



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

WHERE TO START

A web resource for people who experienced out of home 'care'

This is a guide to the information available on Find & Connect and contains information about how to start searching for records about a person's time in institutional 'care'.

Searching for records about a person's time in institutional 'care' can be a complicated process. These records are located in a number of places – in government departments, church and charitable organisations, libraries, and archives. The [Information about Records](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/information-about-records) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/information-about-records] page has fact sheets on a range of topics.

GET HELP FINDING RECORDS

There are organisations whose job it is to help Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants obtain records about their time in 'care', and to provide support through this process. Contact the [Find & Connect Support Services](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact] or call **1800 16 11 09** to get help finding records.

WHAT'S ON FIND & CONNECT?

This website contains information about records – where they are, who to contact, how to apply for access. You will not find any records or personal information on this website. The information on the Find & Connect web resource can help you to do your own searching for records.

Use the [Look for Homes](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-homes) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-homes] page to search for a Home. You can also browse alphabetical lists of Homes in each state or territory on [Look for Homes](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-homes) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-homes].

Find & Connect has an entry about each Home, with historical information (e.g. where it was, when it operated, who ran it), photographs if available, and links to any relevant books, websites and newspaper articles. Click on the Records tab for more information about records relating to each Home, and who to contact for access.

The screenshot shows the Find & Connect homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: ABOUT Find & Connect, Look for HOMES, Look for PHOTOS, Information about RECORDS, SEARCH this site, and CONTACT Support Services. Below the navigation bar, there is a search box with the placeholder text 'name of Home, orphanage, organisation or suburb' and a 'Search' button. To the right of the search box, there is a 'OR' link. Below the search box, there is a section titled 'Browse Lists of Homes' with a table of links for each state and territory, categorized by 'A-Z', 'By location', and 'By decade'.

State/Territory	A-Z	By location	By decade
Australian Capital Territory	A-Z	By location	By decade
New South Wales	A-Z	By location	By decade
Northern Territory	A-Z	By location	By decade
Queensland	A-Z	By location	By decade
South Australia	A-Z	By location	By decade
Tasmania	A-Z	By location	By decade
Victoria	A-Z	By location	By decade
Western Australia	A-Z	By location	By decade

The screenshot shows the Find & Connect website entry for 'Turana (1955 - 1993)'. The entry is categorized under 'VICTORIA - ORGANISATION'. It includes a 'Summary' tab, a 'Records' tab, a 'Photos' tab, and a 'Full page' tab. The 'Records' tab is selected, showing a list of records with fields for 'From', 'To', 'Categories', and 'Alternative Names'. A photograph of the Turana building is also displayed. Below the photograph, there is a description of the Turana building and its history.

Turana (1955 - 1993)

From 1955 To 1993

Categories: Youth Training Centre, Government-run, Reception Centre, Home

Alternative Names: Turana Reception Centre

Turana was a government-run reception centre established in 1955 in Royal Park, Parkville. It was formerly known as the Royal Park Depot. Turana was the sole reception centre for children committed to State 'care' until 1961 when Alambie became the main government reception centre. In 1993, the Melbourne Youth Justice Centre opened on the site of Turana.

The screenshot shows the Find & Connect website entry for 'Turana (1955 - 1993)' with detailed information. The entry is categorized under 'VICTORIA - ORGANISATION'. It includes a 'Summary' tab, a 'Records' tab, a 'Photos' tab, and a 'Full page' tab. The 'Records' tab is selected, showing a list of records with fields for 'Series Title', 'Date Range', 'Reference', and 'Contact'. A photograph of the Turana building is also displayed. Below the photograph, there is a description of the Turana building and its history.

Turana (1955 - 1993)

Series Title: Ron Thorpe interviewed by Helen Belle Curzon-Siggers in the Bringing them home oral history project [sound recording] (1999)

Date Range: 1999 - 1999

Reference: 294581 [National Library of Australia Bib ID]

Contact: Please contact the Librarian at Reader Services, National Library of Australia: Address: National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT 2600 Phone: (02) 6262 1266 Fax: (02) 6273 5081 Website: <http://www.nla.gov.au/askalibrarian/>



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STATE WARD RECORDS

If you, or your family member, was a ward of the state [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00010b.htm>], it is likely that there are some government records about their time in 'care'. The Historical Background about Child Welfare for Australian States and Territories [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/historical-background-about-child-welfare>] page has more detailed information about the system in each jurisdiction.

In each state or territory, there is a government department whose job it is to respond to requests for access to the records of state wards. To apply for access to ward files [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00128b.htm>], please contact these government departments:

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

For records relating to state wards from the ACT, contact Community Services [<http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/parents-carers-and-families/fostering-guardianship-and-adoption/foster-care/were-you-in-out-of-home-care>] in NSW – before 1989, children from the ACT were sometimes placed in institutional and foster care in NSW.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Contact the Care Leavers Records Access Unit in Community Services [<http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/parents-carers-and-families/fostering-guardianship-and-adoption/foster-care/were-you-in-out-of-home-care>] for access to ward records.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

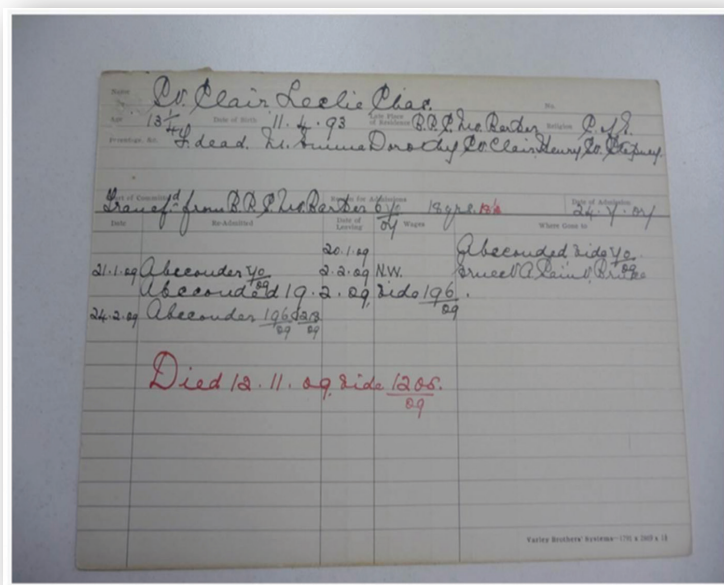
For access to files relating to children under the care of the NT government, contact the Department for Children and Families [<https://nt.gov.au/law/rights/freedom-of-information>]. The majority of these records have been extensively indexed.

QUEENSLAND

For access to government records in Queensland, contact the Right to Information Unit in the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women [<https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/about-us/right-information>].

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

To apply for access to records about state wards in South Australia, contact Families SA [<https://www.families.sa.gov.au/departments/families-sa-offices>].



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

TASMANIA

The After Care Support Program [<http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/adoption/support-for-care-leavers>] provides assistance to access records of people who were in State care in Tasmania.

VICTORIA

In Victoria, contact the Care Leaver Records Service (CLRS) [<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/applying-for-documents-and-records/adoption-ward-and-care-leaver-records/former-victorian-state-wards-and-care-leavers>] team in the Department of Human Services.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Contact the Department for Child Protection and Family Support [<http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/SupportingIndividualsAndFamilies/Pages/Searchingforfamilyhistory.aspx>] to access information about former state wards in WA.