

Tufnell Home

1901 – 1993

Details

Tufnell Home, in Nundah was operated by the Society of the Sacred Advent and the Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane. The Tufnell Home formally opened 6 February 1901. It accommodated boys and girls from various backgrounds. The first family group units were officially opened in 1969. Funding ceased in 1990 and the home closed in 1993.

The Tufnell Home opened on 6 February 1901. Children from the adjacent Home of the Good Shepherd, Nundah were transferred to Tufnell Home.

With funds donated by Mrs Tufnell (the widow of Edward Wyndham Tufnell, the first bishop of Brisbane), a Chapel of the Good Shepherd was erected at Tufnell Home. In 1927 a boys' wing, laundry and recreation room were built. A new dining hall was erected next to the main house in 1932.

The foundation stone for the Tufnell Toddler's Home, which was co-located on the site, was laid by the Archbishop of Brisbane on 23 June 1946.

In 1965 the Diocese of Brisbane began plans to surround the original home with new cottages and ancillary buildings then demolish the original house to form a central courtyard. This was accomplished and can be seen in the present layout of buildings.

Biala House was opened 25 June 1966 and Elonera and Carinya Houses opened in 1968. Attunga and Yallambee Houses were opened on 22 April 1972.

A publication from 1968 stated that Tufnell Home accommodated 23 boys from 5 to 8 years and 60 girls from 5 to 15 years (Social Services Queensland, 1968, p.96).

A former resident of Tufnell Home remembered the institution as “very strict”. In an oral history interview she told of being beaten with a cane by the Home’s head nun (Jean/Erin, *Goodna Girls*, p.28). Another woman whose story is shared in *Goodna Girls* spoke of the harsh treatment children received from the nuns at Tufnell:

The abuse I got from them bloody penguins if we didn't do our chores properly—like have the floor shining so you could see your face in it: we got the cane.

*And there were smaller children there—too small to do any scrubbing—but the nuns would belt them. I stood in front of the little ones to cop it so they wouldn't get the cane for not doing their chores. Even though I was little myself, only four, I was bigger than the smaller ones—they were only two or three years old—and so I protected them. Once the nuns threw me in this bloody dark broom closet. It was pitch black. So I pushed one of the nuns and her glasses fell off. I laughed. She shut me in and said, 'Nothing will come of your life! You're the devil's daughter!' (Rose, *Goodna Girls*, p.77).*

In 1988 the Tufnell Child Care Centre opened in the old Toddler's Home. In 1993 the last children in care moved off the campus and Tufnell Children's Home operations closed.

In 1996 Anglicare relocated their administrative offices from the Cathedral buildings in the city to the refurbished former dining hall and kitchen building at Tufnell.

Gallery



Bishopsbourne in Milton

Description: This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate only.



Tufnell Home Chapel at Nundah, operated by the Anglican Church

Description: This image is from page 104 of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse in Queensland institutions and the image is an Inquiry photograph.



Tufnell Home and Chapel

Description: This image was published on CLAN's website.



Chapel Tufnell Home

Description: This image was previously available on CLAN's website

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Anglican Diocese of Brisbane \(1859 - current\)](#)
- [Society of the Sacred Advent \(1892 - current\)](#)

Related Events

- [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)
- [Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions \(1998 - 1999\)](#)
Tufnell Home 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 \(2003 - 2005\)](#)
Tufnell Home for Children was mentioned in Submission 222 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care

Related Legislation

- [Children's Services Act 1965, Queensland \(1965 - 2000\)](#)
Tufnell Home was licensed under the Children's Services Act in 1966.

Related Organisations

- [Home of the Good Shepherd, Nundah \(June 1893 - 1901\)](#)
Children from the Home of the Good Shepherd in Nundah were moved to nearby Tufnell Home in 1901.
- [Tufnell Toddlers' Home \(1947 - c. 1975\)](#)

Resources

- Rayner, K, [Tufnell, Edward Wyndham \(1814-1896\)](#), Australian Dictionary of Biography, 2012
- Forde, Leneen et. al., [Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse in Queensland institutions](#), May 1999
- [The Tufnell Home](#), Queenslander, 27 October 1927
- [The Beneficent Work of the Home](#), Brisbane Courier, 15 December 1921
- Social Work Staff, Faculty of Education, University of Queensland, [Directory of Social Services Queensland](#), 1958
- Nundah and Districts Historical Society Inc, [Tufnell Home, Nundah](#), 2002
- Moores, Elizabeth, [One hundred years of ministry: a history of the Society of the Sacred Advent 1892-1992](#), 1993 - current

Records

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

Records

- [Forgotten Australians : Micah Pilot Oral History and Digital Story Project \[sound and video recording\] \(March 2011 - April 2011\)](#)
 - [Tufnell Home, Records \(1893 - 1990s\)](#)
 - [Johnston, John, Historian, News clippings and photographs - Children's Homes \(c. 1840 - c. 1990\)](#)
 - [Photographs, Tufnell Home \(1900 - 2001\)](#)
 - [Records created by Anglicare and its affiliated agencies \(1992 - current\)](#)
 - [SOWES229 Social Welfare Department Records, Anglican Church, Children's Homes records \(1899 - 1992\)](#)
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