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HC Research Guide

First Nations Family History

Getting Started

We are happy to support all family history research and our Family History – How do I start? research guide is a good place for some general information. For resources and research support tailored to First Nations family history research, please see below.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

AIATSIS have a range of resources to assist you with your Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family history research. They can help you find information in the AIATSIS Collection and other collections in Australia.

AIATSIS Family History website: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history>

The AIATSIS family history website includes:

- Before you start: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/you-start>
- Research step-by-step: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/research-step-step>
- Family history sources: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/family-history-sources>
- Where to get help: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/family-history/where-get-help>

They also provide resources for download or printing including a Family History Kit (all family history info from the website in a single pdf), worksheets and checklists.

For **AIATSIS research support**, you can submit an online family history enquiry form:

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/form/fhu-enquiry>

Koorie Records Unit

The Koorie Records Unit supports accessing Aboriginal records within the Public Record Office Victoria collection. The Koorie Records Unit website includes:

- Getting started on Aboriginal family research: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/aboriginal-victorians-1830s-1970s/aboriginal-victorians-family>
- Finding Your Mob - Researching Aboriginal family history at the Victorian Archives Centre: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/finding-your-mob>
- Family tree chart: https://prov.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/FamilyHistoryChart_PROV.pdf
- A resource manual to the records of the Stolen Generations in Victoria: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/koorie-services/finding-your-story>
- Locating records about Victorian Aboriginal people: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/aboriginal-victorians-1830s-1970s>
- A tool to search selected Government records about Aboriginal people by name: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/aboriginal-victorians-1830s-1970s/koorie-index-names-1839-1946>
- Koorie Reference Service provide a range of services: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/koorie-services/koorie-reference-service>

For free and confidential **Public Record Office Victoria research support**, you can submit an online enquiry:

<https://prov.altarama.com/ref100.aspx?key=Koorie>

Koorie Family History Service

The main purpose of the Koorie Family History Service is to provide Koorie members of the Stolen Generations, their descendants and the Victorian Koorie Community with knowledge of their family tree, family history, culture and Community.

Website: <https://korieheritagetrust.com.au/visit-us/korie-family-history-service/>

Phone: (03) 8662 6329

Email: familyhistory@korieheritagetrust.com

Bringing Them Home name index

The National Archives of Australia has many files that contain information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They created the Bringing Them Home name index to help First Australians use these files to find information about themselves, their Country and their history.

Information about accessing the index is available online:

<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/first-australians/bringing-them-home-name-index>

Link Up Victoria

Link-Up Victoria helps the Stolen Generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were removed from their families, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people searching for family who were removed. Link-Up can help you to access records about separation from family including adoption files, records from children's homes or other institutions and offer support with obtaining birth, death, and marriage certificates. They also provide referrals to link you to other services.

Website: <https://linkupvictoria.org.au/>

Phone: 1800 687 662

Please see our Support Services Guide for a list of local support services.

Other resources

- **walata tyamateetj** is a guide to help locate records about Aboriginal people in Victoria produced by the various government agencies overseeing the administration of Aboriginal affairs in Victoria since 1838. A free pdf copy is available online: <https://prov.vic.gov.au/walata-tyamateetj-research-guide>
- **State Library of Victoria** - A guide to resources and tips about researching Aboriginal Australian family history: <https://guides.slv.vic.gov.au/aboriginalfamilyhistory>
- **National Library of Australia** – Family History for Beginners Learning Webinar: <https://www.nla.gov.au/stories/video/family-history-beginners-learning-webinar>
- **State Library of Queensland** - Who's Your Mob? video guides: <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/collections/family-history/whos-your-mob>

Contact Us

Wadawurrung Country, Level 3 of Geelong Library & Heritage Centre, 51 Little Malop Street, Geelong VIC 3220
Drop ins are welcome, we're open 10am – 4pm, Tuesday to Friday. You can also [book an appointment](#) online.

Website: <https://www.grlc.vic.gov.au/glhc/heritage-centre>

Email: heritagecentre@grlc.vic.gov.au

Phone: (03) 4201 0630

