

# Home of the Good Shepherd, Leederville

1902 – 1979

**Other Names:**

- Home of the Good Shepherd Industrial School
- Convent of the Good Shepherd, Leederville
- Home of the Good Shepherd for Destitute Women and Girls

## Details

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The Home of the Good Shepherd, Leederville was established in 1902 in Perth by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd for 'unfortunate' women and girls. The Home supported itself by operating a commercial laundry. In 1904 the institution moved to Leederville to a purpose built property which included an industrial laundry.

The Home of the Good Shepherd, Leederville opened in 1902 in Perth for women and girls.

In 1904 when the Home of the Good Shepherd moved to Leederville, there were 50 children already living at the institution. The building included a large laundry at the rear.

In 1906, the number of people living in the Home were over 100, with girls as young as 14 years old.

The Home of the Good Shepherd Industrial School for Girls opened in June 1909 in buildings alongside the existing home. The foundation stone was laid on 7 February 1909. Both Homes were run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. Girls were sent to the reformatory by the Children's Court and their term could extend until they were 21 years old. Many girls worked in the laundry at the Home, but they could also be sent out to domestic service. The Home of the Good Shepherd Industrial School for Girls was a reformatory that was regulated by the State Children Act 1907. It remained a registered institution until it closed in 1979. The hardships endured by young women and girls working in the laundry, and the unfairness of being sent to the reformatory has been raised in government inquiries.

In evidence to the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the State Children Act Amendment Bill in October 1918, the Catholic Archbishop of Perth explained that the Home of the Good Shepherd had two separate sections: those 'industrial school children who have been sent there in greater numbers since the appointment of women police' and 'over 100' other children who were not sent there, nor paid for, by the state. The industrial school, he said, 'is quite distinct from the other, although it is within the same enclosure. The inmates are not allowed to associate.' At this time, the 'girls' in the industrial school were from 13 to 19 years old. The Archbishop described them as 'girls who were unmanageable by their parents or were found by the women police to be in great danger'.

In 1954, the Home of the Good Shepherd was criticised by an academic study which found that: going to Mass was in practice compulsory for non-Catholics, which was against State regulations; the 'training' conducted in the Home did fit within the regulations but it was 'doubtful' that it would be 'of any great value to the girls on their discharge'; and that the system here as elsewhere in WA was not up to standard with modern practices for industrial schools.

The facility closed in 1979 and the buildings were restored for use by the Catholic Education Office. The precinct of buildings is included on the State Heritage Register (Place No. 08880).

The Home of the Good Shepherd Industrial School for Girls was a reformatory that was regulated by the *State Children Act 1907*. It remained a 'registered institution' until it closed in 1979.

## Gallery

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### Our illustrations [Home of the Good Shepherd]

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph from the *Western Mail* that is published on the National Library of Australia's website, *Trove*. It shows the Home of the Good Shepherd in Leederville in 1911.

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### Home of the Good Shepherd Industrial School, Leederville

**Description:** This is a digital copy of an untitled photograph from the *Western Mail* that is published on the National Library of Australia's website, *Trove*. It shows the new building at the Home of the Good Shepherd in Leederville in 1912. In the text describing the photo (p.26) the building is identified as the 'industrial school'.

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### McCourt Street [Home of the Good Shepherd]

**Description:** This is a digital copy of a photograph of the Home of the Good Shepherd in 1929, looking up McCourt St to Ruislip St. It is from the State Library of Western Australia's John K. Ewers collection of online images.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Sisters of the Good Shepherd \(1863 - current\)](#)

#### Related Events

- [Royal Commission appointed to Inquire into the Care and Reform of Youthful Delinquents, State of Western Australia \(1943\)](#)

The Home of the Good Shepherd was inspected by members of the Royal Commission appointed to Inquire into the Care and Reform of Youthful Delinquents.

Date: 1943 -

#### Related Organisations

- [Neuville \(1971 - 1987\)](#)
- [St Margaret's Hostel \(1918 - 1971\)](#)

Pregnant women from the Home of the Good Shepherd, Leederville were sent to St Margaret's Hostel to have their babies.

#### Related Concepts

- [Adoption in Western Australia \(c. 1896 - current\)](#)

Adoption of the babies of young women who were sent to the Home of the Good Shepherd as pregnant teenagers was not uncommon.

Date: 1909 - 1979

## Resources

- Kovesi, Catherine, [\*Pitch Your Tents on Distant Shores: a history of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Tahiti\*](#), 2006
- [\*Mary Terszak interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(1999\)\*](#), 4 November 1999
- Battye, JS, [\*The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia \(1912\)\*](#), 1912. *Relevance:* p.505-506
- Maison, Barbara, [\*Submission No 97 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care\*](#), 14 July 2003
- Hetherington, Penelope, [\*Reformatories\*](#), Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, 2009
- Thomas, Ivy, [\*Submission No 483 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care\*](#), 1 November 2004
- Catholic Education Western Australia, [\*Our History\*](#), 2012
- Heritage Council of Western Australia, [\*Catholic Education Centre \(Church\)\*](#), inHerit: our heritage places, 8 February 2015
- [\*Woman's Interest \[Home of the Good Shepherd\]\*](#), The West Australian, 29 April 1935
- [\*The Daily News \[Christmas Cheer Fund\]\*](#), The Daily News, 2 December 1916
- [\*Question - Child Welfare Act. Delinquent Children\*](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 28 November 1940
- [\*Motion - youthful delinquents, detention conditions\*](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 2 March 1943. *Relevance:* pp.2609-2610
- [\*Address-in-reply \[Royal Commission on Child Delinquency 2\]\*](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 26 August 1943. *Relevance:* p.136
- [\*Applications for Enforcement\*](#), The Western Australian Industrial Gazette, 24 February 1925
- Byrne, Geraldine, [\*Built on a hilltop : a history of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Western Australia, 1902-2002\*](#), 2002
- Paterson, Nancy, [\*History of St Clare's School 1956-2006\*](#), 2007

## Records

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

### Records

- [Records of the Home of the Good Shepherd Industrial School for Girls, Leederville \(1902 - 1980\)](#)
  - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
  - [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/home-of-the-good-shepherd-industrial-school-for-girls/>