

Kalgoorlie Hostel

1976 – 1993?

Other Names:

- Kalgoorlie Education and Employment Hostel
- Working Girls' Hostel
- Graeme Street Hostel

Details

Kalgoorlie Hostel was established in 1976 as a government-run employment hostel for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal female teenagers of working age. Over the years, it also accommodated young people passing through Kalgoorlie and young Aboriginal women who came in from outback communities, or from camps near goldfields towns. Young women in family crisis were also accommodated, as were those who had been referred through the youth justice system. The hostel had closed by around 1993 and the building was then used as the Kalgoorlie Group Home, Graeme Street.

The Kalgoorlie Hostel, which was purpose-built in 1976, has had a number of different names over the years, but government reports (*Signposts*, 2004, pp253-.255) indicate that its basic function was constant – to provide accommodation for young women of working age. Many of the hostel residents would have been Aboriginal teenagers, and the annual reports of child welfare authorities over the years show that they came from all over the goldfields and beyond. In 1979, for example, the hostel accommodated fourteen 'girls in employment who came from the Mount Margaret Mission, and the Esperance, Laverton, Leonora and Norseman areas.' The Mount Margaret Mission had closed by the time this report was written, but it remained a township.

Kalgoorlie Hostel, which was also known as the Kalgoorlie Education and Employment Hostel, the Working Girls' Hostel and the Graeme Street Hostel, was one of three facilities run by the Department for Community Welfare (DCW) in 1976. The others were: Nindeebai, for high school children; and the Millen Street Hostel, for working-age boys. The DCW reported (*Signposts*, p.254) in 1979 that there was close cooperation between staff at the three hostels, which they said benefited the residents.

In 1981, the DCW (*Signposts*, p.254) wrote that it wanted to provide 'as many options as possible' for the young women who came in from what authorities deemed 'fragmented families in fringe dwelling communities'. Staff at the hostels were reportedly trying to provide 'fuller programmes' to assist this goal.

By 1984, the hostel also admitted young women who were on remand or in 'after-care' programs following their release from a detention centre. Young people experiencing 'family breakdowns' or 'crises' were also admitted through the 1980s.

By 1993, the Kalgoorlie Hostel (which by that time seems to have been known as the Graeme Street Hostel), had closed. The Kalgoorlie Group Home, Graeme Street opened in the 1993-1994 year.

More info

Related Entries

Run by

- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 October 1992 - 1 July 1995\)](#)
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Millen Street Hostel \(1970? - 1995?\)](#)
Young people at the Millen Street Hostel and Kalgoorlie Hostel participated in many activities together.
Date: 1970s -
- [Nindeebai Education Hostel \(1971? - 1984\)](#)
- [Kalgoorlie Group Home, Graeme Street \(1993? - current\)](#)
After Kalgoorlie Hostel closed, the building was used for the Kalgoorlie Group Home, Graeme Street.

Resources

- Western Australia. Department for Community Welfare, [Annual Report: Department for Community Welfare, 1973 - 1984](#)

Records

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

Records

- [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/kalgoorlie-hostel/>