

Shiloh

c. 1949 – 1963

Details

Shiloh, in Broomehill, south of Katanning, was a farm school for up to 16 boys who were wards of the State, referred by the Child Welfare Department. It was run independently by Mr and Mrs Beeck on their farm, 'Langwell'. Boys went to school on the property. Shiloh's aim was to reform 'delinquent' boys through long-term placements and the development of farm skills. Shiloh closed in 1963.

In a 1963 education thesis (p.65), Lawrence Whitmore described Shiloh in some detail. The home, he wrote was large, with 'numerous bedrooms' and the property was completely unfenced, so that there was 'no physical force barring an inmate's escape, if he wishes to make such a move'. The boys who were placed at Shiloh by child welfare authorities were all considered to be 'delinquent'.

According to Whitmore (pp.69-70) 53 boys had been sent to Shiloh in the ten years since it opened, there had rarely been more than 16 boys housed there at any one time, and some boys had been there for more than eight years.

Shiloh was run by Mrs Beeck on what Whitmore (pp.70-77) described as Christian principles, being: companionship (friendliness); acceptance; security ('the majority of those sent to Shiloh know what it is to feel insecure'); disciplining, consisting of 'reasonable limits', 'consistent application', 'punishment...is designed to fit the offender and the offence', and 'self control'; faith, including 'morals and religion'. It was a Protestant organisation, but accepted children from all denominations.

Boys attended a school on site and were actively engaged in all aspects of farm work.

Shiloh closed in 1963.

National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

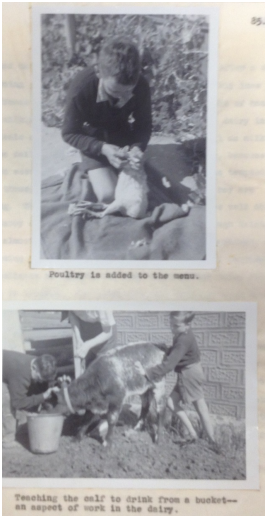
In 2021, the Western Australian government has agreed to be a funder of last resort for this institution. This means that although the institution is now defunct, it is participating in the National Redress Scheme, and the government has agreed to pay the institution's share of costs of providing redress to a person (as long as the government is found to be equally responsible for the abuse a person experienced).

Gallery



The Shiloh Home, viewed from the North

Description: This is an image of the Shiloh Home published in Lawrence Whitmore's 'The Problem Child at Shiloh'. It shows a single-storey pink house with a row of tall flowers and sheep standing in front of it.



Shiloh, boys working

Description: These are two images of boys working at the Shiloh Home, which were published in Lawrence Whitmore's 'The Problem Child at Shiloh'. The top image shows a boy kneeling on the ground and plucking a chicken. The caption reads 'Poultry is added to the menu'. The bottom image shows three boys guiding a calf towards a bucket, which it is drinking from. The caption for this image reads 'Teaching the calf to drink from a bucket - an aspect of work in the dairy.'

More info

Related Entries

Related Organisations

- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)
All children placed at Shiloh College were referred by the Child Welfare Department.

Resources

- [Schoolboy Fatally Injured; Road Smash Near Broomehill](#), Great Southern Herald, 21 September 1951
- [At Langwell](#), Western Mail, 11 August 1949

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/shiloh/>