

Gilliamia Hostel

1961 – 1990

Other Names:

- Onslow Hostel
- Onslow Working Boys Hostel

Details

Gilliamia Hostel in Onslow was established in 1961 as a government-run Aboriginal education and employment hostel for school-age children and young people of working age who came from outstations and communities to the township of Onslow for school or, occasionally, work. Gilliamia closed in 1990.

Government reports (*Signposts* 2004, pp.218-220) show that Gilliamia was a Department of Native Welfare hostel that in 1971 had 66 primary-school age children living there. In 1972, responsibility for Gilliamia was transferred to the Department for Community Welfare (DCW) in accordance with government policy at that time.

The hostel was 'upgraded' (*Signposts* p.219) during 1975 and 1976 and in 1979 and 1980 the DCW gave some information about the children living at Gilliamia: There were '48 children from Giralia, Bullara, Kooline, Wyloo, Mt Stewart, Redhill, Nanutarra, Range, Cane River, Peedamulla, Koordarrie, Urala and Minderoo Stations; and from the Rocklea and Ashburton Downs areas.

The 1980 DCW Annual Report stated that the function of the hostel was expanding from providing care for Aboriginal children so that they may have regular schooling to providing a broader, more community and family-focused service. The aim of this change was to assist families in making the transition to their own homes within the local township, and included services such as homework supervision, laundry services, and providing the occasional meal. 'Greater efforts are also being made to provide children and parents with opportunities to spend more time together by providing camping facilities when the parents come to town'.

In 1984, the DCW annual report (p.48) listed Gilliamia as a departmental hostel and recorded a grant-in-aid for furniture for what was called the 'Working Boys' Hostel' in Onslow (p.64). This may indicate that older boys were resident at the hostel at that time.

By 1987, Gilliamia, along with other country hostels, reportedly admitted only 'senior students' and it was a policy to ensure that Aboriginal staff were employed to work in the hostel (*Signposts* pp.218-219).

Gilliamia closed in 1990.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1955 - 1972\)](#)
Date: 1971? - 1972
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1985

- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)
Date: 1985 - 1990

Resources

- Wilson, Katrin and Michael V. Robinson., *Aboriginal Hostels in Perth : A Comparative Survey*, 1971
- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
 - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
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