

Queensland School for the Deaf

1 February 1893 – December 1988

Other Names:

- Brisbane Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb
- Queensland Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution
- Deaf, Dumb & Blind School
- Queensland Institute for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb
- Blind, Deaf and Dumb School
- Queensland Institute for the Blind

Details

The Queensland School for the Deaf, in Dutton Park, was run by a committee of private citizens until 1918 when the State Government took control. The school was known under various aliases during the years but it is only officially called the Queensland School for the Deaf. It opened 1 February 1883 and closed December 1988 with any children remaining being placed into the mainstream school system.

According to the Narbethong State Special School website's History page:

In 1886 under the provision of the 'Hospitals Act 1847-1891' the Queensland government vested a site of some ten acres in Trustees for the benefit and use of blind persons and deaf persons. These Trustees included 3 persons appointed by the Governor. The site was at Cornwall Street, Annerley.

A workshop was opened in 1887 and 4 blind and 2 partially blind men were admitted. Educational programs, a 'home' and a school for blind students were established in Queensland on the 1st February, 1893. The one teacher, Miss Sharp, struggled with the education of 20 children of both sexes, some of whom were blind and some deaf.

In 1897, the education of the deaf was conducted in separate classes. In 1908, a request was made to have the compulsory clauses of the Education Act of 1875 made applicable to blind and to deaf children. This was finally agreed to in 1924 under the 'Blind, Deaf and Dumb Children Instruction Bill.

From the commencement of the school, the Education Department was involved in payments to the Board for the salary of the teacher and for each child. In 1950, nominal boarding charges were abolished giving free board to all resident pupils.

From 1883 until 1963, deaf and blind students were educated on the same site at Cornwall Street, Annerley.

In 1963, blind students were transferred to the newly created School for the Blind (Narbethong) at Buranda, which was housed in the grounds of the previously closed Buranda Girls and Infants School. The Narbethong State Special School was established for the education of blind and low vision students. It was located on the site of the previous Buranda Infants School.

In 1968 both vision and hearing impaired children were educated at the special school. Visually handicapped children continued to be housed at the Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb until 1969, when a Private Accommodation Scheme was established, which placed country children with host parents in the metropolitan area.

Gallery



Queensland Institution for the Blind, Basket Shop, August 1952



Queensland Institution for Blind, bed shop, August 1952



Queensland Institution for Blind, brush shop, August 1952



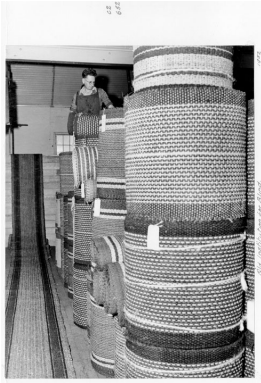
Queensland Institution for Blind, coir matting loom, August 1952



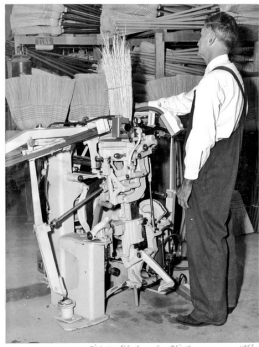
Queensland Institution for Blind, dining room, servery and kitchen, August 1952



Queensland Institution for Blind, Emerdicta plastic disc recorder, August 1952



Queensland Institution for Blind, matting shop, August 1952



Queensland Institution for Blind, millet shop, August 1952



Workshop of the Queensland School for the Deaf at Dutton Park, Brisbane

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Education Department, State Government of Queensland \(12 August 1957 - 12 February 2004\)](#)
- [Public Instruction Department, State Government of Queensland \(1 January 1876 - 12 August 1957\)](#)

Related Legislation

- [Blind, Deaf and Dumb Children Instruction Act of 1924 \(1924 - current\)](#)

Resources

- Queensland. Division of Special Education, *Narbethong School for the Visually Handicapped / written for the Division of Special Education, Queensland Department of Education, by the Department's Information and Publications Branch*, 1978
- John Oxley Library, Queensland State Library, [Narbethong Special School](#), 2014
- Social Work Staff, Faculty of Education, University of Queensland, [Directory of Social Services Queensland](#), 1958
- Dawson, Chris, [Reservation Life in Dutton Park](#), The Boggo Blog - Adventures in Queensland History, 12 February 2012

- Swan, Geoffrey James, [*From Segregation to Integration The Development of Special Education in Queensland*](#), 1996

Records

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

Records

- [Johnston, John, Historian, News clippings and photographs - Children's Homes \(c. 1840 - c. 1990\)](#)
 - [Admission Registers - State School, Queensland School for the Deaf \(11 March 1893 - 18 August 1986\)](#)
 - [Admission Registers - Special School, Narbethong State Special School \(24 January 1955 - c. 31 December 2011\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/queensland-school-for-the-deaf/>