

Warramia Group Home

1972 – 2004?

Other Names: • Warramea

Details

Warramia Group Home, in Badgingarra, was a government-run Home established in 1972 on a farming property. It provided short-term accommodation for up to eight primary-school age children, with a cottage mother. From 1972, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal boys from the Hillston detention centre were sent to work on the farm at Warramia and from 1974 to 1982, Warramia was an 'annexe' of Hillston. In 1993, Warramia was transferred to the Ministry of Justice as a training farm for young people in the juvenile justice system. Warramia Group Home closed around 2004.

Government reports (*Signposts* 2004, pp.557-558) show that Warramia Group Home was established on a 1,500 hectare farm property that had been donated to child welfare authorities. In 1972, the Department for Community Welfare (DCW) intended that Warramia would house up to eight primary-school children in a family-type environment with a cottage mother. The children who would be placed at Warramia were described in the DCW's annual report in 1974 (*Signposts* p.557) as children 'who need a relaxed, stabilising experience prior to longer-term placement'.

During this period Warramia was also used by the DCW as a place where boys at the Hillston detention centre could be sent to learn farm skills. By 1974, the DCW saw greater value in Warramia being an 'annexe' of Hillston than being a group home for younger children.

In 1980 (*Signposts* p.557), the DCW outlined the relationships between Warramia and Hillston: 'Prior to discharge to farm employment selected boys at Hillston gain experience on the Department's 1500 hectare property at Badgingarra. Hillston services the property and benefits with supplies of meat and fodder'.

By 1981, authorities were becoming concerned about the number of boys running away from Warramia. Referrals from Hillston either stopped or slowed by 1982. It is unclear what purpose Warramia served between 1982 and 1989, when it was reported by the Department for Community Services (*Signposts* p.558), that Warramia offered a five-week program 'during the normal farming cycles and during the summer holidays. Children, drawn mainly from country areas, were taught farm and personal development skills'.

In 1993, Warramia was transferred to the Ministry of Justice. It continued as a farm school for young people involved in the youth justice system and was closed around 2004.

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 \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)
- [Ministry of Justice, State of Western Australia \(1993 - 2001\)](#)
- [Department of Justice, State of Western Australia \(2001 - 2006\)](#)

Related Organisations

- [Hillston, Stoneville \(1969 - 1984\)](#)
Boys from Hillston were sent to work at Warramia from 1972 and from around 1974 to 1982, Warramia was an annexe of Hillston.
Date: 1972 - 1982

Resources

- State Records Taskforce, Government of Western Australia, [Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Sources in Western Australia](#), 2004
- 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/warramia-group-home/>