

Almost 90 local communities to mark 10th anniversary of the Apology

From Kununurra to Mildura, Casuarina to Logan, the Mornington Peninsula to Cherbourg and Muswellbrook to Adelaide, communities around the country will come together this month to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations on 13 February.

Schools, Aboriginal organisations, neighbourhood centres, councils, health and legal services and a healing centre are among those funded by the Healing Foundation this year to:

- celebrate Stolen Generations members;
- raise awareness of the importance of acknowledging and addressing the effects of Intergenerational Trauma, and
- increase understanding of the healing needs of Stolen Generations members.

Information about the different community events taking place around the country, including flyers and photos, will be uploaded to

<https://healingfoundation.org.au/apology10-events/> as it becomes available.

“Our Stolen Generations suffered enormously as a result of past government policies of forced child removal and assimilation,” Healing Foundation CEO Richard Weston said.

“The Apology was incredibly significant because it acknowledged, for the first time, the pain and suffering inflicted on Stolen Generations members, their families and communities.

“It is important that we commemorate this significant anniversary as a nation and focus on what still needs to be done to address the impacts of unresolved trauma caused by the Stolen Generations policies,” Mr Weston said.

The community events include:

- Around 1000 people are expected to gather in **Adelaide** for commemorative activities including a peaceful walk and symbolic smoking ceremony with clans from each direction
- Primary school students will colour in and place cardboard feet to remember Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past and present and watch Stolen Generations members perform a Dreamtime story dance at **Mandurah Primary School in Western Australia**
- In **Kununurra** and **Halls Creek** the Apology speech will be screened and local dancers or a band will perform. Around 300 people are expected to attend each event
- Around 200 people will come together on the **Mornington Peninsula** for commemorative activities including a film screening and an acoustic performance by a local Indigenous performer

The Healing Foundation partners with communities to address ongoing trauma caused by the disruption and mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the past 230 years. This includes actions like the forced removal of tens of thousands of children from their families, known as the Stolen Generations.

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