

Home Secretary's Office, State Children Department, State Government of Queensland

1 December 1911 – 5 December 1935

Details

The Home Secretary's Office, within the new State Children Department, was created under the *State Children Act* 1911. The Department was established to provide care, management and control of orphaned, abandoned and convicted children and their property. The position of 'Inspector of Orphanages' became that of 'Director' of the department. The Department ran Brisbane Industrial Home, Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook, Townsville Orphanage, Townsville Receiving Depot, Westbrook Reformatory for Boys and Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home.

Administrative Structure:

The State was divided into 3 districts: Southern District (Southern Queensland from Bundaberg to the border with NSW) with head office in Brisbane- Central District (from Mackay to Miriam Vale on the Coast and West along the central line) with a district office in Rockhampton- Northern District – (North Queensland from the north and West of Townsville) with a district Office in Townsville. Each district office and head office had an administrative and inspectorial staff.

Colonel George Andrew Ferguson was Director of the Queensland State Children's Department from the 1920s until his death in 1933.

More info

Chronology

- Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch, State Government of Queensland (2 October 1879 - 1 December 1911)
- **Home Secretary's Office, State Children Department, State Government of Queensland (1 December 1911 – 5 December 1935)**
 - Health and Home Affairs Department, State Children Department, State Government of Queensland (5 December 1935 - 26 December 1963)
 - Labour and Industry Department, State Children Department, State Government of Queensland (26 September 1963 - 1 August 1966)
 - Children's Services Department, State Government of Queensland (1 August 1966 - 6 June 1987)
 - Family and Youth Services Department, State Government of Queensland (9 June 1987 - 14 December 1987)
 - Family Services Department, State Government of Queensland (14 December 1987 - 7 December 1989)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Brisbane Industrial Home \(18 July 1883 - c. 1922\)](#)
Date: 1911 - 1922
- [Westbrook Reformatory for Boys \(5 May 1900 - 30 October 1919\)](#)
Date: 1911 - 1919
- [Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home \(1910 - 1962\)](#)
- [Townsville Orphanage \(1878 - 1934\)](#)
- [Townsville Receiving Depot \(1934 - 1964\)](#)
- [Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook \(30 October 1919 - 26 May 1966\)](#)

Related Legislation

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

Related Organisations

- [Home Secretary's Office \(6 August 1896 - 5 December 1935\)](#)
- [Queensland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty \(1892 - 1955\)](#)
Inspectors for The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty worked as voluntary probation officers until 1912, when the inspectors of the State Children Department took over these duties.

Resources

- [Allan Allaway interviewed by Rob Willis in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 9 August 2010
- [State Children's Department](#), Brisbane Courier, 29 September 1913
- [State Children's Department](#), Brisbane Courier, 13 September 1918
- [Foster Mothers for State Children](#), Brisbane Courier, 21 August 1920
- [State Children's Department](#), Brisbane Courier, 9 August 1923
- [New Director](#), Brisbane Courier, 7 July 1933
- [Home Secretary's Office, State Children Department \(Agency ID 634\)](#), Queensland State Archives website, No date
- [State Children: Caring for the orphans and neglected](#), Brisbane Courier, 10 February 1910
- [State Children's Bill](#), Brisbane Courier, 2 August 1911
- [State Children Department: Report for 1915](#), Brisbane Courier, 7 October 1916
- [A Busy Year: State Children's Department](#), Brisbane Courier, 6 August 1924
- [Child Welfare: Treatment of State Wards](#), Brisbane Courier, 9 January 1929
- [Research Guide to orphanage and children's home records at Queensland State Archives](#), Queensland State Archives website, February 2022

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/home-secretarys-office-state-children-department/>