



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 15731
2. **NAME** *Walcott Centre (1921)*
FORMER NAME Government Receiving Depot (1921-c1955)
 Child Welfare Reception Home (c1955-1968)
 Walcott Street Reception Home (1968-1980)
 Walcott Centre (1980-present)
3. **LOCATION** 3 Walcott Street, Mount Lawley
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 Perth Suburban Lot 144, being Crown Reserve 7337 and being the whole of the land comprised in Crown Land Record Volume 3060 Folio 311.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Town of Vincent
6. **OWNER** Minister for Justice
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 16/03/2001
 Permanent Entry 14/05/2002
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: -----
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Walcott Centre, a complex of domestic scaled buildings constructed of traditional materials including brick, rendered brick, timber frame with sections of weatherboard, rough cast, rendered-finish flat panels, terracotta roof tiles and corrugated iron, comprising the Main Building (1921), former Nurses' Quarters (1921), former Detention Centre (1921) and security fence (1950) and various ancillary buildings including the Wood and Metal Workshops, Woodshed, former Boys' Flat, former Workshed and Laundry (1957) has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is the oldest government run institution providing child welfare services in the State and was the only government receiving home from 1921 until 1984, and the only fully government funded child welfare institution until 1960. It has played a significant role in the development and implementation of Child Welfare practices by the

State government, particularly in the areas of adoption, foster care and institutional care, and in the treatment of neglected, orphaned and delinquent youths from the 1920s to the 1980s;

the main buildings, exhibiting characteristics of the Federation Bungalow architectural style, and adjacent landscaped areas addressing Walcott Street, provide a pleasing group of buildings and garden areas typical of a government institution of the inter-war period enhanced by its domestic quality appropriate to the use of the place for the accommodation of children;

the place has strong associations for those people who, as children, for family or other reasons spent time living in the institution, and for the matrons, nurses and general staff who worked and lived there;

the place played a role in the welfare of State wards of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origin from the 1920s to the 1980s and is significant to all sectors of the wider community for its role in child welfare services in Western Australia; and,

the security fence is the only known example of a curved corrugated galvanized iron fence of its type, and as such is a rare structure.

The TAFE demountable classroom, corrugated asbestos cement fences, recent landscaping adjacent to the former Detention Centre and the carpark adjacent to Lord Street are of little significance.