

FAYE MOSELEY



Faye Moseley's father was a Rat of Tobruk in WWII. His unit was called the "Devil's Own", she says, because there were more Kooris in it than non Aboriginal soldiers. The 2/13 battalion was the only Australian unit to see out the entire 241-day siege of Tobruk in 1941. It was also one of the last to return to Australia.

"Dad fought for this country to protect its people and their children, yet they took his children away," Faye said.

Outside of the NSW Riverina town of Leeton, Faye and five of her siblings were walking to school one day when they were literally hauled into a vehicle. Their parents were at work.

She was taken to the Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls to be trained as a servant and assimilated into white society.

She said the Stolen Generations "generated billions of dollars in revenue working out on those farms and in houses." They were never paid.

Faye says that Australia still doesn't understand the experiences of the Stolen Generations, and the profound impact that period of history continues to have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities today.

She is worried about the numbers of Aboriginal children still being taken into protective custody.

'History is a very important part of culture,' she said.

'Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.'

On the 20th anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report, Faye says its recommendations are more important than ever. She also wants future funding for healing programs to go to grassroots Indigenous organisations.

"All of the money goes to non-Aboriginal people."

"They can't relate to us. 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," she said.



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