

# Phillip Creek Native Settlement

1945 – 1956

**Other Names:** • Mangka Manta

## Details

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The Phillip Creek Native Settlement was established by the government in 1945 as a temporary settlement for Aboriginal people. It was initially staffed by missionaries from the Aborigines Inland Mission. The settlement operated three dormitories for Aboriginal children. In 1947 children who were then considered to be of mixed-race were removed to the Retta Dixon Home in Darwin. The Settlement ceased to operate in June 1956 and the residents were moved to Warrabri.

The Phillip Creek Native Settlement was established by the Native Affairs Branch in August 1945 as a temporary settlement for Aboriginal people the government wanted removed from the Six Mile Ration Depot near Tennant Creek. Situated 43km north of Tennant Creek, in an area also known as Manga Manda, the Phillip Creek Native Settlement was initially staffed by missionaries from the Aborigines Inland Mission.

The 1946 NT Administration Report records the numbers of Aboriginal people at Phillip Creek at that time:

*The inmates of the settlement are 78 men, 94 women, and 103 children. In addition to their physical welfare, the Missioner in charge attends to their spiritual needs and imparts education to the children.*

The settlement had three dormitories for Aboriginal children – one each for boys and girls and a third for children of both sexes that were considered at the time to be ‘half-caste’.

In 1947, the children who were considered to be ‘half-caste’ were removed from the settlement and taken to the Retta Dixon Home in Darwin.

In 1952 the Native Affairs Branch took over administration at Phillip Creek.

The settlement, always intended to be temporary, had difficulties with access to permanent drinkable water. In the early 1950s a new site with more permanent water was located at Warrabri, 175kms south of Tennant Creek. By June 1956 the population of Phillip Creek had been resettled at Warrabri and the Phillip Creek Native Settlement was closed.

## Gallery



**Phillip Creek Mission, Northern Territory, ca. 1946 [picture].**

**Description:** This image shows various buildings at the Aboriginal Inland Mission at Phillip Creek. The purpose of these buildings and whether or not they would have housed children in care at the Mission is not known.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- **Phillip Creek Native Settlement (1945 – 1956)**
  - Warrabri (1954 - 1978)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Native Affairs Branch, Australian Government \(1939 - 1955\)](#)
- [Welfare Branch, Northern Territory Administration, Australian Government \(1955 - 1970\)](#)

#### Related Events

- [Case Study 17: Retta Dixon Home, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse \(2014\)](#)

Phillip Creek Native Settlement was briefly mentioned in Case Study Case Study 17: Retta Dixon Home, but was not the primary focus of the study.

#### Related Organisations

- [Retta Dixon Home \(1946 - 1982\)](#)

In 1947, some children were moved from Phillip Creek Native Settlement to the Retta Dixon Home.
- [Aborigines Inland Mission \(1905 - 1998\)](#)

Missionaries from the Aborigines Inland Mission staffed the Phillip Creek Native Settlement  
Date: 1945 - 1952

### Resources

- Bell, Diane, *Daughters of the dreaming*, 2002
- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, [Report of Case Study No. 17: The response of the Australian Inland Ministries, the Australian and Northern Territory governments and the Northern Territory police force and prosecuting authorities to allegations of sexual abuse which occurred at the Retta Dixon Home](#), July 2015. *Relevance:* Phillip Creek Native Settlement was briefly mentioned in Case Study Case Study 17: Retta Dixon Home, but was not the primary focus of the study

## Records

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

### Records

- [Phillip Creek Native Settlement Daily Journal \(1951 - 1953\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/phillip-creek-native-settlement/>