### Derby Leprosarium

**Location:** Derby  
**Date Range:** 1936 - 1987  
**Religious Affiliation:** Roman Catholic (StJGS)

**Notes:** Opened in December 1936 in the aftermath of an interim report of the Moseley Royal Commission. Initially accepted 90 patients from the Aboriginal hospital at Derby offer of the sisters of St. John of God to manage the facility was accepted by the Department of Health. Spread of leprosy continued to be serious throughout the 1940s, but by the end of the 1950s outbreaks became less frequent and more isolated. Smith & Halstead point to two individual leper stations – one operated by the Catholic Church, the other by the United Aborigines Mission – but there is no other evidence to support this claim. However, S.P. Walker, later superintendent of Fitzroy Crossing Mission (United Aborigines Mission), did minister at the Leprosarium’s native church for a period in 1946 and there seems to have been interaction between the Leprosarium and UAM missionaries in Derby. Now known as Bungurun and used as a training and education centre.

**References:** Smith & Halstead (1990); Haebich (2000); Zucker (1994); CNA (1944); Walker (2001)