

# Koonibba Mission

1901 – 1975

## Details

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The Koonibba Mission was established west of Ceduna by the Lutheran Church in 1901. In 1914 the Koonibba Children's Home was opened at the Mission for Aboriginal children. The government took control of the Mission in 1963 and the Children's Home closed. The Koonibba Mission was returned to the control of the Aboriginal Community in 1975.

The Koonibba Mission was established by the Lutheran Church in 1901. It was situated on 16,000 acres of land to the west of Ceduna that was purchased by the Church in 1899. Schooling and religious services for the local Aboriginal population was begun almost immediately. A schoolroom for local Aboriginal children was built within the first year of the Mission's operation. In 1914 the Koonibba Children's Home was opened at the Mission. In 1963 the Mission was taken over by the South Australian Government and the Koonibba Children's Home was closed. In 1975 control of the Koonibba Mission was handed to the Koonibba Aboriginal Community Council and it ceased to operate as a Mission. The land was purchased by the Aboriginal Community in 1988.

Koonibba Mission was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

## Gallery

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**Aboriginal people Koonibba Mission Children's Home, South Australia**

**Description:** The image shows some of the buildings at Koonibba Mission.



**Aboriginal people Koonibba Mission Children's Home, South Australia**

**Description:** The image shows a house at Koonibba Mission.

## More info

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### Related Entries

Run by

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs, South Australian Government \(1963 - 1970\)](#)  
Date: 1963 - 1970
- [Department of Social Welfare and Aboriginal Affairs, South Australian Government \(1970 - 1972\)](#)  
Date: 1970 - 1972
- [The Lutheran Church of Australia \(1838 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1901 - 1963
- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Federal Government \(1972 - 1990\)](#)  
Date: 1972 - 1975

#### Related Events

- [Royal Commission on the Aborigines, State of South Australia \(1913 - 1916\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Koonibba Children's Home \(1913 - 1963\)](#)  
The Koonibba Children's Home was located at the Koonibba Mission.

#### Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

## Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997. *Relevance:* Koonibba Mission was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families

## Records

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### Records

- [Records of the Aborigines' Office and Successor Agencies \(1866? - 1971?\)](#)
  - [Records of Aboriginal Missions in South Australia \(1850s - 1970s\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/koonibba-mission/>