

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0321

O'Connell, Maude

(1884 - 1965)

Born	18840630, Beaufort Victoria Australia
Died	19651213, St Vincent's Hospital East Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Community worker, Trade unionist

Summary

Maude O'Connell worked as a teacher and completed nursing training before becoming involved in social work. She was elected a Governor of the Carlton Refuge in 1909, and was an active member of the Tobacco Workers' Union before founding "The Company of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament" (more commonly known as 'The Grey Sisters').

Details

The daughter of Patrick Martin and Rosina (née Hosking) O'Connell, Maude O'Connell worked as a teacher and completed her nursing training before becoming an active member of the Labor Party. She was the Catholic Church's delegate on many committees and councils dealing with industrial and social matters. O'Connell worked with the Charity Sisters working in the slums, and the Good Shepherd Sisters assisting girls who came before the courts. Also she tried to improve the conditions of women factory workers by working alongside them and becoming a union official.

In 1930 O'Connell, now in her late forties, established a rest home at Daylesford, where she took mothers and children, especially from the slum areas of inner Melbourne for respite care. Later she set up schools for Mother Craft Training, Rest Homes for Mothers, and provided Home Help for needy families, and Parent Education classes.

Published resources

Resource Section

Company of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament: Family Care Sisters, Catholic Vocations: Archdiocese of Melbourne, <http://www.catholicvocation.org.au/FamilyCareSisters.html>

Book

Horizon in retrospect, 1916-1986, 1985

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

Anne Heywood

Created 27 February 2002

Last modified 5 March 2013