

Oolanyah Hostel

1970? – 1993?

Other Names: • Marble Bar Hostel

Details

Oolanyah Hostel, in Marble Bar, was established before 1971 as a government-run Aboriginal education and employment hostel for school-age children who came from outstations and communities to Marble Bar to go to school. At first, Oolanyah was for primary school students, but by 1987 only high school students were admitted. Oolanyah closed around 1993.

Government reports (*Signposts* 2004, pp.398-399) show that Oolanyah was a Department of Native Welfare hostel that in 1971 had 36 primary-school age children living there. In 1972, responsibility for Oolanyah was transferred to the Department for Community Welfare (DCW) in accordance with government policy at that time.

In 1979 the DCW (*Signposts* p.399) gave some information about the children living at Oolanyah: There were '30 children from Boodarie, Pippingarra and Indee Stations; the Spare Hill Tin Mine; and the Roebourne, Port Hedland, Nullagine and Pilgangara areas'.

By 1987, Oolanyah, along with other country hostels, reportedly (*Signposts* p.399) admitted only 'senior students' and it was a policy to ensure that Aboriginal staff were employed to work in the hostel.

Oolanyah had closed by 1994, possibly in 1993.

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 \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
- [Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1994\)](#)
- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)
- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 October 1992 - 1 July 1995\)](#)
Date: 1992 - 1993?

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

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