

Family history sources held in Adelaide

Family history sources held in the Adelaide Office of the National Archives consist mainly of records created by Commonwealth agencies located in South Australia. Most of the records date from Federation in 1901, although some records – naturalisation, post and telegraph, lighthouse and mercantile marine records – also cover the colonial period.

The Adelaide Office also has microfilm copies of selected genealogical research records that are located in other offices of the National Archives.

Sources held by the National Archives Adelaide Office

The main categories of genealogical information located in the Adelaide office are listed below. Reference staff can assist in directing you to particular records of interest.

Photographs, plans and newspaper cuttings

Title or description of record	Date range
Citizenship and naturalisation Pre-1904 (colonial) naturalisation certificates and memorials, Commonwealth certificates to 1937 (microfilm) and later applications (case files)	1848–1937
Commonwealth employees Commonwealth staff list (microfiche) Commonwealth of Australia Gazettes	1903–72 1901–50
Customs service Correspondence files (including some early immigration records) Record of officer's service	1845–1996 1865–1953
Defence services Boer War Attestation papers of the 5th South Australian Contingent Veterans' funeral benefit files World War II Army pay files for those who enlisted in South Australia	1901 1939–60 1939–46
Electoral Printed electoral rolls for South Australia (microfiche)	1905–75 and 1994
Immigration Alien registration documents – non-British arrivals Migrant case files Migrant accommodation – registers and index cards for migrant hostels	1917–80 1946–91 1947–87

Migrant selection documents – assisted migrants (British) Migrant selection documents – assisted migrants (non-British) Passenger lists – overseas arrival and departure lists	1947–81 1947–54 1941–76
Indigenous people Index cards for deceased and exempt Aboriginal people – South Australian Aborigines Department	1917–57
Internment and investigation World War I – includes nominal rolls of prisoners of war/internees at Torrens Island, index cards of prisoners of war/internees (incomplete) and investigation case files See <i>Fact sheet 106 – World War I internee, alien and POW records held in Adelaide</i> for more information. World War II – includes index cards (incomplete) and case files related to Loveday internment camp as well as investigation case files. See <i>Fact sheet 107 – World War II internee, alien and POW records held in Adelaide</i> for more information.	1910–87 1910–87
Land Acquisition and disposal of Commonwealth land in SA	1895–1996
Lighthouses Log books for South Australian lighthouses – beginning in the colonial period Correspondence files – related largely to lighthouse properties	1852–1973 1915–92
Mercantile marine (Maritime records) Agreements and account of crew – overseas and local vessels Competency and service – registers of certificates (officers) Port Adelaide* Crew discharged – Port Adelaide and other SA ports# Deaths at sea – reported at Port Adelaide* Deserters – Port Adelaide and other SA ports# Engagements – at Port Adelaide and other SA ports (with index)# Register of British Ships – Various Australian ports (with index)* Vessel arrivals and departures – Port Adelaide and other SA ports# * Available as microform # Portion available as microform	1895–1983 1851–1921 1852–1942 1893–1922 1852–1975 1852–1942 1838–1982 1874–1957
Patents, trademarks and copyright Including registers, applications, correspondence and graphic material such as invention specifications and trademark designs	1867–1969
Post and telegraph Staff registers Postal guides (including lists of personnel) Correspondence files – mostly relating to property	1872–1936 1868–1977 1872–1990
Railways Staff cards – Commonwealth Railways employees (incomplete) (digitised)	1912–59

Sources held in other locations

Further information relating to family history research will be found in [other offices of the National Archives](#).

Many records that complement holdings of the National Archives (such as passenger lists for arrivals in Adelaide before 1941) are held by [State Records of South Australia](#).

Access to the records

Records held by the National Archives become eligible for public access once they enter the open access period.