

Ellensbrook Farm Home

1899 – 1917

Other Names:

- Ellensbrook Home for Destitute Natives and Half-Castes
- Ellensbrook Farm Home for Aboriginal Children
- Ellensbrook

Details

Ellensbrook Farm Home, near Busselton, was a government-run 'farm home' established in 1899 by the Aborigines Department. Up to 11 Aboriginal women and children were admitted for education and training. It closed in 1917.

Ellensbrook Farm Home, on the south-west coast, was a 'domestic-scale' farm home for Aboriginal children and women. There is some doubt about when it was established. In his 1900 report, the Protector of Aborigines, Henry Prinsep, says that he established the institution. Tilbrook, however, says it was established in 1879 by the Church of England.

As Prinsep's report (p.4) says that the 'lady in charge' was 'well experienced in the treatment of natives' it is possible that Ellensbrook was operating with support from the Church of England from 1879, as Tilbrook suggests. However, it is likely that Ellensbrook started to operate 'officially' only from 1899. The lady in charge was Prinsep's niece, Edith Bussell.

Prinsep said in his report in 1900 that the children in Ellensbrook could not be taken into the other 'native' institutions. A heritage assessment of Ellensbrook (2012, p.3) explains that the children were of mixed descent, mostly from the northwest and included children with Chinese and Malay parents. Three of the children who had grown to adulthood at Ellensbrook were beneficiaries of Edith Bussell's estate in 1939.

Ellensbrook closed in 1917.

Gallery



Homestead from the north

Description: 'Homestead from the north' is an online image that is published on the State Heritage Register entry for Place No. 00115, Ellensbrook. Ellensbrook Farm Home was a Home for Aboriginal children from 1899-1917. This photograph was taken by Penny O'Connor.



[Ellensbrook Farm Home - Mokidup]

Description: This photograph was taken by Gavan McCarthy while visiting Ellensbrook. It shows the building that was Ellensbrook Farm Home.



[Ellensbrook Farm Home - Mokidup]

Description: This photograph shows the building that was Ellensbrook Farm Home.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Aborigines Department, State of Western Australia \(1 April 1898 - 31 December 1908\)](#)
Date: 1899 - 1908
- [Department of Aborigines and Fisheries, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1909 - 1 January 1920\)](#)
Date: 1909 - 1917

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
- [Files - Department of Aborigines and Fisheries \(1909 - 1920\)](#)
- [Files - Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1908\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/ellensbrook-farm-home/>