

# Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions

1874 – 1908

**Other Names:**

- Poor Relief Department
- Superintendent of Poor Houses
- Superintendent of Poor Relief
- Superintendent of Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions
- Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools
- Charitable Institutions Department

## Details

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The Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions was a position within the Colonial Secretary's office. The Colonial Secretary's office was responsible for a wide range of affairs in Western Australia, administered by a number of 'sub-departments' such as that of the Superintendent. In 1907, after the State Children Act was proclaimed, responsibility for child welfare and institutions was transferred to the new Public Charities and State Children's Department.

During this period, there were 4 orphanages (established under the Industrial Schools Act of 1874) under the supervision of the Superintendent: Perth Girls' Orphanage, Swan Boys' Orphanage, St Joseph's Catholic Orphanage for Girls and the Subiaco Boys' Orphanage. The Superintendent's annual reports contain information about these and other institutions for children.

According to Abbott and Chensey, the Superintendent 'personally dealt with each case' of relief and conducted personal inspections of the institutions (p.26).

The Superintendent's office was sometimes referred to as the Poor Relief Department, and the position was also known as the Superintendent of Poor Houses, and the Superintendent of Poor Relief.

The Superintendent's position was held by William Dale from January 1874 until his death aged 59 years in March 1897. James Longmore began official duties as the Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions on 22 December 1897.

## More info

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### Chronology

- **Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions (1874 – 1908)**
  - Public Charities and State Children Department, State of Western Australia (1 January 1908 - 1 January 1917)
  - State Children Department, State of Western Australia (1 January 1917 - 22 December 1927)
    - Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia (22 December 1927 - 15 June 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

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- [Rottneest Island Reformatory \(1881 - 1902\)](#)  
Date: 1898 - 1902
- [Mt Lawley Reception Home \(1893 - 1980\)](#)
- [Mt Lawley Reception Home \(1893 - 1980\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Colonial Secretary's Office, Crown Colony of Western Australia \(30 December 1828 - 1890\)](#)  
The Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions was part of the Colonial Secretary's Office.  
Date: 1874 - 1890
- [Colonial Secretary's Office, Colony of Western Australia \(1890 - 1924\)](#)  
The Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions was part of the Colonial Secretary's Office  
Date: 1890 - 1908

## Resources

- Western Australia. Charities Department, *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools*, 1899 - 1907
- [News and Notes - Death of Mr. W. Dale](#), The West Australian, 16 March 1897
- Foster, Darren J, [Submission No 347 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 3 April 2004
- [Industrial and Reformatory Schools \[Inspector's Report for 1901\]](#), The West Australian, 22 August 1902
- [Report by the Superintendent of Poor Houses](#), 1882 - 1889
- *Report by the Superintendent of Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions for the year*, 1897
- *Report by the Inspector of Charitable Institutions*, 1898

## Records

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### Records

- [Records of the Department of Child Protection and Family Support, and predecessors \(1894 - current\)](#)
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