

Select Committee Inquiry into Weeroona Girls' Training Centre, Tasmania

1965 – 1965

Details

The Select Committee Inquiry into Weeroona Girls' Training Centre, appointed on 4 November 1965, concerned an allegation that the Director of the Social Welfare Department, GC Smith, had misled Parliament about the date that the secure unit had been temporarily closed at Weeroona. The Committee found that Smith was innocent.

The Select Committee Inquiry took place in the aftermath of a Public Service Commissioner's investigation into allegations against the Principal at Weeroona. It related to just one of the allegations, that the Principal had overused the secure unit. The Director of the Social Welfare Department, GC Smith, told WA Neilson, the Minister for Education, acting for the Chief Secretary, that the unit had closed on the 3 July following the release of the allegations. The reason for closure was not the allegations, but insufficient staff to run the unit. This led Neilson to provide that date in answer to a question asked in the House of Assembly.

However, the Principal, having found a staff member to sleep in the unit, kept it open at night until 14 July, although the girls living there had resumed their normal activities within the home. This led Kevin Lyons, the MHA for Braddon who had released the initial allegations, to suggest that Smith had deliberately attempted to mislead Parliament. He put forward the motion to appoint the Select Committee.

It found that Neilson had made an 'honest error' and that the secure unit had been used in a limited way without Smith's knowledge until 14 July.

The Committee produced a report entitled *Weeroona Girls' Home: accuracy and/or veracity of answer to question asked in the House of Assembly*.

More info

Chronology

- Inquiry into the Conditions at Weeroona Girls' Home, Public Service Commissioner, Tasmania (1965)
 - **Select Committee Inquiry into Weeroona Girls' Training Centre, Tasmania (1965 – 1965)**

Related Entries

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Weeroona Girls' Training Centre, Public Service Commissioner, Tasmania \(1973 - 1974\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Weeroona Girls' Training Centre \(1959 - 1979\)](#)

The Select Committee Report, Weeroona Girls' Home: accuracy and/or veracity of answer to question asked in the House of Assembly , concerns Weeroona Girls' Training Centre.

Resources

- Swain, Shurlee, [History of Australian inquiries reviewing institutions providing care for children](#), October 2014
- *Girls' home findings out next month*, Examiner, 20 December 1973

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