

Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service

1994 –

Other Names:

- CCHES
- CCH

URL: <https://www.catholiccare.org/community-services/catholic-childrens-homes-enquiries/>

Details

The Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service was set up in 1994 by Centacare Adoptions Agency (which later became CatholicCare Adoption Services) to provide a centralised information, counselling and referral service for those people previously in Homes or looking for relatives who had been in a Catholic Children's Home.

Since the 1800s, the Catholic Church has cared for many dependent children in a wide variety of homes. These homes, while auspiced under the Catholic Church, were conducted by a number of different Catholic Orders. As the homes closed, the records were moved making it difficult for ex-residents to locate information.

Centacare saw the need to the establish a central register of the names of all the people who were residents of Catholic Children's Homes in the 1990s.

In 2011 Centacare changed its name to CatholicCare, although most internal structures remained the same. The work of CatholicCare staff, and the 2013 Records Access Documentation Project grant funded through Find & Connect, have enabled most of this indexing to be completed.

In 2018, responsibility for the Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service was transferred to Family Spirit, the new organisation created out of the merger of CatholicCare Sydney adoption services and Marist180.

Accessing information

Records of Catholic children's homes are often minimal, which reflects the record-keeping standards of the time. The service warns that, in some cases, it may not be possible to locate any records of a persons' stay in a particular home.

The response to CCH inquiries may also take a while, however the CCH states that it recognises that this is an important service for those searching for information about their personal history, or that of a family member and says it is committed to providing people who lived in Catholic children's homes with support and assistance. Verification of an applicants' identity will be discussed at the time an inquiry is made about records.

More info

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [CatholicCare Sydney \(2011 - current\)](#)
- [Catholic Family Welfare Bureau \(Archdiocese of Sydney\) \(1941 - 1967\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service controls records of the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau
- [CatholicCare Adoption Services \(2011 - 2018\)](#)
- [St Anne's Orphanage \(1888 - 1977\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service holds copies of records relating to St Anne's Orphanage.
- [Holy Family Children's Home \(1956 - 1985\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service holds copies of records relating to Holy Family Children's Home.
- [St Joseph's Orphanage, Goulburn \(1864 - 1975\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service holds copies of records relating to St Joseph's at Goulburn.
- [St John's Home, Auburn Street Goulburn \(1976 - 1987\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service holds minimal records of St John's Home, Auburn Street Goulburn
- [St Patrick's Orphanage \(1919 - 1983\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service holds the records of St Patrick's Orphanage.
Date: 1919 - 1983
- [St Catherine's Orphanage \(1931 - 1990\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Services holds copies of some records relating to St Catherine's Orphanage.
Date: 1957 - 1990
- [St Brigid's Girls' Home, Ryde \(1898 - 1978\)](#)
The Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service holds copies of records relating to St Brigid's Girls' Home.
- [St Anthony's Home Croydon \(1925 - 1980\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service holds copies of records relating to St Anthony's Home Croydon.
- [Roman Catholic Orphan School \(8 March 1844 - 1886\)](#)
Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service holds an alphabetical index of records relating to the Roman Catholic Orphan School.
Date: 1877 - 1884
- [Centacare Catholic Community Services Sydney \(1967 - 2011\)](#)
Centacare Catholic Community Services Sydney established the Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service in 1994.
Date: 1994 - 2011
- [St Anne's Group Homes \(1960s - 1985\)](#)
The Catholic Children's Homes Enquiry Service has an alphabetical index of the records of St Anne's Group Homes.
- [Family Spirit \(2018 - current\)](#)

Resources

- CatholicCare Sydney, [CatholicCare Past Adoption Services](#), No date
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, *A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families*, November 1999

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/catholic-childrens-homes-enquiry-service/>