

Statement from Healing Foundation CEO Richard Weston regarding Alan Jones' comments about the Stolen Generations

Forcibly removing children under the Stolen Generations policies was not carried out to protect them, it was done to assimilate Aboriginal people, the Healing Foundation said today.

“Calls for Aboriginal children to be rounded up again by authorities as occurred under the Stolen Generations policies is not the way to address Indigenous disadvantage and Close the Gap,” Healing Foundation CEO Richard Weston said.

“The social issues Jones identifies are actually behaviours driven by pain, grief and loss. The Stolen Generations policies created waves of trauma for families and communities, a breakdown in social cohesion and denied our people education and economic participation.

“I agree with Mr Jones’ outrage that Australia has not yet taken seriously the significant impact of intergenerational trauma, nor provided sufficient healing opportunities for Indigenous people.

“As a nation we must put more energy into addressing intergenerational trauma – the trauma affecting our communities as a result of forcibly removing children from their families, communities and culture until the 1970s.

“Our experience at the Healing Foundation is that Aboriginal people are taking responsibility for addressing their trauma and embarking on healing journeys.

“To achieve meaningful change governments at all levels must reciprocate by creating policy that provides for innovative healing responses that are developed, designed and delivered in partnership with Indigenous Australians.

“Ill-informed commentary about this harrowing chapter in Australia’s history only creates further trauma for our Stolen Generations Elders,” Mr Weston said.

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation with a focus on building culturally strong, community led healing solutions. More information is available at www.healingfoundation.org.au

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