

Church Rescue Home

1885 – 1929

- Other Names:**
- Avona, Children's Home
 - Strathmore, Rescue Home for Women
 - Tress-Manning, Training Home for Girls
 - Arden, Home for Girls
 - Home for Girls
 - Church Rescue and Training Home for Girls
 - Church of England Homes at Glebe Point

Details

The Church Rescue Home was established in Darlinghurst in 1885. It opened as a home for women, though that included girls over the age of 14, who undertook laundry work. The Home moved several times before two buildings, 'Strathmore' and 'Sunnyside', were purchased in Glebe in 1899. In 1903 an adjacent building 'Avona' was purchased, and a girls' home was opened. Many girls were sent to Avona from the children's courts and were trained in domestic service, as well as reading and writing if they couldn't already.

On 11th August 1908, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that in the last year 161 women and girls had been admitted, with 54 for Avona and 107 for Strathmore. They also reported that the average number of people accommodated was 90 between the two homes, and children were sent to other institutions, hospital, as well as returned to their own homes after staying there.

In 1907 the site was expanded with a new home built alongside Strathmore and Avona as a training home for girls, it formally opened as Tress-Manning Home on 9th August 1909. At the time of its opening *The Star* reported "Strathmore," which is one of the three, buildings attached to the Rescue Home, shelters the women, who do laundry work, while "Tress-Manning" is for young girls, who make lace, cane chairs, do wood-carving, and make underclothing, and "Avona" is for the younger children.

In 1914, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, reported that 140 women and girls were living across the three homes and were divided by age. Avona was for girls aged 3 to 14, Tress-Manning for girls 14 to 16 years, and Strathmore for women. The laundry work undertaken as Strathmore was also stated as enabling the homes to be mainly self-supporting, with the assistance of public subscriptions. Donations and other fundraising efforts by the Committee such as fetes were key.

In December 1917, *The Daily Telegraph* reported that Tress-Manning was for "uncontrollable girls", while "very little girls were seen happily at play" at Avona, and older girls were taught lacemaking and woodwork including re-caning chairs and carving items for the church such as chairs, the holy table and prayer desk.

A fourth building known as 'Arden' was purchased in 1918 on the same site and opened in August 1919 as another girl's home for girls aged six to 18. This building was also used as an administrative block. A decision was made at this time to transfer girls from the children's home in Carlingford to Glebe, allowing for the Home in Carlingford to become a home specifically for boys.

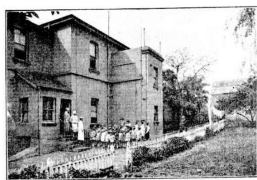
In 1921 the Church of England Girls' Home at Glebe was granted 5 shillings per week for every orphan in its care by the NSW Government. The Home was impacted by the influenza pandemic with many children and staff unwell, and two children dying.

In February 1923, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that Strathmore had converted from being a rescue home for women and officially opened as an additional Home for Girls. This would increase the number of girls able to live in Church Rescue Home by 50. This meant that all homes on this site were now operating as girls' homes.

On 10 December 1925, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that 150 girls lived at the homes in Glebe Point. As part of a Christmas appeal for gifts noted that children were "either orphans, destitute, or needy children...[and] numbers of them are children of men who made the great sacrifice in the Great War".

By 1927, the Church of England Children's Homes committee began to have conversations about closing the Homes in Glebe and transferring all the girls to the Carlingford site, so it could be collocated with the boy's home. In August 1929, the *Evening News* reported that the final girls were being transferred to the Mary McGarvey Home for Girls at Carlingford. The Child Rescue Home and all four buildings were vacant from September 1929.

Gallery



C. of E. Girls' Homes at Glebe Point, for the transfer of which to Carlingford an appeal has been launched.

Description: This image shows the building known as 'Arden' when it formed part of the Church of England Girls' Home in Glebe. Girls from the Home can be seen standing outside the building. This image was published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 11 May 1928. The description reads: "The administrative block of the homes in Forsyth-Street, some distance from the main buildings in which the girls are accommodated."



C. of E. Girls' Homes at Glebe Point, for the transfer of which to Carlingford an appeal has been launched.

Description: This image shows the building known as 'Avona' when it formed part of the Church of England Girls' Home in Glebe. Girls from the Home can be seen sitting on the steps outside the building. This building and its grounds later became the Charlton Memorial Home. This image was published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 11 May 1928. The description reads: "The scattered and dilapidated buildings in which 150 girls are now housed. The building in the distance was formerly the residence of the late Sir George Wigram Allen."

More info

Chronology

- **Church Rescue Home (1885 – 1929)**
 - Church of England Girls' Home, Carlingford (1928 - 1976)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Church of England Homes \(c. 1884 - 1984\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Carlingford Children's Home \(1914 - 1920\)](#)

Resources

- [Glebe Care Homes for Children](#), The Glebe Society, 23 June 2013

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