

*Where is the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct?*

Parramatta Female Factory Precinct (PFFP) is situated between Fleet Street North Parramatta and the Parramatta River.

*What historic sites does the PFFP represent?*

- Cumberland District Hospital Group  
- Mill, Female Factory, Lunatic Asylum/Cumberland Hospital, Wistaria House Gardens
- Norma Parker Correctional Centre Group (NPCCG)  
- Roman Catholic Orphan School, Parramatta Girls Industrial School, Kamballa

Additionally we seek the inclusion of the Parramatta Gaol complex.

*Are the sites listed on Heritage registers?*

National Heritage List

None of the sites are listed on the National Heritage list. Of the 77 sites listed the precinct predates all but two of the sites associated with European settlement yet it has been omitted.

State Heritage Register

All sites are listed on the State Heritage Register; however there is no recognition of the NPCCG significance to aboriginal people, particularly the Stolen Generations.

Cumberland District Hospital Group listed in 1992

Norma Parker Correctional Centre Group (NPCCG) listed in 1999

*Historic Phases*

- Cumberland District Hospital Group
  - Mill Phase 1803-1818
  - Female Factory Phase 1818 -1847
  - Parramatta Lunatic Asylum c1848-1872
  - Parramatta Lunatic Asylum 1872-c1901
  - Psychiatric Hospital c1901-1960
  - Cumberland Hospital 1960-1992
- Norma Parker Correctional Centre Group (NPCCG)
  - Roman Catholic Orphan School Phase 1841 – 1886
  - Parramatta Girls Industrial School Phase 1887 – 1974
  - Kamballa & Taldree Phase 1974 -1986
  - Norma Parker Correctional Centre Phase 1980
  - Kamballa/ DoCs State Disaster recovery Unit Phase 1986
- Parramatta Gaol Complex
  - Settlement Phase 1796 -1799 Parramatta's first gaol
  - Second Gaol & Factory 1800 -1841
  - Third Gaol Phase 1835-1842
  - Improvements Phase 1842 – 1890's
  - Asylum Phase 1880's -1900

## PFFP Living Memorial Info Sheet #2

Disestablishment & re-establishment 1918 -1927  
Post War -Corrections Facility Phase 1927 - present

### *Who owns the sites?*

#### Cumberland District Hospital Group

- Former Female Factory buildings occupied by the NSW Institute of Psychiatry, Western Area Health Services, Cumberland Hospital under the control of NSW Health.

#### Norma Parker Correctional Centre Group (NPCCG)

The site is divided between NSW Corrective Services and Department of Community Services (DoCs).

- Corrective Services; Norma Parker Periodic Detention Centre occupies the main buildings of the former Roman Catholic Orphan School/ Parramatta Girls Home (RCOS/PGH).
- DoCs State Disaster Recovery Unit occupies section known as Kamballa southern portion of RCOS/PGH.

#### Parramatta Gaol Complex

- Corrective Services

### *What is happening now?*

The NSW Dept of Planning has a draft development proposal on the theme of health and wellbeing for the entire site. Indications are that development would be similar to that of Darling Harbour/Rocks with an emphasis on commercial interests. For instance the Parramatta Gaol complex would be fitted out for retail use, the main buildings of the former girls home/orphanage Norma Parker Centre would be a backpacker type accommodation. Portions of the site would be sold off for housing development and so on.

We are not opposed to the site being utilized for conference centres, nor are we opposed to retail interests, but commercialization should not be the dominant forces determining the sites use.

### *Our Concerns*

We are concerned about the government's narrow view of this site. The failure to recognize its true value to both indigenous and non indigenous women, to the Forgotten Australians - those Australians who experienced institutional or out of home care as children, to the Stolen and lost generations, to marginalized people who experienced care in the mental health facilities and to the community of western Sydney.

The Parramatta Female Factory Precinct is our state's equivalent to Port Arthur which it actually predates. It is western Sydney's greatest asset that if utilized appropriately could promote Parramatta as Australia's creative cultural capital and generate revenue for generations to come.

In recognizing its history, heritage and significance to women, to indigenous people and to Forgotten Australians the government would send a message to the world that from our humble beginnings as a convict settlement we have grown into a fair and equal nation that has learnt from the past.

*What we propose*

A Living Memorial

Parramatta Female Factory was the first major site of female settlement and industry. It was the destination of all unassigned female convicts transported to the colony of NSW. As a site of detention it predates Port Arthur and Fremantle Prisons which are both listed on the national register.

Norma Parker Centre is the oldest surviving purpose built Catholic Orphanage in NSW; and the only surviving example of a 19th century Industrial School in NSW. It is a Site of Conscience and is of major significance for the Forgotten Australians – Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children, Stolen Generations and Child Migrants.

Cumberland District Hospital Group

We propose that the portion pertaining to both the Mill Phase and the Female Factory Phase be set aside to be administered as the National Women's Heritage Centre (NWHC).

Norma Parker Correctional Centre Group (NPCCG)

We propose that the entire site be established as the National Centre for Forgotten Australians (NCFA) and that within this site the portion of land occupied by DoCs be established as the Burrumattagal Centre in recognition of the significance of this site to aboriginal peoples.

Parramatta Gaol Complex

We propose that the Parramatta Gaol Complex be established as the National Centre for New Media Arts and Virtual Heritage technologies.

As a Living Memorial, the centre would combine Advocacy & Support, Conference, Research & Learning Facilities, Cultural Heritage & Tourism and Virtual Heritage New media Technologies.

---

THE WAR ON HERITAGE

Community concern is mounting about the marginalisation of heritage and of our heritage laws. The latest blow came this week with the announcement that the Heritage Office will effectively be dismantled. The Office has been emasculated with most of its staff relocated elsewhere in the Department and only a 'core' left to service the Heritage Council. This move reinforces the view that heritage is a very low priority for government, being seen as the obstacle to development. It is sad but true that the National Trust may be the only community advocate left to fight for heritage. Its own survival is seriously under threat because of drastic cuts to government grants. The Heritage Act and the Heritage Council are being reviewed, but the submissions have not been made public and the outcome is still unknown. Part 3A of the Planning Act already allows the Minister to switch off the Heritage Act. The proposed "streamlining" of the planning system further threatens heritage protection. The cumulative effect of these changes on several fronts amounts to a crisis in heritage conservation. The Trust is urging the community to act now.



1A	Parramatta Girls Home/RCOS	DoCS State Disaster recovery unit	DoCs
1B	Parramatta Girls Home/RCOS	Norma Parker Detention centre	Docs
2	Female Factory	NSW Institute Psychiatry	Dept Health
3	Marsden/Bla xland/Asylum	Cumberland Hospital	Dept Health
<p><b>Location:</b> Within the North Parramatta Government Heritage Site  <b>Local Government:</b> Parramatta  <b>Area:</b> Approximately 35 hectares with more than 80 heritage sites.</p>			

*We Need Your Help*

Will you join us and be part of uncovering a part of our country's history that has been neglected for too long? Can we count on your vocal support?

If you would like to lend your voice to this campaign you can post your comments to [The Living Memorial Campaign](#). Or [ABC Unleashed The Forgotten Australians](#) or for more information about [Parramatta Girls Home](#)

*Other Ways You Can Help*

If you belong to a membership organisation would you please consider promoting our efforts with your members? (eg newsletters, e-mails)

Or write a letter to your local MP or a letter to the editor of your local paper outlining what the memorial would mean to you.

STATE MP's

Morris Iemma MP  
 Premier  
 Phone (02) 9228 5239  
 Fax (02) 9228 3934  
[thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au)

Tanya Gadiel MP  
 Member for Parramatta, Parliamentary Secretary  
 90 George Street,  
 PARRAMATTA NSW 2150  
 Phone (02) 9891 4722  
 Fax (02) 9891 5618  
[tanya.gadiel@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tanya.gadiel@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Verity Firth  
 Minister for Women,  
 Phone (02) 9228 4130  
 Fax (02) 9228 4131  
[office@firth.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@firth.minister.nsw.gov.au)

Look up your local State Member:  
[NSW Government Parliament members](#)