



AIATSIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

Family History Unit

Freecall: 1800 352 553

Fax: 02 6261 4287

Email: familyhistory@aiatsis.gov.au

Where to get help – Queensland

Organisations in each state and territory can help with your Indigenous family history research. There are also a number of national organisations and non-government websites that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history.

- **Libraries** hold a range of material that is useful for family history, including books, indexes, original manuscripts and photos. Many larger libraries have special family history librarians who can help you with your research. Most libraries have online research guides to help you understand their collections.
- **Archives** hold original records, created by government agencies, private organisations or individuals. Archives are different from libraries, and you will need help from an archivist to locate and access records.
- **Indigenous family history services** are provided by state and territory governments to assist you in accessing records and personal information about yourself and your ancestors held in government archives.
- **Link-Up organisations** provide services to members of the Stolen Generations and their families. These include researching family and personal records, finding family members, organising reunions and providing holistic and support and counselling.
- **Organisations for adoptees and Care Leavers** (and their families) can help you find information about your personal and family history and connect you with family. They also provide counselling and support services.
- **Family history community projects and organisations** offer practical help in researching your family history. Some are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focused. They may have library collections, computers, access to resources and provide training courses and workshops.

Before you make contact

Before approaching organisations put together any information you already have about your family. Names, dates and places are good starting points for them to help you with your research.

See Family history sources for more information.



Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

The AIATSIS Family History Unit can help people researching their Indigenous family history. The AIATSIS Finding Your Family website is an online resource with a focus on helping people to learn how to do Indigenous family history research. AIATSIS offers an Australia-wide service. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Biographical Index enables you to do an online name search of some of the material in the collection. AIATSIS cannot compile family trees or help you to confirm Aboriginality, but they can offer you advice on how to begin this work yourself.

51 Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT 2601

GPO Box 553, Canberra ACT 2601

Ph: 02 6246 1111

Freecall: 1800 352 553

Fax: 02 6261 4285

Email: familyhistory@aiatsis.gov.au

Web: www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family

State Library of Queensland

The State Library of Queensland provides family history services, with lots of online information. You can also contact librarians who can help you access the library's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander materials and family and local history collections.

Cultural Precinct, Stanley Place, South Bank, Brisbane QLD 4101

PO Box 3488, South Brisbane QLD 4101

Ph: 07 3840 7666

Ask a Librarian form: <http://askslq.altarama.com/ref100.aspx?key=RefAtt>

Web: www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history (Family history)

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history/atsi> (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family history)

James Cook University Library and Information Services – Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family History

James Cook University Library has prepared an online guide to assist Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Islander family historians locate sources available to them at James Cook University in Townsville and Cairns.

Web: libguides.jcu.edu.au/atsifamhistory

Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives holds records of the Queensland Government. Many records contain historical information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This information exists because of the control past Queensland governments had over Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's lives. This information can be helpful in researching the family and community links of Indigenous Queenslanders.

The Community and Personal Histories team in the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships can help you with your research (see below).

435 Compton Road, Runcorn QLD 4113
PO Box 1397, Sunnybank Hills QLD 4109
Ph: 07 3037 6777
Fax: 07 3131 7764

Email: info@archives.qld.gov.au

Online form: <https://www.qld.gov.au/dsiti/gsa/request-form>

Web: <https://www.qld.gov.au/dsiti/gsa> and

<https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/collection/atsi>

<https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/collection/family> (Family history)

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

The Community and Personal Histories team can help you use Queensland state government records to research your family and personal history. If you or your family were born in Queensland, they may be able to help you with other information, such as proving your birth date.

Level 9 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15397, City East QLD 4002
Free call: 1800 650 230
Ph: (07) 30036466

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>

Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages has records of birth, death and marriage in Queensland from 1856, as well as some earlier church records. You can search and access historical birth, death and marriage records online. The cost of BDM records varies from state to state but is normally \$30 to \$50 per certificate.

Level 32, 180 Ann Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15188, City East QLD 4002

Free call: 13 74 68

Email: bdm-mail@justice.qld.gov.au

Web: www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research

Link-Up Queensland

Link-Up Queensland provides services to individuals, families or communities who have been affected by past Australian government removal policies and practices, including separation through adoption, fostering, removal or institutionalisation. It provides family history research assistance to members of the Stolen Generations.

Free call: 1800 200 855

Email: contact@link-upqld.org.au

Web: www.link-upqld.org.au

Brisbane office

3-5 Reid Street, Woolloongabba QLD 4102

PO Box 3229, South Brisbane, QLD 4101

Ph: 07 3638 0411

Cairns office

2/128 Spence Street, Cairns, QLD 4870

PO Box 298, Bungalow QLD 4870

Ph: 07 4041 7403

Find & Connect Support Service Queensland – Lotus Place

Find & Connect supports people who grew up in orphanages, children's homes, institutions and foster homes. Find & Connect can help you obtain your personal records, trace your history and assist you to understand why you were placed into care, as well as providing counselling and other services.

Lotus Place – Brisbane

46 Cleveland Street, Stones Corner, QLD 4120

PO Box 3449, South Brisbane, QLD 4101

Free call: 1800 16 11 09

Ph: 07 3347 8500

Fax: (07) 3347 8590

Email: lotus@micahprojects.org.au

Web: www.lotusplace.org.au (Lotus Place)

www.findandconnect.gov.au (Find & Connect)

Lotus Place North Queensland

382 Sturt Street, Townsville QLD 4810

PO Box 2027 Townsville QLD 4810

Free call: 1800 16 11 09

Ph: (07) 4724 4410

Fax: (07) 4772 0011

Email: lotusnq@micahprojects.org.au

Lotus Place Central Queensland

Swan Office Building

159 Denison Street, Rockhampton QLD 4700

PO Box 586, Rockhampton QLD 4700

Free call: 1800 16 11 09

Ph/Fax: (07) 4927 7604 or

Email: lotuscq@micahprojects.org.au

Post Adoption Support Queensland – Benevolent Society

Post Adoption Support Queensland provides specialised post adoption counselling and support for people in Queensland, including help in searching for relatives and mediation for people reuniting with family members.

Office addresses: <https://www.benevolent.org.au/contact-us/office-locations>

Free call: 1800 236 762

Online Enquiry: <https://www.benevolent.org.au/contact-us/general-enquiries>

Web: www.benevolent.org.au/connect/post--adoption--support--home

National Archives Australia (Brisbane)

The National Archives of Australia holds federal government records, including many about Indigenous Australians (mostly people from Victoria and the Northern Territory). The archives has offices around Australia. Records about Queensland are mostly held in Brisbane and Canberra. The Bringing Them Home name index can help you find information about Indigenous family members in National Archives records. The index isn't available for the public to search, but an archivist will do a search for you.

16 Corporate Drive, Cannon Hill QLD 4170

PO Box 552, Cannon Hill QLD 4170

Ph: 07 3249 4200

Fax: 07 3249 4299

Email: archives@naa.gov.au

Ask a question about records: <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/askquestion/index.aspx>

Web: www.naa.gov.au/collection/a-z/aboriginal-people.aspx (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)

www.naa.gov.au/collection/family-history (Family history)

National Library of Australia

The National Library collects and makes available material of national significance about Australia and Australians. It holds books, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs and oral histories that could be useful in researching your family. Some of these resources, such as photographs and newspapers, can be viewed online via Trove. Other material, such as some oral histories can be access via the Library website. The library has a family history collection and staff you can help you to locate material.

Parkes Place, Canberra ACT 2600

Ph: 02 6262 1111

Fax: 02 6257 1703

Ask a Librarian (online contact form): www.nla.gov.au/askalibrarian

Web: www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/family-history

www.nla.gov.au/what-we-collect/indigenous

Australian War Memorial

Indigenous people have served in every military conflict that Australia has been involved in 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 they can also provide information about family members..

Treloar Crescent, Campbell ACT 2612

Ph: 02 6243 4211

Fax: (02) 6243 4325

Email: info@awm.gov.au

Web: www.awm.gov.au

Researching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander defence force service:

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/indigenous-service/researching> and

<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>

Noel Butlin Archives Centre

Some pastoral station owners or managers kept records like diaries, wage and ration books, and registers of births, deaths and marriages. The 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.

ANU Archives

The Australian National University

Menzies Building

2 Fellows Rd

Acton ACT 2601

Ph: 02 6125 2219

Email: butlin.archives@anu.edu.au

Web: <http://archives.anu.edu.au/collections/noel-butlin-archives-centre>

Research guides for Indigenous family history

Research guides provide comprehensive information for people doing family history research. They often include an outline of the history of colonisation and Aboriginal protection/welfare legislation, linking these to the records that were created about Indigenous people.

Books published by AIATSIS

- Penny Taylor, *Telling it like it is: A guide to making Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history*, AIATSIS, 1992
- Diane Smith and Boronia Halstead, *Lookin for your mob: A guide to tracing Aboriginal family trees*, Aboriginal Studies Press, 1990.

Online guides

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history – State Library of Queensland: www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history/atsi
- Records about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Queensland StateArchives:
<https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/collection/atsi>
- Records relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Brief guide 50) Queensland State Archives - <https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/brief-guides-at-qsa/resource/3a08df52-1b0e-4bbd-957a-c948a0712612>
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – National Archives of Australia: www.naa.gov.au/collection/a-z/aboriginal-people.aspx

Websites

The Centre for Indigenous Family History Studies CIFHS website is a name searchable archive of a selection of mainly government documents relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The site is updated with new records continuously. Many of the documents contain offensive language. www.cifhs.com.

In order to do a name search in documents on this website you need to type the following into google - [site:www.cifhs.com](http://www.cifhs.com) – followed by the name you are searching for in quotation marks, such as “John Smith”.

General family history organisations

Family history groups, local history societies and local libraries

Local family history groups, local history societies and local libraries are valuable sources of information and resources. They can often put you in contact with people who have a good knowledge of the local history of a town or area.. Many also have local studies collections with books, newspapers, family histories, photographs and manuscripts.

Find local libraries

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

Genealogical Society of Queensland

The Genealogical Society of Queensland's mission is 'helping to discover your family history'. It has the largest family history library in Queensland and offers courses and talks. As well as its main resource centre at East Brisbane, the society has five branches in the South East Queensland region.

25 Stackpole Street, Wishart, QLD 4122

PO Box 1467, Carindale, QLD 4152

Ph: 07 3349 6072

Email: info@gsq.org.au

Web: www.gsq.org.au

Family history research websites

- CoraWeb: a comprehensive, categorised and cross-referenced list of links and useful advice about tracing your family history (Australia)
<http://www.coraweb.com.au/>
- Ancestry – Help & Advice: general family history advice, as well as information about using Ancestry's paid services (Australia)
<https://www.ancestry.com.au/> Remember that many libraries have subscriptions which you can use on site for free.
- Cyndi's List: a comprehensive, categorised and cross-referenced list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online (Australia)
<https://www.cyndislist.com/australia/>

- FamilySearch Learning Center: articles and short online courses put together by the largest genealogical organisation in the world (USA)
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page

Find family history and historical societies

- 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 Societies:
www.capebanks.org.au/australian-family-history-societies/