

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH GUIDE



LINK-UP [NSW]

*Standing in the Present. Acknowledging
the Past and Looking Forward*

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GETTING STARTED

Below are some suggested steps to assist you with tracing your family history:

➔ **Use a family tree to record your information**

A good way to structure your research and record your findings is in a family tree.

The first person you should record on your family tree is yourself, you can then work outwards to your parents, then your grandparents and so forth.

You can find a family tree template on page 4 to help you get started.

➔ **Write down as much as you know about yourself and your family**

Collate any information you have from documents and family stories/oral history with regards to names, dates, places (including missions or institutions) etc.

You can record this information in your family tree and the notes section of this guide.

➔ **Research tools to assist with conducting your own research**

There are a number of research tools and search engines available online for you to access in order to get your Family History research started, a list of these tools can be found on pages 5-6.

Other helpful resources for family history information include church records, police records, station records, Tindale genealogies, cemetery records, military records, local newspapers and historical societies.

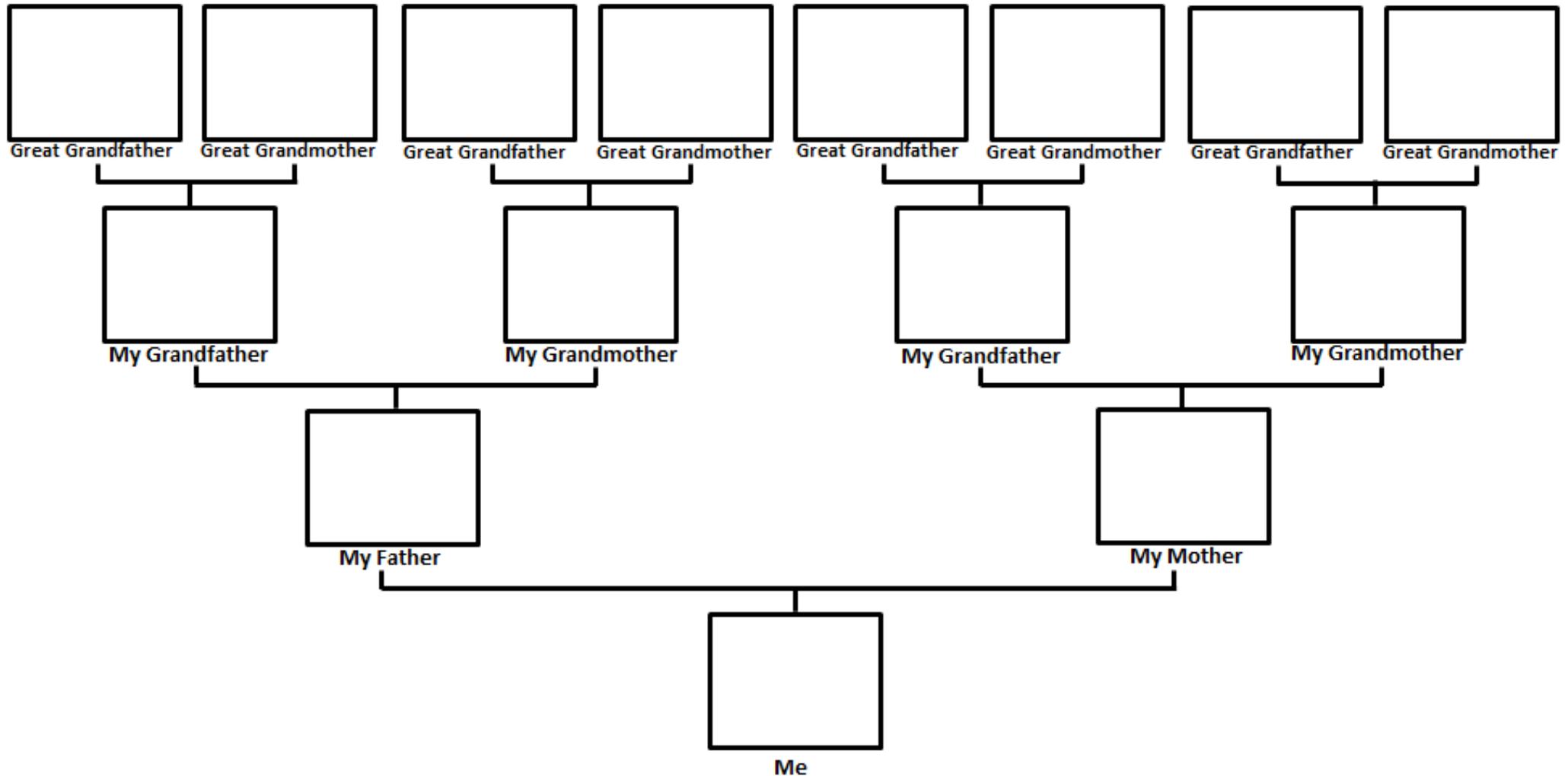
Helpful hints when conducting your own research:

- Be mindful of name and spelling variations and use these in your searches.
- Assess the credibility of any information you find. Remember that information is only as reliable as the source.
- Read Indigenous family history guidebooks (or online information) for further assistance.

➔ **Approach research organisation to assist you**

There are a number of organisations that you can approach to assist you with your research, a list of these organisations, what they do and their contact details can be found on pages 6-7. Research organisations may be able to assist with obtaining important information, documents and files (such as ward files) about yourself and/or your family.

FAMILY TREE TEMPLATE



RESEARCH TOOLS

The Ryerson Index

The Ryerson Index is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the Sydney Gazette of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries.

Web: <http://www.ryersonindex.org/>

White Pages

White pages has an online search engine that allows you to quickly and easily search for possible family members, of course though you need to have a name in order to use this search method.

Web: <http://www.whitepages.com.au>

AEC (Australian Electoral Commission)

You can attend an AEC office to use the public access terminals

Ancestry.com

Apart from Family trees, which are supplied by and put together by family members, you can also search Electoral Rolls and Census Records from, in some cases, as early as the early 1900's through to the 1980's, Shipping records, Land records, Military records, Convict records etc.

Web: www.ancestry.com

Myheritage.com

Like Ancestry.com, Myheritage.com provides family information by way of Family Trees, Electoral and Census Records etc. They are very similar sites.

Web: www.myheritage.com

State Library of NSW

Address: Macquarie Street,
 SYDNEY NSW 2000

Telephone: (02) 9273 1414

Fax: (02) 9273 1255

Email: infokoori@sl.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.sl.nsw.gov.au

Trove

Online resources for Books, magazines, Historic Newspapers, Maps, Music and Archives.

Web: www.trove.nla.gov.au

Australian Cemeteries Index

Death Searches and Burial information
Web: www.austcemindex.com

NSW GenWeb

A useful website that lists search engines and organisations that may be able to assist you further with your search

Web: www.webgenaustralia.com/new-south-wales.html

Births Deaths & Marriages

Search Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM) then follow the prompts to the Historical Index. On the Historical Index – Births range from 1788 – 1915 (100 years from this current year, up to yesterday's date). Deaths range from 1788 – 1985, (30 years from this current year, up to yesterday's date). Marriages range from 1788 – 1965 (50 years from this current year, up to yesterday's date).

If you have difficulty finding information, it can be worth your while to search family names - in case someone else has already done the research and put it online.

It can also be worth searching a name + 'Aboriginal', or even entering 'Aboriginal' in the name search on the BDM's Historical Index, will result in Aboriginal people registered within the nominated timeframe. (Local historical societies will often do a search for you for a small fee).

Birth, death and marriage records can provide you with important information about your family which can assist you in your searches. They may contain information about a person's full name, maiden name, date of birth, place of birth, parents' names, marriage details and/or occupation. They are often helpful in working out links between generations in your family.

Address: 35 Regent Street, CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008

Telephone: 1300 655 236

Fax: (02) 9699 5120

Email: bdm-webmail@agd.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/

RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

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

AIATSIS are an Aboriginal Family History Unit; they are the largest archival institution in Australia, for records on Aboriginal people.

AIATSIS can be accessed via their website below. Alternatively, you're more than welcome to visit the AIATSIS building to search their very extensive Indigenous Library. Their open hours are 11:00a.m. – 3:00p.m., Monday to Friday.

The link below takes you to the AIATSIS Family History kit.

See Fact sheets 8 & 10 for how to search AIATSIS records. Fact sheets 4 & 5 explain how/where to trace birth/death/marriage certificates. Fact sheet 14 offers suggestions on where to look for records in NSW.

Address: 51 Lawson Crescent Acton Peninsula, ACTON ACT 2601

Postal: G.P.O. Box 553, CANBERRA ACT 2601

Web: <http://aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family/family-history-kit>

AANSW (Aboriginal Affairs N.S.W.)

Aboriginal Affairs NSW (AANSW) have access to the records from the old Aborigines Protection Board/Aborigines Welfare Board.

Any member of the public is entitled to make an application to see if Aboriginal Affairs hold any records on their family members.

You can download an application to apply for these records. An application can take a couple of months to be processed.

Address: Level 13, Tower B, Centennial Plaza, 280 Elizabeth Street, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Telephone: (02) 9219 0700

Fax: (02) 9219 0790

Web: <http://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/about/family-records-unit/>

Welfare Board Index

Information from the Welfare Board Index can be obtained through the A.A.N.S.W.

State Records

They may hold information. You can personally go to State Records and search their records. They also hold Hospital records. You will have to apply to the Department of Health to obtain access to Hospital and Medical records, and present a letter to State Records from the Department of Health granting permission.

Postal: P.O. Box 516, KINGSWOOD NSW 2747

Telephone: (02) 9673 1788

Fax: (02) 9833 4518

Email: info@records.nsw.au

Web: www.records.nsw.gov.au

Births Deaths & Marriages – (Historical Index)

You can apply directly to BDM for certificates, such as your Birth Certificate. If you don't already have your birth certificate, obtaining it could supply you with your natural parent's names if that's who you are searching for. In some instances, a Birth Certificate may not have both natural parents listed but a Death Certificate may, so you may need to obtain both certificates.

Address: 35 Regent Street, CHIPPENDALE NSW 2008

Telephone: 1300 655 236

Fax: (02) 9699 5120

Email: bdm-webmail@agd.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/

NSW Aboriginal Lands Council (NSWALC)

Head Office Parramatta (or you could try the local Aboriginal Land Council in the area your family are from)

Address: 33 Argyle Street,
Parramatta NSW 2150

Telephone: (02) 9689 4444

Web: www.alc.org.au

Society of Australian Genealogists

Address: Richmond Villa: 120 Kent Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000

Telephone: (02)9247 3953

Fax: (02) 9241 4872

Email: info@sag.org.au

Web: www.sag.org.au

HOW TO CONTACT US

If you would like to know more about Link-Up NSW or have an enquiry about becoming a client please contact us via one of the methods below:

Free Call	1800 624 332
Phone	(02) 9421 4700
Fax	(02) 9673 4740
Email	linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au
Website	www.linkupnsw.org.au
Address	Link-Up NSW Aboriginal Corporation 4/2 Central Place, Ropes Crossing NSW 2760
Mailing Address	PO BOX 185 St Marys NSW 2760

Link-Up (NSW) Reunification program client eligibility criteria:

- Aboriginality
- Proof of removal, forcible separation (Fostered, Adopted or raised in institutions) within your family.



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