

The Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies (Inc) and Mothercraft Training School

1950 – 1956

Other Names: • Alexandra Home

Details

The Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies (Inc) and Mothercraft Training School was the new name given in 1950 to the Alexandra Home for Women in Highgate. It was run by a private committee of management and continued as a maternity home for unmarried mothers while also becoming Western Australia's first training school for mothercraft nurses. In 1956 it was re-named Ngala Mothercraft Home and Training Centre Inc, remaining in the Highgate premises.

The Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies (Inc) and Mothercraft Training School (also known as the Alexandra Home) was both a maternity home and a training facility for mothercraft nurses. It was located in Lincoln Street, Highgate, in the premises that had originally been acquired for the House of Mercy in 1901, and which had continued from 1916 as the Alexandra Home for Women.

Babies were born at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, and mothers and babies returned to the Home afterwards, but were placed in separate wards. It was not uncommon for babies born to the mothers in the Home to be adopted, either privately (arranged by the Home) or through the government department in charge of child welfare.

An article about The Alexandra Home published in the *Sunday Times* on 13 February 1955 stated that in order to protect the privacy of unmarried women and girls admitted to the home they were not required to provide surnames on admission. The article also stated that personal records of the residents were burned after their stay for this same reason.

In 1956, The Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies (Inc) and Mothercraft Training School changed its name to Ngala Mothercraft Home and Training Centre Inc (Ngala). As Ngala, it continued in the Lincoln Street premises until 1959.

Gallery



Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies 1950s

Description: 'Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies 1950s' is a digital image published on the Ngala website, however it is no longer available there. The caption read, 'The Alexandra Home for Women as it was in Highgate in the 1950s'.

More info

Chronology

- House of Mercy (1891 - 1916)
 - Alexandra Home for Women (1916 - 1950)
- **The Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies (Inc) and Mothercraft Training School (1950 – 1956)**
 - Ngai-a Mothercraft Home and Training Centre Inc (1956 - 1989)

Related Entries

Related Events

- [Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices, Western Australian government \(2023 - 2024\)](#)
The WA inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices found that the Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies (Inc) and Mothercraft Training School played a significant role in past forced adoptions.

Related Organisations

- [King Edward Memorial Hospital \(1916 - current\)](#)
Mothers and babies could be transferred to The Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies (Inc) and Mothercraft Training School from King Edward Memorial Hospital.
- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)
The Child Welfare Department placed children at The Alexandra Home for Mothers and Babies (Inc) and Mothercraft Training School and arranged some adoptions from the Home.

Resources

- [Beryl Grant interviewed by Christine Choo in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 20 October 2011
- [Interview with Helen Jean Duncan, by Chris Jeffery](#), 1977

Records

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

Records

- [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/the-alexandra-home-for-mothers-and-babies-inc-and-mothercraft-training-school/>