

Warminda Hostel

1968 – 1984

Other Names: • Warminda
• Warmindah

Details

Warminda was established in 1968 as a hostel for Aboriginal girls of working age but by 1975 was admitting girls and boys aged from 5-16 years. It was run by Methodist and Uniting Church agencies. In 1984, the Uniting Church ceased their residential program at Warminda, and it became a government-run community support hostel, keeping the name, Warminda.

Warminda was the name given to a house purchased by the Department of Native Welfare (DNW) in 1968 to accommodate working-age female Aboriginal teenagers. From the outset, Warminda was run by the Methodist Homes for Children, under agreement with the DNW. As the need emerged, Aboriginal teenagers who needed student accommodation would also live at Warminda. In 1972, the ownership of Warminda was transferred from the DNW to the Department for Community Welfare (DCW). Warminda continued to be run by the Methodist Homes for Children until 1977, and after the creation of the Uniting Church, it was run by Uniting Church Child and Family Care Services (1977-1984).

In 1975, Warminda was providing long-term, cottage Home accommodation for primary and secondary school-age boys and girls, with the average length of stay being just over one year. Short-term placements were permitted if necessary. If possible, children were boarded out with host families during school holidays. A description of Warminda in 1975 noted there was a swimming pool and fish tank, a pet and a basketball court. The house had four bedrooms (one single, and three bedrooms that could be shared by more than three children). Children went to local schools by bus, and were allowed to buy their lunch one day per week.

There had been cottage parents living with the children at Warminda throughout the years that it was run by the Methodist and Uniting Church agencies. In 2018, Martin James Cooper, a former cottage parent who came to Warminda in 1978, was convicted of 30 offences against children living in the hostel, including physical and sexual abuse.

In 1984, the management of Warminda was handed back to the government and it became a community support hostel run by the Department for Community Welfare.

Gallery



The Warminda hostel in East Victoria Park

Description: This is a copy of an image published in a story on ABC News on 31 May 2018.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Methodist Homes for Children \(1922 - 1977\)](#)
Date: 1968 - 1977
- [Uniting Church Child and Family Care Services \(1977 - 1984?\)](#)
Date: 1977 - 1984

Related Organisations

- [Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1955 - 1972\)](#)

Warminda Hostel was run by the Methodist Homes for Children under agreement with the Department of Native Welfare.

Date: 1968 - 1972

- [Warminda \(1984 - 1993?\)](#)

Warminda was located in the same building that had housed Warminda Hostel, the Uniting Church Home.

Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997
- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004
- Western Australia. Department for Community Services, [Annual Report: Department for Community Services, Western Australia](#), 1985 - 1992
- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare](#), 1973 - 1984
- Methodist Homes for Children, Western Australia, [The 'Homes' Herald](#), 1964 - 1978
- Uniting Church in Australia (WA Synod), Department of Media, [Western Impact](#), 1977 - 2007
- [Education: Aborigines Living away from home](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 6 November 1973

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Uniting WA Records \(1920s - current\)](#)
- [Uniting Church \(Synod of Western Australia\) Archives, Records \(1918 - 1980s\)](#)
- [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)

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