

# Maria Goretti Home

1968 – 1974

## Details

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The Maria Goretti Home opened in 1968 on the site of the former Holy Child Orphanage in Broome. It was run by the Catholic Diocese of Broome as a residential nursery and kindergarten for up to 12 Aboriginal babies and children, especially those born at the Derby Leprosarium. Many of the children would have been placed by child welfare authorities, but private admissions would also have been possible. The Home later became part of a youth centre which also included an infants' school. The Maria Goretti Home closed in 1974.

Government reports *Signposts* 2004, p.312) show that the Maria Goretti Home opened in 1968 on the 'newly renovated' site formerly occupied by the Holy Child Orphanage. When it opened, 11 children under the age of four years were admitted. The Home was administered and staffed 'by lay missionaries'. Later, a youth centre, school for 'infants' and club rooms and amenities for the basketball court, were added. 'Plagued by high overheads and minimal income the home was forced to close in 1974'.

## Gallery

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### 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.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Catholic Diocese of Broome \(1897? - current\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Derby Leprosarium \(c. 1936 - 1986\)](#)
- [Holy Child Orphanage \(1941 - 1962\)](#)

The Maria Goretti Home was built on the site of the Holy Child Orphanage.

Date: 1968 -

- [Aboriginal Girls' Hostel \(1970 - 1975\)](#)

The Aboriginal Girls' Hostel was located next door to the Maria Goretti Home

## Resources

- Western Australia. Child Welfare Department, [Annual Report of the Child Welfare Department](#), 1928 - 1972

## Records

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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 \[Health Department\] \(1899 - 1987\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - Northern District Office \[N.D.G Sequence\] \(1950 - 1974\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/maria-goretti-home/>