

St Vincent's Home for Children

1935 – 1971

Other Names:

- Nudgee Orphanage
- St Vincent's Centre
- St Vincent's Orphanage

Details

St Vincent's Home for Children, Queens Road, Nudgee, was operated by the Order of the Sisters of Mercy. Previously known as St Vincent's Orphanage, the name changed to St Vincent's Home for Children in 1935. From 1938 children under two years were admitted. The home closed as a residential facility in 1971.

In 1938, children between the ages of nine months to two years were admitted to St Vincent's. Prior to that, children were admitted from two years and older. Today the site of the former St Vincent's Home is still owned by the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and accommodates the head office of Mercy Family Services, which continues to run programs for children, young people and families. This includes foster care and residential care programs.

St Vincent's Home for Children was licensed under the *Orphanages Act of 1879*. It was further licensed under the *State Children Act 1911*. In 1966 the home was licensed once again under the *Children's Services Act 1965*.

A publication from 1968 stated that St Vincent's Home could accommodate 280 boys and girls aged from 9 months to 14 years. "Children under 5 have a nursery of their own. Kindergarten training is provided for the 3 to 5 years age group. There is a visiting doctor and dentist; nursing care and clothing are provided (Social Services Queensland, 1968, p.94)."

A cluster of Family Group Homes opened at St Vincent's campus in the 1970s:

McAuley, Whitty, Conlan, O'Quinn and Duhig Homes and Curtis Hostel. Bayview Cottage continued to operate as a group home in a former dormitory building.

Off-site group homes were established and St Vincent's was gradually phased out as a residential facility in 1971.

Gallery

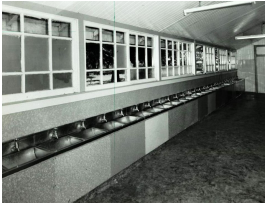


Aerial photo of St Vincent's Orphanage, ca. 1970



Entrance gate to St Vincent's

Description: The boys residing at the orphanage assisted in building the gate.



Bathroom, St Vincent's Orphanage



St Vincent's Convent, Nudgee, operated by Brisbane Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy - Inquiry photograph

Description: This image is from page 62 of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse in Queensland Institutions and the image is an Inquiry photograph.

More info

Chronology

- St Vincent's Orphanage (1867 - 1935)
- New Farm St Vincent's (c. 1861 - 1867)
 - **St Vincent's Home for Children (1935 – 1971)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [Sisters of Mercy, Brisbane Congregation \(1861 - current\)](#)

Related Events

- [Visit of John Moss \(1951\)](#)
John Moss inspected this home as part of his 1951 tour and report
- [Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions \(1998 - 1999\)](#)
St Vincent's Home for Children was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia \(2003 - 2005\)](#)
St Vincent's Home for Children was mentioned in Submissions 23, 48, 107, 120, 141, 190, 202, 227, 243, 437, and 482 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care

Related Legislation

- [State Children Act 1911, Queensland \(1911 - 1966\)](#)
- [Orphanages Act 1879, Queensland \(1879 - 1911\)](#)
- [Children's Services Act 1965, Queensland \(1965 - 2000\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Loreto Family Group Home \(October 1964 - 1971\)](#)
St Vincent's Home for Children established and staffed Loreto Family Group Home.
- [Avila Family Group Home \(1972 - 1996\)](#)
St Vincent's Home for Children established and staffed Avila Family Group Home.

- [Narnia Family Group Home \(1996\)](#)
St Vincent's Home for Children established and staffed Narnia Family Group Home.
- [Ascot Family Group Home \(March 1978 - c. 1990\)](#)
Ascot Family Group Home was established and staffed by St Vincent's Home for Children.
- [Virginia Share House \(1978? - current\)](#)
Virginia Share House was established and staffed by St Vincent's Home for Children.
- [Industrial School for Girls, Nudgee \(1903 - 1942\)](#)
The Industrial School for Girls, Nudgee was co-located with St Vincent's Home for Children.

Resources

- Immigration Museum, [Stolen childhoods](#), 2012
- Queensland. Dept of Children's Services, [Centenary of care for children 1879-1979](#), 1979
- Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, [Mercy Family Services: Our Origins and Traditions](#), No date
- Forde, Leneen et. al., [Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse in Queensland institutions](#), May 1999
- [St Vincents Orphanage Nudgee](#), Brisbane Courier, 9 January 1888
- [Our Orphanages](#), Brisbane Courier, 29 September 1875
- Social Work Staff, Faculty of Education, University of Queensland, [Directory of Social Services Queensland](#), 1958
- Treweek, Susan, [Submission No 218 to the Senate Inquiry into the Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 2012

Records

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

Records

- [St Vincent's Orphanage Records \(1872 - 1983\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, multiple number series \(policy matters\) \(1922 - 1968\)](#)
 - [Correspondence - Alphanumeric Prefix - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs \(1909 - 1992\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/st-vincents-home-for-children/>