

Nindeebai Education Hostel

1971? – 1984

Other Names:

- Niadebia
- Goldfields Students' Hostel

Details

Nindeebai Education Hostel, in Boulder, was established in 1971 or 1972 as a government-run education hostel for Aboriginal teenagers who were going to high school in Kalgoorlie. It closed in 1984.

Nindeebai Education Hostel, which was purpose-built in 1971, was originally going to be known as the Goldfields Students' Hostel, but the annual report of the Department for Community Welfare (DCW) in 1973 (p.44) shows that it was known as Nindeebai very soon after it began. It was an Aboriginal education and employment hostel. The annual reports of child welfare authorities over the years (*Signposts*, 2004, p.375) show that students came from all over the goldfields and beyond. In 1977, there were 32 residents who came mainly from the Central Reserves. These teenagers suffered from homesickness and found it difficult to adjust to hostel life. Authorities reported that families were encouraged to visit 'whenever possible'. In 1979, the Nindeebai accommodated 'children from the Mount Margaret Mission, the Laverton, Leonora and Norseman areas; and from Cue, via Perth.' The Mount Margaret Mission had closed by the time this report was written, but it remained a township.

Nindeebai Hostel, was one of three facilities run in Kalgoorlie-Boulder by the DCW in 1976. The others were: Kalgoorlie Hostel, for working-age girls; and the Millen Street Hostel, for working-age boys. The DCW reported (*Signposts*, p.375) in 1979 that there was close cooperation between staff at the three hostels, which they said benefited the residents.

In 1981, the DCW (*Signposts*, p.254) wrote that it wanted to provide 'as many options as possible' for the young women who came in from what authorities deemed 'fragmented families in fringe dwelling communities'. Staff at the hostels were reportedly trying to provide 'fuller programmes' to assist this goal.

Nindeebai closed in 1984.

Gallery



Nindeebai, cooking

Description: 'Nindeebai, cooking' is a digital copy of an image included (p.18) in the *Annual Report 1974* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'Nindeebai girls at cooking classes, Eastern Goldfields Project School'.



Nindeebai Hostel

Description: This is a photograph of Nindeebai Education Hostel published on inHerit, the website of the State Heritage Office of Western Australia. It shows a portion of a long single-storey building with cream painted brick and a red tiled roof. The building appears dilapidated, and most windows are boarded up.



Nindeebai, studying

Description: 'Nindeebai, studying' is a digital copy of an image included (p.18) in the *Annual Report 1974* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'A student from Warburton at Nindeebai Hostel'.

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 \(1972 - 1985\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Kalgoorlie Hostel \(1976 - 1993?\)](#)

Resources

- Wilson, Katrin and Michael V. Robinson., *Aboriginal Hostels in Perth : A Comparative Survey*, 1971

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 - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/nindeebai-education-hostel/>