

Scarba House for Children

1965 – 1986

Details

Scarba House for Children at Bondi was opened in 1965. It was previously known as Scarba Welfare House for Children. It was run by the Benevolent Society of New South Wales and was a home for babies and small children. During the 1970s it developed a range of early childhood programmes. Scarba stopped providing residential care for children in 1986.

In 2006 the Benevolent Society published a history of Scarba, as part of its response to the Senate Inquiry into the Forgotten Australians. The report intended to set out the good and the bad, and acknowledge mistakes made in the care of children. One of these mistakes was to fail to keep adequate records of children from the period 1917-1965.

From the 1960s Scarba's record-keeping improved, and mismanagement and poor child care practices became evident. These included separating children from their siblings, a lack of toys and affection, and sending children to bed in the afternoon. In the 1970s Scarba opened a day care service and provided hospital care. Playgrounds and nursery toys were added. By the 1980s Scarba was operating as a family group home, and focussed on therapy for children and families.

In 1986 the Benevolent Society closed the home, to concentrate on offering day care and family support services. Scarba Family Centre then operated from the site.

Scarba House for Children was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices* Report (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Gallery



Scarba House today

Description: Scarba House as it appeared between 1995-2005.

More info

Chronology

- Scarba Welfare House for Women and Children (1917 - 1920)
 - Scarba Welfare House for Children (1920 - 1965)
- **Scarba House for Children (1965 – 1986)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [Benevolent Society of New South Wales \(1813 - current\)](#)
Date: 1965 - 1986

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)
Scarba House for Children was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices* Report (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Related Organisations

- [Post Adoption Resource Centre \(1991 - current\)](#)
The staff of the Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC) is willing to discuss aspects of the history of Scarba House for Children with former clients and their relatives. While there are significant gaps in the records, files from 1967 do survive. PARC also handles complaints. People do not need to have been adopted to use this service.

Resources

- Senate Community Affairs References Committee, [Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 29 February 2012
- Bluett, Ros, [Charity and Justice: The early days of the Benevolent Society in Sydney](#), 24 March 2013
- Benevolent Society, [Benevolent Society: 200 year celebration: Last 200](#), 2013

Records

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

Records

- [Benevolent Society of New South Wales Collection, 1813-1996 \(1813 - 1996\)](#)
 - [Scarba House: Client records \(1967 - 1987\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/scarba-house-for-children/>