

Births, Deaths and Marriages: Australia, NZ, England & Wales

Info Guide 3.2

Guidelines for birth, death and marriage research

Work back from yourself, from the known to the unknown. Start with your own full birth certificate. The information it provides will lead you to information on your parents and the means of identifying their certificates. From their certificates, you can find information on the earlier generation.

Major BDM Indexes available at State Library of Queensland

Place	Births	Deaths	Marriages	Integrated Indexes	Civil Registration
Qld	1829-1919	1829-1987	1839-1942	1829-1914	Mar 1856
NSW	1788-1918	1788-1987	1788-1967	1788-1945 (births to 1918)	Mar 1856
Vic	1836-1920	1836-1988	1836-1942	1836-1920	July 1853
Tas	1803-1919	1803-1933	1803-1930	1803-1930 (births to 1919)	December 1838
SA	1842-1928	1842-1972	1842-1937	None	July 1842
WA	*1829-1932	1829-1980	1829-1965	1841-1905	Sept 1841
NT	1870-1918	1870-1913	1870-1913	None	August 1870
ACT	-	1930-1986	1930-1941	-	-
NZ	1840-1990	1848-1990	1840-1990	None	1848 approx
England & Wales	1837-2001	1837-2000	1837-2001	None	July 1837

* For 1829-1840 consult "Access to Ancestors" MFPAM 929.3941 1990 C2, ask at family history desk.

Major BDM Indexes available online

Place	Births	Deaths	Marriages	Website
Qld	1829-1917	1829-1987	1829-1942	Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages historical index http://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research/
NSW	1788-1917	1788-1987	1788-1967	NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Historical Indexes http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/Pages/family-history/family-history.aspx *From yesterday's date 100, 30 & 50 years ago*
Vic	1836-1915	1836-1988	1836-1942	Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages - Historical Index Search http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/home/family+history/search+your+family+history/
Tas	1803-1933	1803-1933	1803-1899	LINC Tasmania Names index https://linctas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/
SA	1842-1928	1842-1972	1842-1937	Genealogy SA http://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html
WA	1841-1932	1841-1971	1841-1936	WA Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Historical Online Indexes http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/_apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx
ACT	-	1930-1986	1930-1941	ACT Births, Deaths and Marriages – Access Canberra https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/18 [Related resources < Public registers]
NZ	1840-1917	1848-1967	1840-1937	NZ Births, Deaths and Marriages Online Historical Records Search https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search/

NOTE:

- Check **New South Wales records** for **Victoria pre 1851** and **Queensland pre 1859**
- **NSW indexes** post 1945 and **Qld indexes** post 1964 are **on the web only**.
- Many of the birth, death and marriage indexes are also available on **CD-ROM** and increasingly only on CD-ROM. Consult the **catalogue** or **CD-ROM information booklet** for the latest details of our holdings
- Index and certificate information varies among the States. For details, ask at the Desk or consult Graham Jaunay's website <http://www.jaunay.com/bdm.html>
- Search ancestry.com (library ed.) or FindMyPast, both available onsite only, to find English and Welsh civil records to 2001. See also *Info Guide 3.5 : England and Wales: birth, death and marriage indexes*

Other useful indexes:

- The International Genealogical Index (IGI) compiled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is available on fiche and CD-ROM. It contains millions of baptismal and marriage entries from civil and church registers world-wide but mainly from Europe and the Americas. It is wide-ranging and an access point for many original records. However, it does not cover deaths at all, or the last 100 years of births and marriages (for privacy reasons). The Internet site may be found at <https://familysearch.org>. The current emphasis is on British and American sources. However a range of materials is available; there are good links and email facilities.
- The Library holds some parish registers for New South Wales (including Queensland), Tasmania and Western Australia, as well as some British indexes on microfilm and CD-ROM. Ask at the Desk or consult our CD-ROM list for the latest arrivals. Vital Records for North America, Western Europe and Scandinavia are valuable birth and marriage indexes. There are also some indexes for other Queensland registers.

Helpful hints

- Use primary source material such as birth, death and marriage certificates. The indexes alone are not enough. Certificates issued since the introduction of compulsory civil registration provide a lot of helpful information and clues for further research. This can include place of birth, parents' names, address, length of spent time in the colony, occupation, religion and details of other family members.
- Names were spelt variously. In a period of limited literacy people spelt their names many ways, and immigrants from non-English speaking backgrounds were at the mercy of the registration clerks' interpretations of their accents
- Ages could vary markedly. In a time when there were fewer personal written records, it was easier for people to be "flexible" about their age, based on what the immigration authorities required, what was deemed suitable for marriage purposes etc.
- Find as many records as possible in Australia before commencing a search overseas: it is easier and cheaper.
- Check what others are researching: Consult resources such as the "Genealogical Research Directory" (FAMHIS 929.1072), an international register of family historians. This source was last published in 2007 and is available for perusal in the State Library.
- Cross-check information as much as possible.
Consider the following:
 - Church records
 - monumental inscriptions and other cemetery records
 - undertakers' records
 - probate records
 - indexes to newspaper birth, death and marriage records.
- Maintain records of your sources.
 - Use a research log. This is useful for checking information and finding errors. Always record the details of records you have checked – you may need them again!
 - Samples of research logs may be purchased from family history societies, found in handbooks, or downloaded free from Internet sites such as the Ancestors site at www.byub.org/ancestors/charts/
- Prepare family group sheets and descendant charts to record relationships other than the direct line.
 - There are plenty of sources from the internet, societies, and in handbooks.
- Find out more about the lives of your family in their historical, geographical, social and occupational contexts.
 - Directories, newspapers, maps, gazetteers, electoral rolls, government and local records are valuable sources of information. Check the family history Info Guides for more details about our holdings of these resources.

Need further information?

State Library of Queensland, Queensland Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank, Level 3, Information Services. t. +61 7 3840 7810, w. <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/services/ask-us>
Visit <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history> to access all family history Info Guides.