

Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers

c. 1904 – 1976

Other Names:

- Bethesda Home for Unmarried Mothers
- South Sydney Bethesda Waiting Patients Home

Details

Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers was established by the Sydney Rescue Work Society in Camperdown. It was a lying-in hospital that had been part of the Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women but became Bethesda when South Sydney Women's Hospital opened. This home was not related to Bethesda Maternity Hospital at Marrickville. Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers closed in 1976 when South Sydney Women's Hospital was demolished.

Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers was in Stanley Street in Newtown. The street name was changed c.1914 and has since been known as Gilpin Street, Camperdown.

In 1950 the Sydney Rescue Work Society reported that 57 pregnant women had stayed at the home that year. At that time the Matron was Olive Smith, a former Deaconess, and her assistant was Miss Jean Brown. The Christian mission of the home was clear – Miss A Simmonds attended weekly to play the organ at services and the Rescue Work Society reported on the success of ensuring one mother was married to the father of her child, and another intended to become a missionary. The Society remained silent about the futures of the other 55 women, or their babies.

Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Inquiry* (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Gallery



Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers

Description: This is a digital copy of an image published in the Sydney Rescue Work Society's Annual Report, 1950, p. 11, now held by Integricare. South Sydney Bethesda Waiting Patients Home (Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers), from the Sydney Rescue Work Society Annual Report, 1950.



Bethesda lounge room around 1960-1970

Description: This is a digital copy of an image in Integricare's collection.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

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

Date: 1911 - 1976

Related Events

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

Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers is mentioned in submission 61 to the Inquiry Committee as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Related Organisations

- [Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women \(1883 - 1904\)](#)

When South Sydney Hospital was created in 1904 Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers took over the lying-in functions of the Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women.

Date: 1904 -

- [Sydney Rescue Work Society Adoption Agency \(c. 1911 - 2000?\)](#)

Records of adoption from South Sydney Women's Hospital are held by the Department of Community Services

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

Integricare controls the records of the Sydney Rescue Work Society, Bethesda, the Home of Hope, and the South Sydney Women's Hospital. The surviving records are held by Prince of Wales Hospital's Medical Records Unit.

- [South Sydney Women's Hospital \(1905 - 1976\)](#)

Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers was a lying-in facility for women who were waiting to give birth at South Sydney Women's Hospital.

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

Records

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

Records

- [Records relating to Adoption \(1900? - current\)](#)
-

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/bethesda-home-for-waiting-mothers-2/>