
MOTHERS' AND BABIES HEALTH ASSOCIATION INC.

SRG 199
Series list

The School for Mothers was established in Adelaide in September 1909 on the initiative of Dr. Helen Mayo and Harriet Stirling, modelled on the St. Pancras School for Mothers in London. Its stated aim was "to promote the education of the mother in all that concerns the physical, mental and moral development of her offspring".

The School opened in the Franklin Street. Kindergarten with Dr. Mayo and Miss Stirling as staff members, a nurse retained at 2/6 per hour, and the services of an honorary medical officer. Classes were held one afternoon per week, with emphasis upon hygiene and the principles of breast feeding.

In 1912, with a grant of £100 from the State Government, the School moved to a rented cottage at 34 Wright St. Consultations were held two afternoons a week and 130 babies were enrolled that year. Weighing depots were established in the suburbs of Payneham, Magill and Norwood between 1912-1913, and rapidly expanded over the following years. The School was incorporated in 1915, and its work was increasingly recognised and supported both by the public and official bodies. In 1920 the School was able to purchase the Wright Street property and retained its headquarters there until 1953.

The work of the School was augmented by the establishment by the Babies' Hospital Association of a hospital for babies at St. Peters in 1915 (taken over by the government and re-established as Mareeba Babies Hospital at Woodville in 1917), the setting-up of an antenatal clinic at Wright St. in 1921, and the establishment of branches of the School at Port Adelaide, East Torrens, Port Pirie, Thebarton and Prospect in 1922. The School became known as the School for Mothers Institute and Baby Health Centre in 1921, and in 1927 became the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association Inc.

A Medical Advisory Board was formed in 1932 to help guide the medical policy of the Association and to assist cooperation between medical practitioners and the baby health centres. Torrens House, a training school for mothers and nurses, was opened on South Terrace in 1938, and a baby health centre was opened within the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital in 1940 at which 5th and 6th year medical students were to receive training in infant care and diseases.

The development of the Association and its impact on infant mortality and care generally are summarised in 'The First Fifty Years', a pamphlet prepared for the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association Jubilee in September 1959 (copy in PRG 127/7/8). This record group comprises the official records of the Association from its inauguration in 1909. Minutes and annual reports after 1935 have been retained by the Association.

The Babies' Aid Society Society was organised in 1911 by Dr. Helen Mayo and Miss Harriet Sterling to supply clothing for children in need,

The Archives also holds the papers of Dr. Helen Mayo (PRG 127) which contain material relevant to the establishment and development of the Association. The records of the Babies Hospital Association, which continued as an Advisory Committee to Mareeba Babies Hospital after 1917, are also held (SRG 8).

Headquarters

Central Committee minutes. 23 Sept. 1909 - 11 Sept. 1940. 6 volumes. [To 1915 known as the School for Mothers; 1915-21 School for Mothers' Institute Inc.; 1921-26 School for Mothers' Institute and Baby Health Centre; 1927 - The Mothers' and Babies' Health Association Inc.]	<u>1</u>
Annual reports. 1910-35. 26 volumes,	<u>2</u>
Annual meeting minutes. 11 Oct. 1928 - 14 Nov. 1952. 1 volume.	<u>3</u>
Branch Committee meeting minutes. 24 November 1926 - 17 Jun. 1953. 4 volumes. The Branch Committee was established to help maintain closer relations between the Central Committee and the branch committees of the Association.]	<u>4</u>
Minutes of disbanded branch Committees. [See special list.]	<u>5</u>
Medical Staff Committee meeting minutes. 10 Feb. 1926 - 9 June 1937. 1 volumes. [Includes copies of minutes of meetings of the Hon. Medical Officers, 31 May 1933 and the Medical Advisory Board, 17 Nov. 1932.]	<u>6</u>
Medical Advisory Committee minutes. 19 Feb. 1930, 16 Apr. 1931 - 17 Apr. 1940. 1 volume. From 1931 known as the Medical Advisory Board. The 1930 meeting was called to discuss the compilation of "The S.A. Book for Mothers". The Medical Advisory Board became the Medical Council in 1940.	<u>7</u>
Motor Car Sub. Committee minutes. 22 Sept. 1947 - 7 Dec. 1954. 1 volume.	<u>8</u>
Ledger. 1 Aug. 1927 - 31 Aug. 1947. 1 volume	<u>9</u>
Cash Books. 1 Aug. 1928 - 25 Sept. 1945. 3 volumes. Outsize 3.	<u>10</u>
Cash Sheets. 1 May 1945 - 30 May 1958. 2 bundles. Outsize 3	<u>11</u>

Balance Sheets. 1 Aug. 1927 - 31 July 1948, 1 volume.	<u>12</u>
Staff Superannuation Scheme - list of members. 1944. 1 volume.	<u>13</u>
Register of Donations. 1926 - 1955. 3 volumes.	<u>14</u>
Petty Cash Book. 1 June 1951 - 1 Jan. 1959. 1 volume.	<u>15</u>
Newspaper cuttings. 1911 - 1946. 5 volumes.	<u>16</u>
Visitors' Book. 1911 - 1936, 1944. 1 volume.	<u>17</u>
Torrens House	
Minute Book of Matron. 10 Feb. 1926 - 23 Aug. 1944. 3 volumes.	<u>18</u>
Minutes of Sub. Committee of Mothercraft Training School 27 Sept. 1944 - 31 Mar, 1954. 1 volume.	<u>19</u>
Minute Book of Torrens House Auxiliary. 6 Dec. 1938 - 4 April 1950. 1 volume.	<u>20</u>
Ledger. Aug. 1937 - June 1961. 1 volume.	<u>21</u>
Monthly Account Books. Aug. 1937 - June 1960. 1 volume.	<u>22</u>
Monthly Accounts. 30 June 1955 - 30 June 1960. 1 volume. Outsize 1.	<u>23</u>
Building Additions Fund. 24 Nov. 1943 - 31 Jan. 1956.	<u>24</u>
Sales of Mothercraft Book. 4 Aug. 1952 - 10 June 1959. 1 volume.	<u>25</u>
Babies' Aid Society	
Minute book 21 Feb. 1961 - 17 June 1969. 1 volume.	<u>26</u>

Correspondence. 24 Feb. 1971 - 16 Sept. 1975. 1 folder.	<u>27</u>
Annual Reports. 1962-79. 1 folder. [Reports for 1970 - 1972 are missing.]	<u>28</u>
Letters, History of Association and Constitution. c.1916. 1 folder.	<u>29</u>
Monthly Account Books. May 1928 - 1 Apr. 1969.1 volume.	<u>30</u>
List of parcels distributed. Feb. 1946 - June 1970, 1 volume.	<u>31</u>
Pamphlet 1 : History and development of M.B.H.A. Ca. 1980. 0.5 cm.	<u>32</u>