

# Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions

1998 – 1999

**Other Names:** • Forde Inquiry

**URL:** <https://fordefoundation.org.au/resources/publications/>

## Details

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In August 1998 in Queensland, the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care established a Commission of Inquiry to examine whether there had been any abuse, mistreatment or neglect of children in Queensland institutions. This Inquiry is widely known as the Forde Inquiry, in reference to the Chairperson, Leneen Forde. In May 1999, the Committee presented its report. It found numerous incidents of unsafe, improper and illegal treatment of children in Queensland institutions, including cases of sexual, physical, emotional and systems abuse. The Queensland government made its response to the recommendations of the Inquiry in August 1999. The government, in collaboration with religious authorities, issued a joint formal statement of apology in 1999.

The Queensland Government commissioned the Forde Inquiry to investigate the treatment of children in licensed government and non-government institutions in Queensland. The inquiry covered 159 institutions from 1911 to 1999, excluding foster care and institutions providing care for children with disabilities or those suffering from acute or chronic health problems.

The inquiry gathered evidence in a number of ways. Research was commissioned into a broad range of areas relevant to the inquiry. It received 151 written submissions from former residents and staff of children's institutions, as well as evidence from professional and academic experts. The commission held public hearings about allegations of handcuffing of juvenile offenders at John Oxley Youth Detention Centre in 1989.

Commissioners and staff visited facilities in current use and also inspected institutions that were no longer operating (including Silky Oaks Haven for Children, Nazareth House, St Joseph's Home, Neerkol and Kalimna Vocational Centre for Girls), so that the inquiry staff had 'the opportunity to interpret evidence in a more meaningful way'.

The inquiry found abuse had occurred and its report made 42 recommendations relating to contemporary child protection practices, youth justice and redress of past abuse.

The Report stated the commission of inquiry was concerned largely with the period between 1930 and 1980, and that most of its evidence was drawn from the following institutions:

Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys in Indooroopilly; W.R. Black Home in Chelmer; Blackheath Home, in Oxley; BoysTown, in Beaudesert; Carramar Children's Home and Carramar Receiving and Assessment Centre, in Townsville; Enoggera Boys' Home; Horton House in Toowoomba; Good Shepherd Home for Girls (later known as the Mt Maria Re-education Centre) in Mitchelton; Holy Cross Home in Woolloowin; John Oxley Youth Detention Centre in Wacol; Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys in Wynnum; Nazareth House in Wynnum North;

Riverview Training Farm; Silky Oaks Haven for Children in Manly West, St Vincent's Home, Nudgee; St Joseph's Home, Neerkol; Tufnell Home in Nundah; Warilda Children's Home (previously the Diamantina Receiving Home) in Woolloowin; Westbrook Farm School and Training Centre; and the Wilson Youth Hospital in Windsor.

Following the release of the report, the Queensland government and representatives of six major churches made the Apology to those harmed in Queensland institutions during their childhood.

From 2007 to 2010, there was a Redress Scheme in Queensland, in response to recommendations in the commission's report.

## Gallery



### Inquiry staff and police on site inspection

**Description:** This image is from page 4 of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse in Queensland institutions and the image is an Inquiry photograph. It shows commissioners and staff visiting the former site of a children's institution.

## More info

### Related Entries

#### Related Events

- [Redress Scheme, Queensland \(1 October 2007 - 2010\)](#)  
The Redress Scheme, Queensland was established in response to recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Apology to those harmed in Queensland institutions during their childhood \(1999\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

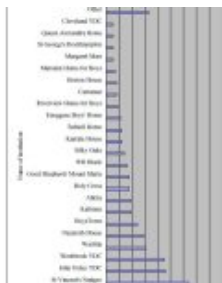
- [BoysTown \(1961 - 2001\)](#)  
BoysTown was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Carramar Receiving and Assessment Centre \(1967 - 1995\)](#)  
Carramar Receiving and Assessment Centre was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Horton House \(1963 - 1976\)](#)  
Horton House was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Kalimna Vocational Centre for Girls \(1962 - 1977\)](#)  
The Commission of inquiry into abuse of children in Queensland institutions visited the site of Kalimna Vocational Centre for Girls.
- [Margaret Marr Memorial Home for Boys \(1924 - 1973\)](#)  
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.
- [Mt Maria Re-Education Centre, Mitchelton \(1966 - 1973\)](#)  
Mt Maria Re-Education Centre was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Nazareth House, Wynnum North \(1926 - 1982\)](#)  
The Commission of inquiry into abuse of children in Queensland institutions visited the site of Nazareth House.
- [St Joseph's Home, Neerkol \(1885 - 1978\)](#)
- [St Vincent's Home for Children \(1935 - 1971\)](#)  
St Vincent's Home for Children was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.

- [Silky Oaks Haven for Children \(1940 - current\)](#)  
The Commission of inquiry into abuse of children in Queensland institutions visited the site of Silky Oaks Haven for Children.
- [Tufnell Home \(1901 - 1993\)](#)  
Tufnell Home was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home \(1910 - 1962\)](#)  
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.
- [John Oxley Youth Detention Centre \(1987 - 2001\)](#)  
The Commission of inquiry into abuse of children in Queensland institutions held public hearings relating to the treatment of juvenile offenders at John Oxley Youth Detention Centre in 1989.
- [Warilda Children's Home and Warilda Infants' Home \(1964 - 1967\)](#)  
Warilda Children's Home and Warilda Infants' Home were institutions mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Carramar Children's Home \(1964 - 1967\)](#)  
Carramar Children's Home was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Commission for Children, Young People and Child Guardian \(2000 - 2014\)](#)  
The creation of the Commission for Children, Young People and Child Guardian was in response to recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook \(30 October 1919 - 26 May 1966\)](#)
- [Westbrook Youth Detention Centre \(1993 - 30 June 1994\)](#)  
Westbrook Youth Detention Centre was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Good Shepherd Home for Girls, Mitchelton \(1930 - 1966\)](#)  
Good Shepherd Home for Girls was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Boys' Home, Indooroopilly \(1946 - 1968\)](#)  
The Boys Home, Indooroopilly was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Home for Boys, Riverview \(1956 - 1966\)](#)
- [Karrala House \(1963 - 1971\)](#)  
Karrala House was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Training Farm for Boys \(1966 - 1969\)](#)  
The Training Farm for Boys was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Wilson Youth Hospital \(1961 - 1983\)](#)  
Wilson Youth Hospital was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys \(September 1969 - 1983\)](#)  
Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [W. R. Black Home \(24 November 1928 - 1965\)](#)  
W.R. Black Home was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Blackheath Home, Oxley \(c. 1924 - 1963\)](#)  
Blackheath Home, Oxley was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Enoggera Boys' Home \(1906 - 1978\)](#)  
Enoggera Boys' Home was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Holy Cross Home \(1965 - 1973\)](#)  
Holy Cross Home was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Cleveland Youth Detention Centre \(1980 - current\)](#)

## Resources

- [Allan Alloway interviewed by Rob Willis in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 9 August 2010
- [Sue Treweek interviewed by Frances Rush in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \(2010\)](#), 4 December 2010 - 5 December 2010
- Forde, Leneen et. al., [Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse in Queensland institutions](#), May 1999
- Queensland Government, [Apology to those harmed in Queensland institutions during their childhood signed by the Government in collaboration with churches](#), 1999
- [Queensland Government Response to Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions](#), August 1999
- Micah Projects Inc., [Lives of Uncommon Children: Reflections of Forgotten Australians](#), 2009
- [Support for Forgotten Australians](#), Queensland Government home, No date
- [Queensland Government response to recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions - Progress Report](#), 11 September 2001

## Other Resources



**Title:** Institutions mentioned by witnesses [to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Queensland Institutions]

**Type:** Image

**Date:** c. 1998

## Details

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/commission-of-inquiry-into-abuse-of-children-in-queensland-institutions/>