

### **Getting started with your family history research**

Below are some suggested steps to help you trace your family history:

**1. Use a family tree to record your information**

A good way to structure your research and record your findings is in a family tree. There are a number of free family tree templates available online (for example, [https://www.familysearch.org/learn/getting\\_started](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/getting_started)).

**2. Write down as much as you know about yourself and your family**

Collate any information you have from documents and family stories/oral history with regards to names, dates, places (including missions or institutions) etc. You can record this information in your family tree.

**3. Trace your family backwards, starting from yourself**

The first person you record on your family tree should be you. You can then work outwards to your parents, then your grandparents and so forth.

**4. Birth, death and marriage records are a good place to start**

Birth, death and marriage records can provide you with important information about your family which can assist you in your searches. They may contain information about a person's full name, maiden name, date of birth, place of birth, parents' names, marriage details and/or occupation. They are often helpful in working out links between generations in your family. Please note that the births, deaths and marriages of Aboriginal people were not consistently registered, and you may not always find the records that you seek.

**5. Access documents created about yourself or your family by the Queensland Government**

Personal records are held by the Queensland Government in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Many of these records were created when the '*Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897*' and subsequent 'protection' acts were in force which enabled the government to control all aspects of peoples' lives. These records often hold valuable family history information and can be accessed through Community and Personal Histories. Personal records are also held at the Department of Communities in relation to people who were adopted or in State care (foster care or institutions). You may seek copies of these records through Adoption Services or the Right to Information and Information Privacy Branch.

**6. Access other resources for information about your family**

Other helpful resources for family history information include church records, police records, station records, Tindale genealogies, cemetery records, military records, local newspapers and historical societies.

### **Helpful hints**

- \* Be mindful of name and spelling variations and use these in your searches.
- \* Assess the credibility of any information you find. Remember that information is only as reliable as the source.
- \* Read Indigenous family history guidebooks (or online information) for further assistance.

## **Family History Contacts in Queensland**

### **Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages**

110 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 Phone: 1300 366 430

<http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/justice-services/births-deaths-and-marriages>

### **Community and Personal Histories**

Level 6, 75 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4002 Free call: 1800 650 230

<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/atsis/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-peoples/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-family-history/community-and-personal-histories-team>

### **Right to Information and Information Privacy Branch, Department of Communities**

GPO Box 806, Brisbane QLD 4001 Free call: 1800 809 078

<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/about-us/right-to-information>

<http://www.rti.qld.gov.au/>

### **Adoption Services Queensland**

Level 1, 111 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 Ph: (07) 3224 7415

<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/adoption/contacts/adoption-services-queensland>

### **Queensland State Archives**

435 Compton Road, Runcorn QLD 4113 Ph: (07) 3131 7777

<http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/>

### **State Library of Queensland**

Cultural Centre Ph: (07) 3840 7666 (General enquires)  
Stanley Place, South Brisbane QLD 4101 (07) 3840 7880 (Heritage collections)

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/>

### **Genealogical Society of Queensland**

38 Fisher Street, East Brisbane QLD 4169 Ph: (07) 3891 5085

<http://www.gsq.org.au>

## **Useful websites**

- \* <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/atsi>
- \* <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/fhu/kit.html>
- \* <http://www.cyndislist.com/australia>
- \* <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/community-support/forgotten-australians/publications-and-resources> (Missing Pieces: Information to assist former residents of children's institutions to access records)