

Gilburn Receiving Home

1959 – c. 1980

Details

Gilburn Receiving Home, run by the government, opened in Wynyard in 1959. It provided temporary accommodation for up to eight children who were wards of the state or supervised in other ways by the Social Services Department and its successor, the Social Welfare Department. In the early 1980s, it became Gilburn Family Group Home.

Gilburn Receiving Home, which was in Wynyard on the north-west coast, was one of the earlier receiving homes to be established in Tasmania. The Department intended it to serve the same purpose for the north-west coast as the receiving homes in Hobart and Launceston.

It provided accommodation for new wards of the state or children on remand from the courts until the Department found a more permanent placement for them. It also took in children requiring temporary housing under the *Domestic Service Assistance Act* and in transit between homes.

A married woman, known as a Receiving Home Keeper, managed Gilburn with the assistance of her husband, who was supposed to be in paid employment outside the Home. In return, they received free accommodation. The Home was in a solid concrete house which seems to have been in good condition. Even so, the Department appears to have had difficulties obtaining and retaining Receiving Home Keepers. Some stayed for less than a year and only one lasted for any length of time. The problem seems to have been the lack of employment for the husband on the north-west coast, lack of amenities, the deeply entrenched problems that some of the children faced, and insufficient support.

The Department changed the name from Gilburn Receiving Home to Gilburn Family Group Home in the early 1980s apparently to emphasise its domestic environment and the fact that some children stayed in the home longer if they got on well with the Receiving Home Keeper.

Gallery



Gilburn Receiving Home near the front entrance



Gilburn Receiving Home showing part of the front entrance



Gilburn Receiving Home, the front entrance



Gilburn Receiving Home at the back



Gilburn Receiving Home, outside the girls' bedroom



Gilburn Receiving Home, outside the boys' bedroom

More info

Chronology

- **Gilburn Receiving Home (1959 – c. 1980)**
 - Gilburn Family Group Home (c. 1981 - 1985?)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Child Welfare Division \(c. 1953 - 1980\)](#)

Related Events

- [Listen to the children: review of claims of abuse from adults in state care as children, Ombudsman Tasmania \(2003 - 2006\)](#)

A claimant named Gilburn Receiving Home in the *Listen to the children* report.

Related Glossary Terms

- [Domestic Service Assistance Scheme - Tasmania \(1947 - c. 1989\)](#)

Gilburn Receiving Home accommodated children under the Domestic Service Assistance Scheme.

Related Concepts

- [Stolen Generations](#)

Resources

- [*Tony Young interviewed by Caroline Evans in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project*](#), 18 February 2011. *Relevance*: Tony Young was in Gilburn Receiving Home as a child. He discusses it briefly in his interview

Records

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

Records

- [Correspondence Files \(1919 - 1998\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/gilburn-receiving-home/>