

## AFTER THE QUEEN'S ORPHANAGE

After the cessation of convict ships to Tasmania, numbers at the Queen's Orphanage began to dwindle, but the ageing ex-convict population was growing and needed housing in buildings other than prisons.

The Industrial Schools' Act and the Training Schools' Act of Parliament was amended in 1867 to enable children *'found to be begging, vagrant, in the company of reputed thieves, orphaned, deserted or declared Uncontrollable'* to be admitted into the Boys' or Girls' Industrial Schools, or in the cause of offenders, the Training Schools, or Reformatories as they became known (House of Assembly Papers 1867). The Industrial Schools were intended for those children 10 years and over.

For the babies and young children who were either orphaned or unable to be cared for by a parent, the Boarded Out System was introduced. Government money was paid to foster parents who were tightly controlled by the Social Welfare Department. Most of these children were eventually sent to the Industrial Schools to learn a trade and earn a living. The foster parents were chosen from the working class of society who were deemed needy of the money. In some cases, they were related to the children.

For families where there wasn't an income and were deemed *worthy of charity*, the Social Welfare Department would be given what was known as Outdoor Relief. The amount of money given was determined by the number of children in each family under the age of 12. Children over the age of 12 were expected to be apprenticed or in the work force with wages given to their families (Public Charities Act, 1873).

**Industrial Schools.** These were subsidised by the government, but administered by a board of management.

1. **Boys' Industrial School,** West Hobart, better known as Kennerley Boys' Home. Alfred Kennerley was a prominent Hobart citizen and philanthropist. As a councillor and one time Lord Mayor of Hobart, he bought a house with large plot of land in 1869 for the care of homeless and boys at risk. The Annual Reports of the home, held in Tasmaniana Library are worthy of a read. The Kennerley Boys' Home is still in existence although not on the original site.
2. **Girls' Industrial School.** This was started in 1864 and was taken over by the Salvation Army in 1945. It had nine different homes in that time, including the Barrack's Hospital and Administration building and Kensington House, Davey St (now Commonwealth Law Court). From the Minutes of Meetings of the Board of Management held at the University Archives, girls were kindly treated in a homely atmosphere compared with the old Queen's Orphanage.
3. **Launceston Girls' Industrial School.** The first intake of nine girls was housed in an old government cottage in Princes Square then shifted to 273 Wellington St where it remained until 1957. They were taught house keeping and cooking skills.
4. **St Joseph's Orphanage.** The building in Harrington St, now Commonwealth offices, was set up for the care of Catholic girls by the Sisters of Charity in 1873 and continues there until 1970.
5. **Boys' Training School or Reformatory** began at the old Female Factory, Cascades in 1869, then moved to New Town (old orphanage site) and in 1922 to Ashley Home, Deloraine
6. **Girls' Training School 1881 – 1905** was situated in the Barracks' Prison.