

# Swinburne House

c. 1968 – 1985

**Other Names:** • Somers House

## Details

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Swinburne House was opened by the Victorian Children's Aid Society around 1968 in Black Rock. The Victorian Children's Aid Society Home had previously been located in Parkville, at a property they sold in 1966. In 1968, Swinburne House accommodated 34 children, aged between 3 and 18 years and was also the headquarters of the Society. By the mid-1970s congregate care of children was being phased out. Swinburne House continued as a base for the Society's child and family care program and as a back-up placement option for the Society's foster care program. Swinburne House was sold in 1985.

The Victorian Children's Aid Society purchased Somers House in Black Rock around 1966. Previously, the organisation had been based in Leonard Street, Parkville at the Victorian Children's Aid Society Home.

The Home was named Swinburne House, after a Mrs Swinburne who had been President of the Victorian Children's Aid Society from 1913 to 1957 (Golding, 2017).

In the 1970s, the Victorian Children's Aid Society began to expand its operations in family group homes in the bayside area.

As the Society transitioned from institutional care to foster care and family group homes, Swinburne House continued as the base of its child and family care programs, and as a back-up placement option for the Society's foster care program.

Swinburne House was sold in 1985.

## Gallery

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**Somers House, 225 Beach Road, Blackrock, Vic**

**Description:** This is an image of Somers House (also called Swinburne House), which was used by the Victoria Children's Aid Society as a children's home from 1968 to 1985. The image shows a large single-storey wooden house with a sign out the front the reads "Country Women's Association of Victoria, Somers House Holiday Flats, Car Entrance at Rear".

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## More info

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## Chronology

- Victorian Children's Aid Society Home (1901 - c. 1966)
  - **Swinburne House (c. 1968 – 1985)**

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Victorian Children's Aid Society \(1920 - 1991\)](#)

## Resources

- Hilton, Della, *Selina's legacy: from VCAS to Oz Child*, 1993
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/swinburne-house/>