

BIRTH FAMILY SEARCHES: INFORMATION FOR SOUTH KOREAN ADOPTEES

Searching for Birth Family in South Korea

If you or someone you know was adopted from South Korea into a South Australian family and is considering searching for or contacting birth family, Relationships Australia SA (RASA) can help.

RASA's Post Adoption Support Service (PASS) supports intercountry adoptees who are exploring their family history and considering reconnection with their birth family in Korea, by offering information, guidance and support throughout the search.

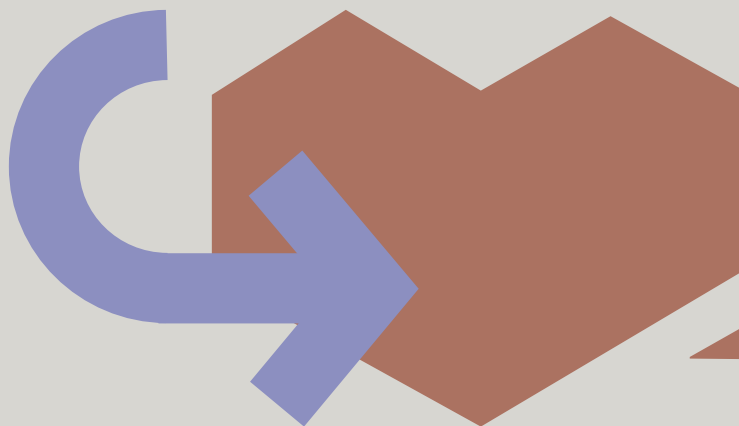
July 2025 Changes to Birth Family Search Services in South Korea

The National Center for the Rights of the Child (NCRC) is now the central Korean government agency responsible for child welfare policy, post adoption services and birth family searches for Korean adoptees.

As adoption records have transitioned from private adoption agencies to the Korean Government, NCRC is now the central point of contact for all birth family search requests and post adoption services.

NCRC can be accessed through its website: www.kadoption.or.kr/home/eng/main.do

Following the implementation of Korea's revised Adoption Act on 19 July 2025, private adoption agencies, including Eastern Social Welfare Society and other historical agencies, no longer provide birth family search services. Korean adoptees seeking to search for their birth family must now register and engage directly with NCRC.



How PASS Can Assist

While adoptees must submit and manage their search request directly with NCRC, PASS can provide free support and guidance throughout the process. Services include:

- + Helping adoptees access their adoption records in South Australia through Freedom of Information processes and supporting them to review and understand those records.
- + Providing information about the Korean birth family search process and what to expect.
- + Supporting communication with NCRC where appropriate.
- + Offering counselling before, during and after a search and/or reunion.
- + Preparing adoptees for potential outcomes of a search and/or reunion.
- + Providing culturally-appropriate support with family contact and relationship-building following reunion.
- + Assisting with translation and correspondence between adoptees and family members in South Korea when required.



Government of South Australia
Department for Child Protection

PASS is funded by the Government of South Australia Department for Child Protection.



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Understanding the Birth Family Search Process

Searching for birth family is often a complex and deeply personal journey. For intercountry adoptees, the process may involve additional considerations, including language barriers, cultural differences, incomplete records and varying expectations around family contact and reunion.

Approaching a birth family search with sensitivity and an understanding of the experiences of both the adoptee in Australia and family members in South Korea is important.

Emotional Support During Your Search

Searching for birth family can bring a range of emotions, including hope, excitement, uncertainty, grief and anxiety. Every person's experience is unique, and many people describe the process as feeling like opening 'Pandora's box.'

PASS staff recognise that this is your search and your information. We will respect your choices, your pace and your individual circumstances. We will work alongside you to ensure you feel supported throughout the process.

If NCRC locates the person you are seeking, they will notify you. You can then consider whether you would like to make contact. It is important to understand that a response may take months or even years, and there may be many reasons a person chooses not to engage. Personal circumstances, including past experiences with adoption, adoption agencies and hospitals, may influence a person's ability or willingness to engage with NCRC and/or you.

For more information or enquiries about our services, contact PASS at p.info@rasa.org.au

There is no cost for our services.

There are also Korean adoptee-led organisations that may offer resources, peer support and information

Korean adoptee-led organisations:

- + **G.O.A.'L**
(Global Overseas Adoptees' Link) is a non-profit organisation of Korean adoptees, founded and operated by adoptees in South Korea for the worldwide adoptee community.
Website: www.goal.or.kr
- + **KAIAN**
(Korean Adoptees in Australia Network) is a not-for-profit organisation run by Australian Korean adoptees, providing support and information to other Korean adoptees in Australia.
Website: www.kaian.org.au

