

# The Gables

1962 – 1985

**Other Names:**

- Gables Children's Home
- Gables Orphanage

## Details

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The Gables was opened as a state-run children's Home in 1962. It accommodated 25 children who were wards of the state, consisting of boys from 4 to 10 years of age and girls from 4 to 14 years of age. Most of the children accommodated at The Gables had either physical, behavioural or learning difficulties. The Gable Children's Home was closed in 1985 and a residential unit opened on the same site, called The Gables Residential Unit 101.

The Edwardian brick two-storey residence was initially built as a private home, and later used as nurses' quarters for the Kew Mental Hospital. In 1962, it became a state-run children's Home for 25 children, boys and girls who were wards of state.

The Gables first accommodated children in dormitories on the first floor, but in 1965 alterations were made so that the children were accommodated in three fairly self-contained units, upstairs and 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.

The Home was closed in 1985 as part of the Department's rationalisation of residential child care resources. The Gables Residential Unit 101 opened on the same site in 1985 and continued to operate until around 1992.

The Gables was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

## Gallery

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**"The Gables" Children's Home, Kew**

**Description:** This is a copy of an image published in the annual report of the Social Welfare Department for 1970-1.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- **The Gables (1962 – 1985)**

- The Gables Residential Unit 101 (1985 - c. 1992)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Social Welfare Branch, State Government of Victoria \(1960 - 1970\)](#)  
Date: 1962 - 1970
- [Social Welfare Department, State Government of Victoria \(1970 - 1978\)](#)  
Date: 1970 - 1978
- [Department of Community Welfare Services, State Government of Victoria \(1978 - 1985\)](#)  
Date: 1978 - 1985

## Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997. *Relevance:* The Gables was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families
- Paul, [Bringing them Home - Paul story](#), Bringing Them Home: stories from the report, 2001

## Records

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

### Records

- [Victorian Government Wardship and/or Out of Home Care Records \(1864 - current\)](#)
  - [Departmental Children's Homes Files \(1955 - 1987\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/the-gables/>