

Records of the Department of Child Protection and Family Support, and predecessors

1894 –

To access these records:

For access to records controlled by the Department of Communities and its predecessors, please contact the Department of Communities Freedom of Information Unit:

Postal Address: Freedom of Information, Department of Communities, Locked Bag 5000, Fremantle WA 6959

Phone: (08) 6414 3344

Email: foi@communities.wa.gov.au

Website : <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/department-of-communities-freedom-of-information-foi>

Records Location

These records are held by [Child Protection and Family Support, State of Western Australia \(July 2017 - current\)](#)

Details

Records of the Department of Child Protection and Family Support, and predecessors is a collection dating back to 1894. It is held by Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS). The collection includes records from the Government Receiving Depot, the State Children's Department, the Child Welfare Department and more recent departments which have been known at different times as the Department for Child Protection, Community Development, Community Welfare, Community Services, and Family and Children's Services. The records relate to children who were placed in all types of out of home 'care' in Western Australia. Some of the records held by the CPFS were originally created by another government department or private agency.

Access Conditions

Access to these records is restricted and confidentiality is protected by the Department. If you believe the Department may hold records about you, or about a family member, you are encouraged to apply. Access is governed by the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* and the Department has a form on their website which you must use to apply for records.

Records

The types of records held by the Department include admission book registers, individual files, adoption placements and Children's Court registers.

In the past, many people were separated from their families due to policies and practices which reflected the social attitudes of those times. As a result many people do not know their relatives, their own background, childhood or family history. Files are limited in the amount and type of information they hold. This is because the information which was recorded depended on the extent of contact with the person or the family. Sometimes records are incomplete, have pages missing or the writing has deteriorated and is unreadable, and some files have been destroyed. The Department is making every effort to preserve the remaining records. Department for Child Protection, 2011.

More info

Organisations in these records

Related Organisations

- [Superintendent of Poor Relief and Inspector of Charitable Institutions \(1874 - 1908\)](#)
- [Public Charities and State Children Department, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1908 - 1 January 1917\)](#)
- [State Children Department, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1917 - 22 December 1927\)](#)
- [Child Welfare Department, State of Western Australia \(22 December 1927 - 15 June 1972\)](#)
- [Department for Community Welfare, State of Western Australia \(1972 - 1985\)](#)
- [Department for Community Services, State of Western Australia \(1 January 1985 - 1 October 1992\)](#)
- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 October 1992 - 1 July 1995\)](#)
- [Adoption Services, Child Protection and Family Support \(1994? - current\)](#)
- [Department for Family and Children's Services, State of Western Australia \(1 July 1995 - 1 July 2001\)](#)
- [Department for Community Development, State of Western Australia \(1 July 2001 - 30 June 2007\)](#)

Includes

- [Admission Registers of the Government Receiving Home \[Walcott Street, Mt Lawley\] \(1894 - 1988\)](#)
- [Children's Court Register \(1908 - 1973\)](#)
- [Former Child Migrants Referral Index \(1913 - 1968\)](#)
- [Client Files, Child Protection and Family Support \[and its predecessors\] \(1921 - current\)](#)
- [Family Information Research System \(1921 - current\)](#)
- [Richard S. Haynes & Co Adoption Files \[Mr Bryant's client files\] \(1946 - 1980\)](#)
- [Former Child Migrants Blue Index Cards \(1947 - 1968\)](#)
- [Ngala Adoption Records \(1958 - 1980\)](#)
- [Bridgewater Admissions Register \(1969 - 1983\)](#)
- [Communicare Records \(1977? - c. 1991\)](#)

Resources

- [Searching for your family history](#), Department of Communities website, 2021

You can view this page online by visiting <https://findconnect.efront.digital/entity/western-australian-government-records-relating-to-child-welfare-and-protection/>