

Endeavour House

1976 – 1990

Other Names:

- Tamworth Home for Boys
- Institution for Boys Tamworth

Details

Endeavour House was the name given to the former Institution for Boys, Tamworth in 1976, by the Department of Youth and Community Services, to indicate the institution had been improved and reformed. However Endeavour House was also a maximum-security juvenile detention centre for boys aged between 15 and 18 who had offended in other state institutions or were charged with serious crimes, and any improvements were slight. It closed in December 1989. The facility became, once more, an adult jail.

The Department of Community Services recorded in its 1978 Annual Report that the South Australian Royal Commission into the Administration of the Juvenile Courts Act assessed Endeavour House as:

... a successful experiment in resident/staff relationships, [that] gave the appearance of openness and normality, despite the very high brick wall.

The only real difference between Endeavour House and the former Tamworth Institution for Boys was that boys were allowed limited communications with each other, and some changes were made to their management.

Parramatta Girls Training School was also renamed in the 1970s, and the goal of the name changes for both institutions was to reduce some of the stigma associated with delinquent youths. In reality, Endeavour House remained a maximum security detention centre for young male offenders aged between 15 and 18 years.

Criminologist Christine Howlett has written that, by 1989, Endeavour House was 'a run-down centre whose antiquated facilities were notorious.' She has reviewed the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the files of coroners' inquests into the deaths of three inmates of the home. One occurred in 1987, and two shortly after a riot, on 28 September 1989, that led to boys being locked down in cells without toilet facilities. One of the boys involved in the riot committed suicide in the home, while another committed suicide in the adult gaol at Maitland, where he had been transferred.

The State Library holds a series of images of Endeavour House.

Gallery



Endeavour House, Tamworth youth corrective institution



Endeavour House, Tamworth youth corrective institution

Description: This image shows boys and staff sitting in a circle in the grounds of Endeavour House, Tamworth. This photograph is from the State Library of New South Wales collection and was taken on 25th of May 1977. Please note that the State Library of New South Wales collection includes more digitised photographs of Endeavour house, including pictures of boys, taken by the Government Printing Office in 1977.

More info

Chronology

- Institution for Boys, Tamworth (1948 - 1976)
 - **Endeavour House (1976 – 1990)**

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department of Youth and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1976 - 1988\)](#)
- [Department of Youth, Ethnic and Community Affairs, State Government of New South Wales \(1975 - 1976\)](#)
- [Department of Family and Community Services, State Government of New South Wales \(1988 - 1991\)](#)

Related Events

- [Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Commonwealth of Australia \(1987 - 1991\)](#)

The deaths of inmates in Endeavour House were reviewed by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Related Organisations

- [Mount Penang Training School for Boys \(1946 - 1987\)](#)

Boys who reoffended while they were in Mount Penang Training School for Boys were sent to its annexe, Endeavour House

Resources

- [Ken Buttrum interviewed by Gail Winkworth in the National Library of Australia's Children and the State oral history project \[sound recording\], 15 October 2009](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Institution for Boys, Tamworth and Endeavour House records, State Archives NSW \(1948 - 1989\)](#)
 - [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/endeavour-house/>