

# Northam Cottage

1979 –

**Other Names:** • Centre Care Children's Home Northam

## Details

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Northam Cottages were three group Homes established by Centrecare Children's Cottages (1979-1992) and Djooraminda (from 1992) to accommodate Aboriginal children in family-type Homes. Children and young people aged up to 15 years were admitted, often in sibling groups, either referred by the department responsible for child welfare, or as private admissions. The Homes were open until at least 1994.

Northam Cottages were part of the group Homes established by Centrecare Children's Cottages from 1979 to 1980, to provide culturally-appropriate accommodation and support for Aboriginal children. When the cottages first opened, children were aged 0-5 years but by 1985 children aged 0-17 years were able to be admitted.

From at least 1983, possibly earlier, the Northam Cottages had Aboriginal cottage parents.

From 1985, Centrecare staff were concerned that children living at the Beverley and Brookton Cottages were facing discrimination in those smaller towns, and that there was a lack of local resources to adequately support young people who may have been placed there after time in detention, or after multiple other placements. Northam, a larger town with better resources, was seen as a more viable place to establish cottages. After the Brookton Cottage closed around 1988, those houseparents were transferred to one of the Northam Cottages.

In 1992, Centrecare Children's Cottages changed its name to Djooraminda and, by 1994, that agency had opened a new cottage at Northam.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Centrecare Children's Cottages \(1978 - 1992\)](#)  
Date: 1978 - 1992
- [Djooraminda \(1992 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1992 - ?

#### Related Organisations

- [Glendalough Cottage \(1990 - current\)](#)  
Children and young people may have been transferred from Northam Cottage to Glendalough Cottage.  
Date: 1990 - ?
- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 October 1992 - 1 July 1995\)](#)  
The Department for Community Development placed some children at Northam Cottages.  
Date: 1992 - 1995

## Resources

- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004
- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare](#), 1973 - 1984
- Butcher, Petrina, *Djooraminda*, West Australian social worker, 1997

## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [Centrecare, Centrecare Children's Cottages and Djooraminda, Records \(1978? - current\)](#)
  - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
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