

# Port George IV Mission

1912 – 1951

**Other Names:**

- Kunmunya
- Kwinana Mission

## Details

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Port George IV Mission began in 1912 at Walcott Inlet in the west Kimberleys, but by 1913 was located at Port George IV. It was run by the Presbyterian Church. Children living on the mission were under the guardianship of the head of the departments responsible for Aboriginal welfare, but they lived with their families. In 1920 the Mission moved to Kunmunya and took its name from that place. In 1951, residents at Kunmunya and Munja Aboriginal Cattle Station agreed to relocate together to Wotjulum Mission.

Port George IV Mission was established by the Presbyterian Church in 1912 on Walcott Inlet in the west Kimberleys. Soon after, a better site was found at Port George IV and the mission was set up there by 1913. By 1920, in search of more arable land and a better water supply, the mission moved again to Kunmunya and took its name from that place.

In 1949, the assets of the government-run Munja Aboriginal Cattle Station and responsibility for the residents at the Munja feeding station were handed over to the missionaries at Kunmunya. The requirement to maintain two populations of people, coupled with disease and crop failure at Kunmunya made things difficult. The Presbyterians consulted with the Aboriginal people at Kunmunya and Munja and eventually there was an agreement to relocate to Wotjulum Mission in 1951.

## Gallery

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**Kunmunya [Port George IV] 1920**

**Description:** 'Kunmunya [Port George IV] 1920' is an image published in *Mowanjum: 50 years community history* (p.42). The caption has a description from Jimmy Mulline which reads 'When I was little we went to Kunmunya and we camped there at the side of the hill. That was where visitors used to camp. They had only a few houses, mostly just little camps with bush bark for walls'. The image shows several small wooden and bark huts, some complete and some still under construction, located at the base of two hills.

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## Map West Kimberleys

**Description:** 'Map West Kimberleys' is an image published in *Mowanjum: 50 years community history* (p.23). It shows a map of the West Kimberley region, with names of communities and landmarks along the coast from Bigge Island to King Sound identified.

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## More info

### Chronology

- **Port George IV Mission (1912 – 1951)**
  - Wotjulum (1951 - 1956)
  - Mowanjum (1956 - 1972)

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [Presbyterian Church \(1879 - 1977\)](#)  
Date: 1912 - 1951

#### Related Glossary Terms

- [Commissioner for Native Affairs \(WA\) \(1936 - 1954\)](#)  
The Commissioner of Native Affairs was the legal guardian of children at Port George IV Mission.

#### Related Organisations

- [Chief Protector of Aborigines \(1898 - 1936\)](#)  
Chief Protector of Aborigines was the legal guardian of children at Port George IV Mission.

## Records

### Records

- [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
- [Files \(Aboriginal Matters\) - Department of the North West \[1\] \(1915 - 1949\)](#)
- [Files - Aborigines Departments \(1 January 1926 - 16 June 1972\)](#)
- [Files - Department of Aborigines and Fisheries \(1909 - 1920\)](#)
- [Files - General \[Health Department\] \(1899 - 1987\)](#)

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