

South Sydney Women's Hospital

1905 – 1976

Other Names: • Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women

Details

South Sydney Women's Hospital was a maternity hospital that provided midwifery and maternity care, particularly to poor and unmarried women. It was founded in Newtown (Camperdown) 1905 by George and Louisa Ardill and the Sydney Rescue Work Society and had been the Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women. It trained midwives and was a place where adoptions were arranged. It closed in 1976.

South Sydney Women's Hospital began as the Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women. The Home of Hope was established by George Edward Ardill in the 1890, in Newtown (Camperdown) as a rescue home and lying-in facility for unmarried pregnant women. When Ardill incorporated the Sydney Rescue Work Society in 1890 the home became a flagship of the new organisation.

Ardill's wife Louisa was the matron of the lying-in home and was a pioneer of midwifery. The Home was renamed South Sydney Women's Hospital in 1905. It became one of the most important midwife-training hospitals in Sydney, and provided outreach services to women in the working class suburbs of Newtown, Glebe, Petersham and Forest Lodge. It was also a place where adoptions were arranged.

In around 1911, Louisa Ardill established the Training School for Midwifery Nurses as part of South Sydney Women's Hospital. This was a highly significant institution in the history of midwifery in Sydney. It offered an outreach service to poor women and its graduates went on to work in a range of roles. It closed when South Sydney Women's Hospital closed in 1976. The building was subsequently demolished.

South Sydney Women's Hospital 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



South Sydney Women's Hospital, circa 1960

Description: South Sydney Women's Hospital after the façade was remodelled, circa 1950. Photograph from Sydney Rescue Work Society papers held by Integricare.



South Sydney Women's Hospital

Description: South Sydney Women's Hospital as it appeared in the 1930s. Image by Hall & Co, held by State Library of NSW.



Members of the South Sydney Women's Hospital

Description: This is a digital copy of an image in Integricare's collection. The photograph is of members of the South Sydney Women's Hospital, 1917, showing midwives in training.

More info

Chronology

- Home of Hope for Friendless and Fallen Women (1883 - 1904)
 - **South Sydney Women's Hospital (1905 – 1976)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [Sydney Rescue Work Society \(1890 - 1982\)](#)
Date: 1904 - 1976

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)
South Sydney Women's Hospital was mentioned in submissions 40 and 61 to the Senate inquiry.

Related Organisations

- [Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers \(c. 1904 - 1976\)](#)
Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers was a lying-in facility for women who were waiting to give birth at South Sydney Women's Hospital.
- [Integricare \(2011 - current\)](#)
Integricare controls access to the records of South Sydney Women's Hospital from 1950-1976, which are held by the Prince of Wales Hospital's Medical Records Unit.

Related Concepts

- [Adoption in New South Wales \(c. 1923 - current\)](#)

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

- [Confinement books, South Sydney Women's Hospital \(1947 - 1949\)](#)
 - [Medical records, South Sydney Women's Hospital \(1950 - 1976\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/south-sydney-womens-hospital-2/>