

Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre

1983 – 1993

Details

The Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre, at Windsor, was a State government-run institution for 'trouble-makers', emotionally disturbed children, and those who had broken the law. It came into being in 1983 and was formerly the Wilson Youth Hospital.

The report of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (1999) discussed changing functions at the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre, as changes were made in the management of juvenile justice institutions in Queensland.

In 1987 the functions of Wilson changed with the opening of the John Oxley Youth Centre. Girls were transferred to John Oxley and Wilson served as a short-term remand and transit facility for boys. The situation changed once more, however, in 1994 with the closure of Westbrook Youth Detention Centre. The pressures of finding accommodation for the former residents of Westbrook forced the transfer of all girls back from John Oxley to Wilson, as well as the admission of some difficult boys to Wilson. These developments clearly placed the institution under considerable pressure. The institution's name was changed once again, to the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre, reflecting the fact that it was no longer exclusively a remand centre (p.160).

Wilson Youth Centre was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

More info

Chronology

- Wilson Youth Hospital (1961 - 1983)
 - **Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre (1983 – 1993)**
 - Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre (1993 - 2001)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Children's Services Department, State Government of Queensland \(1 August 1966 - 6 June 1987\)](#)
Date: 1966 - 1987
- [Family and Youth Services Department, State Government of Queensland \(9 June 1987 - 14 December 1987\)](#)
Date: 1987 -

- [Family Services Department, State Government of Queensland \(14 December 1987 - 7 December 1989\)](#)
Date: 1987 - 1989
- [Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs Department, State Government of Queensland \(7 December 1989 - 25 January 1996\)](#)
Date: 1989 - 1996

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care, Parliament of Australia \(2003 - 2005\)](#)
Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre was mentioned in Submissions 132 and 222 to the Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care

Related Organisations

- [John Oxley Youth Detention Centre \(1987 - 2001\)](#)
Girls were transferred from Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre to the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre when it opened in 1987.
- [Westbrook Youth Detention Centre \(1993 - 30 June 1994\)](#)
The closure of Westbrook Youth Detention Centre in 1984 had an impact on admissions to the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre.
- [Department of Justice and Attorney General \(2012 - current\)](#)
The Department of Justice and Attorney General controls access to the records of the Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre.

Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families](#), 1997. *Relevance:* Wilson Youth Centre was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Indigenous children removed from their families
- Atkinson, Lynn, [An overview of juvenile detention in Australia](#), National Conference on Juvenile Detention: Proceedings of a conference held 10-13 August 1993, 1994
- Olsson, K, *Kilroy was here*, 2006

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Client Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
 - [Forgotten Australians : Micah Pilot Oral History and Digital Story Project \[sound and video recording\] \(March 2011 - April 2011\)](#)
Ruby Samuel's audio interview discusses her time at Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Centre.
 - [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 \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
 - [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 \(1961 - 1993\)](#)
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