

Singleton Home

1905 – 1910

- Other Names:**
- Singleton Aborigines Children's Home
 - Singleton Aborigines Home
 - Singleton Aboriginal Girls' Home
 - Aborigines Inland Mission Singleton Home

Details

The Singleton Home was established by Retta Long and the Aborigines Inland Mission (AIM) in a rented house in Singleton in 1905. It started as a girls' home, although some adult members of the St Clair and Singleton communities stayed there. It became the Singleton Children's Home in 1910, after the Aborigines Protection Board began sending children it had removed from Aboriginal stations and reserves in NSW for 'training' to the AIM.

Historian Dr Christine Brett-Vickers has studied the careers of the Smiths, who were superintendents of the Home from 1910 to 1918. She wrote to Find & Connect in 2012:

There was never a formal name for the Home as I recall, as it was referred to as The Home in AIM correspondence. ... It was primarily a girls' home although members of the Aboriginal community (St Clair and Singleton) stayed there as well in the early years up until 1910 or thereabouts. Mothers who were lying in, so to speak, also stayed there ... several couples who had converted, or who were offering themselves as 'native helpers' also stayed there.

Retta Long was very clear that her dream was to found the [St Clair Mission] and to open a girls' home in the early years, i.e. 1906 to 1910. There is reference to this also in Our AIM & The Board agreed with the notion of the Home in 1906 and supplied rations.

As Naomi Parry has written, when the *Aborigines Protection Act 1909* was passed the Aborigines Protection Board gained powers over all Aboriginal children in New South Wales. According to Dr Vickers, Retta Long found it expedient to turn the Singleton Home into a home for boys and girls:

George and Jennie Smith arrived in May 1910 and took over the management of the children's home. The Longs moved to Sydney where they both ran the [Aborigines Inland Mission] as a whole and continued to have babies. So the Smiths were left to manage the Home in conjunction with the board.

Gallery



Sunday school scholars, teachers, missionaries. Cherbourg AIM Church [Singleton Home]

Description: This image from the Australian Indigenous Ministries pictorial collection 1908 to circa 1960s is described by *History of Aboriginal Sydney* as being of the Singleton Aboriginal Girls' Home.

More info

Chronology

- **Singleton Home (1905 – 1910)**
 - Singleton Aboriginal Children's Home (1910 - 1920)
 - Singleton Boys' Home (1920 - 1923)
 - Kinchela Training Home for Aboriginal Boys (1923 - 1970)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Aborigines Inland Mission \(1905 - 1998\)](#)

Related Glossary Terms

- [Homefinder \(1890 - 1920s\)](#)

Related Legislation

- [Aborigines Protection Act 1909, New South Wales \(1909 - 1969\)](#)
Children removed under the *Aborigines Protection Act* were sent to Singleton Home

Related Organisations

- [Cootamundra Training Home \(1911 - 1969\)](#)
Children were moved between the Singleton Home and Cootamundra Home
- [Aborigines Protection Board, State Government of New South Wales \(1883 - 1940\)](#)
The Aborigines Protection Board sent children to the Singleton Home
- [St Clair Aboriginal Mission \(1893 - 1923\)](#)
The Aborigines Inland Mission ran both Singleton Home and St Clair Aboriginal Mission, and adults from the latter often stayed in the Singleton Home
Date: 1905 - 1923

Resources

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, [Remembering the Mission Days: stories from the Aborigines' Inland Mission](#), No date
- Horton, David, *The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture*, 1994
- Miller, James, *Koori, a will to win*, 1985
- Djenidi, Valerie, [State and Church Involvement in Aboriginal Reserves, Missions and Stations in New South Wales, 1900-1975 and a translation into French of Custodians of the Soil](#), 2008

Records

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

Records

- [Australian Indigenous Ministries Aggregated Collection of Records and Pictorial Material, 1903-2003 \(1903 - 2003\)](#)
 - [Bartrop family slides relating to the Aborigines Inland Mission, 1909-1930s, 1945-1950, 1971 \(1909 - 1971\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/singleton-home/>