

Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys

September 1969 – 1983

Details

Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys, in Indooroopilly (now called Chapel Hill) was previously known as the Cooina Salvation Army Boys' Home. The name was changed to Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys in 1969. The home closed in 1983 when funding ceased.

According to the report of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (1999), the structure at Alkira was approximately 24 children being looked after by houseparents, usually a married couple. 'The male houseparent generally held outside employment, so the wife might find herself responsible for managing 24 boys on their return from school.'

Former residents of Alkira gave evidence to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions in 1998-1999.

Former residents described the highly regimented fashion in which the activities of the Home were carried out. The boys rose at a designated time, and performed their daily activities according to a set routine and timetable. A resident in the late 1950s and early 1960s spoke of being marched, military-style, to the dining room where the evening meal took place according to an invariable procedure of standing, saying Grace, eating in unison, and sitting between courses with arms folded.

Evidence given to the Inquiry about excessive corporal punishment at Alkira was supported by departmental files from the 1970s examined by the Commission. According to the report:

Former residents of Alkira told of various staff members using physical punishments against children for a variety of 'misdemeanours' including, for example, absconding, being out of bounds, talking through meal or study time, not closing eyes while praying, talking to girls or playing with them in the school grounds, talking on the way to school, or not sitting up straight while watching television.

Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys was investigated by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Case Study 05: The Salvation Army boys' homes, Australian Eastern Territory.

Gallery



Alkira at Indooroopilly, operated by the Salvation Army

Description: This image is from page 72 of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse in Queensland institutions and the image is an Inquiry photograph.



Alkira Salvation Army Home for Boys at Indooroopilly

Description: This image of Alkira was published by ABC news on 27 March 2014 in the article Child sex abuse royal commission: Salvation Army abuse victim recalls rape and bashing. This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.

More info

Chronology

- Industrial School for Boys (20 November 1922 - 1942)
 - Boys' Home, Washpool (1942 - 1945)
 - Boys' Home, Indooroopilly (1946 - 1968)
 - Cooinda Salvation Army Home for Boys (1968 - September 1969)
- **Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys (September 1969 – 1983)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

Related Events

- [Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions \(1998 - 1999\)](#)
Alkira, Salvation Army Home for Boys was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Case Study 05: The Salvation Army boys' homes, Australian Eastern Territory, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2014\)](#)

Resources

- Forde, Leneen et. al., [Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse in Queensland institutions](#), May 1999. *Relevance*: p.72-73, 77, 93-94
- Shew, Nigel, *Personal Story by Nigel*, 2013
- [Opening Submissions of Counsel Assisting: Case Study 05: The Salvation Army boys' homes, Australian Eastern Territory, January 2014](#), 28 January 2014
- Bidy, Paul, [Salvation Army abuse at 'severe end' of the scale](#), Sydney Morning Herald, 29 January 2014
- Cleland, Sharon, [Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)](#), August 2012
- Blayse, Lewis, [Some More Salvation Army Children's Homes \(Or: Ve Gaf Vays Of Making You Afraid\)](#), lewisblayse.net, 12 January 2014
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, [Report of Case Study No. 5: Response of The Salvation Army to child sexual abuse at its boys homes in New South Wales and Queensland](#), January 2015

Records

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

Records

- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Eastern Territory \(c. 1891 - 1990s\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/alkira-salvation-army-home-for-boys/>