

Talking Indigenous trauma: doing it better for our young people

Indigenous leaders will come together in Canberra today to discuss solutions to the intergenerational trauma affecting so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

The Healing Foundation public forum and webinar coincides with National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (4 August each year).

Intergenerational trauma refers to the pain, loss and grief passed down from generation to generation as a result of policies like the Stolen Generations. It is a key factor behind issues like the number of Indigenous youth in detention and the disproportionate Indigenous youth suicide rate.

Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver, Richard Frankland, Rosemary Wanganeen and Mark Munnich will discuss what intergenerational trauma is, the factors that contribute to it and how it can be prevented and addressed.

"It is very timely to have these knowledge holders in the room today sharing their personal and professional experiences of the intergenerational trauma affecting so many of our young people," Healing Foundation CEO Richard Weston said.

"It is beyond distressing to witness young people already affected by intergenerational trauma being further traumatised by a youth justice system that is continuing the cycle.

"Urgent action is needed to address the reasons our young people are ending up in detention in the first place and enable rehabilitation and healing for young people, families and whole communities.

"No one knows more about these challenges than Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and no one is better placed to address them.

"We urge politicians, policy makers and everyone dealing with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people right around the country to tune in today," Mr Weston said.

The *Our Future Our Way: Talking Intergenerational Trauma Webinar* will take place between 10am and 11:30am AEST at 50MC Theatre, 50 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra and [online](#). Join the conversation by using the hashtag #TalkTrauma on Twitter or by posting a question in the live chat facility at livestream.ssc.gov.au/healingfoundation/4august2016/

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

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