

# Heighway House Project

1960 – 1979?

**Other Names:** • Heighway House

## Details

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Heighway House was a Methodist Church project that provided hostels for adolescent girls. The first hostel was established in 1960 in Drummoyne and provided accommodation for seven girls aged 15 to 18. It then moved to Duffy Avenue, Thornleigh and became a hostel for 12 working age girls. In 1969 Bailey Cottage, in Coogee, was added to the project and the Thornleigh property was renamed Elsie Cook Cottage. The project ended around 1979.

The Heighway House Project was conducted by the Methodist Church through the Department of Social Responsibility (later known as the Department of Christian Citizenship), and named after Miss Dorothy Heighway, a Methodist deaconess closely involved with the Children's Courts.

In 1960 the Drummoyne facility was opened with support and funding from the Methodist Women's Christian Citizenship Council. The need for larger premises resulted in the sale of the Drummoyne property and the purchase of new premises at 15-17 Duffy Avenue, Thornleigh, in Sydney's north west. The Thornleigh property provided hostel accommodation for 12 working age girls.

In 1969, the Heighway House Project was further extended to premises at 39 Carr Street, Coogee which accommodated nine girls in need of intensive counselling and guidance, the majority being wards of the state. The Coogee cottage was provided by the Youth Welfare Association and was named Bailey Cottage. The oldest of the Hopewood children were placed there.

Following the opening of Bailey Cottage, the Thornleigh house was renamed Elsie Cook Cottage in recognition of Mrs Cook's long service to the Heighway House Project. Elsie Cook Cottage accepted girls who had previously resided at Bailey Cottage, as well as some from Westwood at Bowral who were thought capable of independent living.

The Heighway House Project facilities came under the control of the Uniting Church in New South Wales in 1977 at the time of the union between the Methodist, Congregational and some Presbyterian Churches. Residential programmes for young people were terminated, in favour of programs for adults with mild intellectual disabilities. Reverend Harry Herbert, executive director of UnitingCare NSW/ACT, gives Gordon Trickett, the general secretary of the board for social responsibility for the Uniting Church, credit for this process of deinstitutionalisation.

## Gallery

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**Heighway House**

**Description:** This is a digital photo showing the front of the building that was Heighway House.

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# More info

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## Chronology

- **Heighway House Project (1960 – 1979?)**
  - Elsie Cook Cottage (c. 1969 - 1977?)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Uniting Church in Australia \(1977 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1977 - 1979?
- [Methodist Department of Christian Citizenship \(1965 - 1977\)](#)
- [Methodist Department of Social Services \(c. 1943 - 1965\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Uniting Church Synod Archives \(1977? - current\)](#)  
Uniting Church Archives manages the records of the Heighway House Project
- [Bailey Cottage \(1969 - 1979?\)](#)  
Bailey Cottage was part of the Heighway House Project.
- [Westwood \(1965 - 1979\)](#)  
When Westwood was closing residents who were assessed as capable of independent or supported independent living in Sydney were transferred to the Heighway House Project's property at Thornleigh.
- [Hopewood \(1944 - 1970\)](#)  
The last of the children from Hopewood were placed in Bailey Cottage, part of the Heighway House Project.
- [Youth Welfare Association of Australia \(1942 - 1985\)](#)  
The Youth Welfare Association of Australia gave Bailey Cottage to the Heighway House Project and it was used to house children from Hopewood.

## Resources

- Trickett, Graeme, [Great Depression shaped life devoted to social justice: Gordon Trickett 1925-2011](#), The Sydney Morning Herald, 31 January 2011

## Records

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

### Records

- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
- [Former residents' files, \[no date\], Heighway House](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/heighway-house-project/>