

# Royal Hobart Hospital

1938 –

URL: <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/hospitals/royal-hobart-hospital>

## Details

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The Royal Hobart Hospital replaced the Hobart General Hospital in 1938, remaining on the same site in Liverpool Street. It was a public hospital run by its own Board and then by the Health Department and its successors. Adoptions took place from the maternity unit at the Royal Hobart and, later, its Obstetric Division at Gore Street. State wards and other children in 'care' were occasionally placed temporarily on its children's and psychiatric wards.

In 1938, the Hobart General Hospital became the Royal Hobart Hospital with its own coat of arms. The Latin motto underneath the coat of arms meant 'to care with compassion'.

The Premier, AG Ogilvie opened a newly built hospital with 304 beds on 18 January 1939.

On 15 November 1943, an 11 bed maternity unit with labour wards and a nursery opened on the third floor of the Hospital. The unit was transferred to the former infectious diseases hospital, Vacluse, in Gore Street, South Hobart, in the late 1960s. Initially it was known as the Obstetric Division of the Royal Hobart Hospital. Later it became the Obstetric Division, Gore Street. Babies were adopted from the maternity unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital and Gore Street. In 1980, Gore Street combined with the Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital to be relocated to a custom built building adjacent to the Royal Hobart Hospital.

In 1938, Wingfield House came under the management of the Royal Hobart Hospital Board. Wingfield was established to treat children affected by the 1937 polio epidemic.

In November 1959, building began on a multi storey building that included two floors for children's wards. Previously, these had been at the back of the Hospital. The building opened in 1963. A ward for children aged 6 to 17 was on the first floor with younger children and babies on the second floor.

A psychiatric ward was established in the new building in 1967. It was redeveloped in 1991.

The Royal Hobart Hospital was accredited as a teaching hospital for medical students in 1968.

Royal Hobart Hospital was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Inquiry* (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

## Gallery



The exterior of the Royal Hobart Hospital



Christmas Day in the Children's Ward of the Royal Hobart Hospital

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Colonial Hospital (1820 - 1860)
  - Hobart General Hospital (1860 - 1938)
- **Royal Hobart Hospital (1938 – )**

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Wingfield House \(1938 - 1971\)](#)

#### Run by

- [Department of Community and Health Services, State of Tasmania \(1993 - 1998\)](#)
- [Department of Health and Human Services, State of Tasmania \(1998 - 2018\)](#)
- [Department of Health, State of Tasmania \(1989 - 1993\)](#)
- [Public Health Department, State of Tasmania \(1904 - 1956\)](#)
- [Department of Health Services, State of Tasmania \(1956 - 1989\)](#)

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)
- [Joint Select Committee on Adoption and Related Services 1958-1988, Tasmania \(1999\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital \(1908 - 1999\)](#)  
The Royal Hobart Hospital took over the Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital in 1980.

## Resources

- Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital, *Queen Alexandra women's hospital: a division of the Royal Hobart Hospital: Information*, 1980
- Downie, Angus, *Our first 100 years: the history of nursing at the Royal Hobart Hospital*, 1975
- Royal Hobart Hospital, *Royal Hobart Hospital sesqui-centenary (1820-1970)*, 1970
- Rimon, Wendy, [Hospitals](#), The companion to Tasmanian history, 2005

# Records

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## Records

- [Alphabetical Admission Register-Maternity, Royal Hobart Hospital \(1955 - 1980\)](#)
  - [Maternity Patient Records, Royal Hobart Hospital \(1955 - 1980\)](#)
  - [Correspondence Files, Public Health Department \(1940 - 1989\)](#)
  - [General Correspondence, Department of Public Health \(1920 - 1956\)](#)
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