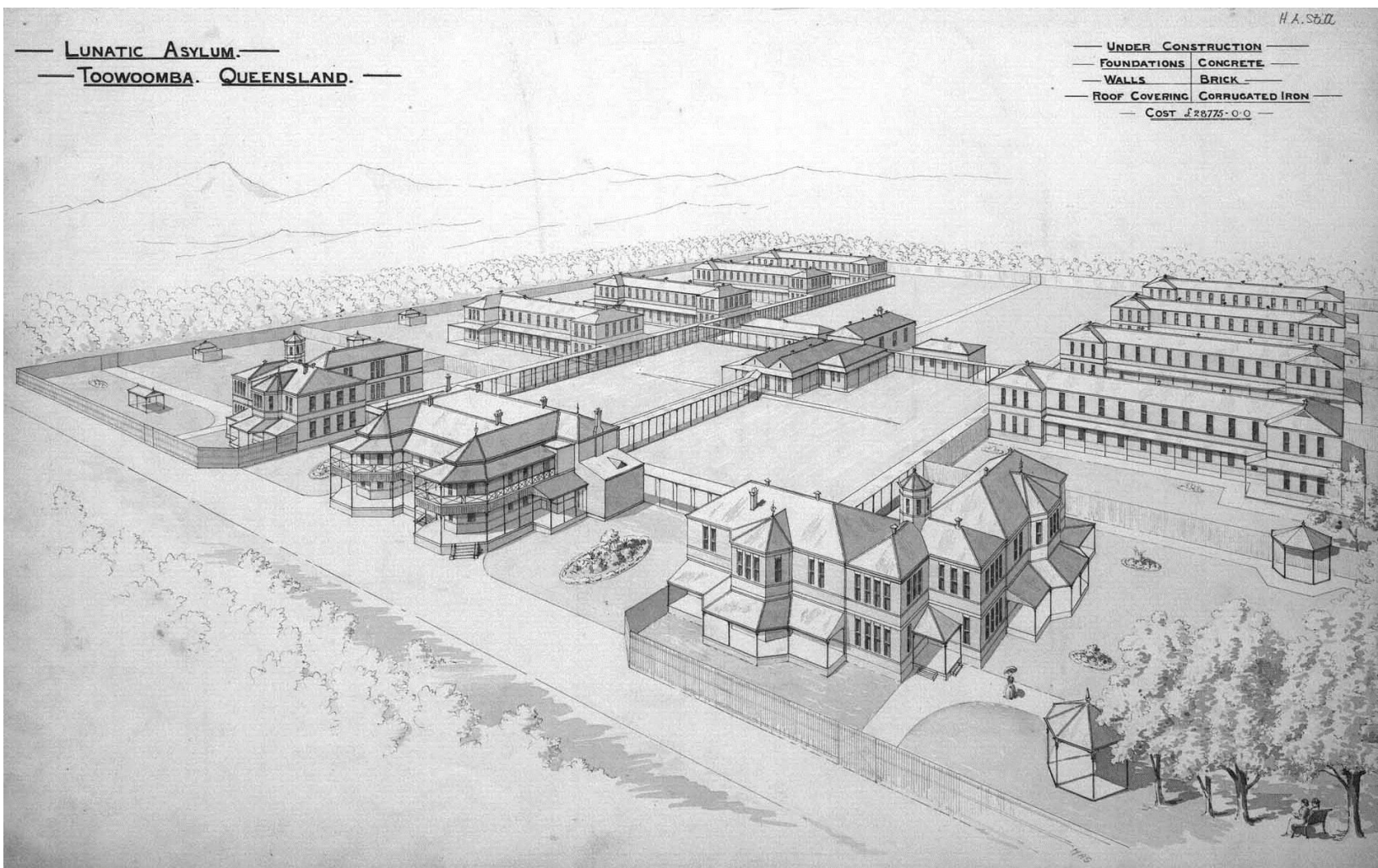


Mental Asylum records



Research Guide to mental asylum records
at Queensland State Archives

Research Guide to mental asylum records

This guide provides an overview of mental asylum records at Queensland State Archives.

Queensland State Archives holds records for mental health patients from 1860 onwards.

Prior to separation from New South Wales in 1859, there were no facilities for psychiatric treatment in the Moreton Bay region. Persons with mental health issues, or mentally disturbed persons were sent to Brisbane Gaol or possibly to an asylum in Sydney.

Many of the mental asylum records at Queensland State Archives were created by the Public Trustee (formerly the Public Curator) and Queensland Health (and related agencies).

Some records are subject to restricted access periods. Further information about access is provided below. The records can be found in ArchivesSearch (the Queensland State Archives' catalogue).

Records from the Public Trustee

History

The name of the Public Curator of Queensland changed to The Public Trustee of Queensland on 1 January 1979. It is responsible for the administration of deceased estates and trusts as well as other legal, financial and property services.

Access to Public Trustee records

Access to Public Trustee records which are subject to a 75 year restricted access period is granted at the discretion of the Public Trustee. Queensland State Archives has a process for applying for access to these records. Please contact Queensland State Archives for details.

Protective Management Files

Circa 1/1/1865–31/12/1995

Series ID [S334](#)

Access: 75 years

This series consists of mental health patients' estate files for the Queensland institutions including Goodna/Wolston Park (formerly Woogaroo), Sandy Gallop (Ipswich), and Willowburn (Toowoomba). Originally titled 'insanity files', the files may include forms, correspondence, personal details, date/s of admission and discharge, or date of death, inter-departmental correspondence about financial, court and police matters, financial accounts such as statements of assets and liabilities, and property details.

Search ArchivesSearch for the name of the patient; most protective management files are listed by the name of the patient.

Not all protective management files were transferred to Queensland State Archives. If the name is not found in ArchivesSearch, you can search the open indexes to Protective Management files, Series ID S19469; you will need to apply for access permission to view closed indexes.

Indexes to Protective Management Files

10/1/1865–2/6/1982

Series ID [S19469](#)

Access: 75 years

This series contains alphabetical and numerical indexes to Protective Management Files where the Public Trustee and previously the Public Curator and the Curator in Intestacy and Insanity managed the financial affairs of a person (adult or minor) with decision making disability.

Details recorded include name, date of admission, year and file number, including any changes to a file number. Indexes were previously known as Insanity Registers, Indexes to Mental Hygiene Files and Indexes to Mental Health Files. Note that the indexes may contain language which is now considered offensive and may cause distress.

Other Public Trustee records

Insanity – Register of Securities

4/3/1903–6/6/1917

Series ID [S7638](#)

Access: Open

This register includes name of estate; securities held by curator other than jewellery, certificates of title, or deeds of grant.

Insanity and Charitable Institutions – Register of Inmates Estates

20/3/1919–29/11/1922

Series ID [S7639](#)

Access: Open

This register includes name of patient, date of admission, value of property, date of death or discharge. Institutions referred to are as follows: Diamantina, Dunwich Epileptic Home, Westwood Sanatorium and Jubilee Sanatorium.

Jubilee Sanatorium Register

18/1/1904–31/12/1916

Series ID [S9607](#)

Access: Open

This register lists name of patient, date of admission, number, date of discharge and remarks.

Protective Management Files (Public Trust Office, Redcliffe)

Circa 1/1/1982–Circa 31/12/1997

Series ID [S19467](#)

Access: 75 years

Records from Queensland Health

History

Woogaroo Lunatic Asylum opened in 1865 with 69 patients. The hospital name changes included Woogaroo Asylum, Hospital for the Insane Goodna, Goodna Mental Hospital, Wolston Park Hospital, and Park Centre for Mental Health Treatment, Research and Education.

Case Books

5/11/1860–25/1/1951

Series ID [S9051](#)

Access: 100 years

To find case books, search the index to case books, Series ID S18202.

Index to Case Books – Male and Female

Circa 1/1/1909–Circa 31/12/1941

Series ID [S18202](#)

Access: 100 years

This index is used to find case books for patients in Series ID S9051.

Registers of Patients and Admission Books

23/3/1861–18/3/1994

Series ID [S19140](#)

Access: 100 years

Registers record patients at Wolston Park/Ipswich Special Hospital / Challinor Centre Ipswich including admission date, name, sex, marital status, occupation, residence, religion, diagnosis, date of discharge.

Ward Book

1/1/1923–31/12/1923

Series ID [S9063](#)

Access: 100 years

This volume comprises reports by the Charge Nurse on the first, second and night shifts in Female Ward 7 for the period 1 Jan 1923–31 Dec 1923.

Access to Queensland Health records

Wolston Park - Goodna (Park Centre for Mental Health Treatment, Research and Education) records are subject to a 100 year restricted access period. Queensland Health requires all applications for access to restricted records to be under Right to Information (RTI) legislation. Access is granted at the discretion of Queensland Health. You can apply online, or download the application form and send it to is available from the Queensland Health website.

Privacy and Right to Information Unit
Queensland Health
GPO Box 48
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Ph: (07) 3234 1735
Email: RTI-Privacy@health.qld.gov.au

An application fee is applicable. The summary of fees and charges are at <http://www.rti.qld.gov.au/fees-and-charges>.

Other mental asylum records

Insolvency, Intestacy and Insanity Office, Brisbane

Insanity Register of Patients

8/7/1899–13/8/1904

Series ID [S7637](#)

Access: Open

This register records the following: date of admission, name of patient, age on admission, names and addresses of relatives, property, date of discharge and death, and remarks.

Supreme Court, Southern District, Brisbane

Insanity Files

Circa 1/1/1885–Circa 31/12/1901

Series ID [S15553](#)

Access: Open

Files may include a report from the Curator about the status of the patient, the estate, and judgment.

Reception House for the Insane, Townsville

Admission Register and Statistics

Circa 1/1/1886–Circa 31/12/1891

Series ID [S10349](#)

Access: Open

The register may include name, date of admission, age, social condition, number of children, occupation, nativity, residence, religion, mental disorder, and date of discharge.

Court of Petty Sessions, Barcaldine

Accounts of Estates in Intestacy and Insanity

6/4/1887–29/12/1911

Series ID [S8795](#)

Access: Open

This is a ledger of accounts in intestacy and insanity. Details of the deceased person's property, proceeds from auction sales and disposal of the estate are recorded.

Other information

There may be relevant information in the *Research Guide to Dunwich records* available on the Queensland State Archives website and in the Reading Room.

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.