

# Pallottine Mission Centre

1955 – 1991

**Other Names:**

- Pallottine Hostel, Rossmoyne
- Pallottine Centre
- Pallottine Training Centre

## Details

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The Pallottine Mission Centre was opened in May 1955 by The Pallottines in Riverton, later known as Rossmoyne. The Centre opened as a hostel for Aboriginal boys who were attending secondary schools, technical schools or working as apprentices in the metropolitan area. A Girls' Hostel was opened in 1961 for girls to attend secondary schools in Perth. The Centre continued to expand until the 1980s with 6 hostels being purpose-built. The Pallottine Centre closed in 1991.

The Pallottine Mission Centre was established in 1955 on a 10-acre lot in Riverton with the first residents, boys from the Pallottine Mission in Tardun, in residence by 1956. The Boys' Hostel was named St Vincent Pallotti Hostel.

In 1959, the Centre expanded to 25 acres of land and from 1960 the land was considered part of the newly-named suburb of Rossmoyne. From 1961, both girls and boys of high school age were accommodated at the Pallottine Centre in separate hostels (the Girls' Hostel was called Villa Maria).

In May 1961, an officer from the Department of Native Welfare expressed some concern about Aboriginal children being sent from remote communities to Perth for schooling:

*At this stage, I would like to place on record the fact that all these children (i.e. those at Riverton) could have been adequately educated at the Derby Technical High School which was in fact established at great expense to provide educational opportunities for just such children.*

*Once this precedent has been established for these children there will be no end to the demands of the Church for other children to be sent to Perth rather than to the local High School.*

*Respectfully, too, I would like to point out that this exodus of children to Perth, probably ultimately at the Department's expense is contrary to policy laid down at the recent Commissioner's conference. (Letter Tilbrook to Commissioner of Native Welfare, 25.5.61, quoted in Signposts 2004, p.404)*

In 1967 a new accommodation block was opened, the Senior Girls' Building, for girls either in training or employment. Further extensions were made in 1971, with the building known as Edith Little Lodge. In 1974 the Junior Boys' Lodge was opening and in 1986 another new building for boys, Valentine Lodge, was opened.

In the 1970s there were 70 students living at the centre, along with a dozen adults, including live-in staff and missionaries on leave. Most of the students went to Catholic colleges in Perth.

The Pallottine Centre closed in 1991 and the land was sold. The money recouped from the land sale was placed in the Pallottine Aboriginal Scholarship Trust which provides scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who wish to undertake postgraduate training.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Pallottines \(Society of the Catholic Apostolates\) \(1901 - current\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Beagle Bay Mission \(1895 - 1976\)](#)  
After Beagle Bay Mission closed children continued to be sent from that community to Pallottine Mission Centre.
- [Bethel Inc. \(1964 - 1986\)](#)  
Bethel Inc. sometimes accommodated young people if there were no places available at the Pallottine Centre.
- [La Grange Mission \(1955 - 1984\)](#)  
Children were sent from La Grange Mission to the Pallottine Mission Centre.  
Date: 1976 - 1984
- [Kyarra Hostel \(1961 - 1984\)](#)  
Kyarra Hostel sometimes transferred students to the Pallottine Centre to go to high school in Perth.
- [Pallottine Mission, Tardun \(1948 - 2004\)](#)  
The Pallottine Mission, Tardun transferred boys to the Pallottine Centre for education, training and residential support in Perth.

### Resources

- Wilson, Katrin and Michael V. Robinson., *Aboriginal Hostels in Perth : A Comparative Survey*, 1971
- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004
- Australian Catholic Social Welfare Commission and the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes, *A piece of the story : national directory of records of Catholic organisations caring for children separated from families*, November 1999
- [Society of the Catholic Apostolate \(Pallottine Fathers and Brothers\)](#), No date
- Valadian, Margaret, *Report by Margaret Valadian*, 1968

## Records

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

### Records

- [Pallottines, Records \(1895? - 1993?\)](#)
- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
- [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
- [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)

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