

# Retarded Children's Welfare Association

1952 – 1982

**Other Names:**

- Tasmanian Association for the Welfare of Retarded Children
- RCWA

## Details

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The Retarded Children's Welfare Association (RCWA) was established in Hobart in 1952 to raise funds for better premises for Talire, a volunteer run school for children with intellectual disabilities. The Association also aimed to set up more schools for children with intellectual disabilities and hostels to enable country children to attend them. The RCWA became the Retarded Citizens Welfare Association in 1982.

Harold Gigney, whose son had Downs Syndrome, was a driving force behind the foundation and consolidation of the Retarded Children's Welfare Association.

From 1958, the RCWA's involvement in the Miss Tasmania Quest greatly augmented its funds.

The RCWA had a decentralised structure that caused it difficulties. After its establishment, parents and friends in localities outside Hobart formed similar groups and affiliated with it to create branches throughout Tasmania. This structure meant that the different branches did not share the funds that they raised. Branches with hostels that needed funds could not access them even though money was lying idle in accounts elsewhere in the RCWA. The structure also meant that practices and procedures varied between facilities. There was no consistency in staff training and recruitment.

## More info

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### Chronology

- **Retarded Children's Welfare Association (1952 – 1982)**
  - Retarded Citizens' Welfare Association (1982 - 1992)
    - Oakdale Services Tasmania (1992 - 2011)
    - Veranto Lifestyle Assistance (2011 - 2023)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Devonfield Hostel \(c. 1965 - 2000?\)](#)

The Retarded Children's Welfare Association ran Devonfield Hostel.

- [Yalambee Hostel \(1958 - 1994\)](#)

The Retarded Children's Welfare Association oversaw the Yalambee Hostel Board of Management.

- [Talire School \(1950 - 1980?\)](#)

The Retarded Children's Welfare Association ran Talire School until 1954 when the government took it over.

- [Orana Retarded Children's Home \(1968 - 1990?\)](#)

The Northern Branch of the Retarded Children's Welfare Association ran Orana Retarded Children's Home.

#### **Related Organisations**

- [Miss Tasmania Quest \(1955 - 1999\)](#)

The Miss Tasmania Quest raised funds for the Retarded Children's Welfare Association.

- [Lachlan Park Special School \(1959 - 1968\)](#)

The Retarded Children's Welfare Association lobbied the government for Lachlan Park Special School.

## Records

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### Records

- [Correspondence Files, Public Health Department \(1940 - 1989\)](#)
  - [Correspondence Files \(1919 - 1998\)](#)
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