Department of Education, State Government of New South Wales

1915 – 1989

Details

The Department of Education (formerly known as the Department of Public Instruction) was established in 1915. It was responsible for the welfare of all children held in reformatories, industrial schools, training institutions and training vessels. After 1916, children who truanted from school could be detained in such institutions, and truancy schools were created for that purpose. The Department of Education retained authority for these institutions until 1956, when they were transferred to the Child Welfare Department. Records of Public Schools and Aboriginal Schools are valuable sources for people tracing their past, and are readily accessible via the State Records Office.

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 The Public Instruction Act repealed the Public Schools Act 1866, dissolved the Council of Education and provided for the cessation of all aid to Denominational Schools from 31 December 1882.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

- Board of National Education (c. 1848 - 1866)
  - Council of Education (1866 - 1880)
    - 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)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Guildford Truant School for Boys (1917 - 1935)](#)
  Date: 1917 - 1935
- [Glenfield Park School (1927 - current)](#)

Related Glossary Terms

- [Truancy](#)

Related Organisations

- [State Children's Relief Department (1881 - 1923)](#)
  The State Children's Relief Department was part of the Department of Education
  Date: 1915 - 1923
- [Berida Junior Red Cross Home (c. 1950 - 1974)](#)
  The Department of Education ran a School for Specific Purposes at Berida Red Cross Home.
  Date: 1951 - 1974
- [New South Wales Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind (1869 - 1957)](#)
  Education at the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind was overseen by the Department of Education, and the Department was responsible for education at the Wahroonga facility.
  Date: 1948 - 1957
- [Child Welfare Department, State Government of New South Wales (1923 - 1970)](#)
- [Department of Technical Education, State Government of New South Wales (1949 - 1957)](#)

Resources

- Museums of History NSW, *Schools and related records*, No date
- Museums of History NSW, *School Records Guide*, No date

Records

Records

- [School Files (1876 - 1979)](#)
- [School Records, Education Department (1881 - c. 2000)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/department-of-education/