

# Alvan House

1950 – 1961

## Details

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Alvan House was established in 1950 by the Department of Native Affairs to provide metropolitan accommodation for Aboriginal schoolgirls in Mount Lawley. In 1959, responsibility for running Alvan House passed to the Baptist Union and Aboriginal 'working boys' rather than female students, were accommodated. In 1961, Katukutu Employment Hostel moved into the premises.

Alvan House was established in 1950 with the personal support of the Commissioner for Native Affairs, Stanley Middleton. It was an Aboriginal education and employment hostel, with the purpose to provide hostel accommodation for 'near white' Aboriginal girls attending high school in Perth. There was a lot of community opposition to locating the hostel in Mt Lawley. The press was allowed access to Alvan House, and articles about the girls participating in community activities were not uncommon. It opened with the first residents in situ on 17 January 1951.

All residents of Alvan House were under the guardianship of the Commissioner for Native Welfare.

In 1959, responsibility for running Alvan House was passed to the Baptist Union and Aboriginal male students and young workers were accommodated instead of females. In 1961, the Katukutu Employment Hostel moved into the Alvan House premises. At that time, the house was described as having eight bedrooms for residents, a dining room, large kitchen, two toilets, and two bedrooms for houseparents.

## Gallery

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**Katukutu Aboriginal Young Men's Hostel, 28 Alvan Street, Mt Lawley, 1964**

**Description:** This is a digitised copy of slide and is part of the group of three images titled 'Katukutu Aboriginal Young Men's Hostel, 28 Alvan Street, Mt Lawley [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows the building that Katukutu Employment Hostel was in.

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## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Baptist Union of WA \(1896 - current\)](#)  
Date: 1959 - 1961
- [Department of Native Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1955 - 1972\)](#)  
Date: 1955 - 1959

- [Department of Native Affairs, State of Western Australia \(1936 - 1954\)](#)

Date: 1950 - 1954

### Related Organisations

- [Katukutu Employment Hostel \(1958 - 1982?\)](#)

Katukutu Employment Hostel moved into the premises previously known as Alvan House.

Date: 1961 -

## Resources

- [Rangers work together on a training task](#), The West Australian, 3 November 1952
- [Violet's one who may live in Mt. Lawley](#), The Daily News, 8 September 1950

## Records

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

### Records

- [Administration Files - Roebourne Office \[A.S.D. Sequence\] \(1951 - 1973\)](#)
  - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - South West District Office \[S.D. Sequence\] \(1949 - 1976\)](#)
  - [Administration Files - Eastern District Office \[E.D.G. Sequence\] \(1945 - 1975\)](#)
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