

MAKE HEALING HAPPEN

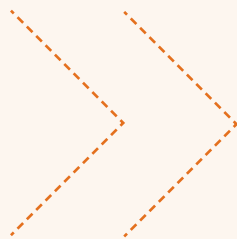
IT'S TIME TO ACT



“Healing to me is being able to come to terms with the trauma I’ve experienced throughout my life, and the fact I cannot change what has already occurred, but I can start to connect with my spiritual self and take the time I need by myself to discover what the road ahead has in store for me.”

Submission 1, Voices from the Campfire

In 2018–19, there were **33,600 Stolen Generations survivors nationally.**



By 2023, all Stolen Generations survivors will be eligible for aged care.

A ‘gap within the gap’

The evidence is undeniable. Government policies of forced removal have left a legacy of complex disadvantage and trauma for Stolen Generations survivors and descendants.

Compared to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the same age, **Stolen Generations survivors aged 50 and over** are more likely to be:

Living in tough economic circumstances

- 1.8 times as likely not to be the owner of a home
- 1.6 times as likely to live in a household that could not raise \$2,000 in an emergency
- 1.5 times as likely to have government payments as their main income source

Living with ill health and other stressors

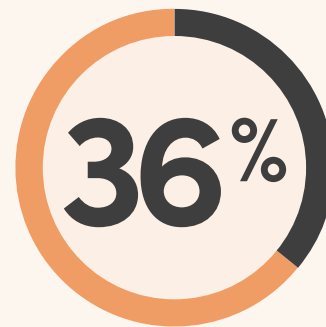
- 1.7 times as likely to have experienced discrimination due to being Indigenous
- 1.5 times as likely to have experienced actual or threatened physical violence
- 1.4 times as likely to have a disability as a severe or profound core activity limitation
- 1.4 times as likely to have poor mental health
- 1.3 times as likely to have been diagnosed with a mental health condition

Living with higher levels of some health risk factors

- 1.7 times as likely to be a current smoker

Compared with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, **adult descendants of Stolen Generations survivors** are:

- 2 times as likely to feel discriminated against in the last 12 months
- 2 times as likely not to speak an Indigenous language
- 1.9 times as likely to have experienced actual or threatened physical violence in the last 12 months
- 1.6 times as likely not to have good health (based on a composite health measure)
- 1.5 times as likely to have a problem accessing services in the last 12 months
- 1.5 times as likely to have been arrested in the last five years
- 1.4 times as likely to have ever been formally charged by police



Around 36% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults are descended from generations who were removed.

“Aboriginal children who were forcibly removed from their families and raised in non-Indigenous settings did not end up healthier, better educated or more likely to get jobs than those who were raised in Aboriginal communities. Rather, forced removal led to a cycle of poverty, ill-health, discrimination, and incarceration. As a result, the Stolen Generations are one of the most disadvantaged groups within the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.”

Coota Girls Corporation cited in NSW PLC 2016:131.

Intergenerational trauma can end with intergenerational healing



Priorities

2

A national intergenerational healing strategy

Intergenerational healing solutions need to be established and developed with Stolen Generations survivors and descendants, to end the cycle of intergenerational trauma.

1

Healing for Stolen Generations survivors

Redress for Stolen Generations survivors and their families – to address the financial burden and data about economic distress.

Services for aging Stolen Generations survivors – because priority health care and trauma-aware, healing-informed service provision is required.

Records access and management – to enable reconnection and the restoring of belonging and identity.



3

Sustainable and robust monitoring and accountability

Because we need to be able to track whether the healing needs of Stolen Generations survivors, their families and communities are being met.





Make Healing Happen

- **Realise** the impacts on Stolen Generations survivors and descendants, the economic costs, and the significant 'gap within a gap' for survivors and their descendants.
- **Recognise** that there are practical things we can all do to make a difference in the lives of Stolen Generations survivors and descendants.
- **Act** by taking immediate action to implement and support much-needed changes, which include overdue healing for Stolen Generations survivors, a national intergenerational healing strategy, and robust accountability mechanisms.

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

Stolen Generations survivor,
Uncle Michael Welsh

Our work helps people create a different future.

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that provides a platform to amplify the voices and lived experience of Stolen Generations survivors and their families.

The *Make Healing Happen: it's time to act* report can be downloaded from www.healingfoundation.org.au alongside the updated Australian Institute of Health and Welfare analysis, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations aged 50 and over: updated analyses for 2018–19*.