

Ipswich Mental Hospital

1938 – 1964

Details

The Ipswich Mental Hospital was previously known as the Ipswich Hospital for the Insane.

In 1940 an extra wing was added to the building that accommodated mentally handicapped children. It became known as Dagmar House.

[Taken from 'Ipswich Mental Hospital (1938-1964)': UQ Ipswich Campus Progression of an Institution]

Dr Basil Stafford was Superintendent at Ipswich Mental Hospital. Through his observation of mental hygiene practices overseas, he advocated for modern drug therapy to replace custodial methods of treatment of patients. He also recommended a better classification of patients in mental institutions. His report led to the introduction in parliament of *The Mental Hygiene Act of 1938*. The Act was aimed at reducing the stigma attached to mental illness.

At the same time, *The Backward Person's Act of 1938*, which provided for improved care and education of mentally deficient people, was introduced. Stafford moved on to become Director of Mental Hygiene. Dr William Parker served as Superintendent of Ipswich Mental Hospital from 1938 to 1953.

Gallery



Quarters for Nurses, Ipswich Mental Hospital, Ipswich, June 1940



Ipswich Mental Hospital, Occupational Therapy Building, July 1950

More info

Chronology

- Ipswich Branch of the Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum (1878 - 1910)
 - Ipswich Hospital for the Insane (1910 - 1938)
- **Ipswich Mental Hospital (1938 – 1964)**
 - Ipswich Special Hospital (1964 - 1968)
 - Challinor Centre (1968 - 1998)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Health Department, State Government of Queensland \(26 September 1963 - 3 April 2012\)](#)
Date: 1938 - 1964

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia \(2003 - 2005\)](#)
Ipswich Mental Hospital was mentioned in Submission 513 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care

Related Organisations

- [Karrala House \(1963 - 1971\)](#)
Karrala House was established within the Ipswich Mental Hospital complex.

Related Legislation

- [Mental Hygiene Act of 1938, Queensland \(1938 - c. 1962\)](#)
- [Backward Persons Act of 1938, Queensland \(1938 - 1985\)](#)

Resources

- Moon, Graham & Kearns, Robin, *From asylum to college campus: memory and remembrance in transinstitutionalisation*, Afterlives of the Psychiatric Asylum: recycling of concepts, sites and memories, 2015

Records

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

Records

- [Registers of Patients and Admission Books - Wolston Park / Ipswich Special Hospital / Challinor Centre, Ipswich \(23 March 1861 - 18 March 1994\)](#)
 - [Register of Discharges, Removals and Deaths - Ipswich Special Hospital/Challinor Centre, Ipswich \(24 July 1885 - 16 October 1998\)](#)
 - [Case Books - Male - Ipswich Special Hospital \(1866 - 1956\)](#)
 - [Case Books - Female - Ipswich Special Hospital \(1911 - 1954\)](#)
 - [Registers of Patients' Transfers - Male - Ipswich Special Hospital \(1909 - 1974\)](#)
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