

# Government Receiving Depot

1907 – 1935

**Other Names:** • Government Receiving Home for Children

## Details

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Government Receiving Depot (Subiaco 1907; West Perth 1916; Mount Lawley 1921) was the new name given in 1907 to the Government Industrial School and Receiving Depot. All children committed under the *State Children Act 1907* were sent to the Government Receiving Depot before being boarded out, or placed in an 'orphanage' or industrial school (reformatory). It continued under the name, Government Receiving Home, from 1935.

The Government Receiving Depot, Subiaco continued the Government Industrial School and Receiving Depot from 1907. It gave temporary accommodation to children who were taken into 'care' as they awaited placement with foster parents or institutions. It also accommodated children who were awaiting medical or dental treatment in Perth, or who were scheduled for appearance at the Children's Court. Private admissions were also accommodated.

The Government Receiving Depot moved location twice. Originally in Subiaco, it relocated to West Perth in 1916 and to new buildings in Mount Lawley in 1921.

Although its name wasn't changed in the statistics of the Child Welfare Department until 1935, photographs published in the 1926 annual report refer to Receiving Depot as the 'Government Receiving Home for Children'.

A letter of appreciation of the *The Daily News* Orphans' Christmas Cheer Fund in 1915 gives an insight into life at the Receiving Depot. The letter shows that donations enabled the children to occasionally have extras that were not part of their daily experience:

*[Matron] divided half the money amongst the elder children, who were taken by the assistant matron to the city on Christmas Eve to purchase their own presents. Toys and Christmas stockings were bought for the infants, and the balance expended in fruit and cordials for the Christmas dinner. Letter, 27 December 1915 published in The Daily News 2 December 1916, p.10*

## Gallery

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**Reception Home doors, 1921**

**Description:** 'Reception Home doors' is a digital image of a set of interior doors and panels that were saved during the restoration of the government 'reception Home' on the corner of Walcott and Lord Streets, Mt Lawley. The doors are mounted on a wall in the office of the old building, which in 2013 was the Youth Justice Services Centre.

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### Reception Home front door, 1921

**Description:** 'Reception Home front door' is a digital image of the stained glass panels that were saved during the restoration of the government 'reception Home' on the corner of Walcott and Lord Streets, Mt Lawley. The building in 2013 was the Youth Justice Services Centre.

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### Government Receiving Home, Mt Lawley, 1926

**Description:** 'Government Receiving Home, Mt Lawley, 1926' is an image included (p.2) in the *Annual Report of the State Children Department, 1926*. The caption reads, 'Administrative Section - Government Receiving Home for Children, Mt. Lawley'. This image shows what appear to be two connected single-storey brick and white-washed houses.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Government Industrial School (1893 - 1907)
  - **Government Receiving Depot (1907 – 1935)**
    - Government Receiving Home (1935 - 1952)
      - Child Welfare Reception Home (1953 - 1972)
        - Mt Lawley Reception Home (1973 - 1980)
          - Walcott Centre (1980 - 1984)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Public Charities and State Children Department, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1908 - 1 January 1917\)](#)  
Date: 1908 - 1917
- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)  
Date: 1927 - 1935
- [State Children Department, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 22 December 1927\)](#)  
Date: 1917 - 1927
- [Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions \(1874 - 1908\)](#)  
Date: 1907 - 1908

#### Related Events

- [Coronial Inquiry into the death of George Jones and the management of Swan Boys' Orphanage, State of Western Australia \(2 June 1911 - 13 July 1911\)](#)  
The Government Receiving Depot, Subiaco, accommodated boys who were witnesses at the Coronial Inquiry into the death of George Jones and the management of Swan Boys' Orphanage for the duration of the inquiry.  
Date: 1911 -

#### Related Legislation

- [State Children Act 1907, Western Australia \(1907 - 1948\)](#)  
After the *State Children Act 1907* was proclaimed, the Government Receiving Depot was used for the 'temporary admission of all classes of children committed' under the Act.  
Date: 1907 -

#### Related Organisations

- [Princess Margaret Hospital for Children \(1909 - 10 June 2018\)](#)  
Children who had to come to Perth for treatment at the children's hospital and who had no family to stay with were often admitted to the Government Receiving Depot.
- [King Edward Memorial Hospital \(1916 - current\)](#)  
In 1916 the Government Receiving Depot relocated to West Perth and the Government Receiving Depot building became part of the King Edward Memorial Hospital.

## Resources

- Western Australia. Charities Department, *Report by the Superintendent of Public Charities and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools*, 1899 - 1907. *Relevance*: 1907
- Western Australia. Child Welfare Department, [Annual Report of the Child Welfare Department](#), 1928 - 1972
- Battye, JS, [The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia \(1912\)](#), 1912. *Relevance*: p.506
- Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia, [Submission No 55 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), July 2003
- Foster, Darren J, [Submission No 347 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 3 April 2004
- [News and Notes \[Government Receiving Depot\]](#), The West Australian, 20 June 1921

## Records

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

### Records

- [Admission Registers of the Government Receiving Home \[Walcott Street, Mt Lawley\] \(1894 - 1988\)](#)
- [Correspondence Files, Colonial Secretary's Office, Chief Secretary's Department \(1883 - 1983\)](#)
- [Files - Child Welfare, State Records Office of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 16 June 1972\)](#)

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