

# Giles House Juvenile Detention and Training Centre

1978 – 1991

**Other Names:**

- Giles House
- Giles House Detention Centre
- Assessment, Training and Security Facility
- Assessment, Training and Holding Facility

## Details

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Giles House Juvenile Detention and Training Centre was opened by the government in Alice Springs in 1978. It operated as a secure detention and training facility for young people who had committed offences. It provided accommodation for up to 27 young people, many of whom were Aboriginal. Giles House closed in 1991 when the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre in Darwin was opened. Young people on remand and sentenced were then sent to Darwin. Giles House reopened under new management as Aranda House in 1993-1994.

Giles House was opened by the Department of Community and Social Development of the Northern Territory Government at Kempe Street in Alice Springs in 1978. It was the first juvenile detention centre in the Northern Territory. In planning documents it was originally referred to as the Assessment, Training and Security Facility in Alice Springs. The purpose of the facility was described in a 1977 departmental planning document as follows:

*This facility will cater for juveniles who are awaiting sentences or who have been sentenced by the Court and are committed to the care of the Director of Child Welfare. The facility will hold twenty juveniles but actual numbers cannot be predicted as the number of inmates depends on Court decisions.*

The aim of Giles House was to ensure that young people who had committed crimes did not go to an adult prison but were instead housed separately. The Centre, which from the 1980s also ran life skills and education programs, was intended to accommodate up to 25 juveniles. However, between July 1984 and August 1985 the number of residents ranged widely from 9 to 27. Of these residents, eighty percent were Aboriginal with one third being from Groote Eylandt. These young people were almost entirely cut off from family during their time in Alice Springs. Others committed to the Home came from remote Central Australian communities.

Giles House closed in 1991 when the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre in Darwin was opened. From that year young offenders from the southern part of the Northern Territory, both those on remand and those sentenced, were sent to this more secure facility.

Giles House reopened as Aranda House in 1993-1994, operating under new management with different services and programs.

## Gallery



**Giles House**



**Giles House**

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Department of Community and Social Development, Northern Territory Government \(1977 - 1978\)](#)  
Date: 1978 -
- [Department of Community Development, Northern Territory Government \(1978 - 1987\)](#)  
Date: 1978 - 1986
- [Department of Correctional Services, Northern Territory Government \(1984 - 1987\)](#)  
Date: 1986 - 1987
- [Department of Health and Community Services - Correctional Services, Northern Territory Government \(1987 - 1989\)](#)  
Date: 1987 - 1989
- [Department of Correctional Services, Northern Territory Government \(1989 - 2001\)](#)  
Date: 1989 - 1991

#### Related Organisations

- [Her Majesty's Gaol and Labour Prison, Alice Springs \(1938 - 1996\)](#)  
After 1978 the majority of young offenders were placed at Giles House instead of being held in Her Majesty's Gaol and Labour Prison in Alice Springs.
- [Malak House Juvenile Detention Centre \(1987 - 1991\)](#)  
Giles House and Malak House closed in 1991 and young offenders from both centres were sent to the Don Dale Detention Centre.
- [Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre \(1991 - current\)](#)  
When Giles House Juvenile Detention and Training Centre closed, all young offenders from Alice Springs went to the Don Dale Detention Centre in Darwin

### Resources

- Atkinson, Lynn, [An overview of juvenile detention in Australia](#), National Conference on Juvenile Detention: Proceedings of a conference held 10-13 August 1993, 1994
- [Key moments in Penal Culture in the Northern Territory 1970 - present](#), The Australian Prisons Project, 2012

## Records

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

### Records held by other organisations

- [Correctional Services records, Northern Territory Government \(1970s - current\)](#)
  - [WB Receiving Home - Alice Springs - Bradshaw House \(1964 - 1971\)](#)
  - [Children's Registers \(1951 - 1999\)](#)
  - [General Administration Files, Annual Single number series with "N" prefix, Department of Community Development](#)
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