

# Fairhaven Hostel

1965 – 1987

**Other Names:** • Fairhaven

## Details

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Fairhaven Hostel in Esperance, was established by the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Inc. (now known as Global Mission Partners) in 1965. Its purpose was to provide accommodation for Aboriginal girls aged 14-17 years while they undertook education, training and employment in Esperance.

The Fairhaven Hostel was run by the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board (Inc). It was an Aboriginal education and employment hostel, providing accommodation and a practical skills curriculum for Aboriginal girls aged 14 to 17 years who came from the Goldfields and Western Desert communities, Norseman Mission and Cundelee Mission. The young people came to Fairhaven at the request of the Commonwealth Department of Education, their parents, or through the Western Australian child welfare system.

As time went by, Fairhaven was expanded to accommodate more young women. The upstairs verandahs were enclosed, and an extension was built to the rear of the property. This had a laundry and bathroom, a large activity room for film nights (every Saturday night), and living quarters for older girls. The extension was separated from the main house by a covered breezeway with a big fireplace, table tennis table and lounges. Missionaries remember the girls spending a lot of time in the breezeway, and that Fairhaven acted as a social hub for young Aboriginal people who came to Esperance from Churches of Christ and other Missions, and from outback communities with ties to the church. Young men from the AAEM Hostel and the Condingup Hostel were regular visitors.

Some of the girls who came in from outback communities had never lived in a house and missionaries remember having to coax them upstairs at first. Girls were taken to and picked up from their place of employment while they were living at Fairhaven and there was a school bus for the high school girls.

The girls and young women living at Fairhaven participated in local sports teams, musical festivals and the Esperance Eisteddfod. They made artworks which they could sell in the local community, keeping the money from their sales.

Fairhaven closed in December 1987. The building was sold in 1988, and was subsequently restored by the new owner.

## Gallery



## Fairhaven Hostel 1965

**Description:** 'Fairhaven Hostel 1965' is a digital copy of an image held by Global Mission Partners in the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Photographs collection. As described by historian Deslee Moyle, the image dates from 1965 and shows Fairhaven Hostel as it was when it was first purchased by the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board \(Inc\) \(1942 - 2009\)](#)  
Date: 1965 - 1987

#### Related Organisations

- [Australian Aboriginal Evangelical Mission Hostel \(1966 - 1980?\)](#)  
The superintendent of Fairhaven Hostel established a Boys Training Workshop which was attended by boys from the Australian Aboriginal Evangelical Mission Hostel, who also socialised regularly with Fairhaven residents.  
Date: 1970s -
- [Condingup Hostel \(1967? - 1976\)](#)  
Young people from the Condingup Hostel and Fairhaven Hostel regularly socialised in Esperance, as part of the Church of Christ community in that town.  
Date: 1976 -
- [Cundeelee \(1949 - 1985\)](#)  
Teenage girls from Cundeelee were able to live at Fairhaven Hostel in Esperance while going to high school or work.  
Date: 1965 - 1982
- [Norseman Mission \(1935 - 1985\)](#)  
Teenage girls from Norseman Mission were able to live at Fairhaven Hostel in Esperance while going to high school or work.  
Date: 1965 - 1985
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)  
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of any children at Fairhaven Hostel who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.  
Date: 1972 - 1985
- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)  
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Services was the guardian of any children at Fairhaven Hostel who were deemed to be 'wards of the State'.  
Date: 1985 - 1987

#### Related Concepts

- [Commissioner of Native Welfare \(1954 - 1972\)](#)  
The Commissioner of Native Welfare could make regulations for young people at Fairhaven Hostel under its powers for the 'control, care and education of the children of natives'.  
Date: 1965 - 1972

### Other Resources



**Title:** Condingup Hostel for Working Young Men, Esperance

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 17 April 2014

[Details](#)



**Title:** Churches of Christ 'Fairhaven' Hostel, Esperance'

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 17 April 2014

[Details](#)

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## Records

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

### Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
- [Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Photographs, Western Australia](#)
- [Tuart Place Historical Photos Collection](#)
- [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
- [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
- [Administration Files - South West District Office \[S.D. Sequence\] \(1949 - 1976\)](#)
- [Administration Files - Eastern District Office \[E.D.G. Sequence\] \(1945 - 1975\)](#)

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/fairhaven-hostel/>