

Nyandi

1970 – 1997

Other Names:

- Nyandi Treatment Centre
- Nyandi Girls' Treatment Centre
- Nyandi Training Centre
- Nyandi Juvenile Institution

Details

Nyandi was established by the Child Welfare Department in Bentley in 1970 as a maximum security female youth detention centre for up to 30 adolescent girls on a campus that included a 10-bed residential unit (Gwyn-lea). From 1986, Nyandi also admitted boys aged 12-14 years, and from 1989 young people on remand were admitted. In 1991, Nyandi became part of the Longmore Training Centre. Nyandi closed briefly in late 1992 and re-opened in February 1993, continuing to provide secure detention. The facility was transferred to the Ministry of Justice in 1993 and continued as a youth detention centre until 1997.

Nyandi was established as a detention centre for up to 30 teenage girls, with provision for academic, vocational and social skills training. From the outset staff at Nyandi, which was run by the government departments responsible for child welfare, were actively engaged in research on the methods of 'training and socialisation' that were most effective with the young women committed to the institution.

Not all girls were committed by the courts, according to government reports in the 1970s (*Signposts* 2004) with some residents being placed in Nyandi to access the specialised social training program offered there. 'Unacceptable behaviour in the community' was a common cause for admission. By 1980, Nyandi was a complex of accommodation options and programs that included the main 'secure unit' in Bentley, three residential hostels and what was described as a 'comprehensive after-care service'. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal girls were admitted.

In 1984, an inquiry into the treatment of juvenile offenders in Western Australia confirmed (*Signposts* 2004) that young women admitted to Nyandi fell into two 'categories': those who were classed as 'welfare preventive cases' – with behaviours that authorities believed would 'put a girl at risk'; and those who were 'offenders' with criminal convictions.

There were three hostels associated with Nyandi's secure complex, which was also known as Pineview or the 'Pineview Long Stay Programme'. Gwynne-Lea was situated in the grounds of Nyandi; Karingal was in Melville; and Watson Lodge (which by 1984 was non-residential), was in West Perth. From June 1986, boys aged 12 to 14 years were admitted to Nyandi's secure detention unit.

In its annual report for 1992 (p.117) the Department for Community Services reported that Nyandi had 'combined with' the Longmore Training Centre in October 1991. The 1993 annual report of the Department for Community Development (p.75) shows that Nyandi closed briefly in late 1992 and re-opened in February 1993.

On 1 July 1993, Nyandi (along with other youth justice institutions) became the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

Nyandi closed in October 1997. The Office of the Inspector for Custodial Services (2002, p.9) said that the buildings were 'deemed inappropriate for young female offenders', who were transferred to the new youth detention facility, Banksia Hill.

Nyandi was then, according to a 2004 report (Salomone, p.2), 'mothballed' but was re-opened by the Ministry of Justice as a prison for adult women on 14 December 1998.

Gallery



Nyandi, typing class

Description: 'Nyandi, typing class' is a digital copy of an image included (p.56) in the *Annual Report 1975* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'Learning typing skills'.



Nyandi, learning materials

Description: 'Nyandi, learning materials' is a digital copy of an image included (p.56) in the *Annual Report 1975* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'Selecting a programmed teaching kit'.



Nyandi, research

Description: 'Nyandi, research' is a digital copy of an image included (p.55) in the *Annual Report 1975* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'On going Evaluation and Research'.

More info

Chronology

- **Nyandi (1970 – 1997)**
 - Banksia Hill Detention Centre (1997 - current)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)
- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 October 1992 - 1 July 1995\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Karingal \(1966 - 1974?\)](#)

The building that had been Karingal, Education Hostel was later used as an annexe of Nyandi.
- [Watson Lodge \(1967 - 1984\)](#)

Watson Lodge became associated with Nyandi from 1976, offering supported accommodation in the community.

Date: 1976 - 1984

- [Gwynne Lea \(1970 - 1997?\)](#)
Gwynne Lea was located in the grounds of the secure detention centre, Nyandi.
Date: 1970 - 1997
- [Karingal \(Nyandi Annexe\) \(1976 - 1989?\)](#)
Karingal (Nyandi Annexe) was part of the youth justice system operated by Nyandi. Karingal was a residential community annexe of Nyandi.
Date: 1976 - 1989?
- [Pineview \(1980s\)](#)
Pineview was the name of Nyandi's secure unit, and was also the name of the program of 'treatment' offered to young women who were accommodated there.
Date: 1970 - 1980s
- [Longmore Training Centre \(1983 - 1993\)](#)
Nyandi was administered as part of the Longmore Training Centre from 1991. YEARS = 1991-1993
- [Longmore Detention Centre \(1993 - 1997\)](#)
Nyandi was administered as part of the Longmore Detention Centre.
Date: 1993 - 1997

Resources

- Atkinson, Lynn, [An overview of juvenile detention in Australia](#), National Conference on Juvenile Detention: Proceedings of a conference held 10-13 August 1993, 1994
- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare](#), 1973 - 1984
- Western Australia. Child Welfare Department, [Annual Report of the Child Welfare Department](#), 1928 - 1972
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
- Hetherington, Penelope, [Reformatories](#), Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, 2009
- WINGS (Inc), [Submission No 259 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), August 2003

Records

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

Records

- [Youth Justice Records \(July 1994 - current\)](#)
 - [Records of Nyandi Training Centre \(1970 - 1992\)](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/nyandi/>