

# Brisbane Women's Hospital

13 March 1938 – 2003

**Other Names:** • Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital

## Details

---

The Brisbane Women's Hospital was situated at Herston and was opened on 13 March 1938. Operating as a maternity hospital, it replaced the Lady Bowen Hospital, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane. In 1967 it was renamed the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital. In 2003, it merged with the Royal Brisbane Hospital to create the new entity, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH).

Construction of what would be the Brisbane Women's Hospital began in January 1934. It was on land adjacent to the Brisbane Hospital at Herston.

The Minister for Health, Mr Edward (Ned) Hanlon, officially opened the new Women's Hospital on 13 March 1938. The final cost of the new hospital was £201,779.

Florence Featherstonhaugh was Matron of the Royal Women's Hospital, Brisbane, from 1938 to 1943.

In 1966, royal assent was granted to rename it the Royal Women's Hospital.

In 2003, it merged with the Royal Brisbane Hospital to form the new Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Brisbane Women's Hospital was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices* Report (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

## Gallery

---



**Entrance to the Royal Women's Hospital in Brisbane, Queensland, ca. 1938**



**Maternity ward at the Royal Women's Hospital, Brisbane, March 1938**

---



## Aerial view of the Royal Women's Hospital in Brisbane, 1950

**Description:** This description was provided with the photograph and included on the library website: In 1950 the Nurses' quarters (later the Lady Ramsay Wing) was under construction.

---

## More info

---

### Chronology

- Queensland Lying-In Hospital (2 November 1864 - November 1867)
  - Lady Bowen Hospital (1867 - 1938)
- **Brisbane Women's Hospital (13 March 1938 – 2003)**
  - Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (2003 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)

Brisbane Women's Hospital was mentioned in submissions 92, 97 and 108 to the Inquiry Committee as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

### Resources

- Senate Community Affairs References Committee, [Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 29 February 2012
- Dobbryn, Paul, [New Apology Call](#), Catholic Leader, 11 March 2012
- [Born on Christmas Day](#), Courier Mail, 28 December 1938
- [New Women's Hospital Now Open](#), Courier Mail, 26 March 1938
- [Women's Hospital](#), Cairns Post, 15 March 1939
- [Imposing Entrance To New Hospital](#), Courier Mail, 14 March 1938
- [Institutions](#), Forced Adoptions History Project, 2014
- No date

## Records

---

### Records

- [Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Records \(c. 1938 - current\)](#)
  - [Adoption Records](#)
- 

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/brisbane-womens-hospital/>