

CONFIRMING ABORIGINALITY

Background

Yerrabi Yurwang Child & Family Aboriginal Corporation (Yerrabi) acutely understands that Aboriginality is something extremely personal, but this significant cultural practice also has a vital element, one's Nation validation component as well.

One does not need a letter of confirmation to identify as an Aboriginal Person. However, one may be asked to provide a *Confirmation of Aboriginality* when engaging in or applying for specific services or programs specifically for Aboriginal People, such as:

- Grants (such as housing loans, research and study grants)
- University courses (with specific positions for Aboriginal students)
- Centrelink and housing assistance (specifically for Aboriginal People)
- Employment (Aboriginal identified positions) &
- School programs for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students.

Government Agencies and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations including Aboriginal Land Councils, Aboriginal Health Services, Aboriginal Housing Companies etc accept the *three working criteria* as *Confirmation of Aboriginality* which are as follows:

- **Being** of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- **Identifying as** an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Person
- **Being accepted** as such by their Community where they are from, and in which they live, and/or formerly lived.

All three points MUST apply. The way one looks or how they live are not requirements.

These *working criteria* are also highlighted in a number of Commonwealth and State legislations. The following NSW Legislations have been provided as an example:

- NSW [Aboriginal](#) Land Rights ACT 1983
- NSW [Aboriginal](#) Housing Act 1998 (NSW).

Why is it so involved? Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander specific services and programs are intended to address social, educational, health and wellbeing issues that Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders specifically face as the result of past removal policies, inadequate educational and employment opportunities and poorer health standards. Requesting proof of Aboriginal heritage from individuals helps to make sure that this intention is respectfully honoured.

Next Steps

After Yerrabi has completed the *Mulleun Family Finding Cultural Connection* process, if Aboriginality cannot be confirmed, but Yerrabi do find Aboriginal heritage exists, we would suggest that contact is made with an Aboriginal organisation where their family originates from. OR contact an Aboriginal organisation in the area where they currently live. These organisations may be able to assist identifying the individual's / Family heritage.

See Attachment A - Table 1 below provides guidance of where *Confirmation of Aboriginality* may be sought to culturally validate. It is not an exhaustive list. For further information, please contact our Senior Cultural Practitioner, Elder in Residence @ Yerrabi, Elaine Lomas on her mobile 0413 359 397.

Attachment A - Supporting Information, Table 1

Further information and advice can be provided by the Gadigal Centre staff if needed.

The table below lists some organisations which may be able to assist applicants seeking confirmation of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander status. These organisations may be able to assist in providing documents and information to support and validate the cultural ancestry and identity of individuals. The following list below is not an exhaustive list, they are examples only.

NATIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies (DVCISS Family Tracing Program) • National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (Aboriginal Health) • National Native Title Council (Land & Genealogies) • National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gugan Gulwan Aboriginal Corporation (Youth Service) • Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service (Aboriginal Health)
NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Aboriginal Land Council Members (Aboriginal Land Councils) • NSW Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council (Aboriginal Health Services) • NTSCORP (NSW & ACT – Land & Genealogies) • AbSec (Child Protection) • Link-Up NSW (Family History & Genealogies)
QLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (Child Protection) • QLD Aboriginal & Islander Health Council (Aboriginal Health Services)
NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMSANT (Aboriginal Health) • North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (Aboriginal Legal Services)
VIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACCA (Child Protection) • VACCHO (Aboriginal Health)
WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Aboriginal Legal Services) • Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (Aboriginal Health Services)
TAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (Aboriginal Health and Child Protection) • Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service (Aboriginal Legal Services)
SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (Legal and Child Welfare) • Aboriginal Health Council of SA (Health) • Nunkuwarrin Yunti of SA (Health)
ACNC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Charities & Not-for-Profits Commission (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Not-for-Profits Entities)

This list is not exhaustive, further information to guide your journey can be provided on request, if needed.



CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY

Digital Application Form

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Current Address: _____

Which Nation / Clan Group are you from?

Mother's Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Family Name / Nation / Clan Group: / Contact Info:

Father's Name: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Family Name / Nation / Clan Group: / Contact Info:

GrandMother's Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Family Name / Nation / Clan Group: / Contact Info:

GrandFather's Name: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Family Name / Nation / Clan Group: / Contact Info:

Please provide further **contact information / evidence** to support your application, if available.

We also give Yerrabi Yurwang our consent if *Family Finding Validation* is required.