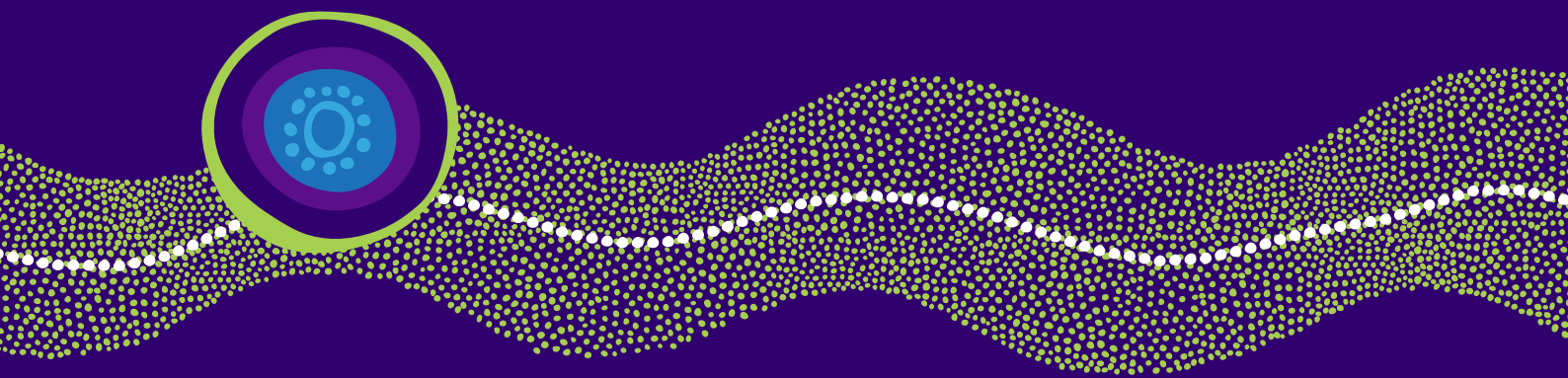


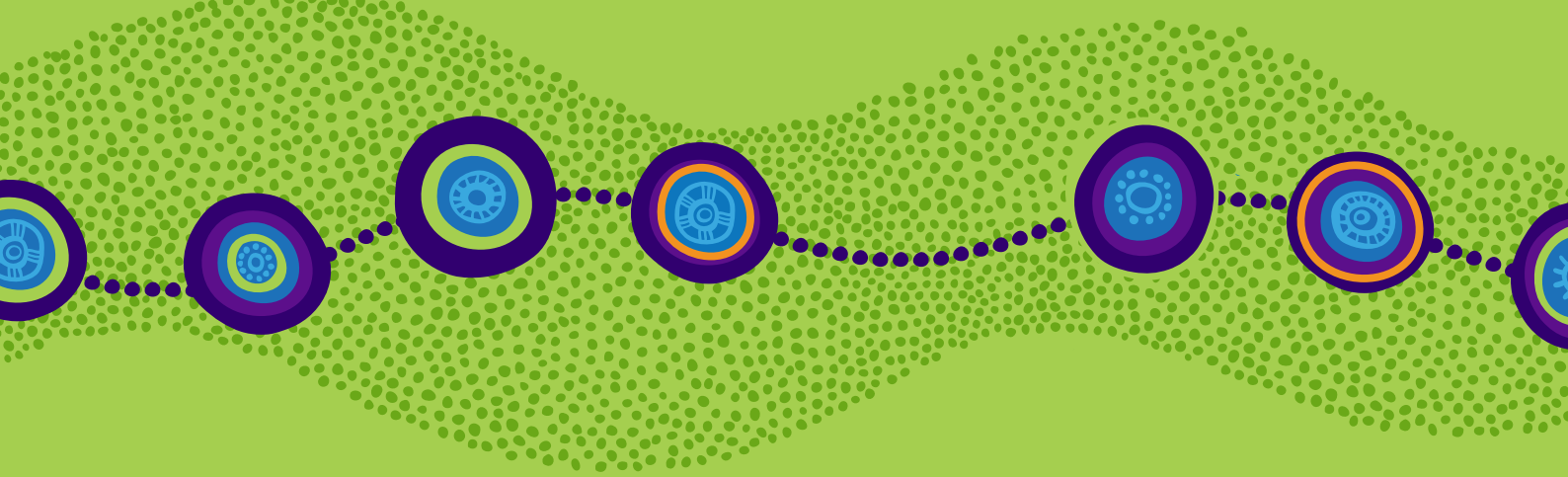


# HealingFoundation

## ANNUAL REPORT

2016 / 2017





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## 2016 / 2017

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation  
ABN 92 140 312 385

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

**This has been a very successful year for The Healing Foundation in furthering our efforts to develop national support for healing that will create long term and sustainable change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.**

Since our inception in 2009, we have worked closely with our communities to develop solutions that are successful in healing trauma and we have underpinned that work with innovative research and analysis of international best practice. Most importantly, through independent evaluation we have proven that healing works, if we invest in the right projects and involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their design and delivery.

The 20th anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report - one of the most important milestones in our collective efforts to right the wrongs of the past - was a time for reflection and an opportunity to focus on the work that still needs to be done for members of the Stolen Generations and their descendants. In May I was extremely proud to hand over a Healing Foundation report, *Bringing them home 20 years on: an action plan for healing*, to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten which highlighted our action plan for change. And I was heartened by the response from both sides of politics to our call for an overhaul of the policy landscape.

We have since received an injection of funding to undertake research, and develop a way to put our plan into action. At the end of this financial year we were scoping the details of this work, focusing on a needs analysis which we identified as one of four initial priorities for moving forward.

While significant, this outcome was just one of the successes of the Healing Foundation's #BTH20 project to mark the 20th anniversary. We also brought together thousands of people from across the nation – from state parliaments to remote communities - to acknowledge a tragic period in our history and listen to the personal stories of some of those who have got to the other side. Through a range of education initiatives we are building awareness of the ongoing impact of trauma and Intergenerational Trauma in communities. We have also generated greater awareness around the undeniable role of healing in future strategies to address issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, from suicide and domestic abuse to high incarceration rates and children entering the protection system. The response to #BTH20 – from all cross sections of the community – has been remarkable and gives me hope for a better future.

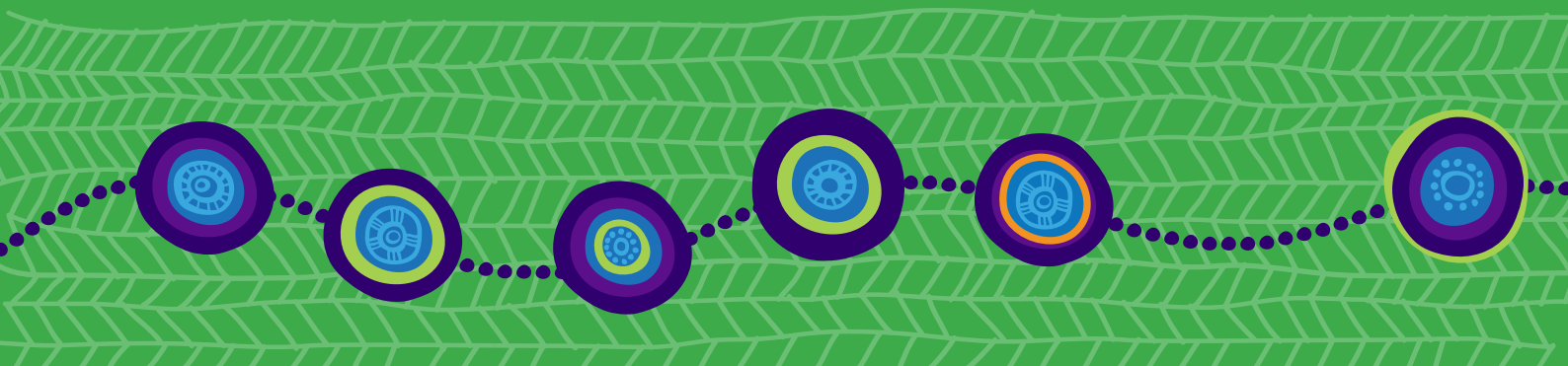
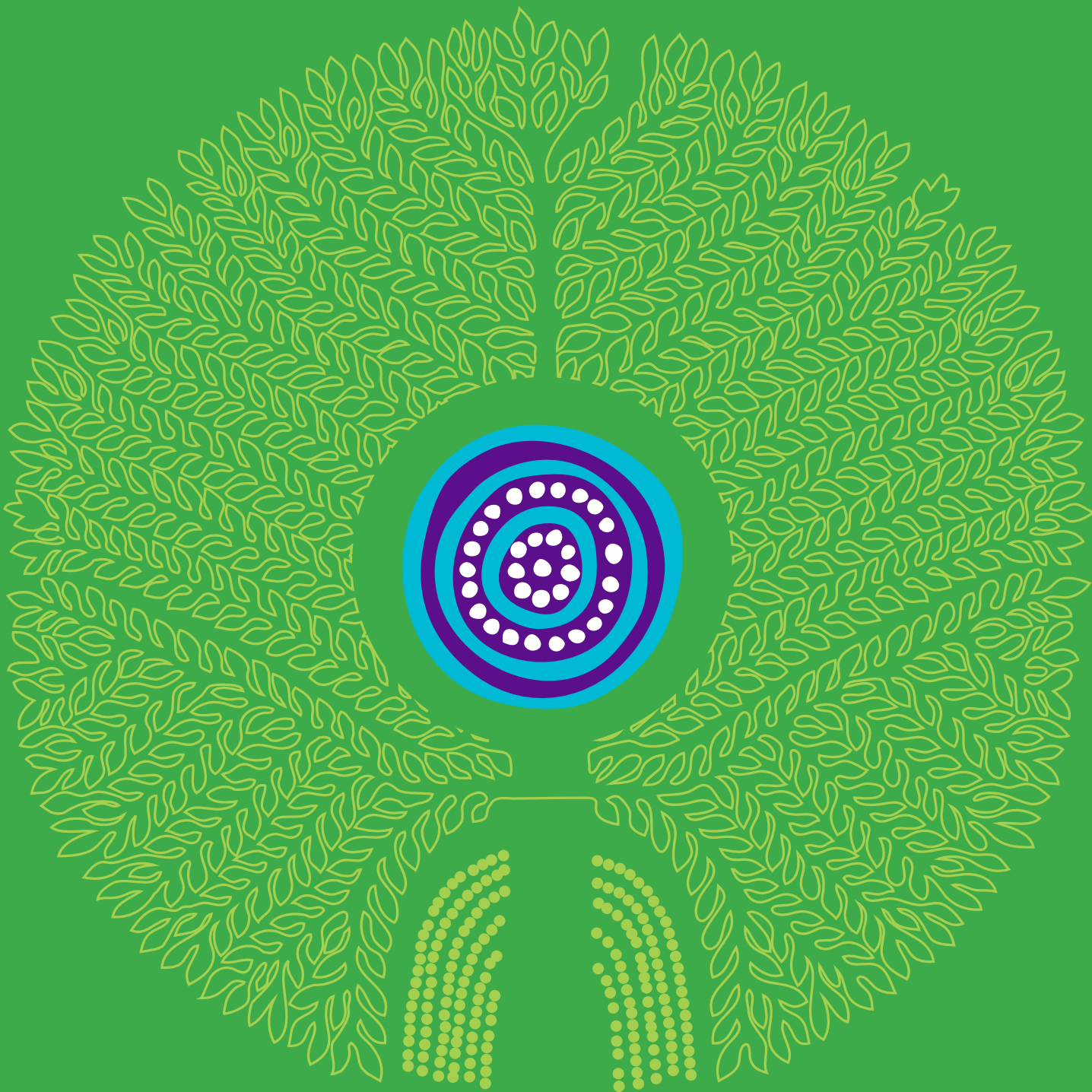
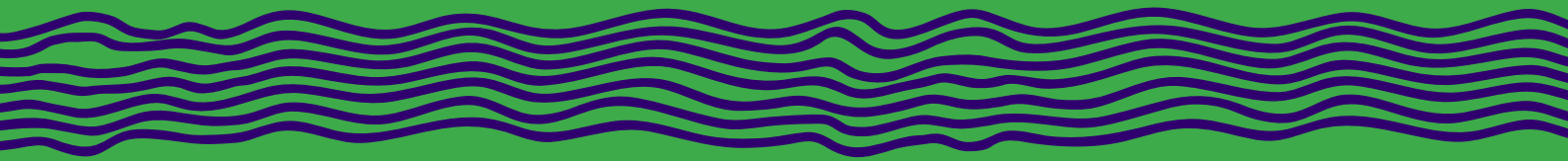
I would like to acknowledge the role of our Stolen Generations Reference Committee, under its Chair Florence Onus, for its dedication and guidance to the BTH20 commemorations. The Committee's efforts were central to ensuring that the experience of Stolen Generations were reflected in all components of the work and for forming the critical recommendations in the Report to bring about change in Australia.



Over the next 12 months the Board will continue to set the strategic direction for our Action Plan for Healing, while also developing and implementing a new four year strategic plan focused on the delivery of an overarching national healing framework to tackle the impact of Intergenerational Trauma. I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our Board and staff who have worked hard to achieve this year's outcomes. I would also like to thank our supporters who share our vision – *strong spirit, strong culture, strong people*.

**Professor Steve Larkin**  
Healing Foundation Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Larkin'.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

**Our overall achievements in 2016/17 have helped to cement and progress the role of healing to break the trauma cycle and build stronger communities, families and people.**

The Healing Foundation's #BTH20 project, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report, generated important discussion around the ongoing impact of Intergenerational Trauma and the need to create healing spaces and opportunities. Activities throughout April and May brought together politicians, policy makers, educators, community leaders and members of the public to acknowledge the atrocities of the Stolen Generations period and talk about how to address the unfinished business created as a result of failing to implement the recommendations of the original report. Throughout this time we:

- developed resource kits for schools and organisations to build community knowledge
- generated awareness with a highly successful Community Service Announcement
- worked with federal, state and territory parliaments to mark the occasion in their parliaments and
- supported 45 community events across the country

We now have the support of the federal government to put the foundations of our plan of action into place, which represents a significant breakthrough for the Stolen Generations and their families and communities.

The Healing Foundation led or participated in a range of forums to closely examine Intergenerational Trauma as the root cause of most major social and health issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In August 2016, we brought together some of Australia's leading academics and experts to share knowledge and examine the impacts and potential solutions, attracting more than 4000 participants via a forum webinar. The following March, the Healing Foundation hosted the first ever Youth Healing Forum, with young influencers from across Australia, to identify the healing needs of young people. The outcomes from these events will contribute to our work around building a national Intergenerational Trauma Strategy, ensuring we set the right priorities and find ways to reach current and future generations.

Another highlight of the year was our success in creating a healing practice framework for responding to sexual abuse in communities. Under the framework, organisations providing support to victims of sexual assault will be provided healing and trauma training. This initiative builds on the lessons learnt during our role with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.



Underpinning all of our work this year is the Theory of Change research undertaken in 2016 to determine the critical elements required to create an optimum environment for healing. We have built on that model this year with the development of new measurement tools and evaluation framework which will make sure we stay on track to deliver strategies with maximum impact.

None of this would have been achieved without the efforts of our small team of staff who are driven by a desire to make a meaningful difference. I'd also like to thank our Board for their ongoing support and direction and the many communities who are our partners in designing and delivering effective healing strategies.

**Richard Weston**  
Healing Foundation CEO

## ***Enabling change through healing***

**The Healing Foundation continues to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to heal trauma caused by the widespread and deliberate disruption and mistreatment of populations, including specific actions like the forced removal of children from their families.**

Working in urban, regional and remote areas, we partner with communities to co-design effective healing solutions, combining valued Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge with best practice in western trauma theory.

We foster long term and sustainable change by providing leadership and creating an environment for:

- **New research to establish an evidence-base for the development of future strategies**
- **Establishing proven healing initiatives that have been trialled, evaluated and improved in communities**
- **Highlighting the role of healing through community networks and healing champions, and**
- **Strengthening the healing workforce through training and education initiatives.**

The Healing Foundation was established by the federal government on the first anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations in 2009. Since then, we have become a unique knowledge hub in Australia, providing the evidence, resources and advice to guide governments, policy makers and organisations on how healing can be most effectively used to change lives, close the gap on disadvantage for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and deliver opportunity.

Towards the end of last financial year, the Healing Foundation commissioned La Trobe University and Social Compass to develop a Theory of Change (TOR), which establishes a template for successful healing. Combining Australian and international best practice, the TOR articulates the critical elements required to create an optimum level of long term change through healing, within a three-pronged framework – ‘Quality Healing Responses’, ‘Establishing the Right Policy Framework’ and ‘Effective Networks and Champions’.





## What we do

### 2010 – 2017, 7 years in review

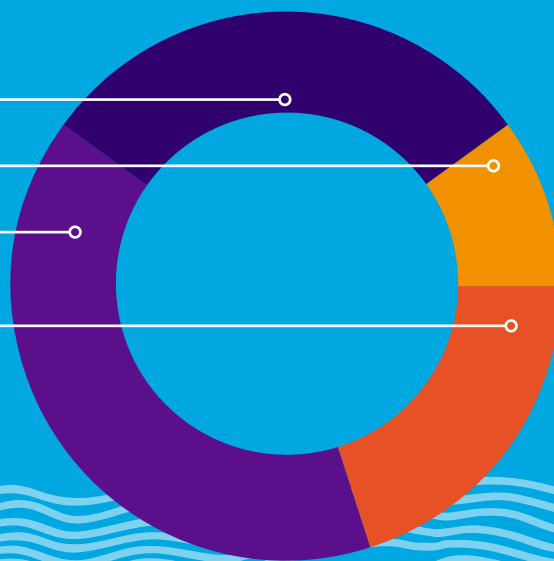
The Healing Foundation works in the areas of Stolen Generations, children and young people, community healing including men’s and women’s healing and training and education.

Since 2010 we have:

- assisted more than 45,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their healing journeys
- funded almost 170 community based healing projects
- provided nearly 500 organisations with grants for local commemorative events
- and established an impressive body of evidence with over 20 evaluations and publications.

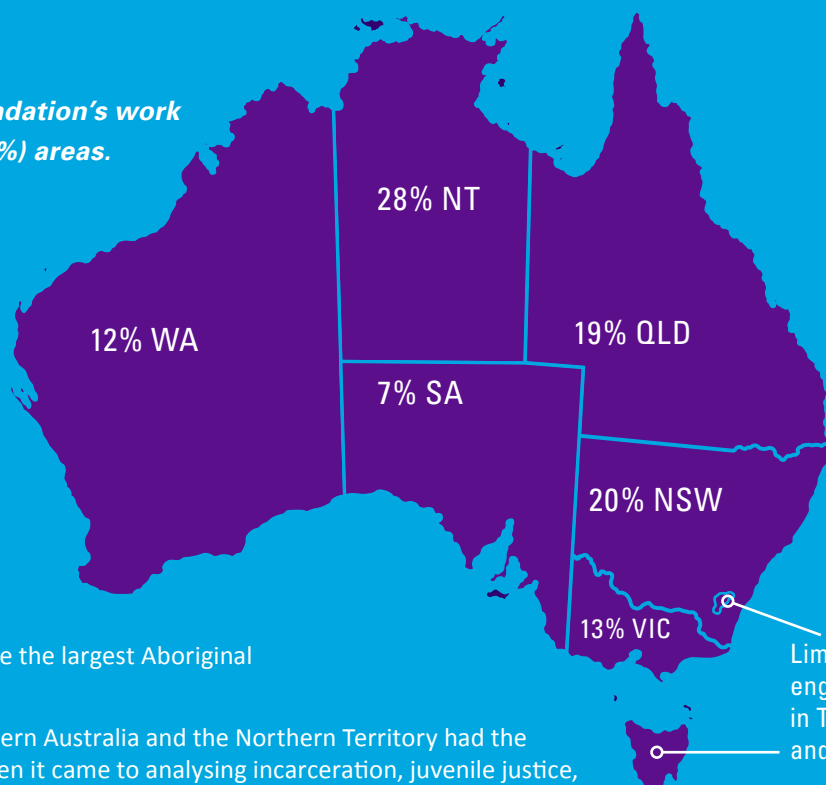
The Healing Foundation focuses its investment in the following areas:

- nearly 30% on training and education
- just over 10% on healing centres
- almost 40% on Stolen Generations
- the rest looks at other healing initiatives, including intergenerational trauma and men’s healing



## Where we work

The majority of the Healing Foundation’s work is in urban (45%) or regional (38%) areas. 17% is done in remote locations.

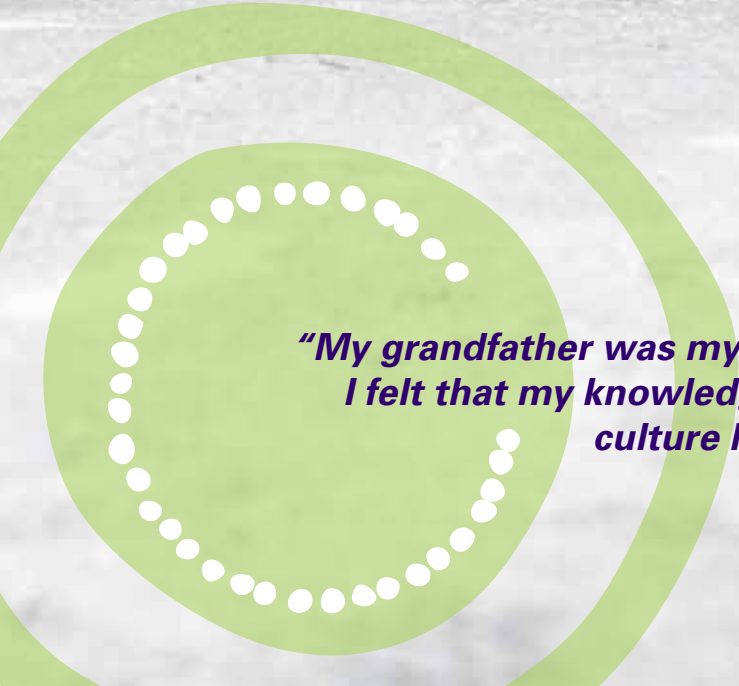


New South Wales and Queensland have the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.

Our research shows Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory had the worst trauma indicators per capita when it came to analysing incarceration, juvenile justice, child protection, mental health, suicide and domestic and family violence rates.

Limited engagement in Tasmania and ACT

# SECTION ONE



***"My grandfather was my library. When he passed away, I felt that my knowledge and ability to learn about culture had been lost"***

## Quality Healing Responses

This year, The Healing Foundation has continued to focus on initiatives designed to break the trauma cycle created by the removal of children from their families and communities and other aspects of colonisation. The forced removal of tens of thousands of children from their homes - between the early 1900's and the 1970's - has resulted in widespread trauma for a large proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The impact continues to grow, through the spread of Intergenerational Trauma.

Partnering with other organisations and stakeholders we also designed, established and supported projects in the following areas:

- community healing
- children and young people
- men's and women's healing
- training and education



## Getting to the root of Intergenerational Trauma

Our research shows that Intergenerational Trauma is a key factor behind most of the social and wellbeing issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities today, including high numbers of children and young people entering the protection and justice systems, increasing suicide rates, domestic violence and substance abuse.

The Healing Foundation is exploring new strategies to tackle Intergenerational Trauma in a way that will lead to long-term and sustainable change.

### Partnering with schools

This year The Healing Foundation continued to support a healing project in one of Australia's few independent schools for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, known as the Murri School in Brisbane.

The project brings together family support workers, psychologists, medical and allied health professionals and trauma informed teachers to create a culturally appropriate and supportive environment for students.

A cost benefit analysis by Deloitte Economics found that investing in projects to tackle Intergenerational Trauma significantly improves education and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children as well as reducing the burden on public funds:

- **potentially reducing the number of children coming into contact with the child protection system by 18.5% and progressing through the system by 30%**
- **reducing their likelihood of entering the juvenile justice system by nearly 14%**
- **significantly improved wellbeing and mental health factors, and**
- **improved long-term earning capacity as a result of better education outcomes.**

Murri School students are twice as likely to achieve their Year 12 certificate as other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland, and attendance and attendance rates are also higher.

After the program, children tell us they feel more positive about school and family life and are more resilient in coping with stressful situations. Parents are more engaged and empowered to provide and seek support.

For example:

#### BOURKE AND BREWARRINA

In Bourke High and Brewarrina Central School Healing Teams continued to deliver weekly yarning circles for young people that assist students and staff build strong relationships, grow understanding of how to manage and deal with life stresses and celebrate their cultural heritage and the strength it offers to them.

In June 2017, staff from the Murri School met with colleagues from Brewarrina Central School and Bourke High to share knowledge and experience around running effective healing programs in schools with high Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. A key focus was enhancing skills in trauma informed approaches and training for school staff.

Key outcomes of the meeting will inform a publication which will highlight how healing can be used in schools to break the trauma cycle. It will also set the foundation for developing an implementation plan to introduce a more comprehensive healing approach within Bourke and Brewarrina schools, building on the Murri School model.

## Harnessing the voice of youth

By bringing together young leaders for Australia’s first ever National Youth Healing Forum, we are ensuring that our future work sets the right priorities, and uses the right tools for engagement, to tackle Intergenerational Trauma.

The Forum, which took place in March 2017, involved 20 young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who shared their experiences and ideas for healing solutions. The group, aged between 18 and 25 years of age, identified five key issues for youth, which impact on the ability to form a strong and proud cultural identity, therefore contributing to negative wellbeing and mental health factors, including an increase in suicide rates.



### The discussions focused on:

- identifying the issues that are impacting on the social and emotional wellbeing of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- identifying the impact of Intergenerational Trauma on young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- identifying existing strengths that would provide a foundation for success and new approaches to creating healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

In a report that was being finalised at the end of the reporting period, the Forum makes four overarching recommendations for addressing these issues.

***“We need increased focus on positive programs that keep people happy and healthy rather than only targeting them at crisis point.”***

***“If people knew the real history it might change their attitude towards us.”***

## ***Our Future Our Way – breaking the cycle***

In August 2016, The Healing Foundation brought together some of Australia’s leading experts to examine new strategies for dealing with Intergenerational Trauma.

The public forum and webinar, which coincided with National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day, included a panel of speakers discussing Intergenerational Trauma from different perspectives and areas of expertise including the importance of culture and identity, juvenile justice and healing, and trauma informed and transformative practice.

More than 4,100 people participated in the webinar online and the outcomes from the forum will contribute to The Healing Foundation’s current work to gain support for a national Intergenerational Trauma Strategy.



## ***Strong men leading to strong communities***

Building on the success of the Healing Foundation’s proven men’s healing model, we supported the development of a new Indigenous Men’s Healing project in Darwin. This group launched in 2017, after years of development and months of careful planning.

The Healing Foundation assisted the group during its development phase, including the creation of a strong business plan and funding proposal. The group has recently secured its own men’s healing site and is working with the NT and Federal governments to secure funding. This is a great example of how The Healing Foundation works with communities to design and refine new healing strategies that are sustained through ongoing investment from a wide range of funding bodies.

There are now three men’s healing projects in operation in the Northern Territory. An evaluation study finalised at the beginning of this reporting period confirmed that these projects have developed effective healing strategies and are driving positive outcomes for more than 50 men who are participating weekly.

Despite the many ongoing challenges faced by men in each of the communities, including significant levels of trauma, poverty and inadequate infrastructure, there has been:

- A measurable increase in participants' confidence and self-esteem
- Reporting of improved coping skills
- Increased use of medical services, including counselling, alcohol and other drug support programs
- Engagement with training and/or employment



## ***Building stronger healing centres***

In late 2016, The Healing Foundation brought together representatives from seven healing centres, currently under development with support from The Healing Foundation. The Gathering also involved representatives from established and successful healing centres across Australia, and local state and federal government representatives.

Forum participants shared their knowledge and experiences to determine the critical success factors for establishing safe and effective healing places where people can navigate their own healing path.

This sharing of knowledge will assist individual centres, now and into the future, to build strong business and operational models. The outcomes of the gathering have also helped establish an evidence based case for the vital role of healing and healing centres in reducing gaps in opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**The group identified the following critical success elements for a healing centre:**

- Local ownership of the project
- Strong partnerships and community engagement
- Robust cultural governance
- The training of local community members to take on staff roles and trauma training for staff
- A focus on re-connection with culture, and
- The integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge with western social and emotional wellbeing services.





## Community healing strategies and projects

### East Kimberley Healing Strategy

This year, The Healing Foundation continued working with communities and organisations in the East Kimberley to develop an effective healing strategy for the region.

Significant scoping work was undertaken to map and evaluate the outcomes of existing programs in the area, including new suicide prevention projects, to avoid duplication and establish an overarching plan.

Working with community leaders and existing services, we are focusing on the establishment of a family violence strategy, building on the outcomes of a Family Healing Gathering.

### Torres Strait Healing Strategy

We also began the implementation of community healing solutions on Torres Strait islands, following the launch of the Torres Strait and Kaurareg Aboriginal People's Healing Strategy in June 2016. We are working closely with Mura Kosker, as a lead community agency with reach to the central, western and eastern islands, to initiate community healing forums, and support the development of the Ker Kau Bau men's group and provide ongoing support for women's healing.

The strategy, which was developed following widespread consultation, highlights several priority areas including the need to enhance spiritual healing and develop initiatives around child and community safety.



### NSW Healing Forums

The Healing Foundation progressed plans with Aboriginal Affairs NSW to hold six healing forums in regional areas of the state. These forums, to be held in October and November 2017, will support a stronger partnership between Aboriginal and government stakeholders to improve services and solutions.

This financial year, implementation meetings were held with community leaders and groups in Clarence Valley, Barang, Baabayn, Three Rivers, Kempsey and Riverina Murray to determine the focus of the forums, to meet the specific needs of each area. The impact of Intergenerational Trauma, particularly around suicide, mental health and the removal of children, is a common theme for these communities.

## Developing best practice

The Healing Foundation is committed to developing a robust evaluation and monitoring framework to ensure that we continue to deliver the best possible return on our investment into quality healing responses.

This year we continued to develop new measurement tools, based on the Theory of Change research undertaken in 2016. These tools will enable us to effectively measure outcomes and guide us in establishing healing strategies in the future that are in line with international best practice.

## SECTION TWO



***“We’ve got to get this right for those [Stolen Generations] who are still with us. For their sake for the sake of their families and for the sake of every Australian”***

*– Board Chair Steve Larkin*

## ***Establishing the Right Policy Framework***

The Healing Foundation continued to work with stakeholders to promote the use of effective healing strategies that create positive and long term change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We have examined Australian and international best practice to determine the key elements of successful initiatives and drawn from our own experiences developing projects in partnership with communities.

To help create the right overarching policy framework for healing, we provide this evidence, along with resources and advice, to guide governments, policy makers and organisations on how healing can be most effectively utilised.

### ***A call for action - #BTH20***

In early 2017, The Healing Foundation turned the spotlight on the issues impacting on members of the Stolen Generations, coordinating a month of commemorative activities to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report.

Events were held at the federal, state and community level, bringing politicians, policy makers, members of the public and the Stolen Generations together to remember a tragic part of history and focus on the critical work that still needs to be done to stop the cycle of trauma. Most of the original *Bringing Them Home* recommendations were never implemented, creating an environment for the trauma to spread to children and grandchildren and manifest into negative feelings like distrust and lack of self-worth or behaviours like violence or substance abuse.

Commemorative activities began with a launch at the Opera House, where members of the Stolen Generations shared their stories and The Healing Foundation launched a range of education and awareness initiatives.



***“They tried to break our spirit and take my soul. They flogged us and starved it out of us, bit by bit and day by day”***

*– Michael Welsh, Stolen Generations member*

***“It’s time now for us to move on and tell our stories so they’ll know how we’re feeling, because if we don’t it’s going to go on and on for future generations”***

*– Isabel Reid, Stolen Generations member*



## Education and awareness initiatives

To be an effective part of change through healing, our current and future policy makers and policy drivers need to understand what happened during the Stolen Generations period of history and how it continues to influence gaps in opportunity and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today. As part of #BTH20, The Healing Foundation launched initiatives which will result in a greater level of understanding across all sectors of Australian society.

### Community Service Announcement

A Community Service Announcement (CSA) was developed with Stolen Generations elders, sharing their personal memories, and involving their grandchildren and great grandchildren to demonstrate the ongoing impact of trauma. As a result of strong support from commercial television networks, ABC and SBS the announcement was aired on free-to-air channels around the #BTH20 commemorative period.

It was also widely distributed through social media networks, reaching more than 33,000 people via Facebook. The CSA was watched 13,438 times and shared more than 250 times through this social media channel. In addition, it received 934 views through YouTube from the time it was published on 26 April to 30 June 2017. Most viewers were from Australia but the CSA also reached audiences in the United States, New Zealand, France and Canada.

The Healing Foundation would like to thank renowned artist Archie Roach for supporting this initiative with his award winning song “Beautiful Child”.

### Resource kits for learning

The Healing Foundation also developed resource kits for schools to help educators around the country better inform students about the Bringing Them Home report and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture. Tailored for student groups from pre-kindergarten to year 9, the kits were designed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander curriculum writer Tania Thomas, in consultation with members of the Stolen Generations.

Classroom activities include arts and drawing exercises, storytelling, a poster competition, assembly presentations and speech writing. Each kit is supported by personal stories of the Stolen Generations, video material, facts and figures and general information. The kits also provide teaching notes and resources to help educators deliver the curriculum material in a sensitive and appropriate way, and feel confident about issues around culture.

At the end of this financial year, The Healing Foundation was preparing to test the resources in classrooms before making the kits available to schools across Australia.

In addition, The Healing Foundation launched resources to assist organisations and workplaces to mark the 20th anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report. Including placards, templates and a glossary of terms, the resources were designed to start the conversation about the Stolen Generations period, the ongoing impact of trauma in communities and what it means to heal.



## ***Bringing Them Home 20 years on***

At the federal commemorative event in May 2017, The Healing Foundation brought together more than 200 guests for a bi-partisan breakfast event at Parliament House. We presented a report to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, calling for support for a program of change that will establish the right policy framework for long-term outcomes through healing.

*Bringing Them Home 20 Years On* sets out an action plan to overhaul the policy landscape and address the emerging needs of the Stolen Generations and the spread of trauma through communities. As the first stage, the Healing Foundation identified four key priorities that are practical, easy-to-implement and will provide an evidence-based framework for moving forward.

### **Stolen Generations driving change**

*Bringing them Home 20 years on* was written by Pat Anderson and Edward Tilton, and closely guided by the Healing Foundation's Stolen Generations Reference Committee. The Committee's efforts were central to ensuring the report reflects the experience of Stolen Generations members and presents an agenda for change that will address the critical needs of those affected. The Healing Foundation acknowledges their vital contribution and thanks the following committee members for giving their insights and drawing on their personal, and often painful stories, to build a framework for moving forward.

- **Committee Chair Florence Onus - Birri-Gubba and Kairi/Bidjara clans**
- **Michael Welsh - Wailwan, Coonamble**
- **Aunty Lorraine Peeters - Wailwan/Bidgera**
- **Ian Hamm - Yorta Yorta**
- **Cynthia Sariago - Gurindji, Wave Hill/Malak Malak, Daly River**
- **Mark Bin Bakar - Kitja/Gunian East Kimberley**
- **Carolyn Fyfe - Juun Ju Warra woman from the Guggu Yimthirr tribe**





***“But there is much unfinished business. And today’s report will guide us on the progress we are yet to make.*”**

*– PM Malcolm Turnbull*

***“I think it is time for this Parliament to discuss reconnection, recovery and reparations”***

*– Deputy Opposition Leader Bill Shorten*

***“I am writing to each local government in my electorate to provide them with a copy of the report and ask them to do their bit in achieving meaningful reconciliation for the community”***

*– Josh Wilson MP*

***“Big day in Australia recognising the need for greater commitment to healing and reconciliation with First Peoples”***

*– Canadian High Commissioner to Australia Paul Maddison*

***“Way past time for reparations for the Stolen Generations”***

*– Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewert*

***“Congratulations to everyone at the Healing Foundation for all that you have achieved.”***

*– Shadow Minister Jenny Macklin*

## Bringing Them Home 20 years on - The Key Priorities

### PRIORITY ONE

A comprehensive needs analysis so that we can tailor and deliver more effective services for Stolen Generations members that also represent the best possible return on investment. Right now, we don't know how many Stolen Generations members are still alive, let alone the demographic data that would enable us to optimise service design and delivery.

We do know that needs have changed over the past two decades, as Stolen Generations members reach their elderly years and require specific aged care services.

### PRIORITY TWO

A national scheme for reparations to ensure equal access to financial redress and culturally appropriate healing services. The scheme would see state and federal governments - and the institutions that caused the harm - sharing the cost. Some states have recently announced reparation schemes for Stolen Generations members, which suggests a promising level of commitment to an overarching federal scheme.

### PRIORITY THREE

Coordinated and compulsory training around Stolen Generations trauma so that the organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are better equipped to provide effective and appropriate services. The aim is to ensure that everyone has the skills to identify and appropriately deal with trauma – from police to frontline social and health workers, and staff at every level within key policy and provider organisations.

### PRIORITY FOUR

A comprehensive study of Intergenerational Trauma and how we can effectively tackle it. Measures to deal with Intergenerational Trauma need to underpin future strategies addressing social and health problems in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including suicide, domestic violence, substance abuse, incarceration rates and the high numbers of children entering the protection system.





## Government response

*Bringing Them Home 20 years on, An Action Plan for Healing*, has been well received and we have been allocated initial funding from government to undertake research and develop a way to put the plan into action.

This project was being fully scoped at the end of this financial year, focusing on establishing the current needs of Stolen Generations members and the emerging needs of an ageing population, identified as a key priority when we handed the report to the Prime Minister in May.

We will continue to work with our Stolen Generations Reference Committee, as well as other critical stakeholders to develop this initiative.



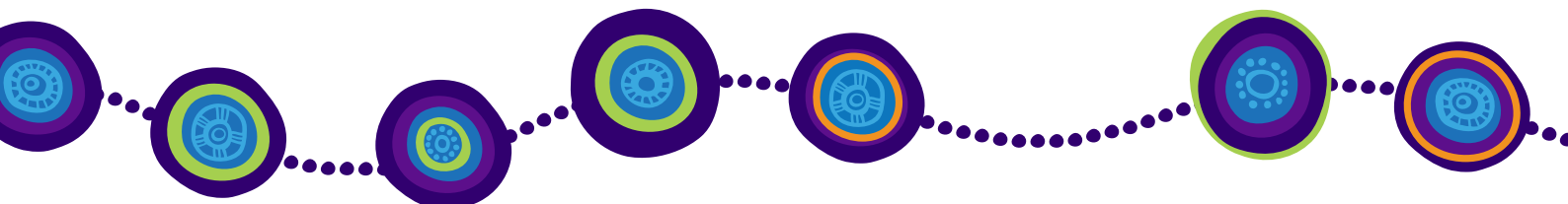
## Community events

Support was provided to 45 organisations across Australia to run community-based #BTH20 activities, encouraging commemoration and education at a local level. These grants were awarded to schools, councils and wellbeing and community organisations who hosted activities to bring people together to learn more about the Stolen Generations period and focus on future healing. Collectively, the events attracted more than 4000 participants.

Every event provided an opportunity for Stolen Generations members to tell their story and highlighting the impact of ongoing Intergenerational Trauma at the family and community level. Through the use of media and social media, organisations helped to spread the message about the importance of commemoration and the need for future strategies to break the trauma cycle.

### A snapshot of community events

1. More than 700 people attended a concert in Perth hosted by the WA Bringing Them Home Committee, including 30 Stolen Generations members and people from all cross sections of the community. A highlight of activities was a short film capturing some of the state's tragic accounts of stolen children. Organisers say that participants learnt a great deal about the work that still needs to be done, following the failure to deliver on most of the recommendations from the original report.
2. People travelled from all over the Kimberley, covering distances of more than 1000 kilometres, to commemorate the 20th anniversary in Broome. Hosted by the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation, the event provided an opportunity for people to remember and learn. The local council supported the event by bathing the chambers in purple light and generating community interest.
3. Kwaalup Djet Aboriginal Corporation took the message into the local school population with a special assembly at Tambellup Primary. A local Stolen Generations member talked about the native Hibiscus tree and its significance to Stolen Generation members, while students planted a commemorative shrub. There was also a family gathering and trip to Noongar country with five Stolen Generations members sharing their experiences of being removed and growing up on a mission.
4. To mark the 20th anniversary, the annual Ballarat Youth Global Ambassadors Forum turned its focus onto issues around Sorry Day, inviting personal story telling from Stolen Generations members. The forum also highlighted diverse perspectives on education as a fundamental human right and foundation for participation, empowerment and social justice – as we design strategies to close the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
5. Bamba-Baa Aboriginal Children's Service, supported by other local service providers, held an information expo with interactive activities for children. The stalls included story telling by Elders, didgeridoo lessons and dance lessons. More than 400 community members attended the event.
6. Stolen Generations members, young people and residents of Ferdys Rehab Facility came together to mark the 20th anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report on Palm Island. They spent a day sharing stories, while young people participated by acknowledging the tragedies of the past and expressing hope for the future. *"Even though this nation has experienced great heartache and loss, we have also gained resilience - physically, emotionally, spiritually, and mentally,"* said youth representatives.
7. In collaboration with Hothouse Theatre, Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health staged a performance of the play 'Hart' which is about the experience of four Stolen Generations men from Western Australia. After the play, two Stolen Generations members participated in a question and answer panel with the audience.





*“So proud of these wonderful people. Their wisdom and courage made it a privilege to hear them speak of their experiences of being members of the Stolen Generations.”*

*– Sunbury Aboriginal Corporation*



**Landmark events remembered at Gurchigam**

**Healing the way to reconciliation**

**Alan Hopkins**

CLARESH's Valere Aboriginal Healing Centre representative Danielle Brown said the key message from Gurchigam's Remembrance Week event was to remember the victims of the past, but to take it step forward for the future.

The event was held to mark the 80 year anniversary of the last referendum, the 50 year anniversary of the ending of the Stolen Generations, and 30 years since the landmark Mabo decision.

Ms Brown, who helped organise the event with Julie Ferguson said a reminder helped establish the legacy of the work.

"We had a number of speakers that spoke about stolen generations, and the Stolen Generations was a very highly thought about topic," she said.

and when they wanted to return from his, and this time that to be put in the middle of the healing garden.

"After that, they stepped out of the circle, and washed their hands, concluding that idea of cleansing and letting go of things to our 30 that no longer serve us. "We can't change the past, but we can make a future we can all live with."

The expanded healing garden at the centre has been developed in cooperation with Numbakill to Cully Harbour, who helped build the area as part of Construction 2 premier at Gurchigam and Gurchigam.

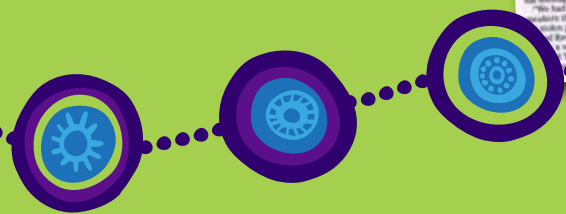
As part of the day, relations from the local TAPU Community Services centre were invited to experience the day, and he student Nadine Torgler, 8 was an eye opening experience. "I changed the

waiting the hotels as a reality was very powerful," she said.

"I come down with this theme to take it on, and even though I have no Aboriginal ancestry, it was very beautiful. I need to meet the Gurchigam with one of my friends when I see you, and it's wonderful what they're doing — so calm and peaceful."

Ms Brown said that the legacy of events at Gurchigam have designed to be inclusive of the entire community, and she said was an important part of their reconciliation process.

"What we want to do is foster the idea of reconciliation, because an Aboriginal community can't change things by ourselves," she said. "We need the help of the entire community to work with us to change the things that need changing to create better



## State events

From a bridge walk in Canberra to the West Australian House of Parliament in purple lights, states and territories across Australia found their own way of marking the 20th anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report. Premiers or Ministers recognised the significance of the anniversary with a statement in parliament, often followed by an event with Stolen Generations members, parliamentary colleagues and sections of the community.

### Commemorating #BTH20 in our capital cities



1. Stolen Generations members told their stories and engaged with NSW politicians and policy makers to build a greater understanding of the ongoing impacts of trauma in their communities at a commemorative event in Sydney. Pictured here is Aunty Shirley McGee, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Sarah Mitchell, Aunty Isabel Reid and NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian.



2. West Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Ben Wyatt delivered an emotional speech in the House, showing his commitment to addressing Intergenerational Trauma in WA communities. From left: Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, Cedric Jacobs and Richard Weston.



3. Chair of The Healing Foundation's Stolen Generations Reference Committee Florence Onus powerfully demonstrated the need for change through her family story, involving four generations of stolen girls and the tragic result of their collective trauma.



4. Healing Foundation staff focusing the spotlight on the 20th anniversary of the *Bringing Them Home* report during Canberra's annual Sorry Day bridge walk. It was the biggest Sorry Day crowd they had ever seen.



5. Parliament House in WA took on a purple glow to say sorry to all those affected by the Stolen Generations period and to show their support for a different future.

## An emerging platform for change

Our call to help spread the word about #BTH20 received an overwhelming response from public figures and community members alike.

Around 30 community leaders and identities sent in messages of support, helping to create social media momentum. These included Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar, Chancellor of the University of Canberra Tom Calma and Chair of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth Fiona Stanley.

Between April and June 2017, The Healing Foundation experienced significant growth across all social media channels. We saw a 900% increase in Twitter followers and the biggest jump in Facebook likes since August 2015.

We also experienced a huge increase in website traffic, with more than 70 per cent of people visiting our website for the first time. The most popular day in this period was 23 May, when we launched Bringing Them Home 20 years on. More than 540 people downloaded this report.



***“Let’s do it together, it’s about time”***

*– Facebook follower*

***“So pleased to be able to hear these stories, no matter how sad”***

*– Facebook follower*

## Driving policy through research and dialogue

We continue to lead the way in research and analysis, establishing the evidence base to support innovative healing policy and healing strategies that work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Healing Foundation's studies are unique, valuable and highly regarded both locally and internationally. In addition to *Bringing Them Home 20 years on*, key highlights for the year included:

- A study to determine the critical factors for preventing violence amongst men and boys in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This report will be finalised early in the new financial year and form part of our evidence base for informing strategies in the future.
- We began the process of mapping healing services and facilities across Australian health, social and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sectors. This is identifying strengths and gaps for building a connected and effective national framework in the future.

## Our Work with Royal Commissions

In March 2017, The Healing Foundation established a Knowledge Creation Circle involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing leaders and prominent researchers, to build a healing practice framework for responding to sexual abuse in communities.

This initiative builds on the lessons learnt during our role with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. For some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, giving evidence to the Royal Commission led to renewed distress from recalling the memories of the sexual abuse they experienced as children in institutions. Through our Royal Commission Specialist Support Project we have been working with support organisations to make sure they have the right tools and resources to appropriately respond and reduce ongoing harm.

The new healing practice framework, which is due to be completed later this year, will leave a legacy post the Royal Commission, by informing service delivery into the future. Under the new framework, all current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations providing support for survivors of institutional abuse would be provided healing and trauma training.

### Reducing protection and detention rates

This year, we also contributed to a new framework for youth, through our submission to the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory. By sharing our evidence on the role of Intergenerational Trauma as a critical cause of protection and detention rates and demonstrating the success of healing solutions, we hope to see a focus on healing as part of the Commission's recommendations.

## Training and Knowledge Creation

Building on our successful Heal the Healers project, this year we developed curriculum and facilitator training materials to improve healing skills within the workforce.

These materials, which are under final review before implementation, will be available in 2018.

The resources will be available to organisations across the sector responsible for providing services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



## SECTION THREE



***“Behaviour is learnt. If my children are watching me have anxiety, fear, drinking issues to numb the pain, that behavior is learnt by little people.”***

*– Aunty Lorraine Peeters*





## Effective Networks and Champions

### Our healing champions

As part of #BTH20, The Healing Foundation established a network of healing champions who will continue to play a role in educating the community and building a platform to support positive healing outcomes.

We worked with this group of Stolen Generations members to develop their presentation and media skills, and grow more comfortable with sharing their personal stories and perspectives on how healing can break the trauma cycle.



**Doreen Webster**

"I remember happy times with my parents before I was taken ... My dad worked on a station. I loved it. I had a younger sister. She was a baby when she was taken."



**Isabel Reid**

"As children always do, we got into the truck. But we were not taken home; we were taken to the police station in Dubbo and we were put in the jail cells for the night."



**Ian Hamm**

"People told me I'm Aboriginal, but what does that mean? My only source of information was what people told me and what I saw on television. This is the '60s and the '70s, and so that wasn't great."



**Faye Moseley**

"Non-Aboriginal people don't understand our suffering. It's like we've been through a war, and we continue to go through the war."



**Richard Campbell**

"Time is not on our side. We have lost four men this year alone and this ... means they cannot be part of their families' healings ... who are left living with the pain of questions unanswered."



**Lorraine Peeters**

"Behaviour is learnt. If my children are watching me have anxiety, fear, drinking issues to numb the pain, that behavior is learnt by little people."



**Florence Onus**

"There needs to be an increase in healing resources for the Stolen Generations and our families to heal from the trauma, pain and suffering that we're still dealing with today."



**Michael Welsh**

"Our children need to be connected to this healing process too. Our journey's almost over, but our children's journeys are only just beginning."

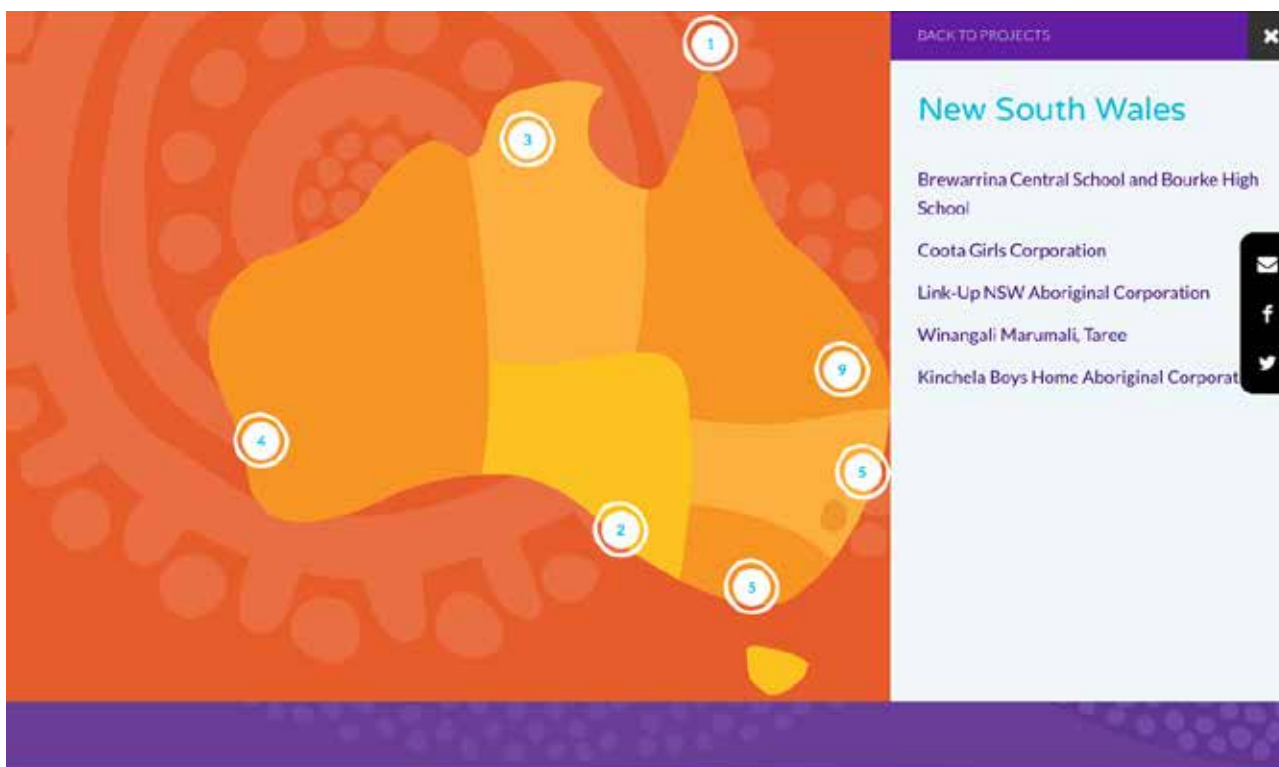


## Digital Platforms

The Healing Foundation continues to maintain a strong online presence which strengthens our healing networks.

Achievements for the year include:

- The new Healing Foundation website went live in February 2017, including an interactive map of our funded projects and more information about The Healing Foundation’s work. The new site also includes improved analytic capacity. Since launch day, we have had 49,818 page views and 17,987 sessions which represents the highest volume of traffic to the site in several years.
- Over the last 12 months we have added a lot of new video content, including knowledge and training webinars hosted since 2009, #BTH20 case studies and events. We have also made existing content easier to access.
- Our most popular video content remains our interview series with Stolen Generations members, called *Telling Our Stories - Our Stolen Generations*. Our animation *The Story of the Healing Foundation* continues to be a useful tool and is now being used by other organisations.





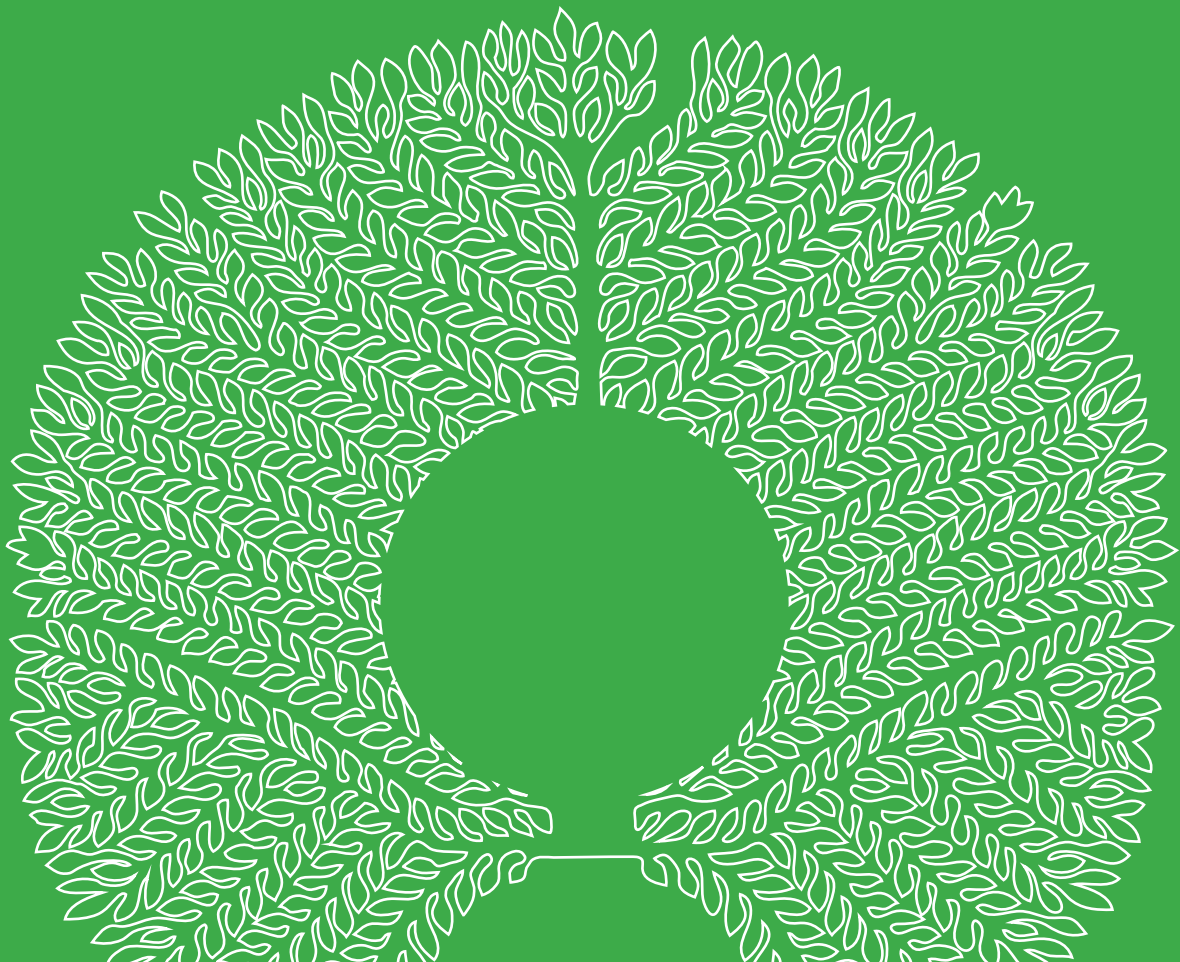
***“It is our sincerest hope that by acknowledging and addressing the real and devastating harm caused by past practices, we can create a space for healing”***

*– NSW Aboriginal Affairs Minister Sarah Mitchell*



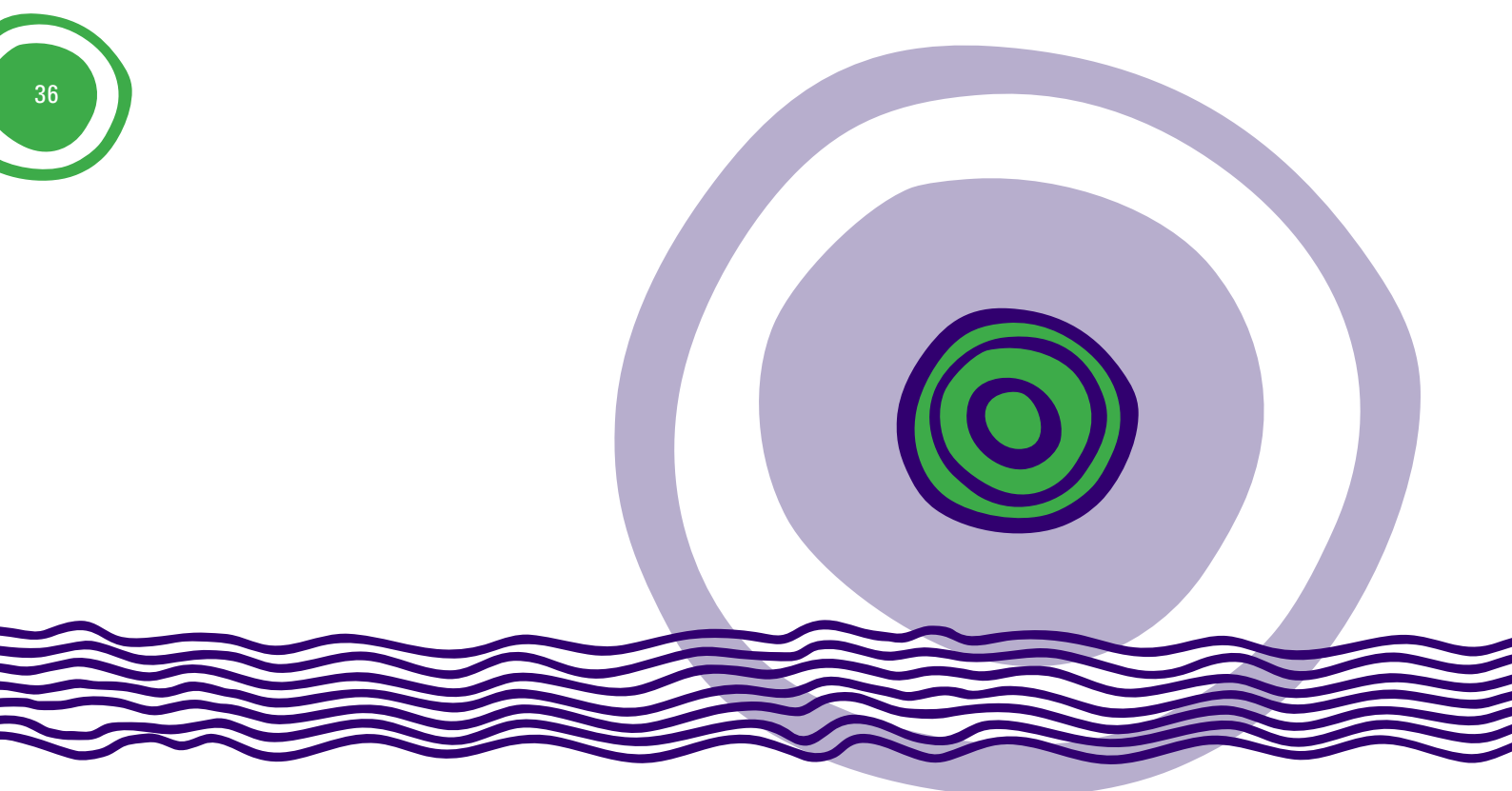
# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*For The Year Ended 30 June 2017*



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## DIRECTORS' REPORT *30 June 2017*

The directors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Ltd (the Company) present the annual financial statements of the Company for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

### **Directors**

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

Names	Appointed	Resigned
Noeleen Lopes	January 2010	
Professor Steve Larkin – Chairperson	February 2012	
Stephanie Harvey	June 2014	
Russell Taylor	June 2014	
Dr Aden Ridgeway	October 2014	
Leann Wilson – Deputy Chairperson	October 2014	

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### **Objectives and Strategies**

The Company's objective is to partner with communities to address the ongoing trauma caused by actions like the forced removal of children from their families.

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activity of the Company during the financial year was funding healing initiatives, funding education and training initiatives to build community capacity and conducting research and evaluation activities.

No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activity occurred during the financial year.

### **Challenges**

The Healing Foundation is now well placed to achieve ongoing investment in healing beyond the current Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) core funding agreement which expires in 2018. The reason for optimism is the swift response to The Healing Foundation's report on the unfinished business of the 1997 Bringing Them Home report and the implications of the original recommendations for Stolen Generations today. The Healing Foundation received a significant injection of financial resources to undertake a needs and demography analysis for Stolen Generations. This is a two year project and it appears likely that given this investment there is a positive outlook for The Healing Foundation in relation to achieving ongoing core funding.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT *continued*

There are however a number of challenges that in the process of negotiating ongoing core funding The Healing Foundation might aim to address:

- Healing takes time – where we have been able to invest over years in new work (5 years +) we see increased outcomes – for example Men's Healing projects have resulted in a 50% decrease in family violence and a Trauma Cost Benefit Analysis of the Brisbane Murri School program shows a reduction in child protection, juvenile justice, and mental health issues with a cost saving of approximately \$29,000 per child.
- Co-design – working with communities to design and develop their own solutions is critical in reconnecting people to their cultural knowledge and elevating this in healing solutions. This moves people beyond just known solutions which are often westernised approaches, to a greater cultural focus and building on community strengths. This process needs to be honoured up front and helps refine our work.
- Healing programs are most effective where there is strong healing leadership and healing knowledge in the broader community. Without this, healing programs struggle and outcomes are less sustainable – this is consistent with our Theory of Change.
- Healing Programs can achieve outcomes more effectively and in a timely way when they are based in strong organisations with clear healing objectives.
- Where we provide good evidence of the ability of our healing model to deliver changed outcomes such as our Men's Healing and Intergenerational Trauma work, we get limited engagement with government to move this work to scale or increase investment more heavily. There needs to be more focus on long term outcomes when making decisions about future funding.
- Our current grant based model does not always support us investing in healing programs that need to grow over time (5 years +). We have been able to invest in Bourke and Brewarrina Intergenerational Trauma projects and the Northern Territory Men's work because we received the full funding allocation up front. Therefore we have been able to fully invest in the work required to support community capacity building, without the threat of losing funds by not meeting timeframes. As a result we have been able to support increased outcomes and sustainable healing development that is growing the understanding of healing at a community and organisational level.
- This limits our ability to grow healing where communities are struggling and may not have strong organisations because the time required to invest and support the development in these processes is not afforded to us in our current funding agreements. This means we have to focus on investing in places where there is evident healing strength in order to create positive outcomes and not do more harm by starting healing work that cannot be sustained. To do this would create more trauma in people's lives by offering something and then taking it away. This also would have The Healing Foundation replicating poor State and Federal Government funding processes that have created and continue to create a lot of distress for communities.

### **Achievements**

Despite these challenges The Healing Foundation has furthered its efforts to elevate the important role of healing to achieve positive outcomes and change lives. A major focus for the year was highlighting the work that needs to be done for the Stolen Generations and their descendants by commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Bringing Them Home Report (#BTH20).

The Healing Foundation presented a report to government at a federal bi-partisan event, calling for an overhaul of the policy landscape. This report has been well received and we have been allocated initial funding from government to undertake research and develop a way to put the plan into action.

We are scoping this work, focusing on establishing the current needs of Stolen Generations members and the emerging needs of this ageing population, identified as a key priority when we handed the report to the Prime Minister in May.

We will continue to work with our Stolen Generations Reference Committee, as well as other critical stakeholders, to develop this initiative.

In addition to BTH20 The Healing Foundation held a number of key roles on National Health planning fora, which has helped to position healing and an understanding of trauma as central to the development and reform of human services delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT *continued*

### *Highlights of the Healing Foundation's work in 2016/2017:*

#### *Responding to the victims of sexual abuse*

##### **Sexual abuse knowledge circle**

We established a Knowledge Creation Circle of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Leaders to build a healing practice framework for responding to sexual abuse in communities. Under the new framework, all current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations providing support for survivors of institutional abuse will be given healing and trauma training, drawing on the lessons learnt during our role with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

#### *Intergenerational Trauma*

##### **Youth Healing Forum**

We staged a Youth Healing Forum, bringing together young people from across Australia, to inform the development of strategies to tackle the impact of Intergenerational Trauma. This will ensure that our future work sets the right priorities and continues to involve young people in delivering solutions.

##### **Schools Healing Meeting**

We facilitated a forum with our partners in education who are leading the way on integrated healing programs to examine how healing can be used in schools to break the trauma cycle. The outcomes will set the foundation for developing an implementation plan to introduce a more comprehensive healing approach within Bourke and Brewarrina schools, building on The Healing Foundation's successful Murri School model.

##### **Royal Commission into youth detention and child protection in the Northern Territory**

We contributed to a new framework for youth through our submission to the Royal Commission into Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory. By sharing our evidence about the role of Intergenerational Trauma as a crucial cause of protection and detention rates and demonstrating the success of healing solutions, we hope to see a focus on healing as part of the Commission's recommendations.

#### *Training and Education*

##### **Mapping the healing sector**

We have begun the process of mapping the healing sector to define it and identify strengths and gaps for building a connected and effective Australian framework.

##### **Other work**

We commissioned a study to determine the critical factors needed for a men and boys violence prevention framework. This report will be finalised early in the new financial year and will form part of our evidence base for informing strategies in the future.

We continued to develop new measurement tools, based on the Theory of Change research undertaken last year, which will guide us in establishing the strategies that deliver the greatest outcomes.

We also built curriculum and facilitator training materials to improve healing skills within the workforce providing services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These materials are under final review before implementation.

# DIRECTORS' REPORT *continued*

## ***Priorities for The Healing Foundation's work in 2017/2018:***

Over the coming financial year The Healing Foundation will focus on achieving ongoing investment from the Federal Government for our core healing work including a bid for longer term funding arrangements to enable long term change projects.

Advancing 'The Action Plan for Healing' is an operational priority to provide the evidence and structure for developing critical healing objectives for Stolen Generations members and their descendants.

### **Operating Result**

- The Company has reported an operating surplus of \$11,257 (2016: surplus of \$90,097).
- Total grant funding of \$6,731,223 (excluding GST) (2016: \$6,255,019) was received/receivable during the financial year (\$5,041,883 PM&C IAS, \$1,375,000 PM&C APH, \$135,000 DSS Royal Commission, \$10,000 NSW Dep. Education & Communities and \$169,340 QLD Dep. of Communities Child Safety & Disability Services).
- A total of \$4,816,986 (2016: \$4,605,293) was recorded as unspent committed funds at year end. (Consisting of \$2,054,472 PM&C IAS, \$1,375,000 PM&C APH, \$14,036 DSS Royal Commission, \$321,478 NSW Government, \$50,000 ATSIPEP, \$643,618 Interest accrued and \$358,382 Other Funds).

### **Company Limited by Guarantee**

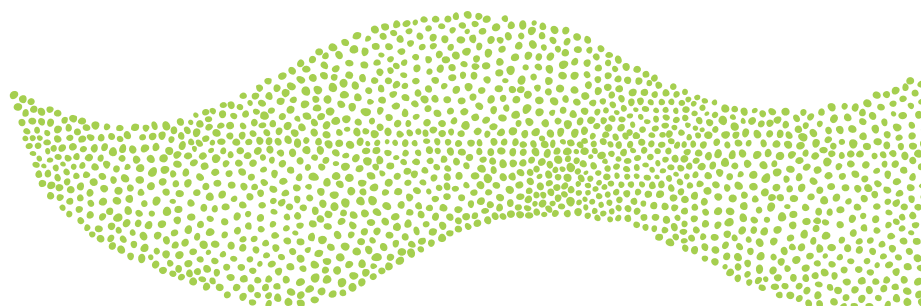
The liability of the members is limited.

In the event the Company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$50 each towards any outstanding obligations of the Company.

### **Directors' Attendance at Board Meetings**

During the financial year, five (5) meetings of directors were held. Attendances by each director during the financial year were as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number Eligible to Attend</b>	<b>Number Attended</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Noeleen Lopes	5	5	
Professor Steve Larkin – Chairperson	5	5	
Stephanie Harvey	5	4	1
Russell Taylor	5	4	1
Dr Aden Ridgeway	5	3	2
Leann Wilson	5	5	





## DIRECTORS' REPORT *continued*

### Directors' Attendance at Board Sub Committee Meetings

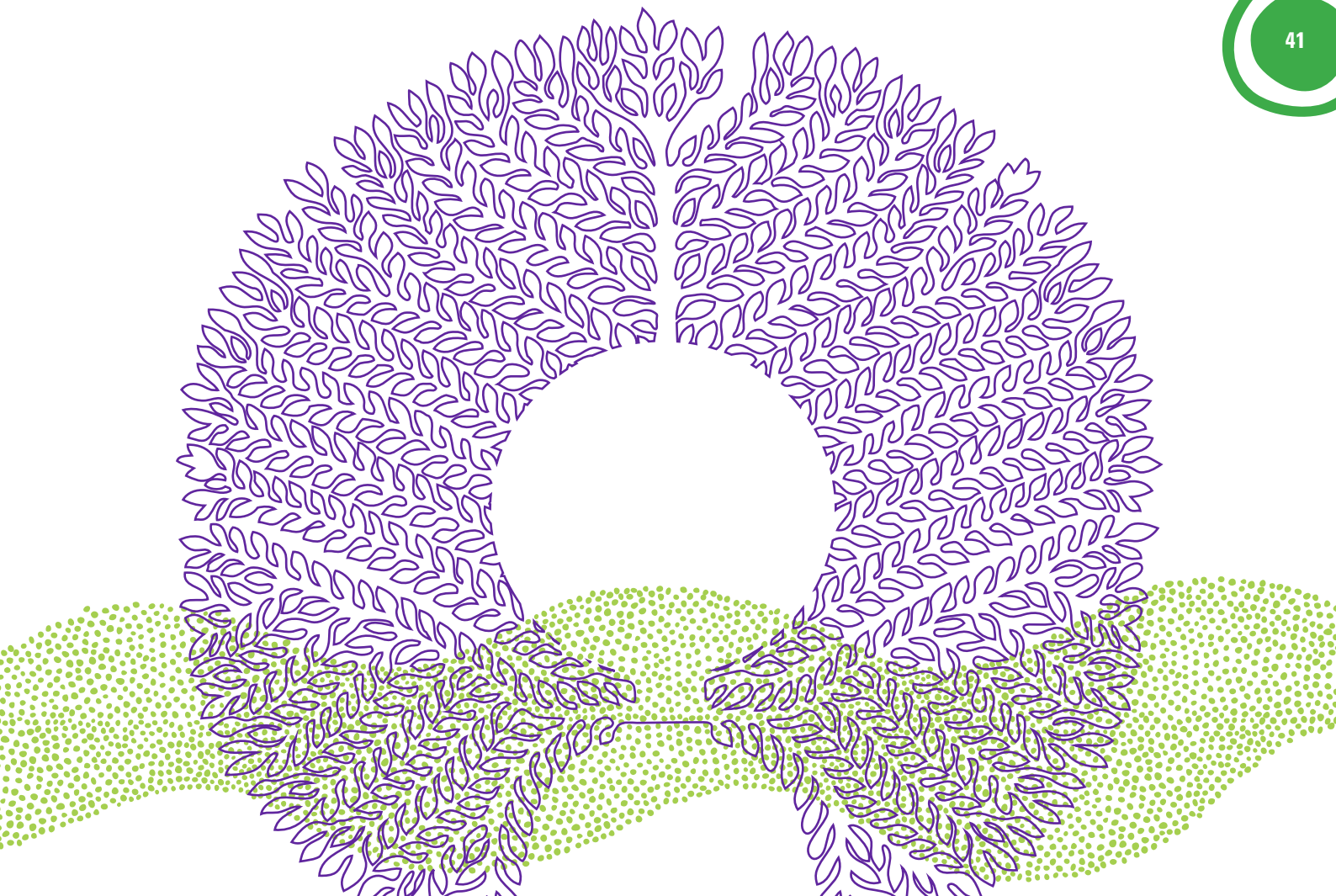
Attendances by directors appointed to these committees during the financial year were as follows:

#### Sub Committee Meetings – Audit Risk and Finance Committee

Name	Number Eligible to Attend	Number Attended	Apologies
Stephanie Harvey Chairperson	4	2	2
Noeleen Lopes	4	4	
Russell Taylor	4	4	

#### Sub Committee Meetings – Governance Committee

Name	Number Eligible to Attend	Number Attended	Apologies
Leann Wilson Chairperson	3	3	
Dr Aden Ridgeway	3	2	1
Professor Steve Larkin	3	2	1



# DIRECTORS' REPORT *continued*

## Directors Information

**Professor Steve Larkin**  
*Chairperson of the Board  
from 8 May 2015*



### Qualifications and Experience

Doctor of Philosophy, Queensland University of Technology  
Master of Social Science, Charles Sturt University  
Bachelor of Social Work, University of Queensland  
Former Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Advisory Council (ATSIHEAC then Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council)  
Former Chair, Northern Territory Board of Studies  
Service on numerous national advisory committees in Indigenous Affairs  
Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous Education and Research, Academic Division, The University of Newcastle, Callaghan, NSW 2308  
Executive Member, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSIHEC)  
Management Committee Member and Node Leader, National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN)  
Director, Beyond Blue  
Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors

**Leann Wilson**  
*Deputy Chairperson of the  
Board from 8 May 2015*



### Qualifications and Experience

Graduate, Australian Rural Leadership Foundation  
University Fellow, Bond University  
Former Chair, National Rural Women's Coalition  
Inaugural Board member, Queensland Aboriginal And Torres Strait Foundation  
Inaugural Member, RIRDC R&D Advisory Committee for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rural Development  
Former Member, The Gender, Mining and Communities Dialogue Minerals Council of Australia  
Executive Director, Business Development and Innovation, Regional Economic Solutions Pty Ltd  
Board Member, Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts  
Member, Australian Red Cross Divisional Advisory Board Qld  
Member, Queensland Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Business and Innovation Panel  
Board Member, YWCA Queensland  
Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors

**Dr Aden Ridgeway**



### Qualifications and Experience

Honorary Doctorate, University of Technology, Sydney  
Former Member of Australian Senate for New South Wales, 1999 – 2005  
Former Director, Creating Australia  
Director, ITAM Holdings Pty Ltd  
Chair/Advisor, Austrade Indigenous Tourism Group  
Chairperson, Paradigm Resources Pty Ltd  
Partner ,Cox Inall Ridgeway, specialist Indigenous consultancy service  
Principal, Aden Ridgeway Pty Ltd  
Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors



**Noeleen Lopes**

**Qualifications and Experience**



Bachelor of Social Work, University of Queensland  
 Accredited Mental Health Social Worker , AASW  
 Certificate IV Business (Governance), Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE  
 Former Member, Southern Queensland Parole Board 2001 2013  
 Founder, Ghungalu Aboriginal Corporation  
 Former Director, Gearing Up Investments Pty Ltd  
 CEO and Founder, Gallang Place Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation  
 Member, Queensland Mental Health Commission’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
 Social and Emotional Wellbeing Action Plan Reference Group  
 Member, Brisbane South Primary Health Network Advisory Council  
 Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors

**Stephanie Harvey**

**Qualifications and Experience**



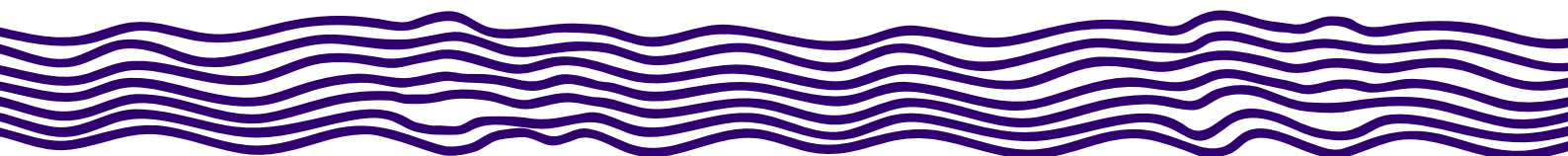
Graduate Certificate of Management, Australian Institute of Business  
 Service on numerous national advisory committees in Indigenous Affairs  
 CEO, Indigenous Community Volunteers  
 Member, Landcare Australia Strategy Forum  
 Member Fundraising Sub Committee Mary Mackillop Foundation  
 Member Management Committee NIRAKN  
 Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors

**Russell Taylor AM**

**Qualifications and Experience**



Master of Business Administration, University of Technology, Sydney  
 Graduate Diploma in Public Sector Management, University of Technology, Sydney  
 Graduate Diploma in Arts (Anthropology with Merit), Australian National University  
 Service with numerous complementary NGO and sporting associations  
 Board member Moreton Consulting,  
 Board Member, Wentwest Limited,  
 Board member, Nature Conservation Trust  
 Council member, University of Technology Sydney  
 Member, Charles Darwin University Vice Chancellor’s Indigenous Advisory Committee  
 Member, National Museum of Australia Indigenous Reference Group  
 Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors



# DIRECTORS' REPORT *continued*

## **Auditor's Independence Declaration**

The auditor's independence declaration in accordance with Subdivision 60 40 of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012, for the year ended 30 June 2017 has been received and is attached to this report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Professor Steve Larkin

Dated 07 / 09 / 2017

Canberra ACT



### **Auditor's Independence Declaration**

**Under Subdivision 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012 to the Directors of**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Limited**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2017 there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



**Nexia Duesburys (Audit)**  
Canberra, 7 September 2017



**G J Murphy**  
Partner

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Government funding:			
- PM&C (IAS)		6,490,419	5,735,539
- DSS (Royal Commission)		120,964	227,397
- NT (Childrens and PM&C Darwin)		-	292,238
- Medicare Local		-	158,004
- QLD Government		102,501	66,840
- NSW Government		6,035	22,487
Other income			
- Donations		11,157	3,582
- Support services fees		-	51,096
- Sundry income		-	35,419
Interest income		116,835	57,022
Less: interest separately recognised as unexpended funds	7	<b>(116,835)</b>	<b>(57,022)</b>
<i>(Refer to Note 1(j) for details of accounting policy on revenue)</i>			
		<b>6,731,076</b>	<b>6,592,602</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Advertising and promotion		249,188	97,618
Audit and accounting fees		51,966	46,798
Communications		55,773	24,285
Contractors and consultants		779,098	790,670
Depreciation and amortisation expense		30,946	245,486
Employee benefits expense		2,289,424	2,017,836
Finance costs		2,285	4,094
General		70,265	36,657
Information technology		81,298	93,564
Insurance		5,893	14,841
Legal		35,227	59,929
Meetings		144,136	42,054
Office facilities		249,010	445,037
Printing and stationery		12,236	29,963
Programs		1,814,862	2,022,516
Subscriptions and memberships		2,525	16,073
Telephone and internet		50,518	37,639
Travel and accommodation		<b>795,169</b>	<b>477,445</b>
		<b>6,719,819</b>	<b>6,502,505</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before income tax</b>			
		<b>11,257</b>	<b>90,097</b>
Income tax expense	1a	-	-
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>			
		<b>11,257</b>	<b>90,097</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>			
		<b>11,257</b>	<b>90,097</b>

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	2,007,728	3,330,317
Other assets	3	191,839	109,818
Other financial assets	4	3,205,963	1,635,647
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>5,405,530</b>	5,075,782
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	86,520	104,661
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>86,520</b>	104,661
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>5,492,050</b>	5,180,443
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	277,826	251,993
Unexpended funds	7	4,816,986	4,605,293
Employee benefits	8	174,419	96,660
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>5,269,231</b>	4,953,946
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	8	53,710	68,645
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>53,710</b>	68,645
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>5,322,941</b>	5,022,591
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>169,109</b>	157,852
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		169,109	157,852
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>169,109</b>	157,852

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

*For the Year Ended 30 June 2017*

### 2017

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2016	157,852	157,852
Total comprehensive income for the year	11,257	11,257
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>169,109</b>	<b>169,109</b>

### 2016

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2015	67,755	67,755
Total comprehensive income for the year	90,097	90,097
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>157,852</b>	<b>157,852</b>

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Receipts from:			
PM&C (IAS and APH)		7,058,571	6,505,527
DSS (Royal Commission)		148,500	147,903
NSW Government		11,000	264,000
QLD Government		186,274	-
ATSISPEP		55,000	-
Other			
Donations		11,157	3,582
Support services fees		-	51,096
Sundry income		-	27,694
Payments to suppliers and employees		(7,316,615)	(7,253,160)
Interest received		<b>106,645</b>	<b>56,766</b>
<b>Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities</b>		<b>260,532</b>	<b>(196,592)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(12,805)	(46,567)
Payments for investments		(1,570,316)	(107,461)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(1,583,121)</b>	<b>(154,028)</b>
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		(1,322,589)	(350,620)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</b>		<b>3,330,317</b>	<b>3,680,937</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	2	<b>2,007,728</b>	<b>3,330,317</b>



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*For the Year Ended 30 June 2017*

## NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012.

The Company is a not for profit public company limited by guarantee, incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory under the Corporations Act 2001. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars which is the Company's functional and presentation currency. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar. The financial statements cover the Company as an individual entity.

A number of new or revised Australian Accounting Standards are effective for the first time in the current financial year. These standards have had no material impact on the entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Company in the preparation of the financial statements. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year.

### Accounting Policies

#### (a) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Company is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

#### (b) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the asset.

Where a revaluation has been performed, any accumulated depreciation at the date of the revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

The carrying amount of property, plant and equipment is reviewed at the end of the reporting period by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of assets are credited to a revaluation reserve and recognised in other comprehensive income. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against fair value reserves and recognised in other comprehensive income. All other decreases are charged to the profit or loss.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of the reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the profit or loss. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

## NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *continued*

### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets and capitalised leased assets, is depreciated on a straight line basis over the asset's useful life to the Company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	10% - 20%
Office Equipment	10% - 33%
Program Database	20%
Fit-out	10%

### (c) Leases

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are transferred to the Company are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a diminishing value basis over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease term.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight line basis over the life of the lease term.

### (d) Financial instruments

#### *Recognition*

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

#### *Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss*

Financial assets are classified at 'fair value through profit or loss' when they are either held for trading for the purpose of short term profit taking, or when they are designated as such by management and within the requirements of AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement. Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the profit or loss in the period in which they arise.

#### *Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*For the Year Ended 30 June 2017*

## NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *continued*

### *Held-to-maturity investments*

Held to maturity investments are non derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and it is the Company's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

### *Available-for-sale financial assets*

Available for sale financial assets are non derivative financial assets that are either not suitable to be classified into other categories of financial assets due to their nature, or they are designated as such by management. They are reflected at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the investment revaluation reserve.

### *Financial liabilities*

Non derivative financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

## **Fair Value**

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

## **Impairment**

At the end of each reporting period, the Company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset has been impaired through the occurrence of a loss event. In the case of available for sale financial instruments, a significant or prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to indicate that an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the profit or loss.

### **(e) Impairment of Non-Financial Assets**

At the end of each reporting year, the Company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of comprehensive income.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs.

### **(f) Employee benefits**

Provision is made for the Company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In calculating the present value of future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based upon historical data.

Contributions are made to employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred. Superannuation contributions totalling \$174,187 were made during the financial year (2016: \$169,303).

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

## NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *continued*

### (g) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

### (h) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less which are convertible to a known amount of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

### (i) Revenue

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised at the point of delivery.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets. Where interest is earned on grant funds and must be used for the purposes set out in the relevant grant agreement, then the interest is recognised as unexpended funds until such time as the grant conditions have been met.

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the entity is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue is deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

### (j) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

### (k) Comparative figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year

## Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Company.

The directors do not believe that there were any key estimates or key judgments used in the development of the financial statements that give rise to a significant risk of material adjustment in the future.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

## NOTE 2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	500	310
Cash at bank	2,007,228	3,330,007
	<b>2,007,728</b>	<b>3,330,317</b>

## NOTE 3 Other Assets

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Prepayments	63,990	20,063
Accrued interest	12,469	2,279
Sundry receivables	169,047	141,143
Provision for doubtful debts	(53,667)	(53,667)
	<b>191,839</b>	<b>109,818</b>

## NOTE 4 Other Financial Assets

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Held-to-maturity financial assets	<b>3,205,963</b>	<b>1,635,647</b>

Held to maturity investments are term deposits with original terms of between 3 month and 12 months.  
Interest rates at year end vary from 1.8% to 2.4%.

## NOTE 5 Property, Plant and Equipment

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Furniture, fixtures and fittings – at cost	5,755	5,415
Accumulated depreciation	(3,422)	(2,900)
	<b>2,333</b>	<b>2,515</b>
Office equipment – at cost	109,987	97,522
Accumulated depreciation	(70,617)	(57,419)
	<b>39,370</b>	<b>40,103</b>
Program database - at cost	78,693	78,693
Accumulated depreciation	(47,259)	(31,520)
	<b>31,434</b>	<b>47,173</b>
Fit-out - at cost	14,870	14,870
Accumulated depreciation	(1,487)	-
	<b>13,383</b>	<b>14,870</b>
	<b>86,520</b>	<b>104,661</b>

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

## NOTE 5 Property, Plant and Equipment *continued*

### Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings \$	Office Equipment \$	Program Database \$	Fit-out \$	Total \$
Balance at the beginning of year	2,515	40,103	47,173	14,870	104,661
Additions	340	12,465	-	-	12,805
Depreciation expense	(522)	(13,198)	(15,739)	(1,487)	(30,946)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>39,370</b>	<b>31,434</b>	<b>13,383</b>	<b>86,520</b>

	2017 \$	2016 \$
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### NOTE 6 Trade and Other Payables

Trade payables	174,672	115,603
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	103,154	136,390
	<b>277,826</b>	<b>251,993</b>

	2017 \$	2016 \$
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### NOTE 7 Unexpended Funds

Government funding:		
PM&C (IAS funding)	2,054,472	3,503,008
PM&C (APH funding)	1,375,000	-
DSS (Royal Commission)	14,036	-
Medical Local	-	358,382
NSW Government	321,478	227,513
QLD Government	-	(10,393)
ATSISPEP	50,000	-
Other	358,382	-
Interest	643,618	526,783
	<b>4,816,986</b>	<b>4,605,293</b>

As at 30 June 2017, the Company was committed to making payments of \$3,711,900 (2016: \$2,862,519) relating to a number of programs as part of its principal activities.

	2017	2016
	\$	\$

**NOTE 8 Employee Benefits****CURRENT**

Provision for annual leave	122,720	96,660
Provision for long service leave	51,699	-
	<u>174,419</u>	<u>96,660</u>

**NON-CURRENT**

Provision for long service leave	<u>53,710</u>	<u>68,645</u>
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	2017	2016
	\$	\$

**NOTE 9 Leasing Commitments****Operating lease commitments**

Payable minimum lease payments:

– no later than 1 year	175,410	134,107
– between 1 year and 5 years	268,991	233,468
	<u>444,401</u>	<u>367,575</u>

The operating leases relate to the Company's office premises, smaller regional offices and a printer. The total lease payments made during the year were \$221,857 (2016 \$279,646). The current lease for the main office is for a period of three years from 1 March 2016 with an option for a further three years.

**NOTE 10 Financial Risk Management**

The Company's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short term investments, and accounts receivable and payable.

The accounting policies and terms and conditions of each class of financial asset and financial liability at the end of the reporting period are consistent with those regularly adopted by businesses in Australia.

The Company is not subject to any significant credit, liquidity or interest rate risk, although it is recognised that a 1% movement in interest rates would have an annual impact of approximately \$52,137 on the profit and loss based on the bank and investment balances held at 30 June 2017 (2016: \$49,659).

The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139 as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

		2017	2016
		\$	\$
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	2,007,728	3,330,317
Loans and receivables	3	127,849	89,755
Held-to-maturity investments	4	3,205,963	1,635,647
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>5,341,540</b>	<b>5,055,719</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>			
<i>Financial liabilities at amortised cost:</i>			
- Trade and other payables	6	277,826	251,993
- Unexpended funds	7	4,816,986	4,605,293
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>5,094,812</b>	<b>4,857,286</b>

## Net Fair Values

Financial assets and financial liabilities are carried at their net fair value at the end of the reporting period. The carrying values of financial assets and financial liabilities approximate their net fair values due to their short term maturity or market interest rate.

No financial assets or financial liabilities are traded on organised markets in standardised form.

### NOTE 11 Members' Guarantee

The Company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a Company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 30 June 2017 the number of members was 7 (2016:7).

### NOTE 12 Related Party Transactions

Key management personnel is defined by AASB 124 "Related Party Disclosures" as those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director of the entity.

The aggregate remuneration paid to key management personnel during the year is as follows:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Total key management personnel compensation	<b>401,049</b>	<b>409,332</b>



In addition to the above compensation, the Company has paid insurance premiums of \$3,600 (2016: \$3,600) for Association Liability insurance which incorporates directors' and officers' liability insurance.

#### *Other Related Parties*

The following transactions with director related entities took place during the year:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Funding provided to Gallang Place as auspice for Healing Waters	66,000	163,900
Funding provided to Winangali Marumali Pty Ltd	200,052	33,550
Moreton Consulting	38,570	-

#### **NOTE 13 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

In the opinion of the Directors, the Company did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2017 (30 June 2016: None).

#### **NOTE 14 Events After the End of the Reporting Period**

The financial statements were authorised by the Directors on the date of signing the attached directors' declaration.

The directors have the right to amend the financial statements after they are issued.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

#### **NOTE 15 Economic Dependence**

The Company is dependent on the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet for the majority of its revenue used to operate the Company.

#### **NOTE 16 Company Details**

The registered office and principal place of business of the Company is:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Ltd

Level 2

Unit 11

11 National Circuit

BARTON ACT 2600



# DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the Company declare that:

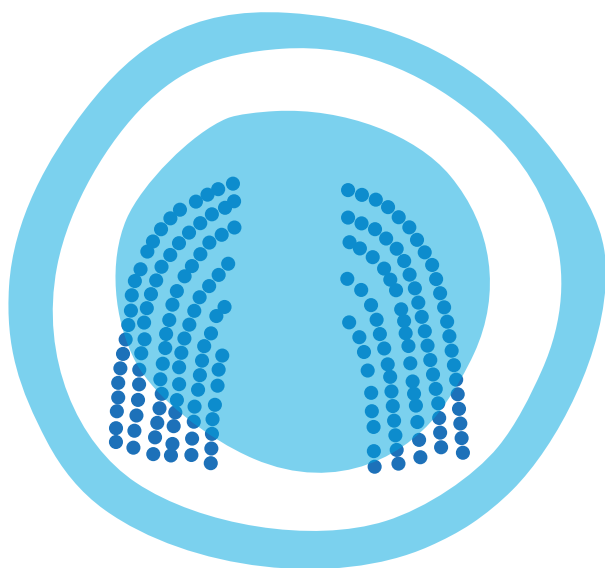
1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 8 to 22, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and:
  - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the Company.
  
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director:



Dated 07 / 09 / 2017



# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Ltd



## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Limited (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Company are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in the Company's directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2017, but does not include the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Directors' responsibility for the financial statements

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at The Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Nexia Duesburys (Audit)  
Canberra, 7 September 2017

G J Murphy  
Partner

