

# Department for Neglected Children, State Government of Victoria

1901 – 1924

## Details

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The main responsibility of the Department for Neglected Children upon its establishment was the maintenance and management of 'neglected' children including: supervision of State wards in receiving houses and probationary schools, provision of trade apprenticeships programs, 'boarding out' of children in the service of persons willing to take charge of their maintenance and education, provision of assistance to non-wards.

Under provisions of the Infant Life Protection Act 1907 (No.2102) the Department assumed responsibility in 1907 for the registration of Homes providing non-parental care to infants from the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Police. In addition, under the Children's Maintenance Act 1919, mothers without sufficient means of support could apply to the Department for financial assistance toward the maintenance of their children, rather than have the children committed to the Department's care.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Department of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, Colony of Victoria (1864 - 1887)
  - Department for Neglected Children, Colony of Victoria (1887 - 1900)
- **Department for Neglected Children, State Government of Victoria (1901 – 1924)**
  - Children's Welfare Department, State Government of Victoria (1924 - 1960)
    - Social Welfare Branch, State Government of Victoria (1960 - 1970)
    - Social Welfare Department, State Government of Victoria (1970 - 1978)
      - Department of Community Welfare Services, State Government of Victoria (1978 - 1985)
      - Community Services Victoria, State Government of Victoria (1985 - 1992)

### Related Entries

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- [Royal Park Depot \(c. 1880 - 1955\)](#)  
Date: 1901 - 1924
- [Wandin Yallock Reformatory School \(1886 - 1905\)](#)  
Date: 1901 - 1905

#### Related Legislation

- [Children's Maintenance Act 1919, Victoria \(1919 - 1929\)](#)  
The Children's Maintenance Act 1919 made it possible for mothers to apply to the Department for Neglected

Children to seek financial assistance toward the maintenance of their children.

### Related Organisations

- [Department for Reformatory Schools, State Government of Victoria \(1901 - 1954\)](#)  
The Department for Neglected Children was responsible for neglected children, while the Department of Reformatory Schools was responsible for juvenile offenders.
- [Rutherglen Viticultural College \(1904 - 1927?\)](#)

## Resources

- Swain, Shurlee, ["The supervision of ... babies is women's work, and cannot be rightly done by men": Victorian women's organisations and female child welfare inspectors 1890-1915](#), Victorian Historical Journal, November 2008
- Department for Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools, [Report of the Secretary and Inspector for the year ... / Department for Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools.](#), 1896 - 1924

## Other Resources



**Title:** Scrap album

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 1908 - 1912

[Details](#)

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**Title:** 'Neglected Children's Department, Victoria 1.07.04', bound volume of press clippings with index at front

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 1904 - 1924

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## Records

### Records

- [Victorian Government Wardship and/or Out of Home Care Records \(1864 - current\)](#)
  - [Records of Victorian Adoptions \(c. 1908 - current\)](#)
  - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
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