

Family Reunion Travel Fund INFORMATION

Purpose of Reunion Travel Fund

The purpose of the Reunion Travel Fund is to assist Forgotten Australians to meet relatives from their birth family whom they have never met (or whom they have not seen since childhood / being separated from their family to go into care).

Eligibility

The Reunion Travel Fund can be accessed only by Forgotten Australians who were in care in Victoria. In exceptional circumstances, such as where the Forgotten Australian is unable to travel at all (eg: serious illness) or where the Forgotten Australian is unable to travel alone; consideration may be given to providing funding for a family member to travel to visit the Forgotten Australian, or to enable a carer to accompany the applicant. A doctor's certificate will be required with such applications.

All applicants need to provide confirmation of time in care in Victoria (for example – a copy of ward / agency records, or confirmation by DHS or the agency).

Each application will be considered by the *Open Place* Worker in consultation with the Manager.

Extent of Financial Assistance

One amount of funding per Forgotten Australian will be available. This includes the cost of travel by train, bus or plane. Where necessary, an additional allowance may be paid for up to a maximum of two nights accommodation expenses and meals.

Mode of Travel

Service users accessing the Reunion Travel Fund will use economy services.

Restrictions

The Reunion Travel Fund is available only once to each eligible Forgotten Australian. Forgotten Australians who apply for this funding must live in Australia, as must the family member they wish to meet.

Process for Payment

1. Applications are to be made on the Travel Reunion Fund Application Form, to be received, at least 4 weeks before the travel is to be taken.
2. Once funding is approved, payment may be made direct to the applicant after receipts for agreed expenses are received; OR

If the applicant is unable to pay the costs initially, the agreed costs may be paid direct to the travel provider after receiving documentation regarding the costs, and give an amount for expenses to the applicant.

Open Place
Support Service for Forgotten Australians
Suite 1, 8 Bromham Place
RICHMOND Vic 3121
Phone: 1800 779 379
Fax: 03 9429 5536

Family Reunion Travel Fund APPLICATION FORM

YOUR DETAILS

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Institution/Placement/Foster Care:

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

TRAVEL DETAILS

Travel from Town / City : _____

Travel to Town / City : _____

Relative to be met : _____

Desired Travel Departure Date : _____

Return Travel Date : _____

Mode of Travel (Plane / Train / etc) : _____

Total Travel costs : _____

It is essential that you attach ORIGINAL documentation regarding the costs of your travel, including fares & accommodation, so your application can be processed. If you do not attach these, there may be delays in processing your application which may affect your travel plans.

Please provide a brief explanation of why you wish to undertake this travel. If you have any questions about this or about completing the form, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Signature: _____

Date: _____