

# Fisheries Department, State of Western Australia

1920 – 1964

## Details

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The Fisheries Department had a brief role in the 'care' and 'protection' of Aboriginal children from 1920, when it was given responsibility for Aboriginal matters in Western Australian areas below latitude 25 degrees south. It administered the *Aborigines Act 1905* in this area of the State until those functions were removed from the Fisheries Department in 1926 and transferred to the Aborigines Department (1926-1936).

The Fisheries Department was responsible for Aboriginal matters, including the custody, care and protection of Aboriginal children living in areas of Western Australia below 25 degrees latitude, from 1 January 1920. The State Records Office website provides an overview of the Department:

*As well as the State's fisheries, this department had control of Aboriginal affairs for the area below latitude 25 degrees South. (The Department of the North West had control of Aboriginal affairs for the area above latitude 25 degrees South). The Fisheries Department was a sub-department of the Colonial Secretary's Office (1920-1924), the Chief Secretary's Department (1924-1932, 1949-1953) the Premier's Department (1933-1938), and the Department of the North West (1939-1948) until 1953 when it achieved the status of a separate department.*

On 1 January 1926, the responsibility for matters relating to Aboriginal people was transferred to the second 'version' of the Aborigines Department (1926-1936).

The Fisheries Department continued with other functions until 1 September 1964.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Aborigines Protection Board, Crown Colony of Western Australia (January 1887 - 1890)
  - Aborigines Protection Board, Colony of Western Australia (1890 - 1898)
    - 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)

- Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia (1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992)

## Related Entries

### Ran

- [Moola Bulla Station \(1910 - 1955\)](#)
- [Carrolup \(1915 - 1922\)](#)  
Date: 1920 - 1922

### Related Organisations

- [Department of the North West, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1920 - 1 January 1926\)](#)  
The Fisheries Department (south of 25th parallel) and Department of the North West (north of 25th parallel) shared control of Aboriginal affairs in WA.  
Date: 1 January 1920 - 1 January 1926

### Related Legislation

- [Aborigines Act 1905, Western Australia \(1906 - 1964\)](#)  
The Fisheries Department administered the *Aborigines Act 1905* in the southern regions of Western Australia.  
Date: 1920 - 1926
- [Aborigines Act Amendment Act 1911, Western Australia \(1911 - 1964\)](#)

### Related Concepts

- [Aboriginal Protection in Western Australia \(c. 1832 - c. 1972\)](#)  
Date: 1920 - 1922

## Records

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### Records

- [Personal Cards \(1920 - 1948\)](#)
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