



## Tyson Broderick



Tyson Broderick has great plans for the future. The 19-year-old youth mentor from Inala is passionate about health—for both body and mind—and plans to study psychology or psychiatry at university.

“Physical and mental health are so important and I want to support my people to be strong,” he says.

“I’d like to see Indigenous men and women with good paying jobs, with successful families and with the chance to be whatever they want to be.”

Tyson was in Grade 5 when the National Apology to the Stolen Generations took place. He remembers it well.

“We all sat down in front of the TV and the teacher put it on. I remember seeing my Elders crying—the kids in the classroom were wondering what they were crying for and what had happened,” Tyson says.

The teacher explained it to the class but Tyson recalls possibly being the only one who knew about the Stolen Generations.

“It was a very proud and emotional moment for me because I’ve grown up with the Stolen Generations—my dad and his siblings spent their childhood in fear of being taken.

“Luckily my grandparents were able to keep my dad, my uncle and my aunties hidden. I am so grateful they weren’t taken because life for us would’ve been really different,” he says.

Reflecting on the last decade, Tyson believes the Apology was a major stepping stone but so much more needs to be done.

“The 10th anniversary is a great time to get things happening, we need to move ahead.

“We also need to focus on educating the wider Australian population because a lot of people still don’t know about the Stolen Generations and what went on,” he says.

Tyson now works with young Aboriginal people, some who are disadvantaged and were at risk of being sent to detention and juvenile centres, and focuses on training them in their basic work needs like English and Maths.

“Growing up in Inala, we do have a few kids in trouble. I wanted to help them. I think the problems stem back to the Stolen Generations—it’s intergenerational trauma.

“The hurt is being passed down through the family, it’s been all around them growing up and it’s got to stop,” Tyson says.

“Being part of the oldest continuing culture in the world is something to be extremely proud of. I want to be part of the positive change for my people.”

