

## Comments on BDM Review

Re the Departments comments after stage I of the BDM review, I am disappointed that there is no provision for people to obtain their own birth certificate when they do not name the exact name they were registered under.

As I said in my first submission (No 80) some people have had difficulty in the past getting their own birth certificate; though they had their birth date they were using a somewhat different name from the name originally used when their parent or grandparent registered the birth. Examples I gave were:

(1) Barry Crump, who could not go to Australia at the same time as Jean Watson to shoot crocs (see page 68 of his 1992 autobiography "*The Life and Times of a Good Keen Man*"). His birth had been registered as John Barrie Crump, not Barry John Crump.

(2) When my brother was working temporarily at the Registrar-Generals office in Wellington some years ago, he was asked by a Māori man in his forties for his birth certificate, but could not find an entry for the pakeha name he used registered in Auckland. However my brother looked at entries for that day and found a birth with a Māori name registered in Tauranga/Bay of Plenty under the name he knew was that of the man's grandmother. So the man got his own birth certificate, by "bending" the rules! I would expect that other staff would have "bent" the rules similarly, otherwise there would be more complaints!

This problem would not be common, but as well as a human right to get your own birth certificate, it is not desirable to have to rely on a declaration (as I suppose they have to when applying for a driver's licence or benefit/pension). While it would be necessary to guard against imposters, I presume the department already does this when people apply to see or amend their own entry.

I am in favour of more online images like "Scotland's People" even though some (old) images of entries may display some information on adoptions, and also display of original images with the natural parents of adoptees after a suitable time if the person is dead (eg 100 years?)

I could not submit the above via the website.

Yours, John Wilson