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

Guidelines for birth, death and marriage research

Start from yourself and work backwards. Your own full birth certificate will lead to information on your parents. From their certificates, you can find information on earlier generation.

Major BDM Indexes available at State Library of Queensland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Marriages</th>
<th>Integrated Indexes</th>
<th>Civil Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qld</td>
<td>1829-1919</td>
<td>1829-1989</td>
<td>1839-1944</td>
<td>1829-1914</td>
<td>Mar 1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tas</td>
<td>1803-1933</td>
<td>1803-1933</td>
<td>1803-1930</td>
<td>1803-1930 (births to 1919)</td>
<td>December 1838</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>1842-1928</td>
<td>1842-1972</td>
<td>1842-1937</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>July 1842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>1870-1918</td>
<td>1870-1913</td>
<td>1870-1913</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>August 1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1930-1986</td>
<td>1930-1941</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>NZ</td>
<td>1840-1990</td>
<td>1848-1990</td>
<td>1840-1990</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1848 approx</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Major BDM Indexes available online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
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<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Marriages</th>
<th>Website</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| England & Wales | 1837-1917 | 1837-1957 | - | General Register Office [https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.asp](https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/default.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 **online only**.
- Many of the birth, death and marriage indexes are available on CD-ROM and microfiche. Check One Search catalogue or CD-ROM information booklet for more information.
- Index and certificate information varies among the States. For details, ask at the family history desk or consult Graham Jaunay’s website [http://www.jaunay.com/bdm.html](http://www.jaunay.com/bdm.html)
- Search **Ancestry (Library Edition.)** or **Find My Past**, both available at State Library, to find English and Welsh civil records to 2001. See also **Into Guide : 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 microfiche, CD-ROM and online [https://familysearch.org](https://familysearch.org). It contains millions of baptismal and marriage entries from civil and church registers world-wide but mainly from Europe and the Americas. The website is free but you will need to create an account to view your search results.
- State Library holds some parish registers for New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia, as well as British, North America, Europe and Scandanavia indexes on microfilm, microfiche and CD-ROM. Ask at the family history desk on Level 3.

**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 information 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.
- **Be aware of different spelling of names**: A person might spell their name many ways for different reasons. Names were often misheard, so misspelt.
- **Ages**: It was easier for people to be ‘flexible’ about their age, based on the situation of the time, so it was not always accurate.
- **Find records in Australia**: Start here before searching overseas, it is easier and cheaper.
- **Check what others are researching**: Look at items such as the “Genealogical Research Directory” (FAMHIS 929.1072), an international register of family historians.
- **Cross-check information** through 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/](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. Find these on the internet, from 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 Research Guides for more details about these resources.