

This is my memory of my two years at
Broadmeadows Foundling Hospital.

1943 - 1945 Mary Patricia Torgy now Smith (Goye)

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For me it was an eye opener into
how the church had power of family
life and its control over its members.

To me it was heart rending to hear
and see babies (wrenched in one
particular case) removed from their
mothers in such a heartless way.

I can still hear the cries of the mother
knowing that she would never see her
baby again.

I don't blame the sisters (nuns) as
they were brainwashed by the church.
It was also very hard on the nurses as
there were too few to care for the little
ones who wanted to be cuddled & noticed.

There were other reasons for children
to be at the hospital (-home) "Broady".
Mothers might be taken ill & need care
for baby or fathers needed help to
care for family.

I believe most mothers felt "obliged" to have their child adopted as they were often made to feel inadequate to look after their baby.

For some children their only future was an orphanage ^{or} where they went at the age of 4 years.

There were the girls whose boyfriends had promised to marry them after the war was over. But I have no knowledge of that outcome.

There were funny things, too. like the sister (nun) who asked the nurses for a smoker saying, "I think I'll give this away (being a nun) look how you are enjoyin' yourselves (nuns were not allowed to smoke but nurses were)

Pat Smith