

WA School for Deaf Children

1896 – 2001

- Other Names:**
- Deaf and Dumb School, Cottesloe
 - The Western Australian School for Deaf and Dumb Children (Inc.)
 - The WA School for Deaf Children (Inc.)
 - West Australian Deaf and Dumb Institution
 - Western Australian School for the Deaf and Dumb
 - Mosman Park Hostel
 - West Australian Deaf and Dumb Institution Inc
 - School for Deaf
 - School for Deaf Children
 - Deaf School

Details

The WA School for Deaf Children was established in East Perth in 1896 as the West Australian Deaf and Dumb Institution. It moved to Buckland Hill (Mosman Park) in 1900. This residential school admitted children of all ages, including those who were wards of the state and private boarders, until the residential section closed in 2001.

The WA School for Deaf Children was established in Perth in 1896 and was named the 'West Australian Deaf and Dumb Institution' (1897), the Western Australian School for the Deaf and Dumb (1920), the WA School for Deaf Children (1956) and the Mosman Park Hostel (1967?). It was a residential school for children who were deaf and/or mute, and was run by a private committee of management. Children of all ages, including wards of the State and private boarders, lived at the School.

The school was originally located in East Perth and on 22 March 1900 it moved near Cottesloe Beach in Buckland Hill. From 1907 the suburb, Buckland Hill, was known as Mosman Park after the Buckland Hill Road Board adopted that name for the suburb. The boarding facilities closed in 2001 and the school moved from the site in 2002.

From 1899, the Aborigines Department had placed an Aboriginal boy at the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Perth as it was then called, on an annual subsidy of £25. By 1907, this had been reduced to £16 and no further mention of the boy was made in subsequent reports.

Until 1970, the Principal of the school was also the Superintendent of boarders. In 1949, the Education Department took over responsibility for the teaching staff and in 1970 took full responsibility for the children's education. The Superintendent of boarders was no longer responsible for the children's education.

In 2004, *Signposts* reported there were few statistics about the number of children at the WA Deaf School:

The only details about the number of children resident at the facility are drawn from the Annual Reports of the Child Welfare Department for the certain years between 1935 and 1968. These numbers comprise only children under six years of age who were not subsidised by the Department. Their numbers were reported

in the Department's Annual Reports because it was a legislative requirement. The details given are: 1935: 2 children; 1936: 3 children; 1942: 2 children; 1943: 2 children; 1944: 1 child; 1945: 2 children; 1946: 1 child; 1952: 4 children; 1954: 1 child; 1956: 3 children; 1957: 4 children; 1958: 1 child; 1959: 3 children; 1960: 2 children; 1968: 3 children. Signposts p.532

The committee of management retained responsibility for the children and young people boarding on site. The Mosman Park Hostel was the name given to the hostel for boarders at the WA School for the Deaf from around 1967. Previously, teaching and boarding areas were in the same building. In 1964, the Education Department built new school rooms and the main building was used entirely for boarders until the hostel closed in 2001.

Gallery



West Australian School for Deaf Children Inc c 1935

Description: This is a digital copy of a photograph of the WA School for Deaf Children. This image is part of the The Grove Library's Community History Images Collection.



Teachers at the WA School for Deaf Children, 1928

Description: This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the Illustrations Ltd collection held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows the eight teachers from the WA School for Deaf Children and a baby.



The laundry lesson, 1920s

Description: This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of Illustrations Ltd collection held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows girls from the WA School for Deaf Children in a laundry lesson.



The woodwork lesson, 1920s

Description: This image is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the Illustrations Ltd collection held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows boys and a teacher in a woodwork lesson at the WA School for Deaf Children.



A school dining room, 1920s

Description: This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the Illustrations Ltd collection held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows the dining room at the WA School for Deaf Children.



The sewing lesson, 1920s

Description: This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the Illustrations Ltd collection held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows girls in a sewing lesson at the WA School for Deaf Children.



WA School for Deaf Children, Mosman Park, 1928

Description: This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the Illustrations Ltd collection held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows the building and grounds of the WA School for Deaf Children in 1928.



W.A. School for Deaf Children, Mosman Park, 21 April 1968

Description: This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the Aerial Surveys Australia collection of aerial photographs of Western Australia held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows an aerial view of the WA School for Deaf Children.

More info

Chronology

- **WA School for Deaf Children (1896 – 2001)**
 - West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children (Inc.) (2004 - current)

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Burnbrae Presbyterian Children's Home \(1938 - 1956\)](#)

In his submission to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, a man who lived at the Burnbrae Presbyterian Children's Home (1938 - 1956) remembered going for summer holiday camps at the WA School for Deaf Children in the 1940s.

Resources

- [Neville Green interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(1999\)](#), 13 September 1999 - 14 September 1999
- Information Services, Department for Community Development, [Signposts: A Guide for Children and Young People in Care in WA from 1920](#), 2004
- Western Australia. Child Welfare Department, [Annual Report of the Child Welfare Department](#), 1928 - 1972
- Disability Services Commission, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 84 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 30 July 2003
- Name withheld, [Submission No 319 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 17 March 2005.

Relevance: In his submission to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, a man who lived at the Burnbrae Presbyterian Children's Home remembered going for summer holiday camps at the WA School for Deaf Children in the 1940s
- Thomas, Ivy, [Submission No 483 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 1 November 2004

Records

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

Records

- [Western Australian Foundation for Deaf Children, records, State Library of Western Australia \(1897 - 1999\)](#)
 - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [Community History Images Collection \(1890s - current\)](#)
 - [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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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/wa-school-for-deaf-children/>