

# Westbrook Youth Centre

1987 – 1993

## Details

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The Westbrook Youth Centre, run by the government, was situated at Westbrook, 15 kilometres south west of Toowoomba. It was previously called the Westbrook Training Centre and in 1993 the name changed to the Westbrook Youth Detention Centre.

According to the 1999 report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions, 'the 1990s reflected an unstable and volatile period for Westbrook', due to management instability as well as regular changes to the departmental structure within which juvenile detention was managed (p.139).

The report stated that in the early 1990s: 'There were ... increasing concerns that the geographical isolation of Westbrook caused problems for parents and relatives wanting to visit detainees, and made transportation to and from courts and other services in Brisbane difficult. The utility of providing tuition in farming skills for a detainee population that was predominantly urban was also being questioned.'

Westbrook Youth Centre was mentioned in the Bringing Them Home Report (1997) as an institution that housed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children removed from their families.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Reformatory School for Boys, Lytton (16 February 1881 - 1 October 1899)
- Diamantina Reformatory School for Boys (1 October 1899 - 5 May 1900)
  - Westbrook Reformatory for Boys (5 May 1900 - 30 October 1919)
    - Farm Home for Boys, Westbrook (30 October 1919 - 26 May 1966)
      - Westbrook Training Centre (26 May 1966 - 1987)
- **Westbrook Youth Centre (1987 – 1993)**
  - Westbrook Youth Detention Centre (1993 - 30 June 1994)
  - Darling Downs Correctional Centre (1994 - 2012)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs Department, State Government of Queensland \(7 December 1989 - 25 January 1996\)](#)

Date: 1989 - 1993

## Resources

- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, [\*Bringing Them Home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families\*](#), 1997
- Atkinson, Lynn, [\*An overview of juvenile detention in Australia\*](#), National Conference on Juvenile Detention: Proceedings of a conference held 10-13 August 1993, 1994
- *Westbrook/ History of the centre*, Chronicle, 6 July 1994
- [\*Research Guide to orphanage and children's home records at Queensland State Archives\*](#), Queensland State Archives website, February 2022

## Records

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

### Records

- [Institution Files, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1871 - c. 2001\)](#)
  - [Administrative Records, Queensland Government-run Institutions \(c. 1865 - 2001\)](#)
  - [Record of Tetanus Injections Administered, Westbrook Training Centre and Westbrook Youth Centre \(1 November 1977 - 26 February 1990\)](#)
  - [Investigation Files \(Westbrook Training Centre\) \(23 May 1971 - 28 April 1994\)](#)
  - [Visiting Medical Officers' Journals - Westbrook \(18 February 1873 - 19 April 1990\)](#)
  - [History Papers - Westbrook \(22 February 1892 - 31 December 1992\)](#)
  - [Case History Cards \(Westbrook Reformatory\) \(5 May 1900 - 30 June 1994\)](#)
  - [Superintendent's Punishment Registers - Westbrook \(14 January 1924 - 17 June 1988\)](#)
  - [Administration Files, Westbrook \(1 January 1959 - 31 October 1994\)](#)
  - [Matron's Daily Report Books, Westbrook \(10 December 1968 - 2 October 1990\)](#)
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