

# Children's Protection Society

1903 – 1920?

**Other Names:** • CPS

## Details

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The Children's Protection Society was formed in 1903 by members of the Women's Health Association in order to campaign for better care of babies born to single mothers. The members of the Society went on to take up other campaigns which they believed would benefit children.

The formation of the Children's Protection Society was a response by the Women's Health Association to their disappointment with the 1903 *Public Health Act*. The members of the Association had hoped that the Act would provide for a system of inspection and advice giving to women who boarded the babies of single mothers. When it did not, the Association formed the Children's Protection Society to campaign for further legislation. In 1907, the new *Infant Life Protection Act* did contain those provisions in part because of the work of the Society.

Other concerns of the Society were legislation to further protect children and people considered to be 'feeble-minded' (a term used to describe mild intellectual disability), and to warn parents about the dangers of allowing their children onto the streets. In 1908, two members of the society, Frances Edwards and Alicia O'Shea Petersen, belonged to a committee formed by Frederick Seager, the Secretary of the Neglected Children's Department, to consider ways of broadening the *Youthful Offenders, Destitute and Neglected Children's Act*. In 1910, the Society lobbied for a curfew for street children. However, the press was unsympathetic and the campaign lapsed.

The Children's Protection Society ran Glen Dhu Babies' Home.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Glen Dhu Babies' Home \(c. 1905 - 1911\)](#)  
The Children's Protection Society ran Glen Dhu Babies' Home.

#### Related Organisations

- [Neglected Children's Department, State of Tasmania \(1901 - 1918\)](#)  
The members of the Children's Protection Society worked with the Secretary of the Neglected Children's Department to reform the *Youthful Offenders, Destitute and Neglected Children's Act*.
- [Women's Health Association \(1901 - 1920?\)](#)  
Some members of the Women's Health Association formed the Children's Protection Society.

#### Related Legislation

- [Youthful Offenders, Destitute and Neglected Children's Act 1896, Tasmania \(1896 - 1918\)](#)

The members of the Children's Protection Society worked to reform the Youthful Offenders, Destitute and Neglected Children's Act.

- [Infant Life Protection Act 1907, Tasmania \(1907 - 1920\)](#)

The members of the Children's Protection Society campaigned for the Infant Life Protection Act 1907.

## Resources

- [The Boys' Home](#), Launceston Examiner, 31 October 1905
- McArthur, Milford (editor), *Prominent Tasmanians*, 1924

## Records

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### Records

- [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
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