

## Reunion and information register

for adoptions in NSW

July 2010

### What is the Reunion and information register?

The Adopted persons contact register was first established in 1976. Its name was changed to the Reunion and information register in 1990. Currently the Reunion and information register is managed by the Adoption Information Unit of the Community Services. The purpose of this register is to assist people who have been separated by an adoption to make contact with one another or exchange messages. There are approximately 30,000 people entered on the register.

### Who can apply to have their name placed on the Reunion and information register?

Adoptees over 18 years, birth parents and adoptive parents are eligible to have their names recorded on the register and/or to leave messages for persons from whom they have been separated.

Adoptees over the age of 12 years and under the age of 18 years may place their name on the register with their adoptive parents' consent.

Other people who have an interest in an adoptee; such as a brother or sister (who may or may not have been adopted), a ward or care leaver who has a sibling who was adopted, another relative or significant person to an adoptee or a birth parent can apply to have their names placed on the register. Further information may be requested from you depending on the situation.

### How does the Reunion and information register work?

The Reunion and information register is a passive means of making contact. Community Services does not search for the person you may be looking for - the person must indicate their willingness to make contact by also joining the register.

If there is a matching registration you will be contacted by a caseworker and assisted to get in touch with the other person who is on the register and seeking contact with you.

If you decide to leave a message, this will be held by Community Services and passed on should the other person register. Messages may be sealed or unsealed. Community Services will not open any sealed message except at your request or at the request of the other party.

A meeting may not be possible in every case. The feelings and wishes of each person directly involved are respected and all enquiries are treated in confidence.

It is your responsibility to keep your registration up to date by advising in writing, any change of address or contact details. If Community Services is unable to locate one person, as they have not advised a change of address, that person's last known address may be released to the other person on the register. This will depend on the other person's entitlement to receive information under the Act.

### How do I apply to register my name on the Reunion and information register?

If you are only applying to join the Reunion and information register and have not already provided identification you will need to send two forms of certified identification, at least one form of identification to include your signature. For example, a current photo driver's licence, Medicare card, passport, birth certificate, health care card or pension card. Evidence of any change of name (eg. by marriage) must also be provided.

All identification papers must be certified. That is, the original document must be sighted by the certifier (e.g. Justice of the Peace, solicitor, Clerk of the Court, Police officer, bank manager, school principal) and on the copied document note, in words to the effect, that the document is a true copy of the original document sighted by the certifier.

### **How much does it cost to register on the Reunion and information register?**

- \$65 Registration of your name on the Reunion and information register
- \$0 If your registration is made in association with obtaining a supply authority (or original or amended birth certificate after 1991) as long as you have paid the full package fee.
- \$35 For former wards or care leavers and people who are in receipt of a Commonwealth pension or Health Care Card. (You need to send in a certified copy of your Pension or Health Care Card.)

### **Contact details:**

Adoption Information Unit  
Locked Bag 4028  
Ashfield NSW 2131  
Phone: 1300 799 023 (local call within Australia)



## Reunion and information register application

*Adoption Act 2000*

### YOUR DETAILS

Your present surname	Title (Mr Mrs Ms):		
Your present first names			
Your date of birth	/ /		
Home address			
	Postcode		
Postal address			
	Postcode		
E-mail address			
Telephone number	Business:	Home:	Mob:
Are you:	<input type="checkbox"/> an Adoptee <input type="checkbox"/> Birth parent <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____		
	Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Not Indigenous <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>		

### ADOPTION DETAILS (Please enter all the information you know)

<b>Date of birth of adoptee</b>	/ /	Place of birth (hospital if known)
Was adoptee ever a State ward or in out-of-home care?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	
Birth mother's name at time of adoptee's birth	Surname(s): First name(s):	
Other names used by birth mother (ie maiden name, alias)	Surname(s): First name(s):	
Birth father's name at time of adoptee's birth	Surname(s): First name(s):	
Adoptee's name before adoption		
Adoptee's name after adoption		
Adoptive parents' names	Surname(s): Mother's first name(s): Father's first name(s):	
Adoptive parents' address at time of adoption		

**REUNION & INFORMATION REGISTER (RIR)**

<p>Do you wish to enter your name on the Reunion and information register? If yes, please indicate your wishes:</p>	<p>A reunion with a person <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Leaving 'information' ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If yes, attach the information to this form)</p>
<p>If you are hoping for a reunion, please list the relevant people with whom you are <b>already in contact</b>:</p> <p>e.g. if you are adopted, list any birth relatives that you have already found</p>	

**DECLARATION:**  
(Please tick boxes)

- I, the person named in Section 1, declare that the particulars shown above are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand it is my responsibility to contact AIU to ensure my correspondence address is current at all times.
- Once my name is registered, I am aware that my last known name and address may be passed on to the person who is seeking to be reunited with me if they are entitled to this information under the Adoption Act 2000.
- I am aware that it is an offence to leave a message intended to intimidate, harass or threaten a person.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date / /

**IMPORTANT: IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO OBTAIN THE PERMISSION OF ANOTHER PERSON BEFORE YOU LODGE THIS FORM**

If you are an adopted person and you are under 18 years of age you require the consent of your adoptive parents.

**CONSENT:**

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby  
consent to \_\_\_\_\_ placing his/her name on the Reunion and information register

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ / / Signed \_\_\_\_\_ / /

**YOUR ADOPTION INFORMATION UNIT REFERENCE NUMBER (IF KNOWN) :**

Return form to:

Adoption Information Unit  
Locked Bag 4028  
Ashfield NSW 2131