

Queensland State Archives

Brief Guide 26

Dunwich Records

Dunwich Benevolent Asylum was established on the 13 May 1865 when inmates were first transferred to the Dunwich Quarantine Station from the Benevolent Ward attached to the Brisbane Hospital. Dunwich Benevolent Asylum continued to operate until it was officially closed on 30 Sep 1946. Inmates were gradually transferred to Eventide, Sandgate, which was officially opened on 4 Oct 1946.

The function of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum as defined by the *Benevolent Asylum Wards Act of 1861* was to provide for poor people who because of age, accident, infirmity or otherwise were unable to care for themselves. Similar conditions for eligibility for admission to Eventide, Sandgate were applied by 1946 Regulations under *The Charitable Institutions Act of 1885*.

Currently, the access provision for these records is 100 years. All requests for access information should be directed to:

FOI Officer
Legal and Administrative Law Unit
Floor 10 Queensland Health Building
GPO Box 48
BRISBANE 4001

Ph: (07) 3234 1735

INMATES

A card index to inmates from the records of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum and Eventide, Sandgate, is located in the Finding Aid Area of the Public Search Room. The records about inmates of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum date from 1859, and thus include inmates who were originally admitted to the Benevolent Asylum at Brisbane Hospital. Hospital daily report books have not been indexed although the names of patients, including inebriates, are included in them. These and other unindexed records of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum and Eventide, Sandgate can be located by consulting the electronic database to holdings under the agency headings.

Notes regarding the card index to inmates

- * An inmate's name may appear on more than one card as inmates' names may occur in several records.

A typed index to **Applications for admission** to Dunwich Benevolent Asylum with associated correspondence, 28 Jan 1890 - 20 Jul 1922 (COL/301-319; Z2095 - Z2110), is available. Applications for admission may also be located in the

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

Register of applications for admission to the Benevolent Asylum, Dunwich

1902 - 1904

QSA Location Number IMM/108.

The *Queensland Government Gazette* 1885 - 1906 published regular reports. They include lists of people admitted, re-admitted, discharged, and deceased. Some personal details are given. These have been indexed into the card index in the Public Search Room. They have been copied and are available in the Search Room. Please copy from the microfilm copy of the Government Gazette.

Further references to inmates may be found in the records of the controlling agencies (see Administration).

STAFF

References to staff may be located in the

HOME SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Special Batches: Dunwich, staff

1920 - 1948

QSA Location Number A/4687.

and in the correspondence series of other controlling agencies (see Administration).

ADMINISTRATION

From 13 May 1865 to 1 May 1867, Dunwich Benevolent Asylum was administered by the Brisbane General Hospital. References to inmates and their transfer to Dunwich may be located in the

BRISBANE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Minute books of committee meetings of the Brisbane General Hospital

1858 - 1867

QSA Location Number HOS 1/D5-D7.

From 1867 the administration of the Asylum became the direct responsibility of the Colonial Secretary's Office. References to the Asylum may be located in the general correspondence series of the Colonial Secretary's Office from 1859/1860. Access to the correspondence series is through the

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Indexes to registers of letters received

1861 - 1877

QSA Location Number COL/C1-17.

Registers of letters received

15 Dec 1859 - Dec 1896

QSA Location Number COL/B1-36.

From 1897 the Home Office was responsible for the administration of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum. References to the Asylum in the general correspondence series of the Home Office may be located through the

HOME OFFICE

Registers of letters received

1897 - 1907

QSA Location Number HOM/B1-3,5-11,14-15,17.

Registers of letters received concerning the work of benevolent asylums

1908, 1909, 1911

QSA Location Number HOM/B20,38,25.

Registers of letters received from institutions

1912 - 1930

QSA Location Number HOM/B41,B43,B45,B47 and continuing odd numbers to B77.

References may also be included in the

HOME SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Registers of letters sent to Dalby Sanatorium, Diamantina Hospital and Dunwich

1905 - 1907

QSA Location Number A/4818 - A/4819.

From 1931 - 1935, references to Dunwich Benevolent Asylum may be located in the general correspondence series of the

HOME SECRETARY'S OFFICE

General correspondence

1931 - 1935

QSA Location Number A/3500 - A/3814.

Access is through the

Registers of letters received from institutions

1931 - 1935

QSA Location Number A/4746 - A/4750.

From 1936 - 1952, references to Dunwich Benevolent Asylum and Eventide, Sandgate may be located in the

HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS

Special Batches: Dunwich, generally

1891 - 1946

QSA Location Number A/4683 - A/4686, A/31721.

Special Batches: Dunwich, stock

1931 - 1946

QSA Location Number A/31722.

Special Batches: Dunwich Benevolent Asylum

1899 - 1925

QSA Location Number A/4671.

Special Batches: Eventide, Sandgate

1946 - 1952

QSA Location Number A/31727 - A/31728.

References may also be located in the

General correspondence

1936 - 1950

QSA Location Number A/3815 - A/4455, A/31832 - A/33486.

Access is through the

Registers of letters received from institutions

1936 - 1950

QSA Location Number A/4751 - A/4754, B/572 - 582.

Records relating to inmates may also be located in the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum register of the Public Curator Office and previous agencies, 24 Feb 1891 - 18 Jan 1917, (A/51805).

OTHER RECORDS

Other records relating to Dunwich Benevolent Asylum may be located by consulting the records of various departments, for example the Works Department. References to Dunwich Benevolent Asylum also appear in the **Subject Catalogue** and the **Items of Interest Catalogue** under the name of the agency or under the subject heading Benevolent Societies.