

# Methodist Department of Christian Citizenship

1965 – 1977

**Other Names:** • Department of Christian Citizenship

## Details

---

The Department of Christian Citizenship was an agency of the Methodist Church and replaced the Department of Social Services in 1965. It auspiced Westwood, a residential education centre at Bowral, and ran landra Methodist Rural Centre, St Andrews at Leppington and the Heighway House Project. When the Uniting Church formed in 1977 the Department of Christian Citizenship was replaced by the Uniting Church Board of Social Responsibility, which took over the management of Methodist homes.

Reverend Harry Herbert, the Executive Director of UnitingCare NSW/ACT, has said that the level of institutionalisation in Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist children's homes was too high, and particularly shocking at Westwood, where up to 90 girls and women were housed in 1968.

Gordon Trickett was head of the Department of Christian Citizenship in the 1970s and moved on to be head of the Board of Social Responsibility of the Uniting Church when the Uniting Church was created. He was opposed to the dehumanising institutionalisation of the sick, aged, disabled and incarcerated. He closed Westwood, Tahmoor, landra and Heighway House during the 1970s.

Reverend Herbert says these closures, and the closure of the 'unsuitable model' at St Andrew's Leppington, were 'a necessary course of action', and that, since the Senate Enquiry into the Forgotten Australians he has personally dealt with cases from all these homes, including sexual assault.

## More info

---

### Chronology

- Methodist Department of Social Services (c. 1943 - 1965)
  - **Methodist Department of Christian Citizenship (1965 – 1977)**
    - Uniting Church Board of Social Responsibility (1977 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Heighway House Project \(1960 - 1979?\)](#)
- [Bailey Cottage \(1969 - 1979?\)](#)

Date: 1969 - 1977

- [Westwood \(1965 - 1979\)](#)  
Date: 1965 - 1977
  - [Iandra Methodist Rural Centre \(1956 - 1974\)](#)  
Date: 1965 - 1974
  - [Iandra Lodge \(1975 - c. 1979\)](#)  
Date: 1975 - 1977
  - [Elsie Cook Cottage \(c. 1969 - 1977?\)](#)
- 

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/methodist-department-of-christian-citizenship/>