

## The National Archives of Australia (NAA)

Sourcing and searching Australia's official archives can be a time consuming but rewarding experience. Each new document provides clues for further research.

Records associated with immigration can be found in the central repository for Australian Commonwealth Government records – the National Archives of Australia [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

The NAA also holds information on citizenship, post 1923 migration passenger lists, defence and war service, security and intelligence and indigenous Australia.



## How to request **migrant selection documents** from the National Archives of Australia (NAA)

The personal information in migrant selection documents usually consists of name, nationality, date and place of birth, spouse (if any), names of children (if any), and trade/occupation/training summary. Documents often include passport sized photographs or the names of next-of-kin or parents, travel, accommodation and medical details.

- 1 Go to the National Archives of Australia website: "naa.gov.au"
- 2 Click on: "Collection"
- 3 Click on: "Search the Collection"
- 4 Click on: "Record Search"
- 5 Make sure the "Basic Search" tab is open. Use keywords such as surname, first names, nationality, birth dates, maiden name, ship name. If there are still too many entries you can try filling in the date range.
- 6 Once you have found the right person/s, open their record and click: "Request Copy" to the far right of the page. If the access status is open a price summary will be available, if not yet examined a price will be sent to you. Once the application is submitted check your emails for a confirmation the application has been submitted.

## Can't find your **family**?

Many documents in the NAA are yet to be digitised or may contain spelling mistakes. Don't be discouraged as everyone who migrated to Australia including children should have records. Follow these steps to get assistance from the NAA to search their paper archives on your behalf:

- 1 Go to the National Archives of Australia website: "naa.gov.au"
- 2 Click on: "Collection"
- 3 Click on: "Ask a Question"
- 4 Click on: "Immigration Records" Fill out as much of the form as you can, focusing on one person (you can enter more people at the end).

*Hint: Include all alias names and spelling variants for both given name and maiden name (if known).*

In the drop down tab near the end select: "Migrant Selection Documents"

- 6 In the "Tell us more" box at the end, list all the names and birthdays of the people you'd like records for, this saves you from having to fill out one form per person.

If you need help or have any concerns, you can contact the National Archives of Australia directly by phone: + 61 2 6212 3600 or by email: [archives@naa.gov.au](mailto:archives@naa.gov.au)