

# Wanslea

1947 – 1984

**Other Names:**

- Wanslea Children's Home
- Wanslea Hostel
- Wanslea Hostel for the Care of Children of Sick Mothers
- Wanslea

## Details

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Wanslea was established as a Home for young children in Cottesloe. It was run by a private management committee, taking private admissions. By the 1960s, children who were wards were also sent to Wanslea and in the 1980s, school-age children were placed there. From 1985 the model of 'care' changed from orphanage-style accommodation to cottage care and fostering, which Wanslea continues, for children aged 0-12 years.

Wanslea was established by the Wanslea Hostel Committee as a large Children's Home in Cottesloe. It inherited the assets of the earlier Wanslea Hostel at 30 Bulwer Street, North Perth (Mt Lawley), which had closed six months after the end of World War II.

Wanslea occupied the building in Cottesloe that had previously been the Independent Order of Oddfellows Orphanage (1905-1940) and the Lady Mitchell Convalescent Home for soldiers (1940-1946).

Between 1947 and 1985, when fostercare was introduced, Wanslea had focused on providing temporary accommodation for children who could not live at home with family, often due to the illness of children's mothers.

In 1984, Wanslea moved from the Cottesloe site to new premises. Residential cottages were established at first in Mosman Park and then elsewhere in the metropolitan area, and in country WA.

Wanslea has received government funding from the department responsible for child welfare throughout its existence.

## Gallery

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**Wanslea Children's Home**

**Description:** 'Wanslea Children's Home' is a digital copy from a collection of photocopies of images held by the State Library of Western Australia in its collection, 'Photographs relating to Florence Hummerston and her work [picture]'. The caption reads: 'Wanslea Children's Home c.1944'. However, based on the building's appearance, it is likely that this image comes from Wanslea Children's Home at Cottesloe (1947-1984) rather than the Wanslea Hostel at 30 Bulwer Street (1943-1946).

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### Group of children at Wanslea

**Description:** 'Group of children at Wanslea' is a digital copy from a collection of photocopies of images held by the State Library of Western Australia in its collection, 'Photographs relating to Florence Hummerston and her work [picture]'. The caption is dated 1944. However, it is unknown whether this image comes from the Wanslea Hostel at 30 Bulwer Street (1943-1946) or the Wanslea Children's Home at Cottesloe (1947-1984). The child-size furniture is a feature of this image.

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### Children running 3-legged race, Wanslea

**Description:** 'Children running 3-legged race, Wanslea' is a digital copy from a collection of photocopies of images held by the State Library of Western Australia in its collection, 'Photographs relating to Florence Hummerston and her work [picture]'. The caption does not give a date, but it is adjacent to other images from the 1940s. It is unknown whether this image comes from the Wanslea Hostel at 30 Bulwer Street (1943-1946) or the Wanslea Children's Home at Cottesloe (1947-1984).

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Wanslea Hostel (1943 - 1946)
  - **Wanslea (1947 – 1984)**

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Wanslea Family Services \(1946 - current\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)  
The Child Welfare Department placed children at Wanslea, and provided funding for its operations.  
Date: 1947 - 1972
- [Women's Australian National Service \(June 1940 - current\)](#)
- [Wanslea \(1945 - 1946\)](#)

### Resources

- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
- James, Ruth Marchant and Cownie, Stewart, *Heritage of pines : a history of the town of Cottesloe Western Australia*, 1977
- [Education: Aborigines Living away from home](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 6 November 1973

## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [Wanslea Family Services Records, Wanslea Family Services \(1940s - 2004\)](#)
  - [Photographs relating to Florence Hummerston and her work \[picture\] \(1939 - 1968\)](#)
  - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
  - [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/wanslea-2/>