

# Withnell House Girls' Home

1969 – 1973?

**Other Names:**

- Cottesloe House Children's Home
- Cottesloe House
- Withnell House

## Details

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Withnell House Girls' Home was established by the Salvation Army in the premises of the former boys hostel in Withnell House, Mount Lawley in 1969, when the staff and girls from the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe moved there. The Home was licensed to house children with the name Withnell House Girls Home, but the residents probably called it 'Cottesloe House'. This became the name for a cottage home for boys and girls that operated in the same premises from about 1973.

The Mount Lawley site of Withnell House Girls' Home had been used by the Salvation Army since the late 1940s for a variety of residential programs for children and adolescents. The official and unofficial names of the various children's Homes situated at Mount Lawley can cause some confusion, especially because, from 1969, the name "Cottesloe House" was sometimes used for these Homes.

The Annual Reports of the Child Welfare Department from 1969 to 1972 record that 'Withnell House Girls Home' operated in Mount Lawley. The departmental publication, Signposts (2008) also notes that in 1969, 'Withnell House Girls' Home had a license to care for 8 children aged less than six years' (p. 577).

But a compendium produced by the Salvation Army Social Services in 2003, Soap-Soup-Salvation, states that in 1969 the new residents at the former boys' hostel in Mount Lawley 'retained the "Cottesloe" banner' (meaning they called their new Home 'Cottesloe House').

Documents held at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum Western Australia also suggest that the name 'Cottesloe House' was first used in 1969 when the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe moved to Withnell House in Mount Lawley.

The parliamentary Hansard for 6 November 1973 confirms that the 'Cottesloe House Children's Home' was situated in Mount Lawley.

This informal name for the Home at Mount Lawley was officially adopted from around 1973, with the establishment of a cottage home called Cottesloe House on the site.

## Gallery



### Withnell House, 1970s

**Description:** 'Withnell House, 1970s' is a digital copy of a photograph that is held in the *Withnell House child home closed lever-arch* file at the Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA. The Salvation Army Heritage Museum's caption reads, 'The sign reads...The Salvation Army Youth Hostel - 1970's Withnell House Guildford Road, Mount Lawley WA'. However, it is likely that this photograph has been incorrectly dated - during the 1970s, this property at Buildford Road, Mount Lawley was not a youth hostel. It is more likely to date from the 1980s.

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## More info

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### Chronology

- Salvation Army Girls' Home, Cottesloe (1918 - 1969)
  - **Withnell House Girls' Home (1969 – 1973?)**

### Related Entries

#### Run by

- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [Withnell House \(1952 - 1969?\)](#)  
Withnell House Girls Home (1969 - 1972?) was located in the building formerly used to house the boys' hostel, Withnell House (1953? - 1969).  
Date: 1969 - 1972?
- [Cottesloe House \(1973? - 1979?\)](#)  
Cottesloe House was located in the same premises of the former Withnell House Girls Home.

### Resources

- [Education: Aborigines Living away from home](#), Hansard Archive 1870 to 1995, 6 November 1973

## Records

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

### Records

- [Historical records and memorabilia of Salvation Army institutions, Southern Territory](#)
  - [Salvation Army Australia, Records of Homes in the former Southern Territory \(c. 1889 - c. 1988\)](#)
  - [Department of Aboriginal Affairs \[predecessors\], Records \(1886 - 2004\)](#)
  - [Children's Homes Files, Western Australian Salvation Army Homes \(1897 - 2012\)](#)
  - [Files - Community Welfare \("A" Series\), State Records Office of Western Australia \(25 August 1908 - 23 December 1990\)](#)
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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/withnell-house-girls-home/>