

# Lombadina

1909 – 1975

**Other Names:**

- Lombadina Mission
- One Arm Point
- Cygnet Point

## Details

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Lombadina, on the Dampier Peninsula, was a Mission established by the Catholic Diocese of Broome and run by the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines) from 1909. It accommodated Aboriginal babies, children and young people. The Sisters of St John of God ran the Mission school from around 1917 to the 1970s. In 1941 there were 42 children living at Lombadina, with 26 reported to be attending school regularly. From 1905, the head of the government departments responsible for Aboriginal welfare was the guardian of children at Lombadina and from 1972 the chief executive officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of any children at Lombadina who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'. In 1975, Lombadina became a self-governing community and its role in institutionalised child 'care' ended. However, it continued to receive government support as a subsidised centre under child welfare legislation until 1988.

## Gallery

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**Lombadina Mission, late 1950s?**

**Description:** This photograph shows approximately 20 people, mostly Aboriginal children, at the Lombadina Mission. In the background there are two mission buildings made of metal sheeting, and a large water tower.



**Lombadina Mission, late 1950s?**

**Description:** This is a photograph taken at Lombadina Mission in the late 1950s. In the foreground there are two Aboriginal women carrying children, while several people behind them are riding donkeys. Several mission buildings are visible in the background.



**A big photo album: the archive of the Sisters of St John of God**

**Description:** 'A big photo album: the archive of the Sisters of St John of God' is an online news item from *ABC Kimberley*. It shows pictures of Aboriginal children and adults at communities in the Kimberley, and is about the collection of 34,000 photographs held by the Sisters of St John of God at the Heritage Centre in Broome, Western Australia.

## More info

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## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Pallottines \(Society of the Catholic Apostolates\) \(1901 - current\)](#)  
The Pallottines (Society of the Catholic Apostolates) ran Lombadina as part of the Catholic Diocese of Broome.

### Related Glossary Terms

- [Commissioner for Native Affairs \(WA\) \(1936 - 1954\)](#)  
The Commissioner of Native Affairs was the legal guardian of children at Lombadina.
- [Commissioner of Native Welfare \(WA\) \(1954 - 1972\)](#)  
The Commissioner of Native Welfare was the legal guardian of children at Lombadina until 1963 when he could regulate the 'care' of Aboriginal children.  
Date: 1954 - 1972

### Related Organisations

- [Catholic Diocese of Broome \(1897? - current\)](#)
- [Sisters of St John of God \(1895 - current\)](#)  
The Sisters of St John of God ran the school at Lombadina.  
Date: 1917? - 1970s
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)  
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare, was the legal guardian of any children at Lombadina who were deemed 'native wards' or 'wards of the state'.  
Date: 1972 - 1975
- [Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1936\)](#)  
The Chief Protector of Aborigines was the legal guardian of children at Lombadina.
- [Sunday Island Mission \(1899 - 1934\)](#)  
Sydney Hadley, who had run the Forrest River and Sunday Island Missions, had held the pastoral lease at Lombadina since 1884.

## Resources

- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, *A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families*, November 1999
- Heritage Council of Western Australia, [Lombadina Heritage Assessment](#), 1998
- [Society of the Catholic Apostolate \(Pallottine Fathers and Brothers\)](#), No date
- Aborigines Department, Western Australia, [Collection of typed copies of annual and other reports by and to the Chief Protector of Aborigines in Western Australia dated 1910 and 1911](#), 1910 - 1911

## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
- [Sisters of St John of God, Kimberley, Records \(1895 - current\)](#)
- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)  
Item B78 of the Child Endowment correspondence files relates to Lombadina
- [Administration Files - Northern District Office \[N.D.G Sequence\] \(1950 - 1974\)](#)
- [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
- [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
- [Files - Department of Aborigines and Fisheries \(1909 - 1920\)](#)

- [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
  - [Reports - Aboriginal Missions \(1906 - 1918\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/lombadina/>