

CATHOLICCARE SYDNEY PAST ADOPTION SERVICES



CatholicCare Sydney's Past Adoption Services provides information and support for adoptees, birth parents, birth family members and adoptive parents who wish to access information.

History

The Catholic Adoption Agency was set up in 1967 in response to the Adoption of Children Act 1965. In the early 1990s there was a legal shift in adoption practice in NSW from Secrecy to Openness. 1990 saw the Adoption Information Act, first enabling people separated by adoption to formally access information about one another. Coinciding with this change to legislation and practice, in 1993 Centacare took over the auspice of the Catholic Adoption Agency from St Vincent de Paul and the Agency changed its name to Centacare Adoption Services, now known as CatholicCare Adoption Services (CAS).

This change occurred as Centacare now known as CatholicCare, was regarded to be the Church's agency with specialist expertise in providing services to children in Out of Home Care and to their families.

How to Access Information

The Adoption records held at CAS date back to 1967.

The Adoption Act 2000 and the Adoption Regulations 2003 are the current legislation under which entitlements to information may be accessed by people separated through adoption in NSW.

If you are an adoptee, birthparent, birth family member, or adoptive parent seeking to access information and wish to know about your entitlements and /or how you may begin the process of applying for information, please contact CAS on Tel: (02) 8709 9333 and ask to speak to the Administration Worker. If your enquiry is complex and/ or you wish to speak with a Caseworker at the time of your call, you are welcome to request this and your call will be transferred. You may also email your enquiry to adoptions@catholiccare.org

If you are uncertain if your adoption was facilitated through the Catholic Adoption Agency or CatholicCare Adoption Services, you may also contact the Adoption Information Unit at Family and Community Services and they will be able to guide you.

The first step to accessing Social and Medical Information is to apply for your Supply Authority through the Adoption Information Unit of Family and Community Services.

Adoption Information Unit

Phone: (02) 97163000 (All states), 1300 799 023 (within NSW and ACT), +6129716 3005 (from overseas)

Email: adoption.information@facs.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.community.nsw.gov.au/adoption

If you already have your Supply Authority or its equivalent, issued to you under the Adoption Information Act 1990 – (Your Original Birth Certificate, if you are an adopted person or Amended Birth Certificate of the adopted person, if you are a Birth Parent) and know your adoption was facilitated through CAS, please contact us directly.

CAS also offers people accessing Social and Medical Information with assistance in relation to taking the next step of searching, outreaching and mediating contact with family from whom you may have been separated from as a result of adoption. Your caseworker is also able to provide you with counselling and support through the process of accessing your information and in mediating a reunion, if you wish to proceed with this step. You may discuss these options with your Caseworker at the appropriate time for you.

You may also access support in relation to Search, Mediation and Counselling by contacting the Post Adoption Resource Centre in NSW on (02) 9504 6788.

Services for People Living Outside NSW

If you live outside NSW, the following are similar support services able to assist you with search, mediation and counselling:

Vanish (VIC)

Toll Free: 1300 826 474
Phone: (03) 9328 8611
www.vanish.org.au

Jigsaw (QLD)

Phone: 07 3358 6666
<http://www.jigsaw.org.au/how-do-i-begin/queensland/>

Post Adoption Support (QLD)

Phone: 07 3170 4600
www.benevolent.org.au

Jigsaw (WA)

Phone: (08) 9384 0222
<http://www.jigsaw.org.au/how-do-i-begin/western-australia/>

In September 2012 the NSW government Apologised for past forced adoptions.

In March 2013, The Australian Federal Government Apologised to people impacted by past adoption practices.

More information:

More information about Past Adoption Services can be found by visiting catholiccare.org, calling **(02) 8700 3333** or emailing adoptions@catholiccare.org