

Fitzroy Crossing Hostel

1956? – 1976

Details

The Fitzroy Crossing Hostel was run by the United Aborigines Mission from around 1956. By 1971 there were 80 primary school age Aboriginal children at the hostel. It was run by the Department for Community Welfare from 1972 until 1976 when it was replaced by the Fitzroy Crossing Group Homes (Burawa Hostel).

The Fitzroy Crossing Hostel was established by the United Aborigines Mission (UAM) possibly in 1956 in the Fitzroy Crossing township. It is likely that the first students were from the UAM's Fitzroy Crossing Mission.

By 1971, there were 80 primary school age children at the hostel.

In 1972, the UAM decided to hand the hostel over to the Department for Community Welfare and in 1976 it was replaced by the Fitzroy Crossing Group Homes (Burawa Hostel). The DCW reported at the time that this was to enable smaller groups of children to live with Aboriginal house parents.

In 2008, as part of a history of the Mowanjum community, Penny Bidd remembered being flown by plane to the UAM hostel at Fitzroy Crossing and only being allowed to see her family 'for two weeks each year'.

Gallery



Fitzroy Crossing UAM hostel girls, 1960s

Description: 'Fitzroy Crossing UAM hostel girls, 1960s' is an image published in *Mowanjum: 50 years community history* (p.205). The caption names one of the girls and reads in part, 'station girls at the United Aborigines Mission hostel in Fitzroy Crossing in the 1960s'. The photo shows approximately 40 girls and standing in three rows in front of some trees. They are all dressed in matching blue, green, yellow, or red dresses.



Fitzroy Crossing UAM hostel boys, 1960s

Description: 'Fitzroy Crossing UAM hostel boys, 1960s' is an image published in *Mowanjum: 50 years community history* (p.205). The caption names one of the boys and reads in part, 'station boys at the United Aborigines Mission hostel in Fitzroy Crossing in the 1960s'. The photo shows approximately 40 boys standing in rows in front of some trees. They are wearing what look like school uniforms of grey, blue, or white button-up shirts and grey shorts. An elderly couple stand behind the group of boys.

More info

Chronology

- **Fitzroy Crossing Hostel (1956? – 1976)**
 - Fitzroy Crossing Group Homes (1976 - 1987?)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1976
- [United Aborigines Mission \(1929 - 2020\)](#)

Resources

- Wilson, Katrin and Michael V. Robinson., *Aboriginal Hostels in Perth : A Comparative Survey*, 1971
- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004
- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare](#), 1973 - 1984
- United Aborigines Mission, [The United Aborigines messenger](#), 1929 - 1987

Records

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

Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [United Aborigines Mission, Records of activities in Western Australia \(1929? - 1977?\)](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
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