

St Joseph's Home for Children, Sisters of St Joseph

1967 – 1991

Details

St Joseph's Home for Children was the new name given in 1967 to the former St Joseph's Home for Boys. It provided accommodation for boys aged from 2 to 10 years, and girls aged 2 to 12 years old. In 1981, the Home relocated to Flemington and provided emergency and short-term residential care and family group homes. The Christian Brothers took over the management of the service from the Sisters of St Joseph in 1991.

St Joseph's Home for Children had been at the site in Surrey Hills since 1890.

By 1969 St Joseph's provided accommodation for boys aged from 2 to 10 years, and girls aged 2 to 12 years old.

In line with broader changing public policy, the Sisters of St Joseph's continued to review child care operations. The move was away from institutional care to smaller family group home facilities: four self-contained units each held 10 beds; two family group homes were established close by in Surrey Hills; and a Temporary Care Unit was also established.

By the early 1970s the Sisters of St Joseph ran three children's homes. These were St Joseph's Broadmeadows, St Anthony's Kew, and St Joseph's Surrey Hills. Two Sisters who were also social workers assisted with the review and development of services.

The Temporary Care Unit (formerly 'Karingal') provided emergency care for up to 3 months to children aged 12 months to 12 years. Social workers assisted in supporting the family as a whole. The Catholic Family Welfare Bureau referred children to the Temporary Care Unit and provided any further family support or placements.

In the mid 1970s St Joseph's Surrey Hills established a service presence in Melbourne's under-resourced western suburbs. In 1979 a Family Group Home operated in Pascoe Vale.

In 1981 the management and administration of St Joseph Homes for Children was consolidated at Flemington. The Surrey Hills Home closed in the move to smaller family group home care and an acknowledged oversupply of residential child care facilities in the eastern suburbs. St Joseph's extended its family group home program into the inner eastern and north western suburbs, and the Temporary Care Unit was relocated to the inner suburbs.

After the closure of Surrey Hills, the organisation purchased houses in Finsbury Street, Flemington, to use for family group residential care. In the 1980s, the staff of St Joseph's were based in a row of shop fronts in Pin Oak Crescent, Flemington.

Gallery



St Joseph's shopfront, Pin Oak Crescent, Flemington

Description: This is a copy of a photograph of the shops where staff of St Joseph's Home for Children were based from the 1980s



Houses in Finsbury Street, Flemington

Description: This photograph shows houses in Finsbury Street, Flemington that were purchased by St Joseph's Home for Children in the 1980s and used as family group residential care. The image is published in a blog post by Frank Golding from 2017 about the history of children's Homes in the North Melbourne area.



St Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills, building

More info

Chronology

- St Joseph's Home for Destitute Children, The Society of St Vincent de Paul (1888 - 1890)
 - St Joseph's Home for Destitute Children, Sisters of St Joseph (1890 - 1925)
 - St Joseph's Home for Boys (1925 - c. 1967)
- **St Joseph's Home for Children, Sisters of St Joseph (1967 – 1991)**
 - St Joseph's Home for Children, Christian Brothers (1991 - 1997)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Family Group Homes and Residential Units run by the Sisters of St Joseph and the Christian Brothers, Victoria \(1960s - 2000s\)](#)

Run by

- [Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart \(1866 - current\)](#)
Date: 1967 - 1991

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia \(2003 - 2005\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [St Anthony's Home \(1943 - 1976\)](#)
- [Boys' Town \(1945 - 1956\)](#)

Resources

- [Heritage Display](#), MacKillop Family Services website, 2013
- [St Joseph's Home\(s\) for Children \(1888-1997\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to St Joseph's Home for Children, Sisters of St Joseph
- Golding, Frank, [Lost & Found: State Children in Victoria](#), Frank Golding: author, researcher, historian and consultant specialising in child welfare, 27 July 2017

Records

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

Records

- [MacKillop Family Services Records, Victorian institutions \(1857 - current\)](#)
 - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/st-josephs-home-for-children/>