

Seaforth Home

1946 – 1975

Other Names: • Sea Forth Home

Details

Seaforth Home was the new name given to Seaforth Convalescent Home at Somerton in 1946. Run by the government, Seaforth accommodated up to 100 children including, boys and girls, aged between 0 and 6, and girls up to the age of 18. Most were deemed to be destitute or neglected. The Home also took in some children with disabilities. Seaforth closed as a large congregate care institution in 1975 and was replaced by five cottages – Tintoo, Morada, Kandarik, Reception and Slade Cottages.

In 1946 Seaforth Convalescent Home at Tarlton Street, Somerton Park was renamed Seaforth Home. The departmental Annual Report for 1950 described Seaforth Home as an institution for male and female infants and toddlers up to six years of age, and girls up to the age of eighteen.

The majority of children placed at Seaforth were those charged as 'destitute' or 'neglected', or 'under unfit guardianship'. Some girls were committed to Seaforth because of minor behavioural problems or truancy. No child could be committed to the home if he/she had committed an offence.

Children from different age groups were accommodated in separate dormitories and the home provided a large nursery for babies. In 1950 the kindergarten area of the Home was reported to be overcrowded. As a partial solution to this, the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board moved boys under the age of six who were ready for primary school, to the Glandore Industrial School. Despite this, during the 1960s the average number of children at the Home was close to 100 with a staff to children ratio of 1 to 12. By 1968 the home was also taking in children with intellectual and/or physical disabilities and babies who required specialist care.

In October 1969 the Seaforth Auxiliary was formed. This group comprised a number of women who made regular visits to the home to provide attention and care for younger children up to the age of six.

In 1970 Seaforth was still providing residential care for 90 children, but numbers were steadily declining. By 1973 the Home only accommodated 30 children, most of whom had intellectual and/or physical disabilities. At that time Seaforth Home was already moving away from using large dormitories. The Home was instead divided into four units: one for children with disabilities, one specifically for babies and toddlers and two further 'family-oriented' units for other children. Each provided temporary short-term accommodation for children while long-term placements were organised. The children were under the supervision of both male and female staff members.

Seaforth Home closed in 1975 and that year was replaced by five independent cottage Homes on the same site. Two cottages took the name of cottages that had been operating a Glandore – Reception and Slade Cottages. The other three were named Tintoo, Morada and Kandarik.

Seaforth Home came under scrutiny during the 2004-2008 Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry. A number of women who had lived in the Home came forward to give evidence of abuse.

Gallery



Seaforth Home, Somerton Park, Main Building



Seaforth Home Patch Theatre

Description: This image shows the former Seaforth Home, Somerton Park, after the building became Patch Theatre Centre.



Seaforth Home, Somerton Park, Laundry bins

Description: This image shows the old laundry bins from Seaforth Home, Somerton Park.



Seaforth Home, Somerton Park, Blue Dormitory

Description: The 'Blue Dormitory' at the former Seaforth Home, Somerton Park.



Seaforth Home, Dormitories

Description: This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 1, the original caption states: Portions of two of the Dormitories in pastel shades for toddlers under 6 years of age. Night light is provided in floor.



Seaforth Home, Entrance

Description: This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 1, the original caption states: The entrance to "Seaforth" Home, showing Nurses' Quarters, and Service and School Girls' Section. The Babies and Toddlers' Section is behind the main building. 1946.



Seaforth Home, Entrance

Description: This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 1, the original caption states: The entrance to the property in 1954



Seaforth Home, Grounds

Description: This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 1, the original caption states: Portion of the grounds in 1954.



Seaforth Home, Interior nursery

Description: This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 1, the original caption states: 'Portion of the Nursery containing 4 cribs and cots. Each crib has a locker and drawer for its own needs, and on the right (not shown) wardrobes and large drawers for their clothing. The cribs were specially made, chromium fittings, including provisions for holding up mosquito netting. Each crib lifts out of its container. Each child has a separate night light so as not to disturb other babies. There is a sound-absorbing ceiling up above.'



Seaforth Home, New Girls' Dormitory

Description: This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 1, the original caption states: Portion of the southern side showing new dormitory for school girls, 1952.



Seaforth Home, Playroom

Description: This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 1, the original caption states: Portion of the spacious playroom showing lighting, ventilation, equipment, hardwood floors, electric fans, and central heating system. Much of the equipment is made by the boys in the Reformatory.



Seaforth Home, Toddlers Block

Description: This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 1, the original caption states: Portion of the southern side of the new Toddlers' Block built in 1946.



Seaforth Home, Toddlers playroom

Description: This is a copy of a photo from the archival series 'Photographs of Departmental Institutions', Volume 1, the original caption states: View of the smaller Playroom which is adjoining the larger playroom for young toddlers. This room caters for the needs of children about two and three years of age. The doors swing back so as to make it part of the larger playroom, if necessary.

More info

Chronology

- Seaforth Convalescent Home (1921 - 1946)
 - **Seaforth Home (1946 – 1975)**
 - Kandarik Cottage, Somerton Park (1975 - 1988)
 - Morada Cottage, Somerton Park (1975 - 1979)
 - Tintoo Cottage, Somerton Park (1975 - 1979)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board \(1927 - 1966\)](#)
Date: 1946 - 1966
- [Department of Social Welfare, South Australian Government \(1966 - 1970\)](#)
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 - 1975

Related Events

- [Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry, South Australia \(2004 - 2008\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Edwardstown Industrial School \(1898 - 1949\)](#)
Since 1928 only boys were admitted to Edwardstown Industrial School, all girls were sent to the Seaforth Home.
Date: 1946 - 1949
- [Glandore Industrial School \(1949 - 1958\)](#)
As only boys were admitted to Glandore Industrial School, all girls were sent to the Seaforth Home.
Date: 1946 - 1958
- [Lochiel Park Boys' Training Centre \(1958 - 1995\)](#)
While boys with mild intellectual disability came to Lochiel Park, children requiring more long term care were sent to Seaforth Home.
- [Reception Cottage, Glandore/Somerton Park \(1973 - 1979\)](#)
In 1975 Reception Cottage moved from Glandore into a building on the site of the former Seaforth Home at Somerton Park.
- [Slade Cottage, Glandore/Somerton Park \(1973 - 1988\)](#)
In 1975 Slade Cottage moved from Glandore into a building on the site of the former Seaforth Home at Somerton Park.

Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

Resources

- Immigration Museum, [Stolen childhoods](#), 2012
- Bell, Debbie, [Someone else's child](#), 2010

Records

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 \(1972 - current\)](#)
- [Records of the Aborigines' Office and Successor Agencies \(1866 - 2003\)](#)
- [General administration files, multiple number, closed series - Department for Community Welfare and successor agencies \(1972 - 1998\)](#)
- [Vaccinations and infectious diseases log - Seaforth Home \(1941 - 1973\)](#)
- [Photographs of Departmental institutions, Social Welfare Department and Predecessors \(1945 - 1970\)](#)

- [Observation Log - Seaforth Home \(1968 - 1973\)](#)
 - [Register of New Committals \(1931 - 1968\)](#)
 - [Agreements and correspondence with doctors for the medical treatment of State Children and wards of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Department \(1904 - 1952\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/seaforth-home/>