

## LORRAINE PEETERS



Lorraine Peeters is a Gamilaroi and Wailwun woman from central west New South Wales. At the age of four she was forcibly taken from her family in Brewarrina to the Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls.

“We were brainwashed to act, speak, dress and think white and we were punished if we didn't,” said Aunty Lorraine.

“We were not allowed to talk in our language or about culture or about our families. It wasn't until I was in my fifties that I was triggered and began my healing journey. There was an Aboriginal person inside, screaming to get out.”

After undergoing her own healing journey, Lorraine developed the *Marumali Program*™, which is based on the Marumali Journey of Healing Model. It's a unique program to increase the quality of support available to Stolen Generations members.

“When you've been through as much as we have, the trauma can easily be reactivated by those who don't understand it.”

“To prevent this, trauma-informed training should be mandatory for everyone working with our mob, especially Stolen Generations members and their families, as recommended by the Bringing them Home report.”

Lorraine and her daughter Shaan have worked with 3000 survivors, service providers and health practitioners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inmates within correctional centres.

She played a key role in the 2008 Apology to the Stolen Generations, presenting Prime Minister Kevin Rudd with a glass coolamon, a vessel traditionally used to carry babies.

**Lorraine says on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report Australia needs to understand it's not just the Stolen Generations who have been affected by trauma.**

**“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. That will continue.”**

**“We have to revisit the recommendations that haven't been implemented,” she said.**



**BringingThemHome**

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