

# Destitute Persons Act 1881, South Australia

1881 – 1927

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## Details

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The Destitute Persons Act 1881 (Act no. 210/1881) was assented to on 18 November 1881. Its full title was: An Act to repeal 'The Destitute Persons Relief and Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act, 1872,' and to make other provisions in lieu thereof'. The Destitute Persons Act 1881 entitled two Justices to commit a destitute or neglected child to an industrial school to be detained until the age of 16 years (boys) or 18 years (girls). The Destitute Persons Act 1881 was repealed by the Maintenance Act 1926, which commenced in 1927.

Key provision: Two Justices may commit a destitute or neglected child to an industrial school to be detained until the age of 16 years (boys) or 18 years (girls). Destitute Board may apprentice children, manage their wages and property, licence foster mothers and supervise education, work and discipline. Amended by Destitute Persons Act Amendment Act 1886 – introduced term 'State child' for destitute and neglected children. Established the State Children's Council to replace the Destitute Persons' Board. Ages for detention of boys and girls made uniform (under 18 years). Repealed by State Children's Act 1895.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Orphans Act 1848, South Australia (1848 - 1867)
  - Destitute Persons Relief Act 1866, South Australia (1867 - 1872)
    - Destitute Persons Act 1872, South Australia (1872 - 1881)
- **Destitute Persons Act 1881, South Australia (1881 – 1927)**
  - Maintenance Act 1926, South Australia (1927 - 1972)
    - Community Welfare Act 1972, South Australia (1972 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Is amended by

- [The Destitute Persons Act Amendment Act 1886, South Australia \(1886 - 1927\)](#)
  - [The Destitute Persons and State Children's Acts Amendment Act 1903, South Australia \(1903 - 1927\)](#)
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