

# Nabberu Hostel

1967? – 1988

**Other Names:** • Leonora Native Hostel

## Details

---

Nabberu Hostel at Leonora was a government-run residential facility for primary-school aged children. It is unclear when the hostel opened, however it was declared an approved institution for the purposes of receiving child endowment payments in 1967, at which time there were 24 children in residence. By 1971 the hostel housed 66 boys and girls attending the local primary school, some of whom had parents who were working on remote stations. In 1988, Nabberu was transferred from the Department of Community Services to the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

Nabberu Hostel was located in Leonora as a government-run residential facility for primary-school aged children. It is unclear exactly when Nabberu opened, but it was definitely operating by 1967, with 24 children in residence, and by 1971 there were 66 children living there and attending the local primary school. At that time, it was run by the Department of Native Welfare (DNW).

In 1972, the child welfare responsibilities of the DNW were transferred to the Department for Community Welfare (DCW). The annual report of the DCW in 1976 says that Nabberu housed children whose parents were working on isolated stations and the 1977 report says that Nabberu could accommodate 20 children, and had been full all year. The DCW reported there had been 45 children at Nabberu during the 1979 year. The children had come from Yakabindi, Darlow and Nambi Stations, and the Agnew, Yundamindra and Tamoola areas.

The DCW's annual report in 1980 gave an insight into attempts to improve family involvement in the life of the hostel:

*The function of the Department hostel in caring for aboriginal children so that they may have regular schooling, is expanding to provide a back-up service for families who may wish to use the facility to provide an occasional meal, a laundry service and provide homework supervision. This is the need that some families have in making the transition into homes of their own in the local township. Greater efforts are also being made to provide children and parents with opportunities to spend more time together by providing camping facilities when the parents come to town. Signposts, 2004, p.365.*

In 1982, responsibility for Nabberu was transferred to the Field Services Division of the DCW. It continued as a departmental residential unit until the 1987/1988 year, when it was transferred from the Department for Community Services to the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

## More info

---

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1955 - 1972\)](#)  
Date: 1971? - 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 - 1988

## Resources

- Wilson, Katrin and Michael V. Robinson., *Aboriginal Hostels in Perth : A Comparative Survey*, 1971
- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare](#), 1973 - 1984

## Records

---

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

### Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
  - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
  - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
  - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - Eastern District Office \[E.D.G. Sequence\] \(1945 - 1975\)](#)
- 

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