

# Slow Learning Children's Group

June 1951 – 1 March 1989

**Other Names:**

- Parent Group of Slow Learning Children
- Slow Learning Children's Group Inc

## Details

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The Slow Learning Children's Group (SLCG) began in Perth in 1951. A group of parents whose children had intellectual disabilities created an organisation that resulted in educational and training programs, appropriate residential facilities, meaningful employment and pathways to independence for all Western Australians with intellectual disabilities. In 1989, the SLCG changed its name to Activ Foundation.

The Slow Learning Children's Group ('the Group') was established at a public meeting on 10 October 1951 after about three years of groundwork by parents, teachers and supporters of the Education Department's kindergarted class for disabled children at the University of Western Australia.

By April 1953, the Group was incorporated and able to receive government and Lotteries Commission funding. Between 1952 and 1954 it set up Minbalup (an occupational centre for older children), a diagnostic and testing centre, an assessment board, speech therapy clinic and a parents' discussion group.

The Group established and ran Hawkevale farm colony from 1954.

In 1961, the Group's diagnostic and assessment centre became 'Irrabeena'. In 1964, the assessment centre functions were taken over by the government. Irrabeena became part of the Mental Health Department.

## More info

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### Chronology

- **Slow Learning Children's Group (June 1951 – 1 March 1989)**
  - Activ Foundation (1989 - current)

### Related Entries

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- [Hawkevale \(1957 - 2000s\)](#)
- [Union Street Hostel \(1959 - 1961\)](#)  
Date: 1959 - 1961
- [Phoebe Holmes Hostel \(1961 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1961 - ?

#### Related Organisations

- [Authority for Intellectually Handicapped Persons \(1986 - 1993\)](#)

The Authority for Intellectually Handicapped Persons took the name Irrabeena for its service delivery arm, a name previously used by the Division for the Intellectually Handicapped for the assessment centre run by the Slow Learning Children's Group

- [Irrabeena \(1961 - 1992?\)](#)

Irrabeena began in 1961 as the Slow Learning Children's Group's diagnostic and assessment centre in Perth and became part of the State Government's Mental Health Services in 1964.

- [Ministering Children's League, Western Australian Branch \(1891 - 1957\)](#)

The Ministering Children's League (MCL) distributed its accumulated funds to the Slow Learning Children's Group when the MCL dissolved in 1957.

Date: 1957 -

- [Graceville Centre \(1903 - current\)](#)

Graceville Centre residents attended workshops and 'special schools' run by the Slow Learning Children's Group.

Date: 1972 - ?

## Resources

- [Council Tuesday 16 August 1966 \[Hansard p326-327\]](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 16 August 1966

## Records

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### Records

- [Activ Foundation : collection of ephemera material, State Library of Western Australia \(1989 - 2006\)](#)
  - [Collection of information relating to the Slow Learning Children's Group of W.A., State Library of Western Australia \(1957 - 1988\)](#)
  - [Slow Learning Children's Group of W.A. records, 1950-1980 \(1950 - 1980\)](#)
  - [Slow Learning Children's Group and Activ Foundation Records \(1957 - current\)](#)
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