

Wilson Youth Hospital

1961 – 1983

Details

The Wilson Youth Hospital, at Windsor, was a State government-run institution that opened in 1961. It accommodated 'trouble-makers', emotionally disturbed children, and those who had broken the law. The Wilson Hospital was also 'home' to many orphans and homeless children. It was renamed Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre in 1983.

In 1961 the Wilson Youth Hospital operated as a remand, assessment and treatment centre for young males between the ages of 8 and 14. Among the first children admitted were a group of primary school aged boys who had been transferred from Westbrook Farm Home. In 1971 a section was added to the Hospital to accommodate girls aged 12 to 16. Girls were often held not for committing offences but for being 'emotionally disturbed', 'exposed to moral danger' or 'incorrigible'.

Wilson Youth Hospital was originally administered by the Youth Welfare and Guidance Division of the Health Department, but in 1966 the administration was transferred to the Department of Children's Services. In June 1983 the Department of Children's Services assumed full responsibility.

The Justice for Juveniles Group, previously known as the Wilson Protest Group, was established in 1977 with an aim to find financial support for a Youth Advocacy Centre in Brisbane. By this stage the 'Hospital' accommodated 68 boys and 32 girls. It was considered a 'closed' institution, meaning that children were not free to come and go at will.

The Juveniles for Justice Group was eventually successful and Brisbane's Youth Advocacy Centre was established in 1981.

Gallery



Wilson Youth Hospital, Tenth Ave, Windsor Brisbane 1971

Description: This is a photograph of part of the Wilson Youth Hospital, taken in 1971. It shows one of the entrances to the hospital, with signs reading 'Court entrance' and 'Public entrance' on the doors. A sign reading 'Wilson Youth Hospital' can be seen on the front wall.



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More info

Chronology

- **Wilson Youth Hospital (1961 – 1983)**
 - Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre (1983 - 1993)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Health Department, State Government of Queensland \(26 September 1963 - 3 April 2012\)](#)
Date: 1961 - 1966
- [Children's Services Department, State Government of Queensland \(1 August 1966 - 6 June 1987\)](#)
The Children's Services Department ran the administrative side of the Wilson Youth Hospital between 1961 and 1983, when the Department of Children's Services assumed full responsibility.

Related Events

- [Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions \(1998 - 1999\)](#)
Wilson Youth Hospital was an institution mentioned by a number of witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.
- [Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia \(2003 - 2005\)](#)
Wilson Youth Hospital was mentioned in Submissions 58, 105, and 227 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care

Related Organisations

- [Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook \(30 October 1919 - 26 May 1966\)](#)
In July 1961 all primary school aged boys were transferred from Westbrook to Wilson Youth Hospital
- [Karrala House \(1963 - 1971\)](#)
When Karrala House closed in 1971, its residents were transferred to the Remand and Assessment Centre for Girls at Wilson Youth Hospital.
- [Department of Justice and Attorney General \(2012 - current\)](#)
The Department of Justice and Attorney General controls access to the records of the Wilson Youth Hospital.

Resources

- Olsson, K, *Kilroy was here*, 2006
- [Sue Treweek interviewed by Frances Rush in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project \(2010\)](#), 4 December 2010 - 5 December 2010

- Treweek, Susan, [Submission No 218 to the Senate Inquiry into the Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 2012

Records

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

Records

- [Client Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
 - [Institution Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1871 - c. 2001\)](#)
 - [Operational Registers, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1870 - c. 2001\)](#)
 - [Administrative Records, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
 - [Heritage photographs of Queensland children's homes, buildings and people \(1848 - 1979\)](#)
 - [Admission Registers - Leslie Wilson Centre School/Sir Leslie Wilson School \(1977 - 1997\)](#)
 - [Placement Cards - Wilson Youth Hospital/ Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre \(1961 - 1993\)](#)
 - [Admission / Discharge Cards - Wilson Youth Hospital / Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre \(1942 - 1993\)](#)
 - [Supervision Cards - Wilson Youth Hospital / Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre \(1961 - 1993\)](#)
 - [State Ward Cards - Wilson Youth Hospital \(1961 - 1961\)](#)
 - [General Correspondence Batches - Agent A223 Labour and Industry Department 1 \(1921 - 1974\)](#)
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