

Church of England Children's Homes, Burwood

1927 – 1993

Other Names:

- The Weldon Centre
- Church of England Children's Homes, Burwood Inc
- Bishop Stone-Wigg Memorial Home
- Weldon Lodge
- Wyatt Lodge

Details

Church of England Children's Homes was established in 1927. It was previously known as Church of England Orphanage. It was run by a private committee. The home accepted children between the ages of two and six years old, who remained at the home until they were old enough to work. In the 1980s the organisation changed its name to the Weldon Centre.

Church of England Children's Homes had their beginnings in 1893 with work carried out by the Community of the Sisters of the Church of England in a rented cottage in Burwood in Sydney's inner west that was named 'Church of England Orphanage'. In 1927 the Homes were incorporated under the Companies Act, with limited liability, and changed name to Church of England Children's Homes, Burwood. The Sisters of the Church of England were not associated with the Home after this time.

The annual report of the Church of England Children's Home, Burwood, for 1939-1940 stated that the home accepted children between the ages of two and six years old, and that these children then stayed at the home until they were old enough to receive confirmation rites and go out to work. At this time there were 19 girls and 20 boys at the home.

The Church of England Orphanage Boys' Home was renamed Wyatt Lodge and the Church of England Orphanage Girls' Home was renamed Weldon Lodge.

Church of England Children's Homes were not run directly by the Anglican Church, but by a committee of people from Burwood and surrounding suburbs. The President of the Committee of the Homes from 1922 to his death in 1935 was AW Green, who had been president of the State Children's Relief Department and was also involved with Dr Barnardo's Homes and the Mason's children's homes.

Other Board members included Mrs Stone-Wigg, the widow of the founder of the committee for the Church of England Orphanage and Mrs EC Smithers, whose husband was an inspector with the Aborigines Welfare Board and who arranged places for some Aboriginal children in the home, with the consent of parents. The history of this home shows how interconnected children's welfare institutions could be.

In 1939, in order to honour the founder of the Homes, the late Bishop Stone-Wigg, and to distinguish them from other Church of England homes in Sydney (those run by Church of England Homes), the words 'Bishop Stone-Wigg Memorial' were added to the title. A new complex, the Katie Julia Thompson Memorial Home was opened in May 1968. Reflecting a change in attitudes towards child care, the home evolved into a family group home in

the late 1970s.

From around 1980 this home was known as the Weldon Centre. Wyatt Lodge was converted to a residential care unit in the early 1980s. The Weldon Centre closed in 1993.

In 2012 the Weldon Centre was operating Before, After and Vacation Care Programs, a Helping Early Leaver's Program, a Family Support Program, a Youth Development Officer and Occasional Care.

In 2012 a former youth worker at the Weldon Centre contacted the Find and Connect NSW State-Based Historian to donate a collection of 100 photographs, taken in 1981. These colour snapshots, which feature excursions and events within the home, have the names of children and workers written on the back. They have been deposited with the National Orphanage Museum (Care Leavers Australia Network).

Please note, Anglicare does not hold the records of the Church of England Children's Homes, Burwood. These are held by the Weldon Centre.

Gallery



The Boys' Home

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared on the letterhead of The [Church of England] Children's Homes, Weldon Street, Burwood in 1941.



The Girls' Home

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared on the letterhead of The [Church of England] Children's Homes, Weldon Street, Burwood in 1941.

More info

Chronology

- Church of England Orphanage (1893 - 1927)
 - **Church of England Children's Homes, Burwood (1927 – 1993)**

Related Entries

Ran

- [Katie Julia Thompson Memorial Home \(1968 - 1993\)](#)
- [Wyatt Lodge \(1980s - 1993\)](#)
Date: 1927 - 1993
- [Havilah Group Home \(1979 - c. 1985\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Weldon Centre \(c. 1980 - current\)](#)
The Weldon Centre is the modern name for Church of England Children's Homes, Burwood.

Resources

- [In Equity](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 11 March 1933

Records

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

Records

- [Records of the Weldon Centre, Church of England Children's Homes, Burwood \(1893 - 1993\)](#)
 - [Weldon Centre Photographs \(c. 1981 - c. 1981\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/church-of-england-childrens-homes-burwood-2/>