



**FIND &
CONNECT**
WEB RESOURCE

INDUCTION PACK

A guide to using the Find & Connect web resource for support service staff and other regular users of the website.

findandconnect.gov.au

Funded by the Australian Government

Contents

Introduction	3
What is the Find & Connect web resource?	4
How can the web resource help put a care leaver's experience into context?	6
How to use the Find & Connect web resource	9
Fact sheets	27
Useful contacts and other resources	28
Appendix: Fact Sheets	31

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Introduction

The Find & Connect web resource induction pack is designed to quickly introduce the features of the website to Find & Connect support service staff and other regular users of the website. It contains information to help you get the most out of the web resource, and to help other people understand the history and context of institutional 'care' in Australia.

The pack comes with an appendix with copies of the fact sheets and tip sheets available on the Find & Connect web resource. Each sheet is designed as a stand-alone information source that can be printed and distributed individually.

When viewed on a computer the pdf is interactive, all the links (blue underlined text) are clickable. This pack can also be printed out and used as a hard copy reference guide.

What is the Find & Connect web resource?

So, what is the Find & Connect web resource, and what does it have to do with your work at the Find & Connect support service?

The Find & Connect web resource is an online knowledge base with comprehensive information about the history of institutional 'care' in Australia. It has entries about Homes, care provider organisations, laws, policies and key events. It contains links to photos, newspaper articles and other online resources. It contains information about records, where they are located and how to access them. You can find out more about the site [here](#).¹

The Find & Connect web resource is a fundamental tool for all staff in the Find & Connect support services around Australia. For records officers, the website is your primary information resource about where the records are held, and who to contact. The web resource contains context and information that can help you to make meaning of a person's records, and add richness to their story. Counsellors and case managers can draw on information in Find & Connect to assist clients to understand their history and identity. Even frontline staff and administration workers can use the Find & Connect web resource in their jobs.

“

These records are wide ranging, and can be of little importance, or it can be life changing. Records are not records per se, they are the fabric of people's past lives, their raison d'être.

The difficulty for record holders (the gatekeepers) is not knowing what is important, or if a certain phrase or sentence can change a person's understanding to their past, and/or will begin the healing/grieving process.

Find & Connect are to me, the cartographers (mapmakers), and this role is pivotal to the care leaver when seeking records, where to start is always the first question.

”

Greg Baker,
Care Leaver. October 2012

¹ <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/about>

After the [Australian Parliament Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants in 2009](#),² the Australian government provided funding for a suite of Find and Connect programs and services to help Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. The Find & Connect web resource was launched in November 2011, before the establishment of the Find & Connect support services. You can read more about the background to the apology and the web resource [here](#).³ A team of historians, archivists and academics worked on the development of the content of the Find & Connect web resource from 2011 to 2014.

Care Leavers and their families are the primary audience for the Find & Connect web resource – the website has been designed with the needs of this community at the forefront. The team undertook rounds of usability testing with Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants to ensure that the site is sensitive, user-friendly and relevant.

Organisations supporting Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants are another key audience for the Find & Connect web resource. Although the website has been designed so that any individual can find the information they're looking for, many Care Leavers will want and need support to find their records and learn more about their time in institutional 'care' as a child. The input and feedback of staff in the Find & Connect support services was vital to the development and refinement of the web resource. Support service staff are a key audience for the website and this induction pack is a way to ensure that you get the most of the Find & Connect web resource in your work.

Many staff in Find & Connect support services become 'super users' of the web resource – they know how to do advanced searches to help clients who aren't sure what Home they were in, they can find the entries explaining child welfare legislation and answer questions like "why was I put in 'care'?", and they use the Glossary Terms to help clients understand the jargon and abbreviations on their records.

2. <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00081b.htm>

3. <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/about/background>

How can the web resource help put a care leaver's experience into context?

The Find & Connect web resource is there to help Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants find their own pathways to information and resources that can help them make sense of their past and to see where their own story fits in to the broader context.

For many people, this journey is about getting access to the files about them held by government and non-government care providers. The Find & Connect support services play an important role in supporting people through this process.

But, a person's records can only go so far in helping a person understand their past and why they were in 'care'. To make these records *meaningful*, they need to be put into context. The resources on Find & Connect can help you to do this.

Sadly, for some people whose 'care' records have been lost or even destroyed, the general, historical information will be all they have. When a person's records have not survived, the context becomes even more important.

“

Many people who were in 'care' as children find themselves as adults seeking answers to questions about their past:

- Why was I taken away?
- Why was I put in a home?
- Why didn't my parents come and get me?
- Why was I separated from my siblings?
- Many ask themselves: What did I do wrong?

These types of questions haunt many people who experienced institutional 'care' as children - child migrants, members of the Stolen Generations, Forgotten Australians. Their childhood in 'care' leaves them burdened as adults with confusion, bewilderment, self-blame, anger.

Another legacy of a childhood in 'care' is lingering questions about identity:

- Who are my parents?
- Where were they when I was in 'care'?
- Where are they now?
- Who are my family?
- Where were they during my childhood in 'care'?
- Where are they now?
- Why was my name changed?
- How old am I? When is my birthday? Where is my birth certificate?
- Who am I?

”

Cate O'Neill, "What to expect when accessing records about you", Pathways website, published 2008.

Putting a person's life into historical context

The Find & Connect web resource has information that can help you put a person's childhood experiences into a broader historical context. For many people, it is very helpful to know this contextual information - it can help some people to answer the question, "Why was I in care?"

The Find & Connect web resource was designed to bring together all the sources of this contextual information, so that people can understand the history of different Homes, care providers and the child welfare system more broadly.

If you look at the Full page view of a Home entry, the "Related Entities" can be useful sources of context. For example, there might be links to related Legislation, Glossary Terms or Events that tell the 'bigger story' about an institution and the children who lived there.

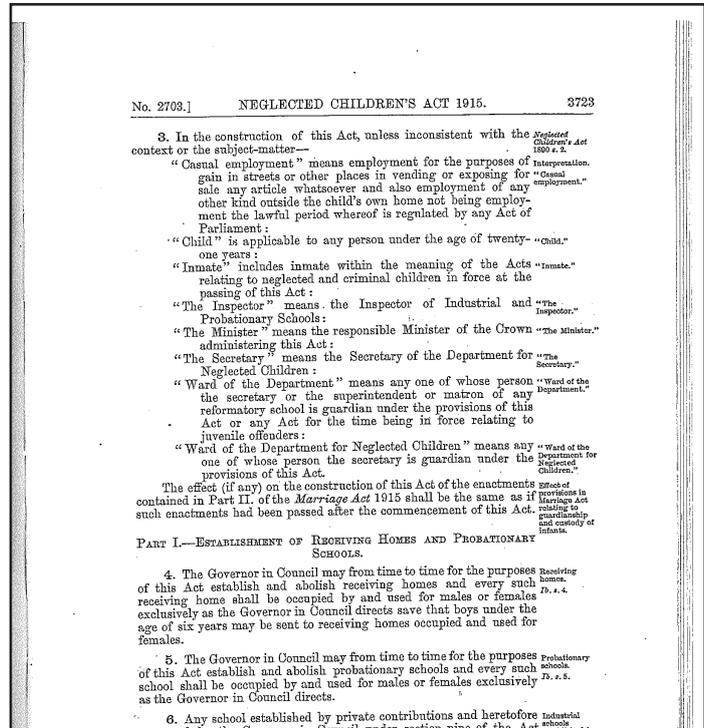
Child welfare legislation can be very useful in helping people to understand how they came to be in 'care'. Find the Legislation that was in effect at the time a person was put into 'care'. (Tip: use the Browse Legislation alphabetical lists). The legislation can provide a lot more context. For example, reading the child welfare acts and regulations explains why an innocent child could be "charged" with neglect in a court.

“

When I realised records were 'not created for them' (Forgotten Australians) it really clarified in my mind what we are trying to do for people. Getting records is only the first step.

”

Lachie Douglas - Find & Connect worker Lotus Place



Excerpt from the Neglected Children's Act 1915 (VIC)

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000438b.htm>

A knowledge of historical events and how they impacted on the lives of children in 'care' can be useful. For example, World War II, directly or indirectly, was a factor in thousands of children's placement in 'care' in the mid-twentieth century.

In the footer of the web resource, there is a "Timeline of Events & Legislation" that links to the page "Major events and legislation in the history of child welfare in Australia" (Figure 1 & 1a). This page includes links to entries about major events including wars, economic depressions, significant laws and policies, inquiries and apologies.

Books, annual reports, newspaper articles and photographs are all important sources of context. The Publications section for each Home on Find & Connect contains details of these of contextual resources. These resources can really 'add value' to a person's records, and help them to put their experience into context.

Another online resource that you should get to know is [Trove](http://trove.gov.au),¹ part of the National Library of Australia's website. Digitised newspapers in Trove are indeed a treasure trove, and reveal a lot about how society was at different periods in the past. You could get lucky and find articles about a particular children's Home. Sometimes these articles even mention the names of children, for example, when children 'absconding' from an institution made the news.

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Many of the children were in these institutions because their parents were, or had been, in the armed forces. They may have lost parent/s, through death or serious injury; many children also had parents who had returned from overseas war service with untreated post-traumatic stress disorder, unable to care for their children.

”

Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA), quoted in the Lost Innocents and Forgotten Australians Revisited report, page 10.²

Figure 1

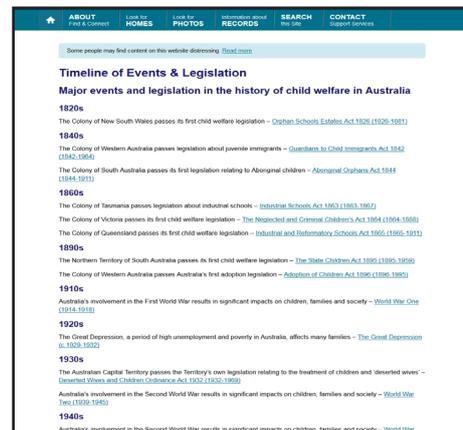
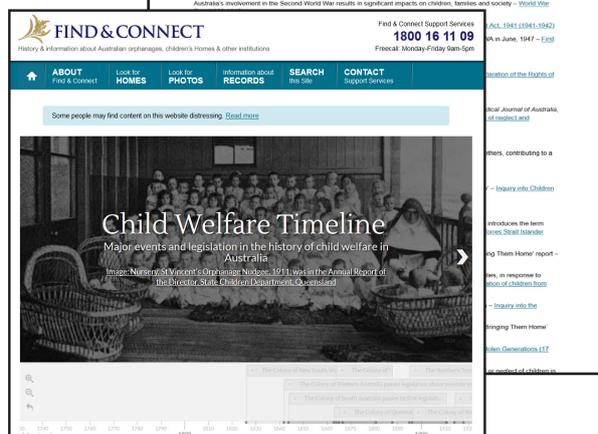


Figure 1a



- www.trove.nla.gov.au
- www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/2008-10/recs_lost_innocents_forgotten_aust_rpts/report/index

How to use the Find & Connect web resource

The site is based around four main search functions (Figure 2):

1 Look for Homes

A good place to start searching the web resource. Search for information about orphanages, children's Homes and other institutions, including links to records and photos.

2 Look for photos

Search for photos of orphanages, children's Homes and other institutions, and related images.

3 Information about Records

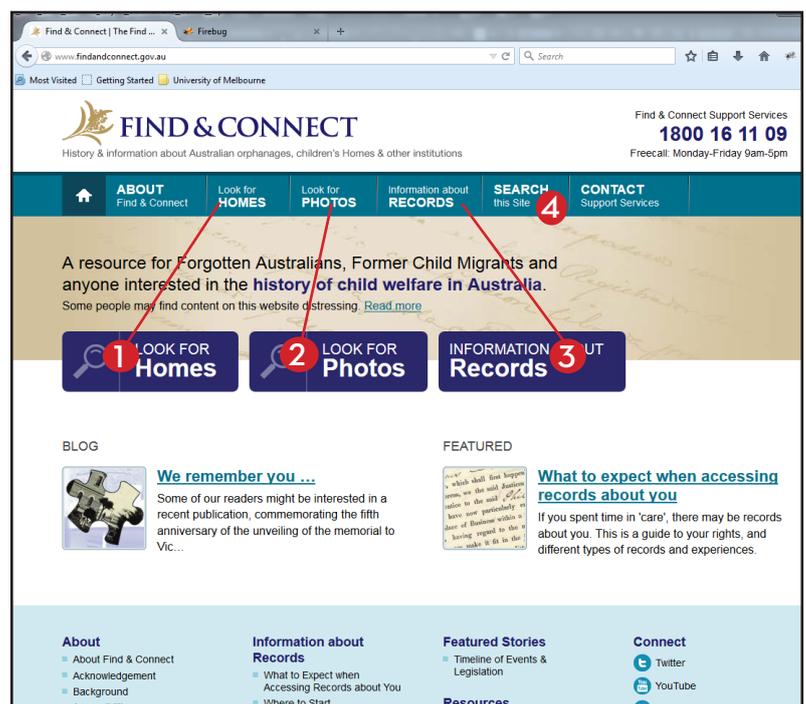
This page has information to help explain how to find records of people who grew up in 'care'. It has fact sheets about popular research topics and tips to assist with searching for, locating and accessing records.

4 Search this site

Search the entire website, including Homes and other organisations, photos, records, events, legislation, glossary terms and more.

There are a variety of ways to find information on the website. You need to discover the route to information that suits you best.

Figure 2



1 Look for Homes

<https://findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-homes>

Look for Homes has two search options (Figure 3):

Quick search

or

Browse lists of Homes

Quick search

To search simply type the search term into the search box.

For example if your client knew they were in a Home called Kennerley, you could simply type in Kennerley in the quick search box, which in this case returned 2 documents (Figure 4).

Options to Refine Search will be provided on the results page; you will notice the 'Homes' option has already been selected.

Once you select a result you will be taken to the Summary tab of a Home entry.

Figure 3

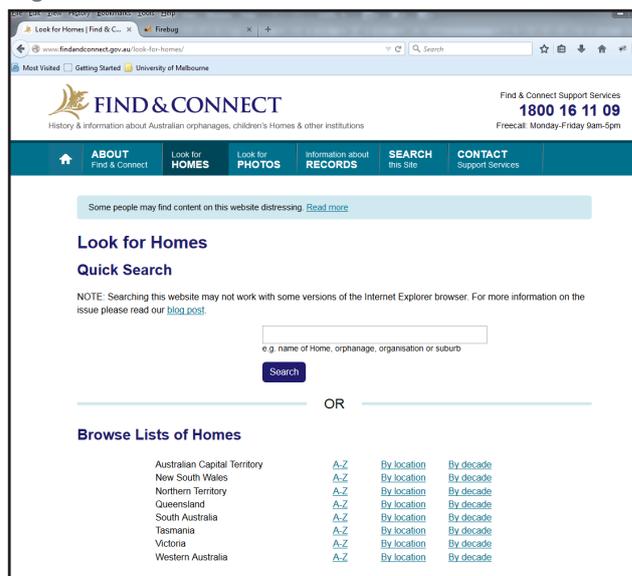
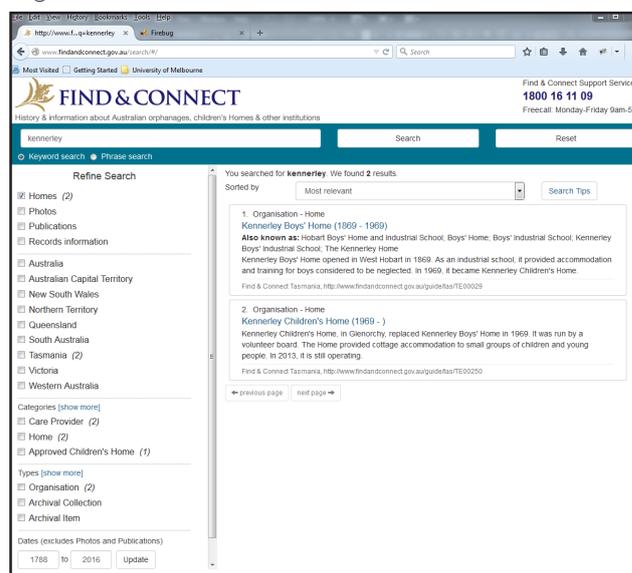


Figure 4



Browse list of Homes

Instead of searching for a term, you can Browse lists of Homes. There are 3 different types of Browse lists.

A-Z

This is an alphabetical list of Homes in a specific State or Territory (Figure 5).

By location

This option takes you to an alphabetical list of suburbs and towns in which Homes were located in each State or Territory (Figure 6). This option is useful if a client does not remember the name of the Home but does remember the suburb.

By decade

This option shows a list of Homes that were open in decades from 1820s - 2010s (Figure 7). This is useful when you want to see a list of Homes open in a specific time period.

Once you select a result from the Browse lists, you will be taken to the Full page tab of a Home entry.

Figure 5

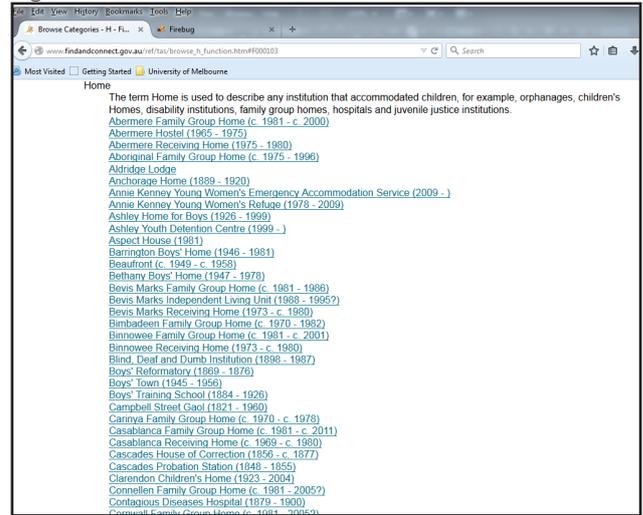


Figure 6

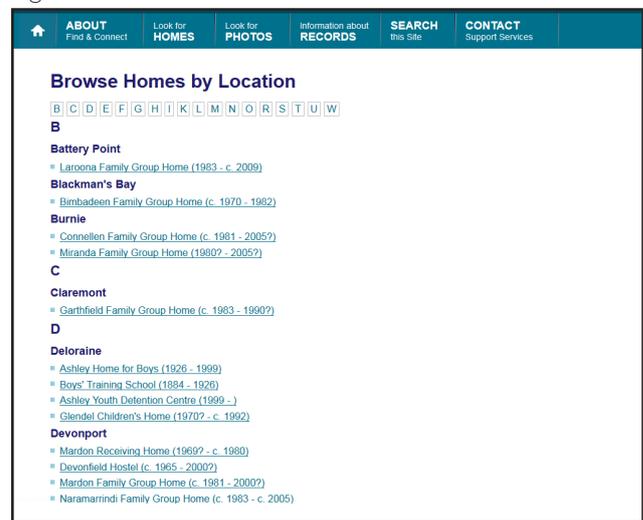
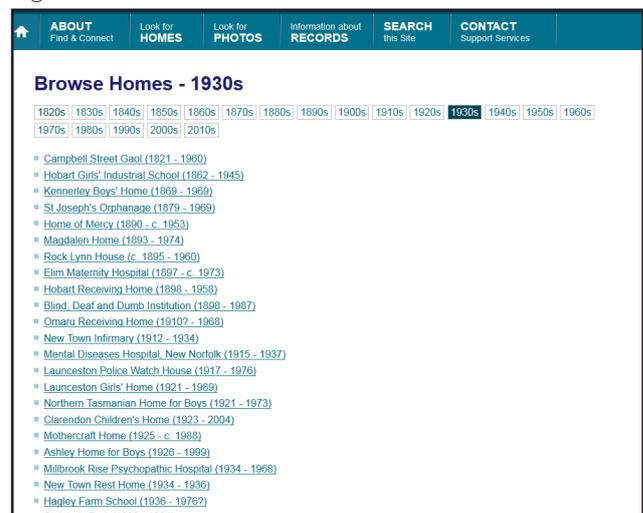


Figure 7



2 Look for photos

<https://findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-photos>

Photographs are an important part of the web resource. As the Forgotten Australians report noted:

“The lack of photographs and mementos is felt keenly by care leavers ... Photographs are a tangible link to the past, to their lost childhood. (p.255)”¹

Quick search

To Look for Photos simply type the search term into the Quick search box (Figure 8).

The same rules apply here as in *Look for Homes*. Entering more information will narrow down the search results.

The photo search results (Figure 9) show thumbnails of the photos, with other information, like the title and the source.

Scrolling through search results may be helpful for some people who don't remember the name of a Home but may recognise the buildings from a photo.

Once you select a result you will be taken to the Image entry. From that page, any related organisations, glossary terms, events, legislation and publications are available.

The Find & Connect web resource historians have sourced photos for as many Homes as possible.

Figure 8

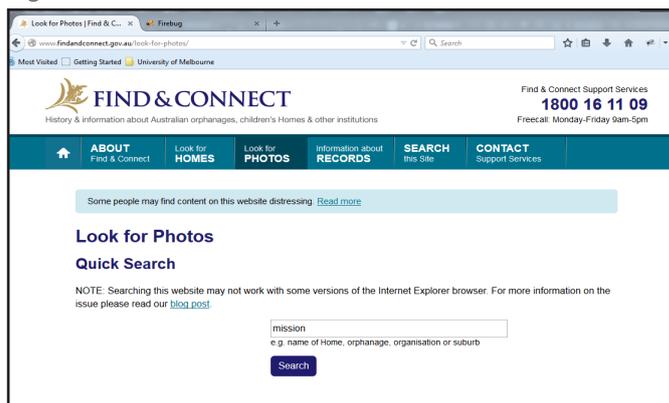
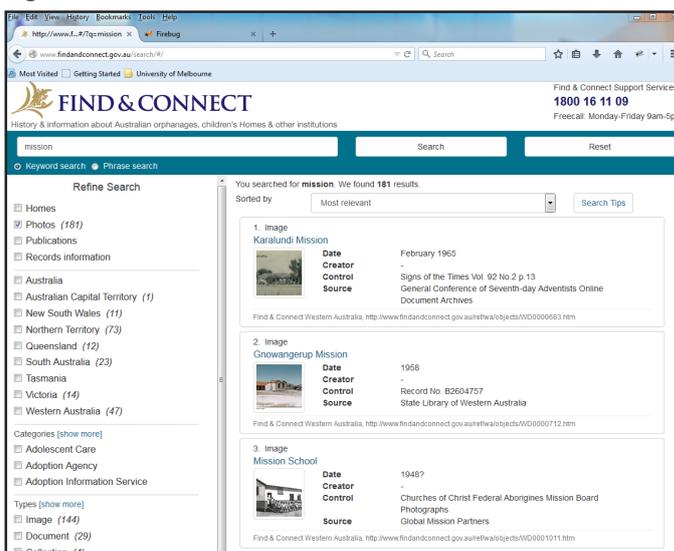


Figure 9



“

Years later I visited every home where I lived and took photos so that I could validate to myself that 'yes, this place really does exist' and I remembered what my life was like when I lived there.

”

Submission no. 470
(30 October 2004),
Inquiry into Children in
Institutional Care²

1. www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/2004-07/inst_care/report/index

2. http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/2004-07/inst_care/submissions/sublist

3 Information About Records

<https://findandconnect.gov.au/information-about-records>

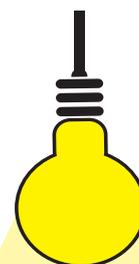
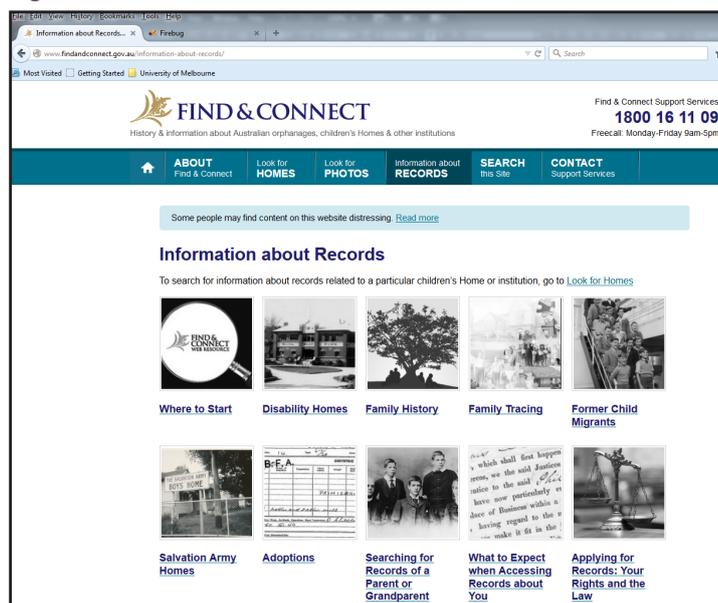
The *Information about Records* page (Figure 10) has a number of resources to help explain how to find records of people who grew up in 'care'. It has fact sheets about popular research topics and tips to assist with searching for, locating and accessing records.

The *Information about Records* page has general information to help with the search for records. To find information about what records exist for a particular Home, search for that Home on Find & Connect, and then click on the *Records* tab (this is explained in the [Finding your way around a Home entry](#) section).

Archival records

Many different types of archival records are described on the Find & Connect web resource. For example: admission records, client files, ward files, application forms and meeting minutes.

Figure 10



We recommend using *Look for Homes* to find the Home, before searching for the records. Once you're on the entry for the Home you can click the records tab to see all the records related to that Home (see [page 21](#)).

4 Search this site

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/browse>

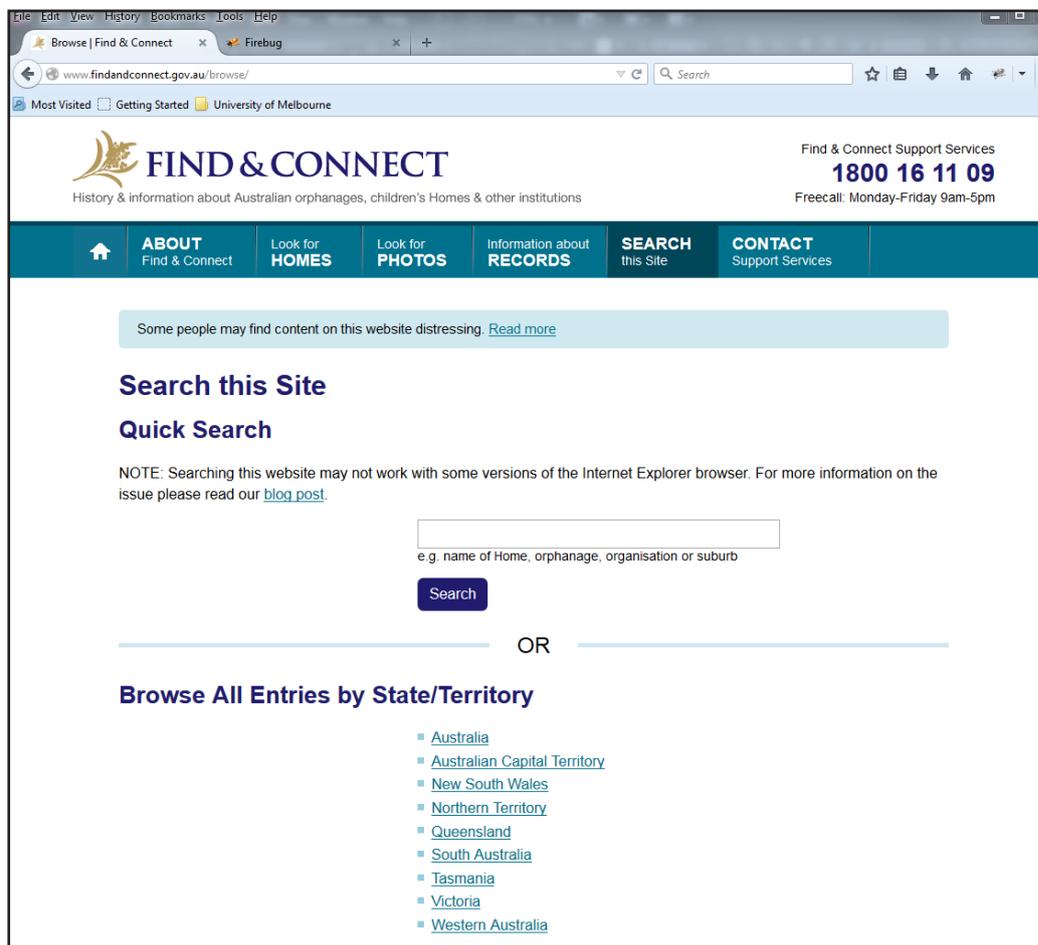
On *Search this site*, there are 2 options – you can search directly via the search box, or if you prefer you can Browse lists of all entries by state/territory (Figure 11).

Quick search

To search simply type the search term into the search box. The search on this page searches Homes, photos, records information, organisations, legislation, events, glossary terms and publications. Options to Refine Search will be provided on the results page. No options have been pre-selected using this search. For more information about the search and how to use it, go to the [Getting the most of Search Results](#) section.



Figure 11



File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

Browse | Find & Connect x Firebug x +

www.findandconnect.gov.au/browse/ Search

Most Visited Getting Started University of Melbourne

FIND & CONNECT
History & information about Australian orphanages, children's Homes & other institutions

Find & Connect Support Services
1800 16 11 09
Freecall: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

ABOUT Find & Connect Look for HOMES Look for PHOTOS Information about RECORDS **SEARCH this Site** CONTACT Support Services

Some people may find content on this website distressing. [Read more](#)

Search this Site

Quick Search

NOTE: Searching this website may not work with some versions of the Internet Explorer browser. For more information on the issue please read our [blog post](#).

e.g. name of Home, orphanage, organisation or suburb

Search

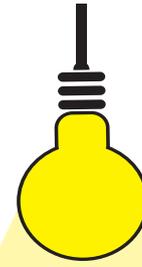
OR

Browse All Entries by State/Territory

- [Australia](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

Browse lists of all entries by state/territory

This option takes you to alphabetical browse lists for all the entries in each state and territory (Figure 12). For each state and territory there are alphabetical lists of organisations, events, legislation and glossary terms. The category lists allow you to see all entries from a particular category e.g. Catholic, Babies' Home, Hostel, etc.



There are a variety of ways to find the information you are looking for. If you don't find what you are looking for in your first search, you can try to search for it with a different search tool.

Figure 12

The screenshot shows the 'Browse Queensland' page on the Find & Connect website. The page features a navigation bar with links for 'ABOUT', 'Look for HOMES', 'Look for PHOTOS', 'Information about RECORDS', 'SEARCH this Site', and 'CONTACT Support Services'. Below the navigation bar, the 'Browse Queensland' section is displayed, indicating there are 928 entries with references to 282 published resources. The page lists several categories with alphabetical navigation links and entry counts:

Category	Alphabetical Links	Count
Organisations	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y	436
Events	A C F I N Q R S	15
Legislation	A B C F G H I J L M N O R S T Y	112
Glossary Terms	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P R S T U V W Y	101
Categories	A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P R S T U Y List of Categories	59
Gallery	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y	282
Publications	A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y	653
Archival Collections	A B C E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U W X	53
Archival Series	A B C D E F G H I J L M N O P Q R S T V W	140

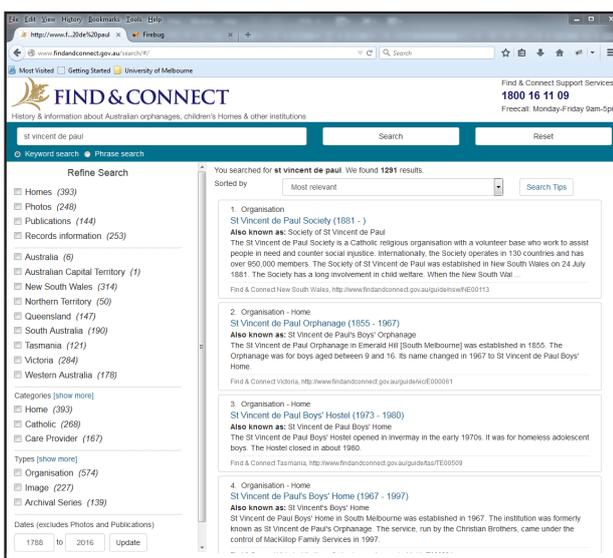
Getting the most out of search results

Once you have searched (using Look for Homes, Look for photos, or Search this site), you will be taken to the search results page. From this page, you can refine your results or change your search.

Sometimes, a quick search can return too many results to filter through (particularly if your client was at a Home with a more commonly recurring name, like St Joseph's).

For example, if your client was in a St Vincent de Paul Home and you typed St Vincent de Paul as your search query, this would return a long list of results (Figure 13).

Figure 13





THE SEARCH ON MOBILE DEVICES

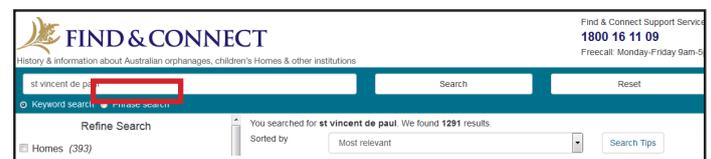
The new search works normally on tablets; however, when used on a mobile phone there is only a basic search available.

You can use the 'Sorted by' drop down menu to view your search results in different ways:

- Most relevant
- A-Z
- Z-A
- Date (newest-oldest)
- Date (oldest-newest)

Note: sort by date does not work for publications and photos.

Figure 14



One way to narrow down the search results is to use a phrase search (Figure 14). Note that the default search is a keyword search (ie, it searches for entries on the website that include any of the words you type in your query). Changing from a keyword search to a phrase search for St Vincent de Paul gets significantly less search results.

You can also use **Refine Search** to narrow down your results and find what you're looking for.

In **Refine Search** (Figure 15), the first options refine by:

- Homes
- Photos
- Publications
- Records information

The number in brackets after each of these **Refine Search** options shows how many results search has found for each category.

To select a **Refine Search** option simply click the box on the left.

To deselect click again or click the 'Clear all filters' button at the bottom of the **Refine Search** options.

Further options to refine by are:

Location – note that Australia does not mean all States. Leave all boxes unchecked to search all States and Territories.

Categories and Types – click on show more to see a full list of options

Dates – you can enter a custom date range in the fields and click update. Please note that the date function does not work for photos and publications.

You can also reset your search term and any refine search options selected by using the Reset button.

Figure 15



If you know more than one thing about the Home you are looking for use the Refine Search to narrow down the results.

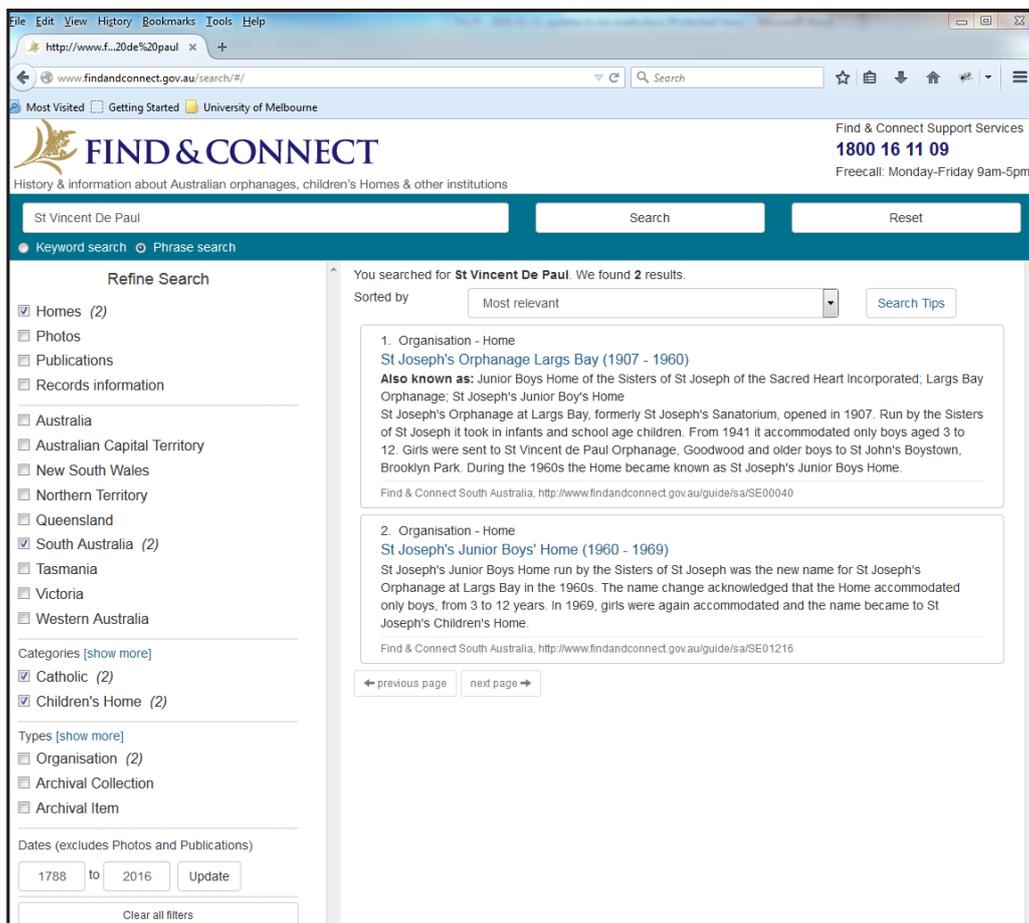
Here's an example that shows how to use **Refine Search** to find Homes run by St Vincent de Paul in South Australia.

Enter a phrase search for "St Vincent de Paul", and then select these Refine Search options:

- Homes
- South Australia
- Catholic
- Children's Home

The search results are now down to two: St Joseph's Orphanage, Largs Bay and St Joseph's Junior Boys' Home.

Figure 16



Finding your way around a Home entry

Once you have found the Home you are looking for using the *Look for Homes* function, you will see some additional internal navigation.

In the example shown in Figure 17, under the title Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 - 1969) there are four tabs:

- Summary
- Records
- Photos
- Full page

You can click between tabs - the active tab is indicated by the light brown colour.

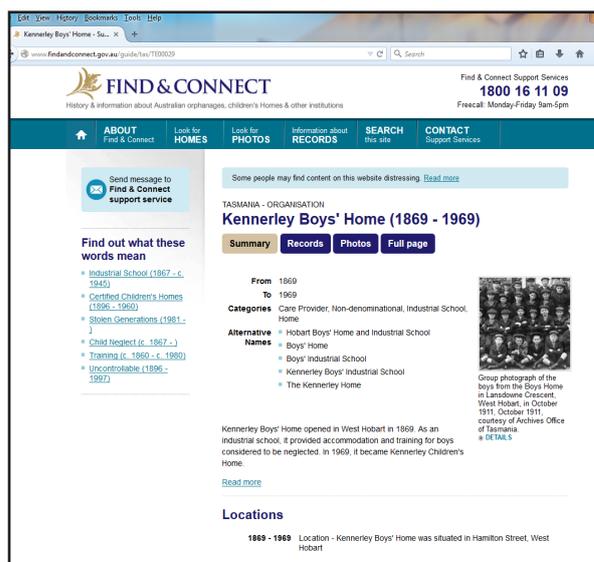
Summary tab

This tab shows a summary of the key information listed on the web resource about the Home: the date the Home opened and closed; the categories it is listed under (in this case: Care Provider, Non-denominational, Industrial School, Home); and the alternative names that the Home was known by.

Below this key information, there is a one paragraph "summary note" about the Home. This contains basic information about the Home, its location, who ran it, who lived there, and when it was operated.

The Locations heading lists the street address of the Home (if known) and the dates when it was situated there. If a Home moved location, this is also recorded here.

Figure 17



The Timeline shows the Home along with previous or subsequent organisations relevant to its history. In Figure 17 above, we can see that the Kennerley Boys' Home changed its name in 1969 when it became Kennerley Children's Home. The Timeline has links to the entries about these previous or subsequent Homes.

Where there is a photo available the summary tab will display a thumbnail to the right of the content.

The Read more link under the short summary expands the description to show more information (Figure 18). These extended histories can vary in size depending on what we know.

Figure 18



FIND & CONNECT
History & information about Australian orphanages, children's Homes & other institutions

Find & Connect Support Services
1800 16 11 09
Freecall: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Home
ABOUT
Find & Connect
Look for
HOMES
Look for
PHOTOS
Information about
RECORDS
SEARCH
this site
CONTACT
Support Services

Send message to Find & Connect support service

Find out what these words mean

- Industrial School (1867 - c. 1945)
- Certified Children's Homes (1896 - 1960)
- Stolen Generations (1981 -)
- Child Neglect (c. 1867 -)
- Training (c. 1860 - c. 1960)
- Uncontrollable (1896 - 1997)

Some people may find content on this website distressing. [Read more](#)

TASMANIA - ORGANISATION

Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 - 1969)

Summary
Records
Photos
Full page

From 1869
To 1969

Categories Care Provider, Non-denominational, Industrial School, Home

Alternative Names

- Hobart Boys' Home and Industrial School
- Boys' Home
- Boys' Industrial School
- Kennerley Boys' Industrial School
- The Kennerley Home



Group photograph of the boys from the Boys Home in Lansdowne Crescent, West Hobart, in October 1911, October 1911, courtesy of Archives Office of Tasmania
» DETAILS

Kennerley Boys' Home opened in West Hobart in 1869. As an industrial school, it provided accommodation and training for boys considered to be neglected. In 1969, it became Kennerley Children's Home.

[Less](#)

On 20 March 1876, the wealthy businessman, philanthropist, and Premier, Alfred Kennerley (1810-97), issued a Deed of Gift to enable 'The Boys' Home', established a few years before, to keep going. By the Deed, Kennerley donated land and buildings to four Trustees. The property could only be used for the Home which was to be renamed 'The Kennerley Home'. It had seven Governors who had to be re-appointed every three years.

The Home had accommodation for 30 boys. It was established under the auspices of the 1867 *Industrial Schools Act*. As an industrial school, it differed from a training school in that the boys had not broken the law. According to the Deed, boys deemed to be delinquent could not be accommodated at the Home. The boys received a limited schooling and training in work that was supposed to prepare them for jobs as farm labourers.

The Deed stated that the boys must be raised as members of the Church of England, even if they belonged to another Protestant religion. Every Sunday, they attended a Church of England service and Sunday School. Catholic boys could not be admitted to the Home. However, the Church of England did not run Kennerley.

In 1907, according to Naomi Parry, the Chief Health Officer, JSC Elkington, inspected Kennerley. He found that the accommodation, sleeping arrangements, sanitation, and lay out were not satisfactory.

Early 1920s to mid 1940s

In 1922, Captain and Mrs Kallend, became Superintendent and Matron. Captain Kallend had served in the war and supervised cadets in England, while Mrs Kallend had nursing experience and had looked after boys in England. The couple apparently encouraged the boys to call them 'Mum' and 'Dad'.

Captain and Mrs Kallend taught the boys hand bell ringing and to sing in parts. They gave quite a few concerts and entertainments. For instance, in 1941, the boys did a broadcast from 7ZR radio station of singing and hand bell ringing which helped pay for a new washing machine. The boys also raised money for charity. In 1944, they did a concert at the Town Hall for the Australian Comforts Fund and another at the Home for a church at Fort Direction.

From the 1920s onwards, the boys had an annual holiday every year. Between 1929 and 1935, the holiday was on the north-west coast, with Wynyard being the main hosts. The holiday included a test cricket match and sports carnival with the local boys, followed by prizes, sweets, cakes, and cordial. The boys gave a concert of duets, solos, choruses, and hand bell ringing every year at the Prince's Theatre. They donated the proceeds to a local charity. Families in the area put them up and the Kallends stayed at the Commercial Hotel, where they gave an official dinner. In 1930, the Launceston *Examiner* wrote: "The lads have firmly established themselves in the hearts of the public, and various remarks regarding their conduct during their stay reveal their popularity". The Wynyard holidays stopped sometime after 1935 and the boys started going to other places. For instance, in 1944, they went to Middleton which is in the Huon, where the Kallends were buying a property. The following year, some of the boys camped at Southport where they visited Hastings Caves and the tepid baths.

After the boys left Kennerley, they usually went to work for farmers or orchardists. The Governors continued to supervise them. They saved a proportion of the boys' wages to give to them at the age of 21 when they became independent. The Annual Report of 1933 claimed that the training at the Home, followed by outdoor employment, contributed to the 'satisfactory development' of the boys. The report gave the height of seven old boys, most of whom were over six foot. For a few boys, there were other options. For instance, in 1929, two boys studied book keeping at the Metropolitan Business College. In the 1940s, a number were on active service.

There were close ties between the government and the Home. For instance, in the 1930s, CF Seager, the Director of the Social Services Department, was a Governor and Trustee. Like other privately run Homes, the government gave Kennerley subsidies and included their Annual Report in that of the Department's. The closeness of the relationship did not necessarily offer the boys protection. The records of the Chief Secretary's Department document a case of physical abuse occurring in 1923. Government doctors, who were also Governors, managed to prevent the police from laying a charge.

The Kennerley Old Boys Association formed in 1938 with CF Seager as President. In April, the Association held a reunion at which the old and current boys played a cricket match and then sat down to a high tea followed by games until seven. The Association ended in 1944 because quite a few boys had joined up for World War Two and the Kallends were about to retire.

The mid 1940s to the mid 1960s

A former police officer and bush nurse, another married couple, replaced the Kallends.

The boys attended school outside the Home. In 1950, two went to Ogilvie Commercial High School, 13 to Lansdowne Crescent School, eight to Elizabeth Street Modern, and three to the Boys' Welfare School.

The Rotary Club ran an Elder Brother Scheme for Kennerley boys. The 'elder brother' was intended to be a "Guide, philosopher and friend". Rotary gave parties for the boys in the Rotary Club Room and presents to younger brothers at Christmas. The West Hobart Progress Association also gave a party at Christmas.

In winter, hockey was the main sport and Kennerley boys did well at it. In 1950, they reached the

User guide

20

www.findandconnect.gov.au

Records tab

This tab shows all the records that we know of related to the Home.

In this example (Figure 19) there are many different record collections related to this Home.

Each of the record entries shows a brief summary of the collection and contact details for them. The *Details* link opens a page with more information about the Records entry (Figure 20).

Oral history interviews also sometimes appear in the records tab. This is because the Home was mentioned in the interview. Sometimes these can be useful in adding context when little information is available on the Home, or by providing personal recollections of the Home from other people who were there as children.

Figure 19

The screenshot shows the 'Records' tab for 'Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 - 1969)'. The page layout includes a navigation bar with links for 'ABOUT', 'HOMES', 'PHOTOS', 'RECORDS', 'SEARCH', and 'CONTACT'. A sidebar on the left offers a 'Send message to Find & Connect support service' button and a 'Find out what these words mean' section with links to 'Industrial School (1867 - c. 1943)', 'Certified Children's Homes (1896 - 1960)', 'Stolen Generations (1961 -)', 'Child Neglect (c. 1967 -)', 'Training (c. 1860 - c. 1980)', and 'Uncontrollable (1896 - 1997)'. The main content area lists several records:

- Item Title:** 6/3/1-Kennerley Boys Home (1934 - 1955)
Date Range: 1934 - 1955
Reference: AD203/1/1523 [Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office Item Number]
Contact: Please contact Research Enquiries. Address: 2nd Floor, 91 Murray St, Hobart TAS 7000. Phone: (03) 6165 5538. Fax: (03) 6233 7902. Website: <http://stlas.altarama.com/ref/100.aspx?pmi=ieD8tCBdLk> # DETAILS
- Collection Title:** Kennerley Children's Homes Records (1869 -)
Date Range: 1869 -
Reference: -
Contact: Please contact the Office. Street Address: 9 Timbary Road, Glenorchy TAS 7010. Postal Address: PO Box 576, Glenorchy TAS 7010. Phone: (03) 6272 5900. Fax: (03) 6273 9100. Email: sue@kennerleykids.org.au # DETAILS
- Series Title:** Register of children at Boys Home Lennoxville Crescent, Girls Industrial School, Hobart Training School for Females, St Josephs Orphanage for whom a Government Allowance is Payable (1869 - 1898)
Date Range: 1869 - 1898
Reference: SW037 [Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office Series Number]
Contact: Please contact Research Enquiries. Address: 2nd Floor, 91 Murray St, Hobart TAS 7000. Phone: (03) 6165 5538. Fax: (03) 6233 7902. Website: <http://stlas.altarama.com/ref/100.aspx?pmi=ieD8tCBdLk> # DETAILS
- Item Title:** 60 KE General - K., Kennerley Boys Home, Public Health Department (1962 - 1971)
Date Range: 1962 - 1971
Reference: HSD6/3/1799 [Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office Item Number]
Contact: Please contact Research Enquiries. Address: 2nd Floor, 91 Murray St, Hobart TAS 7000. Phone: (03) 6165 5538. Fax: (03) 6233 7902. Website: <http://stlas.altarama.com/ref/100.aspx?pmi=ieD8tCBdLk> # DETAILS
- Item Title:** General Correspondence-17-41, Chief Secretary's Department (1923)

The records entry (Figure 20) opens with a summary screen. Click the Read More link to see the full entry (Figure 20a).

Figure 20

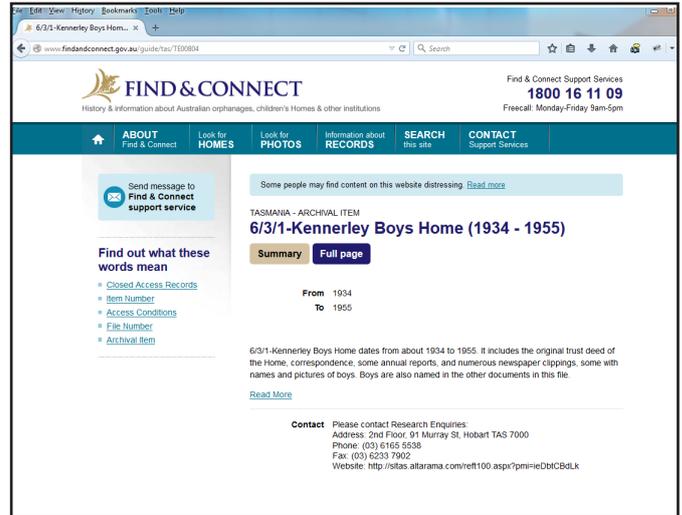
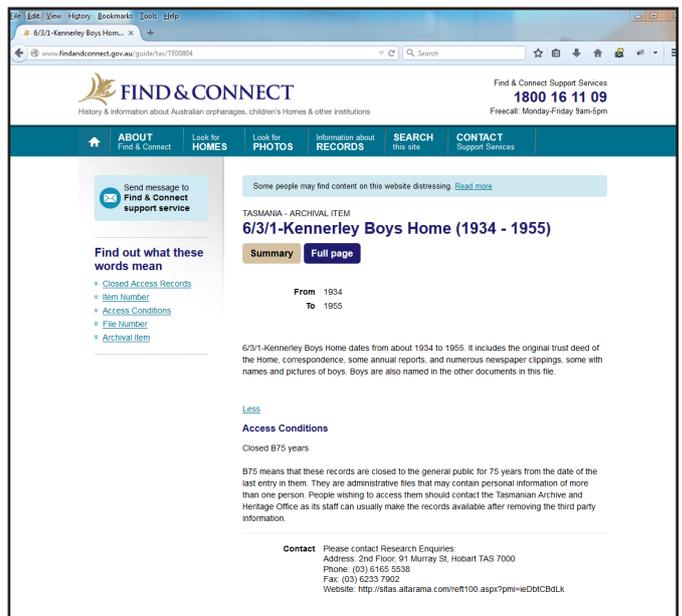


Figure 20a

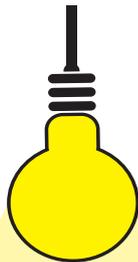


Photos tab

This tab shows photos and other pictorial links such as newspaper articles related to the Home (Figure 21).

Figure 22 shows the page that is linked to the second image in Figure 21. The photo is from a newspaper article featured in Trove. This page includes the details of the article including the title, date, where the image is sourced from, copyright ownership and a link to the article on Trove.

Figure 23 shows the page that is linked to the third image shown in Figure 21. This page shows a thumbnail of the photo and the details of photo including the title, date, where the image is sourced from and copyright ownership.



When you click on thumbnail images on the web resource, you will be taken to an external website (such as to a State Library website) to view the full image or in some cases an image viewer.

The web resource always includes information about where the photo is held and any relevant information about copyright.

Figure 21

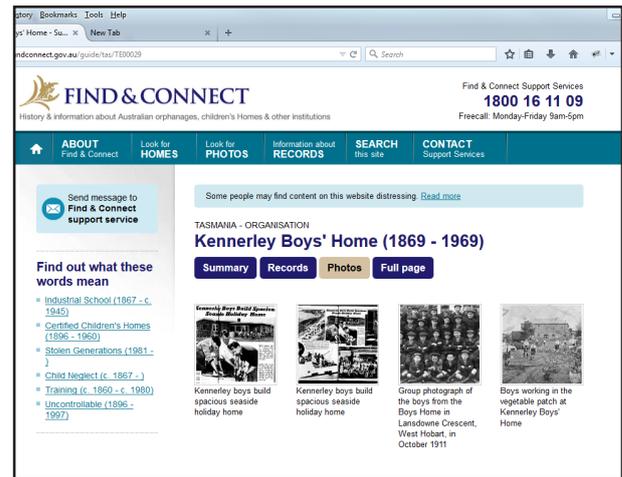


Figure 22

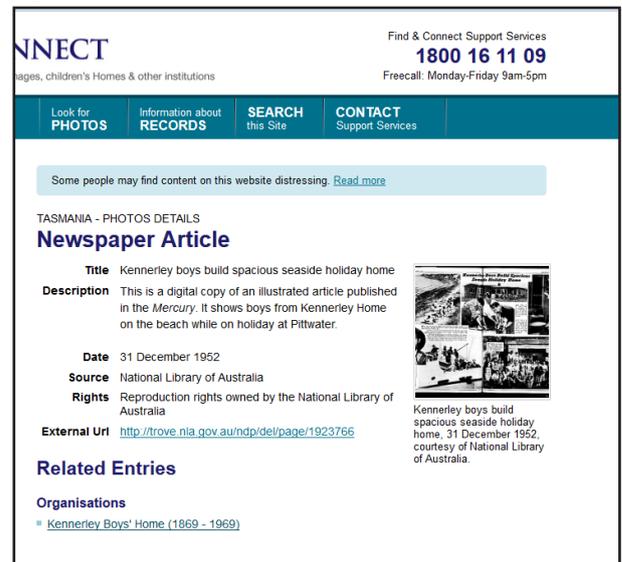
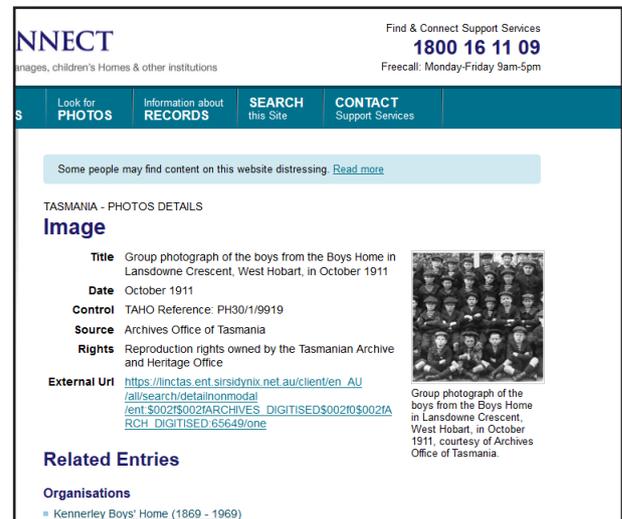


Figure 23



Full page tab

This tab takes you to the full version of the entry (Figure 24). This rich contextual entry brings together all the details listed in the Summary, Photos and Records tabs, plus additional information.

In the Full page, information about the Home is set out a little differently. For example, the information about Records is listed under the headings: Related Archival Collections, Related Archival Items or Related Archival Series.

The photos for this Home are all included in the Gallery at the bottom of the page.

The Full page also has details of Publications relevant to the Home, with links to any material that is available online. Some Homes will have Related Glossary Terms, with links to explanations of difficult-to-understand terms. Some case workers find these Glossary Terms helpful when releasing records to a client.

When you are in the Full page view, you'll see that the internal navigation is different. Instead of 4 tabs (Summary, Photos, Records, Full page), there are only 2 - Summary and Full page. If you want to get back to the 4 tabs, just click on Summary.

In the Full page, on the left, there is the "Look for similar" heading. Clicking on the links will take you to alphabetical lists of other Homes that have the same tags (eg Catholic, Industrial School, etc).

Figure 24

The screenshot shows the 'Full page' view for 'Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 - 1969) on the Find & Connect website. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with 'ABOUT', 'Look for HOMES', 'Look for PHOTOS', 'Information about RECORDS', 'SEARCH this Site', and 'CONTACT Support Services'. A secondary navigation bar contains 'Summary' and 'Full page' tabs. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Look for similar:** Links to 'Care Provider', 'Home', 'Industrial School', and 'Non-denominational'.
- Summary:**
 - From:** 1869
 - To:** 1969
 - Categories:** Care Provider, Home, Industrial School and Non-denominational
 - Alternative Names:**
 - Boys' Home (Also known as)
 - Boys' Industrial School (Also known as)
 - Hobart Boys' Home and Industrial School (Also known as)
 - Kennerley Boys' Industrial School (Also known as)
 - The Kennerley Home (Also known as)
- Related Entries:**
 - Timeline:** 1869 - 1969 Kennerley Boys' Home; 1969 - Kennerley Children's Home
 - Related Archival Collections:** Kennerley Children's Homes Records (1869 -)
 - Related Archival Items:**
 - 6/3/1-Kennerley Boys Home (1934 - 1955)
 - 6/3/1-Kennerley Boys Home (1956 - 1967)
 - 6/3/1-Kennerley Children's Home (1967 - 1973)
 - 60 KE General - K - Kennerley Boys Home, Public Health Department Correspondence (1962 - 1971)
 - General Correspondence-17-41, Chief Secretary's Department (1923)
 - Tony Young interviewed by Caroline Evans in the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history project (2011)
 - Related Archival Series:** Register of children at Boys Home Lansdowne Crescent; Girls Industrial School, Hobart Training School for Females, St Josephs Orphanage for whom a Government Allowance is Payable (1869 - 1898)
 - Related Events:** Listen to the children: review of claims of abuse from adults in state care as children (2003 - 2008)
 - Related Glossary Terms:** Certified Children's Homes (1896 - 1960); Child Neglect (c. 1867 -); Industrial School (1867 - c. 1945); Stolen Generations (1981 -); Training (c. 1860 - c. 1960); Uncontrollable (1896 - 1997)
 - Related Organisations:** Ashley Home for Boys (1926 - 1999)
- Publications:** Newspaper Articles (e.g., Paine, Michelle, 'Haven of Horrors', The Mercury, 15 January 2005, pp. 22-23)
- Reports:** Children of the State Department: Report for the year ended 1929; Children of the State Department, Hobart, 1928.
- Online Resources:** Demonstration at Hobart: the children entertained; Examiner (Launceston), 22 May 1900, p. 6; Treat to children of the charitable institutions; 22 May 1900, p. 3.
- Photos:**
 - Boys working in the vegetable patch at Kennerley Boys' Home (1880)
 - Group photograph of the boys from the Boys Home in Lansdowne Crescent, West Hobart, in October 1911
 - Kennerley boys build spacious seaside holiday home (1952)

When you switch tabs to the Summary view, this heading changes to “Find out what these words mean”. Under this heading, there are links to any Glossary Terms related to the Home (Figure 25).

In the Full page for some Homes, you will see links to Related Legislation (Figure 26). Some Homes were licensed under the provisions of a particular Act, or a new law might have been the reason why a Home was established. Clicking on these links takes you to a Legislation entry, with links to the full version of the statute, and an explanation of why the law was important in the history of child welfare (Figure 27).

Figure 25

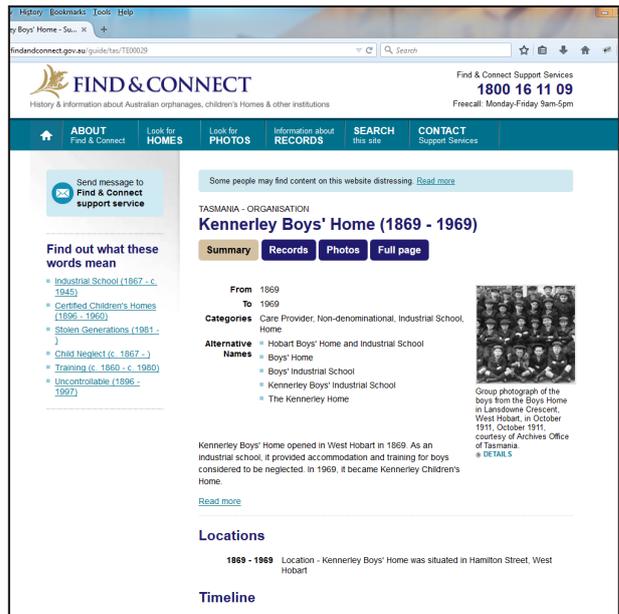


Figure 26

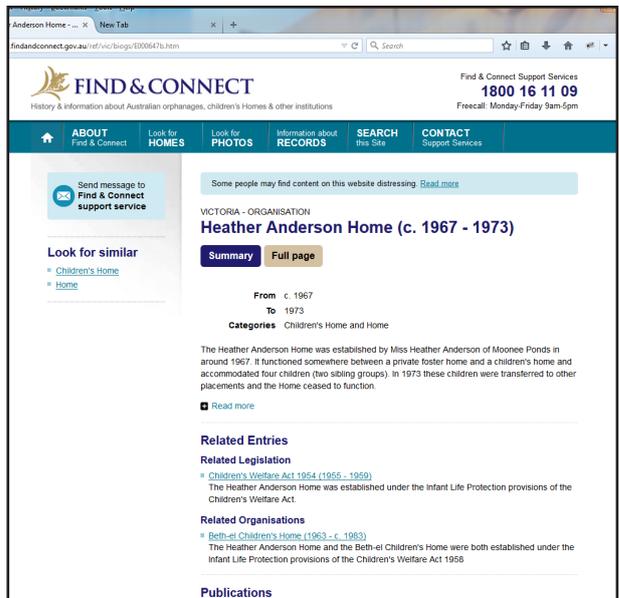
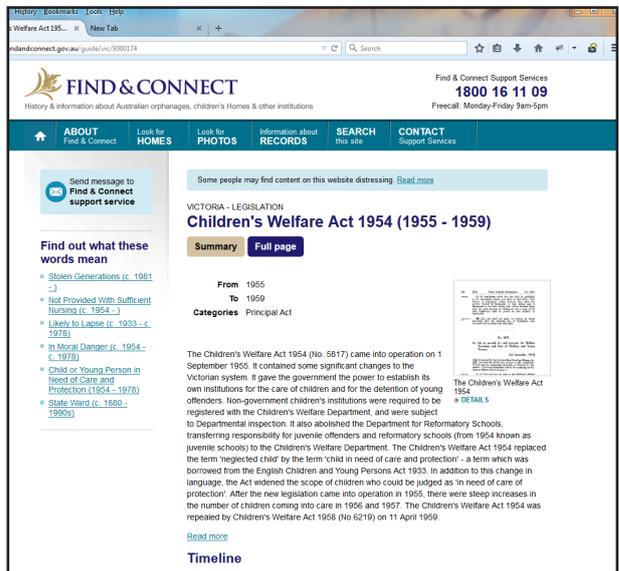


Figure 27



Keeping the web resource up-to-date

Super users have a vital role to play in ensuring that the information on the web resource about children’s institutions is up-to-date and relevant. There is a [feedback form](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact/ask-us) <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact/ask-us> where support service workers can get in touch to give feedback about entries that need updating and ensure that the Find & Connect web resource remains a relevant and useful tool for you and your colleagues.

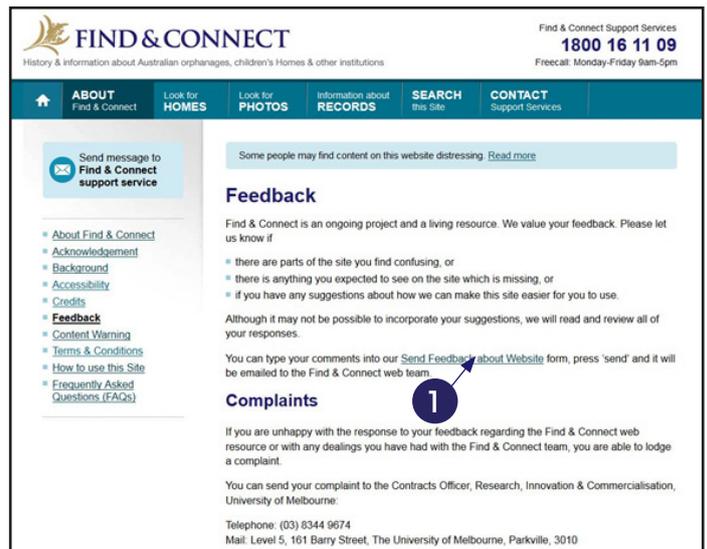
There is also a link to this feedback form **1** on the About page at <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/about/feedback> (Figure 28).

Please use this feedback form to send the web team an email if you see any information on the site that needs updating. This includes:

- New information about a Home or entry
- Additional information about records
- Change of contact details for an organisation or record holder listed in an entry
- Update information about the support service
- Broken links.

Include as much information as you can in your message.

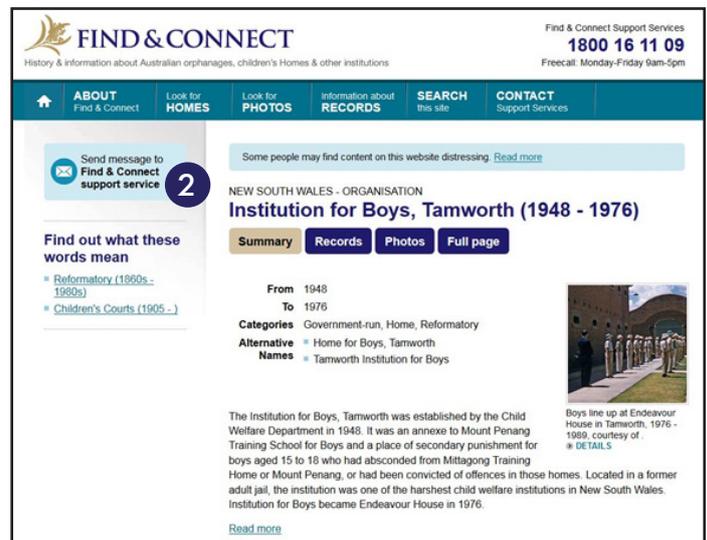
Figure 28



Every page on Find & Connect has a “Send message to the support service” button **2** – this is what members of the public use to send emails to the Find & Connect support services in each state and territory.

Please be sure to pass on feedback regarding updates to information on the web resource from these emails. Information from the general public can play an important role in supplying new information for the web resource.

Figure 29



Fact sheets

The Find & Connect web resource team have produced a number of fact sheets to help users of the website. All the fact sheets are available to download from the web resource as printable pdfs and online.

Below is the list of fact sheets and the links to them on the web resource. They are also reprinted in full in the appendix of the induction pack.

Where to Start

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/where-to-start/>

How to Use the Find & Connect Web Resource

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/help/factsheet-1-how-to-use-the-website>

Search Tips

<https://findandconnect.gov.au/help/new-search>

Family History

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/family-history>

Family Tracing

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/family-tracing>

What to Expect When Accessing Records About You

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/what-to-expect-when-accessing-records>

Historical Background about Child Welfare

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/historical-background-about-child-welfare>

Searching for Records of a Parent or Grandparent's Time in Care

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/searching-for-records-of-a-parent-or-grandparent>

Applying for Records: Your Rights and the Law

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/your-rights>

Records from Salvation Army Homes

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/records-from-salvation-army-homes>

Disability Homes

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/disability-homes>

Former Child Migrants

<https://findandconnect.gov.au/resources/former-child-migrants>

Adoptions

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/adoptions>

Tip sheets

In 2016 the web resource team produced two tip sheets. They are included in this appendix.

Tips for Reading Child Welfare Records

Tips for Records and Family Searching

Useful contacts and other resources

The Find & Connect web resource is a great starting point, but it won't be able to answer all your questions. People working with Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants have lots of experience and knowledge which can never be captured online. Major libraries and museums also hold a wealth of valuable resources. In this section, we provide the details of some useful contacts and key resources to help you in your work.

Useful Contacts

Find & Connect Support Services

The contact details for each Find & Connect support service are available at:

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact>

This page contains a general overview of the support services plus links to the service in each state and territory including information on the service in each state.

**Find & Connect Support Service ACT
Relationships Australia Canberra & Region**
Telephone: 02 6122 7100
Address: 15 Napier Close, Deakin, ACT 2600

**Find & Connect Support Service NSW
Wattle Place**
Telephone: 02 9687 3636
Address: 67 High Street, Harris Park,
NSW 2150
Email: wattleplace@ransw.org.au

**Find & Connect Support Service NT
Darwin office**

Telephone: 08 8923 4999

Address: Level 2, 43 Cavenagh Street,
Darwin, NT 0800

Email: reception@ra-nt.org.au

Alice Springs office:

Telephone: 1800 16 11 09 or 08 8950 4100

Address: 4/11 Railway Terrace, Alice Springs,
NT 0870

Email: receptionas@ra-nt.org.au

**Find & Connect Support Service QLD
Lotus Place**

Telephone: 07 3347 8500

Address: 46 Cleveland Street, Stones Corner,
QLD 4101

Email: lotus@micahprojects.org.au

Find & Connect Support Service SA

Telephone: 08 8223 4566

Address: Ground Floor, 191 Flinders Street,
Adelaide SA 5000

**Find & Connect Support Service TAS
Relationships Australia Tasmania**

Telephone: 03 6279 5000

Address: 20 Clare Street, New Town, TAS 7008

Email: enquiries@reltas.com.au

**Find & Connect Support Service VIC
Open Place**

Telephone: 03 9421 6162

Address: Suite 1 / 8 Bromham Place, Richmond,
VIC 3121

Email: info@openplace.org.au

**Find & Connect Support Service WA
Lanterns House**

Telephone: 08 9489 6388

Address: 23 Southport Street, West Leederville,
WA 6901

Email: lanterns@wa.relationships.com.au

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA)

www.forgottenaustralians.org.au

AFA has a booklet designed for service providers working with Forgotten Australians plus a series of videos called “Life Stories”. Both may be helpful to people wanting to understand more about the experiences of Forgotten Australians.

You can download the booklet at www.forgottenaustralians.org.au/PDF/MiniAfaBooklet.pdf

The videos can be watched online here: www.forgottenaustralians.org.au/dvd.htm

Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN)

www.clan.org.au

CLAN’s website has many resources which may be useful to service providers and care leavers, including links to relevant news coverage, plus information about Homes, memorials, and other support services.

Child Migrants Trust www.childmigrantstrust.com

The Child Migrants Trust has offices in Melbourne and in Perth and provides a range of social work services to child migrants all over Australia, including counselling and support with family reunions. The Child Migrants Trust also provides help with information, advice and family research to former child migrants and their families. The Child Migrants Trust is an international organisation with offices in Australia and the UK, and works with former child migrants living in Australia and other countries.

Telephone: 1800 04 05 09

International Association of Former Child Migrants and their Families (IAFCM&F)

www.childmigrantstrust.com/intl-association

The International Association of Former Child Migrants and Their Families (IAFCM&F) advocates for recognition, understanding and reparation for people who were sent as child migrants from their countries of birth. Members include Former Child Migrants and their families who were also affected by child migration policies.

Telephone: (08) 9362 2153

Email: iafcm.nj@optusnet.com.au

Other resources

TROVE

www.trove.nla.gov.au

Trove is a research website from the National Library of Australia. It contains many digitised newspapers which may be particularly helpful for care leavers. The objective of the National Library’s Digitised Newspapers is to make all Australian newspapers published prior to 1955 freely available. Most major newspaper titles are already available up to 1955, with additional titles (including regional papers) being added regularly.

You can also use Trove to search for births, deaths and marriages notices, as well as articles, books and other items about particular children’s Homes. You can read guides to searching TROVE at <http://help.nla.gov.au/trove/using-trove/finding-things> or just type in your search term and away you go.

Family Tracing Guide

www.salvos.org.au/familytracing/how-to-search/what-can-i-do-myself

The Salvation Army Family Tracing Service has put together a useful guide called “What can I do myself?”

Inside: Life in Children’s Homes

www.nma.gov.au/blogs/inside

This blog accompanied the Inside: Life inside Children’s Homes and Institutions exhibition. Some of Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants shared their experiences on this blog.

The exhibition itself also has a website at: [www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/inside life in childrens homes and institutions/home](http://www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/inside-life-in-childrens-homes-and-institutions/home)

Resources to guide Record-Keeping Practices

Who Am I Project? video - what it feels like to access records

www.cfecfw.asn.au/know/research/sector-research-partnership/partnership-projects/out-home-care/who-am-i





**FIND &
CONNECT**
WEB RESOURCE

Appendix: fact sheets and tip sheets

INDUCTION PACK

findandconnect.gov.au

Funded by the Australian Government

Appendix:

Fact Sheets

This appendix contains the following fact sheets:

- Where to Start
- Finding your way around the site
- Finding your way around a Home entry
- Search Tips
- Family History
- Family Tracing
- Former Child Migrants
- What to Expect when Accessing Records about You
- Historical Background about Child Welfare
- Searching for Records of a Parent or Grandparent
- Applying for Records: Your Rights and the Law
- Disability Homes
- Salvation Army Homes
- Adoptions

Tip Sheets

- Tips for Reading Child Welfare Records
- Tips for Records and Family Searching



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.



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

WHERE TO START

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

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) [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) [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) [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) [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) [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

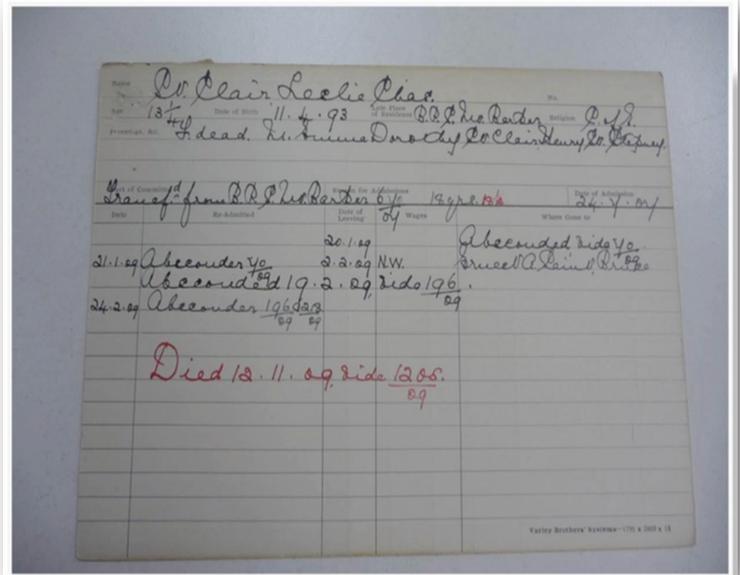
For access to files relating to children under the care of the NT government, contact the [Department for Children and Families](https://nt.gov.au/law/rights/freedom-of-information) [https://nt.gov.au/law/rights/freedom-of-information]. The majority of these records have been extensively indexed.

QUEENSLAND

For access to government records in Queensland, contact the Right to Information Unit in the [Department of Communities](https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/about-us/right-to-information) [https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/gateway/about-us/right-to-information], Child Safety and Disability Services.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

To apply for access to records about state wards in South Australia, contact [Families SA](https://www.families.sa.gov.au/department/families-sa-offices) [https://www.families.sa.gov.au/department/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) [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 [Family Information, Networks and Discovery \(FIND\)](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/applying-for-documents-and-records/adoption-ward-and-care-leaver-records) [http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/applying-for-documents-and-records/adoption-ward-and-care-leaver-records] 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) [http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/SupportingIndividualsAndFamilies/Pages/Searchingforfamilyhistory.aspx] to access information about former state wards in WA.

FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND THE SITE

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

This fact sheet has some tips on how to use the Find & Connect web resource, to find your way around the website and get the information you're looking for.

HOME PAGE

The Home page is always a good place to start. The Find & Connect Home page is organised around 4 main functions.



- 1 Look for Homes**

A lot of people use the Find & Connect web resource to find information about a particular Home. A search on the 'Look for Homes' section will bring up information about orphanages, children's Homes and other institutions, including links to photos and records information.
- 2 Look for Photos**

Another option is to search on the 'Look for Photos' section, which brings up images related to Homes, orphanages, institutions, events and organisations.
- 3 Information about Records**

This page has information to help explain how to find records of people who grew up in 'care'. It has fact sheets about popular research topics and tips to assist with searching for, locating and accessing records.
- 4 Search this Site**

On this page, you can search the entire Find & Connect website for information about Homes, photos, as well as entries about organisations, legislation, events, glossary terms and more.

FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND THE SITE

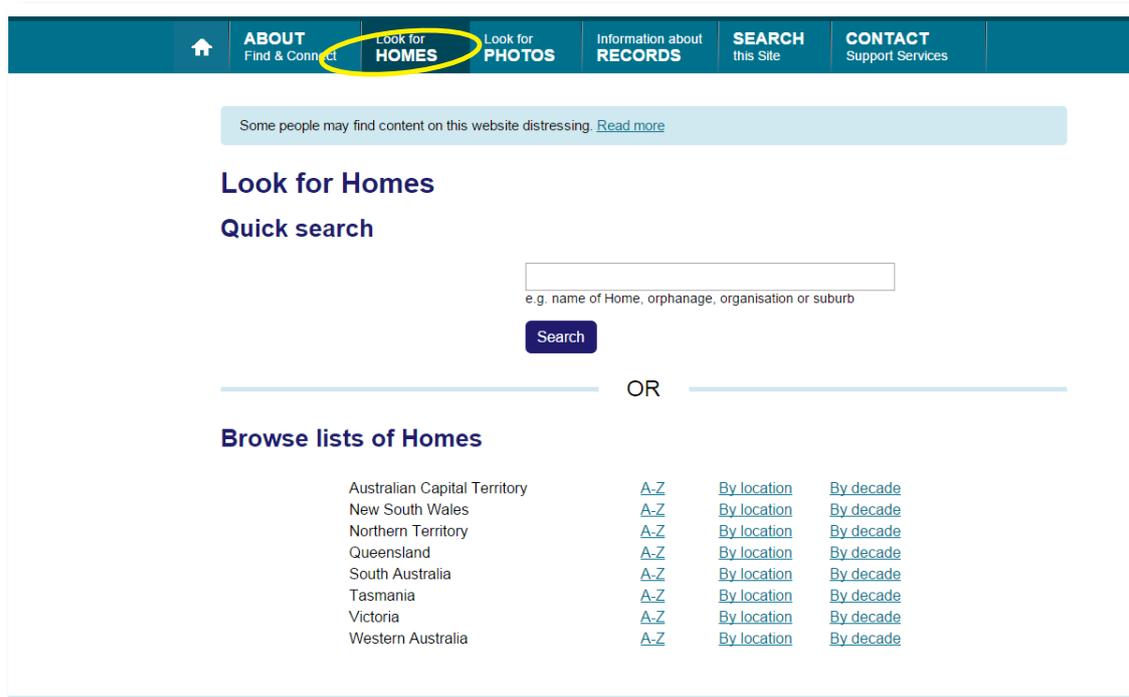
A web resource for people who experienced out of home 'care'

1 LOOK FOR HOMES

On the Look for Homes page, you can either type something in the **Quick search** box

or

Browse lists of Homes in different States and Territories.



Quick search

To search simply type the search term into the search box. Options to Refine Search will be provided on the results page, you will notice the 'Homes' option has already been selected. For more information about the search and how to use it go to the [Search Tips](#) page. Once you select a result you will be taken to the Summary tab of a Home entry.

Browse lists of Homes

Instead of searching for a term, you can Browse lists of Homes. There are 3 different types of Browse lists.

A-Z

This is an alphabetical list of Homes in a specific State or Territory.

By location

This option takes you to an alphabetical list of suburbs and towns in which Homes were located in each State or Territory. (This option is useful if a person does not remember the name of the Home but does remember the suburb.)

By decade

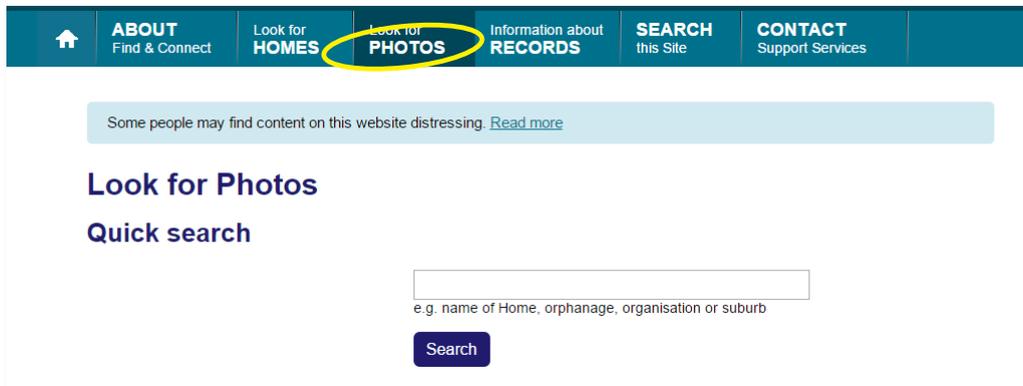
This option shows a list of Homes that were open in decades from 1820 - 2010. (This is useful when you want to see a list of Homes open in a specific time period.)

FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND THE SITE

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

2 LOOK FOR PHOTOS



The Look for Photos page is similar to the Look for Homes page. On the search results page, you will only see images that match your search.

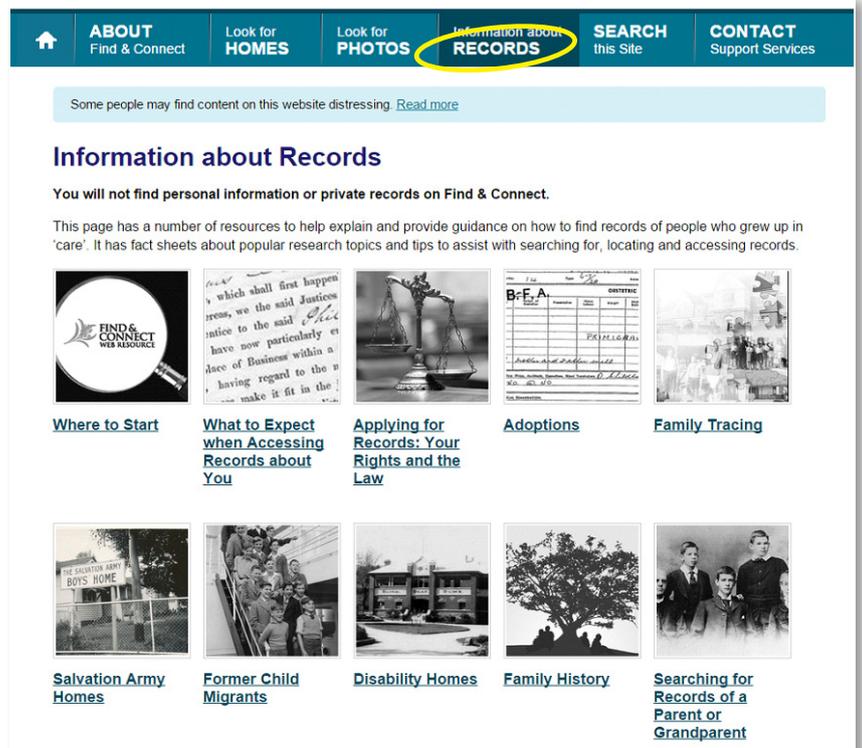
Quick search

To Look for Photos simply type the search term into the search box. Options to Refine Search will be provided on the results page. Photos has already been selected because the Look for Photos search box was used. For more information about the search and how to use it go to the [Search Tips](#) page. Once you select a result you will be taken to the Image entry, on that page any related organisations, glossary terms, events, legislation and publications are available.

3 INFORMATION ABOUT RECORDS

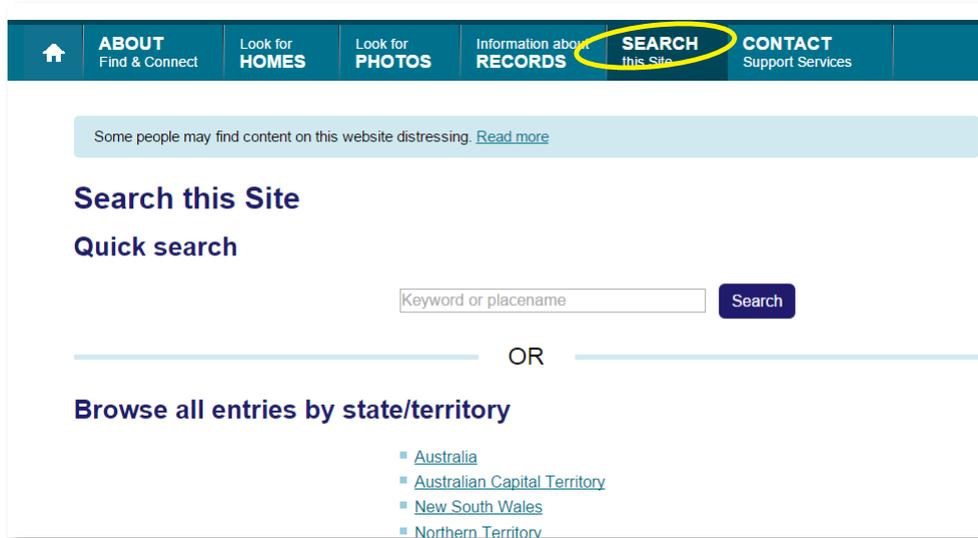
The Information about Records page has a number of resources to help explain how to find records of people who grew up in 'care'. It has fact sheets about popular research topics and tips to assist with searching for, locating and accessing records.

The Information about Records page has general information to help with the search for records. To find information about what records exist for a particular Home, search for that Home on Find & Connect, and then click on the Records tab (see the [Finding your way around a Home entry](#) fact sheet for more information).



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

4 SEARCH THIS SITE



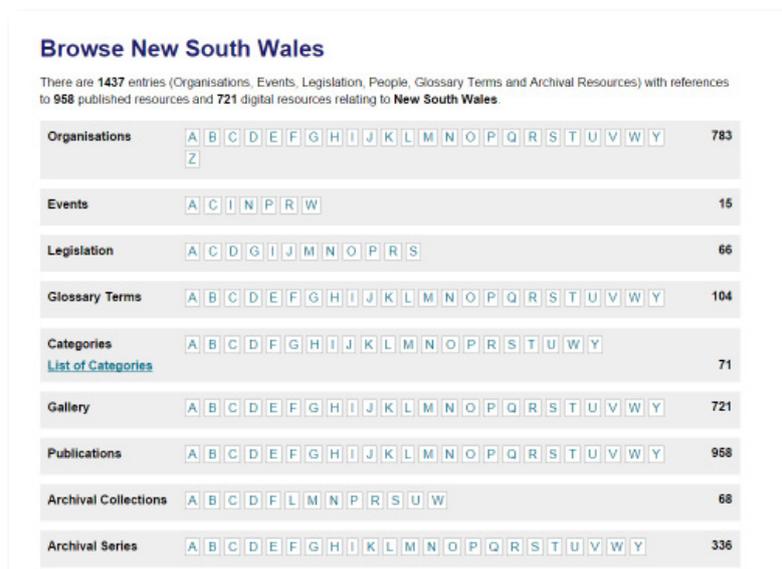
On the Search this Site page, there are 2 options – you can search directly via the search box, or if you prefer you can Browse lists of all entries by state/territory.

Quick search

To search simply type the search term into the search box. The search on this page searches Homes, photos, records information, organisations, legislation, events, glossary terms and publications. Options to Refine Search will be provided on the results page. No options have been pre-selected using this search. For more information about the search and how to use it go to the [Search Tips](#) page.

Browse lists of all entries by state/territory

This option takes you to alphabetical browse lists for all the entries in each state and territory. For each state and territory there are alphabetical lists of organisations, events, legislation and glossary terms. The category lists allow you to see all entries from a particular category e.g. Catholic, Babies' Home, Hostel, etc.



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND A HOME ENTRY

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

This fact sheet has some tips on how to find your way around a Home entry on the Find & Connect web resource. For tips about how to search for a Home, see the "Finding your way around the site" fact sheet.

HOME ENTRY

Once you have found the Home you are looking for, you will see a page that looks like this one:

TASMANIA - ORGANISATION

Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 - 1969)

Summary **Records** **Photos** **Full page**

1 2 3 4

From 1869
To 1969

Categories Care Provider, Non-denominational, Industrial School, Home

Alternative Names

- Hobart Boys' Home and Industrial School
- Boys' Home
- Boys' Industrial School
- Kennerley Boys' Industrial School
- The Kennerley Home



Group photograph of the boys from the Boys Home in Lansdowne Crescent, West Hobart, in October 1911, courtesy of Tasmanian Images: Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office. [DETAILS](#)

Kennerley Boys' Home opened in West Hobart in 1869. As an industrial school, it provided accommodation and training for boys considered to be neglected. In 1969, it became Kennerley Children's Home.

[Read more](#)

Locations

1869 - 1969 Location - Kennerley Boys' Home was situated in Hamilton Street, West Hobart

Timeline

1869 - 1969 Kennerley Boys' Home
1969 - [Kennerley Children's Home](#)

Under the name of the Home, there are four tabs to help you get to all the information about that Home.

- 1 **Summary**
- 2 **Records**
- 3 **Photos**
- 4 **Full page**

You can click between the tabs to see different information – the active tab is the light brown colour.

FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND A HOME ENTRY

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

1 THE SUMMARY TAB

Send message to
Find & Connect
support service

Find out what these words mean

- [Industrial school \(1867 - c. 1945\)](#)
- [Certified Children's Homes \(1896 - 1960\)](#)
- [Stolen Generations \(1981 - \)](#)
- [Child neglect \(c. 1867 - \)](#)
- [Training \(c. 1860 - c. 1980\)](#)
- [Uncontrollable \(1896 - 1997\)](#)

Some people may find content on this website distressing. [Read more](#)

TASMANIA - ORGANISATION

Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 - 1969)

Summary
Records
Photos
Full page

From 1869

To 1969

Categories Care Provider, Non-denominational, Industrial School, Home

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Group photograph of the boys from the Boys Home in Lansdowne Crescent, West Hobart, in October 1911, courtesy of Tasmanian Images: Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.
[▶ DETAILS](#)

Kennerley Boys' Home opened in West Hobart in 1869. As an industrial school, it provided accommodation and training for boys considered to be neglected. In 1969, it became Kennerley Children's Home.

[Read more](#)

Locations

1869 - 1969 Location - Kennerley Boys' Home was situated in Hamilton Street, West Hobart

Timeline

1869 - 1969 Kennerley Boys' Home

1969 - [Kennerley Children's Home](#)

This tab shows a summary of the key information listed on the web resource about the Home: the **From** and **To** dates for the Home (or the year it opened and closed); the **Categories** it is listed under (for example, Catholic, Protestant, government-run) and any **Alternative Names** that the Home was also known by.

Below this key information, there is a one paragraph "summary note" about the Home. This contains basic information about the Home, its location, who ran it, who lived there, and when it was operated. The **Read more** link under the short summary expands the description to show more information. These extended histories can vary in size depending on what we know.

The **Locations** heading lists the street address of the Home (if known) and the dates when it was situated there. If a Home moved location, this is also recorded here.

The **Timeline** shows the Home along with previous or subsequent organisations relevant to its history. The Timeline has links to the entries about these previous or subsequent Homes.

Where there is a photo available the summary tab will display a thumbnail on the right of the content.

Sometimes, to the left of the Summary tab, you will see a heading "**Find out what these words mean**". Under this heading, there are links to Glossary Terms, that explain difficult-to-understand words.

FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND A HOME ENTRY

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

2 THE RECORDS TAB

Send message to Find & Connect support service

Some people may find content on this website distressing. [Read more](#)

TASMANIA - ORGANISATION

Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 - 1969)

Summary **Records** Photos Full page

Item Title 6/3/1-Kennerley Boys Home (1934 - 1955)
Date Range 1934 - 1955
Reference AD203/1/1523 [Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office Item Number]
Contact Please contact Research Enquiries:
 Address: 2nd Floor, 91 Murray St, Hobart TAS 7000
 Phone: (03) 6165 5538
 Fax: (03) 6233 7902
 Website: <http://sitas.altarama.com/ref100.aspx?pmi=ieDbtCBdLk>
 ● DETAILS

Collection Title Kennerley Children's Homes Records (1869 -)
Date Range 1869 -

Find out what these words mean

- Industrial school (1867 - c. 1945)
- Certified Children's Homes (1896 - 1960)
- Stolen Generations (1981 -)
- Child neglect (c. 1867 -)
- Training (c. 1860 - c. 1980)
- Uncontrollable (1896 - 1997)

This tab shows all the records that we know of about a particular Home. There can be many different records collections related to a Home. Each of the record entries shows the **Title**, **Date Range**, **Reference** information (such as call numbers) and **Contact** details (who to get in touch with to get access to the records).

If you click the **DETAILS** link, you will go to another page with more information about the records.

Oral history interviews also sometimes appear in the Records tab. This is because the Home was mentioned in the interview. Sometimes these can be useful in adding context when little information is available on the Home, or by providing personal recollections of the Home from other people who were there as children.

3 THE PHOTOS TAB

This tab shows thumbnails of photos and other pictorial links such as newspaper articles related to the Home. You can click on the thumbnail to go to the Image page, which will have more details about the photo. An Image page will have the photo's title, date, copyright ownership (rights) and a link to where the image is sourced from. It may also include a brief description of the image. Any related organisations, glossary terms, events, legislation and publications will be listed.

Note: When you click on thumbnail images from an image entry, you will be taken to an external website (such as to a State Library website) to view the full image or in some cases an image viewer. The web resource always includes information about where the photo is held and any relevant information about copyright.

Send message to Find & Connect support service

Some people may find content on this website distressing. [Read more](#)

TASMANIA - ORGANISATION

Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 - 1969)

Summary Records **Photos** Full page

Kennerley Boys Build Spacious Seaside Holiday Home
 Kennerley boys build spacious seaside holiday home

Group photograph of the boys from the Boys Home in Lansdowne Crescent, West Hobart, in October 1911
 Group photograph of the boys from the Boys Home in Lansdowne Crescent, West Hobart, in October 1911

Boys working in the vegetable patch at Kennerley Boys' Home
 Boys working in the vegetable patch at Kennerley Boys' Home

Find out what these words mean

- Industrial school (1867 - c. 1945)
- Certified Children's Homes (1896 - 1960)
- Stolen Generations (1981 -)
- Child neglect (c. 1867 -)
- Training (c. 1860 - c. 1980)
- Uncontrollable (1896 - 1997)

FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND A HOME ENTRY

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

4 THE FULL PAGE TAB

Send message to Find & Connect support service

Look for similar

- Care Provider
- Home
- Industrial School
- Non-denominational

Some people may find content on this website distressing. [Read more](#)

TASMANIA - ORGANISATION

Kennerley Boys' Home (1869 - 1969)

Summary Full page

From 1869
To 1969

Categories Care Provider, Home, Industrial School and Non-denominational

Alternative Names

- Boys' Home (Also known as)
- Boys' Industrial School (Also known as)
- Hobart Boys' Home and Industrial School (Also known as)
- Kennerley Boys' Industrial School (Also known as)
- The Kennerley Home (Also known as)



Group photograph of the boys from the Boys Home in Lansdowne Crescent, West Hobart, in October 1911, courtesy of Tasmanian Images: Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office. [DETAILS](#)

Kennerley Boys' Home opened in West Hobart in 1869. As an industrial school, it provided accommodation and training for boys considered to be neglected. In 1969, it became Kennerley Children's Home.

[Read more](#)

Related Entries

Timeline

- 1869 - 1969 Kennerley Boys' Home
- 1969 - Kennerley Children's Home

Related Archival Collections

- Kennerley Children's Homes Records (1869 -)
These records contain historical information about Kennerley Boys' Home.

The Full Page tab takes you to the full version of the entry, bringing together all the details listed in the Summary, Photos and Records tabs, plus additional information.

In the Full page, information about the Home is set out a little differently. For example, the information about Records is listed under the headings: **Related Archival Collections**, **Related Archival Items** or **Related Archival Series**. The photos for this Home are all included in the **Gallery** at the bottom of the page.

The Full page also has details of **Publications** relevant to the Home, with links to any material that is available online. Some Homes will have **Related Glossary Terms**, with links to explanations of difficult-to-understand terms.

When you are in the Full page view, you'll see that the internal navigation is different. Instead of the 4 tabs (Summary, Photos, Records, Full page), there are only 2 – Summary and Full page. If you want to get back to the 4 tabs, just click on Summary.

In the Full page view, on the left, there is the "**Look for similar**" heading. Clicking on these links will take you to alphabetical lists of other Homes that have the same categories (eg Catholic, Industrial School, etc).

In the Full page for some Homes, you will see links to **Related Legislation**. Some Homes were licensed under the provisions of a particular Act, or a new law might have been the reason why a Home was established. Clicking on these links takes you to a Legislation entry, with links to the full version of the statute, and an explanation of why the law was important in the history of child welfare.



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

SEARCH TIPS

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

Find & Connect has a new search, introduced in May 2015. This fact sheet provides some tips to help you get the best results when searching the Find & Connect web resource.

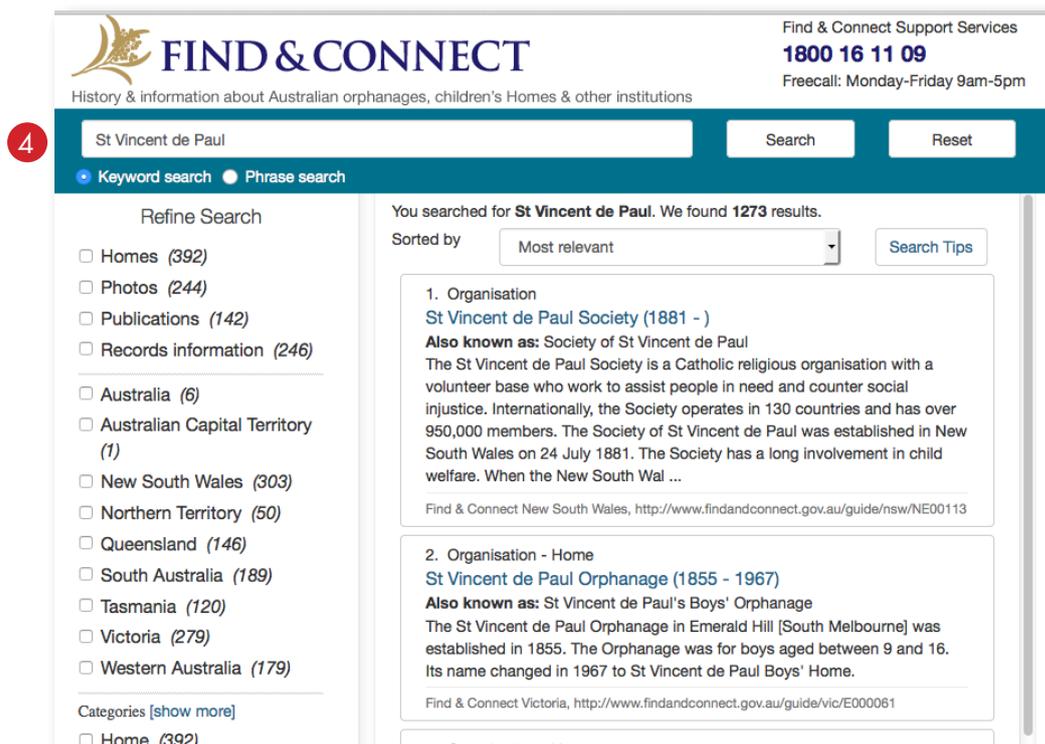
You can search Find & Connect by using Look for Homes **1** Look for Photos **2** or Search this site **3**.



Once you have searched a term [eg. St Vincent de Paul] you will be taken to the search results page where you can refine your results or change your search (see image below).

4 The default search is a keyword search (it searches for entries on the website that include any of the keywords you type in).

You can also use a phrase search (it searches only for pages that include all the words as a phrase). For example if you put St Vincent de Paul Society Home for Boys into phrase search you will only get one result.





FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

SEARCH TIPS

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

5 The 'Sorted by' drop down menu gives you the following options:

- Most relevant
- A – Z
- Z – A
- Date (newest – oldest)
- Date (oldest – newest)

Note: sort by date does not work for publications and photos.



6 Refine Search can be used to narrow down the results.

Refining search results (and phrase search) can be helpful in narrowing down the results, especially where common terms are used.

The first four options refine by:

- Homes
- Photos
- Publications
- Records Information

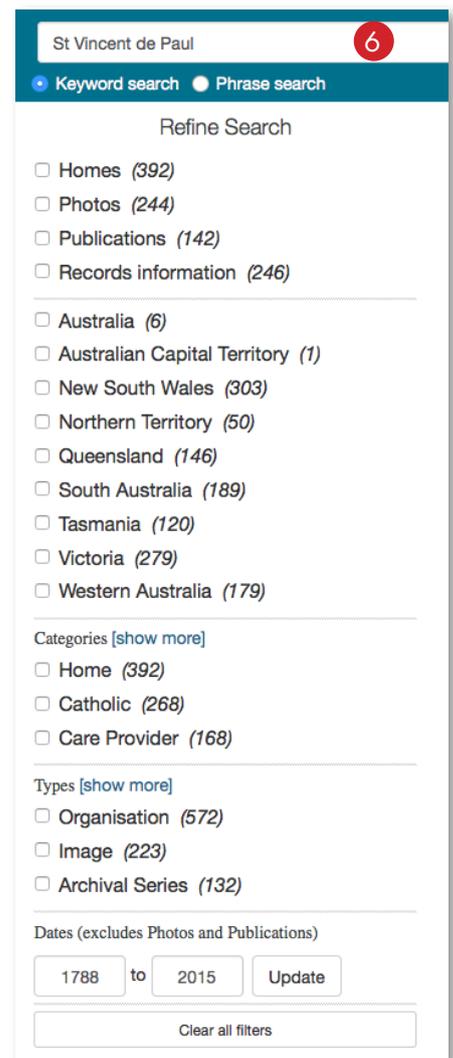
The number in brackets after each of these Refine Search options shows how many results search has found for each category.

To select a Refine Search option simply click the box on the left.

To deselect click again or click the 'Clear all filters' button at the bottom of the Refine Search options.

Further options to refine by are:

- Location – note that Australia does not mean all States. Leave all boxes unchecked to search all States and Territories.
- Categories and Types – click on show more to see a full list of options
- Dates – you can enter a custom date range in the fields and click update. Please note that the date function does not work for photos and publications.





FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

SEARCH TIPS

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

7 You can also reset your search term and any refine search options selected by using the Reset button (see image below).

EXAMPLE

Here is an example to show how to use search to find what you are looking for.

A keyword search for St Vincent de Paul produces 1273 results.

St Vincent de Paul

Search Reset 7

Keyword search Phrase search

Refine Search

- Homes (392)
- Photos (244)
- Publications (142)
- Records information (246)

- Australia (6)
- Australian Capital Territory (1)
- New South Wales (303)
- Northern Territory (50)
- Queensland (146)
- South Australia (189)
- Tasmania (120)
- Victoria (279)
- Western Australia (179)

Categories [show more]

- Home (392)
- Catholic (268)

You searched for **St Vincent de Paul**. We found **1273** results.

Sorted by Most relevant Search Tips

1. Organisation
St Vincent de Paul Society (1881 -)
Also known as: Society of St Vincent de Paul
The St Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic religious organisation with a volunteer base who work to assist people in need and counter social injustice. Internationally, the Society operates in 130 countries and has over 950,000 members. The Society of St Vincent de Paul was established in New South Wales on 24 July 1881. The Society has a long involvement in child welfare. When the New South Wal ...
Find & Connect New South Wales, <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/nsw/NE00113>

Changing from a keyword search to a phrase search narrows the number of results to 105.

St Vincent de Paul

Search Reset

Keyword search Phrase search

Refine Search

- Homes (35)
- Photos (24)
- Publications (9)
- Records information (21)

- Australia
- Australian Capital Territory
- New South Wales (15)
- Northern Territory
- Queensland (1)
- South Australia (42)
- Tasmania (6)
- Victoria (39)
- Western Australia (2)

Categories [show more]

- Catholic (44)
- Home (35)

You searched for **St Vincent de Paul**. We found **105** results.

Sorted by Most relevant Search Tips

1. Organisation
St Vincent de Paul Society (1881 -)
Also known as: Society of St Vincent de Paul
The St Vincent de Paul Society is a Catholic religious organisation with a volunteer base who work to assist people in need and counter social injustice. Internationally, the Society operates in 130 countries and has over 950,000 members. The Society of St Vincent de Paul was established in New South Wales on 24 July 1881. The Society has a long involvement in child welfare. When the New South Wal ...
Find & Connect New South Wales, <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/nsw/NE00113>



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

SEARCH TIPS

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

In this example we want to find Homes run by St Vincent de Paul in the state of South Australia.

So we used the Refine Search and selected:

- Homes
- South Australia
- Catholic
- Children's Home

Our search results are now down to 2.

The screenshot shows a search interface with a search bar containing 'St Vincent de Paul' and buttons for 'Search' and 'Reset'. Below the search bar, there are radio buttons for 'Keyword search' and 'Phrase search'. A 'Refine Search' sidebar on the left lists various categories, with 'Homes (2)', 'South Australia (2)', 'Catholic (2)', and 'Children's Home (2)' selected. The main content area displays two search results for 'Organisation - Home'. The first result is 'St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay (1907 - 1960)', and the second is 'St Joseph's Junior Boys' Home (1960 - 1969)'. Both results include a brief description and a link to the Find & Connect South Australia website. The results are sorted by 'Most relevant' and there are navigation buttons for 'previous page' and 'next page'.

St Joseph's Orphanage Largs Bay and St Joseph's Junior Boys' Home are the 2 children's Homes run by St Vincent de Paul in South Australia.



THE SEARCH ON MOBILE DEVICES

The new search works normally on tablets; however, when used on a mobile phone there is only a basic search available.



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FAMILY HISTORY

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

HOW TO DO YOUR OWN FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

There are lots of websites with great advice about how to do family history research, which can be a great way to find out more about the lives of past family members.

The National Archives of Australia website is a good place to start: www.naa.gov.au/collection/family-history

The State Library in your capital city is another place you can go to get help and advice about family history research and family tracing. Most State Libraries have a genealogy (family history) centre.

At the State Library, you can get free access to websites like Ancestry.com, and search resources like Police Gazettes, post office directories, immigration and shipping records and a range of family history indexes.

ACT HERITAGE LIBRARY

Visit the ACT Heritage Library (Library staff can assist you to access resources like Ancestry.com and findmypast.com): www.library.act.gov.au/find/history/library

NORTHERN TERRITORY LIBRARY

Family Historians at Northern Territory Library: <https://dtc.nt.gov.au/arts-and-museums/northern-territory-library/library-services/family-historians>

STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Family History and Local History: www.sl.nsw.gov.au/services/family_history

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

Family History <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history>

STATE LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Family History Service at the State Library of South Australia: www.guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/FHservice

STATE LIBRARY OF TASMANIA

Family History <http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/family-history/Pages/default.aspx>



South Australian Police Gazette [excerpt, source: <https://www.findmypast.com.au/content/south-australian-police-gazette-1862-1900>]

PASSENGERS' LIST.						
REFERRED TO IN THE 10th SECTION OF THE "PASSENGERS' ACT, 1855."						
Ship's Name	Master's Name	Age	Sex	Profession	Place of Birth	Remarks
Alhambra	Malcolm Miles	1876	M	Master	New Zealand	
I hereby certify that the Passengers actually taken on board this Ship are sufficient, according to the requirements of the "Passengers' Act," for the purpose of conveying the same to the destination named in the Bill of Lading.						
Date: September 20 1876 (Signature) Malcolm Miles, Master.						
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF PASSENGERS.						
Port of Destination	Name of Passenger	Age of each child of 15 years and upwards		Profession	Place of Birth	Port at which Passenger is to be landed
		Male	Female			
	Richard Wip Monau		28		Wip	
	William W. W. Wip		24		Wip	
	W. W. Wip		20		Wip	

An excerpt from the Alhambra's passenger list PROV, VPRS 947/Po, Unit 86, New Zealand, Alhambra, September 1876 - See more at: <http://provguide-50>

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

Family History Resources www.sl.vic.gov.au/explore/family-history-resources

STATE LIBRARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Family History www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/family_history

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FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FAMILY TRACING

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

This is a guide to organisations that provide family tracing services and tips on how you can try to do some searching yourself for a missing family member or friend.

FAMILY TRACING ORGANISATIONS

FIND & CONNECT SUPPORT SERVICE

The Find & Connect Support Service provides Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and their family members with assistance to search for family and in some circumstances, family reunions. You can call the service in your state or territory on 1800 16 11 09 or email them via the web resource by clicking on the [Send message to Find & Connect support service](#) button: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact/support-service>.

THE SALVATION ARMY FAMILY TRACING SERVICE

The Salvation Army run a family tracing service and they can help people to search for direct relatives. There are a number of conditions you will need to meet, including the ability to prove your relationship to the person you are searching for. Also, you will need to contact the relevant office in the state you live in, regardless of where your relative may be located.

The website for the Salvos family tracing service is: www.salvos.org.au/need-help/missing-persons

LINK-UP

Link-Up services help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people separated from their families under the past laws, practices and policies of Australian governments to undertake family tracing and family reunions with counselling support.

The website for the Link-Up service is: www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family/link-services

ADOPTION SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

Some organisations providing support for people affected by adoption provide assistance with family tracing. See this list of adoption support and advocacy organisations: <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>





FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FAMILY TRACING

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

FAMILY TRACING TIPS

WHITE PAGES

It might sound a little obvious, but it's always worth checking the phone book! The Australian White Pages has a website where you can search the Australia-wide directory, see:

<https://www.whitepages.com.au>

ELECTORAL ROLLS

The Australian Electoral Roll is an important resource for family tracing. Produced by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), the electoral roll is a list of the names and addresses of everyone who is eligible and enrolled to vote in Australia. In April 2015, these were the rules about public access to the most current electoral roll in AEC offices:

- Members of the public may access the publicly available roll on Public Access Terminals in AEC offices without challenge as to the purpose which they are accessing the roll.
- AEC staff will still monitor public access to the roll to enforce the restriction on copying or recording the roll by electronic means.
- AEC staff will monitor public access to the roll in relation to the length of time an individual member of the public uses a terminal in order to ensure that other members of the public can also gain access in a timely fashion.

The previous policy, which restricted people from searching the electoral roll for information about other people, was reversed in April 2015. Note that under the rules, you may not copy, record or photograph any information from the electoral roll with any electronic device.

Follow this link for more information about viewing the electoral roll: <http://aec.gov.au/Enrolling to vote/About Electoral Roll/>

For family tracing, historic electoral rolls can be very useful in tracking people over time and place. Past copies of electoral rolls (published annually) are available for public inspection in state and local libraries. Contact your local library or the state library in your capital city to see what electoral rolls are in their collection.

The Australian Electoral Rolls from 1903 to 1980 are available for viewing and searching through the '[Ancestry.com.au](http://www.ancestry.com.au)' website. This is not a free website, however, you can access Ancestry.com.au for free at the Find & Connect Support Service in your state or territory and in State Libraries in each capital city. It may also be available at your local library.

<http://www.ancestry.com.au>

BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

Every state and territory has a registry of Births Deaths and Marriages (or BDM), which is responsible for registering life events including births, deaths, marriages, changes of name, and adoptions. Here is a list of the registries around Australia:

<http://www.australia.gov.au/information-and-services/family-and-community/births-deaths-and-marriages-registries>.

Most BDM offices have a website where you can search birth, death and marriage family history indexes, at no cost. But, you do have to pay to look at search results, and to get a copy of a certificate from BDM. Also please be aware that the registries only have information for the state they are in, and they will not be able to search nationwide for you.

SOCIAL NETWORKING - FACEBOOK

Increasingly, social networking sites like Facebook are the way that people stay in touch with their family and friends. These websites can also provide a way to search for and make contact with people. If you are new to the world of social media, it is best to learn as much as you can about how sites like Facebook work, and to proceed with caution.

Remember that Facebook is a public space. Unless you use its messaging facility, what you post on your or somebody else's profile is visible to everyone. 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!





FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FORMER CHILD MIGRANTS

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

This is a guide for people searching for the records of Former Child Migrants, particularly those children (approximately 4,000) who were sent to Australia from Britain and Malta in the period following World War II.

The records of Former Child Migrants are spread across a number of different organisations, in Australia and overseas. This guide will provide information about what records are held in national archives, state archives, and the collections of organisations that arranged for the migration of children to Australia. It will also provide details about the institutions where Former Child Migrants lived.

ORGANISATIONS THAT CAN HELP

Searching for and accessing the records of Former Child Migrants can be a very complicated and time-consuming process. There are a number of organisations that can help you with the search. These organisations have vast knowledge and years of expertise – getting in touch with these organisations is a very sensible first step if you are searching for records of a Former Child Migrant.

CHILD MIGRANTS TRUST

The Child Migrants Trust was established in 1987 by Margaret Humphreys. It is an independent, professional, specialised service for Former Child Migrants and their families. The Child Migrants Trust's services include searching for records, searching for family members, organising reunions and offering support and counselling. Through the Family Restoration Fund, it pays the cost of reunion travel for Former Child Migrants and their families. In Australia, the Child Migrants Trust has offices in Perth and in Melbourne.

Website: <http://www.childmigrantstrust.com>

Freecall: 1800 04 05 09

FIND & CONNECT SUPPORT SERVICES

In Australia, there is a Find & Connect Support Service in every state and territory, providing support to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. Find & Connect Support Services help people to access support and counselling, obtain records and reconnect with family, where possible.

Website: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact>

Freecall: 1800 16 11 09

TUART PLACE (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)

Tuart Place provides services to people who were in institutional 'care' in Western Australia, including Former Child Migrants. Tuart Place's services include obtaining records, family tracing and providing support.

Website: <http://www.tuartplace.org>

Freecall 1800 619 795 or (08) 6140 2380



Immigration - Child migration schemes - Salvation Army Training farm, Riverview, Queensland, 1952, National Archives of Australia, accessed via <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/objects/QD0000103.htm>



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

FORMER CHILD MIGRANTS

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

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS

Good British Stock: Child and Youth Migration to Australia is a research guide published by the National Archives of Australia. It contains detailed information about records held by the National Archives of Australia relating to child migration and to Former Child Migrants. This publication also contains information about the history of child and youth migration to Australia.

<http://guides.naa.gov.au/good-british-stock>

Child Migrants: Accessing records held by Commonwealth and State Archives is a guide prepared by the Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA) in 2010. It contains information about records relating to Former Child Migrants in national and state archives, as well as some records held by non-government organisations (such as church or charitable organisations).

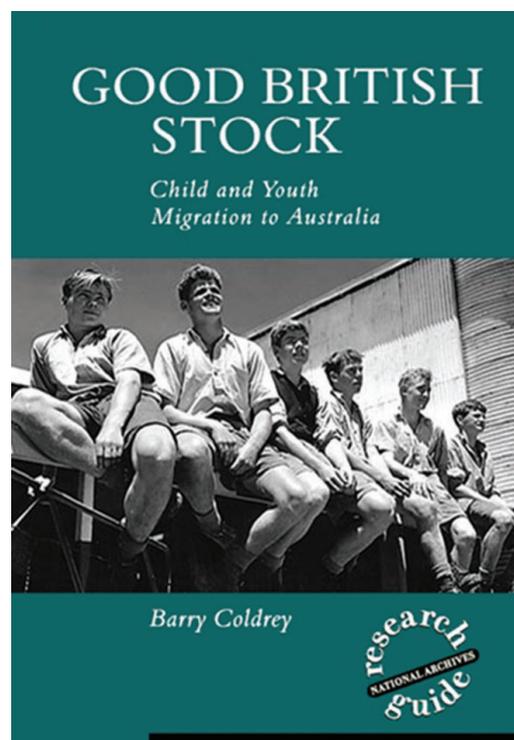
<http://www.caara.org.au/index.php/publications/child-migrants-accessing-records-held-by-commonwealth-and-state-archives>

Lost Innocents: Righting the Record - the Senate presented its report on Child Migration to Australia in 2001, following an inquiry by the Community Affairs Reference Committee. The 'Lost Innocents' report contains information about the history of child migration to Australia, its impact on individuals and families as well as useful facts and figures.

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/1999-02/child_migrat/report/index

The *Find & Connect web resource* contains information about child migration to Australia, the institutions where Former Child Migrants lived, the organisations that administered child migration schemes and about the records relating these activities. Navigating all of the various entities in the Find & Connect web resource can be difficult. We are currently working on updating this page about Former Child Migrants so it includes some brief information about child migration to each state and territory in Australia, the organisations involved, the Homes where child migrants were placed, and where the records are located.

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au>



Good British Stock: Child and Youth Migration to Australia Research Guide Cover, <http://guides.naa.gov.au/good-british-stock/gallery/image-a.aspx>



Child migrant memorial, Fremantle, 2006, courtesy of Australian National Maritime Museum and National Museums Liverpool 2010. More details: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/objects/WD0001037.htm>



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

This is a guide to assist people on their journey to find out more about their time in institutional 'care'.

STARTING THE JOURNEY

If you (or a member of your family) spent time in 'care', there will likely be records that are personal to you, and your story. In Australia, the state government and community services organisations are the 'custodians' of these personal records about children in 'care'.

You won't see these records on a website, or in a book, because they are private, personal, and confidential. But if the records are about you, you have the right to ask and to access them.

People seek out their personal records for different reasons – everyone's story is different. It can take a long time to actually make the decision to approach an organisation and ask about your records.

We hope that the information here will assist you on your journey to find out about your time in 'care'.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN ACCESSING RECORDS

"Like many older care leavers, I was not even aware that files were kept about me until I was in my midfifties."

– Frank Golding, *'Personal records and the stories they tell'*.

People often embark on the journey to locate and access their records expecting to:

- find all the answers to questions about their childhood
- be given access to their records straight away
- find detailed, accurate records about their time in 'care'.

But, many of these common expectations will not be met when you locate and retrieve your records.

If you were a state ward, there may be some form of wardship records about you held by the state government.

If you were not a ward of the state, there may be records held by the non government agency that holds the records from your 'care' provider. In some instances, the available records may only be the admission and discharge record.

Past record keeping practices of Government departments and 'care' providers were primarily for administrative purposes rather than to keep an accurate record of all events. Unfortunately, the older records may be superficial, inaccurate, or incomplete, and leave many questions unanswered.

The records kept and the information recorded will vary according to the time period when you were in 'care', what sort of institution you were in, the policies and practices of different 'care' providers, and even the personal habits of different staff members keeping records.

Some people find that their years in 'care' only generated a few lines of writing. Other people are presented with reams of information (although it will not necessarily be an accurate reflection of one's experiences).

HOW WILL I FEEL WHEN I LOOK AT MY FILE?

Many people who read their records don't expect it to be such an emotional experience and are not prepared for the significant emotional impact including feelings of anger, and hurt, but also sometimes feelings of confirmation or relief.

Some people find that their files are not just full of bureaucratic facts and figures but contain records that evoke the pain of a child being removed from family. Sometimes the contents of your file will contradict the way you remember the past. It might contain information that was kept from you as a child, or reveal that you were lied to when you were in 'care', e.g. finding letters from family members that were never passed on to you, or letters that you had written.

The records often contain negative, derogative, and even offensive language, to describe the child and his or her family. As Frank Golding writes:

Many of us find our personal records are almost entirely negative. Care Leavers often search their records in vain for positive achievements, but the archives are brimming with examples of our minders' low expectations. Some of us who are perfectly intelligent have found in our records that we were described as 'slow-witted', even 'low-grade mental defective'.

– *'Our side of the story'*, 17 June 2016



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

The process of seeking access to your records can lead to positive experiences. You can find clues and answers to these identity questions by locating and accessing records about your time in 'care'. Records can sometimes help if you have gaps in your own personal history, especially about your childhood. Also, it can lead to reconnecting with friends from your childhood. Some people find it helpful to attend reunions of the home where they lived as children, or get-togethers organised by support groups for 'care' leavers.

GETTING HELP TO FIND RECORDS ABOUT YOU

Many people have found that the experience of accessing your records has a significant emotional impact, bringing up feelings of anger, hurt, fear, but also sometimes feelings of nostalgia or relief. The search for your records can be complicated and frustrating - but there are many different organisations that can help you find out information about your time in 'care', locate and access any personal files that might exist, and give you support throughout the process.

If you are not sure where to start your search for records, or you want some support through the process, we suggest you get in touch with an organisation who can help. See [Find & Connect Support Services](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/contact>]. There is support available for 'care' leavers searching for family or wanting to meet and share stories with others with whom you were in 'care'. Some support groups also advocate on behalf of 'care' leavers or provide counselling.

PAST ATTITUDES TO RECORDKEEPING

If you were a state ward (or 'ward of state'), it is likely that the state government has some wardship records relating to your time in 'care'. Various documents were generated in the process through which a child was deemed to be a ward of state, including court records, police records and departmental records.

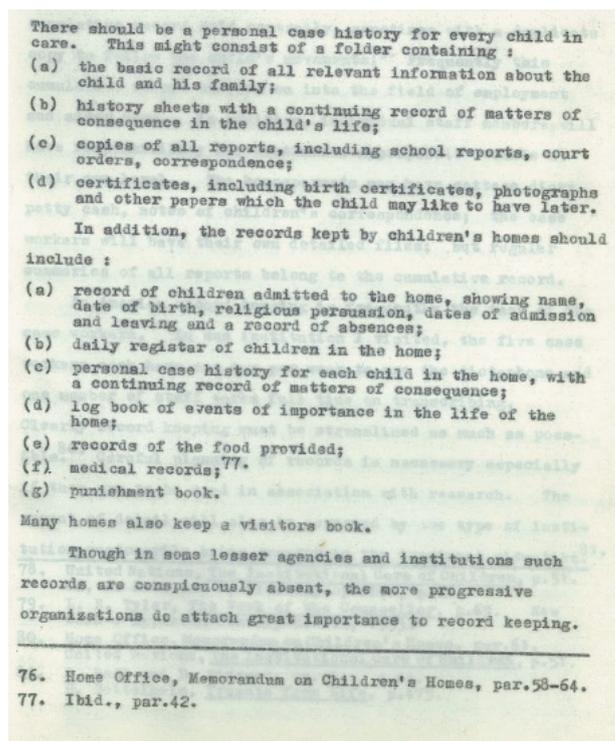
Wardship records were created and kept as administrative records to help the department manage its affairs. The records generally relate to matters such as court appearances, admissions and discharges from institutions or foster care placements and maintenance payments by a parent. During most of the twentieth century, wardship records were very bureaucratic. People getting their records as adults can be shocked and disappointed to see how little information there is about the child and their family situation.

In his book *Children who need help* (1963), social worker Len Tierney described how welfare departments thought about recordkeeping:

For good or bad, the child went forth into the unknown, a receipt for his person secured, and a brief history of the child sent to the Superintendent of the institution. This history was no more than a précis of the Police complaint, a statement of the court decision, and an itemised account of the disposal of the other children in the family. There the child would remain, and for practical purposes the file was closed, until it became necessary to remove him from the institution. For the time being, the Department had fulfilled its legislative functions, and no further action ensued until it was necessary to make a new decision about his disposal.

Attitudes to recordkeeping in children's Homes run by charitable and church organisations were not very different from government departments. A report from Victoria in 1957 spoke of "the absence of all individual records in some institutions and of adequate records in most". Different Homes had different approaches to keeping records, and it's likely that various staff members kept various kinds of records.

One Superintendent, Keith Mathieson, wrote about what we would now call "best practice" in recordkeeping in 1959. In the late 1950s, Mathieson's views about what records needed to be kept for children in 'care' were the exception, not the rule.





FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN ACCESSING RECORDS ABOUT YOU

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

Unfortunately, it is very unlikely that a person applying for their records would receive a 'personal case history' like the one described by Mathieson, with a 'continuing record of matters of consequence in the child's life' and copies of documents like school reports, birth certificates, photographs and 'other papers which the child may like to have later'.

A more common experience is to receive records that are quite minimal. One person described his experience to the 'Forgotten Australians' inquiry:

After 18 years as a 'Ward of the State' and some 32 years later, I finally get enough nerve to have the audacity to ask the system for whatever relevant details they may or may not have on me during my childhood ... I get two sheets of paper with about 9 or 12 lines on it, I look at these two sheets and I am devastated, 18 years of my life on two sheets of paper. I ponder and wonder this can't be all of my 18 years on two sheets of paper.

WHAT IF THERE IS NO FILE ABOUT ME?

Unfortunately, not every person who was in 'care' will be able to find and access their records. In the past, records have been lost and even destroyed, meaning that vital and precious information is not available. Even if you are one of the people whose records no longer exist, there are other historical records that might contain information that helps you to understand your time in 'care' - newspaper articles, photographs, books and oral histories can be valuable resources. This Find & Connect website has information from these types of resources relating to particular homes, organisations and events.

OTHER IMPORTANT RECORDS

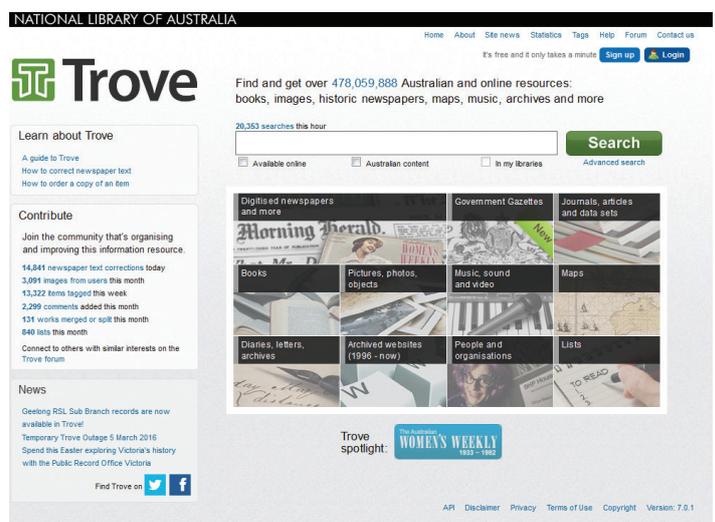
OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Find & Connect website contains information about a range of historical resources that can help you understand and interpret the information on personal records. Finding out more about the historical context can help you understand more about the 'why' and hopefully lead to some healing, and an end to feelings of self-blame due to being bewildered about the past.

Many care leavers have written their own histories. These memoirs and autobiographies provide the history of child welfare from the perspective of the people most affected. Inquiries like Bringing them home, and Forgotten Australians received hundreds of submissions from people who had been in 'care' as children, and you can read their stories on the web.

In Find & Connect, you'll find information about books, articles and websites that provide historical background about homes, organisations, and child welfare in general. Where these sources are available on the web, you can follow links to them from Find & Connect.

The worldwide web is a great resource for the 'historian of the self', and its collections are ever-expanding. A great place to start exploring is [Trove](http://trove.nla.gov.au) [http://trove.nla.gov.au], at the National Library of Australia.



Information about you or your family might also be found in historical sources not necessarily to do with the 'welfare system', for example:

- Military records
- School records
- Police records
- Electoral rolls
- Street directories
- Births, deaths and marriages
- Baptisms
- Cemeteries
- Parliamentary debates
- Genealogical sources
- Contemporary newspapers
- Scrapbooks of press clippings

Genealogical societies and online genealogical resources can be a good source of information about these types of records.



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN ACCESSING RECORDS ABOUT YOU

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

The importance for all of us having a story about our origins helps explain why accessing records is so crucial for those who grew up in institutional care; many become historians of the self.

- Murray et al, *After the orphanage: life beyond the children's home* (2009)

ORGANISATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

Learning about your time in 'care' through accessing records isn't just about the information recorded in your personal or client files. There are other types of records held by organisations which can help you to fill in the gaps about your time in 'care'. As well as 'personal records' like admission records and case files, you can also get access to 'organisational' records (such as annual reports, minutes of meetings, and photographs). These can give important background information about the institution where you lived, and help you to contextualise and make sense of the details on your personal file. This context that comes from organisational records can be just as valuable as the records on your personal file. So you can think of the organisational records of a 'care' provider as being one element of 'your' records.

STAFF FILES AND MINUTES OF MEETINGS

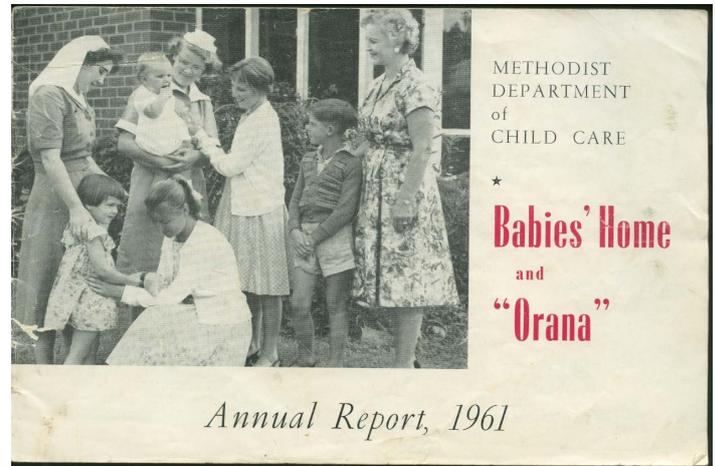
These type of records give information about staff members who were employed at different periods in time, about the governance of 'care' providers, and background about the key decisions made at the institution while you were there. Although it is not always the case, information about particular children sometimes appears in these types of records.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

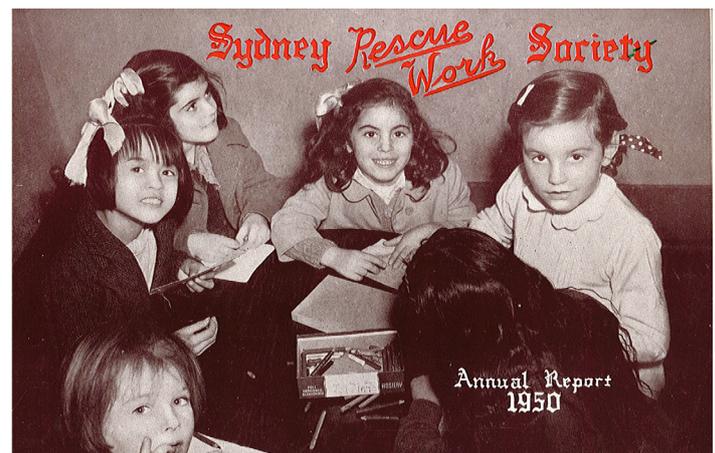
The superintendent of an institution was often responsible for making regular reports with details of occurrences at the institution. The names of children and details of a particular incident can sometimes be found in superintendent's reports.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports can be a rich source of information about an organisation, and the institutions and out-of-home 'care' programs it ran. They often contain photographs of buildings as well as people. Annual reports contain information about the finances and governance of an organisation, and 'news' from the previous year.



Methodist Department of Child Care Babies' Home and "Orana", Annual Report, 1961. Courtesy Ruth Tambling. Details: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/objects/D00000449.htm>



Sydney Rescue Work Society Annual Report, 1950. Courtesy Integricare (Sydney Rescue Work Society). Details: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/objects/ND0000156.htm>

There may be photos and other information in annual reports that tell you about your life, but it should be said that some of these reports and histories focus only on the people running the organisations and the issues that were important to them, like financial affairs and staffing matters.

The content of annual reports, including photographs, tends to put the best face on the way the Homes were run. The voices of children are very rarely heard and negative events are often glossed over or ignored. As one historian writes: 'annual reports are political documents; they reveal what they are designed to reveal, and obscure with aplomb what they do not intend to expose.'

- Lynne Strahan



Regardless of the 'spin', the statistics in the annual reports are generally accurate, and can provide insights into how children in need of 'care' were treated, and how external circumstances (like war, epidemics, economic circumstances) could affect children's welfare. Annual reports are a very valuable resource, if you can approach them with some degree of healthy skepticism, and try to read them 'against the grain'. They are also records which are likely to have been kept and preserved by an organisation, or even housed in some public library collections.

ORGANISATIONAL HISTORIES

Many of the major 'care' providing organisations have had their histories published. This often coincides with an anniversary or milestone in the organisation's history. In many cases, these histories have been 'commissioned' by the organisation itself. Because of this, and for the reasons outlined above when discussing annual reports, organisational histories sometimes have to be taken with a grain of salt. They may put a very positive spin on a history that you remember quite differently. They may emphasise the stories of staff members and benefactors, rather than the lives of the children being 'cared' for. But, published histories contain a lot of information about organisations, their timelines, their changing approaches to child welfare, and can be a digest of precious photographs and documents held by the organisation in its archives.

THE LAW AND ACCESS TO RECORDS ABOUT ME AND OTHERS

Organisations that provided 'care' to children (like children's homes and orphanages) created records to help them in their work. If you spent time in an institution as a child, there may be records about your time in 'care' that have been kept. You can access these records.

These records can be a valuable source of information about you, your childhood, your family and the story of your time in 'care'.

There is legislation that applies to your right to access records. Different laws relating to privacy and freedom of information apply in each state and territory, and depend on whether the records are in the custody of a government department, or held by a past or current care provider organisation.

Legislation in each state requires the government to keep the personal records of children who were in 'care' permanently. Usually the internal policy of an organisation states that the 'care' provider must also keep its client files permanently. Inquiries like 'Forgotten Australians' and 'Bringing them home' have also stipulated that these records are never to be destroyed.

The organisation that created the records needs to be accountable for its actions as your former guardian, and in many cases will have kept the original copies of the records. In the case of some records on your file (like personal letters, school reports, photographs) you can request the community service organisation give the original records to you, and keep a copy for its files.

The government or a community service organisation might be the custodian, but you have a right to request access to records if they contain information about you.

You may also be given the opportunity to add information to the files an organisation or government department has about you, as a way of completing the picture, and making sure that your voice is included.

In the case of other people's records, for example a sister or brother or a parent, you can access those parts of the file that contain information about you. You might find that your access to some information in the records (yours and other people's files) is restricted, because of the interpretation of privacy or freedom of information legislation. Usually, it is information about 'third parties' - meaning people other than yourself - which you may not be permitted to see.

The need to protect third party information is sometimes at odds with the need people have to find out information about family members, and their past. In the case of government records, there are formal avenues to appeal any information that is exempted from the file and these appeal rights are outlined when records are provided. See also [Applying for Records: Your Rights and the Law](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/your-rights) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/your-rights>]

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FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ABOUT CHILD WELFARE

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

This is a guide to the historical background of the child welfare system in each state and territory in Australia, with links to entries in Find & Connect that have more detailed information.

When you're searching for records relating to children placed in institutional 'care', it can be helpful to know something about how the child welfare system worked in the relevant state or territory. Every jurisdiction in Australia has its own system - with unique laws, policies, and bureaucracies.

Understanding the historical background of each system can help you to locate, and to understand, records. For example, in South Australia there was a centralised government department that was usually involved in organising a child's placement in 'care' - so for SA records, it makes sense to start with government records.

But in Victoria, until the 1950s many placements were likely to be arranged more informally by churches or charities (known as "private" or "[voluntary placements](#)").

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

In Canberra the practices and laws of child welfare and the care of children were those of New South Wales until 1938. 'Boarding-out', or foster care, was the preferred form of care, with some small institutions and Homes also existing. The ACT system grew only gradually.

In 1938, the first [Adoption of Children Ordinance](#)² - a special Commonwealth law made for Canberra-regulated the adoption of children in the ACT. Until 1957, young people in Canberra were institutionalised under NSW laws. The ACT did not have its own entirely separate system of child welfare until self-government, in 1989.

Canberra's small population meant that there were relatively few children's homes, and few foster carers, in the Territory, compared to NSW. Because of this, children from the ACT were sometimes placed in institutional and foster care in NSW. Commonwealth Government agencies contracted agencies of the NSW Government to provide services, and to keep the records that went along with them.

1 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00071b.htm>

2 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/act/biogs/AE00007b.htm>

FINDING RECORDS FROM THE ACT

If the person whose records you are searching for was in a non-government Home in the ACT, it might be easiest to contact the organisation that now holds records from that Home. After that, or if you don't know the name of the Home, we suggest you follow the instructions for finding New South Wales records.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Homes, orphanages and institutions in New South Wales were often run by religious or community organisations, and took children on what is called a voluntary basis: that is, the child was committed by a relative or family member. When trying to access records, these organisations (known as [NGOs](#)³ in NSW) are often the first port of call.

Children were also made wards of the state, usually at a hearing of the [Children's Court](#)⁴. Wards were most commonly placed in foster homes, which was also known as "[boarding out](#)"⁵. Boarding out was introduced in NSW in the late 1870s, after widespread criticism of the treatment of children in large institutions like the [Protestant Orphan School](#)⁶ and the [Randwick Asylum for Destitute Children](#)⁷. The Boarding Out Society, and later, the [State Children's Relief Board](#)⁸ (established in 1881) removed children from institutions and placed them in foster homes. Within a short period, 70% of children in state care were boarded out, while others were 'apprenticed' (into domestic service) and a few were informally adopted.

However, the New South Wales government ran more than 100 different Homes and institutions for children and young people from the 1880s until the 1990s. Nearly all children who were made wards of the state spent at least some time in one of these homes and some were placed in Homes run by religious or community organisations.

3 https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/browse_n_function.htm#F000094

4 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00969b.htm>

5 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00966b.htm>

6 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE01140b.htm>

7 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00497b.htm>

8 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00037b.htm>



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ABOUT CHILD WELFARE

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

The [Child Welfare Department](#)⁹ was created in 1923, with broad powers to inspect private institutions, and manage all government institutions, as well as foster care. With the introduction of the [Child Welfare Act 1939](#)¹⁰, fostering remained the focus, but more tailored programs were introduced, particularly around concepts of juvenile delinquency, truancy, child guidance and education. [Juvenile justice](#)¹¹ became more repressive, with the creation of [Hay](#)¹² and [Tamworth](#)¹³ as annexes to [Parramatta](#)¹⁴ and [Mount Penang](#)¹⁵.

In the 1970s, the Department became known as the [Department of Youth and Community Services](#)¹⁶, reflecting the diversity of approaches taken by its staff to children, families and other vulnerable groups. Foster care remained the primary method of caring for children who could not, for whatever reason, live with their families, and NSW, like other Australian jurisdictions, the remaining large institutions for children began to close during a period of deinstitutionalisation.

FINDING RECORDS FROM NSW

If the person whose records you are searching for was a ward of the state in New South Wales (or was from the ACT and was placed in a NSW institution), you can apply to [Community Services](#)¹⁷ for access to their records. However, Community Services has advised that only minimal records exist pre-1940.

If the person was in care before 1940, it might be easiest to start by searching for their name in the State Records NSW [Child Care and Protection Guide](#)¹⁸. You can view microfilm copies of the records in the State Records NSW reading room, or you can request photocopies online.

If you do not find the information you were searching for on the State Records website, you can apply to Community Services under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act). You can use the application form or write a letter saying that your request is a formal application under the GIPA Act.

Postal address:
Right to Information Unit
Community Services
Locked Bag 4028
ASHFIELD NSW 2131

9 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00039b.htm>

10 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00014b.htm>

11 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00986b.htm>

12 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE01033b.htm>

13 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00412b.htm>

14 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE01318b.htm>

15 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00427b.htm>

16 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00036b.htm>

17 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00042b.htm>

18 <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/child-care-and-protection-guide>

You will need to provide a copy of a proof of identity document (e.g. driver's license, birth certificate, health care card) and proof of your relationship to the person who was in care (for example, a birth certificate). There may also be application fees.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The lack of care facilities in the Northern Territory during the first half of the twentieth century affected all children in the care of the government, regardless of their background. When looking for records, it is important to know that many children were moved away from the Territory or placed in inappropriate facilities (for more information, read [Interstate movement of Northern Territory children](#)¹⁹). Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children were sent to institutions interstate and during World War II many were evacuated south for the duration of the war. Children with disabilities were sent to southern institutions and children who had committed offences were sometimes placed in adult prisons in the Northern Territory.

The earliest forms of State Care in the Northern Territory were focused on Aboriginal children. On many [Missions](#)²⁰ across the Territory, including in Central Australia and on islands off the coast, children slept in separate dormitories rather than with family. Aboriginal people were placed in government compounds and institutions as a result of government policies. Many Aboriginal children of mixed descent were removed from their parents and taken to children's institutions in Darwin and Alice Springs. Child removal practices and the later policy of assimilation aimed to separate these children from their families and train them to become part of white society. People affected by these past policies are now known as the [Stolen Generations](#)²¹.

Records relating to children in State Care in the Northern Territory were created by Commonwealth and local agencies. These bodies each played different parts in the care process. The Northern Territory was under Commonwealth control from 1911 to 1978, but also had a local Northern Territory Administration with branches responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Welfare and Health (for more information, read [Law in the Northern Territory](#)²²).

19 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/biogs/YE00088b.htm>

20 https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/browse_m_function.htm#F000090

21 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/biogs/YE00369b.htm>

22 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/biogs/YE00399b.htm>



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ABOUT CHILD WELFARE

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

From the mid-1950s and after the passing of the [Child Welfare Ordinance](#)²³ in 1958, the [Welfare Branch](#)²⁴ of the NT Administration began to establish Receiving Homes for children taken into care. In the 1960s and 1970s, government-run secure care facilities and [family group homes](#)²⁵ were also opened.

Non-government church based organisations also began to establish [cottage homes](#)²⁶ in the 1960s and 1970s. Children were, however, still sent interstate. During the late 1970s-1980s Homes for children with disabilities and youth hostels/refuges were established both by non-government organisations with Commonwealth and Territory government assistance.

FINDING RECORDS FROM THE NT

Files related to children under the care of the government are primarily held by the [Northern Territory Archives Service](#)²⁷ and the Department for Children and Families. The majority of these have been extensively indexed. Records about children in secure care are held by the Department for Correctional Services. There are also numerous records related to Children's Homes and institutions held by the [National Archives of Australia](#)²⁸.

To get access to Northern Territory government records about a family member, you may need to make a Freedom of Information application. For further information, please visit: <https://nt.gov.au/law/rights/freedom-of-information/introduction>.

QUEENSLAND

In Queensland a system of orphanages and homes for destitute and neglected children was established from the mid nineteenth century. These institutions were run by the State and by religious or community organisations. Most children were not orphans, but children admitted to State care due to family breakdown or poverty. Indigenous children were placed in 'care' simply because of the colour of their skin.

Up until 1900, the majority of children in State care were in institutions. The government-run [Diamantina Orphanage](#)²⁹ was the first children's institution in Queensland. As well as government-run orphanages and reformatories, the Catholic Church, Salvation Army, Methodist Church, Church of England and other religious organisations ran their own institutions, often with assistance from the government.

23 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/biogs/YE00040b.htm>

24 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/biogs/YE00195b.htm>

25 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/biogs/YE00268b.htm>

26 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/biogs/YE00151b.htm>

27 <https://artsandmuseums.nt.gov.au/northern-territory-archives-service>

28 <http://www.naa.gov.au>

29 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00192b.htm>

Around the turn of the century, the number of children entering institutional-style orphanages or homes began to decrease, with the government moving towards the boarding out of children (or foster care). The [Orphanages Act 1879](#)³⁰ allowed for the boarding out of children to 'any trustworthy or respectable person'. Since the early twentieth century, foster care has been the primary option for children requiring out-of-home care in Queensland.

The [State Children Department](#)³¹ was established in 1911, to 'provide care, management and control of orphaned, abandoned and convicted children and their property'. The Queensland government ran a number of institutions, including at [Woolloowin](#)³², [Townsville](#)³³ and [Westbrook](#)³⁴.

From the mid twentieth-century, large institutions like orphanages to be phased out. By the 1960s [family group homes](#)³⁵ began to replace the dormitory style accommodation associated with the orphanage system. Group homes were run by the non-government sector, for which they received partial government funding. Clustered family group homes were often located on or nearby the former site of an orphanage or a mission. There were also 'scattered' family group homes, single houses 'scattered' around suburbs and towns.

FINDING RECORDS FROM QLD

Records created by private institutions are held by their successor organisation, and this is the organisation you need to contact for access to records. For example, if the person whose records you are searching for was at [St Vincent's](#)³⁶ in Nudgee, you will need to apply for access to the records from the Sisters of Mercy Archives. Each organisation has its own access rules and restrictions.

If the person was ever admitted to an institution run by the State, or if their care was organised by the State, there is likely to be some evidence of their placement in government records.

These records are held at the [Queensland State Archives](#)³⁷. The amount and quality of these records will vary.

30 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00006b.htm>

31 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00341b.htm>

32 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00193b.htm>

33 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00197b.htm>

34 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00533b.htm>

35 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/browse/f/function.htm#FO00006>

36 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00155b.htm>

37 <http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ABOUT CHILD WELFARE

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

You can apply for access to these records by contacting:

Right to Information, Information Privacy and Screening
Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability
Services
GPO Box 806, Brisbane QLD 4001
Phone: 1800 809 078 or (07) 3224 2242
Email: rti@communities.qld.gov.au

You will need to provide a copy of a proof of identity document (e.g. driver's licence, birth certificate, health care card) and proof of your relationship to the person who was in care (for example, a birth certificate). There is an application fee.

This page has more information about the Queensland government's [Support for Forgotten Australians](#)³⁸.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In South Australia the earliest form of 'care' for children who were deemed destitute or neglected was the government-run [Destitute Asylum](#)³⁹ which also took in adults. From the 1860s children began to be accommodated separately in a number of government-run and/or church run institutions. From as early as the 1860s-1870s, boarding out (an early term for [foster care](#)⁴⁰) was favoured by the government. South Australia was the first state to introduce boarding out as an alternative to institutional care.

The [State Children's Council](#)⁴¹ was established in 1886, and was responsible for matters relating to State Children. Children committed to the care of the state by a magistrate were referred to as State Children or Wards of the State. Following committal, State Children would be sent to the Industrial School at [Magill](#)⁴², and later [Edwardstown](#)⁴³. While some stayed there long term, the majority of children were boarded out. Others were transferred to other government institutions, such as Reformatories, or into the care of religious bodies.

By the early twentieth century the Catholic Church, Salvation Army, Methodist Church, Church of England and other religious organisations ran their own institutions, often with assistance from the government. Some organisations recognised the value of smaller group care as opposed to large institutions, and established cottage homes as early as the 1920s.

After the passing of the [Community Welfare Act 1972](#)⁴⁴, the government began to close large institutions and set up cottage homes, hostels and family group homes. (During the 1970s-1980s cottages were renamed [Admission](#)⁴⁵ or [Assessment Units](#)⁴⁶ depending on their purpose.) The outsourcing of care to non-government organisations became increasingly common.

FINDING RECORDS FROM SA

When a child was committed to [State Care](#)⁴⁷, government files and other government records were created about them. These may include files, admission register records and State Ward Index Cards (from 1900-1992). These are government records so they are held by [State Records of South Australia](#)⁴⁸. Records of State Care are restricted for 100 years, so if you go to State Records you will only be able to see very early records. In order to see any records less than 100 years old, you will need to apply for access through Freedom of Information from the Government Department which now controls the records.

The "[Request for Access under the Freedom of Information Act 1991](#)" application form can be downloaded here: <https://www.dec.sa.gov.au/doc/request-access-under-freedom-information-act-1991-application-form>. You can submit that form by email, postal mail or in person.

As in other states, not all children were State children. Some children were placed by parents, relatives or others in religious-run institutions. Records created by these organisations are not held at State Records and are not controlled by the government. They are held by the religious or charitable organisations that succeeded these institutions. For example, if the person whose records you're searching for was placed in a Catholic Home, the records are held by the [Professional Standards Record Service of the Catholic Church](#)⁴⁹ and you will need to apply for access to them through that body. Each organisation has its own access rules and restrictions. You can find out more by going to the Find & Connect page for the Home you are interested in.

38 <http://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/support-for-forgotten-australians>

39 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE00062b.htm>

40 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE00799b.htm>

41 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE00028b.htm>

42 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE00077b.htm>

43 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE00064b.htm>

44 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE00275b.htm>

45 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE01341b.htm>

46 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE00795b.htm>

47 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE00894b.htm>

48 <http://www.archives.sa.gov.au>

49 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SE00025b.htm>



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

TASMANIA

In Tasmania, until the mid 1850s, children's welfare was dominated by the convict system. The major institutions were the [Female Factory at Cascades](#)⁵⁰, the [Queen's Orphan Asylum](#)⁵¹ and [Point Puer](#)⁵².

In the post-convict era, a number of training and industrial schools opened in Tasmania, including the [Hobart Girls' Industrial School](#)⁵³, the [Boys' Reformatory](#)⁵⁴ and [St Joseph's Orphanage](#)⁵⁵. In 1873, the [Charitable Grants Department](#)⁵⁶ was established, which included a [boarding out](#)⁵⁷ system as an alternative to large institutions.

Most wards of state in Tasmania were placed in foster care. However, some were placed in Homes run by the government or by voluntary organisations. Children could also be admitted to these Homes as private placements.

In the late nineteenth century, a number of institutions with an emphasis on the moral 'rescue' of girls and young women were established, including the [Home of Mercy](#)⁵⁸ in New Town, the [Magdalen Home](#)⁵⁹, and the Salvation Army's [Rock Lynn House](#)⁶⁰ and [Elim Maternity Hospital](#)⁶¹.

The [Children's Charter](#)⁶² of 1918 established the Children of the State Department. The government in Tasmania continue to favour the boarding out system, or placing children in Homes run by the charitable or religious sector. The only state-run institution during this period was [Ashley Home for Boys](#)⁶³, a reformatory in Deloraine.

The immediate post war period marked a trend towards greater institutionalisation by the government, and the establishment of some state-run institutions. This was partly in response to inquiries that had recommended the segregation of older from younger boys at Ashley Home. The Tasmanian government

established [Wybra Hall](#)⁶⁴ in 1956 and [West Winds Boys' Home](#)⁶⁵ in 1967. It also established the [Malmesbury Girls' Home](#)⁶⁶ in 1950, which was replaced in 1959 by the [Weeroona Training Centre](#)⁶⁷.

Around this period, in line with national and international trends, new types of care began to emerge in Tasmania - [receiving homes](#)⁶⁸ and [hostels](#)⁶⁹ based on a cottage care model. From the 1970s, the government began closing down large institutions, and opened more receiving homes, which were later known as family group homes. Many privately run institutions either closed or were converted to cottages.

FINDING RECORDS FROM TAS

The Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO) holds many of the case files of state wards. Those case files over 75 years old are open to the public. If the person whose records you're searching for left care more than 75 years ago, it's best to start by searching the [TAHO website](#)⁷⁰.

You can type in a person's name in basic search and if there is a case file about them you will see that listed. You can access that file by visiting TAHO.

If the person was a state ward and they were in care less than 75 years ago, you will need to apply to the Department of Health and Human Services for permission to access their case files.

Contact:

After Care Support Program
Department of Health and Human Services
GPO Box 538 HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 1300 654 583 (free call) or (03) 6166 0422
Web: http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children/adoption/support_for_care_leavers

If the person was placed in an institution rather than foster care, there may be less information on their case file. You may find the institution also kept records. You can look at records tab on the Find & Connect page for that Home for further information, or you can ask the archivist at TAHO for further suggestions.

50 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00328b.htm>

51 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00053b.htm>

52 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00236b.htm>

53 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00068b.htm>

54 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00557b.htm>

55 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00026b.htm>

56 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00014b.htm>

57 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00156b.htm>

58 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00323b.htm>

59 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00040b.htm>

60 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00078b.htm>

61 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00080b.htm>

62 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00017b.htm>

63 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00031b.htm>

64 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00033b.htm>

65 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00039b.htm>

66 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00276b.htm>

67 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00038b.htm>

68 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00089b.htm>

69 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00258b.htm>

70 <http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/default.aspx?>



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ABOUT CHILD WELFARE

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

VICTORIA

Historically, Victoria's child welfare system has relied heavily on care provided by churches and charitable organisations (for more information, read: [Orphanages: the first institutions](#)⁷¹). Where foster care or '[boarding out](#)'⁷² (considered by the government as the best form of care) was not available, children could be placed in homes, reformatories and other institutions. From the 1920s onwards the number of foster homes available began to fall and more children were placed in institutions.

Many of the homes were established by charitable organisations with religious affiliations children were often admitted '[voluntary placements](#)'⁷³ which may have been arranged by family members. In terms of children who were wards of the state, the [Royal Park Depot](#)⁷⁴ (later Turana) is a site of enormous significance for care leavers. From approximately 1880 until 1961 it was the only reception centre for children entering state care in Victoria.

The [1954 Children's Welfare Act](#)⁷⁵ widened the scope under which children could be committed to state care, which resulted in an increase in children admitted to the care of the department. Until the passage of this Act, children's Homes and orphanages were run by charitable and/or religious organisations, the only institutions in Victoria for children run by the state had been reception centres, [reformatories](#)⁷⁶ (and in an earlier era, industrial schools) for juvenile offenders and disability institutions. The 1954 legislation contained new requirements for all non-government Homes to be registered with the Children's Welfare Department as 'approved' children's homes, juvenile schools or juvenile hostels, and provided for more inspection of these Homes and the children who lived there. After this Act was passed, the Victorian government began to establish its own state-run children's Homes. From the mid-1950s, the Department began to establish state-run [family group homes](#)⁷⁷ as well as [hostels](#)⁷⁸ for young people.

In 1972, the [Social Welfare Department](#)⁷⁹ commenced a regionalisation program, to develop a statewide network of children's and family welfare services in Victoria. The new system aimed to shift face-to-face activities and decision-making from the centralised Department to new regional centres: Mallee, Wimmera, Loddon-Campaspe, Goulburn, Upper Murray, East Gippsland, Central Gippsland, Barwon, Glenelg, Central Highlands.

Many government and non-government Homes continued to provide large-scale, congregate care into the 1970s when they moved towards smaller arrangements, such as foster care, group homes and residential units, under the broader movement of deinstitutionalisation.

Institutional and congregate care was replaced by home-based care (such as foster care or kinship care) or residential care, with the Out of Home Care system being delivered by Community Service Organisations funded by the Victorian government.

FINDING RECORDS FROM VIC

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) manages records relating to wardship and adoption in Victoria. Some of these records are held at DHHS, and some are held at Public Record Office Victoria (PROV). Generally, records less than 99 years old are not open to the general public because of the personal and private information they contain. If the records are about you, or members of your family, you have a right to access these records.

If you are reasonably sure that the person whose records you are looking for was a Victorian ward of the state, it's best to start by contacting the Family Information, Networks and Discovery (FIND) team at DHHS:

The Duty Worker, Family Information Networks and Discovery
Phone: (03) 8608 5700 or 1300 769 926 (for the cost of a local call)

Email: findduty@dhs.vic.gov.au

20/570 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Website: <http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/applying-for-documents-and-records/adoption-and-family-records/victorian-state-wards-forgotten-australians>

If, however, you are confident they were placed in the Home privately (for example, by a family member), you could start by contacting the organisation that holds records from the Home directly.

71 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000815b.htm>

72 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000817b.htm>

73 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000668b.htm>

74 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000118b.htm>

75 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000174b.htm>

76 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000816b.htm>

77 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000350b.htm>

78 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000323b.htm>

79 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000131b.htm>



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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

For any person admitted to a facility run by the Child Welfare Department, or whose care was organised by the department, there is likely to be some evidence of their placement in WA government records. The amount and quality of these records will vary. Sometimes, it will be only a name in a register.

The need to keep records of children in out of home care has been part of the Western Australian legislation since the [State Children Act 1907](#)⁸⁰. At the very least, the department responsible for child welfare, the institutions that housed children and licensed foster-mothers were required to keep a register of the child's name, age, sex, nationality, religion, dates of admission and departure, and the names of parents and near relatives. The [Children and Community Services Act 2004 \(s.128\)](#)⁸¹ requires all records created under s.11 of the [Child Welfare Act 1947](#)⁸² and still in existence in 2005 to be kept forever, along with all records created 'in respect of wards and children placed under the control' of the department after 2005 when the Act came into effect.

The care and protection of children in Western Australia has been regulated by various Acts of Parliament, dating back to the [Industrial Schools Act 1874](#)⁸³ and the [Aborigines Protection Act 1886](#)⁸⁴. Until the 1970s, there were separate child welfare systems for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in WA.

[State child](#)⁸⁵ was a term used in WA from 1907 to describe 'a destitute child or neglected child received into a Government institution or a subsidised institution or apprenticed or placed out' under the authority of the [State Children Act 1907](#)⁸⁶.

An amendment in 1919 extended the definition to include 'an incorrigible or uncontrollable child'. The term state child was replaced by ward in 1927. At this time the name of the Department was changed, to bring it line with the practice in other states, to the [Child Welfare Department](#)⁸⁷.

During the [1920s](#)⁸⁸, all children committed under the State Children Act 1907 were sent to the [Government Receiving Depot](#)⁸⁹ at Mt Lawley, before being boarded out (placed in foster care), or placed in an 'orphanage' or industrial school (reformatory).

From 1927 until 1972, the Child Welfare Department (known as the CWD or 'the welfare') had an impact on the lives of many families in WA. The Department ran its own children's Homes, 'placed' children in foster care, or in Homes run by charitable or religious organisations, and it organised adoptions.

In 1972, the CWD was replaced by the new [Department for Community Welfare](#)⁹⁰. At this time, the Department took over responsibilities to Aboriginal children that were previously held by the authorities for 'native welfare'.

FINDING RECORDS FROM WA

Government records are held at the State Records Office, but permission to access them must be obtained from Freedom of Information at the Department for Child Protection and Family Support.

Contact:

Freedom of Information, Department for Child Protection and Family Support:

PO Box 6334, East Perth WA 6892

Telephone: (08) 6217 6388 or (08) 6217 6381

Facsimile: (08) 9222 2776

Free call in WA: 1800 000 277

Email: foi@cpfs.wa.gov.au

Web: <http://www.dcpwa.gov.au/SupportingIndividualsAndFamilies/Pages/Searchingforfamilyhistory.aspx>

If, however, the child's placement in a Home was arranged by family, or by family with the informal assistance of a Departmental officer (for example, in the country or one of the suburban regions), it is possible that no Departmental record of that placement or contact was made. In that case, you should contact the organisation where they were placed, or the organisation that now holds the record from that place.

80 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00407b.htm>

81 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00394b.htm>

82 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00417b.htm>

83 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00402b.htm>

84 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00403b.htm>

85 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00465b.htm>

86 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00407b.htm>

87 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00364b.htm>

88 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00477b.htm>

89 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00612b.htm>

90 <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WE00365b.htm>

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FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

SEARCHING FOR RECORDS OF A PARENT OR GRANDPARENT

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

This information is for people who are searching for records about their parent or grandparent. It may be helpful for anyone doing family history research about people who spent time in orphanages, children's homes or other institutions.

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.

This factsheet contains information that can help you to locate and access these records yourself.

STARTING OUT

If you know the name of the Home, then you can go straight to the relevant Find & Connect page for more information. The entries on Find & Connect can help you find out more about the history of the Home, and where any records are located. [Look for Homes \[https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-homes\]](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/look-for-homes) on Find & Connect.

But if you're not sure about the name of the Home, identifying which institution your parent or grandparent was in can take a bit of detective work. Many people start with only small pieces of information, a bit like a jigsaw puzzle.

When you're starting out, it's good to know a little bit about how the child welfare system worked in the relevant state or territory. For example, in some states where the state government department organised most care placements it makes sense to look at government records first. In other states, where many placements were likely to be arranged more informally by churches or charities (known as "voluntary" or "[private placements](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00071b.htm)" [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00071b.htm]), the records you need might not be

in government archives. For more information, see: [Historical Background \[https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/historical-background-about-child-welfare\]](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/historical-background-about-child-welfare) about Child Welfare. A good way to start is by writing down everything you already know. Can you answer any of the following questions?

- Where was the home located? (eg: State, City, Suburb)
- When was your parent or grandparent there?
- Was the home linked with a church or a religion?
- Did it take boys, girls or both?
- How old were the children there?

You might be able to ask your parent or grandparent these questions. If not, it might be helpful to ask other family members what they know or remember.

FIND THE HOME(S) ON FIND & CONNECT

Once you have done your preparation, go to [Search this Site \[https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/browse\]](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/browse) and search for the home/s your parent or grandparent was in.

If you know the name of the home, type it in the Quick Search field.

Or, you can make a shortlist of homes. Start with typing something general in the Quick Search field (eg "Parramatta", "Catholic", "orphanage"), and then use the options on the left-hand side to narrow down your search results (eg to only look at homes in a particular state, or homes that operated at a particular time). For more information see [How to use this Site \[https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/help/factsheet-1-how-to-use-the-website\]](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/help/factsheet-1-how-to-use-the-website).

You can also browse alphabetical lists of Homes in each state or territory.

You may need to make a shortlist of the homes that fit the information you have.



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

SEARCHING FOR RECORDS OF A PARENT OR GRANDPARENT

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

RELATIVES WHO WERE WARDS OF THE STATE

If your parent or grandparent was made a [ward of the state](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00010b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00010b.htm], there may be government-held records about them. If you are fairly confident your parent or grandparent was a state ward, it may be best to start your search by applying for access to what's known as their ward file, which might also be called a children's file or a [client file](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00128b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00128b.htm].

If you are not sure, it might help to read a bit more about the Homes they lived in. For example, if you find they were placed in a government-run institution, or if they passed through a government [reception centre](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00129b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00129b.htm] then it's likely your parent or grandparent was a ward of the state. 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.

MULTIPLE PLACEMENTS

It's important to know that there might be records about a person's time in care in multiple locations, and held by multiple organisations. If your relative was a ward of the state, there will likely be government records, but if they were placed in non-government Homes, these organisations might have kept records as well. You will need to make separate applications for records held by different organisations.

FOSTER CARE

If your parent or grandparent was in foster care, your search will be a bit different. You are not going to find the name and address of their foster home on Find & Connect. However, it's likely that your relative spent at least some time in a children's home or institution, while awaiting placement, or between placements. If your parent or grandparent was a ward of state, there might be government records about their time in care, including details of foster care placements.

FORMER CHILD MIGRANTS

If you know that your parent or grandparent came to Australia as a child migrant, that will help you narrow down your search of homes. The [Former Child Migrants fact sheet](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/former-child-migrants) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/former-child-migrants] has more information about how to find records.

READ ABOUT RECORDS FROM THE HOME(S)

Once you have found the Find & Connect webpage for the Home, click the "Records" tab where you can find out who to contact to apply for access, and read a description of the organisation's collection. Please be aware Find & Connect does not hold anyone's records or private information - to access your family member's records, you will need to contact the record-holders directly.

It's also important to remember that Find & Connect lists information provided by record-holding organisations - these descriptions are not exhaustive and you may find the organisation has more records than listed on Find & Connect. Equally, you may find that the organisation has very minimal records, or that it has stored its records in another place, such as a library or archive.

Records about children in care are controlled by legislation. Your rights to access information will depend on factors such as your relationship to the person and whether the person is still living, as well as the policy of the organisation that holds the records. For more information, see [What are my rights to access records about me and others?](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/what-to-expect-when-accessing-records/#8) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/what-to-expect-when-accessing-records/#8]

PROOF OF IDENTITY

Different organisations will have different access policies and procedures. In all cases, when applying for records about a relative, you will need to provide some documentation proving your identity (e.g. driver's license, birth certificate, health care card) and your relationship to the person who was in care (for example, a birth certificate). Some organisations will require either proof of the person's death, or if they are still living, the person's permission for you to access their records.



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

APPLYING FOR RECORDS: YOUR RIGHTS AND THE LAW

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

This is a guide to how Australian laws might apply to an application to see personal records created in the past. It aims to be a helpful first step to finding out more.

WHAT LAWS GIVE ME A RIGHT TO SEE THE RECORDS FROM MY TIME IN INSTITUTIONAL 'CARE'?

There are two types of Australian laws that give you a right to see your personal records, including records created in the past: freedom of information (sometimes called right to information) laws and privacy laws.

These laws are different in each state and territory. The laws that relate to your application depend on where you were in 'care' as a child. If, for example, you live in Victoria now, but you were in care as a child in Tasmania, then it is the laws of Tasmania that relate to your application to see your records. In some cases, Commonwealth law might apply.

WHAT ARE 'RIGHT TO INFORMATION' OR 'FREEDOM OF INFORMATION' LAWS?

These laws, often called 'FOI' laws, entitle individuals to information created by government agencies. All states and territory governments comply with individual FOI legislative Acts.

These laws may entitle you to see records such as your State Ward or Client file, or other records created by the government-run Home where you were placed. FOI laws give you the right to request a change to your personal information if you think it is wrong. They also give you the right to annotate or add any further information to your records.

FOI laws entitle you to see government records, including medical, police, adoption or child protection records (there are also provisions in some Health legislation that cover records created by non-government organisations).

The FOI laws have provisions to protect the privacy of other people, whose information might be on your personal records. Information about other people (known as 'third parties') may be seen as 'exempt' under FOI laws, meaning that it does not have to be disclosed to you. Even close family members and friends can be seen as 'third parties' in FOI laws.



FOI laws give you the right to appeal against a decision not to disclose information about 'third parties' that is on your personal records. (See What are my rights to appeal?)

(If you want to know more about applying for the records of a family member, see our fact sheet: Searching for records of a parent or grandparent's time in 'care').

FOI laws apply only to information held and created by government agencies. They do not give you a right to see personal records held by non-government organisations, such as a children's Home run by a church or charitable organisation. Private organisations that hold personal records may be regulated by privacy laws. It is worth noting that governments sometimes regulated private Homes, and may have created records about them.

WHAT ARE 'PRIVACY LAWS'?

Privacy laws outline an individual's right to see their personal information, and the right to change that information if it is wrong or misleading. Privacy laws also regulate how organisations handle personal information and personal records. As well as providing access to personal information in records, their purpose is to protect personal information, such as an individual's name, address, and bank details, from misuse (like selling it without permission).



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

APPLYING FOR RECORDS: YOUR RIGHTS AND THE LAW

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

Most states and territories have their own privacy legislation, which regulates personal information created and held by government agencies. This legislation may also apply to private agencies with a 'service agreement' with the government, such as a privately-run children's Home contracted by the state to house children. Where no such agreements exist, your rights to see your personal records from your time in 'care' in a privately-run children's Home may be supported by the Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth).

Most organisations which now hold records from privately run children's homes will provide copies of these records on request. These organisations will normally apply exemptions similar to those outlined under the section relating to FOI requests and in particular will not provide information regarding third parties. Like FOI laws, privacy laws have processes that allow you to appeal decisions about the disclosure of third party information.

DO THESE LAWS GUARANTEE THAT I WILL SEE MY RECORDS?

No. While recent FOI and privacy laws have clear rules for how governments and other organisations keep personal records, and store them into the future, they cannot change how those records were kept and stored in the past. There is a chance you might be told that your records no longer exist, or cannot be found.

The decision to release your personal records and which parts of them to release is made by the individual or team processing your application and reviewing your records. Each organisation, and in fact each FOI or records officer, may interpret legislation differently and this will affect what records you receive and how you receive them.

WHAT IF I'VE BEEN REFUSED TO SEE MY RECORDS IN THE PAST?

If you have previously been unsuccessful in the past, it may be worth applying again, given changes to FOI and privacy laws that have occurred. Attitudes have also changed over time, and Senate inquiries and the National Apology have raised awareness about the importance of records to people who were in 'care'.

Further, if you have applied for your records in the past and you have been told that no or minimal records exist, it may be worthwhile making a further request as many government departments and past providers have allocated funding for the indexing and cataloguing of older records and as this process is ongoing further records are coming to light.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS TO APPEAL?

The FOI and Privacy laws in Australia give you the right to ask for a decision made under the laws to be reviewed. For example, you have the right to appeal a decision about the 'non-disclosure of third party information', that means not letting you see records (or parts of records) because they include information about another person. It is sometimes possible to argue that this 'non-disclosure' is 'unreasonable', because it is about a close family member, or it means you can't make sense of your own personal records. Reviews and appeals are usually made to an independent body, like an FOI or Privacy Commissioner, or the Ombudsman.

The FOI and Privacy laws in Australia give you the right to ask for a decision made under the laws to be reviewed. For example, you have the right to appeal a decision about the withholding of information about a third party, such as a member of your family, particularly if you think that denying you access to that information is 'unreasonable'. You can often first appeal to the department who provided the records. It is important to note that there is often a short time period in which you can make this first appeal against a decision. It often dates from the time the decision was made to release the records to you, rather than the date you received them. If your appeal to the department is unsuccessful, you can also appeal to an independent body. Most states and territories have an FOI or Privacy Commissioner, or an Ombudsman who can review the decision.

THE FOI AND PRIVACY LAWS IN EACH STATE AND TERRITORY

COMMONWEALTH

The [Freedom of Information Act 1982](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00133b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00133b.htm] regulates documents created by the Federal Government (not state or territory government agencies).

[Privacy Act 1988](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00127b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/australia/biogs/FE00127b.htm] regulates personal information held by private and government organisations. This Act may be relevant where an application is for records held by a non-government agency and is not regulated by state or territory privacy legislation.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

[Information Privacy Act 2014](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/act/biogs/AE00210b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/act/biogs/AE00210b.htm] regulates the storage and handling of personal information about individuals by ACT Government agencies.



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

APPLYING FOR RECORDS: YOUR RIGHTS AND THE LAW

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

The [Human Rights Act 2004](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/act/biogs/AEO0209b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/act/biogs/AEO0209b.htm] gives ACT individuals 'the right not to have unlawful or arbitrary interferences with your privacy'.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The [Government Information \(Public Access\) Act 2009](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NEO1548b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NEO1548b.htm] is an FOI law that regulates documents created by the NSW State Government.

The [Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NEO1550b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NEO1550b.htm] regulates personal information held by NSW state government agencies.

Personal information held by NSW private sector is regulated by the Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth).

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The [Information Act 2002 Northern Territory](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/biogs/YEO0349b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nt/biogs/YEO0349b.htm] is a single act that combines information privacy, freedom of information, and public records laws. It regulates NT government Agencies.

Commonwealth or private sector organisations operating in NT are regulated by the Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth).

QUEENSLAND

The [Right to Information Act 2009](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QEO0738b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QEO0738b.htm] regulates documents created by the Queensland State Government.

[Information Privacy Act 2009](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/qld/QEO0739) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/qld/QEO0739] regulates personal information collected and stored by Queensland government agencies.

Personal information held by private Queensland organisations may be regulated by the Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The [Freedom of Information Act 1991](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SEO1319b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/biogs/SEO1319b.htm] regulates documents created by the SA State Government.

South Australian privacy laws operate under Cabinet Direction. The Privacy Committee of South Australia, which is part of State Records, is charged with applying the Information Privacy Principles set out in the Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth).

TASMANIA

The [Right to Information Act 2009](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TEO0958b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TEO0958b.htm] regulates documents created by the Tasmanian State Government.

The [Personal Information Protection Act 2004](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TEO0957b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TEO0957b.htm] 'allows a person to access personal information', held by: 'public authority; any body, organisation or person who has entered into a personal information contract relating to personal information'; and, a 'prescribed body'.

VICTORIA

The [Victorian Freedom of Information Act 1982](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000500b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000500b.htm] regulates documents created by the Victorian State Government.

The [Information Privacy Act 2000](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000605b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000605b.htm] regulates personal information held by Victorian state government agencies.

Personal information held by parts of the Victorian private sector may be regulated by the Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The [Freedom of Information Act 1992](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WEO1065b.htm) [https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/biogs/WEO1065b.htm] regulates documents created by the WA State Government.

WA does not have a current legislative privacy regime. The Information Privacy Bill 2007 (which drew on the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 and Victorian Privacy Act 2000) was presented to the WA Parliament in 2007 but did not become law.

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FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

DISABILITY HOMES

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

This is a guide to disability Homes. The links between children's institutions and disability institutions in all states and territories mean that these Homes are part of the history of the Forgotten Australians.

WHY ARE DISABILITY HOMES INCLUDED ON FIND & CONNECT?

The Find & Connect web resource contains information about many children's Homes and institutions for people with intellectual and physical disabilities. These types of Homes are part of the history of the Forgotten Australians - in all states and territories, there were crossovers between children's institutions and disability institutions.

Children with disabilities were commonly placed in children's institutions (source: "[You can't forget things like that': Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral History Project](#)", National Library of Australia, 2012, p.8. [<http://www.nla.gov.au/sites/default/files/forgotten-australians-oralhistory-booklet.pdf>]) A number of children with no disabilities found themselves placed in disability institutions. Sometimes a child's disability was the reason they were 'voluntarily' placed in 'care' by their parents, who felt unable to care for them (source: "[Forgotten Australians](#)" report, 2004, p.391 [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/2004-07/inst_care/report/index]). Forgotten Australians could be incorrectly diagnosed as being 'feeble-minded' or 'mentally defective' and be placed in a disability Home. The "dull" characteristics that led to these false classifications were often the result of abuse and neglect, sometimes from the very institutions supposed to be 'caring' for them.

The Senate's "Forgotten Australians" inquiry took in many forms of institutional "care":

The inquiry has examined care and experiences in residential and out-of-home care (foster and kinship care), juvenile detention centres and homes for people with disabilities. The committee also received a number of submissions relating to children in migrant detention centres and boarding schools, as well as adoption issues ("Forgotten Australians" report (2004), p.8).

The 2004 report pointed out that many children were inappropriately accommodated, not only in disability Homes, but also in mental health institutions (for adults and children) and adult prisons.

The Senate's second report from the inquiry into institutional 'care', ("[Protecting vulnerable children: A national challenge](#)", March 2005 [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/2004-07/inst_care/report2/index]) contained information about disability Homes, and pointed out that large-scale, institutional accommodation of children with disabilities continued well into the 1980s and early 1990s, lagging behind the phasing out of orphanages and children's Homes. Both Senate reports demonstrate another way that disability is connected with the stories of many Forgotten Australians - many Forgotten Australians ended up with disabilities as a result of their (often abusive) experiences in 'care'.



Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution, c. 1905, courtesy of Tasdeaf: Tasmanian Deaf Society. More details here: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/objects/TDO000072.htm>



Travancore, 1933? - 1965?, courtesy of Flickr. More details here: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/objects/DO00000455.htm>



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

DISABILITY HOMES

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

STORIES

Many children in institutions lived with a diverse mix of residents, of different ages and abilities. This extract from a submission relates to a woman's experiences at [St Aidan's Orphanage \(Convent of the Good Shepherd, Bendigo\)](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000187b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000187b.htm>]:

The inmate population was made up of women of all ages. There were girls who had become too old to stay in institutions for young children. These girls tended to have an intellectual disability or physical disability. Some women were single mothers and others were old women with dementia. Also many young girls had been placed by the courts for protection or for criminal offences. I was so traumatized and shocked that I didn't menstruate for about 12 months. I cried and hardly spoke a word for the first few months (Submission 166, quoted in "Forgotten Australians" report, p.121).

Many wards of state experienced multiple placements, in government-run and non-government Homes, reformatories, training institutions and disability Homes.

I have been placed in a number of ward establishments due to being a neglected child and mental homes due to mental abuse and physical abuse. The first home was [Royleston](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00432b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00432b.htm>], state ward Glebe at the age of four years of age. 1962. in 1965 I spent time in Royleston. North Ryde Psychiatric Centre children's unit, in the year 1967. I was returned to Royleston, Glebe. November 1967. State ward home [Mittagong](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00496b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00496b.htm>], Turner or Suttor Cottage, year 1968. Rydalmere Hospital, in adult ward 21/01/70. [Yasmar Boys' Shelter](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00441b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00441b.htm>] 8/4/70. Toombong special central school, year 1970. Mittagong training school Mackeller. Yasmar Ashfield NSW boys' shelter. Returned to Royleston. 8/9/71. [Berry Training Farm](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00404b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00404b.htm>], 1971. Callan Park and Gladesville Psychiatric hospitals 15/1/73. [Metropolitan Boys' Shelter](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00424b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NE00424b.htm>] 26/2/74. (Submission 318)

A lack of suitable facilities for children with intellectual and physical disabilities was a factor in the "inappropriate accommodation" of children. In Victoria in 1939, an investigation into the [Royal Park Depot](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000118b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000118b.htm>] found that 30 per cent of the residents were "mentally retarded".

"It is almost a scandal the number of retarded children who enter some of the institutions of the Children's Welfare Department. There they are apt to stick" (Guy Springthorpe, 'The treatment of mental deficiency in Victoria', in Past Meetings, Medico Legal Society of Victoria, 1940).

Many of the records of Forgotten Australians contain false, insensitive, offensive and derogatory language about disability. Accessing these descriptions of their childhood selves that include terms like 'idiot' or 'high grade mental defective' [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000549b.htm>] can cause Forgotten Australians distress and trauma.

I found out a lot from that file ... more than I really wanted to know. That's how I found out that I was classified as being 'high grade mental defective' and sent to 'homes' for mentally retarded boys (Submission 94).

I was brought up in the [Neerkol Orphanage](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00151b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/qld/biogs/QE00151b.htm>] outside Rockhampton from the age of 10 months to 12 years old. During this time I suffered mental, physical and sexual abuse from employees of Neerkol. I was treated as being mentally retarded from the age of two until the age of 10 when they discovered that all that was wrong with me was a simple tongue tie (Submission 218).

FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT DISABILITY INSTITUTIONS ON FIND & CONNECT

You can find lists of institutions for children with disabilities on the [Search this Site page](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/browse) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/browse>] for each state and territory. These institutions all have the categories "Disability Institution" - an umbrella term used to describe an institution (or other residential program) which provided services to children with special needs, specifically those considered to be living with intellectual, physical and mental disabilities.

The web resource also includes glossary terms that go into more detail about words and concepts relating to the history of disability institutions, such as "mental deficiency", "training centre" and "feeble minded". Please be aware that these sections of the website contain language that people may find offensive.

FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

RECORDS FROM SALVATION ARMY HOMES

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

This is a guide to looking for records from children's Homes, institutions and reformatories run by the Salvation Army. These records date back to the 19th century and continue up until around the 1980s, when these institutions were closed.

Please be aware that if you were a state ward and spent time in a Salvation Army Home, there may be more records about your time at a Salvation Army Home on your ward file. These ward records are not held by the Salvation Army, they are held by the state government. For more information about applying for ward records, please see 'Where to Start' [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/resources/where-to-start>].

Please note that more recent records (created since around the 1980s) of out-of-home care services run by the Salvation Army are likely to be held by current Salvation Army services, not by the Territorial Headquarters.



Salvation Army's Boy's Home at Mount Barker [1905]. Courtesy State Library of South Australia B 60658. More details here: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/sa/objects/SD0000026.htm>

TERRITORIES

The Salvation Army Australia has two autonomous territories: the Eastern Territory and the Southern Territory. Any records about children's Homes and institutions run by the Salvation Army will be held in one of these two territories - when you are looking for Salvation Army records it is important to contact the relevant Salvation Army Territory.

SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY

Contact the [Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NEO0208b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/biogs/NEO0208b.htm>] about records relating to children's Homes in:

- New South Wales
- Queensland
- Australian Capital Territory

The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory holds records of the children's Homes that operated in New South Wales and Queensland. If you want to apply for access to any of these records, contact:

Historical Records Researcher
Office hours: Weekdays 9 am to 5 pm
Phone: 02 9466 3548
Email: historicalrecords@aue.salvationarmy.org

SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN TERRITORY

Contact the Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory about records relating to children's Homes in:

- Northern Territory
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Western Australia

The [Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory Territorial Headquarters](https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000014b.htm) [<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/vic/biogs/E000014b.htm>] located in Blackburn, Victoria, holds records of the children's Homes that operated in Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.

If you want to apply for access to any of these records, contact:

Social Programme Department
Salvation Army Australian Southern Territory - Territorial
Headquarters
95-99 Railway Road, Blackburn
PO Box 479, Blackburn VIC 3130
Phone: 03 8878 4777
Fax: 03 8878 4838
Email: social.programme@aus.salvationarmy.org

FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

RECORDS FROM SALVATION ARMY HOMES

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

HERITAGE CENTRES

The Salvation Army also operates heritage centres. These centres do not hold personal records, but they often have historical material that may be of interest, including photos, War Cry (the Salvation Army newspaper) articles, and Salvation Army memorabilia.

EASTERN TERRITORY

Heritage Centre - Sydney
120 Kingland Road, Bexley North NSW 2207
PO Box 226 Bexley North NSW 2207
Phone: 02 9502 0424
Fax: 02 9554 9204
Email: aeheritage@ae.salvationarmy.org

SOUTHERN TERRITORY

The Southern Territory has Salvation Army heritage centres in Melbourne and in Perth. The South Australian heritage centre has closed and some of its material is now at the Melbourne heritage centre.

MELBOURNE

Lindsay Cox, Archivist
The Salvation Army Archives and Museum - Australia Southern Territory
69 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
PO Box 18185 Collins Street East, Melbourne VIC 8003
Phone: 03 9639 3618
Fax: 03 9639 3618
Email: lindsay.cox@aus.salvationarmy.org

PERTH

Major Dennis L. Dell, Director
Salvation Army Heritage Museum WA
Level 3, 333 William Street
Northbridge WA 6003
PO Box 8498, Perth BC, WA 6849
Phone: 08 9260 9500 (Tuesdays)
Email: dennis.dell@aus.salvationarmy.org



Salvation Army Girls Home Band, c1920, 26 July 2013, courtesy of State Library of Western Australia.
More details here: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/wa/objects/WDO000444.htm>

last updated: 21/09/2016



FIND & CONNECT FACT SHEET

ADOPTIONS

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

This is a guide to help people who were affected by adoption. On the Find & Connect web resource there is information about institutions (like babies' homes and maternity hospitals) relating to the adoption system in Australia, as well as information about agencies that arranged adoptions. The web resource also has entries about adoption legislation in each jurisdiction.

ADOPTION RECORDS

If you are looking for adoption records, this page on the National Archives of Australia website is a good place to start. It has information about accessing adoption records state by state.

<http://forcedadoptions.naa.gov.au/records>

ADOPTION SERVICES

This Commonwealth government webpage has a list of support services and advocacy groups for people affected by adoption.

<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>

FORCED ADOPTION SUPPORT SERVICES

The Australian Government Department of Social Services is funding seven organisations to provide coordinated specialist support services across Australia for people affected by forced adoption practices. The Department's website has a list of these organisations: <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>

To contact a Forced Adoption Support Service in your state or territory call 1800 21 03 13



Crown Street Women's Hospital, c. 1930 - c. 1950, courtesy of State Records NSW.

More details here: <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/nsw/objects/ND0000158.htm>

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FIND & CONNECT

TIPS FOR 'READING' CHILD WELFARE RECORDS

This is a guide to help support service staff get the best out of child welfare records by becoming more familiar with them. 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: <http://childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/exhibits/404f8386-a4de-4a6a-bea3-dd3a850b0b73/case-study-30-august-2015,-melbourne> (accessed September 2016).

Slam B.

TRAINING. REMAND CENTRE TURANA

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT
YOUTH WELFARE DIVISION

RECORD'S COPY
No. **2325**

2325.

Surname	Christian Names	Date of Birth	Religion	File Number
		REDACTED 50?	S.D.A.	

Name and address of Parents
 Father: REDACTED Home: _____
 Mother: REDACTED Business: _____

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

Charge: **Armed & Dangerous (A.D.) - Garage Break & Steal.**

Remanded to: **Order to admit to the care of the Social Welfare Branch.** 1/19 for **Court Hearing Clinic Reports Sentence**

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

Informant's name: **IC G.A. HYDE.** 13492 Station: **Turana**

Particular marks on body, etc.: **Nil**

Cash: **Nil**
 Property: **Nil**
 Clothing: **Singlet Underpants Sandycam Short. Tie. Trousers shoes. Sox.**

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

Signature of Young Person: _____
 Signature of Escorting Officer: **J. Guy 1/250**
 Signature of Receiving Officer: **J. Leath**

Ball/Surrender: _____
 Probation Officer: **Miss** **bound rec. - The boy receives psychiatric treatment.**
 Have Parents been notified—Yes/No/Will be: **? Note of birth of David. 1/1965**

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

Note information about child and his family - use this to find births, deaths and marriages information.

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

Use the dates to write up a chronology.

Notice file references - maybe you can apply for this file.

Handwritten text on card:
 Name: P. Clair, Leelic Pias
 No. 137
 Date of Birth: 11. 4. 93
 Age: 13 7/8
 Date of Admission: 24. 7. 07
 Where Admitted: B.P.L. McRafter
 Religion: P. M.
 Date of Leaving: 20. 1. 09
 Wages: 2. 2. 09 N.W.
 Where Gone to: Absconded 21. 1. 09
 Absconded 19. 2. 09
 Absconded 24. 2. 09
 Died 12. 11. 09, side 1205.

READING RECORDS - SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Always read files from back to front because that is how they were created. Each new folio or document page was placed on a file on top of the previous one.
 - Request that all documents are copied with file covers and full references so you know what the record you have is.
 - Go to the State & National Archives records' descriptions, or use Find & Connect record descriptions to understand who created a record or document and what its purpose was.
 - Read between the lines - notice references to other documents, names of people, places, dates and events. Use these keys to apply for further records.
 - Note the names of institutions, the names of staff and the name of the department/organisation at the time - these may also hold keys to further information.
- Use the Find & Connect web resource to find out:
- the meaning of 'terms commonly found on records', including some acronyms
 - what legislation was operating at the time the record was created which might help with understanding the document and why certain terms were being used or why certain things happened
 - information about the institutions and departments/organisations mentioned in records
 - who to contact or where to go to ask for more information and to ask about and apply for files you have identified on records.



This is a guide to assist support service staff searching for records and family of clients. Researching records for clients can include locating and applying for institutional and/or foster care records as well as family history research.

WHERE TO START

Write down anything your client already knows (names, places, dates if you have them) and then try to fill in the gaps. Draw up a family tree by hand or using an online family tree maker. Use a table to create a chronology for your client. For example:

Date	What happened & where	Names of people involved	Sources	Notes & Further research
3 June 1965	Born Geraldton, WA	Name of client Name of parent(s)	Birth certificate Birth notice <i>West Australian</i> 5 June 1965, p. 54	Father born SA, mother WA. Apply for birth certificates. Birth notice mentions sister – find out about her.

If you get stuck, think laterally and try to get to the piece of information you are seeking by coming at it from other angles.

WHERE TO SEARCH

VITAL RECORDS -BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES (BDM)

Each state/territory has a Registrar of BDM. Some sites allow for historical searching. Websites have information about availability, restrictions and how to apply for records. Certificates provide information about family members including names, places where family lived, ages and occupations.

Other places to search for BDM information include:

- Genealogical societies (often have searchable indexes or online databases for members)
- Newspaper family notices – more information under newspapers below
- BDM published registers in state/territory Libraries
- Church, Mission & Parish registers (including baptism registers)
- Online death and funeral indexes such as:
 - Ryerson Index of Newspaper death notices (National) <http://www.ryersonindex.org>
 - Savill Index of Advertiser Funeral Notices – (South Australia only) <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/savill>

CEMETERY AND BURIAL RECORDS

There are a number of online search options for finding cemetery records and burial places. Two of the most useful are:

- Cemetery Records – Australia (CoraWeb) <http://www.coraweb.com.au/cemetaus.htm>
- Australian Cemeteries <http://www.australiancemeteries.com.au>

Both websites provide links to cemetery records across Australia. Lone graves and unregistered deaths have been indexed in a number of states/territories. Search for these and other indexes via local genealogical societies and/or websites run by professional genealogists/historians. Also use newspaper family notices. Think laterally – information about a death or funeral in a newspaper can lead you to the Funeral Director, cemetery, burial place and family members.



NEWSPAPERS AND THE WONDERS OF TROVE

Trove is a website managed by the National Library of Australia. It brings together searchable content from libraries, museums, archives and other research organizations. For a list of newspapers available online on Trove, see [About Digitised Newspapers and more](http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/about) [<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/about>]

Use keyword searching to find information. Remember to use “quote marks” to search for phrases or names and conjunctions like AND to search for “a name” AND “something else” at the same time.

STATE LIBRARIES & STATE ARCHIVES

Each state and territory has its own repository for state/territory government records where documents created by state departments are held. These can include records related to children in state care, education records, hospital records and many others. You can find most of these archives by googling State Archives or State Records and the name of the state/territory. Most state archive websites allow for searching of their holdings by keyword, and have links to finding aids and fact sheets. All have contact detail for reference enquiries. Although state repositories store the records, if they are restricted, applications for access need to be made via the current responsible department.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA (NAA)

The National Archives of Australia holds records created by the Commonwealth government. There are branches of the NAA in each state and territory. Records related to Aboriginal Affairs, Immigration (including child migrants), military service and records related to the Northern Territory while it was under Commonwealth control may be of value in research for Care Leavers. The NAA search engine [RecordSearch](http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ListingReports/ItemsListing.aspx) <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ListingReports/ItemsListing.aspx>, allows for keyword searching of the collection. Some records have been digitized and are available to view online. Others will require an application for access.

STATE LIBRARIES

State Libraries hold both published and unpublished records. Published books can provide background information which can be useful in providing historical context. They also hold archival records donated by organizations and individuals. Some care providers have donated their collections to state libraries. As with archives, libraries allow keyword searching of their holdings, provide fact sheets and allow for reference inquiries. You can usually find an Ask Us or Ask a Librarian link on their home page.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA (NLA)

The National Library of Australia in Canberra holds records of national significance. It has large manuscript, photographic and oral history collections. The latter includes interviews from the Bringing Them Home Oral History Project and the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral History Project. Many of these interviews can be listened to and searched by keyword on-line. Oral History, manuscript material and other collection items can all be searched for via the general catalogue. The vast majority of archival records, however, need to be viewed in the Reading Room and the Library.

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

- **Genealogical societies & historical societies** - online databases, library resources and valuable advice.
- **Directories** - commercially published volumes listing primary occupant of residences and businesses - useful for locating where people lived and who their neighbours were.
- **Electoral Rolls** - current Commonwealth and State rolls are searchable online at electoral offices. Past rolls in hard copy or on microfiche are accessible in state libraries.
- **Land titles records offices** - for researching house and land ownership.
- **Council archives** - assessment books, local government records, maps, plans, photos, oral histories.
- **Government and Police Gazettes** - information about government institutions, Acts and Regulations, employees, criminal activities, absconding, inquests, missing persons.
- **School records** - admission records, yearbooks, newsletters, photographs etc.
- **Church and Parish records** - baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, church newsletters, photos.
- **Noel Butlin Archives** - pastoral, business and association records.



RESEARCHING ABORIGINAL FAMILY HISTORY

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES (AIATSIS)

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra holds a unique collection of records including film, photographs, video and audio recordings and the world's largest compilation of printed materials and other resources relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The collection can be searched online via the online search engine Mura. AIATSIS also provides excellent family history searching fact sheets on their website:

<http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family>

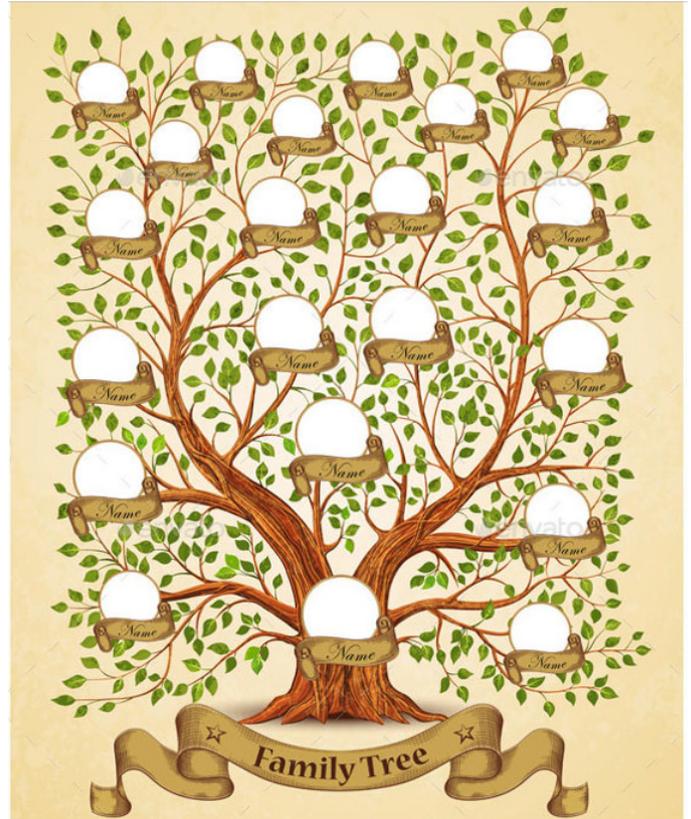
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Archives of the South Australian Museum holds a wide range of records valuable for genealogical searching for people with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage. The Museum holds the Tindale collection which includes genealogies, information cards, photographs, maps and other information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

PAID SUBSCRIPTION FAMILY SEARCHING

Many libraries allow free access to subscription sites. Ancestry – popular family searching website and family tree maker.

- Ancestry
<http://www.ancestry.com.au>
A popular family searching website and family tree maker, Ancestry can be used to search Australian, UK and World records including electoral rolls and BDM indexes. Through Ancestry you can make contact with others researching the same families.
- Find my Past
<http://www.findmypast.com.au>
- Family Search
<https://familysearch.org>
- My Heritage
<https://www.myheritage.com>
- World Vital Records
<http://www.worldvitalrecords.com>



FINDING LIVING RELATIVES

- White Pages & Telephone directories – for current addresses and phone numbers – can also be used for locating past addresses
- Newspapers – some have a Can you help? section or you can also write a Letter to the Editor.
- Social media including as Facebook and LinkedIn
- Professional registers and networks – for doctors, teachers and other professionals
- Outreach letters – once potential relatives have been located an outreach letter can be sent. It is essential that making contact with living relatives is handled ethically and with confidentiality on both sides, for clients and for relatives.