CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY

APPLICATION FORM

The Winnam Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Board will only consider applicants whose family heritage is known to the Board. Applicant must meet all the eligibility requirements of the organisation.

CRITERIA

Aboriginal Criteria – Applicant must meet all three of the below requirements

- Being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent
- Identifying as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Being accepted as such by the community in which you live, or formerly lived

APPLICATION FORM

Completing the Application Form

The Acceptance of the Confirmation of Aboriginality remains completely to the discretion of the Winnam Aboriginal & TSI Board. The Board will not approve the Confirmation of Aboriginality regardless of the application form being completed.

The Application must be fully completed, signed and witnessed by a Justice of the Peace.

It is your responsibility to provide all the necessary documentation (see below) and that the application meets the Confirmation of Aboriginality criteria. If you do not supply the relevant documentation with the application it will not be considered by Winnam Aboriginal & TSI Board and the application will be returned.

DOCUMENTATION

Examples of useful documentation to support your application which include:

- Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates that traces your family heritage
- Supporting documentation to link blood relatives to the applicant and that are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Evidence of involvement with Indigenous community or Services
- Historical Documentation
- Family Tree
**CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY – FURTHER INFORMATION FORM**

| NAME: ______________________ | PHONE: ______________________ |

**CRITERIA:**

A) Are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Decent? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐

B) Do you have the relevant documentation to prove the above e.g. Birth, Death, Marriage certificates, COA from an Organisation, COA from a parent? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐

C) Do you identify yourself as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐

D) Does any Organisation know you to be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐

E) Are you accepted in the community as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you meet all of the above criteria?</td>
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<td>If not what criteria do you not meet</td>
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<td>A  B  C  D  E (Please Circle)</td>
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<td>What is the purpose of your request for Confirmation of Aboriginality?</td>
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<td>Do you have any other documentation that you would like to submit that would support your application? Please Provide copy e.g. drivers licence.</td>
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<td>If a meeting with the board is required to confirm your Aboriginality, are you able to attend?</td>
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<td>What is the Indigenous name for your country? (Where you come from)</td>
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<td>If you or your family are known in another location/community? (Please Specify)</td>
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<td>Have you attended any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander functions? (Please specify)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Would you be interested in attending Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander functions? (hosted by Winnam)</td>
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Would you like be included in a mailing list? **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐
DO I MEETING THE CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY?

CRITERIA 1: Do you have family history information that shows your heritage?

- YES
- NO

Have you traced your family history?

- YES
- NO

CRITERIA 2: Do you identify as an aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?

- YES
- NO

CRITERIA 3: Are you known as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person in either the community where you live or where your family is from?

- YES
- NO

You may need to provide stronger evidence of your heritage

See cover sheet for advice on starting your family history search

Is anyone in your family known in the indigenous community? Were your grandparents etc known in the community they were from?

- YES
- NO

This may help you with your application for ‘Proof of Aboriginality and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage”
Fact Sheet: Family History Research

Getting started with your family history research

Below are some suggested steps to help you trace your family history:

1. Use a family tree to record your information
   A good way to structure your research and record your findings is in a family tree. There are a number of free family tree templates available online (for example, https://www.familysearch.org/learn/getting_started).

2. Write down as much as you know about yourself and your family
   Collate any information you have from documents and family stories/oral history with regards to names, dates, places (including missions or institutions) etc. You can record this information in your family tree.

3. Trace your family backwards, starting from yourself
   The first person you record on your family tree should be you. You can then work outwards to your parents, then your grandparents and so forth.

4. Birth, death and marriage records are a good place to start
   Birth, death and marriage records can provide you with important information about your family which can assist you in your searches. They may contain information about a person’s full name, maiden name, date of birth, place of birth, parents’ names, marriage details and/or occupation. They are often helpful in working out links between generations in your family. Please note that the births, deaths and marriages of Aboriginal people were not consistently registered, and you may not always find the records that you seek.

5. Access documents created about yourself or your family by the Queensland Government
   Personal records are held by the Queensland Government in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Many of these records were created when the ‘Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897 and subsequent ‘protection’ acts were in force which enabled the government to control all aspects of peoples’ lives. These records often hold valuable family history information and can be accessed through Community and Personal Histories. Personal records are also held at the Department of Communities in relation to people who were adopted or in State care (foster care or institutions). You may seek copies of these records through Adoption Services or the Right to Information and Information Privacy Branch.

6. Access other resources for information about your family
   Other helpful resources for family history information include church records, police records, station records, Tindale genealogies, cemetery records, military records, local newspapers and historical societies.

Helpful hints

* Be mindful of name and spelling variations and use these in your searches.
* Assess the credibility of any information you find. Remember that information is only as reliable as the source.
* Read Indigenous family history guidebooks (or online information) for further assistance.
Family History Contacts in Queensland

Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
110 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 Phone: 1300 366 430

Community and Personal Histories
Level 6, 75 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4002 Free call: 1800 650 230

Right to Information and Information Privacy Branch, Department of Communities
GPO Box 806, Brisbane QLD 4001 Free call: 1800 809 078

Adoption Services Queensland
Level 1, 111 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 Ph: (07) 3224 7415

Queensland State Archives
435 Compton Road, Runcorn QLD 4113 Ph: (07) 3131 7777

State Library of Queensland
Cultural Centre Ph: (07) 3840 7666 (General enquiries)
Stanley Place, South Brisbane QLD 4101 (07) 3840 7880 (Heritage collections)

Genealogical Society of Queensland
38 Fisher Street, East Brisbane QLD 4169 Ph: (07) 3891 5085
http://www.gsq.org.au

Useful websites
* http://www.cyndislist.com/australia
* http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/community-support/forgotten-australians/publications-and-resources (Missing Pieces: Information to assist former residents of children’s institutions to access records)
Community and Personal Histories Unit

The Community and Personal Histories Unit was established in 1993 to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with finding state government records about themselves and their communities.

The Unit carries out research into family and/or community histories and can assist with other information such as proof of date of birth.

Why does the state government hold records about Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples?

In the past, legislation such as the Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of Sale of Opium Act 1897 and subsequent acts allowed past Queensland government departments to exercise wide-ranging control over Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As a direct result of this, the Queensland government collected vast amounts of information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Today these records are valuable for finding connections to family and traditional country.

Who can use the Community and Personal Histories Unit?

If you are an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and you or your family were born in Queensland, the Community and Personal Histories Unit may be able to help you.

If you or your mob are from interstate, the Community and Personal Histories Unit can help you by giving you information about other government departments and organisations that hold Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander records.

What sort of information can the Unit assist you with?

The Unit can assist you with information about

- your family history
- how you or your mob are connected to a certain place
- local and community history

How do I find my records?

To help the Community and Personal Histories Unit find information about your family, you may be asked to give as much information as you can about yourself and your family.
This information will help the Unit to start their research. Some information you may be asked to give about yourself and your relatives can include:

- dates of birth, marriage and death
- where you and your family were born or have lived
- employment history

How are community and individual records protected?

The Queensland government holds a large number of records which may have some personal and sensitive information about people and families.

To respect and to protect the privacy of individuals you may be asked to gain permission from other family members to see these records.

Care must be taken when giving permission to someone to access your private information or information relating to other people for whom you may be next-of-kin. Releasing personal information to other people may cause distress or embarrassment.

Contact Us

For more information on Community and Personal Histories please contact:

Community and Personal Histories Unit
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services
Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs

Phone: 07 340 48375 or freecall 1800 650 230 (Qld only)
CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY AND/OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER DESCENT
STATUTORY DECLARATION

TO WIT

I, __________________________________________________________________________

Full Name

Born at: ___________________________________________ on: ___________________

City/Town Date of Birth

And now living at: ____________________________________________________________

Address

in the State of Queensland, so solemnly and sincerely declare that:

• I am of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander* descent,
• I identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander* and
• I am accepted as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander* in which I live.

(*Delete whichever is not applicable)

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867 – 1988, and subject to the penalties provided by the Act for making false statements.

Signature of Applicant __________________________________________________________

Taken and declared before me at ________________________ this ______ Day of ___________ 20____

Location

Signature ____________________________________________________________

Justice of the Peace or Commissioner for Declaration

This Confirmation must be passed at a formal meeting of an incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation and must be signed by the duly authorised officers under the Common Seal of the organisation.

Name of Authorising Organisation: WINNAM ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS CORPORATION

Resolution Number: __________________________

Date of Meeting: __________________________

(Organisations Common Seal) (to be affixed)

It is hereby confirmed that the above-named applicant is an Aboriginal person/of Torres Strait Islander
descent* identifies as an Aboriginal person/Torres Strait Islander* and is accepted as such by the community
in which he/she lives.

Moved By: __________________________ Signature __________________________

(Please print)

Seconded By: __________________________ Signature __________________________

(Please print)

CHAIRPERSON: __________________________ Date __________________________