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 generations.

Major BDM Indexes available at State Library of Queensland					
Place	**Births**	**Deaths**	**Marriages**	**Integrated Indexes**	**Civil Registration**
Qld	1829-1924	1829-1994	1839-1949	1829-1914	Mar 1856
NSW	1788-1924	1788-1994	1788-1974	1788-1945 (births to 1918)	Mar 1856
Vic	1836-1924	1836-1994	1836-1964	1836-1920	July 1853
Tas	1803-1933	1803-1939	1803-1930	1803-1930 (births to 1919)	December 1838
SA	1842-1928	1842-1972	1842-1937	None	July 1842
WA	*1829-1923	1829-1993	1829-1965	1841-1905	Sept 1841
NT	1870-1918	1870-1913	1870-1913	None	August 1870
ACT	-	1930-1989	1930-1944	-	-
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 level 3 desk.

Major BDM Indexes available online				
Place	**Births**	**Deaths**	**Marriages**	**Website**
Qld	1829-1924	1829-1994	1829-1949	Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages historical index https://www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au/
NSW	1788-1924	1788-1994	1788-1974	NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Historical Indexes *From yesterday's date 100, 30 & 50 years ago* https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/family-history-search
Vic	1836-1924	1836-1994	1836-1964	Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Historical Index *From today's date 100, 30 & 60 years ago* https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/research-and-family-history/search-your-family-history
Tas	1803-1933	1803-1939	1803-1899	Libraries Tasmania Names index https://librariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/?
SA	1842-1928	1842-1972	1842-1937	Genealogy SA https://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-database-search
WA	1841-1923	1841-1993	1841-1948	WA Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Historical Online Indexes https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-justice/online-index-search-tool
ACT	-	1930-1994	1930-1949	ACT Births, Deaths and Marriages – Access Canberra https://services.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/s/public-registers [Public registers < 'H' < Historic…]
NZ	1840-1924	1848-1974	1840-1944	NZ Births, Deaths and Marriages Online Historical Records Search https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/search/
England & Wales	1837-1934; 1984-2021	1837-1957; 1984-2021	-	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 **online only**.
- Many of the birth, death and marriage indexes are also 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 https://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 *Info 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://www.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, Western Europe and Scandinavia indexes on microfilm, microfiche and CD-ROM. Ask at the 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://fh.lib.byu.edu/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.

Need further information?

(07) 3840 7810 | https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/services/ask-librarian

State Library of Queensland   Queensland Government