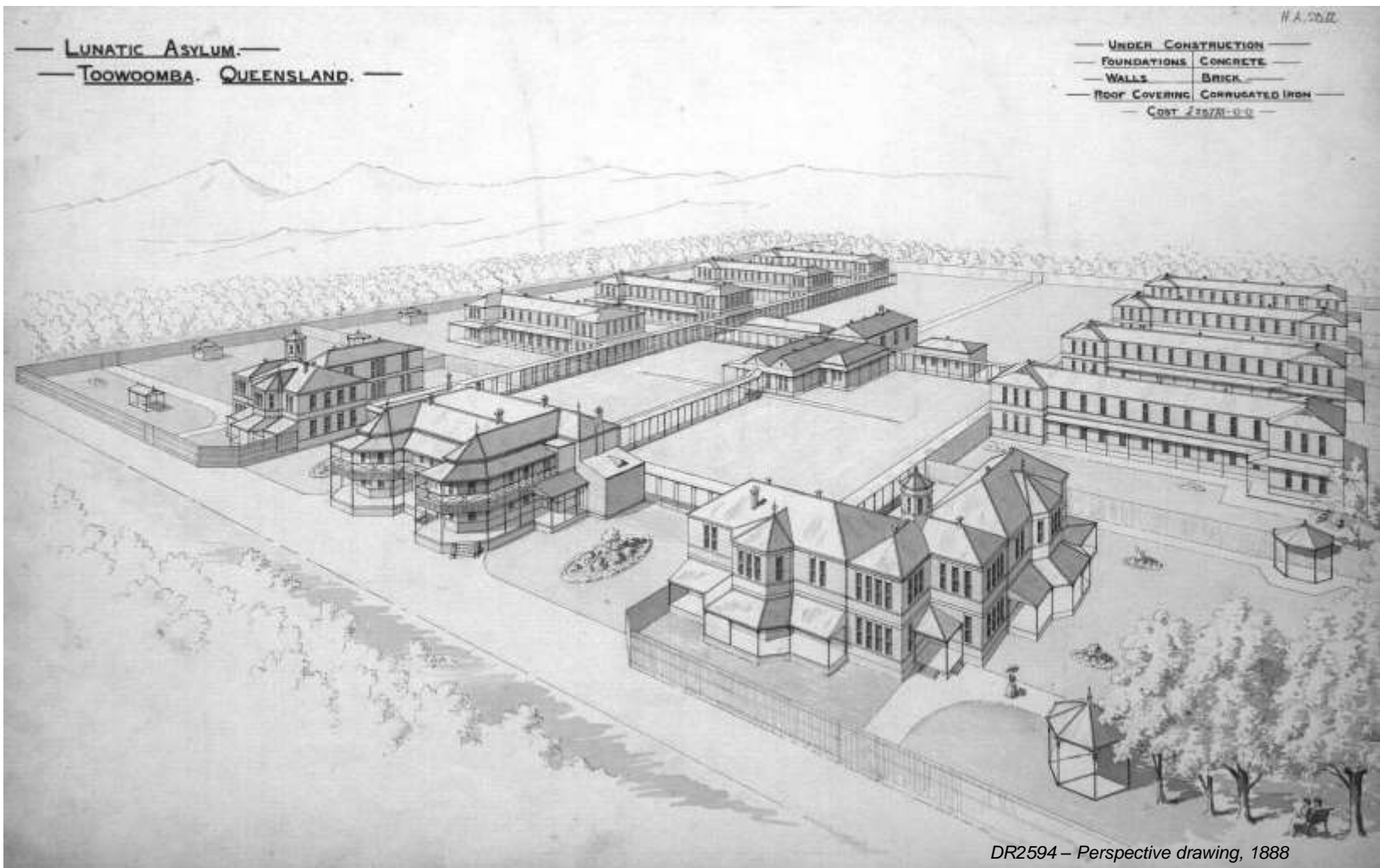


# Mental asylum records



Research Guide to mental asylum records  
at Queensland State Archives

## Research Guide to mental asylum records

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Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

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 its predecessor agencies).

Some records are subject to restricted access periods. Further information about accessing these closed records is provided below.

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

ITM – QSA Item (describes the item)

PR – Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)

DR – Digital Representation (for a digital image)

S – Series ID (for series of records)

A – Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

Please note: indexes and original records may contain language now considered offensive and distressing.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.**

## 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. The Public Trustee is responsible for the administration of deceased estates and trusts as well as other legal, financial and property services.

## Access to Public Trustee records

Most Public Trustee records are subject to a 75-year restricted access period. Researchers may apply for access to restricted records through [ArchivesSearch](#). Access to restricted records is granted at the discretion of the responsible agency.

### **Protective Management Files**

Circa 1/1/1865–31/12/1995

[S334](#)

This series consists of mental health patients' estate files for 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. This is because most protective management files are listed by patient name. However, not all protective management files were transferred to QSA. If your search of ArchivesSearch does not find a file, you may wish to search the *Indexes to Protective Management Files - Public Curator Office / Public Trust Office, Brisbane*, [S19469](#).

### **Indexes to Protective Management Files**

10/1/1865–2/6/1982

[S19469](#)

Search [ArchivesSearch](#) for the name of the patient. This is because most protective management files are listed by patient name. If your search of ArchivesSearch does not find a file, you may wish to search these indexes for details. Details recorded include name, date of admission, year and file number, including changes to file numbers.

## Other Public Trustee records

### **Insanity – Register of Securities**

4/3/1903–6/6/1917

[S7638](#)

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

[S7639](#)

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

### **Jubilee Sanatorium Register**

18/1/1904–31/12/1916

[S9607](#)

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

[S19467](#)

### Records from Queensland Health

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.

#### **Index to Case Books – Male and Female**

Circa 1/1/1909–Circa 31/12/1941

[S18202](#)

This index is used to find case books for patients, [S9051](#).

#### **Case Books**

5/11/1860–25/1/1951

[S9051](#)

To find case books, search the index to case books, [S18202](#).

#### **Registers of Patients and Admission Books**

23/3/1861–18/3/1994

[S19140](#)

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

[S9063](#)

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

Many [Queensland Health](#) records are subject to a 100 year restricted access period. Researchers may apply for access to restricted records using [ArchivesSearch](#); these applications are considered by the [Right To Information](#) (RTI) team. For more information about accessing Queensland Health records, please read this factsheet, [Accessing Queensland Health information | Queensland Health](#)

### Home Secretary's Office

#### **Forms of admission, discharge, removal and escape (Goodna Mental Hospital)**

01/09/1919–31/12/1921

[S8400](#)

These special batch files include records of those residing at the mental hospitals at Goodna, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Townsville and Rockhampton. The forms are arranged alphabetically by family name.

### Insolvency, Intestacy and Insanity Office, Brisbane

#### **Insanity Register of Patients**

8/7/1899–13/8/1904

[S7637](#)

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

[S15553](#)

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

[S10349](#)

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

[S8795](#)

Ledger details may include the deceased person's property, proceeds from auctions and disposal of the estate.

### Other sources of information

There may be relevant information in the [Research Guide to Dunwich and Eventide records](#).

Deaths in Woogaroo Asylum were sometimes followed by an inquest. Often deaths in the mental asylum were not registered with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. More information about searching for inquests in the [Research Guide to Inquest records](#).

### Need more information?

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