

# State Children's Council

1886 – 1927

## Details

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The State Children's Council was formed in 1886 under the requirements of the Destitute Persons Amendment Act, 1886. This Act separated the care of children from the care of other destitute persons by transferring responsibility for children from the Destitute Board to the State Children's Council. The Council comprised twelve honorary members who oversaw, and took responsibility for, all matters relating to 'State Children'. The State Children's Council was replaced by the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board in 1926 with the passing of the Maintenance Act of that year.

From 1916 until the 1970s, the State Children's Council oversaw the Women's Police Unit, part of the South Australian Police Department. The focus of women police was the welfare and safety young women and children.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Destitute Board, South Australian Government (1849 - 1927)
  - **State Children's Council (1886 – 1927)**
    - Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board (1927 - 1966)
      - Department of Social Welfare, South Australian Government (1966 - 1970)
        - Department of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs, South Australian Government (1970 - 1972)
          - Department for Community Welfare, South Australian Government (1972 - 1990)
            - Department for Family and Community Services, South Australian Government (1990 - 1998)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Catholic Girls' Reformatory, Kapunda \(1897 - 1909\)](#)  
Sisters of St Joseph ran the Catholic Girls Reformatory Kapunda under the control of the State Children's Council
- [Magill Industrial School \(1869 - 1898\)](#)  
Date: 1886 - 1898
- [Redruth Girls' Reformatory \(1897 - 1922\)](#)  
Date: 1897 - 1922
- [Seaforth Convalescent Home \(1921 - 1946\)](#)  
Date: 1921 - 1927
- [Boys' Reformatory Hulk, Fitzjames \(1880 - 1891\)](#)  
Date: 1886 - 1891
- [Boys Reformatory, Magill \(1891 - 1967\)](#)  
Date: 1869 - 1927

- [Central Depot \(1900 - 1965\)](#)  
Date: 1900 - 1927
- [Edwardstown Industrial School \(1898 - 1949\)](#)  
Date: 1898 - 1927
- [Girls' Reformatory, Edwardstown \(1891 - 1898\)](#)  
Date: 1890 - 1898
- [Girls Reformatory, Magill \(1881 - 1891\)](#)  
Date: 1881 - 1891

### Related Organisations

- [Barton Vale Girls' Home \(1922 - 1947\)](#)  
Barton Vale Girls' Home was run by the Salvation Army, under the control of the State Children's Council and its successor the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board.  
Date: 1922 - 1927
- [Boarding Out Society \(1872 - 1886\)](#)  
The Boarding Out Society was absorbed into the State Children's Council in 1886.
- [State Children's Department, South Australian Government \(1886 - 1927\)](#)
- [St John the Baptist Home for Boys \(1898 - 1941\)](#)  
Brothers of St John the Baptist ran St John's Boys Town 1898-1942, under the control of the State Children's Council and its successor, the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board 1898-1941  
Date: 1898 - 1927
- [Girls' Probationary School \(1901 - 1945\)](#)  
The Salvation Army ran the Girls' Probationary School under the supervision of the State Children's Council  
Date: 1901 - 1927
- [Children's Court of South Australia \(1895 - 1993\)](#)

### Related Legislation

- [State Children Act 1895, South Australia \(1895 - 1927\)](#)
- [The Destitute Persons Act Amendment Act 1886, South Australia \(1886 - 1927\)](#)

## Records

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### Records

- [Records created by the State Children's Department \(1886 - 1927\)](#)
- [Minutes - State Children's Council, later the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board \(1886 - 1965\)](#)
- [Case cards, alphabetical by surname - Women Police Branch, South Australian Police Department \(c. 1940 - 1974\)](#)
- [Case cards, arranged by subject - Women Police Branch, South Australian Police Department \(1960 - 1973\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/state-childrens-council/>