

# Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia

1955 – 1972

**Other Names:** • DNW

## Details

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The Department of Native Welfare (DNW) operated from 1955, taking over the responsibilities of the Department of Native Affairs. The head of the Department, the Commissioner of Native Welfare, was the legal guardian of all Aboriginal children in Western Australia who were not already wards under the Child Welfare Act 1947. Following the Native Welfare Act 1963, the Commissioner ceased to be guardian, and could regulate the 'care' of Aboriginal children. The Department of Native Welfare ceased in 1972. Its remaining child welfare responsibilities were transferred to the Department of Community Welfare.

The Department of Native Welfare (DNW) operated from 1 January 1955 to 16 June 1972.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Aborigines Department, State of Western Australia (1 April 1898 - 31 December 1908)
  - Department of Aborigines and Fisheries, State of Western Australia (1 January 1909 - 1 January 1920)
    - Fisheries Department, State of Western Australia (1920 - 1964)
      - Aborigines Department, State of Western Australia (1926 - 1936)
        - Department of Native Affairs, State of Western Australia (1936 - 1954)
- **Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia (1955 – 1972)**
  - Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia (1972 - 1985)
  - Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority, State of Western Australia (1972 - 1994)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Hamilton Hill Hostel \(1971 - 1994?\)](#)

The Hamilton Hill Hostel may have been run by Department of Native Welfare in the first years of its operation.  
Date: 1971? - 1972
- [Kartanup \(1970 - 1984\)](#)

Date: 1970 - 1972
- [Kyarra Hostel \(1961 - 1984\)](#)

Date: 1961 - 1972

- [Kyewong Hostel \(1967? - 2002?\)](#)  
Date: 1967? - 1970
- [McDonald House \(1952 - 1985?\)](#)  
Date: 1955 - 1958
- [Medina Education and Employment Hostel \(1971? - 1983\)](#)  
Date: 1971? - 1972
- [Moorgunyah Hostel \(1967 - 1996?\)](#)
- [Nabberu Hostel \(1967? - 1988\)](#)  
Date: 1971? - 1972
- [Nindeebai Education Hostel \(1971? - 1984\)](#)  
Date: 1971? - 1972
- [Alvan House \(1950 - 1961\)](#)  
Date: 1955 - 1959
- [Oolanyah Hostel \(1970? - 1993?\)](#)  
Date: 1971? - 1972
- [Warramboe Hostel \(1961 - 1980\)](#)
- [Weeriana Hostel \(1964 - current\)](#)
- [Bennett House \(1952 - 1981\)](#)  
Date: 1955 - 1972
- [Millen Street Hostel \(1970? - 1995?\)](#)  
Date: 1970? -
- [Charles Perkins Hostel \(1962 - 2000?\)](#)  
Date: 1962 - 1972
- [Gilliamia Hostel \(1961 - 1990\)](#)  
Date: 1971? - 1972

### Related Glossary Terms

- [Commissioner of Native Welfare \(WA\) \(1954 - 1972\)](#)  
The Commissioner was the head of the Department of Native Welfare.

### Related Organisations

- [Broughton Lodge \(1942 - 1958?\)](#)  
Aboriginal girls were placed at Broughton Lodge by the Department of Native Welfare from 1955.
- [Australian Aboriginal Evangelical Mission Hostel \(1966 - 1980?\)](#)  
The Australian Aboriginal Evangelical Mission Hostel received financial assistance from the Department of Native Welfare.  
Date: 1966 - 1972
- [Katukutu Employment Hostel \(1958 - 1982?\)](#)  
Katukutu Employment Hostel was managed by the Baptist Union under agreement with the Department of Native Welfare.  
Date: 1961 - 1972
- [Pallottine Mission, Tardun \(1948 - 2004\)](#)  
The Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia could make regulations for the 'control, care and education of the children' at Pallottine Mission, Tardun.
- [St Mary's Mission, New Norcia \(1848 - 1974\)](#)  
The Department of Native Welfare placed wards of the state at St Mary's Mission from at least the early 1960's  
Date: 1960s - 1972
- [Warminda Hostel \(1968 - 1984\)](#)  
Warminda Hostel was run by the Methodist Homes for Children under agreement with the Department of Native Welfare.  
Date: 1968 - 1972
- [Young Women's Christian Association \(YWCA\) Hostel \(c. 1954 - c. 1974\)](#)
- [Applecross Cottage \(1970 - 1986?\)](#)  
Applecross Cottage was operated by church agencies under an agreement with the Department of Native Welfare.  
Date: 1970 - 1972

- [Ardross House \(1971 - 2004?\)](#)

Ardross House was run by the Methodist Overseas Mission under agreement with the Department of Native Welfare.

Date: 1971 - 1972

- [United Aborigines Mission, Halls Creek \(1957 - 1967\)](#)

- [Bedford Hostel \(1971 - 27 February 2009\)](#)

Bedford Hostel was run by Edwards Business College on behalf of the Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia.

Date: 1971 - 1972

## Related Legislation

- [Aborigines Act 1905, Western Australia \(1906 - 1964\)](#)

The Department of Native Welfare administered the *Aborigines Act 1905* until it was repealed in 1963.

Date: 1955 - 1963

- [Native Welfare Act 1954, Western Australia \(1955 - 1964\)](#)

The Department of Native Welfare administered the *Native Welfare Act 1954*.

Date: 1954 - 1963

- [Native Welfare Act Amendment Act 1960, Western Australia \(1960 - 1963\)](#)

- [Native Welfare Act 1963, Western Australia \(1963 - 1972\)](#)

The Department of Native Welfare administered the *Native Welfare Act 1963*.

Date: 1963 - 1972

- [Community Welfare Act 1972, Western Australia \(1972 - 2006\)](#)

The responsibilities to Aboriginal children administered by the Department of Native Welfare were given to the Department for Community Welfare by the *Community Welfare Act 1972*.

## Related Concepts

- [Aboriginal Protection in Western Australia \(c. 1832 - c. 1972\)](#)

## Resources

- [Frank Ellis Gare interviewed by W.J.E. Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(1999\)](#), 11 March 1999
- Western Australia. Department of Native Welfare, *Annual Report: Department of Native Welfare, 1955 - 1972*
- [Aboriginal History](#), State Records Office of Western Australia website, 2012
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
- Foster, Darren J, [Submission No 347 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 3 April 2004
- Foster, Darren J, [She called her coral because it was 'a perfect pink day': The neglecting of Coral Suzanne Dickerson](#), *Journal of Australian Studies*, 1998

## Records

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### Records

- [Form Manual \(1955? - 1972?\)](#)
  - [Family Information Research System \(1921 - current\)](#)
  - [Department of Native Welfare \[and predecessors\], Client Files \(1921 - 1969\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - South West District Office \[annual single number sequence\] \(1 January 1950 - 1 January 1972\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - South West District Office \[S.D. Sequence\] \(1949 - 1976\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - Eastern District Office \[E.D.G. Sequence\] \(1945 - 1975\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - Northern District Office \[N.D.G Sequence\] \(1950 - 1974\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - Roebourne Office \[A.S.D. Sequence\] \(1951 - 1973\)](#)
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