

# Dedication



'Finding Your Own Way' is dedicated to the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been removed from their families as a result of Australian government policies.

Nunkuwarnin Yunti of South Australia Inc., SA Link-Up Program, has prepared this Directory in the hope that those who use it will establish connections to their family, community, culture and country.

It would be a rare occasion to find one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander who has not been affected by heartless removal policies.

My own family was separated when I was young and we spent time in institutions. Losing siblings at the beginning of the 1990s through drug and alcohol abuse gives me cause to wonder if those early years contributed to and further impacted upon our lives as we reached adulthood.

Fortunately, my family spent a short time apart in comparison with others, but the pain and emotional trauma of being separated from our Mother and the absence of our Father hurts as much and will live in our minds forever.

All we can do is try to cope with the effects of removal, support our families and community, and assist others to Find Their Way Home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Polly Sumner'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Polly Sumner**  
Chief Executive Officer



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### Disclaimers:

This Directory may contain photographs of people who have passed away.  
Any inadvertent errors or omissions in the text will be corrected in future updates.

Updates will be advised on SA Link-Up's website [www.salinkup.com.au](http://www.salinkup.com.au)

Coordinated by the SA Link-Up Program, Nunkuwarnin Yunti of South Australia Inc.  
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## *South Australia Link-Up Acknowledgement*

From the beginning of the SA Link-Up program at Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc. in December 1999, it was evident that there was a large gap between what was known and the actual history and location of the many homes and institutions where our clients were placed.

In consultation with Andrew Wilson, Aboriginal Project Officer, State Records, the need to produce a resource directory began to unfold. Andrew and I had many conversations about how this directory could become a reality.

*'Finding Your Own Way'* would not only help SA Link-Up caseworkers to trace and reunite Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with their families, but also empower those who wished to undertake their own research.

The value of the Directory grew as it was realised that it would also benefit Link-Up Services interstate to access records that were relevant to their clients. It would also provide education and knowledge to the wider community, helping to bring about a stronger understanding of the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this country.

Our next step was to secure funding to produce the Directory. Initial proposals to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) in 2000 met with little success. Then in 2001, the ATSIC Zone Commissioner, Brian Butler, was highly supportive of the proposal and funding was secured. SA Link-Up is truly thankful to Mr Brian Butler, without whose support, this project may not have come to fruition. From July 2004, the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) continued on from ATSIC in financially supporting the production of *'Finding Your Own Way'*. SA Link-Up thanks both ATSIC and OATSIH for making the Directory a reality.

Consultant, Karen George, was selected to research and write the Directory as she had significant historical knowledge and passion for the project. SA Link-Up wishes to thank Karen, particularly as she put many additional hours over and above the contracted rate to complete the Directory.

Dreamtime Public Relations, who had already produced 'Aboriginal Missions in South Australia' and various other publications associated with Link-Up Services, was selected to design the Directory. There is no doubt about Dreamtime's passion for this work as can be seen by their beautiful and sensitive approach to the design and their consistent and undivided support of SA Link-Up since we began.

*'Finding Your Own Way'* has also been an invaluable journey for the SA Link-Up team, who were involved in regular team building activities throughout the development process including researching and visiting homes with clients and hearing their personal stories. The team has gained an extended knowledge of the various homes, missions and institutions and a strong sense for what happened at the time of removals.

To the many clients who shared their personal stories throughout *'Finding Your Own Way'*, how can I thank you enough. Your stories have made the Directory a meaningful resource and will provide a more endearing point of reference for readers.

From the team at SA Link-Up, we hope this Directory assists many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people find their way home.

**Kay Goodman-Dodd**  
SA Link-Up





## Author's Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Kay Goodman-Dodd of SA Link-Up and Andrew Wilson of State Records of SA for entrusting this project to me. Particular thanks must also go to Gary George for editing of '*Finding Your Own Way*' (FYOW) and David Smids for assistance with photographs and many other aspects of this project.

Many people have helped to make *FYOW* possible by sharing information, allowing access to records and commenting on drafts. These include Robin Radford, Anglican Archives; Rita Perkons, Anglicare; John P McD Smith, son of Father Smith of St Francis House; Sue Ryan, Adelaide Catholic Archdiocesan Archives; Sue Cain, Professional Standards Office Records Service; Kara Piltz, Louise Place Refuge; Lyall Kupke, Lutheran Archives; Jayne Wardrop, Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory District Inc; Lindsay Cox, The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory Territorial Archives and Museum, Melbourne; Ray Crettenden, The Salvation Army Heritage Centre Archives and Museum, Nailsworth, SA; Major Graeme Rigley and Karen Cook, The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territorial Social Programme branch, Mont Albert, Victoria; Chris Jones, United Aborigines Mission Archives; Ruth Natar, daughter of UAM missionaries; Adriana Loro, Centacare; Sister Lia van Haren and Sister Marie McGlynn, Good Samaritan Sisters Archives; Fraser Faithfull, Good Shepherd Sisters Archives; Father Joseph Lee, Salesians of Don Bosco Province Centre Archives; Sister Christine Rowan, Province Leader, Sisters of St Joseph; Sister Josephine Smonolarek, St Stanislaus House; Kate Conley RSM, Sisters of Mercy Archives; Jenny Jerome, UnitingCare Wesley; Gawain Letheby, UnitingCare Wesley; Shannon Peake, Adoption and Family Information Service; Tanya Djakovic; Child, Youth and Family services; Kathy Gargett, State Records of SA; Neil Thomas and Nel Fredericks, State Library of SA; staff of the Manuscripts Collection, National Library of Australia; Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, Colebrook *Tji Tji Tjuta*; Mary Woollacott, Burra Community Library; Sue Sautter, Mount Barker Community Library; Peter Swann, Kapunda; Leonie Sheedy, CLAN; Professional Historians, Dr Brian Dickey, David Hollinsworth and Tom Gara; Sue Anderson, Consultant Archaeologist; Dr Suzi Hutchings, Consultant Anthropologist; Reverend Sid Graham; Mona Tur; Ron and Beryl George; Lorelle Hunter, SA Link-Up; and Commissioner Ted Mullighan, Andrew Collett, Angel Williams and Aleks Wragg of the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry. Heartfelt thanks to all the people who provided quotations from their own experiences for *FYOW*. Thank you to Dreamtime Public Relations and particularly to Janice Mason for layout and design and to Jacob Stengle for the cover artwork. Thanks to the State Library of SA and State Records of SA for waiving fees for copying and publishing photographs and to State Records of SA for assistance with the cost of editing. There are many other people who provided assistance with this project whom I have not mentioned in person. I thank them too.

I am continuing to research records of children's homes in SA as research historian for the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry and will keep sharing information through updates to this guide. I hope that this guide will in some small way help a few people to find their way home.

**Karen George**

