

# Bethesda Maternity Hospital

1957 – 1973

**Other Names:**

- Bethesda
- Bethesda Hospital

## Details

---

Bethesda Maternity Hospital was a Salvation Army maternity home, rescue home and hospital located at Victoria Road and Lester Street, Marrickville. The Bethesda Hospital was a new building, erected on the same grounds as the Hopeleigh Maternity Hospital (which had also been referred to as 'Bethesda' since the 1920s). This Bethesda Hospital in Marrickville was not related to Bethesda Home for Waiting Mothers at Camperdown.

The Hopeleigh Maternity Hospital had been commonly referred to as Bethesda since it was extensively renovated in 1926, but the official name change appears to have occurred in March 1957, when a purpose-built maternity hospital was erected next to Hopeleigh.

The new building was named Bethesda Maternity Hospital and became the main building for the site. The Hopeleigh Hospital building was converted to nurse accommodation and a laundry. The site as a whole was known as Bethesda Maternity Hospital.

Bethesda Maternity Hospital served the same purposes as Hopeleigh: housing homeless women and girls, unmarried pregnant women without support, and some infants.

When Bethesda Maternity Hospital closed in 1973 the site was renamed Stead House and converted to a hostel for unmarried mothers, low income people and students. In 2007 the Salvation Army closed Stead House and sold the site to the developer. The Hopeleigh building and the Bethesda Maternity Hospital building were bought by developers and converted to apartments in 2011-2012.

Bethesda Maternity Hospital was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Inquiry* (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

## More info

---

### Chronology

- Hopeleigh Maternity Home (c. 1910 - 1956)
  - **Bethesda Maternity Hospital (1957 – 1973)**
    - Stead House (1973 - c. 2007)

### Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)  
Bethesda Maternity Hospital is mentioned in submission 114 to the Inquiry Committee as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

#### Related Organisations

- [Canowindra Girls' Home \(1942 - 1977\)](#)  
Two children from Bethesda Maternity Hospital were taken to Canowindra Girls' Home in 1942.

## Resources

- Senate Community Affairs References Committee, [Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 29 February 2012. *Relevance:* Submissions 265, 114, 170 refer to Bethesda Maternity Hospital

## Records

---

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

### Records

- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Eastern Territory \(c. 1891 - 1990s\)](#)
- 

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/bethesda-maternity-hospital/>