

Marella Aboriginal Temporary Care

1979 – 2000

Other Names:

- Marella Aboriginal Program
- Marella Group Home

Details

Marella Aboriginal Temporary Care, was a programme for Aboriginal children run by Church of England Homes on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney. Marella Aboriginal Temporary Care was a family group home for 8 children aged between 6 and 14 years old, located in Marrickville and staffed by Aboriginal people. It opened at Harney Street, Marrickville in 1979, then moved to a property on Frampton Street, Marrickville (which had previously been used as the Havilah Group Home) in 1984, and finally moved to Shearer Street, St Clair in 1989 before closing in December 2000.

Marella Aboriginal Program was sponsored by the Sky Pilot Foundation and Marella Mission Farm Ltd, which were not-for-profit organisations headed by Keith Langford Smith. They had run Marella Mission Farm, which was a foster home for Aboriginal children.

By the 1980s Marella was running as a family group home for Aboriginal children. In 1984, in its newsletter *Care*, Church of England Homes described the purpose of its group homes:

Cornwall [Cornwell], Buckland, Havilah and Marella are our Group Homes which provide longer term care. Perhaps the children aren't getting normal care at home. Maybe they have missed out on it for a long time. These homes provide a kind of holding situation. But one which avoids damaging them still further by providing them with a good model of a positive family-type experience. Meanwhile, everything possible is being done through the counselling service to restore family relationships. Hopefully, after six months, usually sooner, the family can get back together or foster placement can be arranged. Two of our homes are for Aboriginal children. They are managed and staffed by Aborigines and are the first of their kind.

At the time, Church of England Homes employed a team of social workers to work with the family and help communications between parents and children, as well as provide counselling and short-term financial support, if needed.

Gallery



Marella Group Home - St Clair

Description: This is a photo of the front of the Marella Group Home at St Clair. It shows a brick single-storey house somewhat obscured by gardens, with a garage with a curved doorway on the right hand side.



Marella

Description: This is a scan of an image from the Church of England Homes newsletter *Care* article about residential and crisis care.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Church of England Homes \(c. 1884 - 1984\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Anglican Diocese of Sydney \(1788 - current\)](#)
- [Marella Mission Farm \(1953 - 1978\)](#)

The Sky Pilot Fellowship, which Marella Mission Farm and was involved with Marella Mission Farm Ltd, sponsored the Marella Aboriginal Program.

Date: 1979 - 1986

- [Sky Pilot Fellowship \(23 May 1949 - c. 1986\)](#)
Marella Mission Farm Ltd sponsored the Marella Project.
Date: 1979 - 1986
- [Havilah Group Home \(1979 - c. 1985\)](#)

Resources

- Wilkinson, Zona and Loxley, Anne, [Marella : the hidden mission](#), 2009

Records

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

Records

- [Records of Marella Mission Farm \(1948 - 1986\)](#)
 - [Anglicare Children's Homes, Foster Care and Out-of-Home Care Records \(1932 - 2010s\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/marella-aboriginal-temporary-care/>