

# Taldree

1974 – 1980

**Other Names:** • Taldree Remand Centre

## Details

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Taldree was opened in 1974 by the Department of Youth and Community Services in Parramatta. It was located in new buildings on part of the site of the Parramatta Girls' Training School, which was officially closed in 1975. Taldree was a remand centre that took in up to 60 boys under 16 years for about two weeks at a time, including boys from Minda Remand Centre in Lidcombe. When Taldree closed in 1980 the boys were transferred to Werrington Park. The Taldree section was then renamed Kamballa.

Taldree was officially opened on 10 December, 1974 as a remand centre for junior boys, having admitted its first residents in July 1974. The Centre was located in new buildings on part of the site of the former Parramatta Girls' Training School in Fleet Street, Parramatta. Parramatta had been the subject of a strong public campaign for more compassionate treatment of children in the child welfare and juvenile detention systems and the creation of Taldree and Kamballa (an institution for girls located on the same site) were a direct response to that by the government.

According to press at the time it was announced, "Taldree" was the "Aboriginal word" for "young man", although the language used and cultural group it was from were not identified ("Child detention centres to close", *Sydney Morning Herald* 5 July 1974, p1).

Taldree provided residential accommodation for up to 60 boys at one time. A school building was added, to provide basic skills education, because many of the boys were educationally disadvantaged. The average length of stay at Taldree was two weeks. The school accommodation was shared with the girls from Kamballa but neither classes nor playgrounds were mixed. The two homes also shared administrative staff. The complex was sometimes referred to as the Kamballa and Taldree Children's Shelter.

When Taldree closed in May 1980, girls from the Kamballa side were moved into the buildings. From 1983 they were used by the Department of Youth and Community Services as administrative buildings. This use continued until 2009, under the Department of Community Services.

The buildings used for Taldree are part of the Parramatta Female Factories and Institutions Precinct. In November 2017, the Precinct was added to the National Heritage List. It has also been listed (as The Girls Training School Precinct) on the Register of the National Estate since 21 March 1978.

## Gallery



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## Abandon All Hope - a history of Parramatta Girls Home

**Description:** Caption taken from YouTube: Abandon All Hope is the first documented history of the Parramatta Girls Home - a project made possible through the Parrastories Heritage and Stories fund, Parramatta City Council. Until now the story of this State operated welfare institution has remained relatively unknown. The document examines the site's archaeological heritage together with an overview of the statutory and societal forces and the individual and collective experiences of the young people who once resided within its walls.

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## Front gates of Kamballa and Taldree

**Description:** This photograph was taken by former Kamballa resident Sandie Jessamine in 2015, showing the gates naming Kamballa and Taldree.

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# More info

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## 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 \(1975 - 1976\)](#)

### Related Events

- [Case Study 07: Parramatta Training School for Girls, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2014\)](#)  
Taldree was briefly mentioned in Case Study 07: Parramatta Training School for Girls, but was not the primary focus of the study.

### Related Organisations

- [Department of Family and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1988 - 1991\)](#)  
The Department of Family Community Services controlled the Taldree/Kamballa site  
Date: 1988 - 1991
- [Parragirls \(2006 - 2023\)](#)
- [Parramatta Girls Training School \(1946 - 1974\)](#)  
Taldree was established in the former Parramatta Girls Training School buildings in 1975.
- [Department of Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1992 - 2009\)](#)  
The Department of Community Services retained use of the Taldree/Kamballa site until 2009
- [Kamballa \(1974 - 1983\)](#)  
Taldree and Kamballa shared a school and administrative staff and were both located in the grounds of Parramatta Girls' Training School. Taldree had its own section. When Taldree closed in May 1983, Taldree's buildings were used by Kamballa.
- [Minda \(1966 - 1991\)](#)  
When Taldree opened, junior boys were transferred out of Minda to Taldree.
- [Werrington Park \(1954 - c. 1988\)](#)  
When Taldree closed in 1980 the remaining boys were transferred to Werrington Park.

## Resources

- Quinn, Peter E, [Unenlightened efficiency: the administration of the juvenile correction system in New South Wales 1905-1988](#), 27 March 2006

- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, [Report of Case Study No. 7: child sexual abuse at the Parramatta Training School for Girls and the Institution for Girls in Hay](#), October 2014. *Relevance:* Taldree was briefly mentioned in Case Study 07: Parramatta Training School for Girls, but was not the primary focus of the study
- 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
- [Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct](#), National Heritage List, 2017

## Records

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

### Records

- [Departmental Records relating to State Wards, New South Wales \(1918 - current\)](#)
  - [Records of Girls' Industrial and Training Schools, State Archives NSW \(1867 - 1983\)](#)
  - [Taldree records, State Archives NSW \(1974 - 1980\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/taldree/>