

Anglican Farm School, Stoneville

1955 – 1961

Other Names:

- Stoneville Boys' Home
- Hillston
- Stoneville

Details

This 'open' [reformatory](#) for adolescent boys was established by the government, and opened on 12 August 1955. It was run by a combined government-Anglican committee and managed by the church until April 1960. At this time the Anglican Homes Board requested to be relieved of responsibility to the Home, and the Anglican Diocese of Perth joined a new joint committee with the government.

Roy Peterkin, a member of the committee, gave some insight into the governance arrangements in his book *Noisy Mansions* (1988, p.150): 'Decisions on policy were made at monthly meetings of the Management Committee...as time went on the discussions became increasingly dominated by views of the Department's representatives, which in the background there was always Treasury control...Hillston, though now included as one of the Anglican Homes, was this in name only.'

Peterkin states that in 1960, the Anglican representation on the Management Committee passed from The Anglican Homes Board to the Diocesan Council of the Anglican Diocese of Perth, and the committee was renamed the Committee of Anglican Diocesan Council and Child Welfare Department.

The school was established in response to a 1953 review of the Western Australian child welfare system, according to Peterkin (p.147). This review was conducted by RH Hicks, the Director of Child Welfare and Social Services in New South Wales, and was critical of the existing boys' reformatory that was run by the Salvation Army. Hicks' report has never been made public in Western Australia, but Peterkin (p.146) said that [Swan Homes](#) was the only institution that 'escaped censure' and was thus chosen by the Premier to have a role in establishing a new reformatory.

Child welfare department annual reports and administrative files show that the school was meant to accommodate 20 boys but there were 35 boys at year end in 1956; 65 boys in 1957; 63 boys in 1958; 59 boys in 1959 and 43 boys in 1961. All boys were wards of the State and aged between 14 and 18 years. Some of the boys at Seaforth Boys' Home, Gosnells when it closed were transferred to the school.

Most boys went to school on the property as well as doing practical work on the farm, which included growing produce, construction work, animal husbandry, using farm machinery and land-clearing. Produce from the farm was used to supply the reformatory and other facilities when there was a surplus.

Although abscondings were frequent, according to Peterkin (1988, pp.149-150) its Management Committee preferred the school to remain relatively open to better meet the objective of 're-education' rather than punishment, despite public criticism that 'delinquent' boys could so easily escape. Boys slept in 'individual cabins which were locked at night' but the reformatory was situated in the bush, with no perimeter fencing so it was not difficult for boys to escape during the day.

Until 1960, boys whom authorities believed were not suited to the school were transferred to Fremantle Prison. After 1960, boys who 'persistently absconded' were sent to Riverbank, according to Peterkin (p.150).

In 1962, the Anglican Farm School, Stoneville became known as the Hillston, Anglican Farm School, Stoneville.

More info

Chronology

- **Anglican Farm School, Stoneville (1955 – 1961)**
 - Hillston, Anglican Farm School, Stoneville (1962 - 1969)
 - Hillston, Stoneville (1969 - 1984)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Hillston Point Walter Annexe \(1958? - 1984?\)](#)
The Hillston Point Walter annexe was part of the Anglican Farm School, Stoneville.

Run by

- [Anglican Diocese of Perth \(1856 - current\)](#)
The Anglican Diocese of Perth managed the Anglican Farm School, Stoneville.
Date: 1960 - 1961
- [The Anglican Homes Board \(1955 - 1970\)](#)
The Anglican Homes Board managed the Anglican Farm School, Stoneville.
Date: 1955 - 1960
- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)
The Child Welfare Department established and managed the Anglican Farm School, Stoneville.

Related Events

- [Investigation into the Administration of the Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(1953\)](#)
The Investigation into the Administration of the Child Welfare Department of Western Australia by RH Hicks was influential in the government's decision to establish the Anglican Farm School, Stoneville, as a boys' reformatory.

Related Organisations

- [Padbury Boys' Farm School \(1946 - 1955\)](#)
After Padbury Boys' Farm School closed, its buildings and grounds were used for the Anglican Farm School, Stoneville.
- [Riverbank \(1960 - 1996\)](#)
Boys who ran away from the Anglican Farm School, Stoneville on a regular basis were often sent to Riverbank as it was a more secure detention centre.
- [Seaforth Salvation Army Boys' Homes, Gosnells \(1920 - 1955\)](#)
When Seaforth closed some boys were transferred to Anglican Farm School, Stoneville.

Resources

- Hetherington, Penelope, [Reformatories](#), Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, 2009
- [Vote - Child Welfare £329,100](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 23 November 1955. *Relevance*: 'Vote – Child Welfare & pound329,100' contains speeches from the Western Australian Parliament that give information about the closure of the Seaforth Salvation Army Boys' Reformatory and the establishment of the Anglican Farm School, Stoneville

Records

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

Records

- [Anglican Diocese of Perth, Western Australia, Records \(1880s - 2010\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, single number series with 'B' \[Child Endowment\] prefix \(1904 - 1974\)](#)
 - [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
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