

ATWC Historical Timeline

1850s
-
1900s

1858

Auckland is a hard-drinking, rough spoken pioneer society and children are among the first to suffer - schooling is not an automatic right; many die young from disease; others are abandoned by their parents or are put to work. These

"Street Urchins" as they were called at the time seem to be neglected so in 1958 a cottage home in Grafton Road is established to help them. Soon there are more children than the cottage can hold and Bishop Selwyn arranges that that Orphans Home, as it is known, should move to Parnell.



1860



Dr Thomas Kenderdine and Archdeacon John Lloyd, vicar of St Paul's, meet at the bedside of a widow dying of consumption who is fearful for her children's future. Using their own money, Archdeacon Lloyd and Dr Kenderdine rent a cottage and install a woman to look after the three youngsters. Archdeacon Lloyd is later recognised as the founder of the Orphans Home.

1884

The wife of Bishop Cowie, who has taken on a leadership role in the Orphans Home, grows increasingly concerned about the plight of young women. Mrs Cowie establishes "The home for women who have gone astray and desire to return to a virtuous life", supported by Mrs Kinder, Mrs McCosh Clark and Mrs Kenderdine. A committee is formed and in the spirit of the times, the women do the work while the men take on a governance role. By 1890, Mrs Cowie has also opened a Children's Home in Brighton Road, Parnell, providing care for babies and toddlers, and a maternity facility for unmarried mothers.

1900s
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1920s

1905

Fire destroys the Parnell Orphans Home. The cause is found to be a gas iron the Matron forgot to turn off in her hurry to get to church. The central part of the building and the girls' dormitory are destroyed, while the boys' dormitory is badly damaged. The disaster leads to the decision to move the home and a farm property in Wylie Road, Papatoetoe, is purchased where a substantial brick orphanage is built. It is financed by insurance money of \$1,276, \$7,500 from a public appeal and "borrowings from endowments as the cost of the new buildings greatly exceed the amount anticipated".



1918

An extract from the 1918 Annual Report touches on the experiences of former Orphans Home members in the First World War. "The Home is still being worthily represented at the front. The Board proudly record the Award of the Military Medal to Reginald Sperry. Another Old Boy, Sydney Astley, took part in the operations resulting in the taking of Jerusalem and sent a postcard to the secretary from The Holy City. Fabian Sperry and John Turton have been invalided home after honourable service. The former was recently married and the Board is glad to convey their congratulations to the returned soldier and his bride.



1920s
-
1950s

1926

Fragments from the 66th Annual Report: "Finances - a systematic canvas for subscriptions appears essential if receipts from this service are to continue satisfactorily. The electric installation is now connected with the Auckland Electric Power Board Main and a motor is being installed for pumping. A considerable saving should thus be made. Health - ringworm frequently a real problem.



1956



The Orphans Home's 'Reasons for Admission' include the following passage: "All the children reach us with something awry, some emotional disturbance and stress which needs undoing and repair. Are any of the children true orphans? Yes, ne is. All the others are from broken homes, some broken by the death of a parent. Some people say that it is not the business of the Church to look after children of parents who are seperated or divorced. If the Church does not, who will? Others, or the same people, say that the state should take over all homes for children. Would the children thrive better than now?

1950s
-
1980s

1958



Blackwood House in Herne Bay becomes the first "Cottage Home". The year before, chairman Canon Blackwood Moore has decreed that the large institution should be abandoned and the Orphans Home be replaced by "a mix of boys and girls living in an ordinary suburban house, cared for by a married couple and attending the local school". As more funds became available, additional homes are established all over Auckland, all under the name of The Orphan Home Trust Board.

1975

Following several changes of name, The Anglican Trust for Women and Children is established.



1980

Social Work focus in New Zealand moves away from residential care of children seperated from their families and whanau, to preventative intervention. Under Chairman Keitha Weir, the old St Mary's is transformed into St Mary's Family Centre. On site, the St Mary's Pre-school is established, residential units for mothers and their babies are provided; intensive parenting classes are introduced, most of the cottage homes are sold, and Maori and Pacific Island Social Work units are established.

1990s
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2008

1991

Te Whare A Hineohuone, a resource centre for Maori families and women especially, where counseling, training and a range of services are developed, is opened. The name later changes to Te Whare Ruruhou O Meri.

1992

Granger Grove complex is built to accommodate a new residential parenting programme. Granger Grove is a 3 stage programme for mothers to learn parenting skills, set goals, establish different habbits and focus on the relationship with their children. ATWC have experienced Social Workers, Councillors, Child Psycotherapists and caregivers to help mother throughout the programme.



2008



Amid the 150th birthday celebrations, ATWC continues to go from strength to strength with an expansion of services and a dedicated, compassionate staff proud to be putting families first.