

# State Children Relief Act 1881, New South Wales

1881 – 1901

**Other Names:** • An Act to establish a System of boarding-out Children

**URL:** <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/act-1881-5a>

## Details

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The State Children Relief Act of 1881 [24/1881 (44 Vic. No.24)] created the State Children's Relief Board [SCRB], a body of nine members that reported to the Colonial Secretary. Its task was to remove children from state-funded institutions and board them out, or foster them, with working class families. This Act enabled the SCRB to pay fees to foster families, and to supervise foster children, and place them in apprenticeship as it saw fit. Within five years, almost all children who had been in the care of the Benevolent Society and the Roman Catholic and Protestant Orphanages were in the boarding out system. This Act was amended by the State Children Relief (Amendment) Act 1896. It was repealed by the State Children Relief Act 1901.

At first, only children who had already been placed in institutions could be boarded out, but the Act was amended in 1901 to enable the SCRB to commit children directly to its care. An earlier amendment in 1896 had enabled the SCRB to pay a half-rate of the boarding out allowance to widows and deserted wives who were considered respectable enough to keep their children.

## More info

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### Chronology

- **State Children Relief Act 1881, New South Wales (1881 – 1901)**
  - State Children Relief Act 1901, New South Wales (1901 - 1923)
  - Child Welfare Act 1923, New South Wales (1923 - 1939)
    - Child Welfare Act 1939, New South Wales (1939 - 1987)
      - Adoption of Children Act 1965, New South Wales (1965 - 2003)
        - Adoption Act 2000, New South Wales (2000 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Related Organisations

- [Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children \(1858 - 1915\)](#)

The *State Children's Relief Act* gave the State Children's Relief Board the power to take children from the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children and board them out.

- [Protestant Orphan School \(1850 - 1886\)](#)

The *State Children's Relief Act* gave the State Children's Relief Board the power to take children from the Protestant Orphan School and board them out.

- [State Children's Relief Board \(1881 - 1923\)](#)
- [State Children's Relief Department \(1881 - 1923\)](#)
- [Benevolent Asylum, Sydney \(1821 - 1901\)](#)

The *State Children's Relief Act* gave the State Children's Relief Board the power to take children from the Benevolent Asylum and board them out.

Date: 1881 -

- [Roman Catholic Orphan School \(8 March 1844 - 1886\)](#)

The *State Children's Relief Act* gave the State Children's Relief Board the power to take children from the Roman Catholic Orphan School and board them out.

#### Is amended by

- [State Children Relief Act 1896, New South Wales \(1896 - 1901\)](#)

## Resources

- Parry, Naomi, ['Such a longing': black and white children in welfare in New South Wales and Tasmania, 1880-1940](#), 2007
- Ramsland, John, *Children of the back lanes: destitute and neglected children in colonial New South Wales*, 1986
- [New Parents for "Nobody's Child"](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 7 August 1939
- Department of Justice, [History](#), Children's Court of New South Wales, 2012
- Parliamentary Counsel's Office, [NSW legislation](#), No date
- State Records Authority of New South Wales, [Dept of Community Services](#), No date
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), [To Remove and Protect](#), 2014

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/state-children-relief-act-1881/>