

Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie

1904? – 1924?

Other Names:

- The Fold
- Lamington Home
- Kalgoorlie Girls' Home

Details

The Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie ran from 1904 to at least 1924 and possibly to 1930. Non-aboriginal girls were also admitted in later years. Newspaper accounts suggest that the purpose of the Home was to train the girls for domestic service. When the Home closed, the girls were transferred to the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe.

The Salvation Army ran a Home for Aboriginal girls at Kalgoorlie from around 1904 to at least 1924 and possibly to 1930. Newspaper accounts suggest that the purpose of the Home was to train the girls for domestic service.

From 1905, the head of the government department responsible for Aboriginal welfare was the guardian of Aboriginal children at the Home.

In his 1911 history of Western Australia (the 'Cyclopedia'), JS Battye stated that the Salvation Army ran a home for 17 'aboriginal girls' in Kalgoorlie (p.62) and also mentioned (p.102) a home at Lamington Heights (Kalgoorlie) for 'little children'. The latter was known as 'The Fold'. Possibly, this source has been relied upon in later histories. Apparently, some girls were sent there from the Salvation Army Girls' Home at Collie in 1905. Tilbrook gives 1907 as the start date.

According to Salvation Army historical records, the Home was originally established for Aboriginal girls but eventually 'also became a Home for white girls' (*The Victory*, 1 September 1921, p.280).

A letter of appreciation for the donation from *The Daily News* Orphans' Christmas Cheer Fund in 1915 gives an insight into life at the Girls' Home and shows how unusual it was for the children to have 'extras':

Your donations gave our children a good picnic, and also assisted us to purchase fowls and fruit for their Christmas dinner and tea. Letter, 4 January 1916 published in The Daily News 2 December 1916

The girls were in great demand as entertainers in the area and newspaper reports from the 1920s describe them as 'truly musical' and a 'trained company of 21 girls', with 'one or two of the young soloists' having 'voices of more than average quality'. The items they presented included 'action songs, musical drill, tableaux, and exercises'.

When the Home closed, the girls were transferred to the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe.

Gallery



Our Children's Home at Kalgoorlie, W.A.

Description: 'Our Children's Home at Kalgoorlie, W.A.' is a digital copy of an item held in the *Kalgoorlie Photos* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The item is a photocopied excerpt from *The War Cry* dated 26 March 1921 and shows the building on a corner. A handwritten note reads, 'Lamington Heights', which was the Kalgoorlie suburb in which the Home was located, and 'Also known as The Fold'.



Visit to Kalgoorlie

Description: 'Visit to Kalgoorlie' is a digital copy of an item held in the *Kalgoorlie Photos* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The item is a photocopied excerpt from *The War Cry* dated 15 October 1921. The caption reports on a visit by the 'Subiaco Boys' and the presence of 'Girls from the Lamington Home'. These refer to the Salvation Army Boys' Home, West Subiaco (Nedlands) and the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie (Lamington Heights).



Kalgoorlie Girls' Dormitory

Description: 'Kalgoorlie Girls' Dormitory' is a digital copy of an item held in the *Kalgoorlie Photos* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The item is a photocopy of an image of a dormitory at the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie. A typed note on the item says it was donated by Mrs EM Teede, and that the pillows are embroidered with the words, 'Jesus Saves'. It is adjacent to a very poor photocopy of the same image, and a handwritten note dates the image to 1913, and gives its title as 'Dark Girls Dormitory', located in the Battye (State Library of Western Australia) at Call No. 727B.



In the Army's Care

Description: 'In the Army's Care' is a digital copy of an excerpt from an item held in the *Kalgoorlie Photos* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The item is a booklet titled 'The Kalgoorlie Corps Golden Jubilee Celebrations May 30 - 1945 - June 3'. The item shows scenes from a Girl's Home which is likely to have been the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)
- [The Salvation Army, Australian Territory \(1880 - 1921\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe \(1918 - 1969\)](#)
The Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe admitted girls transferred when the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie closed.
Date: 1924? -
- [Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie \(1901 - 1920\)](#)
Some historical sources say that girls were sent from the Salvation Army Industrial School for Girls, Collie to the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Kalgoorlie in 1905.

Resources

- Cleland, Sharon, [*Caring for the Children: A history of institutional care provided by The Salvation Army for Australian children and youth \(1893-1995\)*](#), August 2012
- Aborigines Department, Western Australia, [*Collection of typed copies of annual and other reports by and to the Chief Protector of Aborigines in Western Australia dated 1910 and 1911*](#), 1910 - 1911. *Relevance:* The Salvation Army Home at Kalgoorlie was also known as the Aborigines Girls' Home Kalgoorlie when these reports were written

Records

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

Records

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
 - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [Children's Homes Files, Western Australian Salvation Army Homes \(1897 - 2012\)](#)
 - [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
 - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Department of Aborigines and Fisheries \(1909 - 1920\)](#)
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