

Alexandra Babies' Home

c. 1909 – 1974

Other Names: • Alexandra Toddlers' Home

Details

The Alexandra Babies' Home was established in around 1909. It housed up to 36 children aged under five years of age. Most were state wards. Many children were transferred to the Ballarat Orphanage when they were four. In 1964, it was known as the Alexandra Toddlers' Home. It closed in 1974.

The Alexandra Babies' Home in Ballarat East was on the same site as the Ballarat Town and City Mission Rescue and Children's Home.

The Babies' Home accommodated boys and girls under 5 years of age. The Home had a capacity of 36 children, and most of the children were state wards. The Home also acted as a 'feeder home' to the Ballarat Orphanage, with children being transferred there once they reached the age of four.

A new single storey building for the Babies' Home at 187 Scott Parade was completed in 1909. Originally, babies were accommodated at the Ballarat Female Refuge at 183 Scott Parade. There is some confusion about the date when the Babies' Home was established as a separate institution from the Refuge. It would seem that both buildings (still extant today) housed babies and toddlers at different times.

At first the Home was run by a committee of management. In 1921 the Ballarat Town and City Mission took over management of the Home.

In 1964, the name changed to Alexandra Toddlers' Home.

The institution closed in 1974.

In 2010, the building was being used as bed and breakfast accommodation known as 'Alexandra House'.

National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

In 2021, the Victorian government has agreed to be a funder of last resort for this institution. This means that although the institution is now defunct, it is participating in the National Redress Scheme, and the government has agreed to pay the institution's share of costs of providing redress to a person (as long as the government is found to be equally responsible for the abuse a person experienced).

Gallery



Former Female Refuge Complex [editor's note: former site of the Alexandra Babies' Home, Scott Parade, Ballarat East]

Description: This single storey building at 187 Scott Parade was constructed in 1909 for the Alexandra Babies' Home (later known as the Alexandra Toddlers' Home). Previously, babies and their mothers were accommodated at the two-storey building at 183 Scott Parade (the former Ballarat Female Refuge). It would seem that babies and toddlers were accommodated in both buildings in Scott Parade at different times.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Ballarat Town and City Mission \(1867 - 1974?\)](#)

The Ballarat Town and City Mission took over the management of Alexandra Babies' Home in c.1921.
Date: 1921 - 1974

Related Organisations

- [Ballarat Orphanage \(1909 - 1968\)](#)

Some babies were transferred from the Alexandra Babies' Home to the Ballarat Orphanage.
Date: 1938 - 1968

- [Ballarat Female Refuge \(1867 - 1921\)](#)

The Alexandra Babies' Home began operation as part of the Ballarat Female Refuge. It was located on the same site as the original refuge at 183 Scott Parade.

- [Ballarat Town and City Mission Rescue and Children's Home \(c. 1921 - 1941\)](#)

The Alexandra Babies' Home and the Ballarat Town and City Mission Rescue and Children's Home were both located in Scott Parade, Ballarat.

Resources

- Crawford, Mavis, [Submission no 532 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Connolly, Susan, [Submission no 473 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- Findlay, Deborah, [Submission no 449 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
- [Alexandra Babies' Home \(1909 - 1974\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Alexandra Babies' Home
- O'Neill, Cate, [More photographs unearthed](#), Find & Connect web resource blog, 19 January 2016
- Wickham, Dorothy and Golding, Frank, *Refuge, Rescue & Reform: voices of suffering and survival*, 2024

Records

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

Records

- [Town and City Mission Records \(1892? - c. 1974\)](#)
- ['Closed' Agency and General Correspondence Files \[Charities Board of Victoria\] \(1923 - 1983\)](#)
- [Admission Register, Alexandra Babies' Home \(1941 - 1973\)](#)
- [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
- [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/alexandra-babies-home/>