

Devonleigh

1979 – 1987

Details

Devonleigh, in Peppermint Grove, was a former maternity hospital that was used by Mental Health Services (MHS) to accommodate children with intellectual disabilities from 1979 until it closed in 1987.

On the closure of the Devonleigh Maternity Hospital it was proposed to use the facility to accommodate up to 32 children with moderate intellectual disabilities, who were to be transferred from Pyrton Training Centre. It was also proposed to repurpose the on-site nurses quarters into an independence training home for 6 to 8 people, as well as using the former matron's quarters as a training day centre for adults.

Mental Health Services took control of Devonleigh Hospital in November 1979, and it is likely that the first residents moved into Devonleigh in 1980.

In 1981 a visiting physician spoke about the impersonal nature of Devonleigh, where children wore 'clothing stamped with MHS in large letters'.

Devonleigh was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Inquiry* (2012) as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Gallery



Devonleigh Hospital - doctors' cars

Description: This is a copy of a photograph within the Rica Erickson collection held by the State Library of Western Australia. It shows the exterior of Devonleigh Hospital, a number of cars and a person (presumably a doctor).

More info

Chronology

- Devonleigh Maternity Home (1931 - 1979)
 - **Devonleigh (1979 – 1987)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [Mental Health Services, State Government of Western Australia \(1954 - 1984\)](#)
Devonleigh was run by the Division for the Intellectually Handicapped from 1977 to 1984.
- [Authority for Intellectually Handicapped Persons \(1986 - 1993\)](#)

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)
Devonleigh was mentioned in submission 129 to the Inquiry Committee as an institution that was involved in forced adoption.

Related Organisations

- [Princess Margaret Hospital for Children \(1909 - 10 June 2018\)](#)
Children may have been transferred between Devonleigh and Princess Margaret Hospital.
- [Pyrton \(1966 - 1997?\)](#)
Children were transferred from Pyrton to Devonleigh Hostel in line with a policy of progressing to more appropriate accommodation services.
Date: 1982 -

Resources

- MacDonald, Sue, [Submission No 129 to the Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 2012
- [Maternity Home Regulations](#), Government Gazette of Western Australia, 20 October 1944

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