...
Young Men's Christian Association

speaking and debating, photography and leadership. In addition to the 1,700 members on the books in 1934, many thousands more made use of YMCA facilities and activities. From 1956 young women were accepted as associate members. The YMCA's Camp Pickering (named for Ernest Pickering, the association's general secretary from 1927 to 1952) opened at Stoneville in 1958 on a site owned and developed by the YMCA for over thirty years. YMCA centres opened across the suburbs (Victoria Park, Melville, Scarborough, Claremont, Bentley, South Perth, Armadale) and by 1963 membership totalled almost six thousand across the state.

The hostel's facilities and the annual Rottnest camp, a regular event since 1921, remained institutions. But the 1980s was a decade of change: Fremantle folded in 1981 due to financial strain; the YMCA lost its Rottnest site in 1983; and the YMCA generally faced monetary problems. The YMCA began to cater more directly for inner-city youth in need with their Murray Street night shelter, and drop-in centres were established at Coolbellup, Bentley, Armadale and Fremantle. The YMCA also became involved in Aboriginal outreach. A further new direction was the opening of childcare facilities for working parents. The YMCA became involved with youth rehabilitation and from the early 1990s, in concert with the state government, worked in mediation services for youth. In 1991 the YMCA ceased its eighty-year relationship with its premises in Murray Street and moved to new headquarters in Short Street. In 2007 facilities included ten recreational centres (metropolitan, Port Hedland and Kojonup), twenty-eight childcare centres, three youth centres (one mobile), mobile support centres in the Great Southern and the Wheatbelt, and a hostel in Goderich Street. Jan Gothard

See also: Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA); Youth movements