

North Coast Children's Home

1920 – c. 2000

Other Names:

- North Coast Children's Home Inc
- Church of England North Coast Children's Home

Details

The North Coast Children's Home was established in Lismore as a 'district home' for orphan and neglected children in April 1920, by the Vicar of St Andrew's and the Church of England. It ran in rental houses and private homes until 1936, when the committee bought an old police station, next to St Andrews' Anglican Church Lismore. The North Coast Children's Home was incorporated in 1984 and changed its name to Child and Adolescent Specialist Program (CASPA) in the early 2000s. The North Coast Children's Home has been the subject of inquiries by the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The North Coast Children's Home officially opened in 1936, after the Committee remodelled an old police station, next to St Andrew's Lismore. It was incorporated in 1984 and changed its name to CASPA (Child and Adolescent Specialist Program) in the early 2000s.

In 2009 the Bishop of Grafton offered both an apology and financial support to former residents who suffered abuse in the home.

The question of who actually ran the North Coast Children's Home has confused many people. Find & Connect web resource staff have been told by several people who tried to get their records from the Home, or take action for abuse they suffered, that the Anglican Diocese of Grafton had claimed it did not run the Home. In 2012 this entry on the Find & Connect web resource stated:

The question of who was responsible for the home and the treatment of residents has been the subject of some debate, and of legal action by a former resident who was abused in the Home. It appears to have been run by a committee, and not directly operated by the Church of England, but was endorsed and blessed by the Church.

In 2009 the Bishop of Grafton offered both an apology and financial support to former residents who suffered abuse in the home.

An article from *The Australian Women's Weekly* of 1976 states clearly that the Home was run by the Anglican Church, through St Andrew's Church at Lismore.

However, in May 2013 the issue of who is responsible for the abuse that occurred at North Coast Children's Home was clarified. In late 2012 an audit of 'Professional Standards matters' (that is, abuse claims) was done, in preparation for the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse. On 17 May 2013 the Bishop of Grafton resigned, stating the audit had showed he had handled claims of abuse at the North Coast Children's Home without applying the Anglican Church's professional standards protocols, or appropriate pastoral care.

In his statement of resignation the Bishop admitted that abuse had occurred at the North Coast Children's Home from the 1940s to the 1980s, saying it was perpetrated by former staff members, visiting clergy, host families and other residents. The Bishop said he had paid compensation to some victims of abuse in 2007, but had been unsure whether the Anglican Diocese of Grafton was legally liable for the abuse at the North Coast Children's Home. The Bishop admitted he had dealt poorly with claims made from 2008-2011 and had not applied the Anglican Church's Professional Standards Protocol to these cases, or referred them to police. He also admitted he had turned away claimants and denied them compensation. The Bishop concluded his statement by apologising to survivors of the abuse.

An interim administrator for the Diocese was appointed on 17 May 2013. On 21 May 2013 *The Daily Telegraph* reported that the resignation of the Bishop of Grafton had taken place after personal intervention by the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Phillip Aspinall.

In November 2013 an investigation by Joanne McCarthy of *The Newcastle Herald* showed that the then Bishop of Grafton had ignored child sex abuse charges when appointing a priest to Lismore Parish in 1968, and that the priest later went on to abuse children at the North Coast Children's Home in 1975 and 1976.

North Coast Children's Home was investigated by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Case Study 03: North Coast Children's Home.

Gallery



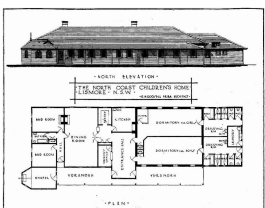
North Coast Children's Home

Description: This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



"The home" [North Coast Children's Home]

Description: This is a copy of an image published in *The Australian Women's Weekly* on Wednesday 23 June 1976. The image shows the building of the North Coast Children's Home and was included in the article *Home's where you go*, with the caption "The home".



The North Coast Children's Home - Lismore N.S.W - Plan

Description: This illustration shows the proposed floorplan and North elevation of the North Coast Children's Home. It was published in the Lismore *Northern Star* on 2 October 1935.

More info

Chronology

- **North Coast Children's Home (1920 – c. 2000)**
 - Child and Adolescent Specialist Programs and Accommodation (c. 2000 - current)

Related Entries

Related Events

- [Case Study 03: North Coast Children's Home, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2013 - 2014\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Anglican Diocese of Grafton \(1914 - current\)](#)

Resources

- [Perform Valuable Work: North Coast Children's Home in New Premises This Year](#), Northern Star, 2 October 2015

Records

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

Records

- [Records of the North Coast Children's Home \(1922 - current\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/north-coast-childrens-home-2/>