



Sources of information and support

Adoption agencies

Some adoptions were arranged privately by a solicitor or an adoption agency. In these cases FACS usually only holds very limited information. Detailed social and medical information may be gained by applying directly to the agency that arranged the adoption. Many of these agencies also offer intermediary and support services to adopted people and birth parents. Adoption agencies that are still operating are:

Anglicare Adoption Services

(Formerly named Anglican Adoption Agency and Church of England Adoption Agency)

The Principal Officer

Anglicare Adoption Services

Phone: (02) 9890 6855 19A Gibbons Street

Fax: (02) 9890 3700 Telopea NSW 2117

Email: adoption@anglicare.org.au

Barnardos Adoption Agency

Barnardos Find-a-Family Adoption Program

Level 1, 2-4 Holden Street Phone: (02) 8596 5000

Ashfield NSW 2007

Catholic Care Adoption Services (CatholicCare)

(Formerly Catholic Adoption Agency)

The Principal Officer

Catholic Care Adoption Services

Level 1, 8 Jacobs Street PO Box 3127

Bankstown NSW 2200 Bankstown Central 2200

Phone: (02) 8700 3333 Fax: (02) 8700 9390

Email: adoptions@catholiccare.org



Salvation Army Post Adoption Service

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army Historical Records
Records Caseworker, Historical Records
PO Box A435
Sydney South NSW 1235
Email: historicalrecords@aue.salvationarmy.org

Private Adoptions / Solicitor Adoptions

Some adoptions were arranged privately when parties either knew each other, or were advised of each other through a third party. Solicitors, who finalised these adoptions, did not keep records for a long period of time. You will be informed of the name of the solicitor who arranged the adoption if this is known, when you receive your social and medical information.

If the solicitor who arranged the adoption is no longer practicing you can contact the Law Society Registry at the Law Society of NSW who may be able to give you further advice.

Telephone: (02) 9926 0156
Email: lawsociety@lawsociety.com.au

Other agencies that can provide further information

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of NSW has records of court proceedings relating to adoptions. It can be particularly useful to apply to the Supreme Court for these records if there is only limited information on the adoption file or if the adoption was arranged by a solicitor.

Adoption Clerk, Supreme Court of NSW
Phone: (02) 9230 8733
GPO Box 3, Sydney NSW 2001

Hospitals and homes for mothers and babies

You can contact the Medical Records Department of the hospital where you or your child were born. Unfortunately there are often instances where records have been destroyed or where hospitals no longer exist. If the hospital no longer exists their records may be held at the nearest large public hospital.



Royal North Shore Hospital (Records from 1963)

Health Information Services

Phone: (02) 9462 9777

Fax: (02) 9462 9055

Level 2, Building 29, Reserve Road, St Leonards NSW 2065

Royal Hospital for Women

Medical Records 1909 to current

Birth Registers 1903 to current

Admission Books 1950 to current

Social Work Records date from the late 1950s (only cards) with more comprehensive records in the late 1960s.

Medical Records Department

Barker Street

Locked Bag 2000

Randwick NSW 2031

Randwick NSW 2031

Phone: (02) 9382 6812

Fax: (02) 9382 3777

**King George V Hospital
(amalgamated into Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 2002)**

Medical / social records, some before 1950 – including Birth Registers from mid 1942. There are comprehensive records from the 1960s.

Medical Records Department

Phone: (02) 9515 6111

Fax: (02) 9515 6133

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Missenden Road, Camperdown NSW 2050

**Crown Street Women's Hospital
(Corner Crown & Albion Street, Surry Hills. Closed in 1983)**

Records exist from 1904-1983 with useful medical and social work records from the late 1950s. Crown Street medical and social work records are now held by the Medical Records Department at the Royal Hospital for Women.

Confinement Books 1904 to 1933

Medical Records 1943 to 1983

Admission Books 1916 to 1983



Birth Registers	1 July 1953 to 1983
Labour Ward Registers	1 November 1943 to 1983
Social Work Records	
Cards only from	1951 to 1959
Records from	1959 to 1983

**Queen Victoria Hospital for Mothers and Babies
(61 Albion Street, Annandale. Closed in 1978)**

There are no records between 1932 and 1953. Medical records are held by the Royal Hospital for Women and are available from September 1953 until 1978. Social work records are held by the Adoption Information Unit.

Medical Records	1957 to 1976
Confinement Books	1910 to July 1915 1925 to March 1931 September 1953 to February 1978

**South Sydney Women's Hospital
(Gilpin Street, Newtown/ Camperdown. Closed in 1976)**

No records before 1947 and limited records from 1947-1976. Records for South Sydney Hospital are held at the Royal Hospital for Women.

Confinement Books	1947 to 1950
Medical Records	1950 to 1959 1960 to 1976

**St Margaret's Public Hospital
(423 Bourke Road, Darlinghurst. Closed in June 1993)**

The following records can be accessed through the Royal Hospital for Women:

Birth Registers:	April 1948 to June 1993
Medical Records:	1960 to June 1993 (Some records from 1960 to 1965 were destroyed)



St Margaret's Private Hospital

Medical records for St. Margaret's Private hospital have been transferred to St Vincent's Private Hospital. All enquiries regarding St. Margaret's Private Hospital should be referred to the Archives at Sisters of St. Joseph at:

Congregational Administration Centre, Archivist, Sisters of St Joseph

PO Box 1508, North Sydney NSW 2059

9 Mount Street, North Sydney NSW 2060

Phone: (02) 8912 4876

Email: archives@sosj.org.au

Fax: (02) 8912 4849

Website: www.sosj.org.au

Mater Misericordiae Hospital, North Sydney

The maternity register (September 1941 to October 1952), medical records and index cards for mothers and babies (October 1952- November 1982) are now held by Royal North Shore Hospital.

Mater Hospital social work records

Some records are held by Centacare Adoption Services, 8 Jacobs Street, Bankstown NSW 2200.

Bethesda Hospital, Salvation Army, Marrickville.

The Salvation Army holds some records for this hospital.

St Anthony's Home, Croydon.

These records are held by Centacare Adoption Services. Staff at Centacare Adoption Services can organise a guided tour of the Home.

"Carramar", Turramurra.

Adoption records for "Carramar" are held by Anglicare Adoption Services.

Mercy Family Centre of Waitara (formerly Our Lady of Mercy Home)

These records are held by Centacare Adoption Services.



Waratah (Western Suburbs Hospital), Newcastle.

These records are held by the Clinical Information Department at John Hunter Hospital.

Adoption Support Agencies

Post Adoption Resource Centre

The Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC), managed by The Benevolent Society, is funded by FACS to specifically offer services to people affected by the Adoption Act 2000. PARC provides statewide services that include:

- face to face counselling
- telephone counselling
- information meetings - information on searching, on other peoples' experiences of reunions
- entitlements under the *Adoption Act 2000*
- an intermediary/mediation service
- a network of volunteer clients who can provide informal support
- short term groups focusing on a variety of issues
- a resource centre and library, and
- a quarterly newsletter, 'Branching Out'.

Fees are charged on a sliding scale for PARC's services, although no person will be denied services due to their inability to pay.

The Post Adoption Resource Centre

Level 5, 7-11 The Avenue

Locked Bag 6002

Hurstville NSW 2220

Hurstville NSW 1481

Phone: (02) 9504 6788 or 1300 659 814 (Regional NSW)

Fax: (02) 9570 2699

Email: parc@benevolent.org.au

Website: www.benevolent.org.au



Origins Inc.

Origins is a self-help organisation supporting people separated by adoption.

Origins Inc.

Unit 2, 113-115 The Crescent

PO Box W18

Fairfield NSW 2165

Fairfield West NSW 2165

Phone: (02) 9725 7723

Email: lilya@originsnsw.com

Website: originsnsw.com

Forced Adoption History Project

The Forced Adoptions History website developed by the National Archives of Australia was launched by the Director – General of National Archives. The Forced Adoptions website includes:

- the effects of forced adoptions
- a history timeline that highlights legislative changes, the role of advocacy organisations and significant dates
- information about accessing records and
- how to contact support organisations.

You can explore the website at: <http://forcedadoptions.naa.gov.au>.

Search and Support Agencies

The Salvation Army Special Search Service

The Salvation Army Special Search Service works nationally and internationally to reunite families who were separated by government intervention in NSW (for example, through adoption, being in the care of the Minister, foster care or being placed in a children's home in NSW). The Special Search Service is funded by the NSW Government to assist people over 18 years of age who wish to trace family members. To be eligible a person must have exhausted all reasonable avenues of a standard search.

The Salvation Army Special Search Service

Phone: (02) 9211 6491

1300 667 366

PO Box A435, Sydney South NSW 1235

Email: SpecialSearchServiceNSW@aue.salvationarmy.org

Website: www.salvos.org.au/SpecialSearch



International Social Service Australia

(ISS) NSW Service

ISS Australia (NSW Office) provides assistance in post adoption matters, including tracing, mediation and contact, where at least one other country is involved. Each enquiry is assessed individually by a social worker to determine what assistance ISS can provide.

(ISS) Australia (NSW Office)

Phone: (02) 9267 0300

Fax: (02) 9267 3886

Email: issnsw@iss.org.au

Level 1, 518 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation

Link-Up works with Aboriginal adults who were separated from their families as children and raised by non-Aboriginal people in institutions or private homes. Link-Up also works with the birth families of people who have been separated.

The organisation facilitates reunions between separated family members and provides on-going support and help both in the short and long term.

Link-Up offers counselling to non-Aboriginal adoptive parents who have had children of Aboriginal background placed with them.

Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation

5 Wallis Street

P.O. Box 93

Lawson NSW 2783

Lawson NSW 2783

Phone: (02) 4759 1911 or 1800 624 332

Fax: (02) 4759 2607

Email: linkup@nsw.link-up.org.au

Website: www.linkupnsw.org.au

Australian Genealogical Education Centre (Incorporating Kiama Family History Centre)

The centre is open to the public and holds a large collection of Australian and overseas records and can provide advice on researching family history.

Australian Genealogical Education Centre

Phone: 02 4233 1122

Email: fhc@tpgi.com.au

7 Railway Parade (PO Box 75) Kiama NSW 2533