

# Minali Receiving and Assessment Centre

1975 – 1998

**Other Names:**

- Minali
- Minali Receiving Home

## Details

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Minali Receiving and Assessment Centre was established at Lidcombe by the Department of Youth and Community Services in 1975, in response to overcrowding at the Bidura and Royleston shelters in Glebe. It was cottage care, for boys and girls, and was intended to enable children of the same family to be housed together. Following a decision by the Minister for Community Services, Minali closed in 1998.

Minali was officially opened by the New South Wales Premier, Tom Lewis, on 21 March 1975.

Minali was designed as a 'complex of cottage homes' rather than a single establishment. The Annual Report of the Youth and Community Services Department of 1974 described the idea behind the new centre as supplementing the single- sex receiving homes then existing in Glebe.

*this new facility will ensure that children of the same family can be housed together and the ties of family relationships maintained during this very critical period in their lives.*

In 1996 a group of six young children absconded from Minali, making it as far as the Central Coast before they were caught. One reported she had been sexually assaulted at the Centre. Supreme Court action was taken by the Department of Community Services to prevent broadcast of any material relating to the children.

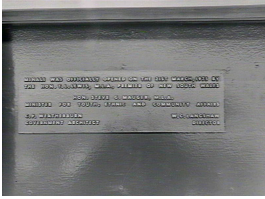
It seems that this case prompted the then Minister for Community Services, Ron Dyer, to close the Centre. In November 1997 Ron Dyer, told the Parliament 'I took a decision for good and well understood reasons to close both the Ormond and Minali institutions.' According to *Hansard*:

*They will close at such time as there are no longer any children receiving services within them. Ormond and Minali are congregate care centres. They are being closed to provide smaller community-based or family setting accommodation for children who are in need of State care. Worldwide developments in substitute care support the move away from institutional settings for young people who, I would remind the House, have done nothing wrong – they have not offended against the criminal law – but are in need of State care. The redesign and relocation of Ormond and Minali are occurring in a staged manner with both institutions to be closed during 1998. However, current services will not close before new service arrangements are in place to better meet the individual needs of these young people.*

Minali closed in 1998. It and Ormond were the last residential care institutions operated by the Department of Community Services.

## Gallery

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### Opening of Minali, by the Hon. T.L. Lewis, Premier of NSW

**Description:** This image shows a plaque which describes when Minali Receiving and Assessment Centre official opened and by whom.

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### Opening of Minali, by the Hon. T.L. Lewis, Premier of NSW

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Department of Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1992 - 2009\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Ormond Regional Youth Centre \(1985 - 1998\)](#)

Ormond and Minali were the last residential care facilities operated by the Department of Community Services.

## Resources

- Boyle, Brian, *The Child Welfare Schools: Recollections of these unique schools and the men and women who taught in them often under considerable difficulty*, 1996

## Records

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

### Records

- [Departmental Records relating to State Wards, New South Wales \(1918 - current\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/minali-receiving-and-assessment-centre/>