

Malmesbury Girls' Home

1950 – 1962

Other Names:

- Malmesbury Children's Home
- Malmesbury Cottage House
- Malmsbury Girls' Home

Details

Malmesbury Girls' Home, run by the government, opened in 1950. Initially it provided cottage accommodation for wards of state. In 1960, the Social Services Department began using it for girls considered to need close supervision because of behavioural problems. Malmesbury became a receiving home in 1962.

Malmesbury Girls' Home took up to 12 children. When it opened there were nine girls and two boys living at the Home. Two other girls had left school and started work but remained at the Home as boarders. At this time, a Receiving Home Keeper ran Malmesbury.

In 1950, there was no power point in the laundry which forced the Receiving Home Keeper to run a lead from the kitchen across the yard where the children played. This created a hazard. The Director of the Social Services Department had to request permission from the Chief Secretary to install a new power point in the laundry. Incidents like this suggest how difficult it was for Receiving Home Keepers to get improvements made to the Homes.

Once children reached school leaving age, they found work, usually in the city as book binders, shop assistants or junior clerks. They remained at the Home as a boarder while they adjusted to working life and then transferred to a Hostel.

Between 1958 and 1962, Malmesbury supplemented the accommodation at Weeroona Girls' Training Centre in La Trobe by taking in girls thought to need close supervision. During this time, the Department reduced the number of children at Malmesbury to eight and staffed it with two of its officers. According to the Annual Report of the Social Services Department in 1958, the accommodation at Malmesbury was inadequate for some of the 'more difficult' girls. This emphasised the need for Weeroona. In 1961, an extension and renovations at Weeroona enabled it to take more girls so the following year Malmesbury became a receiving home.

The Ombudsman's *Review of claims of abuse from adults in state care as children: Final Report – Phase 2 of 2006* mentions Malmesbury.

Gallery



The former Malmesbury Girls', Receiving and Family Group Home

Description: The 2012 owners of the former Malmesbury Receiving and Family Group Home supplied this photograph.



The former Malmesbury Girls', Receiving and Family Group Home in 2008

Description: Heritage Tasmania supplied this photograph.



The former Malmesbury Girls', Receiving and Family Group Home in 2009

Description: Heritage Tasmania supplied this photograph.



The former Malmesbury Girls', Receiving and Family Group Home in 2010. The evacuation slide is on the right. The Social Welfare Department installed it in case of fire.

Description: Heritage Tasmania supplied this photograph.

More info

Chronology

- **Malmesbury Girls' Home (1950 – 1962)**
 - Malmesbury Receiving Home (c. 1962 - c. 1980)
 - Malmesbury Family Group Home (c. 1981 - 2009)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Child Welfare Division \(c. 1953 - 1980\)](#)
The Child Welfare Division of the Social Services Department and its successor, the Social Welfare Department, managed Malmesbury Girls' Home.
- [Children of the State Branch \(1936 - c. 1953\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Weeroona Girls' Training Centre \(1959 - 1979\)](#)
Malmesbury stopped taking girls with 'behavioural problems' when Weeroona became well established.

Records

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

Records

- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
 - [Correspondence Files \(1919 - 1998\)](#)
-

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/malmesbury-girls-home/>