

# Townsville Receiving Depot

1934 – 1964

## Details

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The Townsville Receiving Depot was previously known as the Townsville Orphanage. The Townsville Receiving Depot was a government-run institution, and filled the role of reception, care and boarding out of children to foster homes. In 1964, it became known as Carramar Children's Home.

The 1999 report of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions referred to the poor condition of the buildings at Townsville Receiving Depot in the 1960s (children moved into new buildings in 1966, at which time it was known as Carramar Children's Home).

A witness to the inquiry, placed at the Depot in 1957, recollected it as 'large, unfriendly and impersonal' (p.76). Another witness described how girls from the Home wore gingham dresses to school, rather than the regulation State school uniform, making them easily identifiable as 'Home kids' (p.85).

## Gallery

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**The Townsville orphanage, Warburton Street, 1913**



**The Townsville orphanage and the National School, North Ward**

**Description:** This is an image of the Townsville orphanage and the Townsville National School. This image is undated, the date included is an estimate. CityLibraries Townsville published the image with the following note: "The photo is taken from Cleveland Terrace, and looks over Eyre and Mitchell Streets."



**Boys working at the milking shed at the Townsville orphanage, October 1911**

**Description:** This is an image of the milking sheds at the Townsville orphanage. It shows at least 6 boys at the shed, some of whom are milking cows.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Townsville Orphanage (1878 - 1934)

- **Townsville Receiving Depot (1934 – 1964)**
  - Carramar Children's Home (1964 - 1967)
  - Carramar Receiving and Assessment Centre (1967 - 1995)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Home Secretary's Office, State Children Department, State Government of Queensland \(1 December 1911 - 5 December 1935\)](#)
- [Health and Home Affairs Department \(5 December 1935 - 26 September 1963\)](#)
- [Labour and Industry Department, State Children Department, State Government of Queensland \(26 September 1963 - 1 August 1966\)](#)

## Resources

- Queensland. Dept of Children's Services, [Centenary of care for children 1879-1979](#), 1979
- [Research Guide to orphanage and children's home records at Queensland State Archives](#), Queensland State Archives website, February 2022
- Social Work Staff, Faculty of Education, University of Queensland, [Directory of Social Services Queensland](#), 1958

## Records

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

### Records

- [Carramar Records \(1878 - 1995\)](#)
  - [Client Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
  - [Administrative Records, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
  - [Treatment Books, Townsville Orphanage \(5 December 1916 - 8 June 1935\)](#)
  - [Monthly Reports, Townsville Orphanage and Townsville Receiving Depot \(1 January 1930 - 31 August 1934\)](#)
  - [General Ledgers - Townsville Orphanage \(1908 - 1959\)](#)
  - [Admission Registers, Townsville Orphanage and Townsville Receiving Depot \(17 May 1879 - 29 September 1949\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/townsville-receiving-depot/>