

Department of Justice and Public Instruction

1873 – 1881

Details

The Department of Justice and Public Instruction oversaw industrial schools and reformatory schools, in addition to ordinary public schools. It was replaced by the Department of Public Instruction in 1881.

During the early years of the settlement of the Colony of New South Wales, the Governors provided support to schools. By the 1820s the Churches became organised and the State withdrew to a considerable degree until 1848 when state elementary schools were established. In 1848 education was placed under the control of two boards: the Board of National Education and the Denominational School Board. These two boards functioned concurrently until 1866 when the Public Schools Act replaced them with the Council of Education.

The Department of Justice and Public Instruction was created in 1873. With the passing of the Public Instruction Act all business of an educational nature was transferred to the control of the Department of Public Instruction. The Public Instruction Act repealed the Public Schools Act 1866, dissolved the Council of Education and provided for the cessation of all aid to Denominational Schools from 31 December 1882. In 1889, technical education was transferred to the control of the Minister for Public Instruction, being administered through the Technical Education Branch of the Department. Under the Technical Education and New South Wales University of Technology Act, 1949 a separate Department of Technical Education was established.

In 1957 the Department was renamed the Department of Education. In 1990, the name changed to the Department of School Education. In 1998, the Department was amalgamated with the Department of Technical and Further Education to become the Department of Education and Training.

More info

Chronology

- **Department of Justice and Public Instruction (1873 – 1881)**
 - Department of Public Instruction (1880 - 1915)
 - Department of Education, State Government of New South Wales (1915 - 1989)
 - Department of School Education, State Government of New South Wales (1989 - 1997)
 - Department of Education and Training, State Government of New South Wales (1997 - 2011)
 - Department of Education and Communities, State Government of New South Wales (2011 - current)

Resources

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

Records

Records

- [School Files \(1876 - 1979\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/department-of-justice-and-public-instruction/>