

# The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory

1921 – 2018

URL: <http://salvos.org.au/>

## Details

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The Salvation Army Australia, Eastern Territory was one of two autonomous territories of this world-wide Christian Church in Australia. Its international headquarters are in London, England. The Eastern Territory comprised the Salvation Army in New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory. (South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory made up the Salvation Army Southern Territory.) In Australia, since 1882, the Salvation Army have established and run many institutions, programs and services for children. They ran children's Homes, reformatories and maternity Homes around Australia and conducted adoption, probation, child migrant settlement and fostering schemes.

In 2018 the Salvation Army unified its Southern and Eastern Territories. In 2019, the Salvation Army (also known as The Salvos) continues to provide a range of community services in Australia, including out-of-home care for children and young people, aged care and family support services.

From 1880 until 1907, the Salvation Army's operations in Australia were conducted by the Australasian Territory. The Australasian Territory comprised Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga. In 1907, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga became a separate territory from the Salvation Army Australian Territory. The Australian Territory was split into the Southern and Eastern Territories in 1921, a structure still in place in 2018. A project to unify the territories of the Salvation Army in Australia – 'Australia One' – was announced in March 2016.

The Salvation Army was founded in London in 1865. The church had established itself in Sydney by 1882. In the 1890s, the Salvation Army began establishing its first institutions for children in the Eastern Territory, including the Paradise Boys' Industrial Colony (established in 1897 and later known as the Manly Boys' Probationary Home) in Sydney, and industrial schools for girls and boys in Riverview, Queensland.

The Salvation Army also established maternity homes in the 1890s, such as the Maternity Home Breakfast Creek in Queensland, and the Bathurst Maternity and Rescue Home in New South Wales. The Salvation Army was active in the adoption of children from their maternity Homes and hospitals. Many of the maternity Homes were not closed until the 1980s and 1990s.

The period of the Australian Territory, up until the split into Southern and Eastern Territories in 1921, was a time of expansion for the Salvation Army's network of children's institutions and maternity Homes. Most of them were large institutions for children. There was another peak in expansion from the 1940s to the 1960s. These Salvation Army Homes were progressively closed down from the mid-1970s into the early 1980s. The Salvation Army continued to provide out-of-home care for children and young people, through other models such as residential care and foster care. It also offered a Family Tracing Service for people who experienced adoption, foster care, state wardship or institutional care, which closed in 2018.

The Salvation Army was also involved in child migration schemes in the twentieth century, its most active period sending children and young men from Britain to Australia was during the 1920s. During this period, child and

youth migrants were sent to the Salvation Army's Riverview Training Farm in Queensland. From the 1940s, child migrants of school age were placed in Salvation Army institutions in New South Wales including Bexley and Gill Boys' Homes and Arncliffe and Canowindra Girls' Homes. St Joseph's Orphanage, Neerkol was another Queensland institution that received post-war child migrants. In the post-war period, older boys were sent to Riverview in Queensland. The Riverview Training Farm was condemned in a report from 1956, by a British team of inspectors sent to Australian institutions housing child migrants (known as the Ross Fact-Finding Mission).

From the late 1990s, government inquiries including the Forde Inquiry in Queensland and the Senate's Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care heard criticism of the Salvation Army and its treatment of children in its Homes.

In the 'Forgotten Australians' report (2004), the Committee stated that:

*the overwhelming majority of submissions to this inquiry from ex-residents of Salvation Army institutions in all States reported negative experiences in these institutions, often citing cases of extreme forms of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The Committee believes that there has been a notable reluctance by the Salvation Army to acknowledge past practices, in particular the nature and extent of abuse in its institutions.*

The Salvation Army subsequently issued an apology to former residents of its children's Homes:

*From 1894 to the 1970s The Salvation Army operated children's homes around Australia. The Salvation Army deeply regrets that not all the children in its care received the love and protection they deserved. Some of the children experienced great fear living with rigid and harsh discipline. Some became victims of physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse. The Salvation Army acknowledges its failure with those children. The Salvation Army offers all persons who were hurt its unreserved apology.*

The Salvation Army held apology ceremonies at Gill Memorial Boys' Home in Goulburn, NSW in 2006; at Riverview Home for Boys and Boys Home, Indooroopilly in Queensland in 2007, and at Bexley Boys' Home in NSW in 2007.

In December 2010, the international leader of the Salvation Army issued an apology to former residents of its children's Homes in Australia.

In February 2014, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse held a public hearing in Sydney into the experience of former child residents at institutions operated by the Salvation Army Eastern Territory (Case Study 05). Another hearing into the handling of claims of child sexual abuse by the Salvation Army was held in Sydney in March-April 2014 (Case Study 10).

## Gallery



### Horton House

**Description:** Horton House was built in the late 1800s by James Horton. The home was donated to the Salvation Army in 1942 and operated as a girl's home until 1985.



**Immigration - Child migration schemes - Salvation Army Training farm, Riverview, Queensland**



**Child migration - British youth migrants having their daily swim at the Salvation Army Training Farm for Boys at Riverview, Queensland. When they first arrived very few could swim. Now they all can.**

## More info

### Chronology

- The Salvation Army, Australian Territory (1880 - 1921)
- **The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory (1921 – 2018)**
  - The Salvation Army Australia (2018 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Tuggerah Welfare Farm, Chittaway Point \(c. 1954 - 1966\)](#)
- [Earlwood Family Group Home \(1989 - 1995\)](#)
- [Narwee Family Group Home \(1987 - 1996\)](#)
- [Stanmore Rescue Home \(1896? - 1928\)](#)
- [Foster Care Program, Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory \(c. 1984 - c. 1994\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Girls' Hostel \(1912 - 1973\)](#)
- [The Lodge Young Women's Hostel \(1948 - c. 1975\)](#)
- [Stanmore Girls' Industrial Home \(1922 - 1948\)](#)
- [Manly Boys' Probationary Home \(1903 - 1924\)](#)
- [Rescued Sisters' Home \(1898 - 1917\)](#)
- [John Irwin Lodge \(1980 - 1993\)](#)
- [Oasis Youth Care Centre \(1991 - 1994\)](#)
- [Stanmore Children's Home \(1975 - 1988\)](#)
- [La Perouse Women's and Children's Home \(1944 - 1988\)](#)
- [Stead House \(1973 - c. 2007\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Youth Refuge, Warilla \(1983 - 1991\)](#)
- [Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys \(September 1969 - 1983\)](#)
- [Gill Memorial Boys' Home \(1936 - 1980\)](#)
- [Riverview Training Farm \(1926 - 1956\)](#)
- [Gundanah Group Home \(3 September 1979 - 3 February 1987\)](#)
- [The Fold Girls' Home \(1920 - 1942\)](#)
- [Hillsdale Village for Boys \(c. 1973 - c. 1977\)](#)
- [Bethesda Maternity Hospital \(1957 - 1973\)](#)
- [Horton House \(1963 - 1976\)](#)

- [Industrial School for Girls, Chelmer \(1920 - 1941\)](#)
- [Industrial School, Purga Mission Station \(c. 1920 - 1948\)](#)
- [Kalimna Vocational Centre for Girls \(1962 - 1977\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls \(1920 - 1934\)](#)
- [Bethesda Mothers' Hospital \(1938 - 1968\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Home for Girls, Yeronga \(1898 - 1942\)](#)
- [Canowindra Girls' Home \(1942 - 1977\)](#)
- [Boys' Home, Washpool \(1942 - 1945\)](#)
- [Industrial School for Boys \(20 November 1922 - 1942\)](#)
- [Hopeleigh Maternity Home \(c. 1910 - 1956\)](#)
- [Boys' Home, Indooroopilly \(1946 - 1968\)](#)
- [Industrial School for Girls, Toowong \(1907 - 1956\)](#)
- [Gill Memorial Family Group Home \(1980 - 1995\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Girls' Home, Toowong \(1956 - c. 1961\)](#)
- [Industrial School for Boys, Riverview \(1 October 1898 - 1926\)](#)
- [Home for Boys, Riverview \(1956 - 1966\)](#)
- [Training Farm for Boys \(1966 - 1969\)](#)
- [Endeavour Training Farm \(1969 - 1973\)](#)
- [The Nest Children's Home \(1930 - 1941\)](#)
- [Canaan School for Training and Development \(c. 1973 - 2013\)](#)
- [Cooinda Salvation Army Home for Boys \(1968 - September 1969\)](#)
- [Boothville Mothers' Hospital \(24 May 1924 - 1994\)](#)
- [Newcastle Maternity and Rescue Home \(1897 - 1924\)](#)
- [Bexley Boys' Home \(1915 - 1979\)](#)
- [Preventative Home for Girls, Riverview \(19 April 1897 - 1898\)](#)
- [Salvation Army Maternity Home Breakfast Creek \(1897 - 1924\)](#)
- [James Horton Memorial Home \(1942 - 1947\)](#)
- [James Horton Industrial School for Girls \(1947 - 1953\)](#)
- [James Horton Memorial Home for Girls \(1953 - 1954\)](#)
- [James Horton School for Girls \(1954 - 1963\)](#)
- [Arncliffe Girls' Industrial Home \(1916 - 1930\)](#)
- [Alford House \(6 April 1966 - 1976\)](#)
- [Hocking House \(6 April 1966 - 1976\)](#)
- [Ray Powell Cottage \(1969 - 1976\)](#)
- [Marrickville Children's Residence \(1979 - 1982\)](#)
- [Horton Village \(1976 - 1985\)](#)
- [Maryville Mothers' Hospital \(1924 - 1933\)](#)
- [Glenties Rescue Home \(1902 - 1924\)](#)
- [Glenties Mothers' Hospital \(1924 - 1938\)](#)
- [Bethesda Hospital and Hostel \(1968 - 1970\)](#)
- [Bethesda Hostel \(1970 - 1976\)](#)
- [Bethesda Hostel and Children's Home \(1976 - 1977\)](#)
- [Arncliffe Girls' Home \(1941 - 1969\)](#)
- [Bethesda Children's Home \(1977 - September 1979\)](#)
- [Hillcrest Hospital \(1933 - 1977\)](#)
- [Algate House \(1968 - 1996\)](#)
- [Dee Why Home for Boys \(1924 - 1936\)](#)
- [Dulwich Hill Family Group Home \(1989 - 1995\)](#)

## Related Events

- [Apology by the General of the Salvation Army General Shaw Clifton, to care leavers of Salvation Army homes \(7 December 2010\)](#)

## Related Organisations

- [Tresillian Mothercraft Homes, Royal Society for the Welfare of Mothers and Babies \(1918 - current\)](#)  
Tresillian and The Salvation Army were both involved in adoptions. Tresillian cared for babies waiting for adoption.

Date: 1960s -

## Related Concepts

- [Child Migration \(1800s - 1970s\)](#)

## Resources

- Hepton, John, [Submission no 336 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Walshe, David, [Submission no 248 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Luthy, James, [Submission no 286 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- [The Cry of the Children: Mr P McGarry Introduces a Deputation: The Chief Secretary's Sympathetic Words](#), Freeman's Journal, 25 November 1915
- Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory and The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory, [Submission no 46 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- [The Salvation Army Announces Unification of the Australia Eastern and Southern Territories](#), mySalvos, 1 March 2016
- [Australia Territory 2018](#), mySalvos, 2018
- Sanz, Ken, [The 95-year divide](#), others: Connecting Salvos in Mission, 2016
- [James Luthy interviewed by Hamish Sewell in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \[sound recording\]](#), 4 July 2011
- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012
- [War Cry: The Salvation Army Magazine](#), 1883 - 2020

## Records

### Records held by other organisations

- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Eastern Territory \(c. 1891 - 1990s\)](#)
- [Various indexes to assisted immigrants, 1919+ \(1919 - 1949\)](#)
- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)

Items B95 and B96 of the Child Endowment correspondence files relate to The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory

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