

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE0965

Infants' Home (Ashfield, New South Wales)

(1874 -)

Born 1 January, 1874, Ashfield New South Wales Australia

Occupation Social support organisation, Welfare organisation

Summary

Originally established as the Sydney Foundling Hospital in 1874, it became the Infants' Home in 1877. It assumed responsibility for the care of infants of single mothers and destitute parents and provided a temporary home for the mothers. Its management comprised an all female Board until 1973, when the first male joined. It was the first organisation to move from residential care to long day care in the early 1970s and the third family day care scheme to commence operations in New South Wales. The Family Centre of Early Intervention commenced in 1978.

Details

The members of the first committee comprised Mrs E B Parnell, President, Mrs Julia Bensusan, Secretary, Mrs G F Wise, Treasurer, Mrs (later Lady) E Deas Thomson (daughter of Governor Bourke and wife of the Colonial Secretary), Lady Murray, Mrs Henry Moore, Mrs Fischer, Mrs Alexander, Mrs Holt, Mrs John Smith and Mrs St John. Mrs John Eales, Mrs Goodenough and Mrs Dumaresq joined in the first year.

Rules for admission to the institution were laid down by July 1874. They required firstly for each application to be dealt with on its merits; secondly, for the infant to be no older than three months; thirdly for the mother to produce satisfactory evidence of her previous respectability and fourthly there had to be proof that the father had deserted the baby and be beyond the reach of the law to enforce him to support it.

Published resources

Book

Betrayed and forsaken: the official history of the Infants' Home, Ashfield, founded in 1874 as the Sydney Foundling Institution, Lorne-Johnson, Susan, 2001

Journal

Happenings at Home, 2001-

Pamphlet

Infants' Home Ashfield: constitution and rules, Infants' Home (Ashfield, NSW), 1993

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[Infants' Home \(Ashfield, N.S.W.\) records, 1874-1966](#)

Author Details

Rosemary Francis

Created 21 May 2004

Last modified 30 April 2009