

# Merredin Residential College

1954 –

**Other Names:**

- St Michael's House
- St Michael's Hostel

**URL:** <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/web/merredinresidentialcollege>

## Details

---

Merredin Residential College is a hostel for children going to the Merredin High School. It was established and run by the Anglican Church from February 1954, under the control of a local management committee. At this time, it was known as St Michael's Hostel. From 1962, the Country High School Hostels Authority ran St Michael's Hostel under agreement with the Anglican Church.

Neil McKenna, who was convicted in 2012 for sexually abusing a child in his care while at St Andrew's Hostel in Katanning, was a relief supervisor at St Michael's Hostel in Merredin towards the end of 1991. Evidence about this was given in testimony to the *Special Inquiry into St Andrew's Hostel, Katanning*. The Inquiry heard that children who lived at the Merredin Hostel in 1978-79 'weren't properly looked after' and there are accounts of the physical abuse suffered by former residents at the hands of other children who lived at the hostel.

Testimony was also given about a 'tragic' bus accident in which six students and a hostel manager were killed on the way back from a football game in the 1980s.

It was also stated in evidence to the Inquiry that the Merredin hostel had financial difficulties during the early 1990s.

## More info

---

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Anglican Diocese of Perth \(1856 - current\)](#)

From 1962, the Anglican Diocese of Perth was responsible for managing the hostel under agreement with the Country High School Hostels Authority.

Date: 1962 - ?

- [Country High School Hostels Authority, State of Western Australia \(1960 - 2017\)](#)

The Country High School Hostels Authority was required by s7(1)(b) of its Act to 'supervise and maintain' this residential college.

Date: 1962 -

#### Related Events

- [Special Inquiry into St Andrew's Hostel, Katanning, Western Australia \(December 2011 - August 2012\)](#)

- [Country High School Hostels Ex-Gratia Scheme, Western Australia \(30 November 2012 - December 2013\)](#)  
People who were at St Michael's or Merredin Residential College as students were eligible to apply for the Country High School Hostels Ex Gratia Scheme.

#### Related Organisations

- [Swanleigh \(1960 - 2010\)](#)  
Two Wardens at Merredin Residential College (1954 - ) had previously worked at Swanleigh , one as Deputy Director.
- [Safe Ministry and Professional Standards, Anglican Diocese of Perth \(2004 - current\)](#)  
*Professional Standards* has been set up by the Anglican church as a service for people who have suffered abuse in out of home care run by the Anglican church or its agencies.

## Records

---

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

## Records

- [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
- 

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