

Brighton Industrial School

1867 – 1869

Other Names:

- Grace Darling Hotel
- Industrial School, Brighton

Details

The Brighton Industrial School was situated in the Grace Darling Hotel, in Brighton. It was used by the government from 1867 to 1869 as accommodation for children from the Destitute Asylum who were previously in temporary accommodation in the Exhibition Building on North Terrace, Adelaide. Illness and overcrowding at the Hotel led children to be moved to the St Vincent De Paul Orphanage, the Orphan Home and the Destitute Home in Flinders Street, Adelaide. Boys were moved to Ilfracombe Boys Reformatory, Burnside and to the Boys Reformatory, Magill. The Grace Darling Hotel ceased to accommodate children in 1869.

Under the terms of the Destitute Persons Relief Act 1866, children who were 16 years and younger and had been charged with being neglected had to be placed in an Industrial School for children only. Children convicted of committing offences were to be sent to a Reformatory. As a result of the passing of the Act, the vast majority of the children in the overcrowded Destitute Asylum had to be moved out. Unfortunately, no permanent Industrial School yet existed. In addition, the military barracks section of the Asylum where the children were housed needed to be vacated in order for the British Army to reoccupy the barracks. The arrival of the XIVth Regiment made the removal of the children from the Destitute Asylum urgent. Therefore, the government had to make temporary arrangements.

In November 1866, a large group of children were briefly housed in the Exhibition Building on North Terrace. As this was an entirely unsuitable home, in February 1867 the Destitute Board took over a former hotel at Brighton, called the Grace Darling. Miss Dring was appointed matron of the new Home and she cared for more than 100 children with little other assistance.

The Grace Darling was proclaimed as an Industrial School for the occupation of male and female children under s.12 of the Destitute Persons Act in March 1867.

In August 1867, the *South Australian Weekly Chronicle* declared: 'We believe the history of the Brighton Industrial School – if honestly written – would constitute one of the most disgraceful chapters in the annals of South Australia.' During the first few weeks at the Hotel many of the children became ill, suffering from measles, whooping cough and other infections. Between 14 February and 17 August 1867, 14 children died in the institution. The majority were under the age of five. The institution was overcrowded from the beginning. The situation became so critical that a Select Committee of the Legislative Council was set up to investigate.

In order to ease the burden on the Grace Darling Hotel, a number of children were sent to the Catholic St Vincent de Paul's Orphanage and the Church of England's Orphan Home. Those institutions were paid a subsidy and recognised as private licensed industrial schools under the new Act.

A number of girls were also moved out the Destitute Home in Flinders Street, Adelaide. In December 1869 boys who had been convicted for offences or sentenced to a reformatory, were divided between the Ilfracombe Boys Reformatory at Burnside and the Boys Reformatory, Magill. The remaining children were transferred to the new

Industrial School at Magill. The Grace Darling Hotel then ceased to operate as an institution for children in 1869.

In 1874 the building and surrounding land was purchased for use as the South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb.

Gallery



Institution, Brighton

Description: This image shows the South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb. The library description states: South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb known as Townsend House from 1946 is situated on the shore at Brighton. William Townsend proposed an institution for the blind, deaf and dumb and worked for many years for its establishment in the suburb of Brighton and was Chairman of its committee in 1875-82. This photograph has been taken at the rear of the premises and shows the gardens stretching onto the sand dunes. The house is a towering Victorian Gothic style two storey building.



Grace Darling Hotel

Description: This image was published in the Annual Report of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board 1960.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Destitute Board, South Australian Government \(1849 - 1927\)](#)

Date: 1867 - 1869

Related Events

- [Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Destitute Poor, South Australia \(1867\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [St Vincent de Paul Orphanage \(1866 - 1975\)](#)

Due to overcrowding at the Brighton Industrial School, a number of children were sent to the Catholic St Vincent de Paul's Orphanage and the Church of England's Orphan Home, also known as Farr House.

- [Destitute Asylum \(1851 - c. 1917\)](#)

Children formerly living at the Destitute Asylum were moved into the Brighton Industrial School in 1867.

- [The Orphan Home \(1860 - 1935\)](#)

Due to overcrowding at the Brighton Industrial School a number of children were sent to the Orphan Home and St Vincent de Paul Orphanage.

- [Boys' Reformatory, Magill \(1869 - 1880\)](#)

Due to overcrowding at the Brighton Industrial School a number of boys were sent to the Boys' Reformatory, Magill.

- [Ilfracombe, Boys Reformatory \(1869 - 1880\)](#)

Due to overcrowding, boys from the Brighton Industrial School were moved to Ilfracombe Boys Reformatory.
Date: December 1869 -

- [Magill Industrial School \(1869 - 1898\)](#)

Children were transferred from temporary accommodation in the Brighton Industrial School to Magill Industrial School.

Date: 1869 -

- [South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb \(1874 - 1946\)](#)

The South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb was established in the old Grace Darling Hotel (site of the Brighton Industrial School) in 1874.

Related Legislation

- [Destitute Persons Relief Act 1866, South Australia \(1867 - 1872\)](#)

Resources

- Dickey, Brian, *Rations, Residence, Resources: A history of social welfare in South Australia since 1836*, 1986

Records

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

Records

- [Records created by the Destitute Board \(c. 1845 - 1927\)](#)
- [Minutes - Destitute Board \(1849 - 1927\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/brighton-industrial-school/>