



Communities  
& Justice

# Adoption Information and Search Guide

This guide is for people interested in finding information about an adoption that occurred in NSW.  
It will also assist those looking to locate and contact a family member.



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# Introduction

Welcome to the Adoption Information and Search Guide.

Searching for information and family can be an emotional journey for people impacted by an adoption. Every search is unique and there is no one way to search for adoption information and/or relatives. When you are ready to begin the process, we hope this guide supports and assists you.

Information in this booklet refers specifically to adoptions finalised before 2010, when adoption practices and access to information was closed.

Information, practices and attitudes surrounding adoption in NSW have changed and are now open. However, for many years adoption practices in Australia were led by societal norms and the position that secrecy was essential to protect all people involved and that birth mothers wanted their identity to remain a secret to the adopted child. Silence and secrecy resonates through the lives not only of the birth parents, but also of their adopted children<sup>1</sup>. Knowledge of birth family origins is important for the adopted person's healthy identity formation.<sup>2</sup>

Adoption has evolved and the importance for adopted people to know their origins and have opportunities to connect with their birth family has been recognised in policy, legislation and practice. It is well known and accepted that birth parents and family members need to know about and connect with the adopted person. As a result of this understanding, all adopted people and birth parent(s) now have a right to information about each other.

The continuing impacts of past adoption practices is detailed in the Releasing the Past<sup>3</sup> report that led to the NSW State Government apology for forced adoption practices in 2012. This was followed by the Australian Government's National Apology for Forced Adoptions in 2013. These apologies recognised the continuing impact of separating children from their families.

In particular, this guide acknowledges Aboriginal people that were impacted by government policies - the Stolen Generations and forced adoption practices. It is acknowledged that Aboriginal people may want to seek non-government support. Link-Up is a service that supports Aboriginal people impacted by adoption. Link-Up offers counselling, search services and support reunions. Please refer to section 10, for Link-Up's contact details.

To make it clear for all impacted by adoption, the terms birth parent(s), adoptive parents(s) and adopted person(s) are used throughout this guide.

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<sup>1</sup> Impact Past Adoption Practices. Australian Institute of Family Studies Final report March 2010 (pg.16)

<sup>2</sup> Triseliotis J, In search of Origins, London: Routledge, 1973

<sup>3</sup> Releasing the Past adoption Practices 1950-1998 Final Report December 2000 (pg.181)



# Adoption Information Unit

The NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Adoption Information Unit (AIU) provides post adoption services.

The AIU holds records for adoptions that occurred in NSW. You will need to lodge an application with the AIU before you can obtain any adoption information or search for family members.

For adoptions finalised outside of NSW, you will need to contact the services in the state or territory where the adoption occurred.

If you have any questions during your search for adoption information and/or family members, please contact the AIU or other information and support services as detailed in section 10 of this booklet.

Further details about the topics covered in this guide are available at [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info) or by contacting the AIU.

## **Adoptions that happened after 1 January 2010**

Open adoption practices for adoption orders made in NSW on or after 1 January 2010, means adopted people, adoptive parents, birth parents and siblings of an adopted person may gain information from the day the adoption order was made.

Some of the information in this booklet may still be helpful if the adoption happened after 1 January 2010.

Further information on adoptions that occurred after 2010 can be located on the DCJ website: [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/after-2010](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/after-2010).

Department of Communities and Justice  
Adoption Information Unit  
Locked Bag 5000  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Phone: 1300 799 023  
+61 2 9716 3005 (from overseas)

Email: [Adoption.Information@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Adoption.Information@facs.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption)

# 1 Things to consider before you start your search

The following section explains many of the common thoughts and feelings experienced by those impacted by adoption when applying for information and searching.

For more information on each of the sections below, please visit [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/before-starting-your-search](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/before-starting-your-search).

## Adopted people

Not all adopted people choose to seek information or make contact, however many people that were adopted want information about their origins to gain a better understanding of their identity.

Often an adopted person may be curious and interested in their family, medical history and cultural origins. This may occur at significant times in life such as adolescence, marriage, starting a family or due to a medical condition.

Deciding to seek information can be an emotional experience. It can be difficult to share and explain a need to search for birth family with loved ones. This often results in adopted people waiting for adoptive parents to pass before searching which can lessen the chances of finding birth family.

Unfortunately a small number of people do not know that they are adopted. Discovering this later in life can be a tremendous shock and give rise to a number of complex emotions. The AIU, Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC) or Relationships Australia (see contact details in section 10) are experienced in supporting people learning about their adoption and reconnecting with birth family members.

## Birth mothers

In the past society tended to believe that mothers, whose child was adopted, should make a 'clean break',<sup>4</sup> remain anonymous and they should 'get on with their lives';<sup>5</sup> Experience has shown these assumptions to be untrue for most mothers.

Many mothers go on thinking about their child for the rest of their lives and may have intense feelings of loss<sup>6</sup>, pain and mourning, intensified further by not knowing what happened to their child.

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<sup>4</sup> Releasing the Past adoption Practices 1950-1998 Final Report December 2000 (3.46 pg31)

<sup>5</sup> Releasing the Past adoption Practices 1950-1998 Final Report December 2000 (3.67 pg36)

<sup>6</sup> Releasing the Past adoption Practices 1950-1998 Final Report December 2000 (pg 148)

Some mothers may be concerned that their child will not understand the reason for their adoption or they may not have told anyone about their child. These fears may make some mothers reluctant to initiate a search, or they may feel like they have no right to contact their child.

## Birth fathers

Fathers may feel the loss<sup>7</sup> of their child in a similar way to mothers. Many fathers wish to find out about their child, however often were not named on their child's original birth certificate or adoption records. This not only creates barriers to learning about their child but also hinders their child from accessing information about their father. As a result, adopted people are often dependent on their mother for information about the identity of their father. This information may be difficult to obtain.

Many fathers were not allowed to be included in decisions made about their child. Some fathers may not even know a child was born or that their child was placed for adoption.

## Other relatives

Adoption involves separation, not just from birth parents but from extended birth family members. There are brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles who can have a deep-seated need for information about the adopted person and many adopted people find great satisfaction in connecting with their relatives.

Often brothers and sisters want information about their sibling that was adopted. Some may have grown up with their shared birth parent(s) and some may have been adopted into different families.

Often birth family members experience feelings of loss and grief about the adopted person, similar to birth parents.

## Adoptive parents

Adoptive parents experience a range of emotions when their son or daughter searches for information or when they are reunited with birth family members. It can be an emotional time for them. Some worries may centre on the fear of losing their child to the birth parents or that their child may feel grief and loss, for example will the birth parent(s) refuse contact.

AIUs experience in mediating family reunions for more than 30 years is that access to information or a reunion can strengthen relationships when the adopted person can speak openly with their adoptive parents about their searches and contact with birth family members. The search and reunion process is a time that adopted people need the support of their parents.

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<sup>7</sup> Releasing the Past adoption Practices 1950-1998 Final Report December 2000 (pg 153)

## 2 How to apply for adoption information

For adoptions before 2010, adopted people, birth mothers and acknowledged birth fathers have a direct entitlement to receive identifying information about the adoption, after the adopted person turns 18 years of age.

The steps below are a guide to applying for adoption information. The pages following explain each step in more detail.

Applying for adoption information can be a confusing and emotional process. Please contact DCJ Adoption Information Unit (AIU), the Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC) or Relationships Australia if you have any questions or require any assistance (see contact details in section 10).

### **Step one - Adoption Information Certificate**

- Apply for an Adoption Information Certificate (previously known as a Supply Authority). You **do not** need to apply for an Adoption Information Certificate if you already have a Supply Authority (issued between 1998 and 2014) or the Original/Amended birth certificate stamped 'not for official use' (issued between 1990 and 1998).
- You can get an application form by contacting the AIU or visit [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info).
- The Adoption Information Certificate gives identifying details about the adopted person, birth parent(s) and adoptive parents. This document allows you to apply for social and medical information that was recorded at the time of the adoption and to search for family members.

### **Step two (optional) - Social and Medical information**

- Apply for social and medical information that was recorded at the time of the adoption by completing section two of the application to obtain adoption information.
- The AIU does not have adoption files where the adoption order was made before the early 1950s, however, the NSW Supreme Court may hold records for this time.
- If the adoption was arranged through a non-government agency, you will need to contact them for your social and medical information. The AIU will tell you who holds the records in relation to the adoption when you receive the Adoption Information Certificate.

### **Step three (optional) - Reunion and Information Register**

- Apply to join the Reunion and Information Register by completing section three of the application to obtain adoption information.
- If you do not join when you submit your application but wish to join at a later date, you can do so.
- Please contact the AIU and request an application form when you are ready.

#### **Step four (optional) - Further searches**

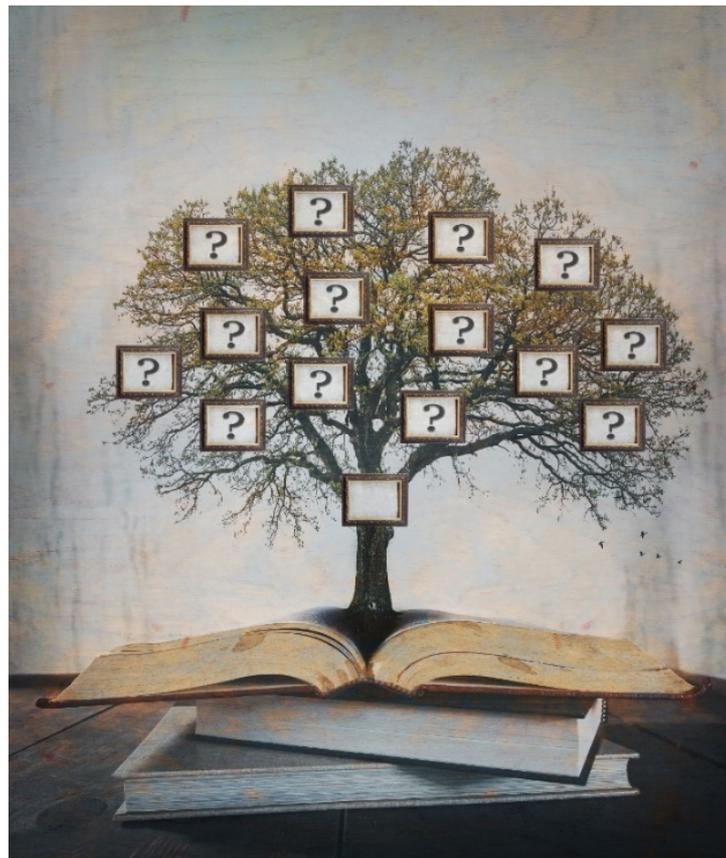
- Search for more information with the Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages, the electoral roll, the NSW Supreme Court and the hospital where the adopted person was born.

#### **Step five (optional) - Further searches**

- If you are not able to find family members after doing all of the above steps, or you are uncertain how to proceed, contact International Social Services (ISS), Australia's Special Search Service (see section 10).

#### **Step six (optional) - Searches for intercountry adopted persons**

- If you are an intercountry adopted person you may like to consider making contact directly with ISS to see how they can assist you in your searches (see section 10). An [Intercountry Adoption and Search for Origins Guide](#) can also be accessed on the ISS website.



## 3 Adoption information explained

### What is an Adoption Information Certificate?

An Adoption Information Certificate is an official document that has the names of the adopted person, birth parent(s) and adoptive parent(s) recorded at the time of the adoption. This certificate enables you to apply to other agencies for information.

An agency will require you to provide a copy of the Adoption Information Certificate (or Supply Authority or Original/Amended birth certificate stamped 'not for official use') when applying for information. This ensures information is only given to people with an entitlement.

### What is social and medical information?

Social and medical information (also known as prescribed information) gives adopted people information provided by the birth parent(s) at the time of the adoption. It is not current information. It may include details of the birth family's culture, employment and medical history.

Birth parents may receive information about their child and the adoptive parents from the time of the adoption. Social and medical information may give birth parents an idea about the family who adopted their child.

The amount of social and medical information available varies depending on how the adoption was arranged and the record keeping practices at the time.

For more about social and medical information, please visit [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/social-and-medical](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/social-and-medical).

### What is the Reunion and Information Register?

The Reunion and Information Register (RIR) is managed by the AIU.

Adopted people, birth parents, adoptive parents, family members and adopted people over the age of 18 years may join the RIR.

Additionally, any other person (not related to the adopted person or birth parent(s)), who has an interest in an adopted person or birth parent, may apply to the AIU to have their name registered.

Adopted people between the ages of 12 and 18 years may join the RIR with the permission of their adoptive parent and/or DCJ.

Joining the RIR is a passive way to make contact or exchange information. The RIR relies on two or more people joining which results in a "match". If a match occurs, the AIU will assist you to reunite.

The AIU does not actively search; the person you are looking for must indicate their willingness to make or be contacted by joining the RIR themselves. If you are seeking contact, joining the RIR can increase your chances. If you are not seeking direct contact, you can join the RIR to leave or receive messages.

For more about the RIR please visit

[www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/reunion-information-register](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/reunion-information-register).

## Why search the Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages?

The Adoption Information Certificate allows you to apply directly to the Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (Registry) for information about family members that is not available to the general public.

A search for births, deaths and marriages can offer historic and current information about the person you are hoping to find. For example, if you apply for a marriage search, you will find out if the person you are searching for married and changed their name. You would then have a new name to use for current searches. Depending on your entitlements, you may receive a full certificate or an extract which excludes third party information.

Searching for records on the Registry website will only give you records that have become public. This means that you will only be able to access births that were registered 100 years ago, marriages that were registered 50 years ago and deaths that were registered 30 years ago. These searches will not provide you with current information.

The Registry can only search records of the state or territory where you lodge the application. Therefore, it is suggested you search in the state or territory where the person was born or where they were last known to live.

The Registry can also issue those entitled to an Original Birth Certificate or an Amended Birth certificate, with an Integrated Birth Certificate (IBC). An IBC is an official identity document which includes information about the adopted person's birth parents, older birth siblings, adoptive parents and older adoptive siblings.

The IBC does not replace the amended birth certificate that is issued by the Registry after an adoption order. The amended birth certificate is still a valid and official identity document. Both birth certificates will contain the same registration number. This provides them with the choice over which certificate they wish to use for legal identification purposes.

For more information about the IBC please visit -

[www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/introducing-integrated-birth-certificates](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/introducing-integrated-birth-certificates).

## Why search the electoral roll?

The electoral roll is a register of the current name and address for people in Australia eligible to vote. Once you have the current name of the person you are looking for, you may find the person on the electoral roll.

You need to visit your nearest office of the Australian Electoral Commission. There is no charge but time restrictions may apply.

If you cannot find the person you are looking for in NSW, you should check their name in other states.

## Why search with a non-government adoption agency?

Some non-government adoption agencies may hold social and medical information if the adoption was organised through their agency. If the adoption was arranged by an agency and the AIU do not hold the records, you will be told the name of the agency when the Adoption Information Certificate is issued.

Many non-government adoption agencies also offer intermediary and support services to adopted people and birth parents (see section 10).

## Why search with the Supreme Court of NSW?

The Supreme Court of NSW has records of court proceedings relating to adoptions. It can be particularly useful to apply to the Supreme Court for these records if there is only limited information on the adoption, if the adoption was arranged by a solicitor or if the AIU or agency who prepared the adoption does not hold any records.



## 4 What adoption information are you entitled to receive?

### Adopted person

As the adopted person, you are entitled to an Adoption Information Certificate (AIC) and social and medical information. Depending on when your adoption took place, this may include copies of forms completed and signed by your birth parent(s) at the time of the adoption and medical reports also from that time.

An Adoption Information Certificate will enable you to apply for your original birth certificate and integrated birth certificate which contains identifying information before your adoption.

The only way to gain current information is to locate your birth parent(s) or members of your birth family.

In most cases, identifying information about birth fathers is unknown as these details were not generally recorded. This reflects the practices at the time. If your birth father is named in the adoption file but not on your original birth certificate, his name will only be released after you sign an undertaking stating that you will not attempt to contact him or his relatives, without the use of a professional adoption service. The service that finalised the adoption may be able to assist you with this process. Refer to section 10 for a list of adoption services who provide a search service.

If the AIU locates records of any birth siblings who were also adopted, your social and medical information will include identifying details of those siblings and you will be able to do the same searches that you can do for your birth parent(s).

If you were in the care of the Minister (previously known as a Ward of the State) before being adopted, you are entitled to access information about yourself during your time in care. This may provide you with an understanding of why you were unable to remain with your family. If you are not sure if you were in care before being adopted, your social and medical information will confirm this.

### Birth mothers

As the mother, you may apply to the Registry for your child's original birth certificate. You do not need an authority to do this.

An Adoption Information Certificate will enable you to apply for your child's amended birth certificate and integrated birth certificate which has identifying information after adoption.

You will receive a copy of the information you provided at the time of the adoption and the documents you signed, if available. You may also receive information about your child's adoptive family from the time of the adoption.

This could include details about their adoptive parents' occupation, nationality, religion and if there were other children in the family at the time of the adoption.

## Birth fathers

The process for fathers to apply for adoption information varies depending on whether you were named on the child's original birth certificate. Below are some of the circumstances that may apply.

### Father named on the original birth certificate

If you are named on your child's original birth certificate, you may apply for the same identifying information about your child as the child's mother. This includes applying to the Registry for your child's original birth certificate. You do not need an authority to do this.

An Adoption Information Certificate will enable you to apply for your child's amended birth certificate and integrated birth certificate which has identifying information after adoption.

You will only be named if you signed the birth registration form or were married to the child's mother at the time of the adoption.

### Father not named on the original birth certificate

If you are not named on your child's original birth certificate but believe yourself to be a child's birth father, you are referred to as a 'putative' birth father. The term 'putative' means you believe you are the child's father or the child's mother may have named you as the father however you are not recognised under the law.

To apply for information, putative birth fathers will need to request a presumption of paternity.

Alternatively, putative birth fathers may apply to join the Reunion and Information Register and request assistance from the AIU to make contact with the adopted person.

Contact the AIU to clarify your rights to adoption information.

## Other relatives or people without a direct entitlement

Other family members may apply to the AIU for adoption information if they are:

- a person who was in the care of the Minister and separated from their sibling who was adopted and no longer has a relationship with their parent(s);
- a biological sibling or relative of an adopted person who has the written consent of a birth parent who has an entitlement;
- other people who can show that it would be reasonable for them to be provided with adoption information.

Applying to gain adoption information for a person without a direct entitlement is a two-step process. The first step involves applying for approval to gain adoption information. Contact the AIU for further information or visit [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/adoptions-before-2010-over-18/chapters/no-direct-entitlement](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/adoptions-before-2010-over-18/chapters/no-direct-entitlement).

In the event of the death of an adopted person or birth parent, a relative or significant other person can apply to 'inherit' the deceased person's rights to adoption information. This is also a two-step process. The first step involves applying for approval to gain adoption information.

Contact the AIU for further information or visit - [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/inheriting-rights](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/inheriting-rights).

## Adoptive parents

Adoptive parents are able to receive a copy of their child's original birth certificate, integrated birth certificate and social and medical records if the adopted person is 18 years or older and consents to the release of this information in writing.

While the adopted person is under 18 years, their adoptive parent may ask the AIU to contact the birth parent(s) to gain updated medical information and/or explore if contact is possible.



## 5 How to delay or prevent contact

### How to delay the release of information

There are times in life where significant events are happening that may not allow an adopted person or birth parent to give their full attention to a reunion.

An adopted person, birth parent(s) or adoptive parent(s) may apply for an advance notice to delay the release of information for two months. When an application is made for an Adoption Information Certificate, the applicant is advised in writing that an Advance Notice is in effect and that the issue of the Adoption Information Certificate will be delayed for two months (unless there are special reasons requiring a longer period).

At the same time, the person who lodged the Advance Notice is advised that access to an Adoption Information Certificate has been sought and that it will be released at the end of the specified period.

For more information on advance notices, please visit -

[www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/advance-notice-register](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/advance-notice-register).

### How to prevent contact

If the adoption occurred before 26 October 1990 and you are an adopted person or a birth parent, you can prevent someone from contacting you by registering a contact veto. A contact veto only prevents contact, it does not prevent the release of identifying information about the people involved in the adoption, such as full name and date of birth.

If the adoption occurred after 26 October 1990, you are not able to register a contact veto as legislation and policy changed to support open adoption practices. This change recognises the importance of an adopted person having the opportunity to understand their history and know their identity, and for the birth parent(s) to know about their child.

A contact veto may not be able to be registered if an Adoption Information Certificate has already been released to an adopted person or birth parent(s).

For more information on contact vetos, please visit [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/contact-veto-register](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/contact-veto-register).

## 6 Things to consider before making contact

Now that you have completed your search for information and have located a possible address(es) for the person you are searching for, you should carefully consider how you will make contact.

While many people involved in adoption anticipate that one day someone from their family may try to contact them, this is not always the case. There are people who are not aware that they have other family members or do not expect contact due to the length of time that has passed, and an adopted person may not know they were adopted.

There are various ways to start to get to know someone, including the exchange of letters and photos, telephone calls or via email. Some points to consider during the early stages of reunion includes the following:

- Be respectful to the other person. While you may have been thinking about making this contact for years, the person you are searching for may not have had the same time to prepare so contact needs to proceed at their pace;
- Contact can be confronting when it occurs too quickly and without planning, so take your time and be considerate to the feelings of the other person;
- Be mindful of a person's privacy and confidentiality when first getting in contact, particularly when reaching out via social media sites;
- Some people may want to maintain their anonymity when they initially make contact. In these situations, using an intermediary is advisable.

Before making contact, consider whether the help of an intermediary service may assist. Please refer to section 10 for a list of services.

For more information on contact and reunions, please visit [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/making-contact](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/making-contact).



## 7 Common feelings and reactions during search and reunion

It is common to feel a range of emotions, from joy to sadness or even anger, during the search and reunion process. It is important to acknowledge your feelings and be clear about what you hope to achieve. Speaking with an experienced adoption caseworker or counsellor can help.

Some of the emotions and reactions you may experience include:

- rejection;
- excitement;
- fear;
- disappointment or frustration;
- peace;
- attraction.

After making contact or meeting relatives for the first time, some people can feel fulfilled and develop friendships. For some people, the outcome of the meeting is not as they expected and they can feel let down and disappointed. The outcomes of reunions are unpredictable, so it is important that you prepare yourself for a variety of possible outcomes.

For more information, please visit [www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/making-contact/chapters/the-first-meeting](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption/finding-info/making-contact/chapters/the-first-meeting).



## 8 Places to search for information

Source	Contact Details
NSW Supreme Court	Adoption Officer, Supreme Court of NSW GPO Box 3, Sydney, NSW 2001 T: +61 2 9230 8733
The Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages	GPO Box 30, Sydney, NSW 2001 Website: <a href="http://bdm.nsw.gov.au">bdm.nsw.gov.au</a> T: 13 77 88 E: <a href="mailto:bdm-webmail@customerservice.nsw.gov.au">bdm-webmail@customerservice.nsw.gov.au</a>
Electoral rolls	Australian Electoral Commission T: 13 23 26 <a href="http://www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/About_Electoral_Roll/">www.aec.gov.au/Enrolling_to_vote/About_Electoral_Roll/</a>
Private adoptions/solicitor adoptions	The Law Society of NSW 170 Phillip St, Sydney, NSW 2000 DX 362 Sydney T: (02) 9926 0333 E: <a href="mailto:lawsociety@lawsociety.com.au">lawsociety@lawsociety.com.au</a>
Forced Adoption History Project	<a href="http://forcedadoptions.naa.gov.au/">http://forcedadoptions.naa.gov.au/</a>
Australian Genealogical Education Centre	7 Railway Parade, Kiama, NSW 2533 PO Box 75, Kiama, NSW 2533 T: (02) 4233 1122 E: <a href="mailto:fhc@tpgi.com.au">fhc@tpgi.com.au</a>

## 9 Hospitals and homes for mothers and babies

Some hospitals no longer have historic records and some hospitals may no longer exist. If the hospital no longer exists, their records may be held at the nearest main public hospital.

If you were not born at one of the following hospitals, please contact NSW Health in your local area.

Hospital	Contact Details
Royal North Shore Hospital	Health Information Services Building 29, Level 2, Reserve Road, St Leonards, NSW 2065 T: (02) 9462 9777
Mater Misericordiae Hospital, North Sydney	Records are now held by the Royal North Shore Hospital (see above)
Royal Hospital for Women	Release of Information, Medical Records Department Locked Bag 2000, Randwick, NSW 2031 T: (02) 9382 3770
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (previously King George V Hospital)	Medical Records Department Missenden Road, Camperdown, NSW 2050 T: (02) 9515 6486 E: <a href="mailto:SLHD-RPAMedicalRecords@sswahs.nsw.gov.au">SLHD-RPAMedicalRecords@sswahs.nsw.gov.au</a>
Crown Street Women's Hospital	Records are held by the Royal Hospital for Women (see above)
Queen Victoria Hospital for Mothers and Babies	Records are held by the Royal Hospital for Women (see above). Social work records are held by the AIU
South Sydney Women's Hospital	Records are held by the Royal Hospital for Women (see above)
St Margaret's Public Hospital	Records are held by the Royal Hospital for Women (see above)
St Margaret's Private Hospital	Records are held by St Vincent's Private Hospital Congregational Administration Centre Archivist Sisters of St Joseph PO Box 1508, North Sydney, NSW 2059 T: (02) 8912 4853 E: <a href="mailto:enquiries@sosj.org.au">enquiries@sosj.org.au</a>

Hospital	Contact Details
Mater Hospital Social Work Records	Records are held by Family Spirit (previously Centacare Adoption Services/CatholicCare) Suite 301, Level 3, 2-14 Meredith Street, Bankstown, NSW 2200 T: 131819 E: <a href="mailto:connect@catholiccare.org">connect@catholiccare.org</a>
Bethesda Hospital, Marrickville	Salvation Army, Historical Records Researcher T: (02) 137258 E: <a href="mailto:historicalrecords@aue.salvationarmy.org">historicalrecords@aue.salvationarmy.org</a>
Waratah (Western Suburbs Hospital), Newcastle	Records are held by the Clinical Information Department at the John Hunter Hospital T: (02) 4921 3530 or 4921 3000 E: <a href="mailto:hnelhd-greaternewcastlecis@health.nsw.gov.au">hnelhd-greaternewcastlecis@health.nsw.gov.au</a>

Home	Contact Details
St Anthony's Home, Croydon	Records are held by Family Spirit (previously Catholic Adoption Agency) Suite 301, Level 3, 2-14 Meredith Street, Bankstown, NSW 2200 T: (02) 8709 9333 E: <a href="mailto:connect@catholiccare.org">connect@catholiccare.org</a>
Mercy Family Centre of Waitara (formerly Our Lady of Mercy Home)	Records are held by Family Spirit (previously Catholic Adoption Agency) Suite 301, Level 3, 2-14 Meredith Street, Bankstown, NSW 2200 T: (02) 8709 9333 E: <a href="mailto:connect@catholiccare.org">connect@catholiccare.org</a>
"Carramar", Turramurra	Records are held by Anglicare Adoption Services 19A Gibbon Street, Telopea, NSW 2117 T: (02) 9890 6800 F: (02) 9630 6258 E: <a href="mailto:adoption@anglicare.org.au">adoption@anglicare.org.au</a> Website: <a href="http://www.anglicare.org.au">www.anglicare.org.au</a>

## 10 Information and support services

Agency	Contact Details
Anglicare Adoption Services	19A Gibbon Street, Telopea, NSW 2117 T: (02) 9890 6800 F: (02) 9630 6258 E: <a href="mailto:adoption@anglicare.org.au">adoption@anglicare.org.au</a> Website: <a href="http://www.anglicare.org.au">www.anglicare.org.au</a>
Barnardos Adoption Agency	Level 1, 2-4 Holden Street, Ashfield NSW 2131 T: (02) 8596 5000 F: (02) 9797 0108 Website: <a href="http://www.barnardos.org.au">www.barnardos.org.au</a>
Family Spirit (previously Catholic Care Adoption Services)	Level 3, Suite 301, 2-14 Meredith Street, Bankstown, NSW 2200 T: (02) 8709 9333 F: (02) 8709 9392 E: <a href="mailto:connect@catholiccare.org">connect@catholiccare.org</a> Website: <a href="http://www.catholiccare.org/">www.catholiccare.org/</a>
Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation	PO Box 185, St Marys, NSW 2760 T: (02) 9421 4700 or 1800 624 332 F: (02) 9673 4740 E: <a href="mailto:linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au">linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au</a> Website: <a href="http://www.linkupnsw.org.au">www.linkupnsw.org.au</a>
ISS Australia's Special Search Service	Suite 2.02, Building C, 33-35 Saunders Street, Pyrmont NSW 2009 T: (02) 9267 0300 or 1300 657 843 E: <a href="mailto:sss@iss.org.au">sss@iss.org.au</a> Website: <a href="http://www.iss.org.au/our-services/nsw-special-search-service/">www.iss.org.au/our-services/nsw-special-search-service/</a>
Relationships Australia – Forced Adoption Service	Level 6, Suite 601, 126 Church Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150 T: 1300 364 277 F: (02) 9887 2809 E: <a href="mailto:enquiries@ransw.org.au">enquiries@ransw.org.au</a> Website: <a href="http://www.relationshipsnsw.org.au/support-services/forced-adoption-support-service/">www.relationshipsnsw.org.au/support-services/forced-adoption-support-service/</a>
Origins Inc.	Unit 2, 113-115 The Crescent, Fairfield, NSW 2165 PO Box W18, Fairfield West, NSW 2156 T: (02) 9604 1950 E: <a href="mailto:lilya@originsnsw.com">lilya@originsnsw.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.originsnsw.com/">www.originsnsw.com/</a>
Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC)	Level 4, 7-11 The Avenue, Hurstville, NSW 2220 Locked Bag 6002, Hurstville BC NSW 1481 T: (02) 9504 6788 E: <a href="mailto:parc@benevolent.org.au">parc@benevolent.org.au</a> Website: <a href="http://www.benevolent.org.au/services/post-adoption-services">www.benevolent.org.au/services/post-adoption-services</a>

