

Aboriginal School

1915 – 1972

Details

Aboriginal schools were separate public schools in New South Wales. They were created because Aboriginal children were legally required to attend school, but could be excluded from public schools if non-Aboriginal parents complained about their presence. The syllabus for Aboriginal Schools stopped at Grade 3, meaning children attending them were disadvantaged.

Teachers in Aboriginal Schools were paid by the NSW Education Department and received an additional allowance from the Aborigines Protection Board to supervise adults living on the station, as teacher-managers. Aboriginal schools were phased out from the 1960s, as access to mainstream schools improved.

Aboriginal School Files belong to the Education Department and are held by New South Wales State Records. They sometimes contain information about removals of children, as well as providing valuable information about family history.

[Click here to see the full Find & Connect glossary](#)

Gallery



[Cootamundra Training Home for Girls - school]

Description: This is a photograph of children beside the school house at the Cootamundra Training Home for Girls. It shows approximately 25 girls sitting and standing beside a tree behind the school-house at the Training Home. The girls appear to be wearing a uniform of patterned long-sleeved dresses. A barbed wire fence sits between the girls and the training home buildings.

More info

Resources

- Museums of History NSW, [Aboriginal Resources: A Guide to NSW State archives](#), No date
 - Museums of History NSW, [Index to Schools and related records, 1876-1979](#), No date
 - University of Sydney, [A history of Aboriginal Sydney](#), 2020
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