

Cleveland Youth Detention Centre

1980 –

Details

The Cleveland Youth Detention Centre was established in 1980 at Old Common Road, Belgian Gardens, Townsville. It is a government-run facility, housing people aged 10 to 17 years who have been refused bail and remanded in custody, or who have been sentenced by the courts to a period of detention.

In 1998, the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre was investigated as part of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions, otherwise known as the Forde Inquiry. The Commission inquired into the current and past administration of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and submissions from former residents were taken, as part of its investigation into youth detention centres. The Commission visited the Cleveland Centre to inspect it and learn more about daily routines and speak with current detainees. Cleveland was described in the 1999 report as “somewhat dilapidated” and that there was “inadequate room for education, programs and recreation” (Forde Report, p.197).

While the Commission noted issues with the Cleveland Centre, it was considered in better condition when compared to the other youth detention facilities open in Queensland at that time.

As of 2025, the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre has a bed capacity of 112.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Children's Services Department, State Government of Queensland \(1 August 1966 - 6 June 1987\)](#)
- [Communities Department, State Government of Queensland \(12 February 2004 - 3 April 2012\)](#)
- [Department of Families, State Government of Queensland \(17 February 2001 - 12 February 2004\)](#)
- [Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, State Government of Queensland \(26 February 1996 - 22 February 2001\)](#)
- [Department of Family and Community Services, State Government of Queensland \(25 January 1996 - 26 February 1996\)](#)
- [Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs Department, State Government of Queensland \(7 December 1989 - 25 January 1996\)](#)
- [Department of Justice and Attorney General, State Government of Queensland \(2012 - 2024\)](#)
Date: 2012 - 2017
- [Family and Youth Services Department, State Government of Queensland \(9 June 1987 - 14 December 1987\)](#)
- [Family Services Department, State Government of Queensland \(14 December 1987 - 7 December 1989\)](#)
- [Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, State Government of Queensland \(12 December 2017 - 12 November 2020\)](#)
- [Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, State Government of Queensland \(2020 - 2023\)](#)

- [Department of Youth Justice, State Government of Queensland \(2023 - 2024\)](#)
- [Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support, State Government of Queensland \(2024 - current\)](#)

Related Events

- [Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, Queensland \(1 July 2012 - 30 June 2013\)](#)
- [Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions \(1998 - 1999\)](#)

Resources

- Atkinson, Lynn, [An overview of juvenile detention in Australia](#), National Conference on Juvenile Detention: Proceedings of a conference held 10-13 August 1993, 1994
- Dibben, Kay, [Children's commission report critical of Cleveland Youth Detention Centre's decision to keep boys in lockdown](#), Courier Mail, 21 January 2014

Records

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

Records

- [Institution Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1871 - c. 2001\)](#)
 - [Operational Registers, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1870 - c. 2001\)](#)
 - [Administrative Records, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
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