

Boothville Mothers' Hospital

24 May 1924 – 1994

Other Names:

- Salvation Army Mothers' Hospital
- Boothville Maternity Hospital

Details

Boothville Mothers' Home, in Windsor, was operated by the Salvation Army. It was established in 1924 as a maternity home for single mothers and their babies. In the 1970s a brick maternity ward was added. Boothville closed in 1994.

A 1947 report on Boothville Mothers' Hospital made by an inspector for the Child Endowment scheme stated that the hospital had capacity for 33 residents, spread over five wards. The report stated that although the home was primarily for single mothers it did also admit a small number of married mothers to "help the financial side towards the upkeep of the Institution" (NAA A885 B96, 1947). According to the inspectors report from the previous year, the majority of children born at Boothville Mothers' Hospital were adopted out.

Mothers stayed at Boothville for varying lengths of time following the birth of their child, depending on their needs. Unmarried mothers could stay at the home if they did not have anywhere else to go, with one case in 1947 staying for at least 8 months. Babies did not remain at the hospital after their mother's were discharged. One woman who was at Bethesda in the late 1960s and made a submission to the Senate inquiry into forced adoptions wrote about the manual labour required by residents being very difficult for her as a pregnant woman. Her father ended up paying Boothville so that she could be in a private room and on light duties (submission 29).

A publication from 1968 stated that Boothville provided private hospital accommodation for obstetric cases as well as a "waiting home and hospital for unmarried mothers". It had accommodation for 50 single mothers and 21 hospital patients and babies (Social Services Queensland, 1968, p.167).

Boothville Mothers' Hospital was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices* Report (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Gallery



Part of a panorama of Brisbane viewed from Eildon Hill, ca. 1900

Description: The library catalogue includes this description: Eildon Hill is situated in the suburb of Windsor near Wilson in the north of Brisbane. In this photograph one can see Bowen Hills the suburb and out towards the city of Brisbane in the centre of the image. The foreground is dotted with houses and farmlets. The large homestead on the right is Monte Video, which was later named Boothville.



Boothville Hospital

Description: This is an image of Boothville Mothers Hospital from 1985.

More info

Chronology

- Maternity Home Brisbane (1892 - 1897)
 - Salvation Army Maternity Home Breakfast Creek (1897 - 1924)
- **Boothville Mothers' Hospital (24 May 1924 – 1994)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)

Boothville Mothers' Hospital was mentioned in submissions 29, 110 and 382 to the Inquiry Committee as an institution that was involved in forced adoption

Resources

- Senate Community Affairs References Committee, [Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 29 February 2012
- The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory, [Submission No. 46 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care: The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territorial Headquarters \(VIC\), Appendix B, Eastern Territory Social Centres, A list of openings, closings and function](#), June 2003
- [Institutions](#), Forced Adoptions History Project, 2014

Records

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

Records

- [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Eastern Territory \(c. 1891 - 1990s\)](#)
 - [Adoption Records](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/boothville-mothers-hospital/>