

# State Children's Relief Department

1881 – 1923

- Other Names:**
- State Children's Relief Board
  - SCRD
  - State Children Relief Department
  - State Children's Relief Branch

## Details

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The State Children's Relief Department was the public service body responsible for implementing the recommendations of the State Children's Relief Board. It was part of the Chief Secretary's Department until 1888, when it became part of the Department of Charitable Institutions. It moved to the Department of Public Instruction in 1923. The titles 'State Children's Relief Board' and 'State Children's Relief Department' mean the same thing and both may appear in the records. Generally, the word Department refers to the staff (the public servants), while the word Board describes the people who made the decisions about the running of this agency. The head of the State Children's Relief Board led the State Children's Relief Department, and the Boarding Out Officer was the most senior public servant. In Find & Connect, we use the term 'State Children's Relief Board' to cover all the functions of this agency.

The State Children's Relief Department supervised all children taken into state care, whether they were boarded out (fostered), apprenticed, informally 'adopted' or placed in institutional care. It also supervised boarding out payments to destitute mothers. The key personnel were the boarding out officers and inspectors and, after Children's Courts were introduced, probation officers. The Department also relied on local networks of lady visitors and priests to supervise children.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Related Organisations

- [Benevolent Asylum, Sydney \(1821 - 1901\)](#)  
The State Children's Relief Department officers removed children from the Benevolent Asylum and placed them in the boarding out system.
- [Department of Education, State Government of New South Wales \(1915 - 1989\)](#)  
The State Children's Relief Department was part of the Department of Education  
Date: 1915 - 1923
- [Department of Public Instruction \(1880 - 1915\)](#)  
The State Children's Relief Department was part of the Department of Public Instruction  
Date: 1901 - 1915
- [Ormond House \(1884 - 1923\)](#)  
The State Children's Relief Department conducted many of its operations from Ormond House.  
Date: 1884 - 1923

- [Colonial Secretary \(1 Jan 1821 - 1 April 1959\)](#)  
The State Children's Relief Department was part of the Chief Secretary's Department
- [Sydney Home for Babies \(1910 - 1911\)](#)  
The State Children's Relief Department closed down The Sydney Babies Home, by refusing it a licence to care for children.
- [Inspector of Public Charities \(1866 - 1888\)](#)  
The Inspector of Public Charities supervised the State Children's Relief Department  
Date: 1881 - 1888
- [Department of Charitable Institutions \(1888 - 1911\)](#)  
The State Children's Relief Department was part of the Department of Charitable Institutions  
Date: 1888 - 1901
- [State Children's Relief Board \(1881 - 1923\)](#)  
The terms State Children's Relief Department and State Children's Relief Board are interchangeable and both may appear in the records. Generally, the term Department refers to the staff (the public servants), while the term Board refers to the decision-makers, the ladies and gentlemen who ran the State Children's Relief Board.
- [Child Welfare Department, State Government of New South Wales \(1923 - 1970\)](#)  
The State Children's Relief Department and State Children's Relief Board became the Child Welfare Department.

### Related Legislation

- [Infants' Custody and Settlements Act, New South Wales \(1899 - current\)](#)
- [State Children Relief Act 1881, New South Wales \(1881 - 1901\)](#)
- [Children's Protection Act 1892, New South Wales \(1892 - 1902\)](#)
- [Infant Convicts Adoption Act 1901, New South Wales \(1901 - 1939\)](#)
- [State Children Relief Act 1901, New South Wales \(1901 - 1923\)](#)
- [Infant Protection Act 1904, New South Wales \(1904 - 1923\)](#)
- [Children's Protection Act 1902, New South Wales \(1902 - 1923\)](#)

### Related Concepts

- [Adoption in New South Wales \(c. 1923 - current\)](#)
- [Probation \(c. 1905 - current\)](#)

## Resources

- State Children's Relief Department, *Report of the State Children's Relief Department*, 1881 - 1893
- Lark, Susan, [Index to children in the care of the State Children's Relief Department as of 05 April, 1883](#), 2002
- [The Mittagong Children's Farm](#), Sydney Morning Herald, 5 November 1914
- [The Children's Friend: Sir Charles Mackellar: Mittagong Homes. A great work. Those who never had a chance.](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 28 November 1914
- ["The Death Roll": The Babies' Home: Condemnatory Reports: Mother's Complaint](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 8 November 1911
- Parry, Naomi, [Stolen Childhoods. Reforming Aboriginal and Orphan Children through Removal and Labour in New South Wales \(Australia\), 1909-1917](#), RHEI: Revue d'histoire de l'enfance "irrégulière", 2012
- [Women's Conference at Sydney: Fifty-Two Societies Represented, Record of Great Social Work](#), The Mercury, 10 August 1911

## Records

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### Records

- [Departmental Records relating to State Wards, New South Wales \(1918 - current\)](#)
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