



## Services to Aboriginal People

### Access to records for Aboriginal people

State Records provides services to Aboriginal people in the spirit of Reconciliation and in recognition of their rights to access personal information held in government records.

The records of government hold much of the written history and experience of Aboriginal people because both State and Commonwealth governments were responsible for the day-to-day administration of the affairs of Aboriginal people.

These records are important in the research of:

- Native Title
- Aboriginal Heritage
- Reconciliation, and
- Family and Community History.

The records can help members of the Stolen Generations identify and become reunified with members of their families they were separated from as a result of past government policies.

### About State Records

State Records is the official custodian for records created by state and local government agencies within South Australia. Under the *State Records Act, 1997* it is our responsibility to ensure the preservation of the records of government in South Australia and to provide access to these records.

### About the records in our custody

Many records created by government, and now held by State Records, are invaluable sources of information for Aboriginal people. The correspondence files of the former Aborigines Office, Aborigines Department, the Aborigines Protection Board, Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, and the records of Families SA and its predecessors, are especially valuable to Aboriginal people seeking information about their family history.

While State Records provides storage and access facilities, the overall responsibility for the records remains with the government agency that originally created the records, or its successor agency. Such agencies determine whether the records should be openly available or if there is a need for any restrictions.

Files or correspondence that are unrestricted may be accessed readily through State Records' Research Centres. Files that are restricted or closed to public access can only be accessed after approval has been given by the agency responsible for the record. State Records can advise which agency is responsible for certain records.

## Services we provide to Aboriginal people

The Aboriginal Access Team helps Aboriginal customers access the records in our collection. Aboriginal people can contact the team directly or, if they believe they are from the Stolen Generations, they may wish to approach State Records through SA Link-Up.

Members of the Aboriginal Access Team will undertake research on behalf of Aboriginal people and provide them with the details of any records discovered. If the records are restricted, they will also provide advice on the process for obtaining permission to view them.

State Records can also provide copies of relevant records. We will waive any copying fees for Aboriginal people separated from family members in the past and seeking information about themselves or their family for re-unification purposes.

Information provided when consulting a member of the State Records' Aboriginal Access Team will be treated as confidential.

## Publications for sale or view at our Research Centres

- ***A Little Flour and A Few Blankets***  
An Administrative History of Aboriginal Affairs in South Australia, 1834-2000. The history includes a guide to records in the custody of State Records relating to Aboriginal people.
- ***Aboriginal Resource Kit***  
An introduction to primary sources held by State Records relating to Aboriginal people. It includes an example of records created in the course of the South Australian government's administration of Aboriginal Affairs.
- ***Ancestors in Archives***  
An easy-to-use reference tool for historians – particularly family historians. Over 750 different series of records are described in a straightforward manner to guide users through State Records large and varied collection.
- ***Distant Voices***  
A promotional and educational video that shows how the records held by State Records can help Aboriginal people research Native Title, Aboriginal Heritage, Reconciliation, Family and Community History.
- ***Guide to Records Relating to Aboriginal People***  
A five-volume guide to records in the custody of State Records relating to Aboriginal people.

## Contact Us

For help with your research please contact the Aboriginal Access Team by writing to:

The Aboriginal Access Team  
State Records of South Australia  
GPO Box 2343 Adelaide SA 5001

by phoning or emailing:

Senior Aboriginal Access Officer  
Telephone: (08) 8343 6820  
Email: [srsaAboriginalServices@sa.gov.au](mailto:srsaAboriginalServices@sa.gov.au)

Aboriginal Access Research Officer  
Telephone: (08) 8204 8798  
Email: [srsaAboriginalServices@sa.gov.au](mailto:srsaAboriginalServices@sa.gov.au)

or through SA Link-Up (Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia):

Telephone: (08) 8223 5217

Alternatively, you can visit a State Records' Research Centre:

### **City**

26-28 Leigh Street, Adelaide SA 5000

### **Gepps Cross**

115 Cavan Road, Gepps Cross SA 5094

For further information about State Records of South Australia and the services we provide, including our opening hours, visit our website [www.archives.sa.gov.au](http://www.archives.sa.gov.au)

State Records is part of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the principal government agency in South Australia. For more information about the Department visit [www.premcab.sa.gov.au](http://www.premcab.sa.gov.au)