

Government Industrial School

1893 – 1907

- Other Names:**
- Government Industrial School and Receiving Depot
 - Government Industrial School for Boys and Girls
 - Government Industrial School and Receiving Depot for Boys and Girls
 - Industrial School, Subiaco

Details

A Government Industrial School was established in 1893 at Claisebrook, and moved to Subiaco in 1897. It was originally for girls, and was then used for older children and for the 'temporary reception' of children awaiting other placements. By 1902 it was called the 'Government Industrial School and Receiving Depot' and by 1907 it was known as the 'Government Receiving Depot'.

A Government Industrial School was established in 1893, after the passage of the *Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act 1893*. Although originally intended for young girls, the Government Industrial School was soon admitting older children and was increasingly used for the temporary reception of children awaiting more permanent placements, or while parents were unable to care for them. This 'reception' function soon became part of the institution's title, persisting until 1980.

The 'Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, 1902' (p.16) noted that the 'younger destitute children formerly detained in the Home for Women' (Women's Home, Female Home) 'are now resident at Subiaco'.

By 1907, recognising that the institution that had begun as the Government Industrial School no longer functioned in that way, the words, 'Industrial School' were dropped from its title. The new name, Government Receiving Depot' recognised the institution's primary function as the temporary accommodation of children awaiting placement elsewhere.

Gallery



Government Industrial School Subiaco, 1900

Description: 'Government Industrial School Subiaco, 1900' is a digital copy of an image included (p.12) in the *Annual Report 1979* of the Department for Community Welfare. It is part of a history of the department, written to celebrate 150 years of European settlement in Western Australia.



Government Industrial School for Boys and Girls

Description: 'Government Industrial School for Boys and Girls' is an image included (p.26) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools, etc.*, for the year ending 31 December 1900. This image shows a long single-storey stone building, with an elaborate central front entrance flanked by small turrets on each side. Several dozen children in white uniforms are standing on the lawn in front of the building, behind a white picket fence.



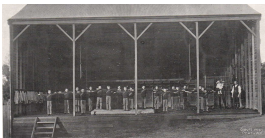
Laundry and Nursery Buildings - Government Industrial School, Subiaco, 1906

Description: 'Laundry and Nursery Buildings - Government Industrial School, Subiaco, 1906' is a digital copy of an image included (after p.20) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools* for the year ending 31 December 1906. This image shows approximately 30 children standing in front of two single-storey buildings, accompanied by five adults. The older girls are all wearing white pinafores and standing in neat rows in front of one building, while the younger children are scattered in front of the other building.



Workshops - Government Industrial School, Subiaco, 1906

Description: 'Workshops - Government Industrial School, Subiaco, 1906' is an image included (after p.20) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools* for the year ending 31 December 1906. This image shows approximately 12 teenage boys standing in two groups on the verandah of a long single-storey building, accompanied by three male staff members. The boys and staff all appear to be wearing aprons. Various pieces of equipment are also sitting on the verandah.



Gymnasium - Government Industrial School, Subiaco, 1906

Description: 'Gymnasium - Government Industrial School, Subiaco, 1906' is an image included (after p.20) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools* for the year ending 31 December 1906. This image shows approximately 20 boys standing in a large, open wooden shed. The boys all have their arms stretched out to the side in a gymnastic pose, and are wearing a uniform of light pants and dark, long-sleeve shirts with a diagonal stripe running across the chest. Several of the boys are standing on a mattress, what appears to be a balancing beam can be seen behind the group, and bars and hoops are hanging from the ceiling. Two men are standing to one side of the boys, one of whom is holding a young child.



Government Industrial School, Subiaco, 1906

Description: 'Government Industrial School, Subiaco, 1906' is an image included (after p.20) in the *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools* for the year ending 31 December 1906. This image shows approximately 30 boys, 30 girls, and several adults standing in groups in front of a large stone building. Most of the boys are holding flutes or drums and are wearing slouch hats. The girls are all wearing dark dresses with white collars. The adults are standing on the steps of the elaborate entrance to the building, which is flanked by two rounded turrets.

More info

Chronology

- **Government Industrial School (1893 – 1907)**
 - Government Receiving Depot (1907 - 1935)
 - Government Receiving Home (1935 - 1952)
 - Child Welfare Reception Home (1953 - 1972)
 - Mt Lawley Reception Home (1973 - 1980)
 - Walcott Centre (1980 - 1984)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions \(1874 - 1908\)](#)

Related Legislation

- [State Children Act 1907, Western Australia \(1907 - 1948\)](#)
The Government Industrial School was classed as an industrial school within the meaning of the *State Children Act 1907*.
- [Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act 1893, Western Australia \(1893 - 1907\)](#)
The Government Industrial School was established after the passage of the *Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act 1893*.

Related Organisations

- [Female Home \[Poor House, Perth\] \(1851 - 1909\)](#)
The Female Home had provided temporary accommodation in a Children's Ward, but from 1902 children were sent instead to the Government Industrial School.
Date: 1902 -

Resources

- Hetherington, Penelope, [Reformatories](#), Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, 2009
- Foster, Darren J., *Neglected children in Western Australia : a case study, 1897-1908* : John George Foster, 1997

Records

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

Records

- [Admission Registers of the Government Receiving Home \[Walcott Street, Mt Lawley\] \(1894 - 1988\)](#)
 - [Correspondence Files, Colonial Secretary's Office, Chief Secretary's Department \(1883 - 1983\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/government-industrial-school/>