

# Colton Cottage, Thorngate

1965 – 1982

## Details

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Colton Cottage at Thorngate was opened by the government in 1965. It accommodated up to ten State children in cottage-style living under the supervision of a cottage mother. Children attended local schools and churches. Some children with intellectual disabilities resided at Colton Cottage. Colton Cottage closed in 1982 and the children were sent to a Home Care Unit.

The Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department opened Colton Cottage at 13 Churcher Street, Thorngate on 2 February 1965. It was the fifth cottage of six cottages established by the government during the 1960s. The other five were Merrilama Cottage at Glenelg, Stirling Cottage at St Peters, Clark Cottage at Clarence Park, Spence Cottage at Kensington Gardens and Hay Cottage at Lockleys.

Colton Cottage was named after Lady Colton who was an early member of the State Children's Council. It accommodated up to ten children. Miss O C Stone was the first cottage mother. In later years Colton Cottage also cared for children with intellectual disabilities.

Each of the six cottages accommodated children placed under the care of the State. Departmental Annual Reports from the 1960s stress the belief that cottage style care enabled greater individual attention to be given to each child. The Department also felt that children living in cottage style accommodation and attending local schools would be less conspicuous as 'State' children, making it easier for them to become part of the local community. The cottage system also allowed for brothers and sisters to be placed together. Reports also noted that providing cottage style care was less costly for the government than running large institutions.

Colton Cottage closed in 1982 and the children were sent to a Home Care Unit, where they were cared for in the home of a residential care worker.

## Gallery

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**Colton Cottage**

**Description:** This is a copy of an image that was published in the Annual Report of the Department of Social Welfare 1967.



**Colton Cottage - interior**

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# More info

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## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board \(1927 - 1966\)](#)  
Colton Cottage was run by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board and its successors.  
Date: 1965 - 1966
- [Department of Social Welfare, South Australian Government \(1966 - 1970\)](#)  
The South Australian government created 6 Cottage Homes in the 1960s.  
Date: 1966 - 1970
- [Department of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs, South Australian Government \(1970 - 1972\)](#)  
Date: 1970 - 1972
- [Department for Community Welfare, South Australian Government \(1972 - 1990\)](#)  
Date: 1972 - 1982

### Related Organisations

- [Blair Athol Unit \(1982 - current\)](#)  
When Colton Cottage Thorngate closed in 1982 four children from the Cottage were moved to the Blair Athol Unit.

# Records

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

## Records

- [Child Welfare Records of the Social Welfare Department and predecessors, South Australia \(1862 - 2000\)](#)
  - [Records of the Department for Community Welfare and Successor Agencies \(1972 - current\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/colton-cottage-thorngate/>