

# Willowburn Mental Asylum

1867 – 1953

**Other Names:** • Benevolent Institution, Toowoomba

## Details

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The Willowburn Mental Asylum was situated at the corner of Hogg and Tor Streets, North Toowoomba. The institution was run by the State of Queensland. It opened in 1867 and was renamed Toowoomba Mental Hospital in 1953.

Evidence shows that children were inmates of Queensland mental institutions however more research is needed to find out about children placed at Willowburn Mental Asylum.

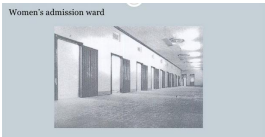
## Gallery

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**Benevolent Institution at Toowoomba, ca. 1902**

**Description:** The library catalogue includes this description: Many large buildings are contained in the grounds of the Asylum for the Insane.



**Women's Admission Ward**

**Description:** This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.



**General view of hospital - 1915**

**Description:** The image include the following caption: 1915 - General view of the Toowoomba Hospital for the Insane, showing the recreation hall and garden.



**Shower Stalls [Baillie Henderson]**

**Description:** This photo is undated, the date included is an estimate.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Willowburn Mental Asylum (1867 – 1953)

- Toowoomba Mental Hospital (1953 - 1968)
  - Baillie Henderson Hospital (1968 - current)

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Health and Home Affairs Department \(5 December 1935 - 26 September 1963\)](#)  
Date: 1935 - 1953
- [Colonial Secretary \(10 December 1859 - 6 August 1896\)](#)  
Date: 1867 - 1896
- [Home Secretary's Office \(6 August 1896 - 5 December 1935\)](#)  
Date: 1896 - 1935

### Related Legislation

- [Mental Hygiene Act of 1938, Queensland \(1938 - c. 1962\)](#)  
The Mental Hygiene Act of 1938 required the provision of more active treatment for the mentally ill. It also attempted to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness through the introduction of what was considered less offensive terms for the mentally ill.

## Resources

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, [Diana Mudgee: woman, mother, land owner, survivor](#), 2013
  - [Home for Mental Defectives](#), Courier Mail, 16 May 1934
  - [The Brighter Side of our Mental Hospitals](#), Queenslander, 18 November 1916
  - Hawcroft, Roger, [Restraint to recovery - asylum to acceptance: from Willowburn Lunatic Asylum to Baillie Henderson Hospital, 1890-2010](#), May 2012
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/willowburn-mental-asylum/>