

Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia

1972 – 1985

Details

The Department for Community Welfare was established in 1972, and was the key government organisation responsible for child welfare in Western Australia. It took over the Child Welfare Department and the responsibilities to Aboriginal children held by the Department of Native Welfare and Commissioner of Native Welfare. The Department for Community Welfare was replaced by the Department of Community Services in 1985.

Under the Child Welfare Act Amendment Act (No. 2) 1972 the functions of the Child Welfare Department were transferred to the Department of Community Welfare.

In the same year, the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act of 1972 repealed the Native Welfare Act 1963 and the remaining functions of the Department of Native Welfare, including the responsibilities to Aboriginal children held by the Commissioner of Native Welfare, were transferred to the Department of Community Welfare from 1 July 1972.

The functions of the Department for Community Welfare, as defined by the Community Welfare Act 1972 included: promoting individual and family welfare in the community; to conduct, promote and encourage programmes of training or rehabilitation; and, to provide assistance when the welfare of any individual, family or group is threatened or in jeopardy.

The Department for Community Welfare was abolished and its name changed to the Department for Community Services on 1 January 1985.

Gallery



Department for Community Welfare, Logo

Description: 'Department for Community Welfare, Logo' is a digital copy of an image from the front page of the *Annual Report 1976* of the Department for Community Welfare.



Port Kennedy Beach Camp

Description: 'Port Kennedy Beach Camp' is a digital copy of an image included (p.48) in the *Annual Report 1979* of the Department for Community Welfare. The caption reads, 'Boys constructing an obstacle course at Port Kennedy beach camp'.

More info

Chronology

- Commissioner of Native Welfare (1954 - 1972)
- Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia (22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972)
- Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia (1955 - 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)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Kalgoorlie Child Welfare Cottage \(1930s - c. 1978\)](#)
- [Bennett House \(1952 - 1981\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1981
- [McDonald House \(1952 - 1985?\)](#)
- [Tudor Lodge \(1952 - 2003\)](#)
- [Derby Hostel \(1956 - 1994\)](#)
Date: 1976 - 1985
- [Fitzroy Crossing Hostel \(1956? - 1976\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1976
- [Katukutu Employment Hostel \(1958 - 1982?\)](#)
The Department for Community Welfare ran Katukutu Employment Hostel from 1974 to at least 1982 and possibly longer.
Date: 1974 - 1982?
- [St Joseph's Hostel \(1959 - 1986\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1986
- [Riverbank \(1960 - 1996\)](#)
- [Gilliamia Hostel \(1961 - 1990\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1985
- [Kyarra Hostel \(1961 - 1984\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1984
- [Warrambo Hostel \(1961 - 1980\)](#)
- [Charles Perkins Hostel \(1962 - 2000?\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1985
- [Stuart House \(1963 - 1988?\)](#)
- [Weeriana Hostel \(1964 - current\)](#)
- [Longmore Remand and Assessment Centre \(1965 - 1993?\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1985
- [Kyewong Hostel \(1967? - 2002?\)](#)
Date: 1975? - 1985
- [Moorgunyah Hostel \(1967 - 1996?\)](#)
- [Nabberu Hostel \(1967? - 1988\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1985
- [Watson Lodge \(1967 - 1984\)](#)
- [Fourteen \(1968 - 1979\)](#)
- [Bridgewater Care and Assessment Centre \(1969 - 1983\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1983
- [Hillston, Stoneville \(1969 - 1984\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1984
- [Millen Street Hostel \(1970? - 1995?\)](#)
Date: 1974? - 1985
- [Gwynne Lea \(1970 - 1997?\)](#)

- [Kartanup \(1970 - 1984\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1984
- [Nyandi \(1970 - 1997\)](#)
- [Oceanview \(1970 - 1995?\)](#)
- [Oolanyah Hostel \(1970? - 1993?\)](#)
- [Bedford Hostel \(1971 - 27 February 2009\)](#)
Date: 1972? - 1985
- [Hamilton Hill Hostel \(1971 - 1994?\)](#)
- [McCall Centre \(1971 - 2005?\)](#)
- [Medina Education and Employment Hostel \(1971? - 1983\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1983
- [Nindeebai Education Hostel \(1971? - 1984\)](#)
- [Warramia Group Home \(1972 - 2004?\)](#)
- [Bulungurr Hostel \(1973 - 1985?\)](#)
- [Geraldton Boys' Employment Hostel \(1973? - 1979\)](#)
- [Myera House \(1973 - 2005?\)](#)
- [Warralea \(1973 - 1986\)](#)
- [Mt Lawley Reception Home \(1973 - 1980\)](#)
- [Canowindra \(1974? - 2013?\)](#)
Date: 1974? - 1985
- [Koorana \(1974 - 1987\)](#)
- [Darlington Cottage \(1974 - 1977\)](#)
- [Bridgetown Group Home \(1976 - 1980\)](#)
- [Fitzroy Crossing Group Homes \(1976 - 1987?\)](#)
- [Kalgoorlie Hostel \(1976 - 1993?\)](#)
- [Karingal \(Nyandi Annexe\) \(1976 - 1989?\)](#)
- [Kewdale House \(1976? - 2011?\)](#)
- [Darlington Cottage \(1977 - 1983\)](#)
- [Port Hedland Group Home \(1977 - 1983?\)](#)
- [Geraldton Group Home \(1977 - 1981\)](#)
- [Albany Group Home \(1978? - current\)](#)
- [Koolingar-Mia Group Home, Collie \(1978 - 1992\)](#)
Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia managed Koolingar-Mia Group Home, Collie jointly with the Collie Welfare Council.
Date: 1983 - 1985
- [Derby Group Home \(1979 - 1984?\)](#)
- [South Hedland Group Home \(1979 - 2000?\)](#)
- [Goldfields Group Home \(1980? - 1987?\)](#)
- [Northam Group Home \(1980 - 2005?\)](#)
- [Victoria Park \(Riverbank\) Annexe \(1980 - 1984?\)](#)
- [Walcott Centre \(1980 - 1984\)](#)
Date: 1980 - 1984
- [Westview \(1981 - current\)](#)
- [Ngangganawili Group Home \(1981 - 1982?\)](#)
- [Darlot Street Hostel, Meekatharra \(1981? - 1987?\)](#)
- [Longmore Hostel \(1982 - 1985\)](#)
Date: 1982 - 1985
- [Andrew House \(1983 - 1984\)](#)
Date: 1983 - 1984
- [Doubleview Group Home \(1983 - 1990s\)](#)
- [Longmore Training Centre \(1983 - 1993\)](#)
Date: 1983 - 1985
- [Meekatharra Hostel \(1983? - 2005?\)](#)
Date: 1983? - 1985
- [Chesterfield House, Rockingham Youth External Accommodation Project \(1983 - current\)](#)
The Department for Community Welfare established and ran Chesterfield House, Rockingham Youth External Accommodation Project, in partnership with the local community

Date: 1983 - 1985

- [Cawley House \(1983 - 1984\)](#)

Date: 1983 - 1984

- [Medina Hostel \(1983 - 1990?\)](#)
- [Laverton Hostel \(1984 - 1994\)](#)
- [Warminda \(1984 - 1993?\)](#)

Related Events

- [Child Abuse Review Panel, Western Australia \(May 1984 - July 1985\)](#)

The Department was represented on the Child Abuse Review Panel.

Related Organisations

- [Beagle Bay Mission \(1895 - 1976\)](#)

- [Lombadina \(1909 - 1975\)](#)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare, was the legal guardian of any children at Lombadina who were deemed 'native wards' or 'wards of the state'.

Date: 1972 - 1975

- [Mount Margaret Mission \(1921 - 1975\)](#)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare, was the legal guardian of all Aboriginal children at Mount Margaret Mission.

- [Warburton Mission \(1933 - 1977\)](#)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of children at Warburton Mission who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.

Date: 1972 - 1977

- [Sister Kate's Children's Cottage Home \(1934 - 1980\)](#)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of children at Sister Kate's Children's Cottage Home who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.

Date: 1972 - 1976

- [Norseman Mission \(1935 - 1985\)](#)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of children at Norseman Mission who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.

- [Wandering Mission \(1944 - 1979\)](#)

The Chief Executive Officer for the Department for Community Welfare, was the guardian of any children at Wandering Mission who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.

- [Carnarvon Mission \(1945 - 1975?\)](#)

- [Pallottine Mission, Tardun \(1948 - 2004\)](#)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia was the guardian of any children at Pallottine Mission, Tardun who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.

Date: 1972 - 1984

- [La Grange Mission \(1955 - 1984\)](#)

- [Ngal-a Mothercraft Home and Training Centre Inc \(1956 - 1989\)](#)

The Department for Community Welfare placed young children under the age of six years at Ngal-a Mothercraft Home and Training Centre Inc (Ngala) and, until 1980 when Ngala ceased its involvement in adoption, may also have placed young expectant mothers there.

- [Fairhaven Hostel \(1965 - 1987\)](#)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of any children at Fairhaven Hostel who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.

Date: 1972 - 1985

- [Gnowangerup Agricultural College \(1966 - 2005\)](#)

The Department for Community Welfare placed teenagers at the Gnowangerup Agricultural College (or School).

- [Applecross Cottage \(1970 - 1986?\)](#)

Applecross Cottage was run by a Church agencies under agreement with the Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia.

Date: 1972 - 1985

- [Bamburra Hostel \(1970 - current\)](#)

- [Wollaston \(1973 - 1995?\)](#)
- [Gilead Boys' Home \(1973? - 1980?\)](#)
The Department for Community Welfare placed children at Gilead Boys' Home.
- [Pukulari Cottage \(1974 - 1984\)](#)
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare, was guardian of any children at Pukulari Cottage who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'
- [Catherine House, Broome \(1975 - 1991?\)](#)
The Department for Community Welfare provided financial support for Catherine House.
- [Roelands Village \(1975 - 1984\)](#)
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of any children at Roelands Village who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.
Date: 1975 - 1984
- [Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care \[and Interim Committee\] \(28 January 1977 - 1993\)](#)
The Consultative Committee on Residential Child Care reviewed and evaluated residential child care facilities that were subsidised by the Department for Community Welfare.
Date: 1977 - 1985
- [Kurrawang Cottage, Boulder \(1977 - 1988\)](#)
The Chief Executive Officer of the Department for Community Welfare was the guardian of any children at Kurrawang Cottage, Boulder who were deemed to be 'native wards' or 'wards of the State'.
- [Yandeyarra Station \(1978? - 1983?\)](#)
The Department for Community Welfare placed male and female Aboriginal teenagers at Yandeyarra Station.
Date: 1978? - 1983?
- [Millijiddie Station \(1981 - 1981?\)](#)
The Department for Community Welfare placed Aboriginal teenage boys at Millijiddie Station.
- [Strelley Station \(1981? - 1983?\)](#)
Department for Community Welfare placed male and female Aboriginal teenagers at Strelley Station.
- [Adoption Services, Child Protection and Family Support \(1994? - current\)](#)
Past Adoption Information and Services can assist people who are looking for information about adoptions arranged by the Department for Community Welfare.

Related Legislation

- [Child Welfare Act 1947, Western Australia \(1948 - 2006\)](#)
- [Community Welfare Act 1972, Western Australia \(1972 - 2006\)](#)
The Department for Community Welfare was created by the *Community Welfare Act 1972*.
- [Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972, Western Australia \(1972 - current\)](#)
The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972 abolished the role of Commissioner of Native Welfare and his Department of Native Welfare, and the remaining responsibilities to Aboriginal children were taken over by the Department for Community Welfare.
- [Adoption of Children Amendment Act 1976, Western Australia \(1976 - 1995\)](#)

Related Concepts

- [Aboriginal Protection in Western Australia \(c. 1832 - c. 1972\)](#)

Resources

- [Keith Maine interviewed by John Bannister in the Bringing them home oral history project \(1999\)](#), 31 March 1999
- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare, 1973 - 1984](#)
- [Aboriginal History](#), State Records Office of Western Australia website, 2012
- [Western Australian Government Gazette No. 71](#), Western Australian Government Gazette Online Archive, 18 November 1977
- [Western Australian Government Gazette No. 48](#), Western Australian Government Gazette Online Archive, 23 June 1972
- [Western Australian Government Gazette No. 35](#), Western Australian Government Gazette Online Archive, 10 June 1977

- [Western Australian Government Gazette No. 47](#), Western Australian Government Gazette Online Archive, 21 June 1972
- [Western Australian Government Gazette No. 1](#), Western Australian Government Gazette Online Archive, 3 January 1973
- Welfare and Community Services Review (W.A.) and Carter, Jan, *The wellbeing of the people : the final report of the Welfare and Community Services Review in Western Australia*, 1984
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
- Welsh, Anita, [Submission No 48 to the Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 2012
- Hassett, Lorraine, [Submission No 73 to the Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 2012
- [Community Welfare Child Life Protection Unit \[Hansard p592\]](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 19 August 1980. Relevance: Department for Community Welfare: The Child Life Protection Unit was a unit set up by the Department to investigate child abuse in the metropolitan area and support country area investigations
- Australian Bureau of Statistics and WELSTAT (Australia), *Persons under guardianship and children in substitute care, Australia*, 1979 - 1982

Records

Records held by other organisations

- [Records of the Department of Child Protection and Family Support, and predecessors \(1894 - current\)](#)
 - [Hillcrest Records \(1912 - 1974\)](#)
Date: 1972 - 1974
 - [Administration - DCW Instruction Manual \[Department for Community Welfare\], State Records Office of Western Australia \(9 February 1972 - 23 October 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
Files created by the Department for Community Welfare are held in this series at the State Records Office of WA.
 - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
Personal files from this series were transferred to the Department for Community Welfare in 1972 when it assumed 'control' of Aboriginal children from the Department of Native Welfare. The person files would be closed for up to 100 years.
 - [Files \(Aboriginal matters\) - Chief Secretary's Department \(1916 - 1927\)](#)
The records in this archival series were transferred to the Department for Community Welfare in 1972.
 - [Client Files, Child Protection and Family Support \[and its predecessors\] \(1921 - current\)](#)
 - [Family Information Research System \(1921 - current\)](#)
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