

Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children

1887 –

Other Names: • Society for Providing Homes for Needy and Neglected Children, Waifs and Strays

URL: <https://ardillhouse.weebly.com/>

Details

The Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children was established in October 1887. The Society was founded by George Edward Ardill who was later to found the Sydney Rescue Work Society. It ran babies and children's homes. In the 1970s the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children converted its children's homes to child care centres, most of which are still operating in 2013.

The lines between the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children and the Sydney Rescue Work Society were frequently blurred, making it hard to tell at times exactly which organisation is managing a home. They were non-denominational, but distinctly Christian in character, and founded on the principles and teaching of the New Testament. The Society was created by Ardill because, according to his annual reports:

There are young children, waifs and strays, without friends to sustain or direct them, and who, from the helplessness, sickness, imprisonment or desertion of their parents are practically homeless, destitute and neglected. Others are companions of thieves and prostitutes.

The Society's first home was established in 1887 when Mr Frederick Kingston Oliver donated a house and land at Liverpool for use as a home for orphaned or neglected children. This became Our Children's Home. The Society also operated a home at Camden, south west of Sydney, which was donated by Walter H. Paling, of Paling's Music Store, for use as Our Boys' Home. In the 1890s Ardill established crèches in Macquarie Street in Sydney, and in 1892 he founded Our Babies Home, which had premises in Enmore, before moving to Newtown and then Camperdown. A property at Rockdale was purchased in 1904, becoming Rockdale Babies Home.

In 1936 the property at Liverpool was sold and a property was acquired at 132 Davidson Avenue, North Strathfield (Concord), which was named Ardill House. Confusingly, this institution was also called Our Children's Home Concord. In 1945 the Camden property was also sold. Ardill died that year and his son George Edward Junior became executive director of the society until his death in 1964.

As society changed in the 1960s and 1970s the numbers of children in out of home care declined. In the mid-1970s the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children and the Sydney Rescue Work Society decided to stop providing residential care for children. Its premises were converted to long day care, preschool and family day care services.

In 2000 the Sydney Rescue Work Society changed its name to Communicare and in 2011 to Integricare. The Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children remains separate and operates Integricare Ardill House,

North Strathfield. In 2020, the Society took custody of records relating to Our Children's Home (also known as Ardill House). These records were previously held by Integricare.

More info

Related Entries

Ran

- [Our Babies Home \(1894 - 1904\)](#)
Date: 1894 - 1904
- [Our Children's Home \(1918 - 1982\)](#)
Date: 1918 - 1982
- [Our Children's Home, Liverpool \(1887 - 1936\)](#)
- [Roslyn Hall Babies Home \(1911 - 1973\)](#)
Date: 1911 -
- [Roslyn Hall Children's Home \(c. 1890 - 1976\)](#)
- [Rockdale Babies Home \(1894 - 1976\)](#)
Date: 1904 - 1976
- [Our Boys' Home \(1890 - 1945\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Sydney Rescue Work Society \(1890 - 1982\)](#)

The Sydney Rescue Work Society was an umbrella organisation that took in the work of the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children and often reported on the latter's activities. Although the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children became independent in 1945, a formal partnership was recommenced in the 1970s.

Date: 1890 -

- [Communicare Sydney \(1982 - 2011\)](#)

Communicare was a partner with the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children

Date: 1982 - 2011

- [Integricare \(2011 - current\)](#)

Integricare is a partner of the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children and has some records of its operations

Date: 2011 -

Holds

- [Records about residents, Our Children's Home \(1918? - 1982?\)](#)

Resources

- Sydney Rescue Work Society/Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children, *The Rescue: official organ of the Sydney Rescue Work Society and Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children*, 1880 - 1910
- O'Brien, Anne, *Poverty's Prison: the poor in New South Wales 1880-1918*, 1988
- Robinson, Steve, [Grasmere](#), Dictionary of Sydney, 2008

Records

Records held by other organisations

- [File relating to "Our Children's Home", North Strathfield \(1949 - 1987\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/society-for-providing-homes-for-neglected-children/>