Family history sources – contents

Sources at home

A fundamental principle of family history research is to **start with yourself** and work backwards and outwards. In other words, start at home – your own home, your close relatives' homes, and then keep moving out to more distant relatives.

Many people have useful information and sources for tracing their family history sitting around the house including birth, death or marriage certificates, wills, old family photos, newspaper clippings or family letters.

- When you start researching your family's history, have a look around your own house to see what things you might have, especially things that have been passed down through the family. They might be photographs, documents or objects, like household items, jewellery or even furniture.

- Ask relatives if they have anything that might be useful. Older relatives might have already written down some family history or begun compiling a family tree or created a slideshow for a family reunion or a commemoration. Ask to makes copies or use your phone camera or a digital camera to photograph items they have. Make sure you make a note of who has what item.

- If relatives start to see you as the 'family historian', they might be happy to give material to you. People may be happy to know someone is going to put the things they have been saving to good use. If they do give you documents or items, it is good practice to write a note or receipt listing what they gave you and when. In this way they have a record of the items they gave to you if another family member asks.

Use a checklist

Use the Sources at home list to help you to think about all of the papers that you have at your home and the papers you might be able to ask other family members to look for. Of course, you won't necessarily need all of the sources listed.

But some of them may have just the piece of information you need. For example, one of your grandfathers or great grandfathers may have served in World War 1. No one in the family has ever mentioned this to you, but you see an old photograph of a young man in uniform and ask who he is. Finding out that one of your ancestors served in WW1 means that he has a military service record. The National Archives of Australia has digitized Australian First World War service records and these are publicly available via their website. You can do a name search on their RecordSearch online catalogue.

Records can include information about next of kin, place of enlistment, medical history and sometimes correspondence from family – all valuable information for your research.

Toolkit: Sources at home checklist.

Sources – interviews

One of the most important parts of doing your family history is talking to older relatives and recording what they know before it's too late.

Older relatives had many experiences and remember people who have since passed away. They may also remember communities, missions or government stations that no longer exist.

If your older relatives have passed away, see if you can talk to their friends, neighbours or community elders – they might remember events involving your family.

Also, while Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the key source of Indigenous history, non-Aboriginal people may be able to tell you important things too.

Some relatives might be very keen to be interviewed, others hesitant or fearful. Interviews can bring up memories of hurt and embarrassment, or remind people of old feuds and family disagreements. Being interviewed may be very distressing for your relative, especially if they are talking about their own or a family member's experience of separation or other difficult events in the past.

Getting started

You can use the **Family member information sheet** as a guide to the types of information you might be looking for in your interviews.

Family gatherings. Informal conversations at family gatherings and visits are a great way to get started. Tell people that you want to do some family history and ask them what they remember. It's also a good idea to ask them if it's okay if you take notes or write things down.

Photographs. Another useful way to break the ice is to talk about old photographs. Bring along any photos you have questions about and ask your relative to bring along family pictures too.

Visiting places. You might take older relatives back to the places of their childhood and walk around with them, getting them to tell you about where all the buildings were and the activities took place. You can draw a map. Visiting a place may help memories and stories come back to them.

Email or letter. If you can't talk with someone face to face, you may be able to ask them questions by email or letter. You'll first need to ask them if they are willing to help you and explain what family history research you are doing and why. If they are willing to help you, send them a basic list of questions (see the Family member information sheet for ideas). You can follow up with more detailed questions if you need to.

Keeping track of information

Remember to make a record of your conversation – the best way is to record it using a voice recorder. If you take notes you might miss an important piece of information or interrupt the flow of the conversation.

Oral history interviewing

If you think you might only have one chance to interview a particular relative, you should consider doing an oral history interview. For this you'll need to do some preparation, such as writing down the questions you want to ask and thinking about how you might record the interview.

If you would like to record an oral history interview with a family member or someone else, it is a good idea to learn how to do this properly. Oral History Australia has a branch in each state and territory and they run workshops for people who want to learn how to record interviews. You can learn about how to prepare for an interview, the types of questions you might like to ask as well as many other aspects of the craft of oral history. Oral History Australia branches can also offer advice on the best equipment to use so that your interviews will be clear and can be preserved for future generations. See https://www.oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/

Find out more

Further information about how to do interviews and oral histories for family research is available online or through your local library.

Books

- ○ Thomas MacEntee, *Preserving your family's oral history and stories*, Unlock the Past, 2014 https://www.genealogybargains.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/EBOOK-Preserving-Family-Oral-History.pdf

- ○ Penny Taylor & AIATSIS, *Telling it like it is:* A *guide to making Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history*, Aboriginal Studies Press, 1996

- ○ Beth M Robertson, *Oral History Handbook, Oral History Association of Australia, SA branch,* Fifth Edition 2006 – available from Oral History Australia SANT http://oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au/publications/

Websites

- FamilySearch – Creating oral histories
  familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Creating_Oral_Histories

- Smithsonian Institution – Folklife and oral history interviewing guide
  https://folklife.si.edu/the-smithsonian-folklife-and-oral-history-interviewing-guide/smithsonian

- Oral History Association (USA) Web guides to doing oral history
  http://www.oralhistory.org/web-guides-to-doing-oral-history/

- Oral History in the Digital Age http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/

Sources – photographs

Photographs are a valuable source for family history. Both photos held by family members and those found in library, archive and museum collections can provide important research clues and help personalise your family history search.

Unfortunately many old photographs are not labelled so it is difficult to work out who is in the photo or when and where it was taken. Used together with your other research, however, you might be able to figure out the people and places.

Personal and family photos

When you start family history research, one of the first things you should look for is old photographs. Make a copy by scanning the photo so that you can make printouts to use while you're researching and keep the original safe at home. This will also ensure that you have a digital copy if ever the original is lost.

Always label who is in photographs in your own collections, if you know. Do it in soft pencil on the back or on a separate piece of paper kept with them. Never use pen.

When you visit relatives, particularly older family members, take the photographs along and ask if they can identify the people or places.

Your relatives might also have copies of old family photographs you haven't seen before. Ask to borrow the photographs, get a copy made and return the original. Or you can take a photo of the photo if they are reluctant to part with it.

Ask your family members about the photos they have – the names of the people in them, when and where the photo was taken and what was happening.

You might consider making copies of family photographs available to your local keeping place and/or to AIATSIS.

Getting information from photographs

Identifying people, places and events in old family photographs can be difficult. But the images themselves can provide clues:

- The technology of photography has changed over time, and the type of photograph can help date it to a particular period – for example, small black and white 'snapshot' photographs usually date from the early 20th century.

- If the photograph is a studio style photograph and the name of the photographer or a studio is written on the front or the back, you might be able to work out the place and approximate date it was taken – start by searching for the photographer's name in Trove digitised newspapers.

- Look closely at the photograph to see if there are any signs, shop names, street names or distinctive buildings in it – a search of Trove digitised newspapers might help identify the location.

- Pay attention to hairstyles and the clothes people are wearing in the photograph, especially women, as this can help you date the photograph. If there are any vehicles in the photograph the style and make of them can also help in dating a photograph

- If your family lived on a particular mission, reserve or station, see if you can locate other photographs of that place and compare the landscape, buildings and even people to see if they match.

You can find lots of other tips and hints online – do a Google search for 'dating family photos'. There are also a number of books about old family photos, such as *Identifying and dating old family photographs* by Graham Jaunay (Adelaide Proformat, 2014).

Photographs in library, archive and museum collections

Many library, archive and museum collections around Australia contain important photographic collections relating to Aboriginal people.

While the photographs may have been taken by non-Indigenous people for postcards, by travellers or by scientists, anthropologists and other researchers, they remain a valuable record of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their histories and cultures.

Even if these collections do not hold photographs of your family members, they might contain images of the places they lived.

AIATSIS

The AIATSIS Pictorial Collection contains around 650,000 photographs relating to Indigenous Australia, dating from the late 1800s to the present day. More than 90 per cent of the collection is unique material not held elsewhere and it is the world's most comprehensive photographic record of Australia's Indigenous peoples. You can search photo captions online in the Mura catalogue. Search Mura® for photographs: catalogue.aiatsis.gov.au

Some of the photos in the collection have been digitised. These can only be searched and printed at the AIATSIS reading room in Canberra. However if you find a photo caption via your Mura search that might relate to your research, you can contact AIATSIS to arrange for a digital copy or printed copy to be made for you.

AIATISIS has also digitised the *Dawn* and *New Dawn* magazine. This was printed by the New South Wales Aborigines Welfare Board from 1935 to 1965 and contains many photographs related to New South Wales Aboriginal people. All issues are available online and is the magazine is indexed in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (ABI). http://aiatsis.gov.au/publications/products/dawn-and-new-dawn-1952-1975-mazagine-aboriginal-people-new-south-wales

Tindale collection – South Australian Museum

Photographs of Aboriginal people make up a significant part of the Tindale collection held by the South Australian Museum. See Sources: Tindale genealogies for more information on where to access them.

Trove – National Library of Australia

Other collections of photographs of Aboriginal people are held in institutions such as the National Archives of Australia, state archives, the National Library of Australia, state libraries, non-government/church archives, museums and local historical societies.

You can search for images in many Australian and overseas collections through the Pictures, photos, objects tab on Trove.

Use search terms such as 'Aboriginal' or 'Aborigine' combined with a place name (for example, 'Aboriginal Dubbo' or Aboriginal AND Dubbo) or search using a the name of a mission, reserve or station (for example, 'Ernabella'). You are less likely to find relevant photographs searching by people's names but it might be worth a try. For example a search for Aboriginal AND Wilson finds photos of people with the surname Wilson as well as Wilson as the name of a street and a river.

Offensive language

Photographs held in Libraries, museums and archives often include offensive and racist language in the captions. Historical photographs themselves may be offensive and distressing because they reveal the ways in which Aboriginal people were treated. In addition, some photographers used offensive backdrops and put people into costumes that fit current stereotypes. Sometimes people were 'paid' for posing in such photographs with valuable goods such as food or tobacco.

Sources – birth, death and marriage records

Births, deaths and marriages [BDM] form a chain linking one generation of your family to the next and one branch of your family to another. You can use the BDM information you find to follow these links back through your family tree.

Realistically, you will probably spend a significant amount of time tracking down BDM records as you do your family history research.

Australian government BDM records are indexed, which means you can search by name, place and date within the date ranges which are open for public searching access. Working backwards from yourself, you should think of all the family names you know, the year your family members were born, married or died and where they were from. These can be keys for your search. If you don't know all these things, just one can be a starting point.

Three types of BDMs

There are two main types of 'mainstream' BDM records: **civil registrations** (which are government records) and **parish registers** (which are church records).

Information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander births, deaths and marriages, however, may have been recorded differently. For example,

- In the Northern Territory nearly all Aboriginal people were named in a Register of Aboriginal Wards published in the *Northern Territory Government Gazette*, no. 1913, on 13 May 1957. It recorded place of residence, tribal and language groups and dates of births and deaths. A copy is now held by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Darwin.

- Aborigines protection and welfare boards often recorded Aboriginal births, deaths and marriages of people who were defined as 'Aborigines' and 'supervised' by the board.

- Church bodies that managed missions and other institutions recorded BDM information about people under their control. Some, like the Aborigines Inland Mission (AIM), published newsletters which announced births, deaths and marriages.

When doing Indigenous family history research it is important to search both mainstream sources of BDM information and Aboriginal-specific sources. Remember that there will be many people for whom there is no official or other type of birth record. This guide also provides information about what to do if this is the case.

What information will you find on BDM certificates?

BDM certificates can provide a wealth information beyond dates and places of birth, death and marriage. They often include addresses, names of witnesses who might be family members or friends, maiden names or former married names of women, ages, occupations and religions.

However, the information found on certificates varies. Earlier records are likely to have less information. Some states collected more information than others.

Parish records might have extra information, such as your ancestor's original signature.

Information you might find on birth, death or marriage certificates

Birth certificate:	Marriage certificate:	Death certificate:
• Surname	• Names of the bride and groom	• Name of deceased
• Given name of the child	• Bride's maiden and former name/s	• Sex
• Date of birth	• Their occupations	• Date of death
• Place of birth	• Usual place of residence	• Cause of death
• Sex	• Where they were born	• Place of death
• Father's name	• Any previous marriages	• Age
• Occupation	• Names of their parent(s)	• Occupation
• Mother's name	• Registration number	• Residence
• Mother's maiden name		• Place of birth
• Ages		• Place of marriage
• Other children of the		• Name of spouse
• union		• Children of the union
• Place of residence		• Where buried
• Registration number		• Who the informant was
		• Registration number

Points to remember

- Information is only as reliable as the source. The informant on a death certificate may, for example, have hardly known the deceased person.

- Be mindful of spelling variations as people often recorded information as it sounded and in earlier times many people could not read and write.

- Try to double-check information on certificates with other records such as cemetery records, headstone inscriptions or other records.

- A marriage certificate may give details of the parents of each spouse, and is the most reliable certificate for information as both parties were present at the event and could give their own information.

Sources – Birth, death and marriage records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **2** of **9**

- Birth, death and marriage certificates will sometimes include statements as to Aboriginality, especially in earlier records.

- Births, deaths and marriages of Aboriginal people were often not registered. This was sometimes related to legal restrictions such as the Queensland *Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of Sale of Opium Acts 1901*, which prohibited the marriage of Aboriginal women to non-Aboriginal men without the express permission of the government. However it also occurred for many other reasons such as the remoteness of a birth place.

- Births of Indigenous children were not often registered in order to protect them from removal policies. Large number of Indigenous people worked on pastoral stations where events were recorded in station papers, diaries and resources rather than in the standard birth death and marriage registrations. Sadly many of these records have not survived because most stations were privately owned and preservation of documents relied on the individual owners.

- Sometimes you will see the word 'native' on a birth, death or marriage certificate. Be aware that this notation, especially on early records, does not refer to Aboriginality but refers to a person born in Australia rather than immigrating from England or elsewhere.

- How far back do BDM records go?

Compulsory civil registration of births, deaths and marriages was introduced in Australia in the middle of the 19th century. This meant that people were required by law to register these events with government authorities. Despite this, events were sometimes not registered, particularly in remote and rural areas.

In the early days of Australian colonisation the churches alone were responsible for recording baptisms, weddings and burials within their jurisdictions. These records are known as 'early church records' or 'parish registers'. Churches also continued to record events in parish registers after civil registration was introduced.

Government registries have tried to combine the information in early parish registers into the civil registration indexes where possible. If you don't find a registration in the indexes, think about what religion your ancestor might have been to and check if parish registers exist.

In early times BDM registrations were recorded by District Registrars and then sent to a central register in the cities. Occasionally the records never made it to the city. If you are unable to find a record in the main BDM index, you can also try a search of the district registers for the place you believe your ancestor was born. These are usually held in State libraries.

Sources – Birth, death and marriage records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **3** of **9**

Year that civil registration of births, deaths and marriages began

- New South Wales 1856
- Victoria 1853
- Queensland 1856 (as New South Wales)
- Western Australia 1841
- South Australia 1842
- Tasmania 1838
- Northern Territory 1870 (formerly included in South Australia)
- Australian Capital Territory 1930 (formerly included in New South Wales)

Searching for historical BDM registrations

Some of the historical Australian BDM records have been indexed, meaning that you can search for BDM certificates by name, place and date. Anyone can use the BDM indexes where they are available

You can do online name searches of historical BDMs for the states listed below. You can use google to search for different BDM websites by typing in something like 'BDM NSW'. Their webpages will provide you with other information about the Registry in that state or territory such as their contact details and how to apply for certificates.

- New South Wales (or search for 'NSW BDM')
  https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/Pages/family-history-research/family-history-search.aspx

- Northern Territory – no online access

- Victoria (or search for 'Victoria BDM')
  https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/bdm/indexsearch.doj

- Queensland (or search for 'Queensland BDM')
  https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research

- Western Australia (or search for 'WA BDM')
  https://bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/_apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx

- South Australia (or search for 'SA BDM') access is via Genealogy SA online database, which also indexes Advertiser newspaper BDM notices
  https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html

- Tasmania (or search for Tasmania BDM) best access is via the LINC website Names Index https://linctas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/

Sources – Birth, death and marriage records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **4** of **9**

You can also access some BDM indexes through Ancestry.com and Family Search. Many libraries and family history societies have copies of BDM indexes in printed volumes, on CD-ROM and/or microfiche.

If you are having trouble finding particular information using the online indexes, try those on CD-ROM. Although not as simple to use as the online indexes, you can do more complicated searches in the CD-ROM databases. This is useful if you only have limited information, for example, if you are looking for the birth of a child and you only know the mother's given name and an approximate year of birth.

Remember you can ask your local librarian or family history society staff for help. Some of the BDM registries also provide specialised services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Are all BDMs available?

Open period BDMs. Anyone can apply for copies of historical certificates. These are considered 'open'. The table below shows the open periods by state and territory. Note that they are all different!

Closed period BDMs. Concerns about privacy and identity theft mean that more recent BDM events are not available. These are considered 'closed'.

What historical BDMs are available (years ago by state and territory)

State	Birth	Marriage	Death
New South Wales	100 years ago	50 years ago	30 years ago
Queensland	100	75	35
Northern Territory	100	75	30
South Australia	100	75	30
Victoria	100	65	30
Tasmania	100	75	25
Western Australia	100	75	30
Australian Capital Territory	100	75	30

Sources – Birth, death and marriage records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **5** of **9**

Access policies

Each BDM authority has rules about the availability of its records to the public. There are also rules about when you need to show permission from the person named in the certificate or show proof of your relationship to them (for example, your parents, children or grandparents).

- Australian Capital Territory: https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/18/~/apply-for-a-birth%2C-death-or-marriage-certificate

- New South Wales: https://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/Pages/family-history-research/family-history-research-nsw.aspx

- Northern Territory: https://nt.gov.au/law/bdm/search-births-deaths-and-marriages-records

- Queensland: https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research/information-and-how-to-access-and-order-records/information-you-can-access/

- South Australia: https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/family-and-community/births,-deaths-and-marriages/family-research

- Victoria: https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation-policies-and-practices/access-to-registry-information/information-is

- Western Australia: http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/C/certificate_access_policies.aspx

Where to get copies of BDM certificates

Each state and territory in Australia has a registry of births, deaths and marriages. You can apply to the registry for official copies of certificates via their websites. Unfortunately certificates are costly to purchase.

To find BDM websites with addresses and contact information, remember to just do a google search like NSW BDM or Vic BDM.

Transcription services

In some states you can use a transcription service to record what is on a certificate. Transcriptions provide the same information as certificates and are usually cheaper and quicker, but can't be used for legal purposes. Ask the BDM registry if there are any transcription services in your state.

Some states have specialised information or services to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to find and get access to BDM information. Links to information in New South

Sources – Birth, death and marriage records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **6** of **9**

Wales, Victoria and the NT are below or you could contact the registrar and ask if they have an Indigenous staff member to help you or someone to assist with Aboriginal BDM records.

New South Wales: http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal

Northern Territory: http://guides.naa.gov.au/tracking-family/chapter5/5.19.aspx

Victoria: https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/koori-services/culturally-sensitive-services. Email bdmindigenousaccess@justice.vic.gov.au

Sources – Birth, death and marriage records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **7** of **9**

What if you can't find BDM records?

It may be difficult to find BDMs for family members. Some common reasons are:

- the registration name was spelled differently from the one you searched for

- the registration name was different from the name the person was usually known by

- the birth was registered under the mother's maiden name

- the registration name was a nickname or alias

- the event was never registered, due to reasons such as distance, suspicion of the system, and natural events like floods or fires

- the event was registered in an unexpected place – for example, the person was born at one place but registered in a different town

- information provided at registration was incorrect, either deliberately (for example, to hide illegitimacy or under-age marriage) or because the correct information wasn't known

- information recorded at registration was incorrect because the registrar misheard, misspelled or misinterpreted the information told to them

- a keyboard error or an error in interpreting the original handwriting was made when the index was compiled

- the event is outside the open period for access to BDM records.

What you can do

You can try to find other records for birth, death and marriage information, for example:

- BDM certificates of other people in the family, such as brothers and sisters of the person you're researching

- Trove digitised newspapers – birth, baptism, death, marriage, funeral and in memoriam notices for family members; reports on inquests, divorces, etc.

- Other online indexes of birth, death and funeral records in newspapers – Genealogy SA online database (birth and death notices in the South Australian Advertiser newspaper), Ryerson Index https://www.ryersonindex.org/ (death and funeral notices in Australian newspapers) Savill Index http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/savill/ (Advertiser funeral notices).

Sources – Birth, death and marriage records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **8** of **9**

- Mission records – especially registers of baptisms, marriages, births and deaths

- 'Protection' and welfare records – letters, reports, censuses, diaries, records of children in training institutions

- Tindale genealogies or other ethnographical or anthropological collections

- War service records

- Divorce records

- Cemetery records

- Inquest records

- Electoral rolls

- Census records

- School and/or hospital admission registers

- Family Bible

See CoraWeb – http://www.coraweb.com.au/categories/birth-death-and-marriage-records for more ideas.

Sources – Birth, death and marriage records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **9** of **9**

Sources – burial and cemetery records

Cemetery records can provide information about the death of family members and can be useful when you can't find a death certificate. They might also provide other information about the deceased person and their immediate family.

What are cemetery records?

Two types of cemetery records – **burial records** and **headstone inscriptions** – record information about people who have died.

Burial records are records of the actual burial event. They vary in the amount of information they provide, but might contain:

- the name of the person who died

- their age at time of death

- the date of their death and/or burial

- where they lived

- who performed the ceremony and the name of the undertaker

- their religion

- the location of their grave in the cemetery

- names of other people buried in the same grave

- a transcription of the inscription on the headstone.

Burial records list all burials in a cemetery, even when there isn't a headstone or plaque.

Headstone inscriptions are the words found in cemeteries on plaques, headstones and at gravesites. They often provide useful information not found elsewhere, particularly for early deaths where written records don't exist or contain little detail.

You will not always find a headstone on a grave. Many people were buried in unmarked graves, and old headstones have often weathered, been destroyed or are hard to read. In this case you might be able to find information from registers published by local family history societies.

A number of 'lonely graves' projects around Australia are documenting graves that are outside recognised cemeteries, such as those on rural properties. Do an online search for 'lonely graves' to find information about the various projects.

Other death records you might also check are death notices, funeral notices, obituaries and in memoriam notices published in newspapers, and wills and probate records. Mission records might also contain information about Aboriginal people who died or were buried on the mission.

What information do you need to look for cemetery records?

To start researching you need to know:

- the name of the person
- their place of death

It can also be helpful to know:

- their place of burial, which is usually given on their death certificate.

If you don't know where the person died or is buried, you might find this information by:

- looking at electoral rolls from the place they were living just before their death. From these you may find out their address or that of their children – it's likely they were buried in a cemetery nearby

- searching historical newspapers in Trove for a death or funeral notice, which might give a place of burial.

- If you find a funeral notice, the funeral director (if they are still operating) may be able to assist you with information about where the person concerned was buried or if they were cremated.

Where do you find cemetery records?

Burial and cemetery records are kept by cemetery trusts, church authorities and local councils.

- Many of these records have been published and can be searched online or at your local library, state library or family history society. Sometimes transcriptions or photographs of headstones are also available online, but often you will need to visit the cemetery itself. Try the following cemetery searching websites:

- Australian Cemeteries website - http://www.australiancemeteries.com.au/

- Australian Cemeteries Index - https://www.austcemindex.com/

You can also do a Google search for useful guides to cemetery and burial records in libraries and on other websites using the search terms or links below.

- National Library of Australia – Australian cemetery records - https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/cemetery-records

  CoraWeb – Cemeteries http://www.coraweb.com.au/categories/cemeteries

- State Library of NSW – Deaths and burials
  http://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/c.php?g=671850&p=4729307

- State Library of Victoria – Cemetery records
  https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/victorianancestors/cemeteries

- State Library of Queensland – Cemetery records http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history/cemetery-records

- State Library of SA – SA deaths http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/bdm/SAdeaths and
  http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/bdm/sacemeteries

- State Library of WA – Cemeteries
  http://cms.slwa.wa.gov.au/dead_reckoning/private_archives/a-f/cemeteries

- LINC Tasmania – Cemetery records https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/guides-records/Pages/cemetery.aspx

- Genealogical Society of the NT
  http://www.gsnt.org.au/sites/default/files/Cemeteries%20of%20the%20Northern%20Territory.pdf

Records about adoption, fostering and institutions

Governments, churches and welfare bodies removed Indigenous children from their families from the first days of British colonisation. These children may have been adopted, fostered out to white families or brought up in institutions. Many experienced all of these - first removed to an institution, placed out in a foster home, or as a domestic servant/labourer, and later adopted.

The institutions included Homes for children from all backgrounds and institutions exclusively for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Some were separated into dormitories on missions (run by religious groups) or stations/reserves (run by governments).

Why were Indigenous children sent to both types of institutions?

Across Australia, from colonisation until the 1970s governments removed Aboriginal children from their families. From the 1950s onwards many followed 'assimilation' policies to separate children from their Indigenous families and raise them to become white Australians.

- Some Indigenous children were removed under Aboriginal protection and welfare laws and sent to segregated Indigenous institutions.

- Indigenous children with lighter skin were separated and adopted, fostered or institutionalised under 'mainstream' child welfare legislation and sent to 'mainstream' institutions.

- Many children were passed between these two systems and spent time in both types of institutions.

During the 1970s Aboriginal protection and welfare legislation began to be repealed and the majority of segregated institutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were closed down. However some continued to operate until the 1980s-1990s. Indigenous children continued to be adopted, fostered or institutionalised under 'mainstream' child welfare law.

The key point for family history research is that there were separate bureaucracies (different government departments) with different ways of keeping records about children in care.

Access to records is limited to protect privacy

Records about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care are very personal and subject to strict access conditions to protect their privacy. This includes access to historical records and access to name indexes. Generally you can access records about yourself or very close relatives depending on the age of the records and your relationship to the person.

All state and territories have special teams that assist people to access their records.

Contact information

Where to get help has comprehensive contact information for accessing records in each state and territory.

Stolen Generations

Since the publication of the Bringing Them Home Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families (April 1997) Australian governments have created special teams to assist people to apply for access to their records and special indexes that make these records easier to find.

Link-Up services have been established in most states and territories to assist members of the Stolen Generations. See: Stolen Generations for more information.

Contact information

Link-Up services has comprehensive contact information for Link-Ups in each state and territory.

Forgotten Australians

In 2004 the report of the Senate inquiry into children in institutional care was published. This report was titled, *Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children.*

The Find & Connect web resource – www.findandconnect.gov.au was developed to provide information about children's homes across Australia, including homes for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children.

The site provides short histories of each institution and information about what types of records have survived about the children who lived there, where the records are held and how to apply for access to them. Find & Connect was set up to help people who were in out-of-home 'care' as children to learn more about their histories and to locate and access their personal records. On this site you can:

- find historical information about government and non-government institutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

- trace the history of institutions that started missions and were taken over by governments and later came under Aboriginal community control

- trace the name changes of institutions over time

- search for information about institutions in different ways – who ran them, where they were located, when they opened and closed

- read information about and view images of children's homes

Records about adoption, fostering and institutions
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page 2 of 3

- get help to find records about your childhood in 'care'

- view an interactive timeline of child welfare in Australia and find brief histories of child welfare in each state and territory

- find information about accessing records and freedom of information/privacy legislation in each jurisdiction

- connect with support services in your state/territory.

No personal information or private records are shown on the Find & Connect website.

To locate Find & Connect resources specifically about Aboriginal people, search the site using the term 'Aboriginal'. You can then limit the results by state or time period.
https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/browse/

For more information about the records and accessing them, see Find & Connect – Information about records. https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/information-about-records/

For help with searching the Find & Connect website download the Induction Pack
https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/find-connect-web-resource-induction-pack/

Records about adoption, fostering and institutions
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page 3 of 3

Sources – newspapers

Historical newspapers are a very valuable source for family history. Australian newspapers, especially local and country newspapers, published lots of material about individuals and families in their area.

Newspapers often contain information about people that you can't find anywhere else.

The sorts of information you might find include births, deaths, funerals, marriages, obituaries, inquests, court cases, social events, church activities, school exam results, sporting events, legal notices, land sales, advertisements for businesses and military service.

Many researchers find material in newspapers that help them flesh out their family histories, making them more than just lists of names and dates.

While you are more likely to find non-Indigenous people in newspapers, this can be particularly useful when families include both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

The State Library of Queensland has produced an excellent online guide *Newspapers: family history info guide* (www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history/newspapers).

Trove digitised newspapers

The National Library of Australia provides free access to digitised copies of historical newspapers through its website, Trove . Over 218 million newspaper articles are available and the number is growing all the time

You can search digitised newspapers on Trove using keywords like your ancestor's name and the place they lived. https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/

You can limit your search in various ways – by date, state, newspaper or article type.

Here are some tips for searching:

- When you search for a name, add a place name to your search. Searching for both a person's name and place at once might bring up more relevant results. Also try variations of the person's name (surname, given name, full name, different spellings). To search for a full name "John Smith", put the name in quotation marks. To add and place, write AND Dubbo.

- Try searching using both your ancestor's name and the term 'Aboriginal' or 'Aborigine' – for example, Tommy AND Aborigine. Newspapers often referred to Aboriginal people by their first names only or by nicknames, using phrases like 'Tommy, an aborigine' or 'the aboriginal Tommy'.

- Try searching using both the name of place your family lived and the term 'Aboriginal' or 'Aborigine' – for example, Bega AND Aborigine. Many newspapers reported in general terms about Aboriginal people, rather than using names of individual people.

- Remember that historical newspapers often reflect the racist attitudes of the white people who wrote and published them. You might find your ancestors described using words that are offensive, or you might find distressing personal details about your ancestors and their lives.

Read more about using digitised newspapers in Trove in the Trove Help Centre.

- Using Trove: Digitised newspapers - http://help.nla.gov.au/trove/using-trove/digitised-newspapers

- Using Trove: Searching in newspapers - http://help.nla.gov.au/trove/using-trove/digitised-newspapers/searching-in-newspapers

- Trove tips for family historians - https://www.nla.gov.au/blogs/trove/2014/08/25/trove-tips-for-family-historians

The National Library is continually adding more digitised newspapers to Trove, but not all historical newspapers are available yet. The latest year for the majority of newspapers is 1954 due to copyright restrictions. A very small number of newspapers are digitised beyond that date including *The Canberra Times*. An alphabetical list of newspaper titles by state and territory is available here: https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/about. Read on for ideas about accessing newspapers that aren't available in Trove.

Hard copy newspapers

For newspapers that aren't digitised in Trove, you will need to visit a library that has original hard copies or microfilm copies. This research can be difficult and time consuming unless you have a specific date and/or event to look for.

Some newspaper indexes are available, but they may not include the sorts of terms you would want to look up.

State libraries are the best place to look for newspapers that aren't available in Trove. Copies of suburban or country newspapers might also be held by a local public library, historical society or museum. For information about newspapers in State and Territory Libraries, use the following search phrases or links:

- National Library of Australia: Newspapers https://www.nla.gov.au/what-we-collect/newspapers

- State Library of New South Wales: Newspapers http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections-using-library/newspapers

- State Library of Victoria: How to find newspapers https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/newspapers

- State Library of Queensland: Newspapers http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/newspapers

- State Library of South Australia: Newspapers and guide to SA newspapers http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/newspapers

- State Library of Western Australia: WA newspapers http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/explore-discover/wa-heritage/wa-newspapers

- LINC Tasmania: Tasmanian newspapers https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/Pages/newspapers.aspx

- Northern Territory Library: Territory Stories: Newspaper NT http://www.territorystories.nt.gov.au/handle/10070/190886#

- ACT Heritage Library: Newspaper holdings https://www.library.act.gov.au/find/history/search/local_and_regional_newspapers

Aboriginal newspapers

Newspapers and magazines published by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can be useful. The following publications are digitised and available online:

- The Australian Abo Call, published by the Aborigines Progressive Association in 1938 - https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/title/51. Click on this link to go to the Trove catalogue entry for this paper. Links to the digitised issues are on the right of the screen

- Dawn and New Dawn, published by the New South Wales Aborigines Welfare Board from 1952 to 1975 (AIATSIS) http://aiatsis.gov.au/collections/collections-online/digitised-collections/dawn-and-new-dawn

- Koori Mail, digitised copies are available for issues published from 1991 to 2011 (AIATSIS). http://aiatsis.gov.au/collections/collections-online/digitised-collections/koori-mail

- The Australian Indigenous Index known as InfoKoori is accessible via the State Library of NSW website. It is an index to the *Koori Mail* and to biographical information from various magazines including: *Our Aim* (1907–1961), *Dawn* (1952–1969), *New Dawn* (1970–1975) and *Identity* (1971–1982). http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au:1084/search/ AIATSIS holds an extensive collection of other Aboriginal newsletters and newspapers. Some were published over many years, some only lasted a short time.

Sources – Tindale genealogies

The South Australian Museum has a large and important collection of photographs of Aboriginal people, together with accompanying genealogies. Many of these are the work of Norman Tindale from the 1930s to 1950s. Anthropological collections like the Tindale collection provide genealogical information about Aboriginal families.

What are the Tindale genealogies?

Norman Tindale was an anthropologist based at the South Australian Museum. He recorded vast amounts of genealogical and other information about Indigenous communities from all over Australia, the majority being collected during the 1920s and 1930s.

Over 50,000 Indigenous people are included in the genealogies. The records also include thousands of named photographic portraits.

The genealogies are charted in hand-written field notes, usually with one extended family included on each chart. Some charts trace families back as far as 1860 and can sometimes include the language groups and/or traditional names of people, where a family member was born or lived as well as other brief notes about them. Charts are numbered and are referenced with the date and place where the information was gathered. Charts indicates if the families of connected individuals are mapped out in more detail on a related chart

WARNING: Tindale, like many anthropologists/scientists from the 1920s and 30s was very interested in 'caste', the 'admixture of Aboriginal and European blood', and therefore his notes may contain racist and offensive language.

What information do you need to search the genealogies?

To protect the privacy of the people whose personal information was recorded by Tindale, access to the Tindale genealogies is limited. Usually only direct descendants and persons with permission from families or communities can view and copy the genealogies.

To start searching you need to know:

- the place your family came from or where they lived

- the name of the person or people you are researching.

Where do you find the Tindale genealogies?

The Tindale collection, which includes the genealogies, is held in the South Australian Museum Archives. Various state and community organisations also have copies of the genealogies relevant to their region. To apply for family history information that may be held by the SA Museum, you can fill in a Family History Application Form, available online or from the Museum Archives. http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/collections/collection-services-fees

All of Australia

The **South Australian Museum** is the custodian of the complete Tindale collection as well as other records related to families and communities all around Australia. You will need to contact the Family and Community History Consultant to access and view the material. For more information about the Tindale collection explore the South Australian Museum website or search the following terms and links.

- Overview of the Tindale collection - http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/collections/information-resources/archives/tindale-dr-norman-barnett-aa-338
- Online gallery of examples from the Tindale collection - http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/gallery/aacg/speakingland.htm
- Detailed finding aid to the Tindale collection - http://archives.samuseum.sa.gov.au/aa338/
- Contact details for the SA Museum Family and Community History Consultant - http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/about/staff/mr-ali-abdullah-highfold

You can also search the entire Museum Archives collection via ArchivesSearch - http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/collections/information-resources/archives-search

Tindale Genealogies and photographs in other repositories

New South Wales

The **State Library of New South Wales** has copies of genealogical charts and photographs from nine NSW communities, mostly collected through 1938. These include Boggabilla, Brewarrina, Cummeragunga, Kempsey, Menindee, Pilliga, Walgett, Wallaga Lake and Woodenbong. Check the Index to the NSW Tindale Genealogies on the State Library website before making an appointment with one of the library's Indigenous services librarians. http://acms.sl.nsw.gov.au/_findingaid/2009/D02036/Index_to_Tindale_Genealogies.pdf

Muda Aboriginal Corporation holds copies of genealogies for Brewarrina only. Ph: (02) 6872 1869 or Email muda@muda.com.au

Dhiiyaan Indigenous Centre in Moree holds copies of genealogies for all of New South Wales (Cnr Balo & Albert Streets, Moree NSW 2400, Ph: (02) 6752 1346). http://www.moreetourism.com.au/things-to-do/educational-centres.html

Northern Territory

Tindale collected genealogies from Aboriginal people in the following places in the Northern Territory: Cockatoo Creek, Granites and Mount Leibig. They are held by the South Australian Museum. See *All of Australia* above.

Queensland

The **State Library of Queensland** has copies of genealogical information and photographs for the Queensland Aboriginal communities of Yarrabah, Cherbourg, Mona Mona, Palm Island, Woorabinda, Bentinck Island, Doomadgee and Mornington Island, as well as two northern New South Wales communities at Boggabilla and Woodenbong. You can search the library's Norman Tindale Collection Alphabetical Index on the State Library website http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/177788/Tindale_Index_2ndEd.pdf

Townsville CityLibraries Indigenous (Murri) Services holds copies of Tindale genealogies for Queensland. See the CityLibraries website for more information. https://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/facilities-and-recreation/libraries/search/indigenous-community

South Australia

Tindale collected genealogies from Aboriginal people in the following places in South Australia: Koonibba, Macumba, Mirramitta, Nullabor, Pandi Pandi, Point McLeay, Point Pearce, Port Augusta and Swan Reach. They are held by the South Australian Museum. See *All of Australia* above.

Tasmania

Tindale collected genealogies from Aboriginal people in Cape Barren Island in Tasmania. The Riawunna Aboriginal Education Centre at the University of Tasmania holds copies Ph: (03) 6226 2772. http://www.utas.edu.au/riawunna

Victoria

Tindale collected genealogies from Aboriginal people in Lake Tyers in Victoria. They are held by the South Australian Museum. See *All of Australia* above.

Western Australia

The **Aboriginal History Research Unit in the WA Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries** holds copies of the Tindale genealogies, photographs and journals, as well as other anthropological records relating to Aboriginal people in Western Australia. Search for the term Aboriginal History Research Unit to find their website or use the following link: https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/achwa/Pages/AHRU.aspx .

Tindale collected genealogies from Aboriginal people in the following places in Western Australia: Albany, Balgo, Borden, Broome, Christmas Creek, Collie, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Forrest River, Gnowangerup, Gogo, Gordon Downs, Inverway, Jigalong, Laverton, Leopold, Liveringa, Margaret River, Meda, Moola Boola, Moore River, Mount Barker, Noonkanbah, Norseman, Quanbun, Southern Cross, Sturt Creek, Wiluna and Wotjulum.

Sources – military service records

Indigenous people have served in every military conflict in which Australia has been involved since the Boer War (1899–1902). Military records are a rich source of information about the men and women who served in the armed forces, and sometimes their family members.

What are military records?

Military records were created by the Australian Army, Navy, Air Force and Department of Defence. They were created for management and administration purposes.

The most useful military record for family history is the personal service record or file. These files document an individual's military career. Often this is the only official documentation about a person who served in the armed forces. The content of service records and the amount of detail varies with each conflict.

What information do you need to look for military records?

To start researching you need to know:

- the name of the person who served in the Australian armed forces.

It might also be helpful to know:

- the person's date and place of birth

- when the person served – Boer War, World War I, World War II, Vietnam and so on

However, you can still search with just a name and the conflict in which your family member served. In fact sometimes, researchers use a military record to find a person's date and place of birth.

To take your research further you might need to know information such as the person's service number and unit name you can find this information in their service record.

Where do you find military records?

Two national government agencies, located in Canberra, hold most of the records about Australian service men and women:

- National Archives of Australia

- Australian War Memorial.

State archives also have records from before Federation (1901) relating to the Boer War.

See this overview of service records from the Department of Defence for a quick guide to where records are held – for both current and ex-serving members.
http://www.defence.gov.au/records/

You may also find military records on family history websites like Ancestry and Find My Past but generally all of these can be accessed directly through the National Archives, Australian War Memorial or state archives.

National Archives of Australia

The National Archives of Australia holds personal service records of people who served in the Australian defence forces in conflicts since 1901.

These records usually include information like place of enlistment, address, age, next of kin and the person's service history including dates and places of service and medical information. Some files have physical descriptions and/or photographs.

Some files note that the person was Indigenous but others don't – some people didn't identify themselves as Indigenous when they joined up.

The National Archives also holds other records relating to military service, including courts-martial, civilian service, munitions workers and soldier settlement.

Records in the National Archives are available to the public if the records are more than 20 years old, called 'the open period'. Many are available online.

For more information see:

- Finding defence service records – read an overview from the National Archives' *Tracking Family* guide - http://guides.naa.gov.au/tracking-family/chapter6/
- Service records – learn more about military service records - http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/index.aspx
- Discovering Anzacs – search this website for records about your service person (World War I and the Boer War) - https://discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/
- RecordSearch – search the National Archives collection database for records about your service person (all conflicts) - http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/

Sources – military service records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page 2 of 5

Australian War Memorial

The Australian War Memorial maintains a set of searchable lists called 'rolls' which are names of service persons in the following categories:

- Roll of Honour – names of service persons who died on active service

- Commemorative Roll – names of people who were not in the defence forces but who died during or as a result of war

- Nominal rolls

- Conflicts before World War I
- World War I Embarkation Roll – recorded as defence persons left for overseas
- World War I Nominal Roll – recorded when service persons received repatriation assistance

- Honours and awards – details of military honours

- Honours and awards – details of recommendations

- Red Cross wounded and missing

- Prisoners of war

- Australian Naval Force 1903 to 1911.

For more information see:

- Search for a person – search the rolls for your ancestor's name https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people

- of known Indigenous service persons - https://www.awm.gov.au/indigenous-service

- Indigenous service - https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/indigenous

- Researching a person– learn more about how to research your family member's military service. https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/understanding-the-memorials-collection/researching-a-person

You can find out more about what your family member did in the armed services by looking at other records held by the War Memorial. For example, war diaries recorded the daily activities of Australian Army units and can provide more details about your family member's movements during the war. Some war diaries and other records are digitised and available online on the War Memorial website - https://www.awm.gov.au/learn/understanding-military-history/unit-diaries

Sources – military service records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **3** of **5**

Online

These online resources provide information about men and women who served in the Australian armed forces. Some of the resources focus specifically on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Indigenous servicemen (Australian War Memorial) – an overview of the history of Indigenous service - https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/encyclopedia/indigenous

' Indigenous Australians at War (Department of Veterans' Affairs) - https://www.dva.gov.au/i-am/aboriginal-andor-torres-strait-islander/indigenous-australians-war

Mura® catalogue (AIATSIS) – search for 'WW1', 'WW2', 'Vietnam' or other conflicts for material on Indigenous service persons http://catalogue.aiatsis.gov.au/client/en_AU/external

Cemeteries (Department of Veterans Affairs) – information about locating the burial place of a service person - https://www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves/cemeteries

First AIF database (University of NSW) – an online database containing the details of 330,000 men and women who served in the first Australian Imperial Force, 1914−1918 https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/index.html

World War II nominal roll (Department of Veterans Affairs) – a database with information from the service records of the more than one million persons who service during World War II http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/

Researching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander WWI soldiers from Queensland communities – guide produced by State Library of Queensland - http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/269609/Guide-for-IKCs-Indigenous-Soldiers-Jan2018.pdf

Bombing of Darwin roll of honour (Northern Territory Library) – a roll of honour that focuses on people, including Aboriginal people, who died on 19 February 1942 http://www.ntlexhibit.nt.gov.au/exhibits/show/bod/roh

Register of Aboriginal Veterans of South Australia – nearly 500 names of Aboriginal veterans in SA - http://www.reconciliationsa.org.au/learn/ravsa

Military records on CoraWeb – a website with links for family history research http://coraweb.com.au/categories/military-records

Sources – military service records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **4** of 5

Books

The following books relate to the involvement of Indigenous people in war. Many of them include stories and accounts of specific Indigenous Australians. Your local library might have them or be able to order them for you on interlibrary loan.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Volunteers for the AIF by Philippa Scarlett (Macquarie ACT: Indigenous Histories, 2011)

Aborigines in the Defence of Australia edited by Desmond Ball (Sydney: Australian National University Press, 1991)

Biographical Register of Queensland Aborigines Who Served in the Great War, 1914-1918 compiled by Rod Pratt (Wynnum: Rod Pratt, 1993)

*Defending Whose Country? Indigenous soldiers in the Pacific wa*r by Noah Riseman (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2012)

Fighters From the Fringe: Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders Recall the Second World War by Robert Hall (Canberra: Aboriginal Studies, 1995)

Forever Warriors: This book honours all Western Australian Indigenous men and women who served in all conflicts by Jan Kabarli James (Northam WA 2010)

Forgotten Heroes: Aborigines at War from the Somme to Vietnam by Alick Jackomos (South Melbourne: Victoria Press, 1993)

The Black Diggers: Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in the Second World War by Robert Hall (Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 1989)

Ngarrindjeri Anzacs by Doreen Kartinyeri ((Adelaide, South Australian Museum and Raukkan Council, 1996)

Sources – military service records
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **5** of **5**

Sources – mission and reserve records

Missions, reserves and stations were reserves of land to which Aboriginal people were forcibly relocated.

- **Missions** were under the control of churches and missionaries with little or no government involvement.

- **Reserves and stations** were generally run by the government, although churches, especially the United Aborigines Mission and the Aborigines Inland Mission, were sometimes active on government settlements although they didn't always have an administrative role. Aboriginal reserves were overseen by government 'protectors', who controlled many aspects of the lives of Aboriginal people.

The types of records that remain vary. They might include diaries, daily occurrence books, photographs taken by visitors and resident missionaries, letters between church officials and people working on the church settlements, and registers of Aboriginal children and adults living there. Some missionaries recorded local languages and culture, and described daily life. Churches also published magazines and newspapers that included information about missions and church institutions.

Mission and reserve records are varied. Of the many Aboriginal missions and reserves that were established, some still exist but many have disappeared. Records that remain are usually held by the church organisation which was responsible for the mission or sometimes in state archives. Some records have been deposited in state libraries, the National Library of Australia and in the AIATSIS collections. The AIATSIS subject guide: How to find mission and reserve records has a comprehensive list of AIATSIS holdings on missions and reserves.

Mission records are further complicated by the fact that records relating to one mission may be split between church bodies and government bodies. In addition, some former mission organisations, like the United Aborigines Mission, do not officially exist anymore, so their records are held privately and not by a major church organisation.

Find & Connect

The Find & Connect web resource www.findandconnect.gov.au includes a lot of information about missions where Aboriginal children lived, frequently separated from their families in dormitory accommodation. Find & Connect lists records relating to the missions, and who to contact to get access to the records. You can search or browse on their Look for homes page. https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-homes/

Search AIATSIS or National Library

Various researchers and writers have worked on the history of Aboriginal missions and reserves. This means that you might be able to read about the particular mission or reserve where your family lived. Understanding the history of Aboriginal missions more generally can help you understand what your family members' lives were like and might provide further clues. Most of mission/reserve histories will also list sources and locations of records. Be aware that some of the earlier commemorative type histories were written by missionaries themselves or by people connected with the mission so can be biased towards the missionary point of view rather than the experiences of Aboriginal people on the mission.

Search the AIATSIS Mura catalogue http://aiatsis.gov.au/collections/using-collection/search-collection or Trove https://trove.nla.gov.au/ using the mission name or the word 'mission' and the name of the relevant state.

What information do you need to look for mission records?

To start researching you need to know:

- the name of the person
- the name or at least the general location of the mission, reserve or station they lived on.

It's also helpful to know:

- other personal details such as dates and place of birth, marriage and death
- the name of the government or church body that managed the mission, reserve or station.

Where do you find the records?

Aboriginal records units in most states and territories can help you with locating mission and reserve records about you and your close family. These units can be within state government departments of Aboriginal affairs or based within state archives and they specialise in locating personal records.

New South Wales Aboriginal Family Records Service

Free call: 1800 019 998
Email: familyhistory@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au
Web:

https://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/healing-and-reparations/family-records-service

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **2** of **14**

Northern Territory Archives Service

Darwin

Northern Territory Archives Centre, Kelsey Crescent, Millner NT 0810
GPO Box 1347, Nightcliff NT 0814
Phone - general enquiries: (08) 8924 7677
Phone - reference enquiries: (08) 8999 6890
Fax: (08) 8924 7660
Email: ntac@nt.gov.au

Alice Springs

Northern Territory Archives Service, Mineral House, 58 Hartley Street, Alice Springs NT 0870
PO Box 8225, Alice Springs, NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8951 5669
Web: https://dtc.nt.gov.au/arts-and-museums/northern-territory-archives-service (Northern Territory Archives Service)
 https://dtc.nt.gov.au/arts-and-museums/northern-territory-archives-service/informaton-for-researchers/aboriginal-family-research (Aboriginal family history research)
https://dtc.nt.gov.au/arts-and-museums/northern-territory-archives-service/informaton-for-researchers/aboriginal-family-research (Fact sheet on Researching your Aboriginal family history)

Mission Records held at the NT Archives Service - https://dtc.nt.gov.au/arts-and-museums/northern-territory-archives-service/archives-information-leaflets

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships – Community and Personal Histories Team

Community and Personal Histories Team
Level 9, 1 William Street
Brisbane, Queensland
Phone 1800 650 230 (toll-free within Australia) or 07 3003 6466
Email: enquiries@datsip.qld.gov.au
Online form: www.qld.gov.au/atsi/cultural-awareness-heritage-arts/family-history-request-form/index.html
Web: https://www.qld.gov.au/atsi/cultural-awareness-heritage-arts/family-personal-history
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Histories - https://www.qld.gov.au/atsi/cultural-awareness-heritage-arts/community-histories

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **3** of **14**

State Records of South Australia – Aboriginal Access team

State Records Research Centre
115 Cavan Road
Gepps Cross SA 5094
Tel (+61 8) 8343 6800 GPO Box 464, Adelaide SA 5001
Ph: 08 8343 6800
Online form: www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/contact-us-form
Email: StateRecords@sa.gov.au
Web: www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/aboriginal-services (Aboriginal services)
www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/family-history (Family history)
https://www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/finding-aboriginal-history (Finding your Aboriginal history)

LINC Tasmania

2nd Floor, 91 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000
Ph: 03 6165 5597
Online form: http://sltas.altarama.com/reft100.aspx?key=Research
Web: www.linc.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/guides-records/Pages/Aboriginal.aspx (Aboriginal family history)

Public Record Office Victoria – Koorie Records Unit

Victorian Archives Centre, 99 Shiel Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
PO Box 2100, North Melbourne VIC 3051
Ph: 03 9348 5600
Fax: 03 9348 5656

Online form: prov.altarama.com/reft100.aspx
Web: https://prov.vic.gov.au/index.php/koorie-services
Aboriginal Victorians Family History guide - https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/aboriginal-victorians-1830s-1970s/aboriginal-victorians-family

Aboriginal History Research Unit – Department of Local Government, Sport and cultural Industries, Western Australia

The Aboriginal History Research Unit manages access to Western Australian state archives and some privately owned records. You can apply as a personal or family history applicant for your own records or those of your ancestors. You can apply for any records relating to you held by the department, or those relating to a specific purpose such as evidence of genealogy, dates and place of birth or a specific ancestor.

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **4** of **14**

140 William Street, 2nd floor Reception, Perth 6000
PO Box 3153, East Perth WA 6892
Free call: 1300 651 077
Ph: 08 6551 8004
Fax: 08 6551 8088
Web: https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/achwa/Pages/AHRU.aspx

Family History Application form -
https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/achwa/Documents/Family_History_Application-Consent_Form.pdf

Missions and reserves by state and territory

The listings below give the names of many (but not all) of the church and government missions and reserves around Australia.

To find records by yourself, you will need to know the name of the mission or reserve, and then find out the name of the government or church body that managed it.

New South Wales – selected missions and reserves

(The abbreviations are explained in the section 'Church names, missions and abbreviations'.)

Name of mission	Church	Period
Bomaderry	UAM	1908–88
Bowraville	RC	1923–?
Goulburn Inland Mission Station	MTH	1916–?
La Perouse	unknown	1895–?
Lake Macquarie (Ebenezer)	LMS	1824–41
Maloga Mission School	unknown	1874–94
Parramatta	CE	1820–28
Sydney Aboriginal Mission	unknown	unknown
Warangesda	CE / ABM	1879–1920
Wellington Valley	CMS	1832–42
Yelta	unknown	unknown

Source: *Lookin for Your Mob: A Guide to Tracing Aboriginal Family Trees*, by Diane Smith and Boronia Halstead, Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press, 1990.

More information

- State Records NSW holds various records relating to reserves. See State archives relating to Aboriginal people.
  https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/aboriginal-resources-guide-nsw-state-archives

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **5** of **14**

- Also see [Living on Aboriginal reserves and stations](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ReserveStation.htm), a NSW Government Environment & Heritage website.
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/chresearch/ReserveStation.htm

Victoria – selected missions and reserves

(The abbreviations are explained in the section 'Church names, missions and abbreviations'.)

Name of mission	Church	Period
Buntingdale	WMS / MTH	1839–48
Coranderrk	GOVT	1863–1924
Framlingham	CE	1865–67
Framlingham	GOVT	1869–70
Goulburn Station	GOVT	1841–54
Lake Boga	MOR	1851–56
Lake Condah	CE	1867–1913
Lake Condah	GOVT	1913–18
Lake Hindmarsh (Ebenezer)	MOR / PRES	1858–1903
Lake Tyers	CE	1861–1908
Lake Tyers	GOVT	1908–70
Lake Wellington (Ramahyuck)	MOR / PRES	1862–1908
Merri Creek School	BAP	1845–51
Mount Franklyn Station	GOVT	1839–64
Mount Rouse Station	GOVT	1841–51
Narre Narre Warren Station	GOVT	1841–43
Yarra Mission	CMS	1837–39
Yelta	CE	1855–68

Source: *Lookin for Your Mob: A Guide to Tracing Aboriginal Family Trees*, by Diane Smith and Boronia Halstead, Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press, 1990.

More information

- The [Mission voices](https://cv.vic.gov.au/stories/aboriginal-culture/missions/mission-voices/mission-voices-new/) web site which has now been archived, contains background information, stories, timelines and maps on Victorian missions and reserves. https://cv.vic.gov.au/stories/aboriginal-culture/missions/mission-voices/mission-voices-new/

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **6** of **14**

Queensland – selected missions and reserves

Below is a list of missions visited by anthropologist Norman Tindale in the 1930s – see Tindale genealogies for more information.

(The abbreviations are explained in the section 'Church names, missions and abbreviations'.)

Name of institution	Church	Period
Aurukun	MOR / PRES	1904–78
Bamaga	CE	1947–86
Bethesda	L	1866–89
Bloomfield River (Wujal Wujal)	L	1886–1902, 1957–87
Bowen	CMS	1878–1901
Cherbourg (Barambah)	CE	1904–86
Cowal Creek	CE	1915–87
Daintree River	AOG	1939–?
Doomadgee	BR	1932–83
Edward River	ABM	1935–67
Elim *(see Hopevale)*		
Fantome Island (Leper Station)	RC?	unknown
Fraser Island	ABM	1897–1904
Gorge Mission	AOG	unknown
Hopevale (Cape Bedford)	L	1886–1986
Kowanyama (Mitchell River)	ABM	1904–78
Lockhart River	ABM	1924–67
Mackay	MTH	1871–1901
Mapoon	MOR / PRES	1891–1987
Marie Yamba	L	1888–1902
Maryborough	CMS	unknown
Mona Mona	ADV	1913–?
Moreton Bay	L / PRES	1837–45
Moreton Bay	CMS	1837–46
Mornington Island	PRES	1914–78
Noangir *(see Moreton Bay)*		
Palm Island (St Michael's School)	RC	1931–86
Purga	SAL	1915–48
Somerset	SPG (CE)	1867–68
Stewards Creek	MTH	1885?–1901?

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **7** of **14**

Stradbroke Island (Myora Mission)	RC	1843–47
Thursday Island	ABM	unknown
Thursday Island	LMS	1871–1915
Trubanaman (see *Kowanyama*)		
Weipa	MOR / PRES	1896–1966
Woorabinda	RC	1911–86
Yarrabah	ABM	1891–1960
Yungaburra	AOG	unknown
Zion Hill (see *Moreton Bay*)		

More information

The most thorough listing of Queensland missions is at the State Library of Queensland – see Missions and reserves. http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/atsi/community-history/missions

Western Australia – selected missions and reserves

(The abbreviations are explained in the section 'Church names, missions and abbreviations'.)

Name of institution	Church	Period
Albany	RC	1845–48
Albany Boys Home	RC	unknown
Amy Bethel House	UAM	1956–75
Annesfield	unknown(Private)	1852–71?
Badjalang	UAM	1930–50?
Balgo Hills (Billiluna, Lake Gregory)	RC(P)	1931–80
Beagle Bay (West Kimberley)	RC(T/P)	1891–1976
Bennett House (previously East Perth Girl's Home)		
Boulder Working Youths Hostel	AAEMB	unknown
Broome Convent	RC	1908–?
Carrolup Native Settlement (Katanning)	GOVT	1915–22
Cundeelee	AAEMB	1950–?
Derby (Leper Station)	RC	1937–1987
Derby (Leper Station)	UAM	1930–75
Derby (Gibb River, Mowanjum, Pandanus)	RC	1940s–today
Disaster Bay	RC	1895?–1903
Drysdale River *(see Kalumburu)*		
Dulhi Gunyah Mission Home (Victoria Park)	UAM	1909–17
East Perth Girl's Home (later Bennett House)	GOVT	1931–?

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **8** of **14**

Ellensbrook (Busselton)	GOVT	1899–1917
Esperance Mission Home	AAEMB	unknown
Fairhaven (Esperance)	CC	unknown
Fitzroy Crossing	UAM	1952–87
Forrest River (Kimberley)	CE / ABM	1913–71
Fremantle *(see Swan River)*		
Gascoyne	CE	1885–?
Gnowangerup	UAM	1926–73
Guildford	RC	1846–48
Halls Creek	UAM	1957–67
Halls Creek (Parochial Mission area)	RC	1961–today
Holy Child Orphanage (Broome –previously St John of God Home for Native Girls)	RC	1912–70
Jigalong (East Pilbara)	APC	1945–69
Kalgoorlie Girls Home	SAL	1909–30
Kalumburu (East Kimberley – previously Drysdale River)	RC(B)	1907–82
Karalundi	ADV	1954–?
Katanning	BAP	1952–?
Katukutu Home	BAP	unknown
Kellerberrin	BAP	1939–50?
Kunmunya (Kimberley – previously Port George IV)	PRES	1913–53
Kununurra	RC	1964–today
Kurrawang	BR	1952–?
Kyewong Home	BAP	unknown
La Grange (West Kimberley)	RC (PSM /P)	1924–85?
Lombadina (One Arm Point, Cygnet Point)	RC (PSM)	1911–85?
MacDonald House (Perth)	CE	unknown
Maria Goretti Home	RC	1960s
Marribank *(see Katanning)*		
Methodist Children's Home	MTH	unknown
Mogumber	MTH	1951–?
Moola Bulla (East Kimberley)	GOVT	1911–54
Moore River Native Settlement (Mogumber)	GOVT	1918–51
Mount Magnet	UAM	unknown
Mount Margaret (Goldfields)	UAM	1921–75

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **9** of **14**

Mowanjum	PRES	1956–81
New Norcia (Victoria Plains)	RC (B)	1846–70
Norseman	CC	1942–?
Ocean View Home	RC	unknown
Pallotine Boys Hostel (Albany)	RC (P)	1968–78
Perth Native Institution	MTH	1840s
Port George IV (later called Kunmunyah)	PRES	1910–16
Range View Students Home	PRES	unknown
Rockhole (Balgo)	RC	1934–?
Roelands Native Mission Farm	INTER / CC	1938–today
Rossmoyne Training Centre	RC	1955–today
St John of God Home for Native Girls (Broome – later called Holy Child Orphanage)		
St Joseph's Home (near Derby)	RC	1961–today
Sister Kate's Home (Queens Park, Perth)	ANG	1933–50?
Smithies Mission (Perth)	WMS	1842–55
Sunday Island (Kimberley)	UAM / ABM	1898–1964
Swan Native and Half–Caste Home/Mission	ANG	1870–1921
Swan River	CE	1852–?
Tardun (Pallotine Mission School)	RC (P)	1948–today
Vasse Mission School	CE	unknown
Wandering (St Xavier Native Mission)	RC	1944–76
Waneroo (Perth)	MTH	1831–54
Warburton Ranges	UAM	1933–77
Warminda Girls Home	MTH	unknown
Wiluna	ADV	unknown
Wonguntha Mission Training Farm (Esperance)	INTER	1954–?
Wotjalum	PRES	1953–56
Wyndham	unknown	1959–today

More information

- The State Records Office of WA holds extensive records relating to missions which are listed in Looking West: A Guide to Aboriginal Records in Western Australia (pdf, 385kb). https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/SupportingIndividualsAndFamilies/Documents/LookingWest.pdf

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **10** of **14**

Also see their webpage about Aboriginal records.
http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection/aboriginal-records

- Information on missions in Western Australia can also be found at Signposts:
A Guide for Children and Young People in Care in WA from 1920.
http://signposts.cpfs.wa.gov.au/

South Australia – selected missions and reserves

(The abbreviations are explained in the section 'Church names, missions and abbreviations'.)

Name of institution	Church	Period
Adelaide Children's Home	ABM	unknown
Adelaide School	L	1839–48
Colebrook Home	UAM	1927–78
Davenport	BR	1937–65
Encounter Bay	L	1840–48
Ernabella	PRES / UC	1937–today
Finniss Springs	UAM	1939–65
Gerard	UAM	1925–61
Kadina	MOR	1865–?
Killalpaninna (see Kopperamanna)		
Koonibba	L	1901–63
Kopperamanna	L	1866–1917
Limbuana (see Encounter Bay)		
Manunka Aborigines Mission Home	unknown	1902?–06?
Mount Gambier	AFA	unknown
Nepabunna	UAM	1930–today
Oodnadatta	UAM	1924–?
Ooldea	UAM	1933–54
Point McLeay	AFA	1858–1916
Point Pearce	unknown	1868–1915
Poonindie	ABM	1850–75
PortLincoln	L	1840–45
St Francis House (Adelaide)	ABM	1949–57
Swan Reach (see Gerard)		
Umeewarra	BR	1937–65
Yalata	L	1954–75

More information

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page 11 of 14

- The State Library of South Australia has prepared a research guide on Aboriginal missions in South Australia.
http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/Aboriginal_Missions

Tasmania

- There were no church–run Aboriginal missions in Tasmania – see Aboriginal missions in the *Companion to Tasmanian History*) for more information.
http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/A/Aboriginal%20missions.htm

- Anthropologist Norman Tindale visited the Aboriginal communities on the reserve on Cape Barren Island in the 1930s – see Tindale genealogies.

Northern Territory – selected missions and reserves

(The abbreviations are explained in the section 'Church names, missions and abbreviations'.)

Name of institution / mission	Church	Period
Alice Springs (Children's Home)	ABM	unknown
Alice Springs/Arltunga	RC	1937–42, 1942–54
Angurugu (Groote Eylandt)	CMS	1921–78
Areyonga	L	1942–55
Bagot Compound	AIM	unknown
Bamyill (Katherine)	AIM	1969–?
Baptist Home (Darwin)	BAP	1969–76?
Bathurst Island	RC(MSC)	1911–today
Belyuen (see Delissaville)		
Berrimah Leper Station *(see Channel Island)*		
Borroloola	AIM	1951–today
Buckingham Bay *(see Elcho Island)*		
Channel Island (Leper Station)	RC	1930–43, 1955–82
Croker Island	MTH	1940–today
Daly River	RC(J/MSC)	1886–99,1956–today
Dellssaville(Belyuen)	AIM	1946?–?
East Arm Settlement (Leper Station)	RC	1923–24
Elcho Island	MTH	1922–23, 1942–today
Elliot	UAM	unknown
Emerald River (Groote Eylandt)	CMS	1921–42
Finke River Mission House (Alice Springs)	L	?–today
Galiwinku *(see Elcho Island)*		

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **12** of **14**

Garden Point	RC	1940–?
Goulburn Island	MTH	1915–today
Haast Bluff	L	1940–54
Hermannsburg	L	1877–1982
Kahlin Compound	AIM	1940–?
Kalkaringi	B???	1971–today
Katherine (Donkey Camp)	AIM	1941–today
Lajamanu (Hooker Creek)	B???	1962–today
Melville Island	RC(MSC)	1940–68
Milingimbi	MTH	1925–today
Newcastle Waters	AIM	1940s–72?
Numbulwar	CMS	1952–78
Oenpelli	CMS	1924–74
Palmerston	CMS	unknown
Papunya	L	1946–54
Phillip Creek	AIM	1936–51
Port Essington	RC	1846–49
Port Keats	RC	1935–today
Rapid Creek	RC(J)	1882–91
Retta Dixon Home (Darwin)	AIM	1946–80
Roper River	CMS	1908–68
Rose River *(see Numbulwar)*		
St Mary's Hostel (Alice Springs)	CE / AIM	1946–today
St Teresa	RC(MSC)	1954–today
Serpentine Lagoon	RC(J)	1889–91
Tennant Creek	RC	1936–today
Umbakumba (Groote Eylandt)	CMS	1958–66
Uniya	RC(J)	1886–99
Warrabri (Ali Curung)	BAP	1957–today
Yirrkala	MTH	1935–today
Yuendumu	BAP	1947–today

Source: *Lookin for Your Mob: A Guide to Tracing Aboriginal Family Trees*, by Diane Smith and Boronia Halstead, Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press, 1990. Although this list is not complete, it includes the most relevant reserves and missions for family history research.

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **13** of **14**

More information

- Records of some churches with missions in the Northern Territory are held in the NT Archives Service and are listed in their guide to mission held in the NT Archives. These include the personal records of missionaries and government workers.
https://dtc.nt.gov.au/arts-and-museums/northern-territory-archives-service/archives-information-leaflets

- The National Archives of Australia also holds records relating to Aboriginal missions and reserves in the Northern Territory. See the chapter on Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory in their guide, *Commonwealth government records about the Northern Territory*.
http://guides.naa.gov.au/records-about-northern-territory/part2/chapter8/index.aspx

Australian Capital Territory

There were no missions or reserves in the ACT

Sources – missions and reserves
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **14** of **14**

Church names, missions and abbreviations

AAEMB – Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission Board

ABM – Australian Board of Mission

ADV – Seventh Day Adventists

AFA – Aborigines' Friends' Association

AIM – Aborigines Inland Mission (also used for the Australian Inland Mission)

ANG – Anglican

AOG – Assembly of God

APC – Apostolic Church

BAP – Australian Baptist Missionary Society

BR – Brethren

CMS – Church Missionary Society

CC – Church of Christ

CE – Church of England

GOVT – Government–run

INTER – Interdenominational

L – Lutheran Church of Australia

LMS – London Missionary Society

MTH – Methodist Overseas Mission

MOR – Moravians

PRES – Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions

RC – Roman Catholic

RC(B) – Benedictine

RC(J) – Jesuit

RC(MSC) – Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

RC(P) – Pallotine

RC(PSM) – Pious Society of Missions

RC(T) – Trappists

SAL – Salvation Army

SPG – Society for the Propagation of the Gospel

UAM – United Aborigines Mission

UC – Uniting Church

WMS – Wesleyan Missionary Society

Sources – electoral rolls and voter records

It's a common belief that the 1967 Referendum gave Indigenous people the right to vote. This isn't true. Aboriginal people could vote before 1967, but many didn't know their rights or were discouraged from voting. You can read more about the Referendum here - https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/history/australian-1967-referendum

Laws about who could and could not vote changed over time and differed between the states. For example, Point McLeay mission in South Australia got a polling station in the 1890s. Aboriginal men and women voted at Point McLeay in South Australian elections and voted for the first Commonwealth Parliament in 1901.

Also, many Aboriginal people were granted exemption from the protection and welfare laws and exercised their right to vote. Others managed to avoid the protection and welfare system and/or were able to hide their Aboriginality to gain the same rights as any other citizens.

For these reasons, it is worth checking if your ancestors ever enrolled to vote. You might find out the family's residential address or track changes of address over time. Electoral rolls can also help identify other adult family members living at the same address. If you have non-Aboriginal ancestry in your family, finding those people on an electoral roll might help you to locate Aboriginal ancestors.

What are electoral rolls?

Electoral rolls are lists of people who registered to vote in state, territory or federal elections. They are updated before every election and may provide information such as:

- address

- occupation

- age

- other people registered at the same address

- other people who were neighbours or lived in the same area.

What information do you need to search for electoral rolls?

To start researching you need to know:

- the name (most importantly, the surname) of the person you are researching

- the electorate, town or general area where they lived. However you can still search for your ancestors if you don't know where they lived, it is just much more time consuming. Early Electoral Rolls listed people alphabetically for each electorate, rather than for the entire state as is the case these days, so you may need to scan through multiple electorates to find them.

Where do you find electoral rolls?

Historical electoral rolls

- Electoral rolls can often be searched at your local library, state library or family history society.

- The National Library in Canberra https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/finding-electoral-rolls keeps microfiche of the Commonwealth electoral rolls from 1901 to present. Some of these may be slightly imperfect. The library also holds a limited number of state electoral rolls on microfiche for the time prior to Federation in 1901. They provide a limited look-up service if you can't visit the library.

- Most State Libraries have electoral rolls for various states and territories. These can be printed volumes or microfiche or a combination of media.

- Ancestry.com.au provides access to scanned and searchable electoral rolls mostly covering the period 1903-1980 for each state and territory except South Australia for which only a very small number of rolls are available. For a full list of the electoral rolls currently on Ancestry go to https://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1207

Current electoral roll

You can view an electronic copy of the current Commonwealth electoral roll (e-roll) at any office of the Australian Electoral Commission. See the AEC website for more information.

Sources – electoral rolls
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **2** of **3**

Other resources

- Voting rights and Aboriginal people (Creative Spirits)
  https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/selfdetermination/voting-rights-for-aboriginal-people

- Indigenous Australians – electoral timeline (Australian Electoral Commission)
  https://www.aec.gov.au/indigenous/milestones.htm

Sources – electoral rolls
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **3** of **3**

Sources – police gazettes, court and gaol records

Legal records, including records created by the police, courts and gaols, can be useful for locating information about your ancestors. In fact, these records might be the only official mention of particular Aboriginal people.

During the early periods of white settlement, police officers in isolated regions often took on the role of local magistrate and sometimes became 'Protectors' of Aborigines, distributing rations and carrying out government policies.

Aboriginal people also worked with the police as trackers, sometimes in special 'native' police units.

What are police, court and gaol records?

Police, court and gaol records are a diverse range of records that date from the early decades of white settlement. They include records like:

- police station journals, occurrence books and charge books
- records about members of the police force
- judges' bench books and court case files
- photographs and registers of prisoners

These records can provide many details about people's lives.

Police gazettes were publications circulated to police stations and contained lists of crimes committed, escaped prisoners, warrants issued and court reports. Not all the people mentioned were on the wrong side of the law – information was published about the victims of crimes, too, and about missing persons. Children and young people who absconded from institutions were sometimes listed in gazettes.

What information do you need to look for these records?

You may need to search using a combination of:

- the name of the person you are researching
- the place they lived
- the dates they lived there

You can find useful information about police and court matters – such as newsworthy incidents, police arrests, court hearings and legal trials – in historical newspapers. It is worthwhile doing

searches on [Trove Digitised Newspapers](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/) first to see what you can find.
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/

Sometimes newspaper accounts are the only remaining record of events, since not all police, court and gaol records have been kept.

Where do you find police, court and gaol records?

The police, courts and gaols were run by colonial governments, then state and territory governments after 1901. This means that you will find the records in the state or territory archive for where your ancestor lived.

Family history websites like [Ancestry https://www.ancestry.com.au/](https://www.ancestry.com.au/) and [Find My Past https://www.findmypast.com.au/](https://www.findmypast.com.au/) provide access to some police, court and gaol records, but you will find these records and more through government archives. Remember that later records may be restricted from public access. Reference Archivists can assist you with information about access.

The [Centre for Indigenous Family History](#) also includes many police records, the majority of which are held in State/Territory Archives. Remember you will need to type the phrase "site:cifhs" into Google along with the name you are searching for in "quotation marks".

These websites are useful for checking but because they only have a selection of records, for more in-depth research you should visit or send a research query to your state/territory archives. Reference archivists will be able to help you to identify records that might be useful in your research.

New South Wales

See these resources from State Records NSW:

- [A guide to New South Wales State archives relating to Aboriginal people](#) – has chapters listing records relating to the police, courts of petty sessions and Supreme Court - https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/aboriginal-resources-guide-nsw-state-archives

- Index to Aboriginal colonial court cases, 1788–1838 https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/indigenous-colonial-court-cases

- [Police service records](#) – has information on records about Aboriginal trackers who worked with the police https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/police-service-guide

Sources – police, court, gaol
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **2** of **5**

Northern Territory

From 1863 to 1910 the Northern Territory was part of South Australia. From 1911 it came under the control of the Commonwealth government until the Territory won self-government in 1978.

See these resources:

- Researching your Aboriginal Family History from Northern Territory Archives Service - - https://dtc.nt.gov.au/arts-and-museums/northern-territory-archives-service/archives-information-leaflets

- Information about the Northern Territory Archives Services in the National Archives of Australia's: *Tracking Family*: a guide to Aboriginal records relating to the Northern Territory - http://guides.naa.gov.au/tracking-family/chapter5/5.17.aspx

Queensland

See these resources from Queensland State Archives:

- Records relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples - https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/atsi and https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/brief-guides-at-qsa/resource/3a08df52-1b0e-4bbd-957a-c948a0712612

- Police gazettes - https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/brief-guides-at-qsa/resource/d9a557b5-7286-4064-b067-c79d6520f064

- Court records - https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/courts and https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/brief-guides-at-qsa/resource/98e44d9d-483f-4321-a187-20a985f52a17

- Murder files - https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/brief-guides-at-qsa/resource/363d1757-83c9-4904-aef6-84a40b853f44

- Complete list of Brief guides from Queensland State Archives https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/brief-guides-at-qsa

You might also find information at the Queensland Police Museum, which has material about the native mounted police and Aboriginal trackers. https://www.police.qld.gov.au/aboutUs/facilities/museum/default.htm

Sources – police, court, gaol
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **3** of **5**

South Australia

See these resources from State Records of South Australia:

- Finding your Aboriginal history - https://www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/finding-aboriginal-history

- Courts - https://www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/courts-0

- Gaols - https://www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/gaols

You may also find information at the South Australia Police Historical Society. http://www.sapolicehistory.org/

Tasmania

See these resources from LINC Tasmania:

- Tasmanian court records - https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/family-history/Pages/Court.aspx

- Tasmanian prison records - https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/family-history/Pages/Prison.aspx

Victoria

See these resources from the Public Record Office of Victoria:

- Koorie heritage: Aboriginal records at PROV – includes links to an exhibition about the native police and to other articles of interest - https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/aboriginal-victorians-1830s-1970s

- walata tyamateetj: A guide to government records about Aboriginal people in Victoria – includes a section on legal, police and prison records https://prov.vic.gov.au/walata-tyamateetj-research-guide

- Court records - https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/justice-crime-and-law

- Prison records - https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/justice-crime-and-law

- Police records - https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/justice-crime-and-law/police-correspondence-records-1853-1920

You might also find information at the Victoria Police Museum and Historical Services Unit - http://www.policemuseum.vic.gov.au/

Sources – police, court, gaol
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **4** of **5**

Western Australia

See these resources from the State Records Office of WA:

- Aboriginal records – lists police, court and prison records relating to Aboriginal people http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection/aboriginal-records

- Court records - http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection/court-records

- Police records - http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection/police-records

- Prison and gaol records - http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection/prison-and-gaol-records

Sources – police, court, gaol
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **5** of **5**

Sources – maps

Place is central to your research into your Aboriginal family's history. Knowing where your ancestors lived helps you to locate records about them, but it also helps you understand what their lives were like. For example, you can track how they moved throughout their life – whether they stayed close to where they were born, or whether they moved long distances.

Contemporary maps, like a printed road map or Google Maps online, show things how they are today. They're a good place to start to work out where exactly it was that your ancestors lived.

Historical maps show places as they were at some time in the past. If possible you should try to find one from the period you are researching.

Historical maps are particularly helpful if your ancestors lived on a rural property or a small or remote place that may not exist today. It can be hard to locate such places on contemporary maps, but if you know the general area you might be able to find them on a historical map. Historical maps can also help when the spelling of a place name that has changed.

Probably one of the best places to search for maps or to find out a map that includes the place you are interested in is Trove: Maps - https://trove.nla.gov.au/map

Historical maps are held in many library collections around Australia. A growing number are digitised and available to view online, while others you will need to view in the library itself. Trove will help you to find many of these or you can also do searches in State/Territory library catalogues. You might also try your local library or historical society.

Maps of Aboriginal Australia

Maps that illustrate the area covered by different Indigenous language groups might also be helpful in your research. Some of these maps show Indigenous language group boundaries as they existed when Europeans first colonised Australia. Other maps represent current distributions of language use.

- AIATSIS Aboriginal Australia map https://aiatsis.gov.au/aboriginal-studies-press/products/aiatsis-map-indigenous-australia

- State Library of South Australia: Maps of Aboriginal Australia http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/MapsAboriginalAustralia

- Western Australian Department of Planning Lands and Heritage: WA State Maps https://www.daa.wa.gov.au/about-the-department/publications/maps/state-maps/

Online guides to maps

National

- National Library of Australia: Australian maps for family historians - http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/australian-maps-for-family-historians

- Trove: Maps - https://trove.nla.gov.au/map

- Noel Butlin Archives Centre: Information about map collection http://archives.anu.edu.au/collections/noel-butlin-archives-centre/finding-aids

New South Wales

- State Library of NSW: Maps collections - http://guides.sl.nsw.gov.au/maps

- NSW land Registry Services: Parish and historical maps - http://www.nswlrs.com.au/land_titles/historical_research/parish_maps

Queensland

- State Library of Queensland: Maps - http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/maps

South Australia

- State Library of South Australia: Mapping - http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=691

Tasmania

- Tasmania: LINC Maps and plans - https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/guides-records/Pages/Maps-and-Plans.aspx

Victoria

- State Library of Victoria: Maps for family history - https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/mapsforfamilyhistory

- University of Melbourne: Map collection - https://library.unimelb.edu.au/collections/map_collection

Western Australia

- State Records Office of Western Australia: Maps online - http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection/maps-online

Northern Territory

- Historic Map Index - http://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/imfPublic/historicMapImf.jsp

Sources – land and pastoral station records

Aboriginal stock workers and domestic staff worked for generations on pastoral stations, particularly in northern Australia. If someone in your family was born, passed away or worked on a pastoral property it's a good idea to find out if any records were kept on that station and whether they still exist.

Station owners and managers might have kept records about the people they employed or about Aboriginal people who lived on the station. Even if you don't find direct information about your ancestor, finding out about where they lived or worked can help you understand what their life was like.

Unfortunately because most pastoral properties were privately owned, survival of station records is dependent on the foresight of owners and the amount of value they placed on their records. For this reason some have been deposited in official repositories, some are kept privately, many have been lost or destroyed. It is also possible that many records are still in private family hands but not sorted or listed anywhere.

What are land and pastoral station records?

Land and pastoral station records include materials about:

- the ownership and management of land – mostly created by government agencies

- the management of rural properties – mostly created by station owners and managers.

The records might include pastoral maps, land surveys, documents of land ownership, diaries, wage and ration books, registers of birth and registers of employees.

What information do you need to look for land and station records?

To start researching you need to know:

- the name of the person who lived or worked on the property

- the name of the property or, at very least, the property's general location.

If you don't know the name of the property, pastoral directories might be helpful. These were published listings of pastoral properties, their names, owners and locations.

The most comprehensive directory was the Australian Pastoral Directory, but it did not include properties in Western Australia. There were many other short-lived directories.

Pastoral directories and maps that might help you to identify a property are held at the Noel Butlin Archives in Canberra. You can also search the Australian Pastoral Directories (1913–1954) in Find My Past. https://search.findmypast.com.au/search-world-Records/australian-pastoral-directories. This is a subscription family history site but you can visit your state or territory library or even a local library to search this site for free. State and local libraries also often hold printed copies of pastoral directories.

Where do you find land and pastoral station records?

Land and property title records

State and territory government land and title agencies can help you to find information about pastoral properties. They hold pastoral maps, land survey information and detailed records of who bought and sold properties over time. If you can't find accessible information from government land agency websites, remember most archives and libraries have good fact sheets about searching land records including pastoral lands.

Australian Capital Territory

- ACT Land Information System – https://actlis.act.gov.au/

New South Wales

- Land Registry Services: Historical research - http://www.nswlrs.com.au/land_titles/historical_research

- Land Registry Services: Parish and historical maps - http://www.nswlrs.com.au/land_titles/historical_research/parish_maps

Northern Territory

- NT Historic map index – includes many Pastoral station maps - http://www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/imfPublic/historicMapImf.jsp

- Northern Territory Land Supply and Property Information - https://nt.gov.au/property/land/find-land-records/get-land-information-online

Sources – land and pastoral stations
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **2** of **5**

- Northern Territory Archives Service: Guide to archives relating to the pastoral industry in the Northern Territory - https://dtc.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/267885/pastoral_guide.pdf

National Archives of Australia: Records about the pastoral industry in the Northern Territory - http://guides.naa.gov.au/records-about-northern-territory/part1/chapter1/1.4.aspx

Queensland

- Department of Natural Resources and Mines: Land and property - https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/land

- Museum of Lands, mapping and surveying - https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/museum-of-lands

- Queensland State Archives Lands and mining - https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/lands

South Australia

- Housing, property and land: About historical searching http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/planning-and-property/buying-a-home-or-property/researching-a-property/about-historical-searching

Tasmania

- Land Tasmania - http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania

Victoria

- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning: Property and Land titles - https://www.propertyandlandtitles.vic.gov.au/

Western Australia

- Landgate: Historical records - http://www.landgate.wa.gov.au/titles-and-surveys/historical-records

Pastoral station records

Records that provide historical information about pastoral properties vary across place and time so it might take some digging to find things that are relevant to your family history. Here are some suggestions for where to look.

Sources – land and pastoral stations
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **3** of **5**

- A search of Trove - http://trove.nla.gov.au - for the name of the station or property might find books, images, oral histories or newspaper articles about the property.

- Some station owners or managers kept records like diaries, wage and ration books, and registers of births, deaths and marriages. The Noel Butlin Archives Centre http://archives.anu.edu.au/collections/noel-butlin-archives-centre at the Australian National University in Canberra holds some of these records, mainly for farms and cattle properties in New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

- State libraries and archives can provide help in finding land records. Have a look at these research resources:

New South Wales

- Land records available at State Records NSW - https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/land-records-available-state-records

Queensland

- Land records from the State Library of Queensland http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history/land-records

- Queensland Museum of Lands, mapping and surveying https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/museum-of-lands

- Queensland: Queensland State Archives – Lands and Mining https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/lands

South Australia

- Family History SA – Land, maps, place names - http://www.familyhistorysa.org/

Victoria

- Public Record Office of Victoria Researching Land and property - https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/researching-land-and-property

Tasmania

- LINC Tasmania research guides, including land titles, place names, building histories https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/guides-records/Pages/default.aspx

Sources – land and pastoral stations
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **4** of **5**

Victoria

- Researching your Victorian ancestors: Land records -
  https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/c.php?g=245235&p=1632907

Western Australia

- Landgate historical records - https://www0.landgate.wa.gov.au/titles-and-surveys/historical-records

Local archives, historical and family history societies often have records relating to their local area, which might include copies of station records, photographs and maps.

If the station or property still exists, the current or previous owners might still have station records. The local historical society or library might be able to put you in touch, or you can contact the Noel Butlin Archives Centre (which holds pastoral station records) for help tracking ownership - http://archives.anu.edu.au/collections/noel-butlin-archives-centre.

 Ancestry and Find My Past provide access to certain land and property records. Remember you can used these subscription family history websites at a state or local library for free.

The genealogy website, CoraWeb, has a section on maps, place names and land records. http://coraweb.com.au/categories/maps-places-and-land-records

Sources – land and pastoral stations
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **5** of **5**

Sources – Dawn and New Dawn Magazines

The *Dawn* and *New Dawn* were magazines published between 1952 and 1975 by the New South Wales Aborigines Welfare Board, with the aim of providing information and an exchange of news and views. *Dawn* and *New Dawn* used by Aboriginal people to keep in contact with each other.

The magazines are a valuable source of family history information as they include details of births, deaths, marriages and baptisms, as well as hundreds of photographs.

Dawn and *New Dawn* contain articles about the conditions and activities on reserves, stations, homes and schools throughout New South Wales. During their time of publication the magazines were also used to report the work of the Aboriginal Welfare Board.

What information do you need to research these magazines?

Dawn and *New Dawn* have been fully indexed in the AIATSIS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index (ABI) and the State Library of New South Wales INFORKOORI index.

This means that you can search for articles in the magazines using keywords such as:

- your ancestor's name

- the name of the place they lived, worked or studied.

Where do you find the *Dawn* and *New Dawn*?

AIATSIS has made digital copies of the entire collection of the magazines and published them on our website. The AIATSIS Library in Canberra also has hardcopies of the magazines. To search and view the *Dawn* and *New Dawn* you can:

- search the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Biographical Index (ABI) - https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/guides-and-resources/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-biographical-index/search-abi

- search INFOKOORI - http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au:1084/search

- browse the digital copies of Dawn and New Dawn - https://aiatsis.gov.au/collections/collections-online/digitised-collections/dawn-and-new-dawn

- find hard copies held by Australian libraries using Trove (National Library of Australia) as per below:

  Dawn A magazine for the Aboriginal people of NSW -
  https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/13803668?q&versionId=23015864

  New Dawn: A magazine for the Aboriginal people of New South Wales
  https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/16355154?q&versionId=26618342+44989490

Sources – other records and collections

Biographical indexes and dictionaries

An index is a detailed alphabetical guide to names, places or topics, with a reference to where the information can be found. Indexes don't contain actual information, though they might include a summary.

A **biographical index** is a list of people's names and the location (e.g. page numbers and library catalogue numbers) of the information about them.

There are a number of useful biographical indexes of Aboriginal people. Some are searchable online, others are managed by archives and you will need to contact the archives to request a search of the index.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index – AIATSIS
  http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/guides-and-resources/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-biographical-index

- INFOKOORI Australian Indigenous Index – State Library of New South Wales
  http://library.sl.nsw.gov.au:1084/search/

- Bringing Them Home Name Index – National Archives of Australia
  http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/fact-sheets/fs175.aspx

- Indigenous indexes – Queensland State Archives
  https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/atsi

- Index to the Chief Protector of Aborigines files 1898–1908 – State Records Office of WA - http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection/aboriginal-records/index-chief-protector-aborigines-files-1898-1908

- Aboriginal Information Management System (AIMS)– State Records of SA
  https://www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/finding-aboriginal-history

Biographical dictionaries are alphabetically indexed lists of people containing information about their lives.

For example, the *Dictionaries of Western Australians* was a major project that includes four volumes about Aboriginal people. Names were taken from the records of the Colonial

Secretary's Office, private journals, newspapers and published journals. For example, the names and details of Aboriginal people imprisoned on Rottnest Island are listed.

You can find other biographical dictionaries through a search in Trove. https://trove.nla.gov.au/

Census records

Aboriginal people were counted in some early censuses of the Australian population, but were deliberately excluded from others. Section 127 of the *Constitution Act 1900* stated that 'Aboriginal natives shall not be counted', but exclusion also occurred in earlier censuses. It was not until the 1967 Referendum that Aboriginal people were officially included in the census.

The way in which the government defined Aboriginality varied over time. This meant that an Aboriginal person of mixed ancestry might have been counted in one census and excluded from others.

Some census records therefore include information about Aboriginal people. In New South Wales, for example, the 1891 and 1901 Census collectors' books list the names of householders and the number of Aboriginal people living in each household.

The State Library of Victoria has a guide on early Australian census records, https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/earlycensus including a section on censuses of Aboriginal Australians. https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/earlycensus/aboriginal

Local history collections in public libraries and local museums

Many local public libraries in suburbs and towns collect books, photographs, maps, letters and newspapers about their local area as part of their local history collection. Many towns also have small local museums. These collections can be useful to Aboriginal researchers because they might have records of local properties listing Aboriginal stock workers, local newspapers, family diaries and photographs.

A number of websites maintain lists of family history and historical societies including:

- CoraWeb – Genealogy, Family History and Historical Societies - www.coraweb.com.au/categories/family-history-and-historical-societies

- The Federation of Australian Historical Societies - https://www.history.org.au/

- Cape Banks Family History Society – Australian Family History & Historical Societies - www.capebanks.org.au/australian-family-history-societies/

Sources – other records and collections
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **2** of **4**

You can use **Australian Libraries Gateway – Find a Library** - www.nla.gov.au/apps/libraries - to locate libraries with family history and local history collections. Under location select your state and under library type select 'Local/Family history'. You can also browse using the map.

Genealogical Societies

Genealogical Societies in each state and territory can be sources of information. They have good collections of genealogical books as well as many records in hard copy, on microfiche, and microfilm as well as online. Many have created online indexes and databases related to various types of records. Genealogical societies are usually staffed by experienced volunteers who can offer advice about research.

South Australia – Genealogy SA - www.genealogysa.org.au

Northern Territory – Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory – www.gsnt.org.au

Western Australia – Western Australian Genealogical Society – www.membership.wags.org.au

New South Wales – The Society of Australian Genealogists – www.sag.org.au

Victoria – Genealogical Society of Victoria – www.gsv.org.au

Family History Connections (formerly the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies) - www.familyhistoryconnections.org.au

Queensland – Genealogical Society of Queensland – www.gsq.org.au

Tasmania – Tasmanian Family History Society – www.tasfhs.org

ACT – The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra – www.familyhistoryact.org.au

Land council records

Your local land council or other Aboriginal organisation (such as cultural and arts groups, training institutes, medical and legal services) might have their own resource collections. They might hold books, pamphlets and newsletters about local events and people, as well as language group information and historical information. To find land councils in your area do a google search with 'land council' and your state territory, area or town. You can find information about Aboriginal organisations on the website of the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations website – www.oric.gov.au Some Aboriginal communities have organised their own family history groups and work together recording oral histories and writing community histories.

Sources – other records and collections
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **3** of **4**

Union, company and employment records

The Noel Butlin Archives Centre - http://www.archives.anu.edu.au/collections centre at the Australian National University collects business and labour records from Australian companies, trade unions, industry bodies and professional organisations. Its collection includes records of trade unions and pastoral properties. If your ancestor worked on a station or in a particular industry, it is possible you might find some information about them in these records.

Sources – other records and collections
AIATSIS Family History Unit
www.aiatsis.gov.au
Page **4** of **4**