

Roland Boys' Home

1951 – c. 1993

Other Names: • Roland Children's Home

Details

Roland Boys' Home, run by the Anglican Church, opened in Sheffield in 1951. It accommodated orphans and state wards from the age of six. The Home closed in the early 1990s.

Roland Boys' Home opened officially on 9 June 1951 at 69 High Street, Sheffield opposite the park and 200 yards from the state school which the boys attended. It was a certified institution under the *Infants' Welfare Act* 1935 and an approved children's home under the *Child Welfare Act* 1960. Although the Anglican Church ran the Home, boys of any denomination could be placed there.

It seems likely that at the time Roland was established, the Managers considered applying for British child migrants. In 1951, John Moss, a British child welfare expert, visited Tasmania to inspect Homes that took child migrants. In a letter written in 1952 to FH Southey, the Director of the Tasmanian Government Tourist and Immigration Department, he said:

What happened about the scheme for taking migrant boys at the newly acquired Home near Launceston? As we agreed, when we were there, it wanted considerable improvement before it could be considered suitable for migrants.

His description of the Home as 'newly acquired' seems to fit Roland. However, there is no evidence that child migrants were ever sent to Roland.

When boys at Clarendon Children's Home reached school age, they were sent to Roland Boys' Home.

James Boyce wrote that, since Roland was in the north of the state, it probably received Aboriginal children removed by the government from Cape Barren Island and the Furneaux Group. The *Report of the Stolen Generations Assessor* of 2008 mentions Roland Boys' Home.

Roland Children's Home was an approved children's Home under the Child Welfare Act 1960.

In 1988, Roland changed from institutional to cottage accommodation. There were four family group homes with four to six children who lived with the house parents and their children. In 1991, there were 13 children in these homes with an average age of 13 years.

In the early 1990s, the emphasis in child welfare practice on supporting children in their own homes and communities led the Managers of Roland to consider new directions for working with families on the north-west coast. These considerations led to the closure of the home around 1993.

Gallery



Roland Children's Home as it looked at the time of closure



The former Roland Children's Home, now the Kentish Council Offices.



The plaque on the Kentish Council Offices formerly the site of Roland Children's Home.

Description: The plaque reads: 'Municipality of Kentish Established 1842 Kentish Council Offices (formerly Roland Children's Home) Opened by Mayor Don Thwaites May 14th 2008'

More info

Chronology

- **Roland Boys' Home (1951 – c. 1993)**
 - Roland Children's Services (1993 - 2021)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Anglican Diocese of Tasmania \(1842 - 1981\)](#)

Related Events

- [Visit of John Moss \(1951\)](#)
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Listen to the children: review of claims of abuse from adults in state care as children, Ombudsman Tasmania \(2003 - 2006\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Clarendon Children's Home \(1922 - 2004\)](#)
When boys at Clarendon Children's Home turned six, they were transferred to Roland Boys' Home.

Related Places

- [Cape Barren Island Reserve \(1881 - 1951\)](#)
Roland Boys' Home probably received children from Cape Barren Island Reserve.

Resources

- [Wants families to aid child migrants](#), The Mercury, 26 September 1951

- Hanson, Dallas, *Why are they in children's homes: report of the ACOSS children's home intake survey*, 1979

Records

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

Records

- [Roland Boys' Home Records \(c. 1951 - c. 1993\)](#)
 - [Clarendon Children's Home Records \(1905 - 2006\)](#)
 - [M3157 John Moss \(Child Welfare Expert of U.K\) \(1951 - 1952\)](#)
 - [M2726 Roland Boys Home - Sheffield \(1950 - 1951\)](#)
 - [Correspondence Files \(1919 - 1998\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/roland-boys-home/>