



BringingThemHome

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20 YEARS ON: IT'S TIME TO HEAL THE TRAUMA

Australia's aging Stolen Generations are still struggling with the impacts of unresolved trauma, and need a new policy approach to assist them and their families to heal.

That's a key finding of a major new report launched today by the Healing Foundation. The launch marks 20 years since the landmark *Bringing Them Home* report was tabled in Federal Parliament.

Called *Bringing Them Home 20 Years On*, the new report sets out an action plan to overhaul Australia's Indigenous policy landscape.

Healing Foundation Board Chair Steve Larkin said the failure to implement the recommendations of the original *Bringing Them Home* report has made matters worse for all Indigenous Australians.

"Our Stolen Generations haven't been able to heal because Australia has failed to address their needs in a coordinated, holistic way. As a result, their grief, loss and anger is being passed onto their kids and grandkids," said Professor Larkin.

The Healing Foundation found the most pressing needs highlighted by the report are for:

- Federally coordinated financial reparations similar to the Commonwealth Redress Scheme provided to survivors of child sexual abuse
- a full analysis of the Stolen Generations changing needs as they age
- a national study on intergenerational trauma, its impacts, and the best ways to address
- ensuring all professionals who work with the Stolen Generations and their descendants – from police to mental health workers - are trained in recognising and addressing Indigenous trauma

Chair of the Healing Foundation's Stolen Generations Reference Committee Florence Onus is one of four generations of women who have been forcibly removed from their families.

"I embarked on my healing journey when at 21, my mother attempted suicide. With family support I became her full time carer and together we began the journey of healing," said Ms Onus.

Florence is passionate about breaking the cycle of trauma through healing, education, cultural identity and spiritual nurturing.

At the event in Federal Parliament House Ms Onus and Professor Larkin will present Australia's political leaders with a copy of the report.

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