

Getting started with your family history research

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 several free family tree templates/programs available online. (For example: http://obituarieshelp.org/free_printable_blank_family_tree.html or <http://misbach.org/#/charts>)

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) relating to yourself, your parents, your grandparents, and other relatives. 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 that 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 and Torres Strait Islander 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 Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs in relation to people who were adopted or in State care (foster care or institutions) in Queensland. You may seek copies of these records through Adoption and Permanent Care Services, Time in Care Information Access Service or Right to Information, Privacy, Records Management and Redress Branch.

6 Access other resources for information about your family

Other helpful resources for family history information include, but are not limited to, church records, police records, station records, Tindale genealogies, cemetery records, military records, electoral rolls, local newspapers and historical manuscripts. These can be accessed through archives, libraries and other record repositories. Some records are available online.

... Useful Websites ...

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history>
<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/research-collections/family-history/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-family-history>
<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/first-australians#0>
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>
<http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/>
<http://www.cifhs.com/>
<https://www.qsq.org.au/>
<https://www.ancestry.com.au/>

... 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.
- You may find the content of records upsetting or offensive. Seek social and emotional wellbeing support as required.
- Some records may not exist due to being lost, destroyed, or not created. Other records may be restricted and you must meet eligibility criteria to access them.
- Read Indigenous family history guidebooks or online information for further assistance.

Queensland family history contacts

Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Department of Justice and Attorney-General
 Level 32, 180 Ann Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
 PO Box 18188, City East QLD 4002
 P: 13 74 68 / 07 3328 4811
<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces>

Community and Personal Histories, Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
 Level 9, 1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4002
 PO Box, 15397, City East QLD 4002
 P: 1800 650 230 / 07 3003 6466
 E: enquiries@dssatsip.qld.gov.au
<https://www.qld.gov.au/firstnations/cultural-awareness-heritage-arts/family-personal-history>

Time in Care Information Access Service / Right to Information, Privacy, Records Management and Redress, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
 111 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
 Locked Bag 3405, Brisbane QLD 4001
 P: 1800 809 078 / 07 3097 5605
 E: rta@cyjma.qld.gov.au
<https://www.cyjma.qld.gov.au/about-us/our-department/right-information>

Adoption and Permanent Care Services, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs
 Level 11, 127 Creek Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
 Locked Bag 3405, Brisbane QLD 4001
 P: 1800 647 983 / 07 3097 5100
 E: ads@cyjma.qld.gov.au
<https://www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/adoption/post-adoption-support-services>

Queensland State Archives
 435 Compton Road, Runcorn QLD 4113
 PO Box 1397, Sunnybank Hills QLD 4109
 P: (07) 3131 7777
 E: info@archives.qld.gov.au
<https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives>

State Library of Queensland
 Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Brisbane QLD 4101
 PO Box 3488, South Brisbane QLD 4101
 P: (07) 3840 7666 (General enquiries)
 (07) 3840 7880 (Heritage collections)
<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/>