FIND & CONNECT

Stockton Mental Hospital

1917 – 1989

Other Names:
- Stockton Hospital
- North Stockton Mental Hospital
- North Stockton Mental Hospital for Children

Details

Stockton Mental Hospital was opened in 1917 in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales. Prior to that it was known as Stockton Hospital for the Insane. It is not clear exactly when children began to be admitted but from 1937 the idea of new wards or buildings especially for children within the hospital was reported. Separate self-contained wards were built for 200 girls in 1941 and included their own operating theatre, dental clinic and laundry. By 1970 the hospital was focused on treating and providing services to children with intellectual disabilities. Stockton Mental Hospital closed in 1989 and became the Stockton Centre, which closed in 2020.

Stockton Mental Hospital was established in 1917 in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales. It is not clear when the first children were admitted to the hospital but newspaper reports show that in 1937 tenders were being called for new buildings for ‘defective’ children at the Hospital.

In 1941 it was reported in The Newcastle Sun that 50 girls were being trained to do much of the work at the hospital and that special attention had been paid to their needs in the design of the new girl-only wards.

The Stockton Mental Hospital began to hold concerts from 1943 where girls who were in occupational therapy classes performed and displayed their handicraft, including toys they made for younger children also at the hospital.

By mid 1956, Stockton was primarily an admitting hospital for female adult and juvenile patients who were considered “congenital defectives”.

According to the State Records Authority of New South Wales, by the early 1970s, the facility was known as Stockton Hospital, and was moving towards “the objective of providing treatment and training for mentally retarded patients under the age of 16 years”. It was also becoming more involved with community services. In February 1973 a community services clinic was commenced offering services to children and their parents in the Newcastle and Hunter Region.

In 1989 responsibility for the Hospital was transferred from the Health Department to the Department of Family and Community Services and the name of the institution was changed to the Stockton Centre. The Stockton Centre closed in 2020.

Gallery



Stockton Mental Hospital

Description: This image was taken for the Newcastle Morning Herald.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- Inspector General of Mental Hospitals (1917 - 1958)
- Director of State Psychiatric Services (1958 - 1973)
- Health Department, State Government of New South Wales (1982 - current)

Related Organisations

- State Archives and Records Authority of New South Wales (June 1961 - current)
  The New South Wales State Archives Collection contains records from state-managed mental health facilities including Stockton Mental Hospital.

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- Stockton Hospital records, State Archives NSW (1910 - 1956)

You can view this page online by visiting https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/stockton-mental-hospital-2/