

# St John of God Training Centre

1953 – 1967

**Other Names:** • St John of God Training Home for Intellectually Disabled Boys

## Details

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The St John of God Training Centre was established by the St John of God Brothers in 1953. It housed around 100 Catholic boys aged 7 to 16 with mild intellectual disabilities, including State wards unable to live with their parents.

The St John of God Training Centre occupied the former site of the Methodist Homes for Children in Cheltenham and was approximately 20 acres. Subsidised by the Mental Hygiene Authority, the Brother's aimed to establish a home, special school and training centre.

An article published by the support group Broken Rites makes the point that

*Many SJOG inmates, especially wards of state, had behavioural or learning difficulties and were not necessarily born with an intellectual disability, although they certainly became educationally disadvantaged through their incarceration at St John of God.*

A commemorative plaque on the site in Cheltenham reads:

*Southland commemorates the service to children given on this site by Methodist Homes for Children 1892-1953 and the St. John of God Training Centre 1953-1967.*

## Gallery

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**The Hawthorn Path**

**Description:** [Depicts a painting of the Gulliver's farm at Cheltenham which in 1922 was bought by Methodist Homes. By the 1950s the property was bought by the Catholic Church to eventually become the boys' home run by the St John of God Brothers. After 1966, the land was sold and later became the Southland shopping centre.]



## St John of God Home for Boys

**Description:** This image shows the St John of God Home for Boys on the Methodist Children's Home at Cheltenham: A Time for Change page on the Kingston Historical Website.

# More info

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [St John of God Brothers \(1947 - current\)](#)

St John of God Training Centre was a Home and special school for Catholic boys aged 7 to 16 with mild intellectual disabilities.

### Related Events

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

### Related Organisations

- [Methodist Homes for Children \(1891 - c. 1953\)](#)

The St John of God Training Centre was established on the former site of Methodist Homes for Children.

Date: 1953 -

- [Churinga Special Residential School \(1967 - 1990\)](#)

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 called Churinga and catered for boys with severe intellectual disabilities.

- [Yarra View Training Farm \(1957 - 1967?\)](#)

The 'Yarra View' Training Farm provided a 'sheltered workshop' environment for boys with mild and moderate intellectual disabilities over the age of 16 years.

- [Marian Lodge Training Centre \(1953 - 1967\)](#)

Marian Lodge catered for boys with moderate intellectual disabilities unable to follow a special schooling program but able to benefit from other training.

## Resources

- Name withheld, [Submission no 130 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Ewing, Tania, [Claims of sexual abuse by intellectually disabled](#), The Age, 23 May 1998
- [St John of God Training Home for Retarded Boys](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to St John of God Training Centre
- [Valda Hogan interviewed by Suellen Murray in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \[sound recording\]](#), 9 February 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
- Wayne Chamley & Tony Danis, [He was living in a horse stable](#), Inside Blog, 23 May 2011

## Records

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

## Records

- [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/st-john-of-god-training-centre/>