

# Ballarat Reception Centre

1961 – 1982?

**Other Names:** • Warrawee Reception Centre

## Details

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The Ballarat Reception Centre was opened by the Victorian Government in 1961. It accommodated 15 to 18 children aged up to 14 years who were waiting for placement, or whose placement had not worked out. The Reception Centre was renamed 'Warrawee' in 1964. It closed in around 1982.

Warrawee was situated at 28 Victoria Street, Ballarat. The building was initially a private hospital, run by a former matron of the Ballarat Female Refuge, Sarah Jane Ellis. From 1927 to 1961, the building housed the Ballarat Orphanage Boys' Hostel.

The Ballarat Reception Centre received its first children in July 1961. 55 children were admitted during the year ending June 1962. This group of children comprised wards of state just admitted to the Department, children on protection applications pending their Court hearings, and some non-wards placed at the Reception Centre overnight by the police.

The children at Warrawee attended local schools and did other activities in the community whilst awaiting the outcome of assessment.

In May 1968, it was stated that the Reception Centre was nearly always full. This made it difficult to cope with families of children arriving from time to time without notice from Children's Courts in the surrounding districts. The aim was to separate Regional Office staff from the Centre to allow for more accommodation at the Centre. This occurred in November of that year.

In August 1968, the Director of Family Welfare wrote that he was very concerned at the lack of activities for the children in the Reception Centre. He stated that a long term plan was needed for the Centre.

In December 1971 there were 14 children resident at the Centre. In November 1970 there were 17. The number of children discharged to children's homes averaged 69 for the period 1/7/1966-30/6/1969, and 36 for the period 1/7/1969-30/06/1971.

## More info

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### Related Entries

**Run by**

- [Social Welfare Branch, State Government of Victoria \(1960 - 1970\)](#)

Date: 1961 - 1970

- [Social Welfare Department, State Government of Victoria \(1970 - 1978\)](#)

Date: 1970 - 1978

### Related Organisations

- [Ballarat Orphanage Boys' Hostel \(1927 - 1961\)](#)

The Ballarat Reception Centre was located on the former site of the Ballarat Orphanage Boys' Hostel

## Resources

- Mulholland, David, [Submission no 294 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005

## Records

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

### Records

- [Victorian Government Wardship and/or Out of Home Care Records \(1864 - current\)](#)
  - [Ballarat Reception Centre records held by the Victorian Government \(c. 1960 - 1990\)](#)
  - [Departmental Children's Homes Files \(1955 - 1987\)](#)
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