

# Victorian Children's Aid Society

1920 – 1991

## Details

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The Victorian Children's Aid Society was established in 1920. It was formerly the Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society. It ran the Victorian Children's Aid Home, located in Parkville until around 1966. In 1966 the Society moved the Home (which was renamed Swinburne House) and headquarters to Black Rock. From the 1970s, the Society expanded into family group homes, youth work, disability and foster care. The Victorian Children's Aid Society became known as Family Focus in 1991.

The Victorian Children's Aid Society was based in Leonard Street, Parkville, at the children's Home which had been established in the early 1900s (by Selina Sutherland).

The Parkville Home was renamed Swinburne Lodge in 1957, after a former President of the Society, Pattie Deakin (wife of the former Prime Minister).

In 1966, the Society sold the Parkville property and moved to the suburb of Black Rock. The children's Home was renamed again, this time to Swinburne House. The Victorian Children's Aid Society also operated a number of family group homes in bayside Melbourne, including in Bentleigh East and Parkdale.

In the 1980s, the Society expanded its operations into youth work, disability care and foster care. In 1987, the Society established the Alan Marshall centre for Disabled Children and Adolescents, located at 6 Seaview Crescent, Black Rock. It also ran the Norman Craig Lodge, a hostel in Black Rock for adolescents.

By 1984, all children in the care of the Society were in either group homes or foster care.

In 1991, the Victorian Children's Aid Society merged with Foster Care Westernport, to create a new organisation called Family Focus.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society (1894 - 1920)
  - **Victorian Children's Aid Society (1920 – 1991)**
    - Family Focus (1991 - 1993)
    - OzChild (1993 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Victorian Children's Aid Society Home \(1901 - c. 1966\)](#)
- [Family Group Homes run by the Victorian Children's Aid Society \(1970s - 2000s\)](#)

- [Swinburne House \(c. 1968 - 1985\)](#)

## Resources

- Hilton, Della, *Selina's legacy: from VCAS to Oz Child*, 1993
- [Children Happy in Country](#), The Argus, 31 July 1942
- [Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society \(1893 - \)](#), Finding Records, No date
- Griffiths, Ciara and Gilkerson, Darcy, [Foster Care Westernport: a legacy of generosity](#), 2017
- [Victorian Children's Aid Society](#), The Age, 13 July 1923
- [The Frankston Chalets](#), The Age, 11 December 1924
- Maunders, David, *Awakening from the dream: the experience of childhood in Protestant orphan homes in Australia, Canada and the United States*, Child & Youth Care Forum, December 1994
- [Opening of the new wing of Miss Sutherland's Home for Neglected Children](#), 20 April 1905

## Records

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### Records

- [OzChild Records \(c. 1956 - current\)](#)
  - [Victorian Children's Aid Society Records \(1893 - 1993\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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