

Withnell House

1984? – 1987?

Details

Withnell House was a youth hostel in Mount Lawley run by the Salvation Army from about 1984. It took its name from the boys' hostel that had occupied the same building from 1953 to 1969. Around 1987, the boys resident there were transferred to Mirrabooka House.

The 2003 Compendium of Salvation Army Social Services *Soup-Soup-Salvation* states that the Salvation Army boys' hostel Withnell House (1952?- 1971) on Guildford Road, Mount Lawley, 'became used for another two decades for a variety of residential programmes for both male and female adolescents'.

The premises housed Withnell House Girls Home from 1969 to about 1972, and then became a cottage home for children called Cottesloe House until at least 1979. The building may have closed for some time before reopening in about 1984 as a boys' hostel.

A description of Withnell House written in the 1980s said that a youth hostel had run there since the 'beginning of 1984'. This suggests that Withnell House may have closed and re-opened over the years. In the 1984 program, residents were aged 15-18 years and Withnell House was staffed by three youth workers on a 24-hour roster.

Mostly, the purpose of Withnell House seems to have been providing a transition to 'independent living' for boys who were in education or employment. In 1987, the boys at Withnell House transferred to Mirrabooka House.

In 1993, youth services at Withnell House ceased and the facility was renamed 'Tanderra Hostel' for men. In 2013, Tanderra was being redeveloped to provide purpose-built short-term accommodation programs.

In 2014, Debra Rosser confirmed that 68 Guildford Road, Mount Lawley, the former address for Withnell House, had become a vacant block.

Gallery



Withnell House, 1970s

Description: 'Withnell House, 1970s' is a digital copy of a photograph that is held in the *Withnell House child home closed lever-arch* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The Salvation Army Heritage Museum's caption reads, 'The sign reads...The Salvation Army Youth Hostel - 1970's Withnell House Guildford Road, Mount Lawley WA'. However, it is likely that this photograph has been incorrectly dated - during the 1970s, this property at Buildford Road, Mount Lawley was not a youth hostel. It is more likely to date from the 1980s.

More info

Chronology

- **Withnell House (1984? – 1987?)**
 - Mirrabooka House (1987 - 1998)

Related Entries

Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Withnell House \(1952 - 1969?\)](#)

Withnell House took the name from the boys' home that had been located in the same building; Withnell House (1953? - 1969).
- [Cottesloe House \(1973? - 1979?\)](#)

Withnell House was located in the same premises that had been Cottesloe House.

Records

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

Records

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
 - [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
 - [Children's Homes Files, Western Australian Salvation Army Homes \(1897 - 2012\)](#)
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