

# Australian parish records

## Info Guide 3.3

### What is the role of parish records in family history research?

Before civil registration commenced, church records of baptisms, marriages and burials are the main means of tracking the major life events. These records can also supplement or substitute for missing civil records.

### What parish records are available for the different States and various denominations?

Below is a selective list of the records held by State Library of Queensland. New records are increasingly available. Check our **One Search** online catalogue for additional titles <http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au>

#### New South Wales

NSW included Port Phillip until 1851 and Moreton Bay until 1859.

#### The first NSW Acts to regularize recording of births, deaths and marriages

1825	Church of England
1834	Roman Catholic Church (Church of Rome )
1834	Presbyterian Church (Church of Scotland)
1839	Wesleyan Methodist Church
1840	Congregational or Independent and Baptist denominations

Church records were made before these years including during the period of the First Fleet but they were not always retained.

Church records are available on microfilm for the period until 1856. They are indexed in the *NSW Pioneer Index 1788-1888* on fiche, CD-ROM and online at <http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/familyHistory/searchHistoricalRecords.htm>.

Information Leaflet No 35 from State Records (formerly State Archives) of NSW (MFA 929.3944 1984) provides further information on the historical background of these records and how to work from the indexes to the original church records, including the microfilm numbers. Ask for it at Desk in the Micrographics area on Level 3.

Some records from before 1856, usually after registry volume 123, are not available because they are under the control of the Registry. Some records after 1856 might be available on film. There are notes in the handbook advising on dealing with inconsistencies in the filming of the records.

*Mutch card indexes* [microfilm] (MFL 929.3944 1974) on AO/SR reels 2125-2129 are supposed to cover most parish record references 1787-1828. Check the *Microform Quick Look for Family History* held at the Desk in the Micrographics area for further information.

#### Anglican

The Anglican Church of Australia. Diocese of Newcastle. *Parish registers 1826-1986* [microfilm] (MFL 929.39442 1986) are available as a separate run. The *Microform Quick Look for Family History* held at the Desk provides a guide as to which records are held, for what area, and the specific time periods and events covered for that area.

*Parish register index Church of England Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn* [microfiche] (MFC 929.39447 1999) mostly covers the period 1850s to 1920.

#### Tasmania

*The Tasmanian pioneers index 1803-1899* [CD-ROM] (QCFS 929.3946 2003); and [microfiche] (MFCB 929.3946 1993) indexes birth, death and marriage records for the period. The original registers are located at the Archives Office of Tasmania and the State Library holds a microfilm copy of them. The index provides registration numbers and the handbook Registrar-General's Department *Pre-1900 births, deaths and marriages records* (MFA 929.3946 1985) gives the matching microfilm numbers and provides guidance in searching the film. The handbook is available at the Desk in the Micrographics area.

Civil registration commenced in Tasmania in 1838. The only records before this were church records. Some of these have been copied by the Registrar-General from before 1838 and after 1838 when civil records were missing.

The *Colonial Tasmanian family links* database, <http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au/menu.aspx?search=8>, links individuals with other members of their families living in Tasmania in the 19th Century. It has been developed by family historians associated with the National Heritage Foundation from the Archives Office of Tasmania records. It should be crosschecked with the *Pioneer index* for accuracy.

Another booklet, *Church Registers held in Archives Office of Tasmania* (PAM 929.1 1988) lists the registers held in denominational and then geographical order. Archives Office of Tasmania will do a search on request for records more than 35 years old.

## Queensland

### See NSW for the period until 1859

*The Queensland Family History Society Cemetery Series* [microfilm] (MFL 016.9293943) on microfilm contains a number of churchyard cemetery records from around Queensland. It is not however a comprehensive listing.

### Anglican

The Records & Archives Centre, Anglican Diocese of Brisbane, has produced an *Index to marriages Diocese of Brisbane, 1843-1910 with a guide to the index* [microfiche] (MFC 929.3099431 1999). Contact the Anglican records and Archives Centre for information on access to the records.

### Catholic

Genealogical Society of Queensland's index to Catholic parish records is on microfiche (MFC 929.3943 199-). Records are catalogued individually by the particular church name and suburb or town. In order to get a copy of the original records it is necessary to contact the Genealogical Society of Queensland in writing. Information is provided at a cost of \$5.50 per record.

*Nudgee Cemetery monumental inscriptions* [microfiche] (MFC 929.5099431 1991) by Ralph Beckingham and Margaret Verran includes an index. Nudgee cemetery is also available online, <http://www.nudgeecemetery.com.au/>.

### Jewish

The Brisbane Hebrew Congregation's *Register of births and marriages 1861-1946* [microfilm] (Film 0149) has some name entries in Hebrew.

### Lutheran

The John Oxley Library's (JOL) manuscripts collection holds limited Lutheran Church of Australia records for Pimpama, Alberton and Norwell (reference code OM77-29). It also includes some records for the St John's Lutheran Church, Ipswich (reference code OM78-12); St Peters Lutheran Church, Beenleigh parish (reference code OM77-62); and the United German and Scandinavian Lutheran Synod of Queensland (reference code OM74-14).

### Presbyterian

The Historical and Records Committee, Presbyterian Church of Queensland has:

- *An index compiled from all known baptismal registers (as at 30.04.2002) for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland 1845-1920* [microfiche] (MFC 929.3943 2002) and
- *An index of all known marriage registers with the addition of some taken from other sources (as at 30.04.2001) for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland 1849-1920* [microfiche] (MFC 929.3943 2001).

It is necessary to contact the Presbyterian Church Office for a copy of their original records. Information is provided at a cost of \$11 per request.

### Uniting

The JOL manuscripts collection holds Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Queensland records. The records include Minutes, Communion Rolls, Marriage and Baptismal Registers, Cradle Roll and Kirk Sessions. The conditions for access are as follows: Unrestricted access to records more than 20 years old; baptismal, marriage and burial registers are restricted in accordance with the Registrar General's Office, Queensland.

## Western Australia

### Anglican

Library and Information Service of WA has released *Records of births, deaths and marriages 1829-1861* [microfilm] (MFL 929.3941 1990), Reel 214. The film covers Anglican records only. Check the handbook, *Access to ancestors: guide to part 1: a research kit of resources in the State Archives of Western Australia* (MFA 929.3941 1990) (p26), held at the Desk in the Family History reading room, for further information.

*Birth and baptism records of the Parish of St. John's Anglican Church at Pinjarra; Death records at St. John's Church, Pinjarra* [microfiche] (MFC 929.39412 1991) have been copied by James Allen and transcribed by Arnold H. Williams.

*Records of baptisms administered in the church at the Kingsley Fairbridge Farm School near Pinjarra as part of the parish of Pinjarra* [microfiche] (MFC 929.39412 1990) was compiled by Arnold H. Williams.

### Catholic

*Birth & baptism records collected from the Catholic Church at Pinjarra* [microfiche] (MFC 929.39412 199-) has been copied by Arnold H. Williams.

### Uniting

Uniting Church of Australia, Synod of Western Australia produced a CD-ROM *Baptisms, September 1840-May 1999* (QCFS 929.3941 2002).

## Need further information?

**State Library of Queensland**, Queensland Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank, Reference Services.  
t. +61 7 3840 7810, w. [www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry)  
Visit [http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/pub/info\\_guides/collections/fh](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/pub/info_guides/collections/fh) to access all family history Info Guides.