

Church of England Training Home for Girls

1909 – 1929

Other Names: • Tress-Manning Home

Details

The Church of England Training Home for Girls opened on the 9th August 1909 as a Home for girls between the ages of 14 and 16. The Home, also known as the Tress-Manning Home, was built at Forsyth Street, Glebe, on a site between the [Church Rescue Home for Women \(Strathmore\)](#) and the [Church of England Girls Home \(Avona\)](#). The home was established with the intention of separating the older girls from the younger girls under the care of the Church of England Homes. The first girls in residence were moved there from Avona. Other girls, often described disparagingly in newspaper articles as “uncontrollable”, were sent to Tress-Manning through the Children’s Court.

An article published in the Sydney Morning Herald on the opening of the home described it as follows:

“The home is cheerful and bright looking. There is a pretty little chapel, in which the Communion table and reading desk have been carved by the pupils in the home. Upstairs there are two dormitories, in one of which four cubicles have been placed... It is intended that the cubicles shall be allotted to girls as rewards for good behaviour.” (‘Church Rescue Home’ published in *The Daily Telegraph*, 10 August 1909)

Girls at Tress-Manning were trained in housework with the intention of sending them to work in domestic service once leaving the Home. According to an article published in *The Daily Telegraph* in 1911 there was great demand to employ girls from the Home as domestic servants. The girls were also taught handicrafts such as lace-making, sewing, chair-caning, and wood-carving, as well as singing. Items produced by girls at both Tress-Manning and Avona, in particular the lace-work, was sold to support the home financially, however the primary source of income for all three homes on the Glebe site came from laundry work done by women living at the Church Rescue Home at Strathmore. Other fundraising efforts such as fetes, dances and concerts, annual subscriptions, and donation appeals also helped finance the Homes.

On 24 August 1911 the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported in an article titled ‘Rescue Homes’ that there were 30 girls in residence at the Tress-Manning Home. The same article also reported that the Committee for the homes were unhappy that legally girls could leave Tress-Manning and return to their parents once they had reached the age of 16, and were petitioning the NSW Premier to raise the age to 18. Despite the stated belief of the matron that families, specifically siblings, should be kept together, she also believed that parents of girls at the home were “unworthy” of regaining custody of their child (as described in a *Daily Telegraph* article titled ‘Church Rescue Work’ on 16 September 1911). The committee’s petitions to the Premier were not immediately successful, and the age that children could legally leave ‘care’ remained 16 until 1923, when the [Child Welfare Act](#) raised it to 18.

In April 1926 the *Evening News* reported the death of 15 year old Edna May Robinson from Tress-Manning. Edna had been working in the kitchen of the Home when her clothes caught fire. She was badly burned, and died of her injuries four days later. The matter was heard in the coroner's court, where witnesses described Edna as a bright and intelligent girl who was capable of taking care of herself. The coroner returned a verdict of accidental death.

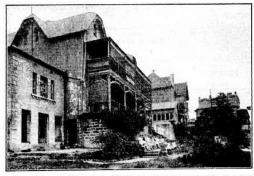
In 1928 the Church of England Homes committee opened a new Girls' Home at Carlingford. This new site allowed for an increase in the number of children admitted to the homes, as well as what was seen as a healthier environment in the country, compared to the city location of Glebe. From 1928 the girls were transferred from Avona, Strathmore, and Tress Manning to the new Girls' Home. Tress-Manning closed in 1929, when the last of the girls were transferred to Carlingford.

Gallery



Tress-Manning - Glebe

Description: This is a photo showing the Church of England Training Home for Girls, also known as Tress-Manning Home, at Glebe. It shows a large two-storey brick building looking out over gardens behind a brick fence. Two other large buildings can be partially seen on either side of Tress-Manning. These are Avona (on the left) which housed the Church of England Girls Home, and Strathmore (on the right), which housed the Church Rescue Home for women.



C. of E. Girls' Homes at Glebe Point, for the transfer of which to Carlingford an appeal has been launched.

Description: This image shows buildings of the Church of England Girls' Homes in Glebe. The building in the foreground is Avona, then Tress-Manning behind it, and Strathmore in the background. Girls from the Home can be seen sitting on the steps outside of Avona. Avona and its grounds later became the Charlton Memorial Home. This image was published in The Sydney Morning Herald on 11 May 1928. The description reads: "The scattered and dilapidated buildings in which 150 girls are now housed. The building in the distance was formerly the residence of the late Sir George Wigram Allen."

More info

Chronology

- **Church of England Training Home for Girls (1909 – 1929)**
 - Church of England Girls' Home, Carlingford (1928 - 1977)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Church of England Homes \(c. 1884 - 1984\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Church Rescue Home \(1885 - 1923\)](#)

The Church Rescue Home (Strathmore) and the Church of England Girls' Home (Tress-Manning) were located on the same site at Glebe.

- [Church of England Home for Girls \(1904 - 1929\)](#)
Church of England Home for Girls (Avona) was located on the same site as the Church of England Training Home for Girls (Tress-Manning)
- [Strathmore Girls' Home \(1923 - 1929\)](#)
Strathmore Girls' Home and Tress-Manning Church of England Training Home for Girls was on the same site at Glebe.
- [Arden Girls' Home \(1919 - 1929\)](#)
Arden Girls' Home was located across the street from the Church of England Training Home for Girls (Tress-Manning)

Resources

- [Christmas Appeals Church of England Homes Glebe](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 10 December 1925
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