

Fourteen

1968 – 1979

Other Names:

- Francis Street Hostel
- Francis Street Annexe
- Francis Street
- Riverbank Aftercare
- CWD Hostel Francis St

Details

Fourteen was a government-run hostel in central Perth, established for up to 12 teenage boys who had been released under supervision from Riverbank. All boys were wards of the State (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) and went out to work or training from Fourteen. It closed in 1979 and was replaced by the Victoria Park (Riverbank) Annexe.

Fourteen was established by the Child Welfare Department (CWD) in 1968, at 14 Francis Street in central Perth. The CWD's annual report for 1969 (*Signposts* 2004, p.212) described Fourteen as a hostel that 'bridges the gap between close custody and complete freedom'. It was a run as a half-way house for boys readjusting to non-institutional life after a period of confinement in the State's maximum security youth detention facility, Riverbank, and before they were released into the community to serve out the remainder of their wardship under Riverbank's supervised after-care scheme. Fourteen could accommodate up to 12 boys, all of whom were wards of the State. Admissions grew from 30 in 1969 to 100 in 1973, but the number of boys at year end reportedly did not exceed capacity.

Departmental reports (*Signposts* 2004, pp.212-213) show that Fourteen had always had a role in teaching boys social interaction skills that would help them make and maintain employment and social relationships. This was formalised in 1976-1977, when training programs were delivered at Fourteen as part of a diversionary program and alternative to committing boys to Riverbank. By 1978, this program had ended and Fourteen continued to provide support for boys leaving Riverbank until it closed in November 1979.

In February 1980, the Victoria Park (Riverbank) Annexe was established to replace Fourteen.

More info

Chronology

- **Fourteen (1968 – 1979)**
 - Victoria Park (Riverbank) Annexe (1980 - 1984?)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Riverbank \(1960 - 1996\)](#)

Fourteen was used as a hostel for boys on 'trial leave' from Riverbank from at least 1970.

Date: 1970? - 1979

Resources

- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare](#), 1973 - 1984
- Western Australia. Child Welfare Department, [Annual Report of the Child Welfare Department](#), 1928 - 1972
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003

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