

# Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys

1924 – 1973

## Details

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Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys, in Wynnum, was operated by the Methodist Church. It officially opened 1 March 1924. State children were first admitted in 1937. Margaret Marr surrendered its license in 1973 when four Family Group Homes, situated on the same parcel of land, opened.

In 1921, the Queen Alexandra Home was nearing the limit of the number of children it could care for. The Methodist Church recognised the need for a home to accommodate the older boys housed at the Home. This became possible when in 1923, Mr. John Fyfe Marr, proprietor of Marr's Boarding House in Brisbane, offered 17.5 acres of land at Wynnum as a gift to the Methodist Church.

Marr donated the land for the establishment of a home for boys. He requested such a home be dedicated in memory of his wife, Margaret Roberts Marr.

The Margaret Marr Memorial Home was named after John's wife and opened in 1924. It accommodated boys from nine years upwards. Extra wings were added over time as the number of boys in care grew.

During World War II the Margaret Marr Memorial Home relocated to Coorparoo whilst the military occupied their Wynnum premises.

Over 900 Queensland boys had spent time at Margaret Marr by the time it closed in 1973. Four Family Group Homes, erected on the site, were opened and licensed in 1973 when Margaret Marr closed.

Former residents of Margaret Marr gave evidence to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions in 1998-1999. Some recalled that the institution did not provide its residents with sufficient medical or dental treatment (p.68). Former residents from the 1940s period spoke of brutal physical treatment by the Master and Matron (p.71). A resident from the late 1950s stated that the atmosphere was 'sterile and devoid of affection' (p.78).

Former residents of Margaret Marr in the 1940s and 1950s gave evidence about the quality of education they received. Some claimed they had been discouraged from sitting the Scholarship examination. Another former resident was told by the Matron he 'didn't have the brains to be a carpenter' and was instead sent to work on a dairy farm (p.84).

## Gallery



## Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys

**Description:** The library catalogue includes the following description: The memorial gates were erected by Mr Marr as part of the memorial. The building was completed in 1924.

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## Group of boys pictured outside the Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys



## Memorial for Margaret Marr Memorial Home

**Description:** This is a photograph of the memorial plaque for the Margaret Marr Memorial Home, showing the placement of the plaque on a stone plinth.

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## Memorial plaque for Margaret Marr Memorial Home

**Description:** This is an image of a plaque that is part of the memorial to the Margaret Marr Memorial Home. The plaque gives a short history of the Home, including a description of the occupation of the Home by R.A.A.F. Radar Station No.23 from 1942 to 1945. The plaque was installed on 14 May 1995.

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## Garden at Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys, ca. 1925

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# More info

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## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Methodist Church in Queensland \(c. 1851 - 1977\)](#)

### Related Events

- [Visit of John Moss \(1951\)](#)  
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions \(1998 - 1999\)](#)  
Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia \(2003 - 2005\)](#)  
Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys was mentioned in Submissions 229 and 308 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care

### Related Legislation

- [State Children Act 1911, Queensland \(1911 - 1966\)](#)  
Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys was licensed under the *State Children Act* 1911 in 1924.
- [Children's Services Act 1965, Queensland \(1965 - 2000\)](#)  
Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys was licensed under the *Children's Services Act* 1965 on 4 August 1966.

### Related Organisations

- [Lahey Cottage Family Group Home \(1973 - 1985\)](#)  
Lahey Cottage Family Group Home was situated behind the Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys.
- [Lewis Cottage Family Group Home \(1967 - 1988\)](#)  
Lewis Cottage Family Group Home was built at the back of Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys
- [Queen Alexandra Home for Children \(1910 - 1960\)](#)  
Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys was established by the Methodist Church to relieve overcrowding at the Queen Alexandra Home for Children
- [Saunders Family Group Home \(1973 - c. 1985\)](#)  
Saunders Family Group Home was situated behind the Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys.
- [Tainton Cottage Family Group Home \(1967 - 1985\)](#)  
Lewis Cottage Family Group Home was built at the back of Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys

## Resources

- Social Work Staff, Faculty of Education, University of Queensland, [Directory of Social Services Queensland](#), 1958
- Moore, Tony, [MP wants 'sorry sites' to be in plain sight](#), Brisbane Times, 8 July 2016
- Chynoweth, Adele, *Eighty Twenty: Mark Opitz remembers*, 2022

## Records

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

### Records

- [UnitingCare Queensland Records \(1910 - current\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/margaret-marr-memorial-home-for-boys-2/>