

# Waverley House

1946 – 1964

**Other Names:**

- Legacy Children's Hostel, Waverly
- Waverly Hostel

## Details

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Waverley House was a Hostel opened in Adelaide by the Legacy Club of Adelaide in 1946. It provided accommodation for the children of deceased servicemen who were attending school and apprenticeships in the city. Waverley House was the second Hostel opened by Legacy, the first being Wentworth House at Woodville. Waverley House could accommodate up to 35 teenagers of both sexes. Waverley House closed in 1964. Children from Waverley House were moved to the Gurney Street Legacy Hostels.

Waverley House was a Hostel opened at 360 South Terrace, Adelaide, by the Legacy Club of Adelaide in 1946. It was the second Legacy Hostel opened to provide accommodation for the children of deceased servicemen who were attending school and apprenticeships in the city. The first Hostel, Wentworth House, was established in 1945 at Woodville in a building anonymously donated to the Legacy Club. When Wentworth House regularly became full to capacity the Legacy Club purchased the 16 room property known as 'Waverley' in Adelaide.

Waverley House was reported in newspapers at the time of its purchase as being able to accommodate up to 35 'Legacy wards' with a staff of four. Teenagers of both sexes were expected to live at the new Hostel.

According to Brian Dickey in 'A Generation of Legacy Service' Waverley House was under-utilised from early in its existence as family placements were the preferred option for orphaned children. Staffing problems also plagued the Hostel.

*It was extremely difficult to find appropriate staff willing to stay at the hostel for long periods in a demanding post supervising children who were quite ready to jump over the back wall, if only to buy sweets at a nearby deli.*

By the late 1950s the Hostel was mostly providing short-term care, however, it also continued to provide some longer term shelter for Legacy children who were unable to be cared for by their mothers. In 1960 the committee of Waverley House suggested to the Legacy Board that in future all Legacy children in need of accommodation should be placed at Waverley House. The Board agreed.

Staffing problems continued into the 1960s. In 1964 the Hostel closed and the property was sold to the neighbouring St Andrews Hospital. Legacy continued to provide temporary hostel care in two cottages in Gurney Street, Dulwich, but changes in the philosophy of child-care led to their closure after only a few years.

## Gallery



## Waverley House



### [Waverley House]

**Description:** This image was included in The Advertiser on Thursday 30 May 1946 in the article 'Legacy club acquires big South Terrace home.' The photo caption states: This large residence, Waverley, South terrace, together with its two acres of ground fronting on both South terrace and Gilles street, has been aquired, subject to official approval, by the Adelaide Legacy Club from Miss Mary Cove. It is planned to convert it into a hostel to accommodate between 30 and 35 children of deceased soldiers.



### Heritage sites in Adelaide

**Description:** This photo shows Waverley House. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.

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## More info

### Chronology

- **Waverley House (1946 – 1964)**
  - Gurney Street Legacy Hostels (1964 - c. 1967)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Legacy Club of South Australia and Broken Hill \(1928 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1945 - 1964

#### Related Organisations

- [Wentworth House \(1945 - 1960?\)](#)  
Waverley House in Adelaide was the second Hostel opened by the Legacy Club of Adelaide. The first was Wentworth House.

## Records

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

### Records

- [Records of the Legacy Club of Adelaide Inc. \(1941? - 1979?\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/waverley-house-3/>