

# Heathcote

1929 – 1994

**Other Names:**

- Heathcote Reception Home
- Heathcote Mental Hospital
- Heathcote Hospital

## Details

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Heathcote began in 1929 on Point Heathcote at Applecross. It was first known as the Heathcote Reception Home, and was a government hospital for people with 'recent and recoverable' mental illness. Heathcote sometimes housed Children and adolescents. It closed in 1994.

The Royal Commission into Lunacy recommended in 1922 that a new hospital be built to treat people with acute 'mental disorders'. The Commissioners believed there was 'no marked line dividing sanity from insanity; there are degrees intervening which must be recognised and provided for...there is, so to speak, nothing between sanity and Claremont'. They described a movement away from the custodial model to a more active treatment model of care: 'insanity is a disorder insidious in character and slow in onset; that more often than one can accurately estimate, the patient goes through a period – varying in each case – during which skilled treatment, properly administered, will prevent an impending attack or successfully deal with it in its early stages' (pp.6-7). Heathcote, as the hospital was named, was to be that observation and treatment centre.

In its Report (p.7), the Royal Commission was specific in its description of the future 'Acute Mental Hospital and Reception Centre' – in what it should include by way of patients, facilities, staff and treatments; and in whom it should exclude: 'senile dementers, well-marked congenital defectives, obviously chronic insanity, general paralysis and epilepsy'.

## Gallery

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**Heathcote Hospital**

**Description:** This is an image showing the exterior and gardens of Heathcote Hospital in Applecross, Western Australia.



**Ward at Heathcote Hospital, ca. 1939**

**Description:** This is a digitised copy of a negative and is part of the group of images 'Heathcote Hospital [picture]' held at the State Library of Western Australia. The image shows one of the wards at Heathcote.

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## More info

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## Related Entries

### Run by

- [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 Events

- [Royal Commission in Lunacy, State of Western Australia \(28 September 1921 - 21 September 1922\)](#)  
Seven years after the Royal Commission in Lunacy, Heathcote opened as a reception house for 'curable' mental health patients.
- [Royal Commission to inquire into the Heathcote Mental Reception Home and the administration of mental hospitals generally, State of Western Australia \(6 September 1938 - 30 November 1938\)](#)

### Related Organisations

- [Claremont Mental Hospital \(1903 - 1972\)](#)  
When Heathcote was established, it was not only seen as a remedy to the overcrowding at Claremont. Heathcote was intended to admit patients who did not suffer from what were thought in 1929 to be 'incurable' illnesses such as senility, epilepsy or 'mental deficiency'. Those patients would continue to be sent to Claremont.
- [Board of Visitors, Heathcote \(1929 - 1994\)](#)

### Related Legislation

- [Mental Treatment Act 1927, Western Australia \(1927 - current\)](#)  
The *Mental Treatment Act 1927* allowed voluntary patients at Heathcote to be transferred involuntarily to the Claremont Hospital for the Insane if they had not 'recovered' after six months.

## Resources

- [AU WA A1541 - Board of Visitors - Heathcote Mental Hospital](#), State Records Office of Western Australia - Organisations & People, 2015
- Goolugatup Heathcote, [History](#), 2007

## Other Resources



**Title:** Researching Your Family History in Western Australia through Mental Health Records

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 9 May 2012

[Details](#)



**Title:** Glossary of terms relating to mental hospitals, Western Australia

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 2012

[Details](#)

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# Records

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

## Records

- [Heathcote Collection, City of Melville Museums \(1920s - 1990s\)](#)
  - [Records of Heathcote Mental Hospital \(1929 - 1994\)](#)
  - [Heathcote Mental Reception Home - Monthly Returns of Patients \(1949 - 1969\)](#)
  - [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
  - [Correspondence Files, Colonial Secretary's Office, Chief Secretary's Department \(1883 - 1983\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/heathcote/>