



## Harry Williams



If 25 year old Wiradjuri man Harry Williams could spend five minutes with the Prime Minister, he would urge him to include more Indigenous history and culture in the curriculum, from kindergarten all the way through to university.

"I believe this would help close the gap by creating greater understanding and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians," he says.

"Educating people about our way of life, our laws, our stories, our knowledge of the world can shift people's mindsets.

"At the moment a lot is left out in the Indigenous history that is taught in schools."

Harry's passion for education stems from his Stolen Generations family history.

His grandfather was a part of the Stolen Generations. He and his brothers and sisters were forcibly removed from their family and taken to Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Training Home and Cootamundra Aboriginal Girls' Training Home in NSW. Harry's grandparents have been his biggest influences.

"My Pop has now passed away, when you lose an Elder, they're full of knowledge and stories. For Aboriginal people that's a book gone and you can never get it back," said Harry.

Harry has witnessed the impact his grandfather's forced removal has had not only on his grandfather and great aunts and uncles, but on his father and his own upbringing.

"The Stolen Generations policies still impact on me and I'm the grandchild. It wasn't that long ago," Harry says.

As a 15 year old, Harry watched the National Apology to the Stolen Generations from the Great Hall of Parliament House.

"I remember a lot of emotion, anger, heartbreak. Lots of people were crying," he says.

"It had an impact on a lot of people, including me, especially as my grandfather was still around at the time.

However Harry doesn't believe enough progress has been made since the Apology.

"We need to let our own communities take control of the issues that are impacting on their communities.

"To make positive change, the solutions need to come from the grassroots, our communities, and we need to work together respectfully.

In line with his passion, Harry has spent much of his working life so far in education after growing up in Canberra.

