

Some sources of information for finding records and for finding information about institutions

The amount of information available for locating records varies greatly between different organisations. Below are some links which might help you in your search. Unfortunately it is not easy to find out how to get information from some institutions, or who to ask.

The information linked here comes from a wide variety of sources, and from a range of points of view.

Information from the Privacy Commissioner about requesting any information held about you from any organisation, business or government agency in New Zealand

<https://www.privacy.org.nz/further-resources/aboutme-request-my-info-tool/>

Information from Archives NZ about requesting personal records, and your rights to access

(Note that Archives New Zealand holds records from government agencies only, not from religious institutions or private organisations.)

<https://archives.govt.nz/search-the-archive/using-our-records/requesting-personal-records>

Information from Archives NZ about how you can access records held there about you which might relate to the Royal Commission of Inquiry

<https://archives.govt.nz/royal-commission-of-inquiry-into-historical-abuse>

Archives New Zealand || Health

How to find health and mental health patient files, admission registers and other hospital archives. <https://archives.govt.nz/search-the-archive/researching/research-guides/health>

Archives New Zealand || Welfare

How to find child and adult welfare information, including adoptions, maintenance and other court records, pensions, benefits and charitable aid. <https://archives.govt.nz/search-the-archive/researching/research-guides/welfare>

Information on records about orphanages and children's homes in Otago / Southland

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/otago486006.pdf>

Information for family history on hospitals, orphanages and charitable aid in Canterbury

(Christchurch City Libraries)

<https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/family-history/hospitals-orphanages-charities/>

Ministry of Social Development publications on Social Welfare Residential care 1950-1994

Volume 1: Social welfare residential care 1950-1994

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/historic-claims/social-welfare-residential-care-1950-1994-volume-1.pdf>

Volume 2: National Institutions

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/contact-us/complaints/social-welfare-residential-care-1950-1994-volume-2-part1.pdf>

Volume 3: A selection of boys' and girls' homes

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/historic-claims/social-welfare-residential-care-1950-1994-volume-3.pdf>

Methodist Children's Homes in New Zealand

<http://www.methodist.org.nz/files/docs/mcnz%20admin%20office/archives/2019/fact%20sheet%20-%20methodist%20children's%20homes%202019.pdf>

Nelson orphanages and children's homes

http://www.theprow.org.nz/society/nelson-orphanages/#.XU-MSEdS_IU