

Metropolitan Children's Court

1911 – 1983

Details

The Metropolitan Children's Court was established in 1911, when the Children's Court moved to Albion Street, Sydney from Ormond House. The courthouse also housed the Metropolitan Shelter for Boys. The Metropolitan Children's Court was criticised for overcrowding, its poor location and facilities and on 29 April 1983 it closed when the Bidura Children's Court opened in Glebe.

Surry Hills Children's Court holds records of the Metropolitan Children's Court and can be approached to gain access. Please note that this series of records is incomplete.

Children's Courts

In many instances, especially in the case of smaller Courts, the depositions of proceedings in Children's Courts are interfiled with the adult depositions. There are, however, several designated Children's Courts in NSW: Bidura Children's Court at Glebe (in Sydney's inner west); Cobham Children's Court at Werrington (in Sydney's far west); Worimi Children's Court at Broadmeadow (Newcastle); Minda Children's Court at Lidcombe (in Sydney's west); Campsie Children's Court at Campsie (in Sydney's south west); and Yasmar Children's Court at Haberfield (in Sydney's inner west).

The records listed do not constitute the full extent of the records available. Those listed are the records which appear in the *Concise Guide to the State Archives*. Since the *Guide* was last updated it is possible that additional records have been deposited with State Records of New South Wales. In addition, records are still held by the Courts themselves. As all requests for information must be directed through the Clerk of the relevant Court, current information about holdings will be available from the Court.

Gallery



Children's Court, Sydney

Description: This is a copy of an image that appeared in the State Children Relief Board Report for year ended 5 April, 1912. The Children's Court building was newly opened when this photo was taken.



Nun from the order of Sister of the Good Shepherd escorting a girl, Children's Court Albion Street, Sydney, 25 October, 1963

Description: This is a digital copy of a black and white image from the John Mulligan Photograph Collection, ca. 1960-1976, that was created in 2002 by the National Library of Australia.

More info

Chronology

- **Metropolitan Children's Court (1911 – 1983)**
 - Bidura Children's Court (1983 - 2017)

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Metropolitan Boys' Shelter \(1911 - 1983\)](#)

The Metropolitan Boys' Shelter was in the Metropolitan Children's Court and housed boys who were awaiting court hearings.
- [Royleston \(1922 - 1983\)](#)
- [Children's Court of New South Wales \(October 1905 - current\)](#)
- [Ormond House \(1884 - 1923\)](#)

The Children's Court moved from Ormond House to the Metropolitan Children's Court building in Albion Street Surry Hills in 1911.
Date: 1911 -
- [Metropolitan Girls' Shelter, Glebe \(c. 1923 - 1978\)](#)
- [Christ Church St Laurence Welfare Bureau \(1936 - c. 1941\)](#)

Christ Church St Laurence Welfare Bureau worked with boys who had been through the Metropolitan Children's Court.
Date: 1936 - 1941

Related Places

- [Ormond House \(1824 - current\)](#)

The Children's Court moved from Ormond House to the Metropolitan Children's Court in 1911. Girls waiting for Children's Court cases were kept at the girls' shelter at Ormond House from 1912-1923.

Resources

- Curthoys, Patricia, ["*problem*" children of this community': Christ Church St Laurence and the Children's Court, Sydney, 1936-41](#), Sydney Journal, 2013
- State Records Authority of New South Wales, [Bidura](#), No date
- [Yoonthalla Close interviewed by Anne Monsour in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \[sound recording\]](#), 5 July 2011

Records

Records

- [Records held by Surry Hills Children's Court \(1912 - current\)](#)
 - [John Mulligan Photograph Collection, ca. 1960-1976 \(c. 1960 - c. 1976\)](#)
 - [Depositions \[Metropolitan Children's Court\] \(1950 - 1974\)](#)
 - [Depositions \[Metropolitan Children's Court\] \(15 July 1937 - 16 December 1941\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/metropolitan-childrens-court/>