

Weeriana Hostel

1964 –

Other Names:

- Weeriana Group Home
- Weerianna Hostel
- Roebourne Hostel

Details

Weeriana Hostel, in Roebourne, was established in 1964 as a government-run Aboriginal education and employment hostel for Aboriginal children going to primary and high school in Roebourne. There were 66 children in residence at the hostel in 1971, and 45 children in 1979. By 1995, its function had changed to provide short to medium term and emergency accommodation for children aged from 0-15 years. Around 2010 the Weeriana Hostel also became known as the Weeriana Group Home. The Hostel buildings were demolished in 2013, however in 2014 the Weeriana group home was still in operation.

Government reports (*Signposts* 2004, pp.564-565) show that Weeriana was a Department of Native Welfare hostel that in 1971 had 66 primary and high school age children living there. In 1972, responsibility for Weeriana was transferred to the Department for Community Welfare (DCW) in accordance with government policy at that time.

In 1979 (*Signposts* p.564) the DCW gave some information about the children living Weeriana: There were '45 children from Pipingarah, Mardie, Yarraloola and Chirratta Stations; and from the Port Hedland and Wickham areas'.

A ten-bed cottage was built for staff quarters in 1980, and the youngest children were housed there in what authorities hoped (p.564) would provide more of a 'family atmosphere' than the main building.

From 1984, children whose families lived in Roebourne were also admitted to Weeriana. The department's viewpoint was explained when Weeriana was surveyed in June 1995 (OHAC Cost Project, Department for Community Services, June 1995, quoted in *Signposts* p.565): Weeriana's role was in providing 'short to medium accommodation for both family support and protection needs'. The reviewing officer reported that 'Consultation within the community indicated the service is both valued and respected' and recommended that Weeriana be retained as a ten bed cottage.

During 1994, 18 children were admitted to Weeriana. Most were 0-6 years old but children but teenagers up to 15 years were also admitted.

In 2013 the main hostel building of Weeriana was demolished. Weeriana remained open in 2014 as the Weeriana Group Home.

Gallery



Farewell to the Weerianna Hostel

Description: This is an interview with Pastor David Stevens (who started the Weerianna Hostel with his wife Margaret), and their daughter Ruth, who spent 10 years living at the hostel as a child. The interview took place in the week prior to the demolition of the Weerianna Hostel, and is a reflection of the hostel between 1964 and 1974. The interview audio is accompanied by images of the Weerianna Hostel as it was shortly before demolition in 2013. Unfortunately this video is no longer available online.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1955 - 1972\)](#)
- [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 Family and Children's Services, State of Western Australia \(1 July 1995 - 1 July 2001\)](#)
- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 July 2001 - 30 June 2007\)](#)
- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)

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
- 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 for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare](#), 1973 - 1984

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 \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
 - [Administration Files - Roebourne Office \[A.S.D. Sequence\] \(1951 - 1973\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/weeriana-hostel/>