

# South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb

1874 – 1946

**Other Names:** • The Blind, Deaf and Dumb Asylum

## Details

---

The South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb opened in Brighton in 1874 in the former Grace Darling Hotel. It was run by a committee founded by MP William Townsend. The foundation stone for a new building was laid in 1876. It was officially opened in June 1878. In 1946 the Institution was renamed Townsend House Schools for Deaf and Blind Children.

## Gallery

---



**Institution, Brighton**

**Description:** The library description includes the caption: The rear of the South Australian Institution building for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb at Brighton. A group of girls, boys and carers are standing outside the two storey building.



**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.

## More info

---

### Chronology

- **South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb (1874 – 1946)**
  - Townsend House Schools for Deaf and Blind Children (1946 - 1970)
  - Townsend House for Deaf and Blind Children (1970 - 1999)

## Related Entries

### Related Events

- [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Brighton Industrial School \(1867 - 1869\)](#)

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.

## Resources

- Disability Information and Resource Centre, [Townsend House - photo collection](#), No date

## Records

---

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

### Records

- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
- 

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/south-australian-institution-for-the-blind-and-deaf-and-dumb/>