

# Arncliffe Girls' Industrial Home

1916 – 1930

**Other Names:**

- Dappeto
- Arncliffe Girls' Home

## Details

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Arncliffe Girls' Industrial Home was established at Arncliffe in 1916, possibly in rented premises, before moving to a house called Dappeto in 1917. It was run by the Salvation Army and was an industrial school and home for girls who had been committed to care by the courts. It was closed in 1930 and converted to The Nest Children's Home.

It is possible that the Arncliffe Girls' Industrial Home commenced in rented premises before moving to Dappeto, a sandstone Italianate mansion that dates from 1885 and was acquired by the Salvation Army in 1917.

Dappeto was built by Frederick Gibbins, an oyster merchant. The sandstone walls of the house are said to be sealed with whale oil. Gibbins' daughter Ada married David Stead, the father of the famous novelist Christina Stead, in the house in 1907, when Christina was a toddler. Stead's memories of her stepmother are that her treatment was 'dubious.'

Gibbins built the Steads another house, in Rockdale, called 'Lydham Hall'. Gibbins died in 1917 and Dappeto was acquired by the Salvation Army.

Dappeto served as a Salvation Army children's home until 1969, when it was converted to aged care.

## Gallery

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**The Nest (Arncliffe Girls Home)**

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

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## More info

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### Chronology

- **Arncliffe Girls' Industrial Home (1916 – 1930)**
  - The Nest Children's Home (1930 - 1941)
  - Arncliffe Girls' Home (1941 - 1969)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [The Salvation Army, Australian Territory \(1880 - 1921\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Children's Court of New South Wales \(October 1905 - current\)](#)

## Resources

- Thinee, Kristy and Bradford, Tracy, [Connecting Kin: Guide to Records](#), 1998
- [Dapetto](#), State Heritage Register, 2022
- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012

## Records

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

### Records

- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Eastern Territory \(c. 1891 - 1990s\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/arncliffe-girls-industrial-home/>