

# Uniting Church Board of Social Responsibility

1977 –

## Details

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The Uniting Church Board of Social Responsibility is an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia. It runs welfare programmes, including children's programmes. When the Uniting Church was created in 1977 from Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist parishes the Uniting Church Board of Social Responsibility assumed responsibility for children's homes that had been run by the churches, including landra Lodge, Heighway House, Burnside, Tahmoor, Westwood and St Andrew's Leppington.

Reverend Harry Herbert, the Executive Director of UnitingCare NSW/ACT, has said that the level of institutionalisation at Westwood was 'shocking', with up to 90 girls and women being housed there by 1968. Gordon Trickett, the former head of the Methodist Department of Christian Citizenship and the head of the newly created Board of Social Responsibility of the Uniting Church, was opposed to the dehumanising institutionalisation of the sick, aged, disabled and incarcerated. He closed Westwood, Tahmoor, landra and Heighway House in the late 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

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### Chronology

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

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Tahmoor Children's Home \(1941 - 1979\)](#)  
Date: 1977 - 1979
- [Bailey Cottage \(1969 - 1979?\)](#)  
Date: 1977 - 1979
- [Westwood \(1965 - 1979\)](#)  
Date: 1977 - 1979
- [landra Lodge \(1975 - c. 1979\)](#)  
Date: 1977 - 1979

## Resources

- Moyes, Gordon, [Caring for the Kids](#), Rev Dr Gordon Moyes, AC, 21 March 2007
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