

# Adelaide Maternity Home

1893 – 1914

**Other Names:**

- Adelaide Maternity Hospital
- The Ark

## Details

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Adelaide Maternity Home was established by the Salvation Army in Gilbert Street, Adelaide in 1893 for the care of pregnant and unmarried young women. It moved to Morphett Street in 1895 and then to Carrington Street in 1899. In 1914 McBride Maternity Hospital opened in the suburb of Medindie and took over the work of the city based Adelaide Maternity Home.

The Adelaide Maternity Home began operating in 1893 in an eight-roomed cottage in Gilbert Street, Adelaide, as a hospital for unmarried young women who became pregnant. It initially operated in conjunction with the Rescued Sisters Home, in King William Street, Adelaide, the Salvation Army's first Rescue Home for 'fallen' women and girls, established three years earlier. A newspaper article from 1893, reporting on the opening of the new Maternity Home, stated that:

*...for some time past the Rescue Home has been overcrowded, and the Army has had no proper means for dealing with maternity work. It is the aim of the Army to find situations where possible for mothers with children, whilst in some cases these are adopted.*

The paper described the Gilbert Street building as substantial and claimed it could comfortably hold 12 people.

In 1895, due to increased demand, the hospital relocated to a much larger building on Morphett Street, Adelaide. Here it could accommodate seventeen women under the care of a Matron and two staff members. Newspapers reported at the time that the average age of the women in the Maternity Home was 18.

In 1899 the institution moved again to a two-storey building in Carrington Street, Adelaide, known by The Salvation Army as *The Ark*. In 1914 McBride Maternity Hospital opened in the suburb of Medindie and took over the work of the city based Adelaide Maternity Home.

## More info

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### Chronology

- **Adelaide Maternity Home (1893 – 1914)**
  - McBride Maternity Hospital (1914 - 1975)
  - McBride Hospital (1975 - 1986)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [The Salvation Army, Australian Territory \(1880 - 1921\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Rescued Sisters' Home \(1890 - 1899\)](#)

The Rescued Sisters' Home operated in conjunction with the Adelaide Maternity Home

Date: 1893 - 1899

## Resources

- Steer, Hedley, *Social Salvation, Early development of the Social Wing of The Salvation Army*, 1996
- Kirkham, John C, *Southern Soup-Soap-Salvation, a compendium of Salvation Army Social Services in the Australian Southern Territory*, 2003
- The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territorial Headquarters (Vic), [Submission No. 46 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care: Appendix A: Children's Homes - A list of openings, closings and function](#), July 2003

## Records

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

### Records

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
  - [Records of McBride Maternity Hospital, formerly Adelaide Maternity Home \(1893 - 1982\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/adelaide-maternity-home/>