

How to Read Records

A wide range of types of records were created by various government and non government welfare organisations at different times in different jurisdictions. Gather some context and develop your understanding of why they were created, what they were used for and what kinds of information they can include. If you can closely 'read' records, you can often find keys to other files or documents you might be able to ask about and apply for access to. Below are some examples.

Record of transfer of a child to Turana Training Centre, 1965

– 'Remand Centre Turana record no 2325', Exhibit for Case Study 30, August 2015, Melbourne, URL:
https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/DHS.3002.104.0052_E_R.pdf (accessed February 2025)

2325

2325

**SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
YOUTH WELFARE DIVISION**

RECORD'S COPY
No. *2325*

**TRAINING
REMAND CENTRE TURANA**

Surname	Christian Names	Date of Birth	Religion	File Number
<i>REDACTED</i>	<i>REDACTED</i>	<i>REDACTED</i> 50	<i>S.D.A.</i>	

Name and address of Parents
 Father: *REDACTED*
 Mother: *REDACTED*

Home: _____
 Business: _____

Date of arrival *14/9/1965* Received from *Melbourne CC. (14/9/65)*
 By the hand of *Const J. GUY.*

Charge: *Armed & Dangerous (2) - Garage Break & Steal.*
Order to admit to the care of the Social Welfare Branch.

Remanded to: *1/19* for *Court Hearing Clinic Report Sentence*

	Homicide	Assaults	Robbery with Violence	Sex (a) Natural (b) Unnatural	Breakings	Larceny	Motor Vehicles	False Pretences	Care and Protection
Number of Counts									

Informant's name: *1/C G.A. HYDE.* 13492 Station: *Turana*

Particular marks on body, etc. *Nil*

Cash: *Nil*
 Property: *Nil*
 Clothing: *Single Underpants, Cardigan, Shirt, Tie, Trousers, Shoes, Sox.*

Condition of Clothing: *Good.* Estimated value: *£8.00*

Signature of Young Person: *Joseph M. ...*
 Signature of Escorting Officer: *Const J. GUY*
 Signature of Receiving Officer: *J. J. Smith*

Have Parents been notified—Yes/No/Will be: *Probation Officer*
3. Note of birth of David, 1/1/65

Property as listed received into custody

Religion - might there be church records?

Be alert to acronyms. Use Find & Connect to search for their meaning.

Ask why names have been redacted.

Details re charge - apply for police and court records.

Find out what this number means.

Is this a police station - were any records created there?

Mentions psychiatric treatment - might there be records of this?

South Australian State Ward Index Card, 1907-1909 – courtesy State Records of SA
 – courtesy State Records of SA

