

Bamburra Hostel

1970 –

Other Names:

- Mt Yokine Education and Employment Hostel for Girls
- Bamburra House

Details

Bamburra Hostel opened in 1970 in Yokine. It was for Aboriginal teenage girls from remote areas attending high school and other education and training, although from 1994 (or possibly earlier) boys were also admitted. Bamburra was run by the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board from 1970 to 1984. Since then it has been run by the government departments responsible for child welfare. Bamburra remained open in 2013.

Bamburra Hostel was an Aboriginal Education and Employment Hostel. It opened in 1970 in Yokine for Aboriginal teenage girls from remote areas to stay during the school year so they could attend high school and other education and training. It was run by the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board from 1970 to 1984. In 1984, Bamburra was transferred to the Department for Community Welfare. Boys were admitted to Bamburra from 1994, possibly earlier.

Bamburra Hostel was run by the Churches of Christ from 1970 until 1984 under a formal agreement with the Department of Community Welfare, providing for girls attending secondary schooling and tertiary studies. Officials from the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board (CCFAMB) reported in 2004 that Bamburra accommodated female students from all parts of Western Australia, most of whom were in receipt of Commonwealth Secondary Grants. It was a policy of the CCFAMB that these young people kept up regular contact their families and returned home for school holidays.

In 1975, Bamburra Hostel was described as providing short term care for 'secondary school girls in a hostel-like setting', the average length of stay being nine months. The hostel at this time was reported as being a brick building that was 'integrated into the community'. Bamburra Hostel had a garden with a swimming pool, seven bedrooms (five doubles and two bedrooms which could sleep three or more girls), a lounge room, dining room, four bathrooms and toilets; and various amenities including television and piano. The young people walked or took a bus to their schools and home lunches were provided. Holiday activities included camping trips. (Department of Child Welfare Submission to the Committee of Enquiry into Residential Child Care, July 1976, reported in *Signposts*, 2004).

The CCFAMB ceased managing Bamburra Hostel from 1984 and the Department for Community Development assumed responsibility.

In October 1994, the Department for Community Development reported that there were 7 boys aged 15-18+ years resident at Bamburra House and the length of stay ranged from 1 week to more than 6 months. Bamburra remained open in 2013.

Gallery



Bamburra exterior

Description: Bamburra exterior' is a digital copy of an image held by Global Mission Partners in the Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Photographs collection. As described by historian Deslee Moyle, the image dates from the 1970s.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board \(Inc\) \(1942 - 2009\)](#)
Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Inc ran Bamburra Hostel under an agreement with the Department for Community Welfare.
Date: 1970s - 1984
- [Department for Child Protection, State of Western Australia \(1 July 2007 - 16 May 2013\)](#)
- [Department for Child Protection and Family Support, State of Western Australia \(27 May 2013 - July 2017\)](#)
- [Child Protection and Family Support, State of Western Australia \(July 2017 - current\)](#)
- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 October 1992 - 1 July 1995\)](#)
- [Department for Family and Children's Services, State of Western Australia \(1 July 1995 - 1 July 2001\)](#)
- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 July 2001 - 30 June 2007\)](#)
- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)

Related Glossary Terms

- [Commissioner of Native Welfare \(WA\) \(1954 - 1972\)](#)
The Commissioner of Native Welfare could regulate the 'care' of Aboriginal children at Bamburra Hostel.
Date: 1970 - 1972

Related Organisations

- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
 - [Churches of Christ Federal Aborigines Mission Board Photographs, Western Australia](#)
 - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
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