

Birth, Death and Marriage indexes – getting started

Worldwide knowledge and understanding of Australian Indigenous cultures, past and present

Birth, Death and Marriage or BDM records are a great way to start tracing your family history. They can provide you with information to make it easier for you to search for your family history (or for the Family History Unit to undertake a search on your behalf). For example you can find out the maiden names of the females in your family, a listing of occupation may also be found on a BDM certificate opening up the possibility of searching union or employment records. For what information you will find on all types of certificates see Fact Sheet 5.

To conduct a search of the BDM indexes first think of all the names you know, when were your family members born, married or died and where they were from. These facts are great starting points for searching the BDM indexes and will add to the information that you already know about your family.

Where to find Birth, Death & Marriage indexes:

Many libraries and family history societies have copies of BDM indexes on microfiche and/or on CD-ROM and some are available via the Internet. Anyone can use these indexes and the library or family history society staff will be able to help you with your search. If you can't get access to BDM indexes, you can contact the Unit on 1800 730 129 and we will be able to do a family history search on your behalf (a waiting period will apply).

BDM indexes are searchable on the Internet for:

- **ACT**-<http://www.ors.act.gov.au/index.html>
An index of deaths prior to 1973 is available following the 'Historical deaths indexes' links
- **New South Wales** -
www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/familyHistory/search.htm
Free searching of birth, death and marriage

indexes online. Coverage: Births to 1908; Marriages to 1958; Deaths to 1978

- **Queensland** -
www.justice.qld.gov.au/bdm/IndexSearch.htm .
An index of births 1829-1914; deaths & marriages 1829-1929
- **Tasmania** - www.archives.tas.gov.au/nameindexes.
Colonial Tasmanian Family Links database is an index to over 500,000 19th Century birth, death and marriage information, but is not the official index.
- **Victoria** -
<https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/bdm/home> Search these indexes for a fee.
- **Western Australia** -
<http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/> searching of Births (1841 to 1932), Deaths (1841 to 1958), Marriage indexes (1841 to 1932)

What dates are available for Birth, Death & Marriage indexes?

Births Deaths & Marriage indexes are publicly available for the following periods:

STATE	BIRTH	DEATH	MARRIAGE
Australian Capital Territory	Not available	1930-1973	Not available
New South Wales	1788-1918	1788-1978	1788-1958
Northern Territory	1870-1918	1870-2004	1870-1913
Queensland	1829-1919	1829-1964	1829-1939
South Australia	1842-1922	1842-1970	1842-1937
Tasmania	1803-1930	1803-1930	1803-1930
Victoria	1836-1920	1836-1985	1836-1942
Western Australia	1841-1917	1841-1980	1841-1965
New Zealand	1840-1950	1848-1950	1836-1956
(Maori Births, Deaths & Marriages)	1911-1961	1911-1961	1911-1961

The AIATSIS Family History Unit holds copies of all of these indexes, on CD, microform and/or print versions.

How to obtain Birth, Death and Marriage certificates

- Each State and Territory in Australia has a Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages who are responsible for the recording of these vital events, see the relevant state Fact Sheet for their contact details (Fact Sheets 14-23).
- You can apply for your own Birth or Marriage certificates but to access the certificates of your parents you may need their permission if they are still alive.
- You can apply for your own Grandparents and Great-Grandparents certificates, but may need to identify yourself as their descendant.
- Certificates vary in price according to the State or Territory concerned.
- If your family is mentioned in the NSW or SA indexes, you may prefer to obtain the certificate from a transcription agency (which will be cheaper and usually quicker). Transcriptions provide the same information as laid out on a certificate but they can not be used for legal purposes. Four transcription agencies are:

Joy Murrin Family History Services

Address: PO Box 278, Oatley NSW 2223
Ph: 02 9585 1187
Fax: 02 9585 1486
E-mail: joy@joymurrin.com.au or
allan@joymurrin.com.au
Web: www.joymurrin.com.au

Turtle Consolidated Services


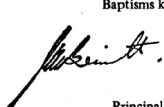

Address: PO Box 144, Kurrajong, NSW 2758
Ph: 02 4573 1559
Fax: 02 4573 0536
Email: lturtle@iprimus.com.au
Web: <http://home.iprimus.com.au/lturtle/>

Marbract Services (NSW & Victoria)

Address: PO Box 38, Menai Central, NSW, 2234
Ph: 02 9543 8156
Fax: 02 9541 1246
E-mail: marilyn@marbract.com.au
Web: www.transcriptions.com.au

Adelaide Proformat

Address: 7 East Terrace, South Plympton, SA, 5038
Ph: 08 8374 2049
E-mail: proformat@jaunay.com
Web: <http://www.jaunay.com/lookups.html>

 NEW SOUTH WALES Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act, 1973 BAPTISMS	
Number	1069 Vol. 24
CHILD	
Christian name	Sarah
When born	23rd December, 1839
Date of ceremony	21st February, 1840
Where ceremony performed	Parish of Mulgoa, County of Cumberland
Where registered	-
PARENTS	
Father	James Knight
Mother	Diana Knight
Abode	An Unbaptized Aboriginal Mulgoa
Quality or profession	Labourer
Sponsors	-
By whom the ceremony was performed	Thos. C. Makinson
I, Vernon Mark Bennett, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of particulars recorded in a register of Church of England Baptisms kept by me	
Issued at Sydney, on 7th April, 1988.	  Principal Registrar

Example of a baptism certificate
- Courtesy NSW Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages