

Rockdale Babies Home

1894 – 1976

Details

Rockdale Babies Home was established in 1904 by George Edward Ardill's Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children. In its early years Rockdale housed 50 infants. By the 1950s this had declined to 32 children. In 1976 Rockdale Babies Home was closed as a babies' home and converted to a child care facility.

This Society had begun Our Babies Home to care for the infants of unmarried women who had sought assistance in the Home of Hope. After a fundraising drive the Society purchased a permanent home, 89 Cameron Street.

In 1921, Rockdale Babies Home and Roslyn Hall Babies Home were granted 5 shillings per week for every orphan in their care by the NSW Government.

The Sydney Rescue Work Society, which was the parent organisation of the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children, said in 1950 'most of these come from broken homes, or are deserted by one or both parents.'

The Home always maintained Ardill's Christian values, as reflected in a letter from a Rockdale Resident, cited in the Sydney Rescue Work Society's Annual Report for 1950:

I was particularly impressed with the way the children have been trained, and I think the Home is a credit to the Matron [R. Murphy] and Sister [Miss M. Niblett], who are lovely Christians. The children look the picture of health and I can see they are well cared for and well fed. God continue to bless you and your Society for caring for the less fortunate people of our land.

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. In 1976 Rockdale Babies Home was converted to a long day care centre. In 2000 the Sydney Rescue Work Society changed its name to Communicare and in 2011 to Integricare. The premises at 89 Cameron Street was, in 2012, Integricare Family Day Care St George.

The Rockdale Babies Home was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

Gallery



Rockdale Babies Home

Description: Photograph of the Sydney Rescue Work Society, from papers held by Integricare. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children \(1887 - current\)](#)
Date: 1904 - 1976

Related Organisations

- [Our Babies Home \(1894 - 1904\)](#)
The children from Our Babies Home, run by the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children, were transferred to Rockdale Babies Home in 1904.
Date: 1904 -
- [Our Children's Home, Liverpool \(1887 - 1936\)](#)
Children from Rockdale Babies Home were sent to Our Children's Home, Liverpool, when they reached the age of four
- [Roslyn Hall Children's Home \(c. 1890 - 1976\)](#)
Rockdale Babies Home and Roslyn Hall Children's Home were part of the same complex of homes at Rockdale and were both run by the Society for Providing Homes for Neglected Children.

Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997
- 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
- [Marie Wood interviewed by Ann-Mari Jordens in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \[sound recording\]](#), 13 May 2010

Records

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

Records

- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
 - [Admission books, Rockdale Babies Home \(November 1894 - July 1973\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/rockdale-babies-home-2/>