

# Kinchela Training Home for Aboriginal Boys

1923 – 1970

**Other Names:**

- Kinchela Boys' Home
- Kinchela Home
- Kinchela Aboriginal Boys' Training Home
- The Mission

## Details

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Kinchela Training Home, near Kempsey, was built in 1923 by the Aborigines' Protection Board. It was intended to offer training in farm labouring to older boys who had been removed from their families under the Protection Board's policies of apprenticing Aboriginal youths. Later it became a home for school-aged boys who had been removed from their families by the Aborigines Protection Board, the Aborigines Welfare Board or the Child Welfare Department. There were between 30 and 50 boys at the home at any given time. It was transferred to the Child Welfare Department in 1969 and closed in 1970.

Kinchela Boys' Home was modelled on Cootamundra Girls' Home and was intended to offer 'training'. The property included a dairy and farm and boys did all the labouring. There was a school, but farm training was the main focus of activities.

There were many investigations into Kinchela Home during the 1920s and 1930s. At least one manager during this period was a violent alcoholic who physically abused the boys and it is clear that 'training' was severely limited, and consisted of hiring the boys out as labourers to local farmers. However a later manager, JT Danvers, was notably kind and also praised the schoolteacher's work with the boys (Parry, 2007). He was soon moved to another position by the Aborigines Protection Board.

From the 1940s, when the Aborigines Welfare Board was interested in assimilating Aboriginal children into the wider community, boys were sent out to Kempsey Public School. In the 1950s and 1960s some boys were admitted to Kempsey High School. According to *Dawn*, the publicity magazine of the Board, conditions at the Home were improved over the 1950s and the 1960s, and boys were allowed to engage in recreational activities. *Dawn* contains many images from Kinchela at this period.

The home was transferred to the Child Welfare Department when the Aborigines Welfare Board was shut down in 1969. The 1970 Annual Report of the Child Welfare Department expressed strong views about Kinchela when it took over the administration of Kinchela in 1969:

*Together with various other responsibilities of the former Aborigines Welfare Board, the Department assumed control of Kinchela Boys Home and the Cootamundra Girls Training Home (now known as Bimbadeen) during 1969. Kinchela was closed as an establishment in May, 1970, and the 7 wards then in residence were transferred elsewhere. This property was poorly situated, uneconomical, and generally*

*unsuitable for the Department's purposes, and is to be disposed of. The proceeds will be used to help finance a new hostel development for young Aboriginal people.*

According to the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation website, when the Home closed its last residents were transferred to Royleston in Glebe, Marella Mission Farm in Kellyville and Berry Training Farm.

The Kinchela site was returned to the Kempsey Local Aboriginal Land Council and in 2012 it was used as Bennelong's Haven Aboriginal Rehabilitation Services. Since 2012 the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation, based in Darlington in Sydney, has provided support for former residents of the Home. They also organise reunions.

Kinchela Boys' Home was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

## Gallery



Kinchela Home for Aboriginal Boys, 1955

**Kinchela Home for Boys 1955, where many Koori boys were ill treated**

**Description:** This is a scan of an image that has been reproduced on *A history of Aboriginal Sydney*.



**One of the original front gates from the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home.**

**Description:** This is an image from the National Museum of Australia's Collections pages.

## More info

### Chronology

- Singleton Home (1905 - 1910)
  - Singleton Aboriginal Children's Home (1910 - 1920)
    - Singleton Boys' Home (1920 - 1923)
- **Kinchela Training Home for Aboriginal Boys (1923 – 1970)**

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Aborigines Welfare Directorate, State Government of New South Wales \(1969 - 1975\)](#)  
Date: 1969 - 1970
- [Aborigines Welfare Board, State Government of New South Wales \(1940 - 1969\)](#)  
Date: 1940 - 1969
- [Aborigines Protection Board, State Government of New South Wales \(1883 - 1940\)](#)  
Date: 1923 - 1940
- [Child Welfare Department, State Government of New South Wales \(1923 - 1970\)](#)

#### Related Glossary Terms

- [Homefinder \(1890 - 1920s\)](#)

### Related Legislation

- [Aborigines Protection Act 1909, New South Wales \(1909 - 1969\)](#)
- [Aborigines Protection Amending Act 1915, New South Wales \(1915 - 1969\)](#)
- [Aborigines Protection \(Amendment\) Act 1940, New South Wales \(1940 - 1969\)](#)
- [Aborigines Protection \(Amendment\) Act 1963, New South Wales \(1963 - 1969\)](#)
- [Aborigines Act 1969, New South Wales \(1969 - 1983\)](#)  
The management of the Kinchela Training Home for Aboriginal Boys was transferred to the Child Welfare Department by the *Aborigines Welfare Act 1969*.
- [Aborigines Protection \(Amendment\) Act 1936, New South Wales \(1936 - 1969\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation \(2001 - current\)](#)
- [Cootamundra Training Home \(1911 - 1969\)](#)  
Aboriginal children who were removed from their families were sent either to Kinchela or Cootamundra, depending on their gender. This meant siblings were separated.  
Date: 1923 - 1969
- [Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home \(1908 - 1988\)](#)  
Children from Bomaderry Home were sent to Kinchela once they were old enough for 'training'.
- [Marella Mission Farm \(1953 - 1978\)](#)  
When Kinchela Training Home closed in 1970, some boys from Kinchela were brought to Marella Mission Farm.

## Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997. *Relevance:* Kinchela Boys' Home was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families
- Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, [Report of the Inquiry into the Death of Malcolm Charles Smith](#), 1989
- [Patrick Sephton interviewed by Ann-Mari Jordens in the Bringing them home oral history project \(2001\)](#), 2001

## 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 \(1918 - current\)](#)
  - [Record Cards of Aboriginal Children \(1953 - 1966\)](#)
  - [Observation Books \[Kinchela Aboriginal Public School\] \(1934 - 1961\)](#)
  - [School Files \(1876 - 1979\)](#)
  - [School Records, Education Department \(1881 - c. 2000\)](#)
  - [Indexes to Ward Registers, Board for the Protection of Aborigines \(1 January 1916 - 31 December 1938\)](#)
  - [Aboriginal Boys' Training Home, Kinchela, Case Papers \(1938 - 1967\)](#)
  - [Aborigines Welfare Board Photographs \(c. 1916 - c. 1961\)](#)
  - [Special Bundles \(1920 - 1958\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/kinchela-training-home-for-aboriginal-boys/>