

Kyarra Hostel

1961 – 1984

Other Names: • Cue Education and Employment Hostel

Details

Kyarra Hostel, in Cue, was established in 1961 as a government-run Aboriginal education and employment hostel for primary school-age children who came from outstations and communities to the township of Cue. Some children were sent to Perth to continue their education at metropolitan high schools. Kyarra Hostel closed in 1984 and the property was transferred to the Aboriginal Lands Trust by 1987.

Government reports (*Signposts* 2004, pp.279-280) show that Kyarra Hostel was established on 7 May 1961 with a local management committee, the Kyarra Hostel Committee. However, it was funded as a Department of Native Welfare (DNW) hostel and the DNW was responsible for the welfare of children at Kyarra. In 1971, Kyarra had 66 primary-school age boys and girls living there. Older children were being transferred to the Pallottine Centre in Riverton for further education and training. In 1972, responsibility for Kyarra was transferred to the Department for Community Welfare (DCW) in accordance with government policy at that time.

In 1979 and 1980 (*Signposts* pp.279-280) the DCW gave some information about the children living at Kyarra: There were '46 children from Yarraquin Station; and the Geraldton, Meekatharra and Wiluna areas...The function of the Department hostel in caring for aboriginal children so that they may have regular schooling, is expanding to provide a back-up service for families who may wish to use the facility to provide an occasional meal, a laundry service and provide homework supervision. This is the need that some families have in making the transition into homes of their own in the local township. 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 1982, Kyarra Hostel was administered by the DCW'S field staff in its Murchison Division. By 1984, demand for places at Kyarra fell and the hostel closed in that year.

By 1987, the property that had been the Kyarra Hostel at Cue was formally transferred to the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

Gallery



Kyarra Hostel, swimming

Description: 'Kyarra Hostel, swimming' is a digital copy of an image included (p.38) in the *Annual Report 1978* of the Department for Community Welfare.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1955 - 1972\)](#)
Date: 1961 - 1972
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1984

Related Organisations

- [Pallottine Mission Centre \(1955 - 1991\)](#)
Kyarra Hostel sometimes transferred students to the Pallottine Centre to go to high school in Perth.

Resources

- Wilson, Katrin and Michael V. Robinson., *Aboriginal Hostels in Perth : A Comparative Survey*, 1971

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
 - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Aboriginal Affairs \(1908 - 1997\)](#)
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