

# Catherine House, Broome

1975 – 1991?

**Other Names:** • Katherine Hostel

## Details

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Catherine House, Broome, opened in December 1975 to provide accommodation for Aboriginal children. It replaced the Aboriginal Girls' Hostel, and was managed by the same two staff members as the Hostel. Catherine House was run by an independent management committee, but financed by the Department of Community Welfare. It could accommodate up to eight children from pre-primary to primary school age. Some, but not all, children were wards of the State. It is not known when Catherine House's residential facility closed, possibly by 1991. From 1991, the building was used as a non-residential placement and support centre by the child welfare authorities.

Catherine House primarily provided short-term care for children, although in some cases children lived at the Home for several years. Many children accommodated at Catherine House were placed there by the Department of Community Welfare, but private placements were also made, providing approval had been given by the Department first. The Home was licenced to provide accommodation for a maximum of 8 children at a time, however there was an additional bed set aside for mothers requiring temporary accommodation with their children. Mothers were expected to pay a fee for their stay if able, but could instead work at the home in exchange for their board if necessary.

## Gallery

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**Catherine House, Broome**

**Description:** This is a small collection of photographs showing the exterior and interior of Catherine House in Broome. The photos include the plaque unveiled on the opening of Catherine House, children playing on the front verandah, kitchen, dining room, play room, bathroom, bedrooms, and lounge room. These photographs were contained within a file from the Department of Community Welfare, now at the State Records Office of Western Australia titled 'Hostels - Broome Proposed Residential Child Care Facility Establishment'

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Aboriginal Girls' Hostel (1970 - 1975)
  - **Catherine House, Broome (1975 – 1991?)**

## Related Entries

### Run by

- [Catherine House Incorporated \(1975 - 1991?\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)  
The Department for Community Welfare provided financial support for Catherine House.

## 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
- Weller, Helen [editor] with assistance from Roy Hamilton and John Harper, *Sister Michael Kelly*, 1994

## Records

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

### Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
  - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/catherine-house-broome/>