

Copelen Street Family Centre

1974 – 1991

Details

The Copelen Street Family Centre was established in 1974 in South Yarra. It included a children's care centre, offered family counselling, and provided foster care. By the late 1980s the South Yarra property was sold and in 1991, the Centre was renamed Copelen Child and Family Services.

The Copelen Street Family Centre grew out of a Parents and Children's Centre, established in 1974 in the buildings of the Methodist Babies' Home, at 12 Copelen Street, South Yarra.

It described itself in 1979 as offering "a range of non-residential services designed to promote family life and prevent family breakdown" (Copelen Street Family Centre, Fiftieth Birthday 1929-1979).

This centre offered a variety of programs including Adoption and Permanent Care, parent skills training, a day care centre, a drop-in centre, and family counselling and support.

It was also a provider of foster care in the inner suburbs of Melbourne.

In 1984, the adoption legislation in Victoria led to Copelen setting up an Adoption Information Service.

By the end of the 1980s it was decided to sell the South Yarra property to enable Copelen Street's programs to be located closer to their client base in Windsor. In 1991, the Centre was renamed Copelen Child and Family Services.

Gallery



Methodist Babies' Home

Description: Postcard of Methodist Babies' Home, South Yarra.



Front gates at 12 Copelen Street, South Yarra

Description: This is a copy of an image of the front gates at 12 Copelen Street, South Yarra. At the time this photo was taken, the buildings housed the Copelen Street Family Centre. The South Yarra Hostel was next door. There are signs on the gate for the Methodist Babies' Home (previously located on the list, closed in 1974), South Yarra Hostel, Copelen Street Family Centre and the Presbyterian and Methodist Child Care Service.

More info

Chronology

- Methodist Babies' Home (1929 - c. 1974)
 - **Copelen Street Family Centre (1974 – 1991)**
 - Copelen Child and Family Services (1991 - 1998)
 - Copelen (1998 - 2000)
 - Connections UnitingCare (2000 - 2017)
 - Uniting - Connections (2017 - 2020)
 - Uniting (Victoria and Tasmania) Limited (2017 - current)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Methodist Church of Victoria and Tasmania \(c. 1851 - 1977\)](#)
Date: 1974 - 1977
- [Uniting Church in Australia \(1977 - current\)](#)
Date: 1977 - 1991

Related Organisations

- [Presbyterian Babies' Home \(1928 - 1977\)](#)
- [Presbyterian and Methodist Child Care Service \(1971 - 1977?\)](#)

Resources

- UnitingCare Victoria and Tasmania, *Uniting Church in Australia: agencies in Victoria delivering substitute care services*, April 2008
- *Copelen Street family services - formerly Methodist Babies' Home South Yarra: sixtieth anniversary 1929-1989*, 1989
- *Streetscope: the quarterly newsletter of Copelen Street Family Centre*, 1980 - 1994
- Copelen Street Family Centre, *Annual Report: the Copelen Street Family Centre*, 1975 - 1991
- Tinney, Phyllis M., *Parents for Children : Exploratory Study of Older Children Adopted through the Adoption Section of the Copelen Street Family Centre of the Uniting Church, Victoria*, 1980
- Thomas, Helen, *Establishment and Evaluation of an Experimental Parents and Children Centre : an Interim Report to the Advisory Committee on Child Care Research on the Establishment of the Copelen Street Family Centre*, December 1974
- Tinney, Phyllis M., *The Copelen Street Family Centre : a descriptive and evaluation report*, May 1977
- [Child Care Services of the Uniting Church](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Copelen Street Family Centre
- [From the collection of Uniting Church Archives - Synod of Victoria](#), Victorian Collections, No date. *Relevance:* This collection includes material relating to Copelen Street Family Centre

Records

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

Records

- [Records held by Uniting Church Archives \(1923 - 1994\)](#)
- [Records of Uniting - Connections \(adoptions and out-of-home care\) \(1910 - 2020\)](#)
- [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/copelen-street-family-centre/>