

# Catholic Diocese of Perth

1845 – 1913

## Details

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The Catholic Diocese of Perth began in 1845 and extended from Albany to Darwin. Its vast territory was reduced over the years with the establishment of other Catholic Dioceses in Western Australia. From its beginning, the Perth Diocese has been active in the establishment and operation of Orphanages, Industrial Schools, Missions and Children's Homes around the colony and State. Many residential facilities and placement agencies for children have also been run by Catholic religious orders or social welfare service agencies. In 1913, the Diocese of Perth was elevated to the Archdiocese of Perth.

The Catholic Church has been involved in out of home care in Western Australia since the early days of European settlement. In latter years, this involvement has resulted in much controversy.

The Catholic Church in Western Australia has had a long history of involvement in out of home care. The Bishop of Perth was been a key figure in the establishment and operation of orphanages, Industrial Schools, Missions and Children's Homes around the colony and State. A number of residential facilities were run by Catholic religious orders or social welfare service agencies. These religious orders included: the Benedictines; the Christian Brothers; the Sisters of Mercy; the Oblates of Mary Immaculate; the Pallottines (Society of the Catholic Apostolate); the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; the Sisters of St John of God; and the Sisters of Nazareth. In addition, the Schoenstatt Sisters were involved with the Wandering (St Xavier) Mission, the Presentation Sisters with Christian Brothers' institutions, and the Sisters of St Joseph ran St Joseph's Preventorium, Kellerberrin.

## More info

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### Chronology

- **Catholic Diocese of Perth (1845 – 1913)**
  - Catholic Archdiocese of Perth (1913 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Related Organisations

- [Oblates of Mary Immaculate \(1894 - current\)](#)
- [Pallottines \(Society of the Catholic Apostolates\) \(1901 - current\)](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy, Perth Congregation \(1846 - 2011\)](#)

The Sisters of Mercy established a school within the Archdiocese of Perth

- [Sisters of St John of God \(1895 - current\)](#)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Perth sought the assistance from the the Sisters of St John of God to assist in providing Catholic education in Western Australia.

Date: 1895 -

## Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [\*Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families\*](#), 1997
  - [\*The Catholic Encyclopedia\*](#), New Advent, 2009
  - Weller, Helen [editor] with assistance from Roy Hamilton and John Harper, *Sister Michael Kelly*, 1994
  - Coldrey, Barry M., *The Scheme: the Christian Brothers and Childcare in Western Australia*, 1993
  - Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Perth, [\*The Record\*](#), 1874 - current
  - *Reports upon the Roman Catholic Orphanages for the Year Ending 30th June 1884*, 1884
  - *Annual Report of the Roman Catholic Orphanages for 1884-85*, 1885
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