

Destitute Children Act 1875, Tasmania

1875 – 1896

URL: http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/tas/num_act/aatatlrtdc39vn5510/

Details

The Destitute Children Act 1875 also known by its full title 'An Act to amend the Law relating to Destitute Children'(Act no.39 Vict. No.5) amended the Training Schools Act 1867 (Act no. 31 Vict. No.36) and the Industrial Schools Act 1867 (31 Vict. No.37). This amendment and the two acts it amends were all repealed and replaced by the Youthful Offenders, Destitute and Neglected Children Act (Act no. 60 Vict. No.24) on 23 October 1896.

The Destitute Children Act 1875 makes a number of amendments to the Training Schools Act 1867 (Act no. 31 Vict. No.36) and the Industrial Schools Act 1867 (31 Vict. No.37), in particular it authorises Governors of training schools to punish children with isolation from their peers and a diet of bread and water for up to three days. Male children could be made to endure 'moderate' corporal punishments. Any such punishments were to be recorded in a book which would be reviewed by the Inspector of Schools.

In the original legislation children could face hard labour and imprisonment for misbehaving in training schools or running away, marking a dramatic shift in the treatment of young people in institutions. The original punishments would also be handed down by a justice. This new approach meant the child did not have to go to court and could not be punished for the same case under any law.

This amendment also dealt with details for apprenticing children from industrial schools.

More info

Chronology

- **Destitute Children Act 1875, Tasmania (1875 – 1896)**
 - Youthful Offenders, Destitute and Neglected Children's Act 1896, Tasmania (1896 - 1918)
 - The Children of the State Act 1918, Tasmania (1918 - 1936)
 - Infants' Welfare Act 1935, Tasmania (1935 - 1961)
 - Child Welfare Act 1960, Tasmania (1960 - 2003)
 - Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997, Tasmania (2000 - current)

Related Entries

Amends

- [Industrial Schools Act 1867, Tasmania \(1867 - 1896\)](#)
 - [The Training Schools Act 1867, Tasmania \(1867 - 1896\)](#)
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