

# Reformatory Schools Act 1866, New South Wales

1869 – 1901

**Other Names:** • An Act to establish Juvenile Reformatories

**URL:** <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/act-1866-15a>

## Details

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The Reformatory Schools Act 1866 (30 Victoria, Act No. 4, 1866) came into operation in 1869. Under the Act, any child under the age of sixteen who had been convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to fourteen or more days imprisonment could be sent to a reformatory for one to five years. There were to be separate reformatories for boys and girls, and parents were asked to pay maintenance for children, if possible, while they served time. The Act was repealed by the Reformatory and Industrial Schools Act 1901.

Reformatories were controlled by the Comptroller General of Prisons until the 1880s, when they were transferred to the Department of Public Instruction.

## More info

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### Chronology

- **Reformatory Schools Act 1866, New South Wales (1869 – 1901)**
  - Reformatory and Industrial Schools Act 1901, New South Wales (1901 - 1905)
    - Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act 1905, New South Wales (1905 - 1923)
      - Child Welfare Act 1923, New South Wales (1923 - 1939)
        - Child Welfare Act 1939, New South Wales (1939 - 1987)
          - Adoption of Children Act 1965, New South Wales (1965 - 2003)

### Related Entries

#### Related Organisations

- [Parramatta Girls Industrial School \(1887 - 1912\)](#)  
Parramatta Girls Industrial School was established under the *Reformatory Schools Act*.
- [Shaftesbury Reformatory School \(1880 - 1904\)](#)  
Shaftesbury Reformatory School was established under the *Reformatory Schools Act*.
- [Sobraon Training Ship \(1892 - 1911\)](#)  
Boys were committed to the *Sobraon* under the *Reformatory Schools Act*.  
Date: 1892 - 1905
- [Newcastle Reformatory School for Females \(19 January 1869 - 20 July 1871\)](#)  
The Newcastle Industrial School for Females was established under the *Reformatory Schools Act*.

- [Biloela Reformatory School for Females \(1871 - 5 February 1880\)](#)

Biloela Reformatory School for Females was established under the *Reformatory Schools Act*.

## Resources

- Williamson, Noeline, *Life in the industrial and reformatory school for girls in New South Wales [Series of two parts]: Part 1: 1867 to 1887. 'Hymns, songs and blackguard verses'. Part 2: 1887 to 1910. Laundry maids or ladies?*, Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, 1982 - 1983
  - Parliamentary Counsel's Office, [NSW legislation](#), No date
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/reformatory-schools-act-1866-2/>