

# Melbourne City Mission Toddlers' Home

c. 1935 – c. 1955

## Details

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The Melbourne City Mission Toddlers' Home was situated on the same site as the Melbourne Mission's Maternity Home, which had accommodated babies with their mothers since 1900. The Home accommodated children up to the age of five. In 1955, the Mission amalgamated the Toddlers' Home and the Maternity Home. The new Home was renamed Hartnett House in 1958.

It is difficult to pinpoint the exact establishment date of the Toddlers' Home, as the Maternity Home (on the same site in Albion Street, Brunswick) had accommodated mothers and babies since 1900.

In 1935, the Mission added a nursery to the existing buildings of the Maternity Home in Albion Street. A dedicated 'Toddlers' Home' was erected in 1947, and another new nursery was built in 1950.

In 1942 the Children's Welfare Department noted that the Home had 22 infants and some mothers in the home, but only one State ward. At the next Departmental inspection (1949) the Home's staff were described as 'a floating population of training missionaries, kindergarten teachers and unmarried mothers who help with the work', (although there was always a mothercraft nurse on the staff). In 1949 there were eight State wards and 34 Infant Life Protection Infants in residence. By 1950 the Home staff consisted primarily of mission sisters, most of whom were mothercraft nurses, still assisted by the mothers of the children.

The Mission amalgamated the Maternity and Toddlers' Homes in Albion Street into one unit in 1955. This Home was renamed Hartnett House in 1958.

## Gallery

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**Hartnett House**

**Description:** This is an image of Hartnett House, Albion Street, Brunswick - the site of a former maternity and children's home. In 2011, the building houses a childcare centre and other Melbourne Citymission programs. More images of this building are available on [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

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## More info

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# Chronology

- **Melbourne City Mission Toddlers' Home (c. 1935 – c. 1955)**
  - Hartnett House (c. 1955 - 1990s)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Melbourne City Mission \(1854 - 1970\)](#)  
Date: 1935 - 1955

### Related Organisations

- [Melbourne City Mission Maternity Home \(1900 - c. 1955\)](#)

## Resources

- O'Neill, Cate, [Six years on from the national apology](#), Find & Connect web resource blog, 16 November 2015
- University of Melbourne Archives, [Records of Melbourne City Mission](#), 12 July 2005
- Dagher, Banda, *Hartnett House Brunswick: its founder, its work, its history*, 2009
- Leeson, E., [Melbourne City Mission 1855-1949](#), 1949
- [Hartnett House \(1900-83\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Melbourne City Mission Toddlers' Home

## Other Resources

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**Title:** Melbourne City Mission

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 1930?

[Details](#)

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## Records

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

### Records

- [Melbourne City Mission \[Records\] \(1856 - 1995\)](#)
  - [Melbourne City Mission Records \(c. 1900 - current\)](#)
  - [Hartnett House and Melbourne City Mission Maternity Home Records \(1900 - 1983\)](#)
  - [Voluntary Children's Homes Files \(1921 - 1989\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/melbourne-city-mission-toddlers-home/>