
THE BABIES' HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

SRG 8
Series List

The Babies' Hospital Association was founded following an informal meeting on 6 March 1912 "to discuss the serious lack of Hospital accommodation for infants under two years of age". Following vain attempts to have a cottage hospital established within the Adelaide Children's Hospital grounds and in association with the Children's Hospital, the Association (then known as the Committee of the Cottage Hospital for Sick Babies) negotiated with the Matron (Mrs. Bartels) of "Quambi" private nursing home at North Adelaide to take in sick and convalescent infants at a fixed charge. The Babies' Hospital Association was officially formed at the meeting of 30 September 1913, with Dr. F.S.Horne elected as Chairman, Miss Annie Hornabrook hon. treasurer, Miss H.A. Stirling, hon. secretary, and committee members Doctors J.A. Bonnin, Helen Mayo, Hampden Carr, Violet Plummer de Crespigny, H. Gilbert, S.A. Skipper and Mesdames Austin Hewitt and Teesdale Smith. Medical attendance on the babies was to be divided between the medical members of the Committee.

In 1915 the Association founded its own cottage hospital for sick babies at St. Peters, with the assistance of a donation by Mrs. Teesdale Smith. In February 1917, following discussions with the Chief Secretary and the Inspector General of Hospitals, the Association accepted the proposal of the Government that the babies hospital be placed under the administration of the Inspector General of Hospitals. The Association was requested to continue as an honorary Advisory committee in connection with the management of the hospital, empowered to use the existing funds of the Association and to collect further funds "for the benefit of the said hospital or any other hospital substituted therefore".

Under government administration, the hospital moved to new premises at Woodville, named "Mareeba" Babies' Hospital, in August 1917. The Association continued its work on behalf of the Babies' Hospital, maintaining a close liaison with the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association, until 1951, when it was disbanded following the decision to place the "Mareeba" Hospital under the Adelaide Children's Hospital Board.

For related records, see Hospitals Department correspondence (GRG 78/1-3), records of the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association Inc. (SRG 199) and the papers of Dr. Helen Mayo (PRG 127).

Minutes. 6 March 1912 - 23 October 1951.	1
House Committee Minutes. 10 February 1915 - 23 October 1920, 13 February 1935 - 20 March 1939. 4 volumes	2
Annual General Meeting Minutes. 1915-51. 1 volume.	3

Annual reports. 1915-40, 1944, 1947, 1949, 1951. 6 cm. [Begins with the third Annual Report]	4
Letters sent (copies). 1919-23. 1 volume.	5
Correspondence (including copies of letters sent). 1932-45. 2 cm.	6
Legal documents, including articles of association, property records, bequest and insurance policies. 1912-37, and undated. 3 cm.	7
Address book (workers and donors) and register of donations. 1938-49. 1 volume.	8
Miscellaneous accounts and receipts. 1932-36. 2 cm.	9
Bank passbooks. 1930-36. 2 items.	10
Photographs of Lady Galway. nd. 1 item.	11
Album of views of Mareeba Babies' Hospital. 1938. 1 item. [Includes letter from Dr. Helen Mayo to Nurses of the Hospital? 1947; and Matron A.J. Kimber's badge 1930-38].	12