

Devonfield Hostel

c. 1965 – 2000?

Other Names: • Devonfield Retarded Children's Home

Details

Devonfield Hostel, run by the Retarded Children's Welfare Association, opened in Devonport in 1965. It was a combined Hostel and school for children with intellectual disabilities. In 2013, Devonfield continues to provide training but is no longer residential.

The Social Welfare Department placed wards of state with intellectual disabilities at Devonfield.

Margaret Reynolds, the former senator, taught at Devonfield in the early 1960s. She described it as 'a low-set L-shaped building with a small residential wing'. There were six children from the country with intellectual disabilities living in the hostel and attending school and 12 day students.

One of Reynolds' roles was to increase enrolment and promote the idea that children with intellectual disabilities should go to school. She remembers that many of the children had not been properly diagnosed and that they could have been integrated into the general school system but that this was not official policy.

Reynolds sought to make the lives of the children more normal so she took them on excursions to the fire station, the beach, into town, and to the local library.

In 1962, she organised a five day holiday camp for the children from Devonfield and a few from the local primary school. They played games, went on walks, sang campfire songs, and helped with the chores.

More info

Chronology

- **Devonfield Hostel (c. 1965 – 2000?)**
 - Devonfield Enterprises (2000? - current)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Retarded Children's Welfare Association \(1952 - 1982\)](#)
The Retarded Children's Welfare Association ran Devonfield Hostel.

Resources

- Hanson, Dallas, *Why are they in children's homes: report of the ACOSS children's home intake survey*, 1979

Records

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

Records

- [Devonfield Enterprises Records \(1965 - current\)](#)
 - [Correspondence Files \(1919 - 1998\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/devonfield-hostel/>