

Finding Records at PROV

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What Types of Records Are Held by Public Record Office Victoria?

As the State's archival authority Public Record Office Victoria holds records created by Victorian government departments and authorities, the State's courts, municipalities, schools, public hospitals and other public offices. The records date from the establishment of the Port Phillip District in the mid 1830s and include information relating to areas of activity managed or regulated by government such as the administration of justice, health and welfare, education, Indigenous communities, planning, transport, land and immigration.

PROV holds records that are no longer required by Victorian government as part of their day to day business. Sometimes your research will require you to contact a government department to gain access to the records you are seeking. This can be because the department looks after access to them, especially where the records contain personal information, such as case files or employee records.

Read [PROV guide 66 PROV's Archival Control Model](#) for more information about how PROV describes and manages its collection.

Browse our [PROV guides](#) to find out more about records held by PROV, and resources and services available at PROV for your research.

How Do I Know Which Government Department Created Records Relevant to My Research?

You can explore what part of government may have produced records you are looking for by [Searching](#) or [Browsing](#) for Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about Government Functions. A Function is the term given to an area of responsibility or activity of government; for example, Water Supply or Education.

When you are in a Function Details page in the online catalogue, the entry for the Function will display a list of government departments, known as Agencies, that have carried out this work.

If an Agency is then selected from this list you will be taken to a Details page about that Agency which will provide a list of Series (records) held by PROV that were created by that Agency. You can also find information on PROV's online catalogue about Groups, which list related Functions and Agencies.

If you know the name of the government department that created the kinds of records you are looking for, such as the Supreme Court, you may wish to [Browse](#) or [Search](#) for that particular Agency.

Explore our [Getting Started](#) research pathway for more information about finding records held by PROV.

If you have determined that PROV does not provide access to the records you are seeking and you need to contact the responsible government department, or a non-government organisation, you may wish to look in PROV's [Further Research Resources](#) research pathway. In the Further Research Resources pathway you can also find information about current Victorian government functions.

You can use these broader groupings of Victorian government areas of responsibility, listed below, to help navigate to catalogue Details pages and then to records held by PROV.

Aboriginal Affairs

PROVguides

[PROVguide 67 Aboriginal Records at PROV](#)

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Aboriginal Affairs:

Aboriginal Affairs [VF 175](#)
Archaeological survey (Aboriginal) [VF 326](#)

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies relating to Aboriginal Affairs:

Ministry for Aboriginal Affairs	1968 - 1975	VA 2873
Board for the Protection of Aborigines	1869 - 1957	VA 515
Aboriginal Affairs Victoria	1985 - ct	VA 3101
Central Board Appointed to Watch over the Interests of the Aborigines	1860 -1869	VA 514
Chief Protector of Aborigines	1838 - 1849	VA 512
Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody	1987 - 1991	VA 4005
Victoria Archaeological Survey	1972 - 1994	VA 1802

Arts, Sport and Culture

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Arts, Sport and Culture:

Arts [VF 194](#)
Sport and Recreation [VF 202](#)

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies and Groups relating to Arts, Sport and Culture:

Chief Secretary's Department	ND - 1972	VA 475
Ministry for the Arts	1972 - 1992	VA 1025
Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism	1992 - 1996	VA 3095
Arts Victoria	1992 - ct	VA 4416
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	1996 - ct	VA 1039
Arts		VRG 61
Youth Sport and Recreation		VRG 66

Defence

Catalogue Details Pages

This link will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Defence:

Defence [VF 63](#)

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies relating to Defence:

Chief Secretaries Department	1855 - 1979	VA 475
Department of Defence	1883 - 1901	VA 2884

Education

PROVguides

[PROVguide 56 Education Records](#)

Database Indexes

[VPRS 907/P0 Teacher Examination Papers, 1863-1872](#)

[VPRS 13719/P1 Database Index to Teacher Record Books, 1863-1959](#)

Digitised Records

[VPRS 65/P0 Copy of Inward and Outward Correspondence, Board of Education, 1849-1851](#)

[VPRS 5675/P0 Index to Special Case Files, Education Department, 1862-1977](#)

[VPRS 5676/P0 Register of Special Case Files, Education Department, 1852-1977](#)

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Education.

Education	VF 19
School attendance regulation	VF 120
Industrial and apprenticeship training	VF 121

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies and Groups relating to Education.

Ministry of Employment and Training	1980 – 1985	VA 704
Ministry of Education and Training	1985 – ct	VA 1112
Education Department	1873 - 1985	VA 714
Denominational School Board	1855 - 1862	VA 703
Educational Institutions		VRG 24
Education		VRG 35

Health, Mental Health and Welfare

PROVguides

[PROVguide 59 Mental Health Records](#)

[PROVguide 60 Adoption, Wardship and Related Records](#)

Database Indexes

[VPRS 7882/P1 Public Building Files, 1874 - 1988](#)

Digitised Records

[VPRS 7446/P1 Alphabetical Lists of Patients in Asylums, 1849-1885](#)

[VPRS 7427/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Ararat Asylum, 1867-1906](#)

[VPRS 7426/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Ballarat Asylum, 1893-1907](#)

[VPRS 7428/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Ballarat/Sunbury Asylums, 1877-1907](#)

[VPRS 8236/P1 Register of Patients, Ballarat/Sunbury Asylums, 1877-1920](#)

[VPRS 7395/P1 Case Books of Male Patients, Beechworth Asylum, 1867-1912](#)

[VPRS 7396/P1 Case Books of Female Patients, Beechworth Asylum, 1878-1912](#)

[VPRS 7493/P1 Register of Patients, Bendigo Receiving Ward, 1874-1908](#)

[VPRS 7721/P1 Register of Patients, Collingwood Asylum, 1866-1873](#)

[VPRS 7425/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Kew Asylum, 1871-1906](#)

[VPRS 7690/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Kew Asylum, 1871-1914](#)

[VPRS 7680/P1 Register of Patients, Kew Asylum, 1871-1919](#)

[VPRS 7423/P1 Nominal Register of Patients, Royal Park Hospital for the Insane, 1907-1913](#)

[VPRS 7490/P1 Asylum Records \[Case Books\], Sunnyside Licensed House, 1905-1915](#)

[VPRS 7422/P1 Index to Male and Female Case Books, Yarra Bend Asylum, 1848-1912](#)

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Health, Mental Health and Welfare:

Health and welfare agencies	VF 439
Mental Health	VF 128
Public Health	VF 125
Public Health, Aborigines	VF 389
Public Health, Infant and Maternal	VF 248
Intellectual Disability Services	VF 249
Physical and Sensory Disability Services	VF 250
Welfare Services	VF 252

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Groups relating to Health and Mental Health:

Health	VRG 39
Health and Welfare Agencies	VRG 8

Immigration and Multicultural Affairs

PROVguides

[PROVguide 52 Immigration Records](#)

[PROVguide 53 British Post World War II Immigration Records](#)

[PROVguide 54 Ships and Shipping Movements](#)

Database Indexes

[Unassisted Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria 1852-1923](#)

[Assisted British Immigration 1839-1871](#)
[Outward Passengers to Interstate, U.K. and Foreign Ports, 1852-1856](#)

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Immigration and Multicultural Affairs:

Immigration (monitoring arrivals) [VF 99](#)
Immigration (19th century) [VF 8](#)
Immigration (20th century) [VF 138](#)

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies relating to Immigration and Multicultural Affairs:

Department of Trade and Customs	1851 - 1901	VA 704
Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	1977 - 1991	VA 1042
Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, State Office, Victoria	1996 - ct	VA 4369

Land, Environment and Primary Industry

PROVguides

[PROVguide 55 Land Records](#)

Database Indexes

[VPRS 7/P0 Treasurer's Correspondence Relating to Pastoral Runs, 1838 -1855](#)
[VPRS 8851/P1 Database of Records in VPRS 8850 of the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens and Related Organisations, 1857-1991](#)

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Land, Environment and Primary Industry:

Crown Lands (Public) [VF 309](#)
Agriculture [VF 245](#)
Environment Protection [VF 328](#)

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies and Groups relating to Land, Environment and Primary Industry:

Lands		VRG 18
Chief Secretary's Department	ND - 1872	VA 475
Department of Agriculture	1872 - 1985	VA 618
Department of Crown Lands and Survey	1857 - 1983	VA 538

Legal, Justice and Consumer Affairs

PROVguides

[PROVguide 57 Convict Records](#)
[PROVguide 61 Divorce Records](#)
[PROVguide 58 Prison Records](#)
[PROVguide 70 Wills and Probate Records](#)
[PROVguide 71 Inquest Records](#)

[PROVguide 68 Ordering Wills and Probate Records](#)

[PROVguide 8 Ordering Inquest Records](#)

Database Indexes

[VPRS 815/P0 Court of Insolvency Records, Geelong, 1853-1928](#)

[VPRS 75/P0 Certificate of Discharge, Court of Insolvency, Melbourne, 1848-1875](#)

Digitised Records

[VPRS 110/P0 Register of Convicts, c1838-1852](#)

[VPRS 108/P0 Register, Police Magistrate, Portland, 1840-1853](#)

[VPRS 5335/P0 Index to Divorce Cause Books, 1861-1924](#)

[VPRS 10867/P0 Alphabetical Index to Central Register of Male Prisoners, 1868-1947](#)

[VPRS 10879/P0 Alphabetical Index to Central Register of Female Prisoners, 1857-1948](#)

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Legal, Justice and Consumer Affairs:

Civil and Criminal Justice [VF 428](#)

Consumer Affairs Consultation [VF 350](#)

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies and Groups relating to Legal, Justice and Consumer Affairs:

Courts [VRG 4](#)

Department of Justice 1992 - ct [VA 3085](#)

Attorney-General's Department 1851 - 1992 [VA 2825](#)

Local Government and Planning

PROVguides

[PROVguide 64 City of Melbourne](#)

Digitised Records

[VPRS 8904/P1 Subject Index to Town Clerks Correspondence Files, City of Melbourne, 1913-1983](#)

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Local Government and Planning:

Local Government [VF 184](#)

Planning (to 1988) [VF 329](#)

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies and Groups relating to Local Government and Planning:

Municipalities [VRG 12](#)

Town and Country Planning Board 1946 - 1981 [VA 516](#)

Planning and Local Government [VRG 126](#)

Parliament, Premier and Governor

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Parliament, Premier and Governor:

Parliament	VF 400
Executive	VF 366
Head of Government	VF 64

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies relating to Parliament, Premier and Governor:

Legislative Council	1851 - ct	VA 471
Legislative Assembly	1856 - ct	VA 2585
Colonial Secretary's Department	1851 - 1855	VA 856
Chief Secretary's Department	1855 - 1979	VA 475
Governor	1851 - ct	VA 466
Department of the Premier	1936 - 1982	VA 2717
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	1982 - ct	VA 1039

Registration and Licensing

Database Indexes

[VPRS 7/P0 Treasurer's Correspondence Relating to Publicans, 1838 -1855](#)

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Registration and Licensing:

Registration Services	VF 469
Liquor Licensing	VF 94

This link will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies relating to Registration and Licensing:

Office of the Registrar-General and the Office of Titles	1873 – ct	VA 862
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Transport and Infrastructure

PROVguides

[PROVguide 62 Public Transport – Railways](#)

[PROVguide 63 Public Transport – Tramways](#)

Database Index

[VPRS 12800/P1 Photographic Collection Alpha-Numeric Railway Negative Systems](#)

Catalogue Details Pages

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Functions relating to Transport and Infrastructure:

Public Transport [VF 403](#)

Public Works [VF 404](#)

These links will take you to Details pages in PROV's online catalogue about selected Victorian Government Agencies and Groups relating to Transport and Infrastructure:

Public Works	1855 - 1987	VRG 28
Transport	1856 - ct	VRG 49
Railways	1851 - 1855	VRG 32
Department of Infrastructure	1855 - 1979	VA 3971
Department of Transport	1851 - ct	VA 673

Useful Links

Alphabetical List of Victorian Government Websites

<http://www.atoz.information.vic.gov.au/>

Freedom of Information

<http://www.foi.vic.gov.au/>

Information Victoria

<http://www.information.vic.gov.au/index.html>

National Archives of Australia

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

Victoria Online

<http://www.vic.gov.au/index.jsp>