

# St Gerard's Hospital

1944 – c. 1972

**Other Names:** • St Gerard's Maternity Hospital

## Details

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St Gerard's Hospital was a maternity hospital for unmarried women run by the Sisters of Mercy. St Gerard's opened in 1944 and closed in 1971 or 1972. The building that was St Gerard's was refurbished as a group home called 'Davis House', which was part of the Catherine McAuley Family Centre.

The Foundation Stone for St Gerard's was laid in 1938 but a heritage study has found that the hospital was not opened until 1944.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Sisters of Mercy, Perth Congregation \(1846 - 2011\)](#)  
Date: 1944 - 1972

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices, Western Australian government \(2023 - 2024\)](#)  
The WA inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices found that institutions operated by the Sisters of Mercy (now Institute of Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea) engaged in pressure and coercion practices which caused unmarried mothers to agree to the adoption of their children.

#### Related Organisations

- [Catherine McAuley Centre \(1971 - 1991\)](#)  
The building that had housed St Gerard's Hospital was refurbished and was renamed 'Davis House'. It was used as a Group Home by the Catherine McAuley Centre.  
Date: 1972 - ?
- [St Margaret's Hostel \(1918 - 1971\)](#)  
Many of the young women whose babies were born at St Gerard's had come from St Margaret's Hostel.  
Date: 1944 - 1971

## Resources

- McLay, Anne, [Women Out of Their Sphere: A History of the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia](#), 1992
- Heritage Council of Western Australia, [Catherine McAuley Centre](#), inHerit: our heritage places, 8 February 2015
- [Maternity Home Regulations](#), Government Gazette of Western Australia, 20 October 1944

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