

# Mater Dei Orphanage

1910 – 1957

## Details

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Mater Dei Orphanage was located at Narellan. The property was formerly known as 'Wivenhoe' and was purchased by the Trustees of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in 1910 to serve as an orphanage for girls aged to 16 years and boys aged up to 12. Mater Dei Orphanage changed to Mater Dei School, a residential special school, in 1957.

When the Manly Industrial School and Orphanage closed in 1910 girls, who were aged up to 16, were transferred to Mater Dei. Boys up to twelve years were admitted between 1910 and 1928.

Since 1957 Mater Dei has been a special school for disabled children, and the records for that period are held at the school.

## Gallery

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**Mater Dei Orphanage**

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

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## More info

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### Chronology

- **Mater Dei Orphanage (1910 – 1957)**
  - Mater Dei School (1957 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Sisters of the Good Samaritan \(1857 - current\)](#)

#### Related Events

- [Visit of John Moss \(1951\)](#)

John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report

#### Related Organisations

- [Manly Industrial School and Orphanage \(1881 - 1910\)](#)

When Manly Industrial School and Orphanage closed in 1910 some of the children were transferred to Mater Dei Orphanage.

## Resources

- Vernon, Kaye, [Manly and Narellan Orphanages](#), No date
- [The Cry of the Children: Mr P McGarry Introduces a Deputation: The Chief Secretary's Sympathetic Words](#), Freeman's Journal, 25 November 1915
- 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

## Records

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

### Records

- [Catholic Children's Homes Registers \(c. 1888 - c. 1990\)](#)
- [Correspondence files, multiple number series \(policy matters\) \(1922 - 1968\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/mater-dei-orphanage-2/>