

# Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch, State Government of Queensland

2 October 1879 – 1 December 1911

## Details

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The Orphanages Branch of the Public Instruction Department was created to administer *The Orphanages Act 1879* which provided for the establishment and management of asylums for orphans as well as deserted and neglected children. The Branch was responsible under the Act for the care of orphaned and deserted and neglected children. The Department ran Townsville Orphanage, Rockhampton Orphanage, Rockhampton Receiving Depot, Diamantina Orphanage, Industrial and Reformatory School for Girls, Toowoomba, Westbrook Reformatory for Boys, Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys and Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home. Under the *State Children Act 1911* care for children passed to the Home Secretary's office from 1 December 1911.

## More info

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### 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)

### Related Entries

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- [Industrial and Reformatory School for Girls, Toowoomba \(1 April 1881 - c. 1890\)](#)
- [Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys \(1 October 1899 - 5 May 1900\)](#)  
Date: 1899 - 1900
- [Westbrook Reformatory for Boys \(5 May 1900 - 30 October 1919\)](#)  
Date: 1900 - 1911

- [Rockhampton Orphanage \(1870 - 1894\)](#)  
Date: 1879 - 1911
- [Rockhampton Receiving Depot \(1894 - 1964\)](#)
- [Diamantina Orphanage \(1865 - 1910\)](#)  
Date: 1879 - 1910
- [Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home \(1910 - 1962\)](#)  
The Diamantina Receiving Depot and Infants' Home was run by the Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch until 1 December 1911. The care for children then passed to the Home Secretary's Office, State Children.
- [Townsville Orphanage \(1878 - 1934\)](#)

### Related Legislation

- [State Children Act 1911, Queensland \(1911 - 1966\)](#)  
Under the *State Children Act 1911* care for children passed to the Home Secretary's office from 1 Dec 1911.
- [Orphanages Act 1879, Queensland \(1879 - 1911\)](#)  
Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch administered the *Orphanages Act 1879*.
- [Infant Life Protection Act 1905, Queensland \(1905 - 1966\)](#)  
Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch administered the *Infant Life Protection Act 1905*.

### Related Organisations

- [Public Instruction Department, State Government of Queensland \(1 January 1876 - 12 August 1957\)](#)  
The Orphanages Branch was part of the Public Instruction Department.  
Date: 1879 - 1911

## Resources

- [State Children](#), Brisbane Courier, 19 October 1909
- [Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch \(Agency ID 390\)](#), 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
- [Research Guide to orphanage and children's home records at Queensland State Archives](#), Queensland State Archives website, February 2022

## Records

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### Records

- [Correspondence Register \(Neglected Children\) \(24 February 1894 - 2 July 1895\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/public-instruction-department-orphanages-branch/>