

OPEN PLACE

Support Service for Forgotten Australians



Information about our free services

*Relationships*TM
AUSTRALIA • VIC

The Open Place suite of services is provided by Relationships Australia Victoria and funded by the Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Want to hear from us?

I would like to:

☐ receive the Open Place newsletter

☐ by email

☐ by post

To help the environment and so you can see our latest news quickly, we like to email our newsletter. However, if you don't have an email, you can give us your postal address.

☐ find out more about services and activities offered at Open Place

☐ find out about getting access to my records

☐ find out more about how I can get help with a health issue

☐ find out about Redress schemes

☐ find a social support group near me

☐ get counselling for myself

☐ get support to find my family

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Postal address: _____

You can return your completed form to us via email, drop it off during opening hours, or post it to 1/8 Bromham Place, Richmond VIC 3121.

Who we can help

If you grew up in a children's orphanage or out-of-home 'care' in Victoria prior to 1990, you may be eligible for Open Place services.

If you grew up in another state or territory prior to 1990, but now live in Victoria, we may be able to support you through the national Find & Connect service.

To contact **Find & Connect** in your state or territory, call **1800 16 11 09** or visit **findandconnect.gov.au**

What we do

Community education

To organise for a speaker to come and present about the Forgotten Australian journey and its impacts, please contact us and ask to speak with our Community Education Coordinator.

Community outreach

When needed, we may be able to provide outreach visits for our services.

Coordinated support program

This program provides a range of supports to improve health and wellbeing, including information, referral, outreach and advocacy.

Counselling

Our small team of counsellors can support you with your counselling needs, including arranging counselling in your local area. Limited counselling support is also available for your immediate family members, free of charge.

Drop-In

We provide a safe and welcoming place for Forgotten Australians to meet up, use our facilities and computers, get support, share a meal, and join in group activities. Drop-In is available on specific days of the week. Please visit our website to view our Drop-In operating hours.

Health support

We receive funding to help you with your health-related costs. We can also help you to navigate mainstream and specialist health services. Where possible, we'll negotiate with health providers to maximise your benefits.

Redress schemes support

We support people who are applying, or thinking of applying, to the National Redress Scheme (NRS). The NRS is in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

We also provide support in relation to the Victorian Redress Scheme for Forgotten Australians.

Records searches and family reunions

We can:

- help you access records from your time 'in care' and offer support as you go through these records. This could be your records relating to your wardship, records from your time in a home or institution, and other identification records such as your birth certificate.
- help you access family records and search for family members who you were separated from or lost contact with due to being placed 'in care'.
- provide support with family reunification.

Social support groups (SSGs)

Our SSGs around Victoria provide opportunities for you to meet other Forgotten Australians/Pre-1990 Care Leavers. To find your closest group location, please contact us or visit our website.



We acknowledge the pain and loss of childhood experienced by Forgotten Australians and we recognise the lifelong impacts of childhood trauma.



We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways of Australia. We support Aboriginal people's right to self-determination and culturally safe services.



We are committed to providing safe, inclusive and accessible services for all people.

Privacy

We only collect information from you that we need to provide the best quality service. We respect the privacy of your personal information and use it only in accordance with the law.

Feedback

We value your feedback via our suggestion box, letter, email, phone, online, or in person. You'll find our contact details on the back of this brochure.

Contact us

Free call 1800 779 379

9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

Email: info@openplace.org.au

Website: openplace.org.au

To contact a **Find & Connect service** in your state or territory, free call **1800 16 11 09**.

Visit us

1/8 Bromham Place, Richmond

Operating hours vary between services and activities. Please visit our website or call us to find out more.

