

Hillview Child and Adolescent Clinic

1985? – 1995

Other Names:

- Hillview
- Hillview Hospital
- WE Robinson Unit
- Robinson Unit

Details

The Hillview Child and Adolescent Clinic, in East Victoria Park, was established around 1985 as a government-run psychiatric service for voluntary patients aged 8 to 18 years. It had three components: an outpatient clinic, a 6-bed residential unit known as the WE Robinson Unit, and a 12-bed residential unit known as Hillview Hospital. Hillview closed in 1995 and inpatient services were transferred to the WE Robinson Unit at Bentley Hospital.

The Hillview Child and Adolescent Clinic had three components: an outpatient clinic and two residential units – the Robinson Unit and Hillview Hospital. In a parliamentary debate in 1994 (*Hansard* 1 June 1994, p.756), Hillview was described at some length by the leader of the Opposition. The 'Robinson Unit' reportedly had six beds for 8-18 year olds with 'psychiatric disorders, who have anger management problems, and schooling problems associated with attention deficit disorder'. Children and young people at Robinson were described as possibly having 'low intelligence' but were 'not legally defined as intellectually handicapped'. Hillview Hospital, which was situated in the 'old Millen Hospital' had 12 beds for 13-18 year olds who had 'emotional disturbances related to sexual, physical and emotional abuse, grief issues, schooling difficulties, eating disorders' and 'suicidal tendencies'. Children and young people resident at Hillview were able to attend Kent Street Senior High School and the East Victoria Park and Victoria Park primary schools while they were in-patients. In 1994, the average length of stay at Hillview was four months. According to parliamentary debates (*Hansard* 30 March 1994, p.11070), Hillview was described in the report of the National Inquiry into the Human Rights of People with Mental Illness as a 'model service'.

A review of the Hillview Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services, which was tabled in the parliament of Western Australia, found (*Hansard* 28 September 1995, p.8862): 'evidence of: Rorts by nursing staff; poor record keeping; a dominant and inappropriate nursing culture; inappropriate out of hours contact between patients and staff; and inappropriate physical contact between patients and staff.' The clinic had been closed earlier in 1995, due to a 'lack of psychiatrists' according to the Minister for Health's speech when he tabled the review report. The Minister said the 'mess' identified in the review had 'only now been uncovered almost 10 years after it started'. The review (*Hansard* 24 October 1995, p.9813) did not recommend taking any disciplinary action against staff but one of the former psychiatrists at the clinic, Dr Ian McAlpine, was reported (*Hansard* 14 November 1995, p.10639) to have been deregistered by the Medical Board in Western Australia.

Residential child and adolescent psychiatric services were continued by the WE Robinson Unit at Bentley Hospital after Hillview was closed in 1995.

Gallery



Hillview 2013

Description: Hillview 2013 shows the front of the former Hillview Child and Adolescent Clinic as it looked in 2013. The photograph was taken by Joanne McCann-Payne.



Hillview from Albany Highway

Description: Hillview from Albany Highway shows the tree-lined driveway leading up to the former Hillview Child and Adolescent Clinic as it looked in 2013. The photograph was taken by Joanne McCann-Payne.



Hillview Staircase

Description: Hillview staircase shows the staircase that led up to first floor of the former Hillview Child and Adolescent Clinic as it looked in 2013. The photograph was taken by Joanne McCann-Payne.



Hillview Opening Plaque

Description: Hillview opening plaque shows that the official opening of the former Hillview Child and Adolescent Clinic took place on 1 June 1984. It is likely that the clinic had been in operation for some time before the opening ceremony. The photograph of the plaque, which remains on the wall of the building, was taken by Joanne McCann-Payne.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Health Department, State Government of Western Australia \(1984 - current\)](#)

Resources

- Douglas, Neil F, *Report of investigation under Section 7 of the Mental Health Act 1962 : aspects of the provision of child and adolescent psychiatric services at the Hillview Terrace site*, 1995
 - *Hillview Terrace Hospital - description of the W. Robinson Unit and their work assisting children with emotional problems*, Headway, 1989
 - [Report of the National Inquiry into the Human Rights of People With Mental Illness](#), 1993
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