



BringingThemHome

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a Healing Foundation project

Media Release

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Trauma continues for Stolen Generations in Queensland

Stolen Generations need a new national policy approach to address the ongoing impacts of unresolved trauma, according to a report released by the Healing Foundation.

The new report was provided to the Queensland government today at an event at Parliament House to mark the 20th anniversary of the landmark *Bringing Them Home* report.

Speaking at the event, Chair of the Healing Foundation's Stolen Generations Reference Committee, Florence Onus, said: "It has been a heartbreaking two decades, where we have seen so few of the Bringing Them Home recommendations introduced.

"Now our families and young ones are facing new challenges based on a history of unresolved grief, pain and intergenerational trauma."

Research shows that the people affected by the forced removal of children – the Stolen Generations and their children and grandchildren – are 50% more likely to be charged by police, 30% less likely to be in good health, and 10% less likely to have a job.

Ms Florence said unresolved trauma was an underlying cause of many social and health issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including high levels of substance abuse, domestic violence and the increasing number of children being taken into protection.

"I am the fourth generation of women from my family to be forcibly removed from land, culture and family.

"It's had a terrible impact on my family, including attempted suicide and depression. The pain and loss still lives within me today," said Ms Onus.

"It's time to create the change that was so desperately needed two decades ago and work together to break the cycle, for the benefit of all Australians."

Ms Onus, together with Board Chair Steve Larkin, presented the Healing Foundation's action plan for change to the Federal Government on Tuesday but says support from all states and territories will be essential to repair the damage of the past and build a better future.

The Healing Foundation's report calls for action on four key priorities:

- A federally coordinated reparations scheme, including financial redress and healing services
- A full analysis of the Stolen Generations changing needs as they age
- A national study on the impacts of intergenerational trauma, and the best ways to address it
- Ensuring all professionals who work with Stolen Generations are trained in recognising and addressing intergenerational trauma.

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