Fact Sheet: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family History Research (Queensland)

Link-Up (Qld) Aboriginal Corporation
STILL BRINGING THEM HOME

Quick tips for getting started

1. A good way to structure your research and record your basic findings is in a **family tree**. A free template is available at www.link-upqld.org.au/resources

2. **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) relating to yourself, your parents, your grandparents, and other relatives. You can record this information in your family tree.

3. **Trace your family backwards**, starting with yourself. The first person you record on your family tree should be you. You can then work outwards to your parents, then your grandparents and so forth.

4. **Birth, death and marriage records** are a good place to start. Birth, death and marriage records can provide you with important information about your family that 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. Please note that the births, deaths and marriages of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were not consistently registered, and you may not always find the records that you seek.

5. Access documents created about yourself or your family by the **Queensland Government.** Personal records are held by the Queensland Government in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Many of these records were created when the *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897* and subsequent 'protection acts' were in force, which enabled the government to control all aspects of peoples' lives. These records often hold valuable family history information and can be accessed through Community and Personal Histories, Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism. Personal records are also held at the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety in relation to people who were adopted or in State care (foster placements or institutions) in Queensland. You may seek copies of these records through Adoption and Permanent Care Services, Time in Care Information Access Service or Right to Information, Privacy, Records Management and Redress Branch.

6. **Access other resources** for information about your family. Other helpful resources for family history information include, but are not limited to, church records, cemetery records, school registers, electoral rolls, defence force records, police and court records, genealogical collections (such as Norman Tindale collection), newspapers and historical manuscripts. These can be accessed through archives, libraries and other record repositories. Some records are digitised and available online.

Scan the QR code to view these tips online and access additional resources.

Helpful hints

- 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. Validate information using more than one record, where possible.
- You may find the content of records upsetting or offensive. Items can contain historically and culturally sensitive language and content, including images and names of people who have passed away. Seek social and emotional wellbeing support as required.
- Some records may not exist due to being lost, destroyed, or not created. Other records may be restricted and you must meet eligibility criteria to access them.
- Read Indigenous family history guidebooks or online information for further assistance.
- Maintain a research log to keep track of what you have searched, where you searched and what information you found. It will help avoid repeating searches and keep your research organised.

Useful websites

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
aiatsis.gov.au/family-history

State Library Queensland
www.slq.qld.gov.au/collections/family-history/whos-your-mob

Queensland State Archives
www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/collection/atsi

National Archives of Australia
www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/first-australians

Trove www.trove.nla.gov.au

Find & Connect www.findandconnect.gov.au

Centre for Indigenous Family History Studies
www.cifhs.com

Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc
www.gsq.org.au

Ancestry www.ancestry.com.au

Queensland family history contacts

Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Department of Justice
Level 32, 180 Ann Street,
Brisbane QLD 4000
PO Box 15188, City East QLD 4002
P: 13 74 68 / 07 3022 6100
www.qld.gov.au/family

Community and Personal Histories Unit, Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism
GPO Box 806 Brisbane QLD 4002
P: 1800 650 230
E: cph@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au
www.qld.gov.au/firstnations/cultural-awareness-heritage-arts/family-personal-history

Time in Care Information Access Service / Right to Information, Privacy, Records Management and Redress, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety
Locked Bag 3405, Brisbane QLD 4001
P: 1800 809 078 / 07 3097 5605
E: rti@families.qld.gov.au
www.families.qld.gov.au/about-us/our-department/right-information

Adoption and Permanent Care Services, Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety
GPO Box 1789, Brisbane QLD 4001
P: 1800 647 983 / 07 3097 5100
E: ads@families.qld.gov.au
www.qld.gov.au/community/caring-child/adoption/post-adoption-support-services

Queensland State Archives
435 Compton Road, Runcorn QLD 4113
PO Box 1397, Sunnybank Hills QLD 4109
P: (07) 3037 6777
E: info@archives.qld.gov.au
www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives

State Library of Queensland
Stanley Place, South Brisbane QLD 4101
PO Box 3488, South Brisbane QLD 4101
P: (07) 3840 7666 (General enquiries)
(07) 3840 7880 (Heritage collections)
www.slq.qld.gov.au

Link-Up (Qld)
3-5 Reid Street, Woolloongabba QLD 4102
P: 1800 200 855
E: contact@link-upqld.org.au
www.link-upqld.org.au