

One People of Australia League

1961 –

Other Names: • OPAL

Details

The One People of Australia League (OPAL) was established in 1961 in Queensland to advance Aboriginal issues. It ran institutions in Queensland that housed children, and also organised seaside holiday camps for children. The OPAL Centre opened in Brisbane in 1971 as a support service and social meeting place for Aboriginal people.

OPAL published a quarterly journal from 1966-1975.

OPAL also ran annual seaside holiday camps in the mid 1960s, at the Methodist Youth Centre at Margate, near Brisbane. In 1966, the *Church Chronicle* reported on the OPAL holiday camp.

The children come from all over the State, from north to south, from west to east. Some even spilled over from La Perouse [in New South Wales]. The leaders are mainly High School, University and Teacher-trainee students ... Some very valuable leaders come from the Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs in Sydney' (1 November 1966, press clipping in John Johnston collection, Anglican Records and Archives Centre).

By 1975 the League's goals had changed from assimilation to promoting cooperation and understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

According to the website 'Collaborating for Indigenous Rights':

OPAL was critical of overt political activism, preferring instead to liaise with the Queensland government – from whom it received large monetary grants – and those Indigenous people in need of housing, education or welfare assistance. Thus it was difficult for OPAL to criticise the activities of the Queensland government. Neville Bonner, Australia's first Indigenous senator, was president of OPAL from 1968 to 1975.

Gallery



Opal Holiday Scheme

Description: This is a copy of an image of a group of children on the beach which illustrated an article in the *Church Chronicle*, 1 November 1966, p.4. The article was about the annual seaside holiday camp organised by the One People of Australia League (OPAL) for children from around Australia.

More info

Related Entries

Ran

- [OPAL House \(1962 - 1985?\)](#)
- [OPAL Joyce Wilding Home \(1970 - c.2021\)](#)

Resources

- One People of Australia League (OPAL), *OPAL Series*, 1966 - 1975
- Darling, Elaine, [Wilding, Winifred Doris \(Joyce\) \(1909-1978\)](#), Australian Dictionary of Biography, 2012

Records

Records

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Records \(1880s - current\)](#)
 - [Johnston, John, Historian, News clippings and photographs - Children's Homes \(c. 1840 - c. 1990\)](#)
 - [Correspondence - Alphanumeric Prefix - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs \(1909 - 1992\)](#)
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