

CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY



The Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) Board takes the responsibility of confirming Aboriginality seriously and considers cases where the applicant and their family heritage is known to the Board, and where they meet all eligibility requirements. This position has been taken as these requests are generally for the purpose of seeking eligibility to services and opportunities that are exclusively for the benefit of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander people.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Aboriginality eligibility - to meet this criterion, you must be able to satisfy all three-parts of the following definition:

- descent - the individual can prove that a parent is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent (family tree required)
- self-identification - the individual identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- community recognition - the individual is accepted as such by the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community in which they live (two written references required).

In cases of stolen generation or disconnection from family, the MDAS Board will consider applications where you can provide clear supporting documentary evidence (from Link-up or other such family history or reunification services) that your family heritage is Indigenous.

2. Locational eligibility - to meet this criterion, you must::

- be from the Mallee District and currently living in the Mallee District; or
- be from the Mallee District or have lived the majority of your life in the Mallee District, but you are currently living elsewhere; or
- have been born and/or raised in the Mallee District; regardless of where your family is from; or
- be from a community outside of the Mallee District, but you have lived the majority of your life in the Mallee District; or at least the past 5 years.

If your family heritage is from outside of the Mallee District and you do not meet the above criteria, your application will not be accepted. You should instead seek your confirmation from a relevant local Indigenous organisation in the area where your family is from.

Completing the Application Form

This application must be correctly and fully completed. It is your responsibility to provide the necessary documentation to prove that you meet the Confirmation of Aboriginality criteria. If you do not provide sufficient documentation, then your application will not be considered by the MDAS Board and will be returned to you for completion.

Despite an application being complete, if the MDAS Board does not have sufficient knowledge of the applicant or their family heritage, they may not be in a position to approve the Confirmation of Aboriginality. As part of the 2020 Membership Drive, the Executive Director will review any Confirmation of Aboriginality that is denied by the Board to determine if the Board's decision is reasonable.



APPLICANT DETAILS

Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ Place of Birth _____

Street Address _____

Suburb _____ Postcode _____

Phone Number _____ Mobile Phone Number _____

Email _____

Please check one of the following to indicate your descent:

Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander

Why do you need a Confirmation of Aboriginality?

Aboriginality eligibility

- Family Tree attached demonstrating your family heritage and clearly indicating which parent/s or grandparent/s are Indigenous (**mandatory for all applicants**).
- Two written references attached confirming your descent, self-identification and community recognition (**mandatory for all applicants**).
- Link-Up documentation attached (only for Applicants who are from the Stolen Generation or who are disconnected from their family).

Locational eligibility

Please provide your history, details and connection to the Mallee District:

Are you a member of MDAS or any other community organisation? Yes No

If yes, which community organisation are you a member of:

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____



FAMILY TREE OF APPLICANT

Please draw your family tree ensuring you clearly mark which parent/s or grandparent/s are Indigenous – an example is provided on the following page.

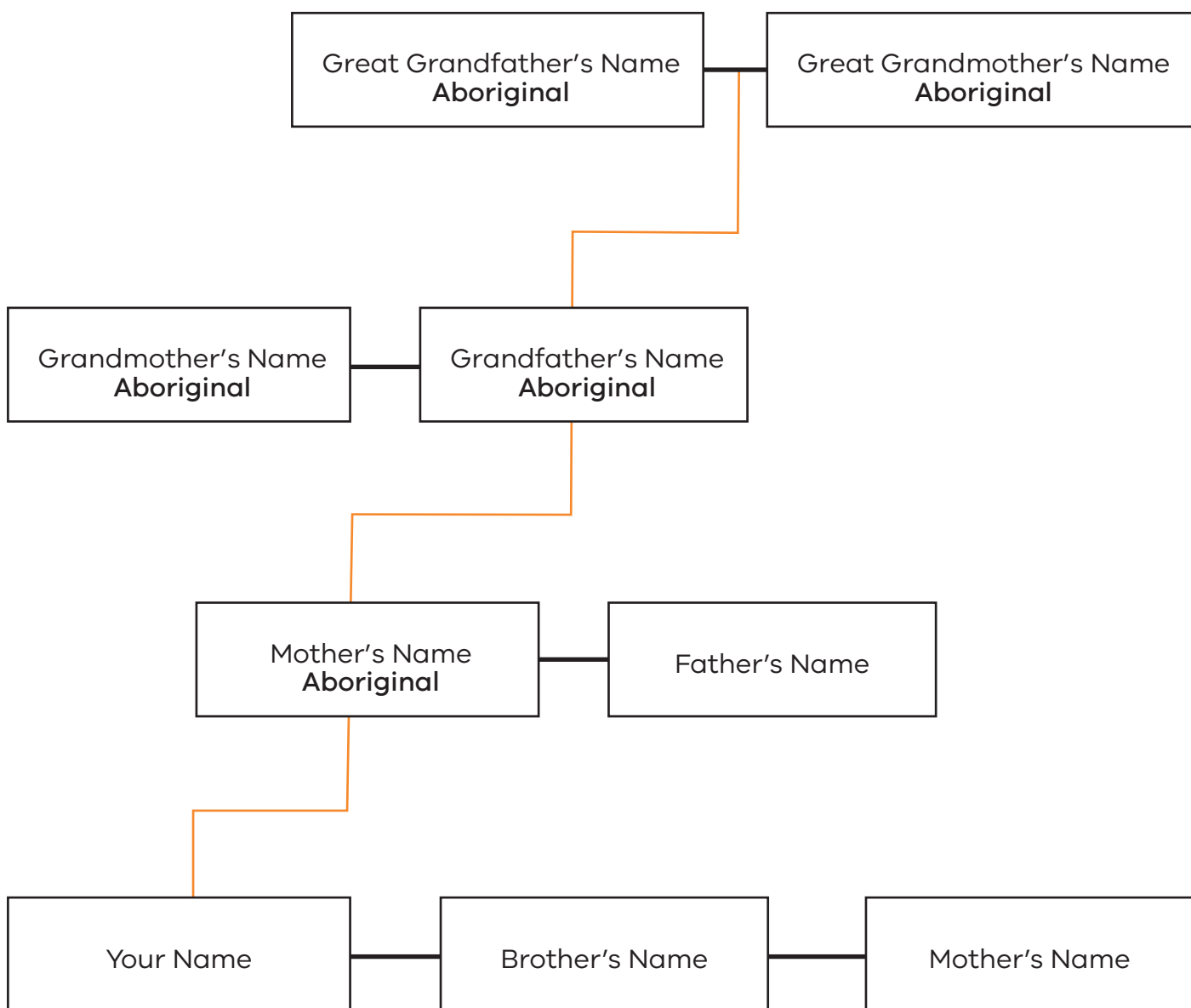


Important - please attach a form of photo identification to this application (i.e. Driver licence, passport, etc).

Any other additional family information you wish to provide:



SAMPLE ONLY - Family Tree



Further Information

If you would like further information about Confirmation of Aboriginality you can visit the following:

[Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Fact Sheet 12: Proof of Aboriginality](#)

If your application for Confirmation of Aboriginality is not approved by the MDAS Board, then you can approach the MDAS Bringing Them Home (BTH) team for more help with your application.

