

Kartanup

1970 – 1984

Other Names:

- Katanning Employment Hostel
- St Rita's Hostel
- St Gretus Hostel
- Working Boys Hostel Katanning
- DCW Hostel Katanning
- Kartanup Boys Hostel
- Community Welfare Hostel

Details

Kartanup, in Katanning, was established in 1970 as a government-run hostel for boys of working age who were looking for work in the Katanning district. Authorities believed these boys would benefit from support as they learnt to live independently. It is possible that many of the boys were or had been wards of the State. By 1984, the hostel had closed and the building was used for the government's Westrek (youth employment) project.

In 1970 the Department of Native Welfare established Kartanup as an Aboriginal education and employment hostel for working-age boys in the town of Katanning, in an old property in Andrews Street.

In government records, various spellings of Kartanup appear, including Kartenup and Cardinup.

In 1972, Kartanup moved to larger premises which had originally been built in 1929-30 as a Catholic boarding school run by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. In 1958-59 the building was converted to a Convent and was the site of the St Rita's Convent School. Kartanup came under the control of the Department for Community Welfare in that year.

Kartanup was home to young males from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal backgrounds, from country and metropolitan areas. The emphasis of the hostel was on establishing work and independent living skills. It is likely that many of the boys placed at the hostel were or had been wards of the State, and some may have been referred through the juvenile justice system.

By August 1984, Kartanup's hostel program closed. In 1985, the Kartanup facility was leased to the State Government to use for its Westrek (youth employment) project. In 1987, Kartanup became an annexe of St Andrew's Hostel for children attending school in Katanning.

The building continues to be used in Katanning in 2014, but no longer offers out of home care. It was known as 'Reidy House'.

Gallery



Kartanup

Description: This is a picture of the property called Reidy House, which was known as Kartanup and St Rita's Hostel during the 1970s and 1980s. In 1985, it became an annexe of St Andrew's Hostel at Katanning. This photograph was taken by Helen Munt.



Activities in Kartanup Hostel Workshop

Description: 'Activities in Kartanup Hostel Workshop' is a digital copy of an image included (p.49) in the *Annual Report 1983-84* of the Department for Community Welfare.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1955 - 1972\)](#)
Date: 1970 - 1972
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1984

Related Organisations

- [Kartanup \(1987 - 1990\)](#)
Kartanup , the annexe of St Andrew's Hostel, was located in the same building as the former government-run hostel also called Kartanup (1970-1984).

Resources

- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004
- Public Sector Commission, Western Australia, [St Andrew's Hostel Inquiry](#), 19 September 2012. *Relevance:* St Andrew's Hostel Inquiry Public Hearing Transcript 4 May 2012 pp.2604-2605; Inquiry report p. 56

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/kartanup-2/>