

Reiby Training School

1973 – 1991

Other Names:

- Reiby Training Centre
- Reiby School for Girls
- Reiby

Details

Reiby Training School was established at Airds, near Campbelltown, by the Department of Youth and Community Services in 1973. Initially, it was a home for girls defined as delinquent.

The 1974 Annual Report of the Youth and Community Services Department described the centre, which cost 'over \$2,000,000', and its official opening:

Officially opened by Sir Roden Cutler, V.C., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B.E., K.St.J., on 3 August 1973, Reiby is the most modern of the recently completed, larger-type training schools. ... Accommodation is available for up to 100 girls up to the age of 18 years with the majority of the population being composed of girls 15 years and over.

In 1977, Reiby became coeducational, following the closure of the Ormond Training School.

According to Quinn (2006), Reiby Training Centre provided accommodation for about 90 girls aged 14 to 16. 'It followed the prevailing model of four houses of twenty inmates each, as well as a privilege cottage. As had always been the practice with girls' institutions, it was surrounded by a wall' (p.301). Quinn also contends that that 'the principal benefit that Reiby brought was that its opening enabled, finally, the closure of the Parramatta Girls' Training School, after almost a century of operations as an industrial school'.

A former resident contacted us to tell us that the cottages were named Matthews, Parry and Kennedy. The former resident described being judged on cleaning their cottages each week, and whichever cottage won were rewarded with a record album of their choice.

By 1980, the Department of Youth and Community Services described Reiby as having 60 girls aged 11-18, and 40 boys up to 13 1/2 years of age (Department of Youth and Community Services Annual Report, p. 61), and an additional cottage was constructed to accommodate the influx of younger boys being sent to Reiby.

According to Quinn, a survey showed that between 1981 and 1984, 16% of girls and 20% of boys admitted to Reiby were Aboriginal (p.385).

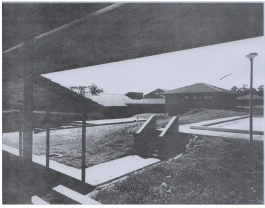
In 1991, Reiby was transferred to the Department of Juvenile Justice and became Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre.

Gallery



Reiby

Description: This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



Reiby School for Girls

Description: This image is from the cover of a 1978 NSW Treasury report into the costs of building and maintaining NSW Child Welfare Department buildings.

More info

Chronology

- **Reiby Training School (1973 – 1991)**
 - Reiby Juvenile Justice Centre (1991 - current)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department of Youth and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1973 - 1975\)](#)
- [Department of Youth and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1976 - 1988\)](#)
- [Department of Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs, State Government of New South Wales \(1975 - 1976\)](#)
- [Department of Health and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1991 - 1992\)](#)
- [Department of Juvenile Justice, State Government of New South Wales \(1990 - current\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Ormond Training School \(1962 - 1980\)](#)

Reiby Training School became a coeducational institution for school-age children following the closure of the Ormond Training School in 1977.
- [Parramatta Girls Training School \(1946 - 1974\)](#)

Girls from Parramatta Girls Training School were sent to Reiby when Parramatta closed in 1974

Resources

- Van Krieken, Robert, *Children and the state: social control and the formation of Australian child welfare*, 1992
- Boyle, Brian, *The Child Welfare Schools: Recollections of these unique schools and the men and women who taught in them often under considerable difficulty*, 1996
- Jessamine, Sandie, *Borderline*, 2021

Records

For more information and to access your records, follow the links below:

Records

- [Departmental Records relating to State Wards, New South Wales \(1918 - current\)](#)
 - [Detainee files, Department of Juvenile Justice \(1985 - 1992\)](#)
 - [Children's Court information, Department of Juvenile Justice \(c. 1980 - current\)](#)
-

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/reiby-training-school/>