



Helping you better understand your adoption or time in care.

Uniting manages and releases historic records created by the Presbyterian, Methodist and Uniting agencies who ran out of home care and adoption services.

Some people spent time as children in institutional homes, from when they were babies, through to when they were teenagers.

Some people lived in foster care, family group homes, permanent care or residential care, while others were placed with adoptive families.

Some people were parents of babies who were later adopted or placed in different forms of care.

These situations can have long-lasting effects on those people as they deal with memories, emotions, and perhaps a sense of displacement.

If this sounds like you, or someone you know, we want to help you.

Uniting's Heritage Service is a free service which exists to support people and their families.

We select and care for archived records, photographs and historical material going back to 1881 to support people and their families to piece together memories and better understand the past.

Contact the Heritage Service if:

- You, or someone you know, spent time in institutional homes – as a baby, child or teenager – in foster or residential care, or was affected by adoption
- You are curious to uncover what happened, confirm memories, or find answers about the past
- You would like to connect with people with similar experiences
- You want to find family or significant people from your past.

How do we begin?

We will welcome you. We will treat you with respect, regardless of your age, ethnicity, faith, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation. And we will be respectful and sensitive to your needs and wishes. We know requesting information can be hard.

Firstly, we will talk with you about your situation and what information you are looking for.

If it is about an adoption, we will explain the process and the specific requirements about adoption information. We will ask you to provide us your contact details and a copy of your identifying documentation as we need these to search for your information.

Our approach

Our trained staff will search for information and records about you or your family member.

This may take time as information and records sit with many agencies and locations across Victoria. Rest assured we will leave no stone unturned until we are satisfied we can dig no further.

As we look for your information, we may need further consent from you so we can continue our search. We will keep a record of when we contact you and:

- What you asked for
- The work we do on your behalf
- Copies of the information and records we give you.

Giving you the information

When the search is complete, we will ask you to meet us – preferably in person – at a time and place that suits you to give you copies of the information and records we collected on your behalf. You are welcome to bring people with you as support.

We will take you through the records to help deepen your understanding of them, including explaining information in the records as needed.

Sometimes when people receive their information and records, or afterwards, issues or questions come up. We are here for you. To talk through those issues with you, and if need be, to connect you to support services that could help you.



Everyone is welcome

Uniting is the community services organisation of the Uniting Church, delivering services and programs across Victoria and Tasmania.

We work in solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's First Peoples and as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

We celebrate diversity and value the lived experience of people of every faith, ethnicity, age, disability, neurodivergence, culture, language, gender identity, sex, and sexual orientation.

We welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse and non-binary, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQA+) people at our services. We pledge to provide inclusive and non-discriminatory services.

The work we do is all about giving people the support they need to live happy and meaningful lives. We are committed to being people-focused and rights-based..

Your privacy

The personal information you share with us will only be recorded if it explains the actions we undertake on your behalf. When you provide us with this information, you are agreeing for us to look for the information and records you have requested.

Get in touch

Email christopher.wade@unitingvictas.org.au
Phone 0402 969 621

Hours

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Learn more

unitingvictas.org.au/heritage

