

Koorana

1974 – 1987

Details

Koorana, in Bentley, was a non-residential school established and run from 1974 by child welfare authorities. It admitted primary-school age children who needed assistance to develop learning and behavioural skills that would enable them to return to mainstream schooling. Many children who attended Koorana lived in departmental Homes or foster care. A child did not have to be a ward of the State to attend Koorana.

The annual reports of child welfare authorities (*Signposts* 2004, pp.273-276) explain why children were sent to Koorana: 'The major referring problem is that the child's behaviour is such that he is unable to progress as well as his ability would allow in a normal school setting. Other relevant issues may be that his behaviour is excessively interfering with the progress of other children in his class, and that his formal learning is much below what could be expected.'

Children did not have to be in the 'care' of the child welfare authorities to be admitted to Koorana, but children who were wards of the State were given a 'slight preference'.

By 1986, when policies reflected the desire of authorities to let children remain in their 'natural community setting', children would only be admitted to Koorana if all other community-based options had been exhausted. By 1987, in response to a review of the McCall Centre programmes, the Koorana facility was closed and was replaced by a 'community-based preventive' program delivered through the McCall Centre.

Gallery



Koorana, Oscilloscope

Description: 'Koorana, Oscilloscope' is a digital copy of an image included (p.51) in the *Annual Report 1974* of the Department for Community Welfare. It shows a boy in a language skills development program. The caption reads, 'Koorana - using Oscilloscope for training speech volume and fluency'.



Koorana, speech recording

Description: 'Koorana, speech recording' is a digital copy of an image included (p.50) in the *Annual Report 1974* of the Department for Community Welfare. It shows a boy in a language skills development program. The caption reads, 'Koorana - using speech recording machine for immediate playback of voice reading'.



Koorana, listening

Description: 'Koorana listening' is a digital copy of an image included (p.50) in the *Annual Report 1974* of the Department for Community Welfare. It shows a boy in a language skills development program. The caption reads, 'Koorana - using recorded material for training sustained concentration and rapid response with interfering background noise'.



Koorana, exercise

Description: 'Koorana, exercise' is a digital copy of an image included (p.53) in the *Annual Report 1975* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'Children work to improve physical performance'.



Koorana, in class

Description: 'Koorana, in class' is a digital copy of an image included (p.52) in the *Annual Report 1975* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'Remedial teaching is done individually or in small groups. Children record their own performances.'



Koorana

Description: 'Koorana' is a digital copy of an image included (p.51) in the *Annual Report 1975* of the Department for Community Welfare.

More info

Chronology

- **Koorana (1974 – 1987)**
 - McCall Centre (1971 - 2005?)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)

Related Organisations

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