

Home for Sick Infants, Paddington

1907 – 1913

Other Names:

- Hargrave House
- The Home for Sick and Ailing Infants, Paddington

Details

The Home for Sick Infants, Paddington, was established by the State Children's Relief Board in 1907. Sometimes called Hargrave House, it was a home for babies who were too unwell to board out but could not be admitted to a general hospital. It also took in mothers (usually single girls). Between 400 and 500 babies were admitted in any given year. The operation had moved to the Receiving House at Randwick Asylum by 1913.

The Home for Sick Infants, Paddington, was established under the *Infant Protection Act* 1904. It was one of a number of homes the State Children's Relief Board established to keep unmarried mothers and babies together and to care for vulnerable babies. It aimed to provide the benefits of breastfeeding and closeness to the babies in its care.

Mothers stayed between four and 12 months, while babies stayed three to ten months. An infant mortality rate of 17% was recorded, although babies with their mothers were noted to be considerably more likely to survive. The Home was under the supervision of a visiting medical officer, Dr Barkas.

By 1912 the Home was overcrowded. The Matron was Nurse Frost. The operation moved to what the State Children's Relief Board referred to as 'the Receiving House at Randwick Asylum' in 1913. This was possibly Hillside.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [State Children's Relief Board \(1881 - 1923\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Hillside Home for Mothers and Babies \(1913 - 1920\)](#)

The Home for Sick Infants was possibly transferred to Hillside at the Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children.

Records

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

Records

- [Departmental Records relating to State Wards, New South Wales \(1918 - current\)](#)
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