

# Change a record of sex

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 record of sex.


## 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 record of sex. You can:

 email them at [bdm.koori@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto: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 record of sex at [bdm.vic.gov.au](http://bdm.vic.gov.au)

## What does it mean to change a record of sex?

### If you were born in Victoria, Australia

With your agreement, your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may apply to change your record of sex.

This means they ask BDM to change the sex descriptor on your birth certificate.

A 'sex descriptor' is the word(s) you use to describe the sex you identify as.

For example, your birth certificate might show 'male', but you identify as 'female'.

### If you were born outside Victoria, Australia

With your agreement, your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may apply to change your record of sex.

This means they can apply for a certificate that will show the sex you identify as.

This certificate is called a recognised details certificate.

## What is the process?

You don't need to have surgery to have your record of sex changed.

BDM accepts most sex descriptors, but there are some [the law doesn't allow](#).



### Apply

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

They can apply:

- Online at [bdm.vic.gov.au](http://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](http://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 call centre on 1300 369 367.

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 change your record of sex, 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](http://bdm.vic.gov.au)). The consent form lets BDM know you agree to the sex descriptor listed in the application.

**If you are under 12 years old**, you can complete the consent form if you want.



### Review

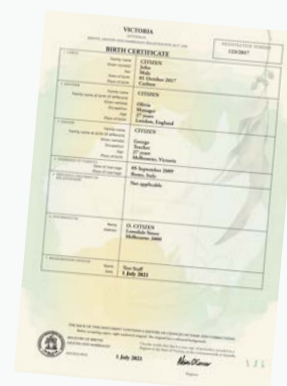
BDM will look at the information sent in with your application. This may take some time.

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

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 the sex descriptor you have chosen.

If you were **born outside Victoria**, you'll get a recognised details certificate. It will show the sex descriptor you have chosen.





### 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](https://bdm.vic.gov.au) if you want to know more.



### Update documents

You or your parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may want to update your identity documents and records to show the sex on your new birth certificate or recognised details certificate.

These documents may include:

- 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](https://thetorch.org.au)