

Child Welfare Reception Home

1953 – 1972

Other Names:

- Child Welfare Receiving Home
- Child Welfare Department Reception Centre

Details

Child Welfare Reception Home was the new name given in 1953 to the Government Receiving Home in Mount Lawley. It gave temporary accommodation to children and young people who were: awaiting placement with foster parents or institutions; staying in Perth for medical or dental treatment; and referred from. Or awaiting appearances at, the Children's Court. In 1973 Child Welfare Reception Home became the Mt Lawley Reception Home.

The Child Welfare Reception Home in Mount Lawley was run by the Child Welfare Department. It had a number of functions. It was a temporary place for children coming into the child welfare system and who went on to placement in an institution or foster home. Children from the country who had no family in Perth might also stay there while they had medical or dental treatment in Perth. The Reception Home also took children who had been referred from the Children's Court, or who were awaiting a court appearance.

In 1954, the Child Welfare Reception Home was criticised by an academic study which found that the facilities were old, inappropriate and depressing; that there was too much (and unnecessary) use of solitary confinement, and that the treatment of juvenile offenders in the State was well behind modern standards of practice.

Gallery



Boys Behind Iron Bars

Description: This is a picture from a 1954 article in the *Sunday Times* newspaper titled 'Mt. Lawley Reception Home's Detention Methods Are Primitive - But They Have A Tough Job'. The picture shows the 'solitary confinement' wing of the Child Welfare Reception Home at Mt Lawley, where 'delinquent' children were housed. The article condemned this practice and called for better facilities.



Child Welfare Reception Home

Description: This is a picture from a 1954 article in the *Sunday Times* newspaper titled 'Mt. Lawley Reception Home's Detention Methods Are Primitive - But They Have A Tough Job'. It shows the Child Welfare Reception Home as it looked in 1954, on the corner of Walcott and Lord Streets Mt Lawley.



Reception Home doors, 1921

Description: 'Reception Home doors' is a digital image of a set of interior doors and panels that were saved during the restoration of the government 'reception Home' on the corner of Walcott and Lord Streets, Mt Lawley. The doors are mounted on a wall in the office of the old building, which in 2013 was the Youth Justice Services Centre.



Reception Home front door, 1921

Description: 'Reception Home front door' is a digital image of the stained glass panels that were saved during the restoration of the government 'reception Home' on the corner of Walcott and Lord Streets, Mt Lawley. The building in 2013 was the Youth Justice Services Centre.

More info

Chronology

- Government Receiving Home (1935 - 1952)
 - **Child Welfare Reception Home (1953 – 1972)**
 - Mt Lawley Reception Home (1973 - 1980)

Related Entries

Run by

- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)

Resources

- [Denis Hayden interviewed by Crienda Fitzgerald in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project](#), 2011
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
- Carruthers, Geoffrey, [Submission No 287 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 23 December 2003
- Foster, Darren J, [Submission No 347 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 3 April 2004
- Foster, Darren J, [She called her coral because it was 'a perfect pink day': The neglecting of Coral Suzanne Dickerson](#), Journal of Australian Studies, 1998
- Heritage Council of Western Australia, [Walcott Centre](#), inHerit: our heritage places, 8 February 2015
- [Child Welfare Act Amendment Bill Second Reading \[Hansard p2511-2512\]](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 17 November 1965
- [Address-in-Reply](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 20 July 1954. *Relevance:* 'Address-in-Reply' is a speech in the Legislative Council that refers to the system for juvenile offending in WA, including facilities at the Child Welfare Reception Home
- [Vote - Child Welfare and Outdoor Relief & pound271,655](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 23 November 1954. *Relevance:* 'Vote – Child Welfare and Outdoor Relief & pound271,655' outlines changes made and planned for the Child Welfare Reception Home

Records

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

Records held by other organisations

- [Admission Registers of the Government Receiving Home \[Walcott Street, Mt Lawley\] \(1894 - 1988\)](#)
 - [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 \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
 - [Files - Departmental \[Education Department\] \(1 January 1885 - 31 December 2000\)](#)
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