

## **BELONGING: DIANNE JOHNSTONE'S STORY**

### ADOPTION INFORMATION HANDOUT

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The Department of Family and Community Services

<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/adoption>

For information about:

- the role of the Dept of Communities and Justice:
- Adoption for birth parents
- Adopting a child
- Finding information on past adoptions
- Integrated Birth Certificates

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NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/births/certificates-and-searches-for-an-adoption>

For information about:

- birth, marriage and death searches,
- pre-adoption birth certificates
- Integrated Birth Certificates

*If you were born in another state, contact the registry in that state.*

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Find and Connect

<https://www.findandconnect.gov.au> - The Find & Connect website brings together historical resources relating to institutional 'care' in Australia, including clear and detailed information on the 'Adoption Information Act.'

*Note: this site does not hold any personal records.*

## Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC)

<https://www.benevolent.org.au/services-and-programs/post-adoption-services>

PARC gives counselling and support to adoptive and birth parents, and adopted children.

These two YouTube videos give different perspectives on adoption and outcomes.

*Late Discovery Adoption:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9d-q0kkK4>

*The lifelong issues of adoption 30 years of PARC:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVXjuNc\\_ZQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVXjuNc_ZQ)

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## How to Acquire Adoption Papers

1. Contact Adoption Services branch at NSW Dept of Community Services, Parramatta.

*I took my Birth Certificate with adoptive parents' names down to Parramatta.*

2. Apply for a Supply Authority under the Adoption Information Act 1990;

i. The Supply Authority will contain the particulars of the child prior to Adoption including the Mother's name. Note: It may be subject to a Contact Veto or Advance Notice Registration. You may be contacted to discuss this matter if these conditions are in place.

ii. The Supply Authority is posted out with a copy of Memorandum of Adoption, which contains particulars of the adopted child and the adopting parents.

3. Fill in a Reunion and Information Register Application.

4. DOCS provides a Blue Search Guide and information on the Benevolent Society.

5. Apply to BDM for a search for mother.

*BDM sent me a Result of Search showing my mother's marriage and married name.*

6. Look up the names on the current electoral rolls.

*I looked up the ones stored at Penrith.*

*In my particular case, the Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC) in Bondi acted as an Intermediary. They requested I write a letter to my mother and include two photos. Four days after seeing the Society I received a phone call from her. It was a very happy reunion.*

*Belonging: Dianne Johnstone's Story - Workshop: JUNE 19th 2022 at Waverley Library*