

# St Catherine's Children's Home

1960 – 1975

## Details

---

St Catherine's Children's Home was the new name given in 1960 to St Catherine's Orphanage. It operated at Highton until its closure in 1975, when the Sisters of Mercy established the Mercy Family Care Centre.

From the 1960s, like many other institutions in Victoria, St Catherine's Children's Home was changing its approach to accommodating children, moving away from institutional, congregate care, towards 'cottage homes' and family group homes.

Sister Aiden Mulcair took charge of St Catherine's in the mid 1960s. At the time, changes were planned at the institution to make the accommodation more 'home-like'. The building was to be divided into eight self-contained flat, each accommodating 10 children.

In 1972, Sister Agatha Rogers took over management of St Catherine's, and further changes ensued. In August of that year, Sister Agatha announced that the St Catherine's property was up for sale. Her vision was for a series of family group homes in the Geelong area as well as a new foster care program.

In 1975, the new Mercy Family Care Centre was established in North Geelong.

## Gallery

---



**St Catherine's Geelong**



**St Catherine's Party Night**

## More info

---

### Chronology

- Our Lady's Orphanage (c. 1862 - 1912)

- St Catherine's Orphanage (1912 - 1960)
- **St Catherine's Children's Home (1960 – 1975)**
  - Mercy Family Care Centre (c. 1975 - 1997)
  - MacKillop Family Services (1997 - current)

## Related Entries

### Ran

- [Family Group Homes run by the Sisters of Mercy in Geelong \(1972 - 2000s\)](#)

### Run by

- [Sisters of Mercy, Melbourne Congregation \(1857 - 2011\)](#)  
Date: 1960 - 1975

### Related Organisations

- [Geelong Foster Care \(1974 - 1997\)](#)

## Resources

- Sheedy, Leonie, [Submission no 33 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- O'Sullivan, Sister Mary Ignatius, *The wheel of time: a brief survey of the ninety-six years' work of the Sisters of Mercy in Victoria, 1857-1953*, 1954
- Rogers, Agatha, *The tracing problem: an aspect of outcome studies in child welfare. - Tracing former residents of the St Vincent de Paul's Children's Homes at Black Rock and South Melbourne, Victoria*, Children Australia, 1992
- Rogers, Agatha, *Within These Walls*, Hops Steps and Jumps, June 1975
- *Sister Agatha - This is Your Life*, Our Children, May 1980
- *State wards call for help over abuse*, The Age, 16 April 1997
- [Sacred Heart College, Geelong Victoria](#), Mercy Education website, 2012
- [St Catherine's Orphanage: Inspection by Mr Hogan](#), The Argus, 28 April 1928
- [Priest was removed from working in a girls' orphanage after complaints about abuse](#), Broken Rites Australia: Fighting Church Sexual Abuse Since 1993, 2011
- [Heritage Display](#), MacKillop Family Services website, 2013
- Care Leavers Australia Network, [Geelong and District Orphanages](#), No date
- Savidis, Penny, [Sex abuse Royal Commission urged to hold public meetings in regional Victoria](#), Ryan Carlisle Thomas Lawyers, 2014
- [Leonie Sheedy interviewed by Daniel Connell in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 30 July 2010
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, *A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families*, November 1999

## Records

---

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

### Records

- [MacKillop Family Services Records, Victorian institutions \(1857 - current\)](#)
- [Records of Teresa Wardell \(1866 - 1984\)](#)
- [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
- [St Catherine's School - Newtown - Examination Register, Inspector's Reports \(1913 - 1971\)](#)

---

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/st-catherines-childrens-home/>