

# Albany Residential College

1974? –

**Other Names:** • Amity House

## Details

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Albany Residential College is a hostel for students attending high school in Albany. It is likely that the hostel was opened around 1974. According to evidence given in the St Andrew's Hostel inquiry, the Albany Residential College was known as Amity House during the last decades of the twentieth century.

Appropriate staffing at the Albany hostel in the 1970s was the subject of evidence in the St Andrew's Hostel Inquiry in 2012.

According to evidence given in this inquiry, the Albany Residential College was known as Amity House during the last decades of the twentieth century. The manager of Amity House 1987-2001 was Nicholas Finnbar (Barry) Christy. From 1977 to around 1979, a brother and sister-in-law of convicted sex offenders Dennis and Neil McKenna, were employed as supervisors at the Amity Hostel in Albany. While there were no allegations against them at Amity, Dennis McKenna was known to employ family members as children he abused "would find it difficult to confide in a person who is a relative of the abuser" (McKenna, D J 2012, Inquiry Transcript of Evidence, p. 1244) At that time, 26 children, including some young people on apprenticeships, boarded at the hostel.

It was not uncommon for children who were Wards of the State to be boarded in hostels run by the Country High School Hostels Authority.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Country High School Hostels Authority, State of Western Australia \(1960 - 2017\)](#)  
The Country High School Hostels Authority was required by s7(1)(b) of its Act to 'supervise and maintain' this residential college.

#### Related Events

- [Special Inquiry into St Andrew's Hostel, Katanning, Western Australia \(December 2011 - August 2012\)](#)  
Staffing at the Albany Residential College (Amity House) was raised as a matter of concern at the Inquiry.
- [Country High School Hostels Ex-Gratia Scheme, Western Australia \(30 November 2012 - December 2013\)](#)  
People who were at Amity House (Albany Residential College) as students were eligible to apply for the Country High School Hostels Ex Gratia Scheme.