



MAARI MA HEALTH REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY

GUIDELINES

Please consider if you are able to address the Eligible Applicant criteria before submitting an application. If you are unable to meet the Eligible Application criteria Maari Ma Health may refuse to assess your application. You may need to contact an alternative organisation where your family is from, or an Indigenous organisation in the area where you currently reside may be able to assist you with your confirmation.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS CRITERIA

The Maari Ma Board of Directors assess request for Confirmation of Aboriginality using the following criteria:

- That the applicant is of Aboriginal descent;
- That the applicant identifies as an Aboriginal person; and
- That the applicant is accepted as such in Maari Ma Region in which the applicant lives or formerly lived by reference to the Maari Ma Region (including that the applicant or their family are known to a Director).

Eligible applicants must be from Maari Ma region by reference to one of the below locality requirements:

- The applicant must be from the Maari Ma Region and still currently living in Maari Ma Region; or
- The applicant must be from Maari Ma Region or have lived the majority of their life in Maari Ma region but are currently living elsewhere; or
- The applicant's family must be from Maari Ma Region but the applicant has not lived in Maari Ma Region.

In cases of stolen generation or disconnection from family, the Maari Ma Board of Directors may consider applications that provide clear supporting evidence (from Link-up or other such family history or reunification services) that confirms family heritage is Aboriginal with links to Maari Ma Region since 1950.

The Maari Ma Region is made up of the following 7 communities.

Wentworth/Dareton

Ivanhoe

Broken Hill

Tibooburra

Wilcannia

Balranald

Menindee

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Maari Ma Board of Directors hold 4 – 6 meetings a year where they will consider Confirmations of Aboriginality requests received. All applicants should allow a minimum of 3 months to have their application considered.

Our Directors exercise discretion when examining each request for Confirmation of Aboriginality and will only endorse an Aboriginality request if they are certain that the applicant meets the eligible applicant criteria. The Board will consider the following when assessing if an applicant meets the criteria:

- Who is the applicant? (e.g. considering family name, relatives and history)
- Where is their family from? (e.g. considering the information provided under locality Requirements)
- What has been the applicant's involvement with the Aboriginal Community? (e.g. participation in community groups and events)
- Is the applicant known to the Board of Directors or local community?
- Can the applicant nominate someone from the community known to the Board to vouch for their cultural identity?

The Board of Directors are unable to provide confirmation unless the Directors have confidence that the applicant has demonstrated that they meet the eligible applicant criteria.

DISCLOSURE

The Board of Directors of Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation are under no legal obligation to accept requests of Confirmation of Aboriginality from any individual or Government agencies or to consider and issue Confirmations of Aboriginality. But may, nevertheless, use the discretion of the Board to consider such requests by undertaking an assessment consistent with its current policy (i.e. best available information of the person or persons making such requests, including those made on behalf of a child or children), as well as any moral, social or community obligations and considerations it deems necessary.

The Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation Procedure for Aboriginality aligns with, and includes, the three (3) essential criteria commonly used within the Commonwealth and State Government and their agencies, common law and as prescribed in the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)*.

OTHER SERVICES

Link-Up NSW

Link-Up assist all Aboriginal people who have been directly affected by past government policies; being separated from their families and culture through forced removal, being fostered, adopted or raised in institutions.

Link-Up supports the healing journeys of those removed; delivering professional, culturally sensitive and confidential research, reunions and Social, Emotional and Wellbeing services to those over the age of eighteen.

<http://www.linkupnsw.org.au/who-we-are>

Australia Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

AIATSIS can help you to research your Indigenous family history. Their collections have information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families, communities and places. Their Family History Unit can help you to find information in other collections across Australia.

The AIATSIS websites contain a wide range of resources to help you with your research.

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/finding-your-family>



MAARI MA HEALTH REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF ABORIGINALITY OF A MINOR (0-16 YEARS OF AGE) APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANTS DETAILS

**Name of Parent/
Guardian:**

Name of Minor:

Date of Birth:

Place of Birth:

Address:

**Phone Number
of Parent/
Guardian:**

**Email of Parent/
Guardian:**

LOCALITY REQUIREMENTS

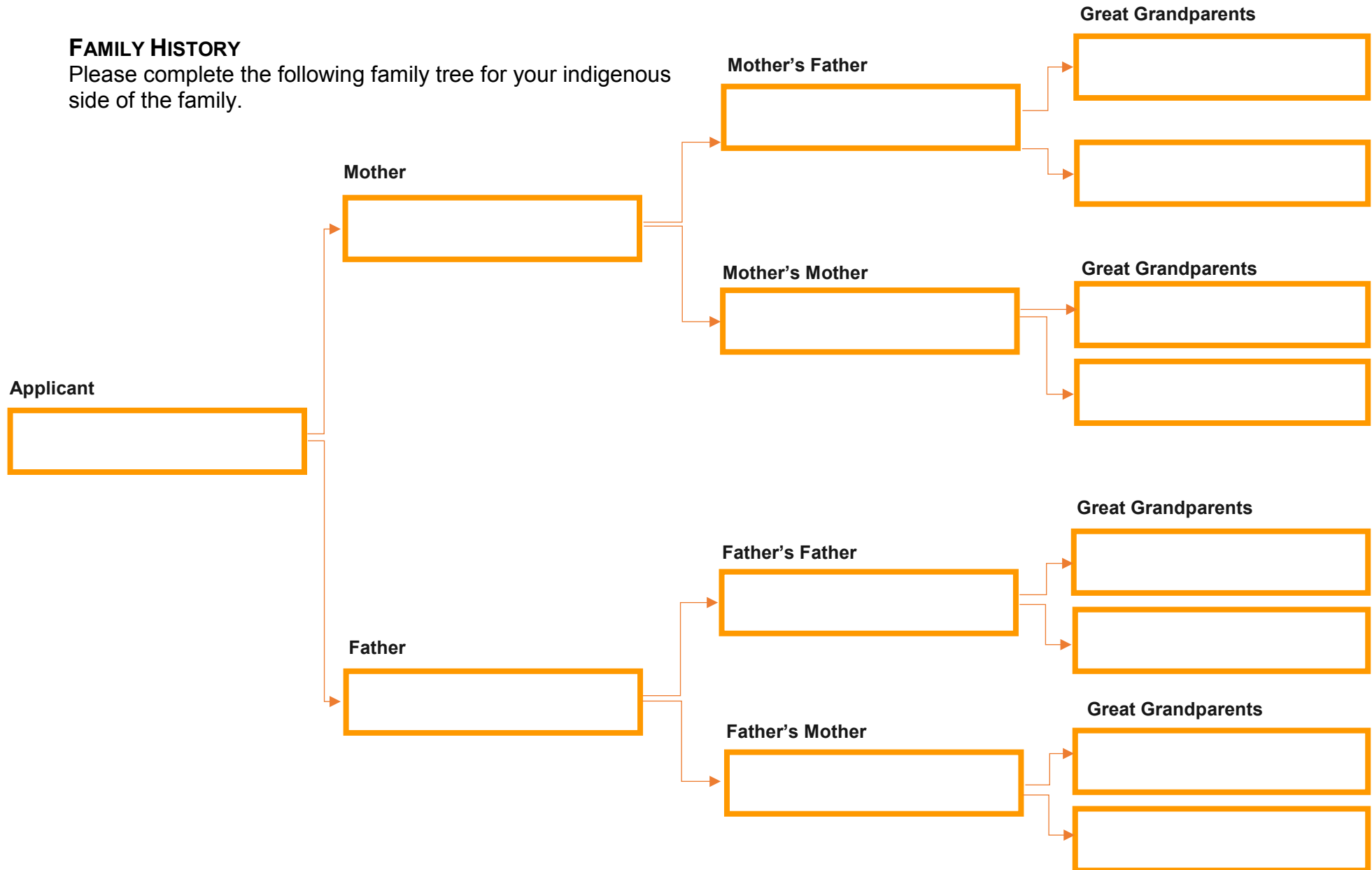
You must meet the Maari Ma Region locality requirements by one of the following:

1. The applicant must be from the Maari Ma Region and still currently living in Maari Ma Region; or
2. The applicant must be from Maari Ma Region or have lived the majority of their life in Maari Ma region but is currently living elsewhere; or
3. The applicant's family must be from Maari Ma Region but the applicant has not lived in Maari Ma Region.

Please explain which of the above criteria you meet, including details about your history and connection to Maari Ma Region.

FAMILY HISTORY

Please complete the following family tree for your indigenous side of the family.



Please provide other family members from the Maari Ma region **who are known** to the Maari Ma Board of Directors.

Name:

Relationship to me:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

APPLICANTS DECLARATION

I confirm that _____ :

1. Is of Aboriginal descent
2. Identifies as an Aboriginal person
3. Is accepted as an Aboriginal Person in the Maari Ma Region.

**Signature of Parent/
Guardian:**

**Name of Parent/
Guardian:**

Date:

Please forward your completed application form to:

Confirmation of Aboriginality Requests
PO Box 339
BROKEN HILL NSW 2880

Or email to coa@maarima.com.au