

# Westbrook Youth Detention Centre

1993 – 30 June 1994

## Details

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The Westbrook Youth Detention Centre, run by the government, was situated at Westbrook, 15 kilometres south west of Toowoomba. It was previously named the Westbrook Youth Centre. The institution was renamed the Westbrook Youth Detention Centre in 1993. It closed on 30 June 1994 and was transformed into the Darling Downs Correctional Centre.

In March 1994, a serious incident which resulted in major damage to its facilities occurred at Westbrook Youth Detention Centre. An investigation was conducted and a report tabled in Parliament on 12 April 1994. The report contained a number of revisions to the system for juvenile detention. These included the closure of Westbrook – it was closed on 30 June 1994.

## More info

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### Chronology

- 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)**
  - Darling Downs Correctional Centre (1994 - 2012)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs Department, State Government of Queensland \(7 December 1989 - 25 January 1996\)](#)  
Date: 1993 - 1994

#### Related Events

- [Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions \(1998 - 1999\)](#)  
Westbrook Youth Detention Centre was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, Queensland \(1 July 2012 - 30 June 2013\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [John Oxley Youth Detention Centre \(1987 - 2001\)](#)  
Boys were transferred to John Oxley Youth Detention Centre from Westbrook Youth Detention Centre when it

closed in 1994.

- [Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre \(1983 - 1993\)](#)

The closure of Westbrook Youth Detention Centre in 1984 had an impact on admissions to the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre.

## Resources

- *Inquiry into mass breakout: Home finally closed in 1994*, Toowoomba's Mail, 9 March 2006
- *Westbrook staff hurt, stunned by closure*, Chronicle, 14 April 1994
- *Prisoners to work modern new dairy*, Chronicle, 1 November 1996
- *Boys say don't close Westbrook/All 31 sign letter to Family Services Minister*, Chronicle, 20 April 1994
- *Westbrook/ History of the centre*, Chronicle, 6 July 1994
- *Warders want tougher policy*, Chronicle, 23 March 1994
- Ryan, Majella and Smith, Don: Queensland. Dept. of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs. Office of the Director-General, *Investigation of the circumstances surrounding incidents at Westbrook Youth Detention Centre, Friday, 18 March to Sunday, 20 March 1994 and Friday, 25 March 1994, 1994*

## Records

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

### Records

- [Institution Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1871 - c. 2001\)](#)
  - [Administrative Records, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
  - [Handcuff Register - Westbrook \(25 November 1993 - 4 July 1994\)](#)
  - [Investigation Files \(Westbrook Training Centre\) \(23 May 1971 - 28 April 1994\)](#)
  - [Visiting Medical Officers' Journals - Westbrook \(18 February 1873 - 19 April 1990\)](#)
  - [Case History Cards \(Westbrook Reformatory\) \(5 May 1900 - 30 June 1994\)](#)
  - [Administration Files, Westbrook \(1 January 1959 - 31 October 1994\)](#)
  - [Isolation Register, Westbrook Youth Detention Centre \(21 November 1993 - 13 June 1994\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/westbrook-youth-detention-centre/>