

Myilly Point Home

1924 – 1939

Other Names: • Darwin Half-Caste Home

Details

The Myilly Point Home, also known as the Darwin Half-Caste Home, was established in 1924 in a government residence, just outside the Kahlin Compound fence. The aim of the Home was to separate children from the Compound from adults. Initially the Home accommodated 21 girls under the care of a matron. The Myilly Point Home closed in 1939 when the children were moved to a new accommodation in the Bagot Aboriginal Reserve.

The Myilly Point Home, also known as the Darwin Half-Caste Home, opened in 1924. The Home was established as the result of a 1923 Inquiry into the Kahlin Compound which recommended that children, particularly those regarded as 'half-caste', be separated from adults. This proposal fitted with government policies of the time which advocated that children with fair skin be separated from their Aboriginal parents and trained to become part of white society.

Initially 21 girls were removed from the Compound to the Home which was established in a government residence at Myilly Point, just outside the Compound fence. They were under the care of a matron who was responsible for all aspects of the running of the Home, including teaching. Boys were also initially placed in the Home which was constantly overcrowded. In the late 1920s, to alleviate this, boys were moved to Pine Creek and then to Alice Springs.

Although newspaper reports applauded the work of the matron and the cleanliness of the Home, former residents remember a lack of food, rigid discipline and corporal punishment.

Files of correspondence and reports on the Home held at the National Archives show that conditions were often criticised, as was the restrictive discipline of the girls. A report written by a government accountant described the 'tragedy of the situation' in the Home in August 1936:

The home is an ordinary Darwin house (exactly the same in size as that of the Superintendent of the Compound and his wife next door). It has been gutted – leaving one large centre room with four openings and with a verandah on three sides. There are 44 children housed in the building, the large room and two sides of a verandah being used for sleeping accommodation and the other side for school purposes. There is one common cupboard in which all the belongings of the children are placed and there is not one thing to make the place attractive or to look anything but the barracks that it is. It is impossible for a child to show any individuality or to take any pride whatever in the home.

Despite such conditions, the Home continued to operate even after the residents of the Kahlin Compound were removed to the newly established Bagot Reserve in 1938. When the Kahlin area was required for defence purposes in 1939, the Home was finally closed and the residents moved to accommodation in the Bagot Aboriginal Reserve.

Gallery



Personal photographs of the Hon. C L A Abbott during his term as Administrator of the Northern Territory - Kahlin Beach and old Compound in corner Myilly Point - right arm of the bay

Description: This is an image of Myilly Point, Kahlin Beach, and the Kahlin Compound in Darwin.



Staff and children at the Myilly Point Home [altered from original title]

Description: This is a digital copy of an image of staff and children at the Myilly Point Home from 1928.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Northern Territory Aboriginals Department, South Australian Government \(1910 - 1928\)](#)
- [Health and Aboriginals Branch, Northern Territory Administration, Australian Government \(1928 - 1930\)](#)
- [Medical Services, Health and Aboriginals Branch, Australian Government \(1931 - 1939\)](#)

Related Events

- [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children \(1930s - 1970s\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Pine Creek Home \(1931 - 1933\)](#)
A number of children from Myilly Point Home were removed to Pine Creek due to over-crowding in 1931. When the Pine Creek Home closed in 1933, many children from Pine Creek were sent to Myilly Point Home.
- [Kahlin Compound \(1913 - 1939\)](#)
Children from the Kahlin Compound were sent to the Myilly Point Home in 1924
- [Pine Creek Home \(1940 - 1941\)](#)
Children from Myilly Point Home were transferred to Pine Creek Home before being moved to various Missions in the Northern Territory
- [Bagot Aboriginal Reserve \(1938 - 1978?\)](#)
Children from the Myilly Point Home were moved to the Bagot Aboriginal Reserve when the Myilly Point Home closed in 1939

Other Resources



Title: Kahlin Compound. Aboriginal Compound & Half-caste Home (1933 - 1938)

Type: Image

Date: 1933 - 1938

[Details](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Kahlin Compound. Aboriginal Compound & Half-caste Home \(1933 - 1938\)](#)
 - [Correspondence files, class 1 \(general, passports\) \(1892 - 1970\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/myilly-point-home/>