

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 | 1829-1988 | 1839-1943 | 1829-1914 | Mar 1856 |
| NSW | 1788-1918 | 1788-1988 | 1788-1968 | 1788-1945 (births to 1918) | Mar 1856 |
| Vic | 1836-1920 | 1836-1988 | 1836-1950 | 1836-1920 | July 1853 |
| Tas | 1803-1933 | 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 | 1829-1918 | 1829-1988 | 1829-1943 | Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages historical index https://www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au/ |
| NSW | 1788-1918 | 1788-1988 | 1788-1968 | 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 | 1836-1917 | 1836-1988 | 1836-1950 | Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages - Historical Index Search https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/bdm/indexsearch.doj |
| Tas | 1803-1933 | 1803-1933 | 1803-1899 | LINC Tasmania Names index https://linc.tas.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 | - | 1930-1988 | 1930-1943 | ACT Births, Deaths and Marriages – Access Canberra https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/18 [Related resources < Public registers] |
| NZ | 1840-1918 | 1848-1968 | 1840-1938 | NZ Births, Deaths and Marriages Online Historical Records Search https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search/ |
| England & Wales | 1837-1917 | 1837-1957 | - | General Register Office https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp |

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 Brigham Young University (BYU) Family History Library at <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/print-forms-research-helps/>
- 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.