

Oceanview

1970 – 1995?

Other Names:

- Beach Street Hostel
- Working Youths Hostel - Cottesloe
- Ocean View

Details

Oceanview, in Cottesloe (or Mosman Park), was run from 1970-1972 by the Pallottines (Society of the Catholic Apostolates) as a hostel for up to 14 male Aboriginal teenagers who were in apprenticeships. From 1972, Oceanview (which was also known as the Beach Street Hostel, and the Working Youths Hostel – Cottesloe) became a government-run hostel accommodating Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal school-age children. From 1987 to 1989, Oceanview also admitted children who were on remand. In 1989, the McCall Centre's residential unit moved to Oceanview. It closed around 1995.

Government reports (*Signposts* 2004, pp.395-398) show that Oceanview Hostel has been used for a range of purposes. Until 1977, Oceanview was one of a number of Aboriginal education and employment hostels that were established in the metropolitan area for children from country areas who came to Perth for school or work.

The hostel building, at 6 Beach Road in Cottesloe (sometimes known as Mosman Park), was originally owned by the Department of Native Welfare but in 1972 came under the administration of the Department for Community Welfare (DCW).

Oceanview opened on 15 March 1970 under the management of the male Catholic religious order, the Society of the Catholic Apostolates, better known as Pallottines. They ran the hostel until 1972 and probably relinquished it when the DCW took over administration. When Wilson and Robinson surveyed the hostel in 1971 (*Signposts* p.396), they wrote that the Pallottines preferred to select boys for admission and not be obliged to take referrals from government authorities. Nor did they expect to pay for the maintenance of the building, seeing that as the government's responsibility. There had been a lengthy process of negotiation with the Department of Native Welfare before the Pallottines agreed to manage Oceanview and they were probably reluctant to have to renegotiate with the DCW.

It is likely that the DCW and subsequent child welfare authorities continued to run Oceanview as a hostel for Aboriginal students, but no published reports of this period are readily available.

By 1977 (p.397), Oceanview was one of a number of hostels being administered by the DCW's 'assessment centre', Bridgewater. At that time, Oceanview housed up to seven girls and five boys, all teenagers attending high school and was described as an 'annexe' of Bridgewater. In 1979, Oceanview had a similar population, with the annual report of that year explaining that the young people were housed at Oceanview until they could be sent to a more permanent placement.

In 1984, Oceanview became what the DCW called a 'community support hostel', with an emphasis on children who were facing 'varied and complex' challenges.

From 1987, Oceanview admitted children who had been arrested or who were on remand from the Children's Court.

In 1989 (p.325), the McCall Centre's residential unit relocated to the Oceanview Hostel on Beach Road in Cottesloe. Children stayed on average, 6 weeks. The residential program at Oceanview apparently closed in 1995 as it was reported (p.398) that the Beach Road property was being used as an 'educational facility' in that year.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Pallottines \(Society of the Catholic Apostolates\) \(1901 - current\)](#)
Date: 1970 - 1972
- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 October 1992 - 1 July 1995\)](#)
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Bridgewater Care and Assessment Centre \(1969 - 1983\)](#)
Oceanview was run as an annexe of Bridgewater Care and Assessment Centre. Teenage schoolchildren were placed there after assessment at Bridgewater.
Date: 1976 - 1983?
- [McCall Centre \(1971 - 2005?\)](#)
The McCall Centre's residential unit moved to the Oceanview Hostel in 1989.

Resources

- Wilson, Katrin and Michael V. Robinson., *Aboriginal Hostels in Perth : A Comparative Survey*, 1971
- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004
- Western Australia. Department of Native Welfare, *Annual Report: Department of Native Welfare*, 1955 - 1972
- 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
- [Society of the Catholic Apostolate \(Pallottine Fathers and Brothers\)](#), No date

Records

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

Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
 - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
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