

# Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home

1910 – 1962

**Other Names:** • Woolloowin State Childrens' Home

## Details

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The Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home, in Woolloowin, was the new name given to the Diamantina Orphanage when it moved from Sandgate in January, 1910. It was run by the government. The Home was renamed the Diamantina Receiving Home in 1962 (in recognition of the charitable work of Lady Diamantina Roma, the wife of Queensland's first Governor, Sir George Bowen).

In October 1909 the "Rowallan" property at 84 Kedron Park Road, Woolloowin, vacated by the Boys' Home, Woolloowin in 1906, was purchased by the State Government from Dr Joseph Smith Clowes of Albion, as the new site for the Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home.

The Diamantina home moved from Sandgate to the new premises at Woolloowin in January 1910. There is no description of the building when it was occupied by the Boys' Home. At the time of purchase by the Government it was described as a large house with 14 rooms on 4 acres 30 perches.

The 1999 report of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions stated that the move from Woolloowin in 1910 coincided with a change in function to a receiving depot, where children awaited placement in a foster home (p.34).

One witness to the inquiry who was a resident in the 1930s described feelings of alienation: "You were just a number on the book, or somebody's name on their books. But as far as a person goes, I could have been some dog that wandered in off the street (p.78)."

The name of the facility was changed to Warilda in 1964 and the original building existed until the mid 1960s.

## Gallery

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**Diamantina Receiving Depot, Kedron Park Rd Woolloowin**

**Description:** This is a photograph showing the Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infant's Home at Woolloowin, taken around 1910. It shows two large, raised, federation-style houses with circular garden and driveway in front.

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## Wooloowin State Children's Home, Brisbane, ca. 1931

**Description:** This description was supplied with the photograph and included on the library website: The house was originally called Rowallan which was owned by the Muir family on Kedron Park Road before it became the Diamantina Receiving Depot.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Diamantina Orphanage (1865 - 1910)
  - **Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home (1910 – 1962)**
    - Diamantina Receiving Home (1962 - 1964)
      - Warilda Children's Home and Warilda Infants' Home (1964 - 1967)
        - Warilda Receiving and Assessment Centre (1967 - 1989)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch, State Government of Queensland \(2 October 1879 - 1 December 1911\)](#)

The Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home was run by the Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch until 1 December 1911. The care for children then passed to the Home Secretary's Office, State Children.
- [Health and Home Affairs Department, State Children Department, State Government of Queensland \(5 December 1935 - 26 December 1963\)](#)
- [Home Secretary's Office, State Children Department, State Government of Queensland \(1 December 1911 - 5 December 1935\)](#)

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia \(2003 - 2005\)](#)

Diamantina Receiving Depot was mentioned in Submission 505 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care
- [Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions \(1998 - 1999\)](#)

Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.

#### Related Organisations

- [Boys' Home \(April 1890 - 1906\)](#)

The Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home was on the former site of the Boys' Home, Wooloowin.
- [Sandgate Maternal and Child Welfare Home \(1944 - 1983\)](#)

The establishment of the Sandgate Maternal and Child Welfare Home in 1944 relieved pressure on the Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home.

### Resources

- Queensland. Dept of Children's Services, [Centenary of care for children 1879-1979](#), 1979
- [Saving the babies](#), Advertiser, 1912
- 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

- [Operational Registers, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1870 - c. 2001\)](#)
- [Client Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
- [Institution Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1871 - c. 2001\)](#)
- [Administrative Records, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
- [Heritage photographs of Queensland children's homes, buildings and people \(1848 - 1979\)](#)
- [Admission Cards - Diamantina Orphanage/Diamantina Receiving Depot/Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants Home \(1888 - 1911\)](#)
- [Report Books - Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home/Warilda \(1960 - 1971\)](#)
- [Vaccination Records - Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infant's Home/Warilda \(1937 - 1981\)](#)
- [Registers of Children in an Institution - Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infant's Home/Warilda \(1954 - 1989\)](#)
- [Admission Registers to Diamantina Orphanage and Diamantina Receiving Depot \(1865 - 1908\)](#)
- [Indexes to State Children's Allowances \(1910 - 1914\)](#)
- [Medical Correspondence - Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infant's Home \(1956 - 1961\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/diamantina-receiving-depot-and-infants-home/>