

# Blackheath Home, Oxley

c. 1924 – 1963

**Other Names:**

- Blackheath Home for Orphans
- Blackheath Home for Children
- Blackheath Boys Home
- Blackheath Presbyterian Boys' Home

## Details

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Blackheath Home, in Oxley opened in 1924 and was operated by the Presbyterian Church. It was situated on the former site of St Agnes Babies Home. Originally a boys' home, some time after 1955 it began to accommodate children of both sexes. It was closed 9 May 1963. At this time, children were transferred to W. R. Black Home.

Mr William Robert Black (mine-owner and philanthropist) donated his Oxley property "Cliveden" to the Presbyterian Church in c.1923. The church then established Blackheath Home in c.1924.

Blackheath Home was licensed as a private institution on 5 April 1927, under *The State Children Act* 1911. State children were first admitted on 24 September 1938. Blackheath Home was licensed under *The Infant Life Protection Act* on 27 September 1938.

During World War Two, the site of Blackheath Boys Home was taken over by the military and used as the Anti-aircraft Training School, Air Defence. Boys from Blackheath were sent to Killarney during 1942. The boys resided in the Central Hall in Killarney, which was fitted out to be suitable for residential stays. It appears the boys returned to the Oxley site in late 1942 or 1943.

The Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (1998-99) heard evidence from former residents of Blackheath Home. The Commission's report discusses an incident from the early 1950s, when the superintendent of Blackheath was questioned about allegations that he kicked and slapped the boys around the face and head. The superintendent later admitted to other physical punishments which caused injury to Blackheath children (p.72).

The Forde report states that boys at Blackheath Home all attended one state school. Other institutions took the approach of dividing their children between a number of schools, to reduce the chance of their being labelled as 'Home kids'. It would seem that Blackheath boys were mistreated at school – in March 1955, the Home's superintendent claimed that Blackheath residents were being 'denigrated and punished excessively' by two of the school's teachers (p.85).

When Blackheath Home closed in 1963, children were transferred to another Home run by the Presbyterian Church, the W.R.Black Home in Chelmer.

## Gallery



## Blackheath

**Description:** This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Presbyterian Church of Queensland \(1849 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1924 - 1963

#### Related Events

- [Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions \(1998 - 1999\)](#)  
Blackheath Home, Oxley was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.

#### Related Legislation

- [State Children Act 1911, Queensland \(1911 - 1966\)](#)
- [Infant Life Protection Act 1905, Queensland \(1905 - 1966\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [W. R. Black Home \(24 November 1928 - 1965\)](#)  
Children of both sexes were admitted to W. R. Black Home following closure of Blackheath Home in May 1963.
- [St Agnes Babies Home \(March 1922 - 30 July 1923\)](#)  
Blackheath Home was located in 'Cliveden' at Oxley, the former site of St Agnes Babies' Home.

## Resources

- [Brisbane's Historic Homes: Cliveden](#), Queenslander, 3 December 1931. *Relevance:* p. 27
- Porter, Warren and Scott, Glyn (editor), *A Tormented Life*, 2010
- Porter, Warren, [Living a Tormented Life \[excerpts\]](#), 28 April 2010
- [Blackheath Home](#), Brisbane Courier, 2 December 1929
- [Maltreatment of Boys Alleged](#), Morning Bulletin, 10 April 1953
- [Ill-Treatment Of Boys Denied.](#), Morning Bulletin, 14 May 1953
- [State may order inquiry into home for boys](#), Sunday Mail, 12 April 1953
- Social Work Staff, Faculty of Education, University of Queensland, [Directory of Social Services Queensland](#), 1958

## Records

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

### Records

- [Presbyterian Children's Homes Records \(October 1922 - May 1977\)](#)
  - [W. R. Black Home and Blackheath Home Records \(c. 1923 - c. 1951\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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