

# Finding Family

The [Find & Connect Support Services](#) can help Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and others who spent time in out of home care between 1920 and 1990 find family members.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people separated from their families under the past laws, practices and policies of Australian governments can get help to locate family with Link-Up services:  
<http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family/link-services>.

People affected by forced adoption can find organisations that can help here: <https://www.dss.gov.au/families-and-children/programmes-services/family-relationships/forced-adoption-practices/support-services-for-people-affected-by-past-forced-adoption-policies-and-practices>

There are a number of places you can search for family members if you know their name:

The White Pages: <http://www.whitepages.com.au/>

The electoral roll is a list of the names and addresses of everyone who is eligible and enrolled to vote in Australia. An electronic copy of the current electoral roll is available for viewing at Australian Electoral Commission offices. As of August 2023, viewing access to the full electoral roll is only available at [AEC state offices](#). Public access terminals at divisional AEC offices now only provide access to the electoral roll for the federal division/s represented by that office. Further information is available on the AEC website:  
[http://aec.gov.au/Enrolling\\_to\\_vote/About\\_Electoral\\_Roll/](http://aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/About_Electoral_Roll/).

The AEC does not maintain historical electoral rolls for viewing. Historical rolls are available through state libraries and the National Library of Australia. See the NLA Electoral Roll research guide for more information:  
<https://www.library.gov.au/research/family-history/electoral-rolls-research-guide>

Every state and territory has a registry of Births Deaths and Marriages (or BDM), which you can find here:  
<http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/family-and-community/births-deaths-and-marriages-registries>.

There are Facebook groups that may assist you in your search, but you must exercise care if you choose to join them. These groups are not in any way affiliated with Find & Connect, and we don't monitor or recommend any of them specifically. You may find some information using groups such as these, however:

- Remember that Facebook is a public space. Think about your privacy as well as the privacy of the person you are trying to locate.
- People all over the world use sites like Facebook. Make sure that you have the right person before making contact!
- Not everyone is who they say they are online. Take precautions to protect yourself – don't share personal information such as your address, phone number, or birthday. If you already use social media, ensure your profiles are private.
- Not everyone will act in your best interests. If you are seeking assistance online, you are vulnerable. The Australian Cyber Security Centre has information on protecting yourself online – be familiar with it before contacting or sharing information with anyone in these groups: <https://www.cyber.gov.au/protect-yourself>

Some Facebook groups that may be useful:

## AUSSIE & UK ANGELS – Reuniting long lost Family & Friends

This is a volunteer -based group that may assist you to find a loved one

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1669732293272781>

There is also a more private group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/220988492474321/>

### DNA Detectives

Note : This private group focuses on using DNA to find biological family members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DNADetectives>

### Local area pages on Facebook

The following pages may contain photos of past members, associates, alumni etc.

- Community pages
- Local Sporting Groups
- Associations often place
- ‘Remember when’ pages
- School Pages
- School reunion pages

DNA testing is becoming increasingly popular, and a variety of companies offer paid genetic testing with the possibility of finding new family members. However genetic testing doesn't work for everyone – some may not find immediate family members, or have unexpected results. [Making Informed Choices About Using DNA](#) was developed to assist people with out-of-home-care and adoption experiences decide if genetic testing is right for them, and some things to consider before going ahead with testing their DNA.

# Eligibility for Find & Connect Support Services

The Find & Connect support services are for people who were in children’s homes, orphanages and foster care in Australia, from the 1920s up to 1989. For many people, the journey of accessing records will be about more than the person who grew up in ‘care’ – the records about the person’s parents, siblings and other family members can also contain vital information. Many people who have a close relative who was in a children’s institution want to access these records, to understand more about their family and their past.

The Find & Connect support services are under considerable demand – people wanting to access records about a family member may not be eligible for help with searching. Calling the Find & Connect support service to discuss your situation is a good first step – 1800 16 11 09.

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/finding-family/>