

Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre

1965 – 1993?

Other Names: • Longmore

Details

Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre was established by the Child Welfare Department in 1965, in Bentley. It provided short-term custodial accommodation young people (male and female, aged 13-18 years) who were awaiting court appearances, were on remand; and others who were assessed and placed elsewhere. Admissions included young people who were wards of the State and those who were private admissions. In 1965 there were 185 admissions (32 individuals) and by 1988 there were 3,017 admissions (1,230 individuals). The Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre was transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 1993 and became part of the Longmore Detention Centre.

Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre opened on 27 January 1965, in Bentley. It was established by the Child Welfare Department and was named after Mr James Longmore, who was Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Charitable Institutions from 1898 and, later, Secretary of the State Children Department. James Longmore had had an enormous influence on the development of the child welfare system in Western Australia, particularly through his role in designing the *State Children Act 1907*.

Longmore's role in both remand and assessment-related detention was seen as problematic in its early years, with far more children being placed for detention than for assessment. And, of those placed for detention, a great many were young people who had defaulted on fines. Aboriginal children and young people also formed a disproportionately large cohort of admissions to Longmore from its earliest years of operation.

In September 1977, the remand and assessment programs were administered separately, although the institution remained as a single campus, sharing many services.

When the 'Remand Centre' program was described in 1979, its functions were: to provide 'care and protection in maximum security' for young people arrested and charged by police who were awaiting a court appearance, and those who had been remanded in custody by the courts. At that time, the Department for Community Welfare also reported (*Signposts* 2004) that the 'social education of young people in preparation for their return to the community' was an 'essential' function of the remand program. Up to 22 young people could be accommodated in the program. The 'Assessment Centre' program was a process that would help officers make 'informed and meaningful' plans for children's 'future placement and needs', according to the Department in 1979. Up to 60 children could be placed in the maximum security assessment centre program.

In October 1982 Longmore Hostel, which could accommodate six boys, was established in the grounds of the Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre. From September 1983, the Longmore Hostel became part of the Longmore Training Centre.

In September 1983 the remand and assessment programs were again combined, following a review which had determined that a separate facility was needed for young people who were going to be in detention for longer periods and who should be provided with structured and useful training programs. This new facility was called the Longmore Training Centre, and it opened in September 1983 in the buildings previously occupied by the Longmore Assessment Centre program.

Although annual reports continued to urge a limitation on the number of young people coming into Longmore for remand or assessment, there are repeated reports of admissions exceeding capacity. In 1986, the maximum capacity of 32 children was exceeded on 141 days in the year and in 1988 the number of admissions peaked at 3,017 – representing 1,230 individuals admitted into a facility with a capacity of 32 at any one time. A large minority of young people were admitted for less than 24 hours and by 1991, sixty-five percent were released within 48 hours.

On 1 July 1993, the responsibility for Longmore was transferred from the Department for Community Development to the Ministry of Justice. After this, the facility was merged with the Longmore Training Centre to become the Longmore Detention Centre.

Gallery



Longmore, swimming pool

Description: 'Longmore, swimming pool' is a digital copy of an image included (p.46) in the *Annual Report 1975* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'Internal Courtyard - Assessment Section'.



Longmore Remand and Assessment Complex

Description: 'Longmore Remand and Assessment Complex' is a digital copy of an image included (p.46) in the *Annual Report 1975* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'Longmore Remand and Assessment Complex. The new addition, the Remand section, distinguished by square courtyard is in the foreground (Rt) with service extensions extending back to the Assessment unit courtyard in the background (Lt)'.



Courtyard, Longmore Remand Centre

Description: 'Courtyard, Longmore Remand Centre' is a digital copy of an image included (p.53) in the *Annual Report 1979* of the Department for Community Welfare.



Longmore Remand Centre courtyard

Description: 'Longmore Remand Centre courtyard' is a digital copy of an image included (p.39) in the *Annual Report 1987* of the Department for Community Services.

More info

Chronology

- **Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre (1965 – 1993?)**
 - Longmore Detention Centre (1993 - 1997)

- Banksia Hill Detention Centre (1997 - current)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 October 1992 - 1 July 1995\)](#)
Date: 1992 - 1993
- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)
Date: 1965 - 1972
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1985
- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)
Date: 1985 - 1992

Related Organisations

- [Longmore Training Centre \(1983 - 1993\)](#)
Longmore Training Centre occupied a part of the original campus of the Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre.
Date: 1983 - 1993
- [Rangeview Remand Centre \(1994 - 2012\)](#)
Rangeview Juvenile Remand Centre (1994-2012) was developed because of over-crowding at Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre (1965-1993).
- [Longmore Hostel \(1982 - 1985\)](#)
Longmore Hostel was located in the grounds of Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre.
Date: 1982 - 1983
- [Victoria Park \(Riverbank\) Annexe \(1980 - 1984?\)](#)
The Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre transferred some boys to the Victoria Park (Riverbank) Annexe.
Date: 1981 - 1982

Resources

- Atkinson, Lynn, [An overview of juvenile detention in Australia](#), National Conference on Juvenile Detention: Proceedings of a conference held 10-13 August 1993, 1994
- [Denis Hayden interviewed by Ciena Fitzgerald in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 2011
- Edwards, Eric James, *The treatment of juvenile offenders : a study of the treatment of juvenile offenders in Western Australia as part of an overall review of the Child Welfare Act*, 1982
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
- Department of Justice, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 177 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 24 September 2003
- Hetherington, Penelope, [Reformatories](#), Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, 2009

Records

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

Records

- [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
 - [Files - General \[Health Department\] \(1899 - 1987\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/longmore-remand-and-assessment-centre/>