

## **RELEASE OF INFORMATION ABOUT UNACKNOWLEDGED BIRTH FATHERS**

In past adoption practice, it was unusual for an adopted person's birth father to be named on the original birth certificate and subsequently on their Supply Authority.

Adoptees wanting to trace their birth fathers should try to obtain his details from their birth mothers. If this is not possible for any reason, it may be possible to find out if his full name appears in the file held by the Adoption Service Provider; the Adoption Service Provider may be the Adoption Information Unit at NSW Community Services or it might be one of the Private Adoption Agencies - Anglicare Adoption Services or CatholicCare Adoption Services - depending on which agency organised your adoption.

Even if there is a name on the Adoption Service Provider's file, it is not considered to be an acknowledged source of information and the name may only be released to an agency, such as PARC, on a non-disclosure basis. This means that until the information has been confirmed and your birth father has given permission to do so, his name may not be disclosed to you.

If the adopted person wishes to pursue this option, s/he will have to apply in writing to the Adoption Service Provider requesting his name be released (please see letter on the back of this form). Names will be released after PARC and the adoptee have applied to Adoption Service Provider and approval has been given from the manager. The adopted person will also have to join the Reunion and Information register held by the Adoption Information Unit at NSW Community Services.

The Adoption Service Provider will consider releasing this information to PARC under the following circumstances.

- If your birth mother has died
- If your birth mother can't be located (you will need to explain what steps you have taken to locate her)
- If you are subject to a contact veto from your birth mother
- If your birth mother does not want contact or is unable to name your birth father for some reason

All the relevant information about your attempt to contact your birth mother and your search outcomes should be outlined in your letter.

Once you have approval and PARC obtains his name, your counsellor will make every attempt to locate him and confirm that he is your birth father. Your counsellor will then have to obtain his permission to release his name to you. Only once he has agreed, will you be given his name. The fee for this service through PARC is \$50. The agency through which you were adopted may also offer this service.

## Sample Letter to the Adoption Service Provider

I \_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ of: \_\_\_\_\_ (address) \_\_\_\_\_

would like to apply to have my birthfather's name released to PARC on a non-disclosure basis.

- I have joined the Reunion and Information register.
- I am unable to obtain this information from my birth mother for the following reasons (provide details outlining the steps you have taken to date).

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Yours sincerely

(Name)

The above letter needs to be sent to PARC **after discussion with a PARC counsellor to the PO Box below**. However, on the letter itself, please address it to the relevant agency responsible for organising your adoption. PARC will then send your letter along with a letter of support from us to the relevant agency.

**Adoption Information Unit**  
**Adoption and Permanent Care Services,**  
**NSW Community Services**  
Locked Bag 4028, Ashfield, NSW 2131

**Anglicare Adoption Services**  
19A Gibbons Street, Telopea NSW 2117  
Tel: 02 9890 6855

**CatholicCare Adoption Services**  
Level 1, 8 Jacobs Street  
Bankstown NSW 2200  
Tel: 02 9793 7522

Post Adoption Resource Centre  
Locked Bag 6002  
Hurstville NSW 1481  
T 02 9504 6788  
F 02 9570 2699  
E [parc@bensoc.org.au](mailto:parc@bensoc.org.au)  
[www.bensoc.org.au](http://www.bensoc.org.au)