

# Register your boorai's birth

This will help them for their whole life!

September 2021



## Why is it important to register a birth?

Birth certificates help give Aboriginal kids a great start in life. Adults need them too.

You need to register your boorai's birth to get a birth certificate.

**Birth registration is free, and it's never too late to register - you won't get into trouble!**

Birth certificates help you:

- enrol your child in kinder and school
- access benefits like Centrelink and Medicare.

Everyone needs a birth certificate to get a:

- bank account
- driver's licence
- passport
- tax file number.

## How do I register?

Registering a birth is easy, and you can register online at [bdm.vic.gov.au](http://bdm.vic.gov.au)

It only takes about 30 minutes. The hospital doesn't do this for you.

If you need help, please contact us. We're here to help.

## Who needs to register a birth?

Usually, both parents need to register a birth.

It's sometimes possible for one parent to register – for example, if you don't know where the other parent is.

Identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander is important when registering a birth – it helps us build better services for your community.

## Family violence

We can register a birth while making sure we don't put your safety at risk.

Please let us know if you don't want the other parent to know your address because of safety reasons.

## How do I get a birth certificate?

You can buy a birth certificate when you register a birth, or do it later.

Birth certificates cost money but help with fees is available.

## BDM's Aboriginal Outreach Team

Our Aboriginal Outreach Team works in community and is here to help.

If you need help with any of BDM's services, please contact the team at [bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au)

*Photo: Shakara Basso (Wemba Wemba) with Djaran O'Brien (Yorta Yorta & Wemba Wemba).*

*Photo by Michael Jalaru Torres (Djugun & Yawuru).*

*The word 'boorai', meaning 'baby' or 'child', comes from the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.*

Visit [bdm.vic.gov.au/koori](http://bdm.vic.gov.au/koori) | Email [bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au)



The Department of Justice and Community Safety acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of the land and acknowledges and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.



**KOORI** Strong  
**KOORI** Proud  
**KOORI** Justice

**BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES VICTORIA**

Recognising the significance of life events