

Change a name

Information for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people

This fact sheet is for **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people (under 18 years)**. We can assist you with the process of changing your name.

Assistance

If you would like assistance:



BDM's Marguk-bulok koolin-ik Team (Aboriginal Outreach) is available to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people to access BDM services.

A Marguk-bulok koolin-ik Team member can explain the process of changing your name. You can:



email them at bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au



call them on **0436 528 245**



Your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) can also read more about changing a name at bdm.vic.gov.au

What is a change of name?

Your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may apply to change your legal name.

This means that if you were born in Victoria, they ask BDM to change the name on your birth certificate to a new name.

If you were born overseas, they can ask BDM for a change of name certificate that shows your new name.

They can apply to change:

- Your given names (first or middle names)
- Your family name (last name)
- Both your given names(s) and family name.

They may ask us to change it to a name you're already using, or a new name.

If you were born interstate, your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) can ask the BDM in that state to change the name on your birth certificate to a new name. They can't apply to BDM Victoria.



What is the process?



Apply

Your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) need to apply to BDM, asking to change your name.

They can apply:

- Online at bdm.vic.gov.au
- Using a paper form and mailing it to BDM
- In person at a Justice Service Centre. You can find a Justice Service Centre near you at justice.vic.gov.au

If they need a paper form, they can call the Marguk-bulok koolin-ik Team (Aboriginal Outreach) on 0436 528 245 or BDM's contact centre on 132 842.

They will need to give us some documents and pay for the application.

If they're experiencing hardship, they can ask us not to charge the fee for certain certificates or registrations. This is called a [fee waiver](#).



Agree

If you are 12 years of age or older and agree to the name change, you need to tell us you **agree** to it.

To show that you agree, you'll need to sign a consent form (available at bdm.vic.gov.au) in front of an adult who isn't your parent or legal guardian.

If you are 12 years or older and you don't agree to the name change, we won't change your name.



Review

BDM will look at the information sent in with your application.

This may take some time.

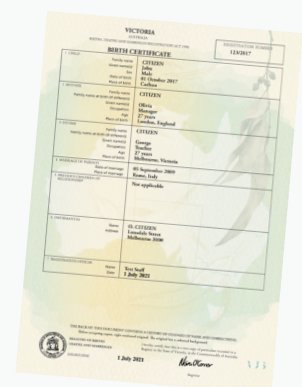
We will contact your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if we have any questions or need more information.

Certificate

If we approve the application, we will send your parent(s) or guardian(s) a certificate.

If you were **born in Victoria**, you'll get a new birth certificate. It will show your old name and your new name

If you were **born outside Victoria**, you'll get a change of name certificate. It will show your old name and your new name.





Delivery times

This process takes time.

We'll post your certificate to the address you put in your application.

Check our current processing times for correcting a certificate at bdm.vic.gov.au if you want to know more.



Update documents

The new name on your certificate is your new legal name. It's the name you'll need to use in the community, and on documents or in records.

You and your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will need to update your identity documents and records to your new name.

These documents or records may include:

- A bank account
- Passport
- Learner permit
- School identity card.

To do this, you or your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) can show your certificate.

For example, show your certificate to your school so they can update their records.

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About the artwork

Mukjarawaint (Yorta Yorta), 'Walking on Country Underneath the Stars' 2022, acrylic on canvas.

"The yellow oxide dots represent children, and the red dots represent adolescents and young people. The white dots on the outer edge represent our Elders guiding the individual's journeys along the way - learning about culture, lore and land."



This artwork was created through The Torch, a not-for-profit organisation, that provides art, cultural and arts industry support to Indigenous offenders and ex-offenders in Victoria. Learn more about The Torch at thetorch.org.au