

# Catholic Social Service Bureau – Archdiocese of Melbourne

1935 – 1956

## Details

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The Catholic Social Service Bureau was established in 1935 by Archbishop of Melbourne Daniel Mannix. One of the Bureau's functions was to administer applications for children to be admitted to the many Catholic children's homes in Victoria. It also counselled unmarried mothers and arranged foster care placements and adoptions. In 1956, it changed its name to the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau.

The Catholic Social Service Bureau employed two of Australia's first 'professional' social workers, Norma Parker and Constance Moffitt. Barnard and Twigg write that Moffitt and Parker were concerned that too many children were being placed in institutional care simply because of family poverty. They urged the Archbishop Mannix to establish an organisation to coordinate the work of Catholic institutions. In 1935, Constance Moffitt was appointed the Bureau's first head.

Catholic Social Services was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Inquiry* (2012) as an organisation that was involved in forced adoption.

## More info

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### Chronology

- **Catholic Social Service Bureau - Archdiocese of Melbourne (1935 – 1956)**
  - Catholic Family Welfare Bureau (Archdiocese of Melbourne) (1956 - 1998)
    - Centacare Catholic Family Services (1998 - 2011)
    - CatholicCare Victoria (2011 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)

Catholic Social Service Bureau was mentioned in submission 86 to the Inquiry Committee as an organisation that was involved in forced adoption.

### Resources

- [Our History](#), CatholicCare Victoria, No date
- Gleeson, Damian John, [The Professionalisation of Australian Catholic Social Welfare, 1920-1985](#), 2006

- [Catholic Family Welfare Bureau \(1935-1998\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Catholic Social Service Bureau
- [Australian Association of Social Workers Inc. \(Victorian Branch\), 50th Anniversary Oral History Project - Transcript of Interview - James Braiser](#), Spoken Memories: Recollections of Victorian Social Workers, 1996

# Records

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## Records

- [Records of Teresa Wardell \(1866 - 1984\)](#)
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