

# St Joseph's Hostel

1959 – 1986

## Details

---

St Joseph's Hostel, in Derby, was a hostel for school-age Aboriginal children run by the Pallottines (Society of the Catholic Apostolates) from 1959 to 1986, when it closed. Admissions included children who were sent by the child and 'native' welfare authorities, and children who were placed by family. Children attended the local Junior High School, and the Derby Convent School. St Joseph's Hostel closed in 1986.

On 17 January 1958, the Pallottines were granted 25 acres of land at Lot No. 529, Derby for a hostel and by 1959 they had opened St Joseph's Hostel there. Admissions included children who were sent by the child and 'native' welfare authorities, and children who were placed by family. The hostel was run by the Pallottines with the assistance of lay missionaries.

The Hostel opened with capacity for 26-28 children between the ages of 12 & 17. However, by the end of 1959 it was already starting to get overcrowded. In 1962 there were 34 children staying at the Hostel, and by 1963 this had grown to 40. In response to this growth in numbers, and difficulties in keeping boys and girls quarters separate, the Hostel undertook several extension and renovation projects, first adding another wing to the main building, and subsequently adding an entirely new building as a dedicated Boys' block.

It seems that St Joseph's Hostel was one of the Aboriginal education and employment hostels subsidised by the Native Welfare Department. In 1972, responsibility for St Joseph's Hostel was transferred to the Department for Community Welfare (DCW) in accordance with government policy at that time.

St Joseph's Hostel, Derby, closed in 1986.

## More info

---

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Pallottines \(Society of the Catholic Apostolates\) \(1901 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1958 - 1986
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)  
Date: 1972 - 1986

### Resources

- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004
- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare](#), 1973 - 1984

- 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 held by other organisations

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
- [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
- [Administration Files - Northern District Office \[N.D.G Sequence\] \(1950 - 1974\)](#)
- [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
- [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)  
Item B519 of the Child Endowment correspondence files relates to St Joseph's Hostel, Derby

---

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