

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE0498

Carlton Refuge

(1854 - 1949)

Born 1 January, 1854, Carlton Victoria Australia

Died 31 December, 1949

Occupation Social support organisation

Summary

The Carlton Refuge was established in 1854 with the aim of reforming prostitutes through a combination of prayer and hard work, which usually meant laundry work. As some prostitutes were also mothers, the care of single mothers became a way of fulfilling its primary goal. By 1860 its role had changed to accepting young unmarried women on their discharge from hospital and by 1880 the major part of the Refuge's work was with those women. Declining demand and alternative means of care brought about its closure in 1949.

Published resources

Book

Reminiscences of the Carlton Refuge, 1815 to 1919., Kernot, Mary Jane, 1919

History of children's services: the history of the Carlton Refuge from the 1850s to 1920, 1992

Single mothers and their children: disposal, punishment and survival in Australia, Swain, Shurlee and Howe, Renate, 1995

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

State Library of Victoria

[Records, 1875-1949. \[manuscript\].](#)

Author Details

Rosemary Francis

Created 21 August 2003

Last modified 27 April 2009