

# Royal Brisbane Hospital

1867 – 2003

**Other Names:** • Brisbane General Hospital

## Details

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The Brisbane General Hospital was established in 1867 on a parcel of land in Herston. In 1966 its name changed to the Royal Brisbane Hospital. In 2003, it merged with the Royal Women's Hospital to form the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH).

The first facility at Brisbane General Hospital for patients with psychiatric issues was Ward 16, constructed in 1918.

In 1958 the unit formerly known as Wattlebrae was repurposed and became known as Lawson House. At this time what was Ward 16 became known as Ward 15.

In the 1960s and 1970s, children who were wards of the state were accommodated at Lawson House, even though it was a unit for adults with mental health issues. One woman reported having been sent to Lawson House, after having made an attempt on her own life at age 12 ('Donna's story', 2011).

The 'Forgotten Australians' Senate report of 2014 discussed wards of state being sent to adult psychiatric institutions, including at the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

The Queensland Government's 2011 'Reconciliation Plan: For children who as wards of the State were placed in adult mental health facilities' referred to children having being placed at Lawson House and Ward 16.

## Gallery

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**View of Brisbane General Hospital with number 14 ward in the foreground, Herston, ca. 1934**

**Description:** This description was supplied with the photograph and included in the library catalogue: Lamington nurses quarters is at the back left of the photograph, with Wattlebrae or Lawson House on the right. The centre building housed Wards 16 and 14.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- **Royal Brisbane Hospital (1867 – 2003)**
  - Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (2003 - current)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Health Department, State Government of Queensland \(26 September 1963 - 3 April 2012\)](#)
- [Queensland Health \(3 April 2012 - current\)](#)
- [Health and Home Affairs Department \(5 December 1935 - 26 September 1963\)](#)
- [Home Secretary's Office \(6 August 1896 - 5 December 1935\)](#)
- [Colonial Secretary \(10 December 1859 - 6 August 1896\)](#)

### Related Events

- [Apology to children who were wards of the state placed in adult mental health facilities, Parliament of Queensland \(2010\)](#)

## Resources

- Remeikis, Amy, [Recitations of 'sorry' are no help to this survivor](#), Sydney Morning Herald, 19 August 2012
- Chynoweth, Adele, [Goodna Girls: A History of Children in a Queensland Mental Asylum](#), 2020

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