

Hillside Boys' Home

1959 – c. 1985

Details

Hillside Boys' Home, in Wheelers Hill, was established by the Victorian Government in 1959. It accommodated 30 to 40 school-age boys who were considered 'unacceptable' for other homes or foster care. Hillside included a school. It closed in around 1985.

Hillside Boys' Home, in Jells Road, Wheelers Hill, Glen Waverley, was established by the Victorian Government in 1959, to relieve 'congestion' at Turana, Royal Park.

Hillside accommodated 30 to 40 school-age boys. In 1959, the Department described its residents as 'of a type not acceptable in foster homes or in institutions and they had no interested parents or relations who could provide a reasonably decent home for them'. The Department described some of the Hillside boys as 'persistent absconders'.

Many of its residents had had a disrupted experience of school, and thus required a 'special school' type of education. This was provided in a two-classroom school on the Hillside site. Hillside was closed following a regional review of residential childcare needs in 1984 – 1985.

The boys living at Hillside participated in activities in the local community, including Scouts, sports and other clubs, and during the Christmas holidays, most boys were placed with local families.

A former resident of Hillside in his submission to the Inquiry into Institutional Care was critical of his time in the Home. He wrote:

I left Hillside uneducated and illiterate. I had few social skills and felt I was a social misfit. I had learnt that 'care' and 'justice' were words with no meaning, and that rules, institutions and authority were not deserving of respect.

In 1959 Hillside was on a 10 acre property 'looking over a very pleasant countryside towards the Dandenong Ranges'. By 1981 the property was surrounded by housing on every side.

Dr Phyllis Tewsley, the former Medical Superintendent at Turana, served in her retirement as an 'honorary welfare officer' at Hillside.

Gallery



Hillside Boys' Home, Wheelers Hill

Description: This image appeared in the Department's annual report for 1963-64.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Children's Welfare Department, State Government of Victoria \(1924 - 1960\)](#)
Date: 1959 - 1960
- [Social Welfare Branch, State Government of Victoria \(1960 - 1970\)](#)
Date: 1960 - 1970
- [Social Welfare Department, State Government of Victoria \(1970 - 1978\)](#)
Date: 1970 - 1978
- [Department of Community Welfare Services, State Government of Victoria \(1978 - 1985\)](#)
Date: 1978 - 1985

Related Organisations

- [Turana \(1955 - 1993\)](#)
Hillside Boys' Home was established to ease overcrowding at Turana.

Resources

- Victoria. Children's Welfare Department, [Annual Report for the Year 1960](#), 1961
- Cooper, Adam, [Elderly man jailed for abuse against young boys](#), The Age, 1 January 1970
- [Hillside Boys' Home \(1959-85\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Hillside Boys' Home

Records

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

Records

- [Victorian Government Wardship and/or Out of Home Care Records \(1864 - current\)](#)
 - [Child Information and Departmental Administration records, Turana, Baltara Reception Centre, Langi Kal Kal and Malmsbury Youth Training Centres, Melbourne Youth Justice Centre \(c. 1950 - c. 2005\)](#)
 - [Welfare Photographs and Publications \(c. 1956 - c. 1960\)](#)
 - [Departmental Children's Homes Files \(1955 - 1987\)](#)
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