or no) religious denomination. The facility catered for both boys and girls in the 5 to 16 year age range. Its residential capacity was 31 children.

St Paul's was controlled by the Villa Maria Society for the Blind which also conducted two Hostels in Prahran where children, if necessary, were accommodated after they left St Paul's.

As this facility admitted wards from time to time, it was declared an Approved Children's Home pursuant to Section 14(1)(a) of the Children's Welfare Act 1958 in 1959 (i.e. a Category II Children's Home - caring for children who are physically or mentally handicapped, including wards).

St Paul's also operated two smaller residential units in Kew and Alphington which were designated approved children's homes.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

ST VINCENT DE PAUL'S GIRLS ORPHANAGE/CHILDREN'S HOME

Location: Napier Street South Melbourne

Auspice: Sisters of Mercy

The St Vincent de Paul's Girls Orphanage, originally provided accommodation for both girls and boys was established by Father Ward, President of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Prahran in 1854. The home transferred to Napier Street, South Melbourne in 1855 and the Sisters of Mercy assumed management responsibility in 1861.

In 1874 the boys were relocated to the nearby Christian Brothers Orphanage in South Melbourne.

In the late 1930s the Sisters of Mercy established a holiday home at Black Rock for the girls in St Vincent's care.
In the late 1950s St Vincent de Paul’s Girls Orphanage began to change its residential care method from congregate to small group care and established the Home’s first family group home at Black Rock in 1959. In 1962 the Home changed its name to ‘St Vincent de Paul’s Children’s Home’ as boys were once again being catered for.

By the late 1960s St Vincent de Paul Children’s Home had transferred its centre of operations to “Cooolock” in Black Rock and established a network of eleven family group homes in the southern suburbs. Each of the units held 9 children of both sexes from infancy to adolescence, supervised by lay child care staff.

In 1992 the service changed its name to St Vincent de Paul Child and Family Services and in 1997 the agency amalgamated with Mackillop Family Services.

**Client Records**

Historical and client records of the St Vincent’s Homes are accessed through the Mackillop Family Services Heritage and Information Service. (See Mackillop Family Services entry).

**Sources and Further Reading**

Department of Human Services archived files

**ST VINCENTS DE PAUL’S BOYS HOME**

**Location:** South Melbourne

**Auspice:** Christian Brothers

The St Vincent de Paul Orphanage at South Melbourne was opened in 1854 by Father Gerald Ward with the assistance of the Sisters of Mercy. The Home provided institutional care for boys and girls until 1867 when care for boys only commenced. In 1874 the Christian Brothers took over the running of the Home.

The St Vincent’s de Paul Boys Home file reflects the very limited role the Children’s Welfare Department had in relation to non-government children’s home before 1955. The first Departmental inspection report on the Children’s Welfare Department’s file is dated October 1935. The Inspector indicated that he “had made a note of any special features connected with the boys. Where no notes appear, everything is satisfactory and there is nothing to report”. Presumably, these notes were placed on individual ward files as they do not appear in the Central Administration file of the time.

From 1935 to 1955 there is only two documents on the file, both letters from St Vincent’s on minor matters. The next inspection report was not filed until 1956.

The Home’s capacity at this time was 150 beds. The Home admitted Roman Catholic boys aged 9 to 16 years. In 1955 over half its residents were wards of the Department.

More substantial inspections occurred in 1956, 58 and 59, with each ward in care seen and ward files updated.

During the first of these inspections the buildings were described as being ‘set on a small block, built on the square around an asphalt courtyard, appear impressive from the outside, but generally need modernising. There is no possibility of developing and cottage system on the present site’. The home had ‘a small number of larger dormitories, ranging from approximately 20 beds up to 40 beds. Furnishing consists of an iron bed, a chair for older boys and a dresser for each boy’.

In 1967 the home name was changed from St Vincent de Paul’s Boys Home to St Vincent’s Boys Home.

By 1968 the home had refitted its internal school premises, introduced uniforms for those in the school, improved its system of records for children and began a process of breaking up its large dormitories into small units, each of which had indoor play space and a library attached. A ‘behaviour modification program’ was introduced help boys described as ‘emotionally disturbed’, ‘uncontrollable’ and ‘un-socialised’.

By the late 1970s, the number of boys placed at St Vincent’s had declined substantially because of the closure of the Nazareth boys homes, two major sources of referral to St Vincent’s. In addition, departmental regionalisation, better case planning and stronger foster care programs reduced the number of children requiring institutional care.

By 1983 St Vincent’s was accommodating about 60 boys in six self contained units. Sibling groups were kept together and each unit had a child care worker in charge. About a third of the boys were educated on campus in St Vincent’s Special School, the remainder in local State and Catholic schools. A wide range of social and sporting activities were offered both within the Home and through external programs.

Christian Brothers’ Child, Youth and Family Services assumed the auspice for St Vincent’s...

In 1997/98 and 1998/99 St Vincent's Boys Home was redeveloped as part of the Transitional Integrated Education Residential Services Project. The existing service was replaced by specialised residential units in Southern and Northern Metropolitan Regions.

Client Records
Historical and client records of the St Vincent's Homes are accessed through the MacKillop Family Services Heritage and Information Service. (See MacKillop Family Services entry)

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files

SUNSHINE BOYS' HOSTEL
Location: 129 Durham Road Sunshine
Auspice: Social Welfare Department

This hostel was opened by the Department in 1959 to cater for wards who were not acceptable for placement at or had been rejected by existing hostels then conducted by non-government organisations. As with most Departmental residential care initiatives at this time, a primary reason for its development was the need to relieve pressure on Turana.

On establishment the hostel accommodated 15 male wards of working age. This was reduced to 12 beds in 1961 to help build a more family atmosphere.

The Sunshine Boys Hostel (and subsequently another hostel at Ivanhoe) provided residential and community based programs for young people requiring a high degree of attention and support. (See separate entry on Youth Hostels)

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Departmental Annual Reports 1960 >

SUTHERLAND HOMES FOR CHILDREN
Location: Yan Yeon Road, Diamond Creek
Auspice: Committee of Management

In 1908, Selena Sutherland, a pioneer in child rescue in Victoria, moved on from the Victorian Society for Neglected Children. Previous employees of the Society's Parkville Children's Home and other supporters of Miss Sutherland formed the 'Sutherland Committee' to continue work with neglected and destitute children. They initially used LaTrobe Street premises tenanted by Ms Sutherland to establish their own receiving home until a new home could be established. (Miss Sutherland died in 1909).

In 1912, the new Sutherland Homes for Neglected Children's 'receiving home and offices' were opened at 28 Drummond St Carlton. Children from Drummond Street were also placed at Diamond Creek (the 'Country Home') where 40 acres of attractive grazing land in the Greensborough/Diamond creek area had been donated by a benefactor with an interest in Miss Sutherland's work.

In 1929 a new congregate care facility was established on the Diamond Valley site. The Home was described as 'a large Spanish Mission Style building containing a central administrative block.. with two dining rooms and staff quarters.. and dormitories and nurseries on either side, surrounded by sleeping verandahs'. As was common with many of the large rural children's homes at the time, Sutherland Homes ran a diary herd and piggery and maintained a large vegetable garden to reduce food costs.

The Diamond Creek Home was non-denominational and with a capacity of 56 boys and girls aged 6 to 14 years. Children were either privately placed, or increasingly over the years, wards on referral from the Social Welfare Department.

Boys and girls (including siblings) slept in separate dormitories. The Home initially had its own school but this was sold to the education department for use as a district school.

By the late 1950s, the Sutherland Homes Committee of Management had developed a plan to phase out their congregate care buildings in favour of family group homes.

The Drummond Street Home continued to be used as a receiving and residential home for
some time, and then as an administration centre until it was sold in 1957, in part to fund the family group home development.

In 1958, Sutherland Homes opened two new family group homes at Diamond Creek. A third small cottage was also available on campus. By 1962 Sutherland Homes had constructed a further two cottages and another two were planned for 1964. The residential work in these campus cottages was augmented by the development of a new 'composite block' containing a kitchen, community dining room for main meals, and a general assembly and recreation hall. (By the 1970s all meals were being eaten in the cottages).

Following renovations and redecoration, the original main building was maintained as dormitory accommodation for 15 boys. It was then used for other purposes, including a Youth Hostel providing 'half way house' accommodation for young people preparing to leave Sutherland for independent living.

Nancy Groll, in her book 'The Sutherland Story' identifies a number the issues and development's which impacted on the Sutherland Homes in the 1970s. These included:

- the trend toward family support and foster care instead of the provision of residential care;
- the regionalisation of the delivery of services;
- the increasing number of disturbed children requiring care, including difficult to handle teenagers;
- the impact of policies to return children to the care of their parents as soon as possible.

In response Sutherland Homes

- improved their selection, assessment and case planning procedures to facilitate a child's return to the family;
- involved the children in the day to day running of the home;
- increased the children's level of involvement in the community and closed the on-campus school 'Melgin'.

Sutherland undertook a major review of their services in 1984 which recommended the consolidation, continuation and implementation of child care and related family support services. Sutherland began to develop a multi-service focus within a clearly defined locality. Services included a shop front Resource Centre; the Diamond Valley Youth Hostel and a Community Accommodation and Support Scheme. Sutherland also operated an emergency care unit in Preston called 'AMAROO'.

In 1992 the organisation changed its name to Sutherland Child, Youth and Family Services and included foster care within its service repertoire.

Sutherland Child, Youth and Family Services merged with Berry Street Inc in 1994.

Client Records

Berry Street Victoria administers a ‘Adoption and Heritage’ program and holds many records from most of its predecessor organisations, including Sutherland Homes.

Information held includes:

- Adoption records since 1975
- Admission forms and registers
- 'Boarding out' information
- Placement records
- Medical records
- Vietnamese War Orphan records (1975)
- Children of God (and Sutherland) records
- Children’s photographs from Berry Street and Sutherland
- Case files
- Policy and administration files

Berry Street’s policy is to make available to ex-clients all information concerning themselves, although storage and accessibility issues are currently a concern. Berry Street Victoria is considering the establishment of a comprehensive Heritage Service which index and locate include all past adoption and placement records and past and current client records in one central site.

People seeking records from Berry Street Victoria should contact

Adoptions Information Worker
Berry Street Victoria
PO Box 279
East Melbourne 3002
Ph 9429 9268

Sources and Further Reading

Department of Human Services archival files.
The Sutherland Story - A Century of Caring for Children; Nancy Groll.
SUTTON GRANGE CHILDREN'S HOME
Location: Tanti Avenue, Mornington
Auspice: Victorian Government (Department)

This Children's Home was established in 1957 by the Children's Welfare Department in the grounds of the old Police College Building 'Sutton Grange' at Mornington. The Home was initially set up as a response to serious overcrowding at Turana. Apart from Turana, Sutton Grange was the first children's home established by the Department following the introduction of the Children's Welfare Act 1954.

Once established, the Home accommodated deprived and disturbed children (all wards) in family groups of brothers and sisters. By 1962 it was catering for 30 children - girls from 4 to 17 and boys from 4 to 8 years of age. These children attended local schools.

Sutton Grange was closed in September 1977, principally because the buildings had deteriorated to a dangerous condition and because it was then considered to be inappropriately located to service the needs of the children, being too far away from their home environment.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Information
Department of Human Services archived files
Departmental Annual Reports 1958 - 1978

SWINBORN LODGE
Location: South Yarra
Auspice: Community Welfare Foundation

In 1885, Sarah Swinborn established the Elizabeth Fry Retreat as a non-denominational rescue home for women who had just been released from prison or who needed physical or emotional care.

The Melbourne City Mission took over the administration of the Elizabeth Fry Retreat in 1944. The Retreat was maintained as a 'home for wayward girls', retaining its commercial laundry operations to provide employment for the girls. Many were State wards referred by the Children's Welfare Department.

During the late 1950s, the Children's Welfare Department ceased referring girls to Elizabeth Fry Retreat using instead its own new facility for difficult girls, Winlaton in Nunawading.

The Mission took this opportunity to change the focus of Elizabeth Fry Retreat, renaming it Swinborn Lodge. The Mission cut down the laundry operations and focused its work on the emerging needs of vulnerable young women in the 1950s and 60s.

By the 1960s and early 1970s Swinborn Lodge was providing hostel accommodation for acting out or disturbed teenage girls who were not able to live at home. It also provided treatment facilities for girls in care through a community based treatment program.

Girls were referred by the Youth Welfare and Female Probation and Parole Divisions of the Social Welfare Department, policewomen, the Children's Court and other agencies. The centre also provided emergency accommodation for girls who were not Wards of State.

In 1972 the Community Welfare Foundation (the new name of the Melbourne City Mission) proposed a new focus and new location for the hostel. The Mission's old central office in Carlton was modified and the new hostel opened in 1974. Swinborn Lodge now functioned as a 'specialist hostel' providing professional residential and support services for wards and probationers with quite serious personal or social challenges. In 1979, the facility's name was changed to 'Swinborn' and the term 'Lodge' dropped.

By the early 1980s, the Mission (the agency had reverted to its original name) was exploring ways to reduce the number of young people placed at Swinborn and a supported community placement scheme was introduced. Concerns were also being expressed about the size of Swinborn and its high maintenance costs. Due to these issues and other pressures, Swinborn's residential and community placement programs were closed in 1986.

Some Swinborn staff and functions were transferred to a new emergency accommodation and housing service called 'Stopover' being established by the Mission in Carlton.

Client Records
The Melbourne City Mission's Archive Policy requires that client records for all programs and
kept for seven years. Archived files are held at the Mission's head office in King Street Melbourne. Adoption and foster care records of children placed through Hartnett House from 1900 to the 1950s have been lodged with the Department of Human Service's Archives.

The Mission's client files are available to be read by clients themselves on request. Any person, other than the client themselves, seeking access to client records are required to lodge a freedom of information application. Clients seeking information or early adoption/fostering records are referred to the Department of Human Services, Northern Region.

Clients seeking access to earlier archived records should contact:
Melbourne City Mission
19 King Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
Ph 8626 4444

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files.
Going Forward in Faith: A History of Melbourne City Mission.
Catherine Waterhouse. 1999
Melbourne City Mission: Community of Services Information Pamphlet.

TALLY HO BOYS VILLAGE
Location: Burwood East
Auspice: Wesley Central Mission

In 1903 the Central Methodist Mission purchased 39 acres of land in Burwood East for the establishment of a 'training farm' for boys coming into the Mission's care via the courts. The Farm also accepted private placements from parents concerned about the current or prospective behaviour of hard to manage or truant boys.

The Farm was established as a congregate care facility with large dormitories. One farm Superintendent was advocating a move to cottages as early as 1934 and one cottage was erected in 1939.

Following the Second World War, the Mission moved to create a cottage based system to replace the original dormitory accommodation. The new 'boys village' was to be known as 'Tally Ho'. Whilst the training farm concept still predominated seven cottages were located at various points on the land adjoining Highbury Road.

By 1935, over 70% of the boys at Tally Ho were State wards of about 14 years of age. Increasingly boys were admitted because of parental neglect rather than offending behaviour although the voluntary admission of boys by parents experiencing family problems continued.

In 1957, a new Superintendent decided that the Home should focus on 'increasingly difficult offenders referred from the Turana Youth Reception Centre. These boys stayed for shorter periods than their predecessors, undertaking 'intensive period of treatment with return to families being the long-term goal'.

In order to accomplish this Tally Ho began to move away from the 'training farm' concept toward a more therapeutic and family oriented program of care and development. The therapeutic program was based on the evaluation of the individual young persons needs, family and social environment and future rehabilitative planning requirements.

During the 1970-75 Tally Ho introduced professionally trained and qualified staff. At the same time psychological testing of the children in care, intensive professional counselling and case work guidance to child care staff were introduced as was an activities and social development program.

In 1975 William Glasser's Reality Therapy was introduced to Tally Ho. This involved intensive case planning and advanced case reviews conducted on a weekly basis. Psychological and education testing was systematised and linked to a computerised system. Intensive staff training was introduced and the educational program reviewed.

At this time the number of children in each cottage was reduced to six.

Tally Ho's program was further enhanced following a consultation process in 1977. Staff restructuring, an ongoing commitment to reality therapy, the admission of females to the program and the greater involvement of children in the local community were outcomes. In addition Tally Ho moved to establish off-campus units and reduce campus based services in favour of a more total community service program. Tally Ho provided a multi-regional specialist service and operated as a 'Therapeutic Community for Child Care' in the outer eastern region.

By the late 1970s Tally Ho was
• caring for approximately 50-60 children and young people of both sexes.
• operating as a State wide specialist
facility catering for difficult and disturbed adolescents with 10 family group homes both on and off campus.

• operating a campus based school for about half of the children and young people in care with the remainder suitable to attend external schools.

• predominantly used William Glasser's 'reality therapy' approach in it child care practice

In 1983 Tally Ho Village established two early adolescent transition care units in response to the high priority need for this sort of placement in the inner urban region.

By 1984 Wesley Central Mission advised the Department that it wished to close its Glen Waverley operation because of a perceived oversupply of residential care in Victoria, the 'inappropriateness' of congregate campus based care and cost issues.

In 1984 the Mission and the Minister for Community Welfare Services agreed that Tally Ho would close after June 1986 to allow adequate planning time for the development of new community based services to meet the needs of the group already being serviced by Tally Ho.

The Mission is still actively involved in work with young people. 'Wesley 1-2-1' provides youth refuge accommodation for up to six young people aged between 15 and 20 years of age who are in crisis. 'Wesley Youth Services' provide youth support, adolescent community placement services and youth residential services in the Eastern and Southern regions of Melbourne.

Client Records
Wesley Mission Melbourne has developed an archives policy administered by a Archives Section. Certain access conditions apply, depending on the nature of the records being sought and the particular interests of the persons making the application.

Wesley Mission Melbourne archival holdings cover the Tally Ho Boys Training Farm. The Missions archives are open by appointment. The Mission's Archivist is available weekdays (except Tuesday) between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm. Requests for access to archival material must be made to:

Wesley Mission Archives
148 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne 3000
Victoria
Ph 9662 2355

Fees and charges do apply in some instances, particularly enquiries related to genealogical and other research.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services Archives
From "Towards a Therapeutic Community' Wesley Centre Mission 1979.
Archival index cards provided by the Wesley Mission Archivist Gabrielle Wolski.

THE GABLES

Location: 101 Princes Street Kew

Auspice: Social Welfare Department

"The Gables" was a solid brick, two story Edwardian residence initially built as a private home. Prior to transfer to the Social Welfare Department the building had been used as nurses' quarters for the Kew Mental Hospital and as a residence for the Chairman of the Mental Health Authority. It opened as a Departmental Children's Home in December 1962.

The home was established to accommodate 25 children, all wards (boys approximately 4 - 10 years and girls 4 - 14 years). The children were generally emotionally disturbed, difficult to handle or handicapped children.

Initially all children were accommodated in dormitories on the first floor of the Home. In 1965 alterations were made so that the children were accommodated in three fairly self contained units, one upstairs and two downstairs in the main building and in a cottage at the rear of the main building. At the same time the Home's rostered child care workers were replaced with cottage mothers.

This home was closed by the in the mid 1980s as part of the Department's rationalisation of residential child care resources.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources
Department of Human Services archived files and Annual Reports
THE GORDON HOMES

Location: Hightett

Auspice: Committee of Management

The Gordon Home for Boys and Girls Hightett, began as the 'Gordon Institution' in Bowen Street Melbourne for 'the training of friendless and struggling boys'. The Institution was established in memory of General Charles George Gordon who died in the Sudan in 1885.

Boys were referred to the Institution by the police, the Courts for they came from broken and poor homes. The Institution provided accommodation, 'classes of instruction and evening games' and found homes and farm employment in the country for boys.

Following lobbying from the Gordon Institute (as it became known) and other agencies, the States first Children's Court was established in the Gordon Institute building in 1908.

In 1942 the Bowen Street building was commandeered by the Chief Secretary's Office for war related training of service personnel and the boys were transferred to Burwood Boys Home until new premises could be found.

A new site was located on the Nepean Highway at Hightett. The new buildings consisted of two 24 bed 'cottages' with staff accommodation, a separate kitchen and dining room and a assembly hall/gymnasium. There was also a separate laundry and stores building. The 'Gordon Institute for Boys' Hightett commenced operation with the transfer of the boys from Burwood in February 1951.

In 1962 an existing house in Rowan's Road adjoining the home was bought and converted to a working boys hostel.

By the 1960s the Home was known informally as The Gordon Boys Home or the Gordon Homes. The Home tended to provide longer term care for boys.

In the late 1968 the Home's committee of management decided to move from congregate to family group home care, commencing with a pilot cottage 'Neil House' on a property adjoining the main Home. This family group home also accommodated girls, the first step in the committee of management's recently developed policy to keep siblings together.

Additional family group homes followed and in 1969 the Home became 'The Gordon Homes for Boys and Girls'. The original site was subdivided and sold to fund these developments, although an administrative building and 'Langdon House' were retained on the Nepean Highway.

During the 1970s, children placed at The Gordon Homes were older and stayed for shorter periods. This was due to the general introduction of foster care for wards and the use of counselling and support services both by the Department and Gordon staff to speed the return of children to their families.

Other initiatives were introduced in the 1970s and 1980s. These included a short term/emergency facility in Langdon House and a Family Strengthening Program which provided short term accommodation for children as the agency worked with the parents. (This was later transferred to Southern Foster Care).

A second emergency facility for younger children was opened at Neil House in 1986. Gordon Homes also operated a reception group home in Dingly.

During the 1990s, the Gordon Homes commenced an independent living skills program for adolescents and a Family Reunification Program based on a supported residential capacity to enable a family to live together whilst differences were worked through. In the late 1990s two short term emergency care units were opened at Cranbourne as part of a response to the developing needs of families in the Westernport region. In addition the function of Langdon House was again changed and it was reopened as a Contingency Reception Unit specifically for sibling groups. Two 'Children's Contact (Handover) Services' were also established by Gordon Homes in 1999/2000. These provided facilitated and supervised handover/contact for children of divorced parents in dispute of access issues.

Client Records

Very early client files and registers from the Gordon Institute are held at the State Library of Victoria. Permission must be obtained from The Gordon Homes to access these records.

Initial inquiries should be directed to:

The Executive Officer
The Gordon Homes
1125 Nepean Highway
Hightett 3190
Ph 9555 1439

Sources and Further Reading

THE HARBOUR

Location: West Brunswick
Auspice: Salvation Army

The Harbour was established by the Salvation Army as an Industrial Home in 1887 'to provide for post school age girls and women who were either wilful or dependent'. Its main industry was a commercial grade laundry. The facility also took in younger girls in need of care and protection.

The Harbour changed its name to 'Hillview House' in the mid 1960s. The laundry ceased to function and Hillview House geared its services to the needs of teenage girls. The program focussed on skill building and support, through the hostel complex and associated community based flats. The aim was to prepare girls for independent living. The service was closed in 1994.

Client Records
Contact
Salvation Army Heritage Centre
69 Bourke Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9650 4851

Sources and Further Reading
Salvation Army archive material

THE HAVEN HOSTEL, BABIES AND TODDLERS HOME

Location: 76 Alfred Crescent North Fitzroy
Auspice: Salvation Army

The Salvation Army established The Haven as a 'Foundling Home and Refuge' in a substantial private residence in Alfred Crescent Fitzroy in 1897. The private home was modified to provide dormitories, a maternity hospital and a nursery. The Haven was then utilised as a maternity home for young mothers who were sent there from all over the State.

In 1932 a two story hospital and nursing home was erected on the Alfred Crescent site to accommodate infants and toddlers. The Haven operated as a hostel for unmarried mothers, and as a hospital and home for babies and toddlers until the mid 1970s.

When first inspected by the Department in 1938, The Haven was accommodating 56 mothers (22 expecting their baby and 34 with young infants), and an additional 22 infants who were wards of State and 20 infants under Infant Life Protection provisions of the Children's Welfare Act 1928.

Even at this stage the Department was concerned at the level of congestion on the site, staffing issues and the adequacy of the buildings.

The inadequacy of the buildings and staffing and funding issues continued to be of concern to both the Salvation Army and the Department for some years. A lack of resources meant that radical changes could not be made until the late 1960s.

The hospital section of The Haven was closed in 1967. Expectant mothers were then taken to the Royal Women's Hospital for their confinements.

In 1971 a new Babies Home was opened at the rear of the older buildings. This consisted of a wing with a reception area, lounge, office for the Sister in Charge and a room for new born babies awaiting adoption and babies up to six months. Another wing comprised four units each for five children.

At this time the Haven Hostel, Babies and Toddlers home had accommodation for a maximum of 31 babies and toddlers from birth to three years. The Hostel section was still catering for unmarried mothers whose babies were delivered at the Royal Women's Hospital, although the numbers so accommodated had consistently decreased over the previous few years.

In late 1972 the Salvation Army canvassed a change of function for The Haven from 'residential' to 'day care' due to the spiralling cost in running The Haven as a residential babies home.

In May 1973 the Salvation Army advised the Department that it would be closing the babies home in June and establishing a day care centre in its place.

In 1975 the function of the 'The Haven Centre' was further changed. Until its final closure in 1988, it operated as a hostel for mildly intellectually disabled girls who needed supportive help and care.

Client Records
Contact
Salvation Army Heritage Centre
69 Bourke Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9650 4851
TURANA

Location: Parkville

Auspice: Social Welfare Department

Turana, the only establishment directly managed by the Department until the mid 1950s was formerly known as the Children's Welfare Department's Receiving Depot for Boys and Girls. The name 'Turana' (Aboriginal for 'Rainbow') was selected in 1954 by the wife of the Chief Secretary of the time.

As a remand, reception and transit depot Turana was required to accommodate all types of children, both sexes and all ages from a few days old to 18 or 19 years of age. The weekly average number of children at Turana during 1955 was 204, considered at the time to be severe overcrowding. These children and young people could be both delinquent or non-delinquent, unsettled or disturbed or children caught up with family breakdown.

The treatment, classification and segregation needs of such a dispirit range of children and young people meant that Turana was a highly structured institution with rostered staff and clear procedures to receive, assess and house children 24 hours a day. Serious overcrowding often occurred at Turana as suitable placements for children were hard to find. Special groups such as babies and pre-school children, children in family groups, and acting out school age boys not acceptable to the existing non-government homes were particularly hard to place. Similar problems existed for physically handicapped and seriously disturbed children.

In 1954 'cottage groups' were formed in Turana for some handicapped and very disturbed children. These were to become the precursor to the Department's own family group home program.

By 1957 Turana had 14 separate Sections and a capacity of 265 children and young people. Overcrowding continued and it was not unusual for over 300 children could be held at Turana from time to time. This meant a throughput of over 3000 children and young people a year.

From 1955 to 1960, the Department opened a number of separate children's homes (congregate care and family group), hostels and juvenile justice facilities to relieve the pressure on Turana. Winlaton, Sutton Grange and Hillside children's homes, the Sunshine Youth Hostel as well as the Department's developing family group home program were all a result of the need to reduce numbers at Turana. These new facilities provided options for children who were not suitable for placement in existing non-government children's homes.

In 1960 Pirra Children's Home for girls was established at Lara to relieve pressure on Winlaton and the Kildonan Children's Home was purchased, renamed 'Allambie' and converted for use as the departmental reception centre for younger children.

In 1961/62 a temporary remand facility for boys between 14 and 17 was established in Parkside on the Turana grounds, followed by a permanent remand facility.

By 1961 Turana had established a formal classification committee to initially assess, place and review the progress of trainees. This allowed for the better use of existing Turana Sections as well as the resources of the two non-government youth training centres, Bayswater and Morning Star.

The remodelling of an existing building into a new Classification Centre with accommodation for 70 boys was completed in 1965. The Centre was designed to separate boys from 14 to 16 years from young men 17 to 20 years of age.

During the 1960s Turana housed the Family Welfare Division's Receiving Centre (Billabong) and Classification Centre (Parkside) for Boys aged 10 to 14 years. These two sections provided care for up to 64 boys. A new and administratively separate reception centre (Baltara) was opened on 1968.

Turana continued to professionalize and develop its program and services during the 1970s. By 1979 the Turana's Remand, Assessment and Classification areas consisted of three security sections holding about 100 boys. The Training Centre comprised three security and to open sections holding 80 to 100 boys. Turana provided education programs covering a range of remedial requirements as well as survival skills. The Centre also had trade workshops for boys.

In 1985 the redevelopment of all state wide youth and child welfare facilities, including Winlaton, was begun. The Department aimed to reduce the size and functions of central institutions by promoting effective community based alternatives. Services for pre-adolescent and adolescent wards and offenders held in
Turana, Winlaton and Baltara were the focus of early stages of the redevelopment. These institutions continued to operate in the short term, but as youth training centres solely for the purpose of providing appropriate programs for young people sentenced to detention.

A major redevelopment project to improve accommodation and program facilities at Turana commenced in 1992. This involved the construction of four new accommodation units, new program and recreational facilities and a new secure perimeter fence.

In 1993/94 this new facility was opened as the Melbourne Juvenile Justice Centre.

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Departmental Annual Reports 1950-2000

TWEDDLE BABIES HOSPITAL

Location: Footscray

Auspice: Committee of Management

Tweddle Babies Hospital was initially established in 1923 and managed by a Voluntary Governing Council consisting of 24 independent members.

A new single story brick hospital building was completed in 1960. The new facility accommodated up to 32 children. As some wards were accommodated Tweddle was classified as a Category 2 Children's Home.

By 1965 it consisted of three sections:
- A mother's wing accommodating eight mothers and their babies
- A nursery wing accommodating twenty-four babies requiring specialised care, dietetic or post operative care
- Accommodation for nursing and domestic staff in a separate block across the street from the main building.

In addition to providing care for mothers and babies, Tweddle provided specialised care for babies and toddlers with dietary or emotional problems or awaiting foster care or adoption. It also provided short term care for babies and toddlers whilst parents were on holidays or where mother was ill or hospitalised.

The Hospital operated as a training school for infant welfare and mothercraft students. It had a capacity for 12 infant welfare and 24 mothercraft students. These functions have now been assumed by the tertiary education sector.

Tweddle currently operates as a child and family health service in the Western Region.

Client Records
Inquiries regarding client records should be made to:
Tweddle Child and Family Health Service
53 Adelaide Street
Footscray 3011
Ph 9689 1577

Source
Department of Human Services archived files

SWINBURNE HOUSE

Location: Leonard Street Parkville

Auspice: Committee of the Victorian Children's Aid Society

Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society

The Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society was initially established in 1893 by Miss Selena Sutherland to rescue destitute and neglected children in Melbourne. (See separate entry Sutherland Children's Home). The Society opened receiving centres in Latrobe Street, Melbourne and in Brighton at the turn of the century.

By the early 1900s the Society recognised the need for a longer term facility to care for some of the children rescued. 'Parkville House' (Ayr Cottage) was purchased by the Society in 1902 and operated as a non-denominational Home caring for children of both sexes.

The first Departmental inspection report on file (1938) describes the 'Victorian Aid Home for Children' as a 'two story brick building in good repair suitably laid out for this purpose'. Capacity was 55 children but on that inspection 66 were in residence, including nine wards. The Home had a school and kindergarten on the Leonard Street site although older children attended external schools.

However by the late 1940s departmental inspectors were expressing concern about the inappropriateness of the buildings for a children's home, the lack of play space and overcrowding. The situation improved in the
mid 1950s with a reduction in capacity to about 43, including wards in varying numbers.

In 1955 the Home was providing for boys and girls aged 4 to 14 years. It was described as one of the few institutions in the State which would accommodate children requiring regular medical attention during convalescence.

In 1957 the Home was renamed Swinburne Lodge and became the service delivery centre for the ‘Victorian Children’s Aid Society’

In late 1966 the Victorian Children’s Aid Society sold Swinburne Lodge to Melbourne University and purchased ‘Somers House’ in Beach Road Black Rock from the Country Women’s Association.

Officially opened in March 1968, the new facility continued the Society’s policy of operating a relatively small children’s home for ‘deprived children’. Capacity was set at 34 children from 3 to 18 years of age. Twelve children were accommodated in a small cottage already on the site and the remainder in an old but sound weatherboard building and a new purpose built residential wing. The new facility was also known as Swinburne House.

In 1973 the Society commenced a program of expansion into family group homes with the purchase of a property in Bentleigh East. A second home was established in Parkdale in 1974. At the same time the congregate care facilities at Black Rock began to be phased out.

In 1979 the Society advised the Minister for Community Welfare Services that it intended to sell Swinburne House, establish further family group homes for the children in care at Swinburne House, commence a foster care program and extend its family counselling and family support services. An additional family group home was established by the Society in the Southern region for four children requiring placement after the closure of St Joseph’s Surrey Hills.

The Society established the ‘Alan Marshall Centre’ for Disabled Children and Adolescents at 6 Seaview Crescent Black Rock in 1987 in response to the needs of children who were both disadvantaged and handicapped. This carried on work which had commenced at Swinburne House.

The Norman Craig Lodge (Hostel) for early adolescents also operated from the Black Rock campus.

Although plans had been made to sell Swinburne House, it continued to play a role in the Society’s child and family care program. By 1981 it was providing a statewide service for children needing placement, including physically and intellectually disabled children where other alternatives were not available. It also provided a back-up placement option for the Society’s foster care program.

The Victorian Children’s Aid Society became Family Focus in 1988. The agency expanded its provision of family support services, whilst maintaining foster care programs in Dandenong, Mornington and Moorabbin.

In 1993 Family Focus amalgamated with ‘Family Action’ and the National Children’s Bureau of Australia to form Oz Child: Children Australia Inc.

Client Records

Oz Child’s approach to records is that all previous clients are entitled to have access to their records and to photocopy any part of their files they wish to do so. Privacy Principle 7 and the Freedom of Information Legislation are used as a point of reference in managing this process, although Oz Child does not come under Freedom of Information Legislation.

Oz Child has in its charge records from Melbourne Family Care/Family Action records from the late 1950s and records from the Victorian Children’s Aid Society/Family Focus from the around the 1970s. Earlier files for both organisations have been lodged with the State Library of Victoria. Permission to access files from the State Library must be sought from Oz Child.

Oz Child is currently in the process of putting the State Library held archive holdings as well as the closed foster and residential care files held by the agency on a single searchable database. Ultimately all files will be stored in a dedicated room in their Head Office at South Melbourne.

Inquiries about files from Oz Child and its predecessor agencies should be made to:

The Chief Executive Officer
Oz Child: Children Australia Inc
Level 3/150 St Kilda Road
South Melbourne 3205
PH 9695 2200

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Oz Child: Children Australia: Historical Overview and Current Services
Web Site www.ozchild.com.au
THE VICTORIAN SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN - PRAHRAN
PRINCESS ELIZABETH JUNIOR SCHOOL FOR DEAF CHILDREN - BURWOOD

Auspice: Board of Management of the Victorian School for Deaf Children.

The Victorian School for Deaf Children was established in St Kilda Road Prahran in 1866. The purpose of the School was the education of profoundly deaf children in academic subjects and communication skills. The School catered for children 6 to 16 years of age.

Although wards had been placed at the school since the late 1940s, the School was not classified as a Category 2 Children's Home until 1972.

In the 1970s the School established a two family group homes for deaf children in Box Hill.

By the late 1970s the School had 180 pupils of which 40 (mainly country children) were in residence. The Kindergarten had 85 pupils of whom about 15 were in residence. These children were accommodated in three on-campus family group homes. In 1976 the Kindergarten's name was changed to the Princess Elizabeth Junior School for Deaf Children.

The School and Kindergarten closed down on weekends and any children not able to go home were placed at the Stott Street family group homes.

Source Department of Human Services archived files

WESLEY CENTRAL MISSION

Auspice: Wesley Church

The Methodist Conference of Victoria and Tasmania created the Central Methodist Mission in 1893. In its early years the Mission focussed on "evangelistic services geared to unchurched people and vigorous work to alleviate poverty, illness and the effects of drunkenness".

A 'Labour Depot' and a shelter for homeless men were among the first services provided by the Mission. Albert J Derrick, the organising secretary and assistant to the first Superintendent of the Central Mission noted that the Mission's work was to focus on "relieving the distressed" and to alleviate the effects of and remove the causes of distress.

From 1893 the Mission conducted the hugely popular 'Pleasant Sunday Afternoon' meetings and, later, radio program. Important social issues of the day were discussed and debated in these forums up until the late 1950s.

Other services provided by the Mission since its inception in 1893 include

- Fairfield Girls Home (1922 - 1946) Home for unmarried mothers
- Tally Ho Boys Village (1903 - 1986) training farm for boys who were neglected or had committed offences and children's home.
- Georgina House (1973 -) Women's refuge
- Arden Lodge (1894 -) a soup kitchen, night shelter and hostel for homeless men
- The Princess Mary Club (1926 -) Hostel for students and working girls
- Moreland Hall (1946 -1999) Girls Hostel
- Moreland Hall Family Care Centre (1970 -) Alcohol and drug rehabilitation.
- Lifeline (1971-) Telephone counselling
- Do Care (1977-) Domiciliary care for aged

Other services were provided in the disability and employment areas.

In 1977 the Central Mission changed its name to the Wesley Central Parish Mission, although it was more commonly known as Wesley Central Mission and then Wesley Mission Melbourne.

In 1999/2000 Wesley Mission Melbourne continued its work in the aged care and disability services area by providing residential and domiciliary care, housing services, accommodation and support services for these client groups as well as camping programs for disabled children.

The Mission's Employment Services Division provides direct employment and job placement opportunities for disabled people

The Mission continues to provide a range of youth, crisis and counselling services. Current services include the telephone counselling and referral service Lifeline, now augmented with a Suicide Help Line. Wesley 1-2-1 provides youth refuge accommodation for up to six young people aged between 15 and 20 years of age who are in crisis. Wesley Youth Services
provide youth support, adolescent community placement services and youth residential services. Wesley Mission is also involved in refugee support and work with adult homeless people.

**Client Records**

Wesley Mission Melbourne has developed an archives policy administered by an Archives Section. Certain access conditions apply, depending on the nature of the records being sought and the particular interests of the persons making the application.

Wesley Mission Melbourne archival holdings cover the South Yarra Girls Home, the Tally Ho Boys Training Farm, the Memorial Girls Home Fairfield and Georgina House, the Princess Mary Club and holdings related to current programs.

The Mission's archives are open by appointment. The Mission's Archivist is available weekdays (except Tuesday) between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm. Requests for access to archival material must be made to:

Wesley Mission Archives
148 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne 3000
Victoria
Ph 9662 2355

Fees and charges do apply in some instances, particularly enquiries related to genealogical and other research.

**Sources and Further Reading**

- Department of Human Services Archives
- Archival index cards provided by the Wesley Mission Archivist, Gabrielle Wolski.
- Wesley Mission Melbourne Annual Report 2000

**WILLIAM BOOTH MEMORIAL HOME EAST CAMBERWELL GIRLS HOME**

**Location:** Brinsley Avenue East Camberwell

**Auspice:** Salvation Army

The Salvation opened its first home for girls needing care and protection in Murrumbeena in 1880. In 1912 the girls at Murrumbeena were transferred to a new home established in a substantial existing private home in East Camberwell. The new home was called the William Booth Memorial Home in memory of the founder of the Salvation Army. On establishment the Home had a capacity of about 70 girls.

William Booth Home catered for Protestant girls aged 4 to 14 years including a high percentage of State wards. In the 1940s and 1950s the home had reduced its capacity to about 55 children. In a report on an application by the home for declaration as an approved children’s home under the Children’s Welfare Act 1954, it was noted that a total of four female attendants care for the 55 girls in the home (plus 3 domestic staff). Although the Department was concerned as to whether this was a sufficient number the home was approved in November 1954.

1956 saw significant improvement to the physical accommodation provided although the Home’s capacity remained the same.

By 1965 capacity had again been reduced to 44 children ranging from 2 or 3 years to 16 years of age. Girls ages ranged from 2 to 15+, with some boys up to 8 years accommodated, particularly siblings.

In 1965 the Salvation Army conducted a detailed survey of children in its homes at Kew, Camberwell and Box Hill. Following an analysis of the reasons why the children were in care and the characteristics of the children and their families, the researchers and the Army developed policies consistent with those being implemented by other institutions and the Department itself.

The policy focus shifted to preventive support for families, rehabilitative work with children in care and their families, greater use of day care to keep families together, increased use of adoption and foster care and a move to family group cottages for children who would benefit from that form of care. They also recognised the need for separate boys and girls cottages and a continuing (but decreasing) need for congregate care for older children who needed more intensive personal supervision and care.

As part of the Salvation Army’s restructure of its residential child care operations the William Booth Memorial Home was closed in 1972 and its residents transferred to the Salvation Army’s Home in East Kew. The Camberwell home was then sold to the Camberwell Council for redevelopment.
Client Records
Contact
Salvation Army Heritage Centre
69 Bourke Street
Melbourne 3000
Ph 9650 4851

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services Archives
Salvation Army Heritage Services Archives
Draft Historical Notes 'William Booth Memorial Home' by Lt
Cl John Kirkman

WINLATON YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

Location: Springvale Road Nunawading
Auspice: Social Welfare Department

In the early 1950s, delinquent or 'teenage problem' catholic girls were placed at the Abbotsford and Oakleigh convents of the Good Shepherd. Similar placements for Protestant girls were not available at the time following the closure of four Protestant institutions which had some capacity to cope with girls of this category.

The Remand and Reformatory Section of the Department's Royal Park Depot held the bulk of these girls with some being referred to a small non-government facility, the Elizabeth Fry Retreat.

In order to reduce overcrowding at the female Remand Section of the Depot, the Department used its new capacity under the Children Welfare Act 1954 to open its own purpose build institution for delinquent girls, the 'Winlaton Girls Training School' at Nunawading in 1956.

Winlaton provided accommodation for up to 45 girls in three Sections or Cottages (Goonya, Warrina and Kooringal) each taking 15 girls in single rooms. The Department's 1956 Annual Report commented that 'Promotion is made from one cottage to another, according to progress in response to training. Conversely, of course, demotion occurs sometimes'.

As well as providing modern accommodation, the Department declared that 'the educational and training curriculum, closely integrated with the general rehabilitative training, will include various arts and crafts and social graces as well as home-making accomplishments - cooking, sewing, laundry, home budgeting etc'.

Psychiatric service were at hand and Winlaton had a special school staffed by Department of Education teachers. The first Superintendent of Winlaton was an experienced and qualified social worker.

By 1957 Winlaton was already being described as overcrowded, with up to 60 girls in sections designed for 45. Two additional sections, a separate Reception Centre (Winbirra) and a Hostel (Leawarra) were added in 1958/59. Leawarra Hostel was not a success and it was converted into a temporary classification centre for younger and more immature girls in 1965.

Leawarra was used as a halfway house for girls who could manage employment but still needed some supervised care.

In 1985 the redevelopment of all state wide youth and child welfare facilities, including Winlaton, was begun. The Department aimed to reduce the size and functions of central institutions by promoting effective community based alternatives. Services for pre-adolescent and adolescent wards and offenders held in Turana, Winlaton and Baltara were the focus of early stages of the redevelopment. These institutions continued to operate in the short term, but as youth training centres solely for the purpose of providing appropriate programs for young people sentenced to detention.

In the early 1990s the Department introduced Youth Residential Orders for 10-14 year old male and female offenders at Winlaton. This allowed offenders and non-offenders to be clearly separated in accordance with the intention of Children and Young Persons Act. The Centre was then reopened as the Nunawading Youth Residential Service in 1991. (See separate entry)

Client Records
Information on how State wards, youth trainees, probationers, parolees and other Departmental clients may access their records is provided on page 4 of this document.

Sources and Further Reading
Department of Human Services archived files
Departmental Annual Reports 1960-2000

WOODBINE CENTRE FOR RETARDED CHILDREN

Location: Warracknabeal
Auspice: Committee of Management

Woodbine was run by a non-profit making company 'Woodbine Centre' which was incorporated in 1952 after taking over the functions and assets of an extant, non-incorporated body, the 'Warracknabeal and District Retarded Children's Association'. The
Centre was built in 1954.

The aims of Woodbine included the endowment, equipping and maintenance of a home for retarded children. The centre was designed to accommodate 18 - 20 in 6 dormitories. The Centre catered for moderately retarded children and young people in the age ranges of 6 to 15 years for boys and 5 to 22 years for girls. A high proportion of its residents were wards.

Authority was invested in a Committee of 15 people. A majority of the Committee were primary producers with an intellectually disabled child in the extended family.

The Centre was approved as a Category 2 children's home in 1969 because it was prepared to take moderately retarded wards for whom there were no other placements due to long Mental Health Authority waiting lists.

In 1979 the Mental Retardation Service approached the Woodbine Centre Committee with a proposal for the development of family group homes in the Warracknabeal area. By the early 1980s Woodbine had established 3 family group homes and was planning to phase out the old congregate care centre.

Source
Department of Human Services archived files

YOUTH HOSTELS

In 1946 a combined group of voluntary organisations approached the then Children's Welfare Department regarding the need for hostel accommodation for particular groups of wards leaving children's homes and transferring to work situations. These particular wards were perceived as unsuitable for existing private board or service placements.

As a result of this deputation, the Chief Secretary's Department provided capital grants for establishment of hostels and per capita payments for residents to ensure maintenance of such hostels and later, grants for capital expenditure on hostels.

By 1951/52 there were nine such hostels:

Lyndon Lodge, Auburn
St Martin's House, Canterbury
Bairarat Orphanage Hostel
St Vincent's de Paul's Hostel, South Melbourne
The Palms, Hawthorn
Church of England Girls Hostel, Middle Brighton
McAuley House, South Melbourne.

With the proclamation of the Social Welfare Act 1960, these hostels were consolidated as approved youth hostels operating under the Youth Welfare Division's hostel scheme.

The following subsidised Hostels were operating during the 1960s (see Data Base for details of these and other hostels operating in any one year).

Gordon Boy's Hostel, Highton
Lyndon Lodge, Auburn
Menzies Boys Hostel, Auburn
Presbyterian Boys Hostel, Hawthorn
Raelene Hostel, Mentone
St Martin's Hostel, Canterbury
St Vincent's (Thomas Moore Hall, Blackburn)
Try Boys Hostel, South Yarra
Carinya Hostel, Camberwell
Citizens Welfare Society Hostel, Kew
Coolock Hostel
McAuley House, Albert Park
Marion Hall, Middle Park
Regent House, Elsternwick
The Harbour, Brunswick
Homecrafts Hostel, East Melbourne
Open Door Hostel, East Ivanhoe
Molloy House
Surrey Hills Hostel

Initially the Department funded these hostels to cater for three broad groups of wards:

- deprived, homeless, institutionalized and dependent youth
- adolescents in conflict with the law and with some underlying emotional disturbances
- mildly retarded range of intellectually handicapped youth.

By 1983 the Hostel program had developed as part of the professional social welfare response to the needs of young people and were being described in different terms to those funded in the 1950s. In the 1980s a hostel was defined as

'...a residential unit for young people between the ages of 14 and 21. It acts as a bridge between community living and the institutions, or acts as an alternative to institutional placement. The hostel aims to help young people develop personal and social living skills they need for independent community living'...

To do this a hostel is a much like community living as possible. In most cases a hostel looks like an ordinary house in an ordinary street and caters for six to ten young people.'
There were 29 subsidised hostels in Victoria in 1983. Three are directly operated by the Department and 26 by church, community group and voluntary welfare agencies which work in close co-operation with the Department.

All statutory clients of the Department were eligible for admission to hostels; that is, young people on supervision and probation orders, wards of State, and young persons who had previously lived in institutions. Hostels operated by voluntary agencies were also able to admit a small number of private referrals.

Most hostel residents were aged between 14 and 16 years. One facility however, catered for 17-21 year old males on parole.

Referrals were made to hostels for a variety of reasons. These included family breakdown, the need for supervision or special care in dealing with emotional or behaviour problems and training in areas of personal care and domestic responsibilities.

All hostel residents either attended school, work, or where possible, were involved in special work related training programs. These programs are designed to help young people increase work skills so they may eventually enter the open work force.

Special education programs, personal counselling and group discussion were also used to help young people come to terms with their personal problems. Hostel staff are supported in this work by social workers, Commonwealth Employment Service officers, municipal recreation officers and many others.

The following new hostels opened during the 1970s and 1980s

1971
Brophy Home Ballarat, 310 Eyre Street
Lisa Lodge 7 Cobden Street Mount Pleasant

1975-
Mater Dei, Blackburn
Forsyth, Springvale
Cortona, North Melbourne
Molloy, St Martin's
Appieby
Surrey Hills
Specialist hostel, Reservoir (Ruthven)
??
St David's
Tarrapee
Geelong Hostel
Warrnambool Hostel
Abbotsford Hostel

1980-
'Mo 82' St Vincent's Place
Loyola House
Swinborn Lodge
Candover Place
Unit 64
Hillview
Maryville
Kemp
Harrison
George Hall
Lyndhurst Ascot Vale 1978
Grassmere
Sunshine (Department)
Diamond Valley/Sutherland
Bayside
Oman House/St Lukes
Bert Williams
Ivanhoe
Raglan House
Norman Craig

1983
Rushall House
Swinborn Lodge
Ramsey Mailer Hostel Fitzroy

Non-Subsidized Hostels

Girls
Spring House, Salvation Army
Edith Head Club, Church of England
St Anne's, Catholic
Princess Mary Club, Methodist

Boys
Methodist Boys
Don Bosco Boys, Catholic
YMCA

Please refer to the Guide Data Base for further information on these hostels.
### Guide to Out of Home Care Services

**Volume 2 - Agency Descriptions**

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## Freedom of Information Request

This form must be accompanied by:

- **Form of identification**
  (for example, photocopy of driver licence, birth certificate, Health Care Card)

- **$20.00 application fee or evidence of financial hardship**
  (for example, photocopy of a current Health Care Card, evidence that you receive a government benefit)

Please send the completed form to the Freedom of Information Unit at the above address.

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* provides that you must receive a decision within 45 days from the date your application is received.

### Applicant Details (Details of the person seeking the information)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss, Dr etc.)</th>
<th>First name:</th>
<th>Surname:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Other names known by:

Postal Address: [ ]

Postcode: [ ]

Date of Birth: [ ]

Telephone: (Home) [ ] (Business) [ ] (Mobile) [ ]

Name of organisation/business: (If you are making this request on behalf of an organisation).

### Subject Details (Please complete this section if you are seeking information that relates to another person)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss, Dr etc)</th>
<th>First name:</th>
<th>Surname:</th>
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</table>

Other names known by:

Postal Address: [ ]

Postcode: [ ]

Date of Birth: [ ]

Telephone: (Home) [ ] (Business) [ ] (Mobile) [ ]
**INFORMATION DETAILS** *(Details of the type of documents requested)*

Please tick the appropriate box(s)

- [ ] Wardship
- [ ] Psychiatric
- [ ] Child Protection
- [ ] Housing - Tenancy
- [ ] Intellectual Disability Services
- [ ] Housing - Home Finance
- [ ] Other (please specify) ............................................................

Please provide a *detailed description* of the information being sought. If applicable, please note the date ranges of information or the documents that you specifically require.

---

The Freedom of Information Unit releases *photocopies* of the documents which are dispatched by Registered Post.

Please indicate below if you wish to inspect the original documents. However, there may be a charge of $20.00 per hour for a supervised inspection.

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**Date**

If you require further assistance, please telephone the Freedom of Information Unit on (03) 9616 7179.