

Minda Home

1911 – 1976

Details

Minda Home was the new name for the Minda Home for Weak-Minded Children from 1911 when the institution moved to new premises in Brighton. Run by a board of management Minda Home provided accommodation and special training for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. In the 1940s only children between 6 and 12 years were accepted at Minda. Children with profound intellectual disabilities were sent to the Parkside Mental Hospital. Minda Home was changed its name to Minda Incorporated in 1976.

In 1911 when the Minda Home for Weak-Minded Children moved from Fullarton to a new larger property on King George Avenue at Brighton, it was officially renamed Minda Home and became an incorporated organisation. The name change had become necessary because many of the Home's residents had grown to become adults. The residents at Fullarton were moved to the new building in November 1911.

Another building, the Verco Building, was added to the site in 1913 as demand for places exceeded capacity. Further cottage style buildings, named Lady Galway and Sir Charles Goode, were built in 1918. More additions were made in the 1920s and 1930s. By 1934 Minda Home was also operating a farm and dormitory at Craighburn Farm in Blackwood.

By 1940 Minda Home restricted its admission to children between the ages of 6 and 12. As the Home also no longer admitted children with profound disabilities, 26 Minda residents were transferred to the Parkside Mental Hospital.

In 1937 Minda was recognised as a part-time training school for mental health nurses. This training role continued until the 1970s. However, in the 1940s and 50s the Home experienced severe staff shortages. In the 1960s the staff shortages became chronic with a very high staff turnover adding to the difficulties. Lack of staff training and the absence of written procedures concerning residents' rights and staff conduct affected the operation of Minda Home in the 1950s. Some staff actively discouraged interaction between residents and family members.

Minda Home appointed its first social worker in 1966 and revisions to procedures followed. One result of these changes was that arrangements were made for residents to visit their families at Christmas. After an agreement was reached with the superintendent in 1970 the Department of Social Welfare provided Minda with full histories of each child on admission. The Department became more involved in both admissions and discharges from Minda, and required the Home to contact them with regards to outings and proposals of employment for children resident there. By 1975 half the funding of the Home was provided by the government.

Minda Home became Minda Incorporated in 1976.

Gallery



A fete at Minda Home, Brighton, South Australia

Description: The library description states: Adults and children attending a fete held at Minda Home, Brighton, South Australia.



Photographs of Craighburn farm and Minda Home at Brighton

Description: This image shows buildings at Minda Home.



Looking North East

Description: This image includes the caption: Looking north-east across the spacious Minda grounds, 1972.

More info

Chronology

- Minda Home for Weak-Minded Children (1898 - 1911)
 - **Minda Home (1911 – 1976)**
 - Minda Inc. (1976 - current)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Craighburn Farm, Minda Home \(1923 - 1990s\)](#)

Related Events

- [Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry, South Australia \(2004 - 2008\)](#)
- [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Department for Community Welfare, South Australian Government \(1972 - 1990\)](#)

The Department for Community Welfare and its successors had some oversight of operations at Minda Home from the 1970s
- [Parkside Mental Hospital \(1913 - 1967\)](#)

From the 1940s children from Minda Home with profound intellectual disabilities were sent to the Parkside Mental Hospital

Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

Resources

- Disability Information and Resource Centre, [Minda Home - photo collection](#), No date
- Minda Incorporated, [Minda News](#), 1977 - 2007

- State Library of South Australia, [Photographs of Craighburn farm and Minda Home at Brighton](#), 1925

Records

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

Records

- [Client files of Disability Services South Australia \(1879? - c. 2020\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/minda-home/>