

Geelong Female Refuge

1868 – 1928

Details

The Geelong Female Refuge was established in 1868 at Kildare, initially to house and reform 'fallen' women who had nowhere to live. By 1893 the Refuge accepted pregnant unmarried women who were prepared to have their babies at the refuge and remain for a further 12 months with their baby. By 1928 it had evolved into the Bethany Babies' Home.

Gallery



Geelong Female Refuge

Description: This is an image of the Geelong Female Refuge, taken in approximately 1888. It shows the refuge as a long, single-storey wooden building. Two women holding babies are standing on the verandah, and two toddlers are standing in the garden in front of the refuge.

More info

Chronology

- **Geelong Female Refuge (1868 – 1928)**
 - Bethany Babies' Home (1928 - 1977)
 - Bethany Community Support (1977 - current)
 - Meli (2023 - current)

Resources

- [Geelong Female Refuge/Bethany Babies' Home \(1868-current\)](#), Finding Records, No date. *Relevance:* See the 'List of records held by the department' section for information about records relating to Geelong Female Refuge

Records

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

Records

- [Bethany Community Support Records \(1896 - 2007?\)](#)
 - [Records of Victorian Adoptions \(c. 1908 - current\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/geelong-female-refuge/>