

Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys

1 October 1899 – 5 May 1900

Details

The Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys, run by the government, opened at South Brisbane on 1 October 1899 when boys from the Reformatory School at Lytton were transferred to what had formerly been the Diamantina Orphanage. Boys under the age of 18, who were confined by the Children's Court, were sent to the Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys. In 1900 the boys were again transferred to Toowoomba and the institution was named the Westbrook Reformatory for Boys.

Industrial and reformatory schools were established for the purpose of segregating neglected and convicted juveniles from adult prisoners.

Boys under the age of 18 years were sentenced to a term of confinement at the reformatory by Children's Courts. It appears that some boys were transferred to orphanages before the expiration of their sentences. Parents of neglected and convicted inmates were required to contribute financially to the maintenance of their sons whilst in the reformatory.

When the decision was made to move the reformatory to Toowoomba, the boys were accommodated at the Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys while the buildings from the Lytton site were dismantled, transported to Toowoomba and re-erected.

The Reformatory was under the supervision of a Superintendent and a Visiting Justice. Both the Visiting Justice and the Superintendent reported directly to the Home Secretary.

An article in the *Brisbane Courier* on 28 November 1899 reported that Francis Ann Richmond was appointed Matron of the Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys on 25 November 1899.

The Honorary B B Moreton was appointed as visiting justice to the Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys and Mr C J H Wray as visiting surgeon. Mr McGladrigan was engaged as chief warder and assistant teacher, and J Greig was to fill the role as senior warder.

More info

Chronology

- Reformatory School for Boys - Hulk Proserpine (15 March 1871 - 16 February 1881)
 - Reformatory School for Boys, Lytton (16 February 1881 - 1 October 1899)
- **Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys (1 October 1899 – 5 May 1900)**
 - Westbrook Reformatory for Boys (5 May 1900 - 30 October 1919)

- Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook (30 October 1919 - 26 May 1966)
- Westbrook Training Centre (26 May 1966 - 1987)
 - Westbrook Youth Centre (1987 - 1993)
 - Westbrook Youth Detention Centre (1993 - 30 June 1994)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Public Instruction Department, Orphanages Branch, State Government of Queensland \(2 October 1879 - 1 December 1911\)](#)
Date: 1899 - 1900

Related Legislation

- [Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act 1865, Queensland \(1865 - 1911\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Diamantina Orphanage \(1865 - 1910\)](#)
Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys was located in the former Diamantina Orphanage

Resources

- [Jottings by the Way](#), Queenslander, 10 June 1899
- [Official Notifications](#), Queenslander, 11 November 1899
- [Official Appointments](#), Brisbane Courier, 28 November 1899
- [Research Guide to orphanage and children's home records at Queensland State Archives](#), Queensland State Archives website, February 2022

Records

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

Records

- [Institution Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1871 - c. 2001\)](#)
 - [Visiting Justice's Minute Book, Reformatory School for Boys - 'Proserpine' Hulk and Reformatory Schools for Boys - Lytton, Diamantina, Westbrook \(16 September 1874 - 28 February 1916\)](#)
 - [Case Files, Reformatory School for Boys - Reformatory School for Boys, Lytton, Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys, Westbrook Reformatory for Boys, and Farm Home for Boys \(1 March 1890 - 20 August 1953\)](#)
 - [Discharge Register, Reformatory School for Boys - Hulk Proserpine, Reformatory School for Boys, Lytton, Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys and Westbrook Reformatory for Boys \(14 March 1872 - 6 September 1906\)](#)
 - [Visiting Medical Officers' Journals - Westbrook \(18 February 1873 - 19 April 1990\)](#)
 - [Visitors' Books - Westbrook \(18 February 1873 - 9 July 1984\)](#)
 - [General Correspondence, Reformatory School for Boys, Lytton, Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys, Westbrook Reformatory for Boys and Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook \(26 June 1885 - 29 November 1941\)](#)
 - [History Papers - Westbrook \(22 February 1892 - 31 December 1992\)](#)
 - [Admission Registers, Reformatory School for Boys - Hulk Proserpine, Reformatory School for Boys, Lytton, Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys and Westbrook Reformatory for Boys. \(16 March 1871 - 6 September 1906\)](#)
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