

# Mental Health Services, State Government of Western Australia

1954 – 1984

## Details

---

Mental Health Services was a government department responsible for the prevention and treatment of mental illness in Western Australia for the period 1 January 1954 until 1 July 1984. It took over this role from the Mental Hospitals Department. Up until the 1960s it was common to place children with intellectual and other disabilities in mental health institutions. While this practice decreased through the 1960's it did not cease entirely until 1977, when the last children were moved from Swanbourne Hospital (formerly Claremont) to Sussex Hostel. Through the office of the Inspector General of Mental Hospitals (and from 1984 the Director of Mental Health Services), the Department ran several hospitals and institutions for those with mental disabilities. In 1984 this responsibility was transferred to the Health Department.

## More info

---

### Chronology

- Lunacy Department, State Government of Western Australia (1903 - 1934)
  - Mental Hospitals Department, State Government of Western Australia (1934 - 1954)
- **Mental Health Services, State Government of Western Australia (1954 – 1984)**
  - Health Department, State Government of Western Australia (1984 - current)

### Related Entries

#### Ran

- [Greenplace \(1914 - 1979\)](#)  
Date: 1954 - 1979
- [Earlsferry \(1952 - 1989\)](#)
- [Fairholme \(1952 - 1984\)](#)
- [Devonleigh \(1979 - 1987\)](#)  
Devonleigh was run by the Division for the Intellectually Handicapped from 1977 to 1984.
- [Pyrton \(1966 - 1997?\)](#)  
Pyrton was run by the Mental Deficiency Division from 1966 to 1977.  
Date: 1966 - 1977
- [Heathcote \(1929 - 1994\)](#)
- [Whitby Falls Hospital \(1897 - 1972\)](#)  
Date: 1954 - 1972
- [Claremont Mental Hospital \(1903 - 1972\)](#)

#### Related Legislation

- [Lunacy Act 1903, Western Australia \(1903 - 1962\)](#)
- [Mental Health Act 1962, Western Australia \(1962 - 1996\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Division for the Intellectually Handicapped \(1978 - 1986\)](#)  
The Division for the Intellectually Handicapped was part of Mental Health Services.
- [Irrabeena \(1961 - 1992?\)](#)  
Irrabeena began in 1961 as the Slow Learning Children's Group's diagnostic and assessment centre in Perth and became part of the State Government's Mental Health Services in 1964.

## Resources

- [Interview with Guy Joseph Livingstone Hamilton, by John Bannister](#), 18 October 2002 - 8 November 2002
- [Council Tuesday 16 August 1966 \[Hansard p326-327\]](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 16 August 1966

---

You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/mental-health-services-2/>