

9.5 Salvation Army residential institutions, Queensland and New South Wales



Figure 13: Riverview Training Farm, Ipswich, Queensland
(source: Queensland Times)

9.5.1 The Australian Royal Commission also undertook an investigation of three residential children's homes run by the Salvation Army to which child migrants were sent: the Riverview Training Farm, Queensland; Bexley Boys' Home, New South Wales; and the Goulborn Boys' Home, New South Wales.²⁶⁴ A fourth institution, the Indooropilly Boys' Home, Queensland, was also included in this investigation. Indooropilly is not known to have received any child migrants.²⁶⁵ There was, however, some movement of staff found to have committed acts of physical and sexual abuse between Indooropilly and these other institutions.

9.5.2 One officer, Captain Lawrence Wilson, who was later acknowledged by the Army to be one of the most serious child sexual offenders at these institutions, left the Army in 1961 to work for the New South Wales Child Welfare Department as a housemaster in a State-run children's home, before returning to work for the Salvation Army again in 1966. His personnel file whilst working in this role notes several reprimands for violent behaviour towards residents and he eventually resigned from this post in 1965 having been strongly reprimanded for violence against a child. He successfully applied to work again in Salvation Army children's homes, with no apparent check of his recent employment record. His personnel file was again

²⁶⁴ Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Case Study 5, Response of the Salvation Army to Child Sexual Abuse at its Boys Homes in New South Wales and Queensland*, January 2015:

<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=279d3239-3d58-457d-8ceb-6f322e4f8648&lang=en-US>

²⁶⁵ Indooropilly was not identified as one to which former British child migrants were sent by the Australian Senate Community Affairs Committee inquiry: *Lost Innocents*, Appendix 3, pp.259-60:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/1999-02/child_migrat/report/index