



The Healing Foundation – Pre-Budget Submission 2025-2026

'Are you waiting for us to die?'

The Urgent Unfinished Business of Bringing Them Home



The Gathering, Garramilla / Darwin, September 2024

About The Healing Foundation

The Healing Foundation is the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that elevates the voices and lived experiences of Stolen Generations survivors, their families and communities. We are governed by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board and Executive, guided in our work by Stolen Generations and Youth Reference Groups. We work closely with Stolen Generations Organisations (SGOs) to support survivors to tell their stories and drive their healing. We work with government, policymakers, organisations and workforces to understand and take accountability for their role in meeting the needs of Stolen Generations survivors and intergenerational healing.

Acknowledgements

The Healing Foundation acknowledges the custodians and community of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders and to Stolen Generations survivors, of the Dreaming and of the here and now. And to the survivors we work for everyday, and those who never made it home.

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National Healing Package

“There has never been a collaborative and systematic approach to address the Stolen Generations’ needs and rights. Now, with most survivors eligible for aged care and the 30th anniversary of the Bringing Them Home report approaching in 2027, a different approach is needed.”

Professor Steve Larkin, Chair of The Healing Foundation

The national inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families was a groundbreaking process of truth-telling in Australia, where Stolen Generations survivors’ voices were elevated, and the intergenerational impacts of their experiences of removal were heard across the nation. Yet a full generation after the inquiry’s *Bringing Them Home* report¹ was published in 1997 there remains outstanding and urgent unfinished business.

Nearly 30 years on, over two thirds of the 83 *Bringing Them Home* recommendations remain fully or partially unmet. **Only five – or just 6 percent – have been clearly implemented.** Now is the time for a comprehensive and systemic response to the report’s recommendations to address survivors’ pressing and complex needs. Survivors are dying, we must act before it is too late.

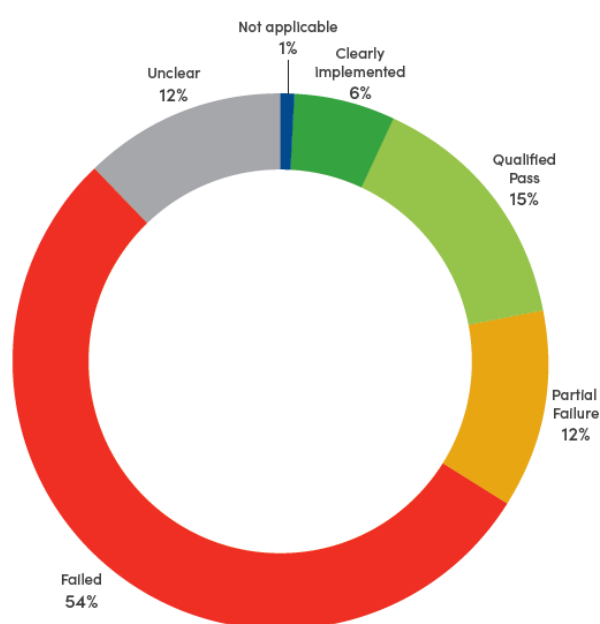


Figure 1 – Status of the implementation of the *Bringing Them Home* recommendations²

¹ Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission 1997, *Bringing Them Home, report of the national inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families*, Commonwealth of Australia,

https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/content/pdf/social_justice/bringing_them_home_report.pdf

² The Healing Foundation 2025, *Are you waiting for us to die? The unfinished business of Bringing Them Home* (to be released February 2025).



As one survivor who attended The Gathering of Stolen Generations Organisations in Garramilla/Darwin in September 2024³ said: ***“We must remember that this is not an individual story, this is an Australian story – our shared history. We had no choice in what happened to us.”***

In 2024, we commissioned research into the implementation status of recommendations made in *Bringing Them Home*. It found that actions were yet to be implemented across key themes:

Reparations: Nine of the eleven recommendations relating to reparations have not been implemented. ***Queensland and Western Australia have had no reparation scheme for survivors.***

Rehabilitation and research: Just one of seven recommendations has received a qualified pass. ***Governments have failed to adequately fund services to support Stolen Generations survivors, to recognise the importance of supports delivered by community-controlled organisations, or invest in specialised and needed healing focused research.***

Records, family tracing and reunions: Almost half of the recommendations have not been implemented, with ***investment urgently needed to ensure culturally appropriate access to family history information.***

Acknowledgements and apologies: These recommendations are only partially implemented, and there remains an ongoing need ***for formal acknowledgement and memorialisation*** as part of community, state, and national truth-telling.

Education and training: Just under a quarter of recommendations have been implemented. ***Stolen Generations survivors’ stories need to be told***, and the impacts of forced removals taught across all education levels, with professional requirements for educators and professions that work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in health and aged care.

Monitoring and accountability: There has been ***no nationally coordinated mechanism to monitor*** the implementation of the *Bringing Them Home* recommendations.

The impacts of intergenerational trauma resulting from past government policies of forced removals are well evidenced and documented. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has reported on the poorer health, social and emotional wellbeing, social, and economic outcomes experienced by Stolen Generations survivors and their descendants, showing clearly that there is a **‘gap within the gap’**.

Implementing a Stolen Generations Survivor Healing Package in the 2025-26 Federal Budget

To meet the healing needs of survivors, their families, and communities, support the Stolen Generations sector, implement evidence-based healing strategies, and start addressing the urgent unfinished business of *Bringing Them Home*, The Healing Foundation is calling for the 2025-26 Federal Budget to commit to a comprehensive healing package with funding to **five key themes** that run through the recommendations, including:

³ The Healing Foundation was joined by more than 100 people from Stolen Generations Organisations, including Stolen Generations survivors, in Garramilla (Darwin) to connect and create collective knowledge on the work being done across Australia to support ageing Stolen Generations survivors, see <https://healingfoundation.org.au/2024/09/06/statement-the-gathering-2024/>



1. **Redress for all Stolen Generations survivors**, particularly in Western Australia and Queensland, where there has been no commitment to any form of compensation. Flaws and inequities in schemes in other states and territories should also be addressed. Where state and territory governments fail to deliver, the Federal Government must step in.
2. **Better access to better health and aged care:** Stolen Generations survivors must have access to **fully subsidised aged care services** through a prioritised categorisation and assessment model, and Stolen Generations Organisations should be funded to **deliver aged care, as per recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety**.

The Federal Government must urgently scrap individual co-payments for survivors under the new Support at Home scheme and provide fully subsidised access to essential aids, equipment, and modifications. It should fund and introduce a **Stolen Generations Health Card**, modelled on the Veteran Reparation Health Card.

3. **(Re)-Connection and Identity – records access and story recording:** Significant barriers in access to vital historic records prevent healing for individuals, families, and communities. The Federal Government should establish a **National Private Records Taskforce, address barriers in access to private collections**, including those held by churches and pastoral concerns, and build an **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce** within the archival, information management, and family history sectors.
4. **Self-Determination – sector building:** The critical role of the **community-controlled sector** is recognised in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2. The Stolen Generations Organisations sector requires sustainability, including minimum five-year operational funding to provide urgently needed healing, reunions, records support, social and emotional wellbeing support, and funding for new models of workforce development.
5. **Oversight and Responsibility:** The Federal Government should urgently establish a **coordinated national framework** to monitor the implementation of the outstanding recommendations, including building accountability expectations for relevant organisations, agencies, departments, and governments. The Healing Foundation should be funded to play a key role in this process.

Theme One: Redress for all Stolen Generations survivors

“Every member of the House of Representatives and every Senator, I ask, indeed beg, that you talk to, engage with, lobby, hassle, hustle or badger the premiers and governments of Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales and Tasmania to either establish or revisit their Stolen Generation redress schemes.”

Ian Hamm, Anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations, February 2024.

The Healing Foundation is calling for redress for survivors in Western Australia and Queensland, where, despite having some of the largest populations of survivors, there has been no commitment to any form of compensation. **Where state and territory governments fail to deliver, the Federal Government must step in.**



Further, in other jurisdictions where schemes have been run, the short timeframes and eligibility criteria has excluded many survivors, and some survivors are receiving less than those in other states. **This inconsistency needs to be urgently addressed.**

Many survivors face living the last years of their lives without any **remedy** for the ongoing trauma resulting from forced removals. They remain at a high risk of re-traumatisation: this means continuous intergenerational trauma impacts on survivors, their families, and their communities.

The **right** to effective remedy, including compensation, following human rights abuses is **internationally recognised** and codified within human rights instruments. From analysing the design and implementation of previous schemes, and talking with survivors and Stolen Generations Organisations, **we know what effective remedies look like:**

- Monetary compensation exempt from income and means tests, tax, and debt recovery.
- Acknowledgement of harm caused by past policies, including an option of a personal apology.
- Access to a suite of relevant counselling services, including financial and legal.
- Ongoing co-designed support and community-based healing programs delivered through community-controlled organisations.
- Options to receive unredacted copies of removal and family history records.
- Training in trauma-informed approaches to working with Stolen Generations survivors for all individuals working across the design and implementation of any scheme.
- Protections against predatory actions such as ‘claim farming’, where third parties claim on survivors’ behalf, charge accordingly and deduct fees from the redress payment.

Using the current Victorian Stolen Generations Reparations Package as the model, the following is recommended per survivor:

Jurisdiction	Redress Payment	Top Up Redress Payment	Healing / Funeral Payment	Top Up Healing / Funeral Payment
New South Wales (previous recipients)		\$25,000		\$3,000
Queensland	\$100,000		\$10,000	
South Australia (previous recipients)		\$70,000	\$10,000	
South Australia (survivors ineligible under original scheme)	\$100,000		\$10,000	
Tasmania (previous recipients)		\$42,000	\$10,000	
Tasmania (survivors ineligible under original scheme)	\$100,000		\$10,000	
Territories Redress Scheme (Northern Territory / Australian Capital Territory / Jervis Bay – previous recipients)		\$25,000		\$3,000
Territories Redress Scheme (Northern Territory / Australian Capital Territory / Jervis Bay – current and new applicants)	\$100,000		\$10,000	
Western Australia	\$100,000		\$10,000	



Theme Two: Holistic Healing – Better Health and Aged Care

“I worry that too many of our old people will pass on to the dreaming without possible supports.”

Blake Tatafu, The Healing Foundation Youth Reference Group member, The Gathering, September 2024.

“.... there are currently not enough Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and other people with high levels of cultural competency, employed across the aged care system.”

Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, Final Report, 2021

The Federal Government has recently announced that it will invest \$5.6 billion dollars to support ‘once in a generation’ reforms to the aged care system.⁴ The **lack of information** outlining **what percentage** of this funding will **target urgent measures** to ensure Stolen Generations survivors can age with dignity is alarming.

The Healing Foundation is deeply concerned by the current policy direction to introduce, for the first time, **financial co-contributions** for services that older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander **disproportionately access**, particularly Stolen Generations’ survivors who have expressed a strong desire to age at home to avoid (re)institutionalisation.

We know survivors are not accessing necessary services despite having complex ageing needs stemming directly from forced removals. Institutionalisation in later years can **trigger trauma responses associated with childhood experiences of removal**. This is particularly consequential as survivors are estimated to develop dementia at rates three to five times higher than the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population due to higher burdens of trauma and chronic health conditions, *as recognised in the National Dementia Action Plan*.⁵ We are calling on the Federal Government to invest **critical funding** to implement the **recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety** and commitments under **Closing the Gap Priority Reforms** that will ensure survivors can age with dignity.

Stolen Generations Health Card

Survivors and The Healing Foundation have made repeated calls for a ‘Stolen Generations health care card’ to help provide access to much needed medical and therapeutic services, including mental health services, and reduced gap fees and medication costs.⁶ We again make this call and recommend using the Veteran Reparation Health Card (Gold Card)⁷ as a model.

⁴ The Hon Anika Wells MP, Minister for Aged Care, Minister for Sport 2024, Media Release (18 November 2024), <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-anika-wells-mp/media/aged-care-transition-taskforce-to-help-deliver-historic-reform?language=en>

⁵ Department of Health and Aged Care 2024, *National Dementia Action Plan 2024-2034*, Australian Government, <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-12/national-dementia-action-plan-2024-2034.pdf>

⁶ The Healing Foundation 2021, *Make healing happen, it's time to act*, p136, <https://healingfoundation.org.au/make-healing-happen/>

⁷ Department of Veterans’ Affairs, *Veteran Gold Card*, Australian Government, <https://www.dva.gov.au/get-support/health-support/veteran-healthcare-cards/veteran-gold-card>



Affordable and Accessible Aged Care Services

Stolen Generations survivors must have access to **fully subsidised aged care services** through a prioritised categorisation and assessment model. We know that the sector must be equipped to provide **holistic, culturally safe, and trauma-informed** responses to the needs and preferences of survivors as they age.

There is a data-validated consensus amongst experts and researchers that access to and use of aged care services by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people does not reflect their assessed health and aged care needs. We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people overwhelmingly use home and community support services (2.9 percent) compared to residential services (1.3 percent). To age at home, survivors rely on **support for essential activities** such as housework, shopping, transport and meals.⁸ However, these services have recently been classified as **‘non-clinical care’** and are in scope⁹ to attract the highest level of individual co-contributions under the new Support at Home program.

The Department of Health and Aged Care must ensure Stolen Generations survivors will not face **unaffordable out-of-pocket costs** as the new Support at Home program is rolled out. There is no published evidence or modelling to demonstrate Stolen Generations survivors can afford **additional co-payments**, with recent estimates suggesting pensioners could be out-of-pocket an additional **\$100** per week.¹⁰ **This is unacceptable.**

Appropriate aged care support for survivors requires the **urgent scrapping of individual co-payments** for survivors under Support at Home and **fully subsidised access to essential aids, equipment, and modifications** available on the Assistive Technology and Home Modification (AT-HM) List. Despite the appointment of an Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner in January 2024, the current approach to decision-making and **undefined funding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific aged care measures** can only be described **sporadic, siloed and ad-hoc** in both policy design and implementation. The government must respond to the warnings of the Royal Commission into Aged Care that **the aged care system does not ensure culturally safe care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.**

Not only is this current approach contrary to and inconsistent with the requirements of all levels of government under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, but this lack of strategic evidence-based policy leads to **survivors dying before they receive necessary supports that they are entitled to.**

There is sufficient information and evidence to build culturally safe, holistic, trauma-informed ageing support for survivors. The Federal Government must look to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, the overarching commitments of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and the imminent report from the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner, and then respond through an implementation plan designed to meet survivor needs.

⁸ Pearson O, Air T, Humphrey G, Bradley C, Tunny N, Brown A, Wesselingh SL, Inacio MC and Caughey GE 2024, Aged care service use by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people after aged care eligibility assessments, 2017-2019: a population-based retrospective cohort study, *Medical Journal of Australia*, <https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2024/221/1/aged-care-service-use-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-after-aged>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Hello Care 2024, Pensioners could be \$100 out of pocket per week under new support at home system, https://hellocare.com.au/pensioners-could-be-100-out-of-pocket-per-week-under-new-support-at-home-system/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=hellocare-thursday-newsletter-12092024



Investment in Stolen Generations Organisations

The Healing Foundation calls on the Federal Government, particularly the Department of Health and Aged Care, to **invest in the existing expertise of Stolen Generations Organisations** to deliver culturally safe and healing informed services to survivors as they age.

Investment to support **Stolen Generations Organisations** to become aged care and wrap around service support providers would address a **critical skill gap and empower local solutions** to delivering culturally safe, survivor-led healing and aged care services.

Many Stolen Generations Organisations are already **delivering culturally appropriate and locally informed services**. Expanding these with **direct funding** towards aged care service provision will not only build the sector, but also address significant workforce shortages impeding health and care pathways, which are known to be culturally unsafe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The government has committed to **build the community-controlled sector** under the **Closing the Gap National Agreement Priority Reform 2**. Delivering pathways for Stolen Generations Organisations to become aged care providers not only meets this priority, but it also explicitly aligns with **recommendation 50 of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety** to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation to expand into aged care service delivery.

Support for Stolen Generations Organisations (SGOs) to become service providers	2025-26 (\$m)	2026-27 (\$m)	2027-28 (\$m)	2028-29 (\$m)
Financial capacity building assistance for up to 19 SGOs across 4 years to enter the aged care system as accredited providers.	\$4	\$10	\$12	\$12
Funding directly to SGOs to address unmet needs for survivors across the aged care system, including survivors living with dementia.	\$2	\$2	\$2	\$2
Sub-total:	\$10	\$12	\$14	\$14
Total	\$50 million			

Theme Three: (Re)-Connection and Identity – records access and story recording

“Records are so much bigger than what’s on paper, it’s someone’s journey and identity – where they came from.”

The Gathering participant, September 2024.

Timely and **culturally appropriate** access to both historical and contemporary records is **critical** for Stolen Generations survivors. Access to records assists not just with family, Country, and graveside **reunions**, but with reclaiming **identity**, supporting intergenerational **healing, education, and knowledge transfer**.

Despite the importance of records held across various governments and agencies including archives, libraries, and birth, death, and marriage registries, there remain **legislative and policy barriers** that prevent survivors and their families from accessing them.

Actions to improve access to records were recommended in *Bringing Them Home*, however many of these remain outstanding with ongoing barriers and inconsistencies. Governments must respond to the urgency



of survivors' needs to access records and family history information – people are dying before they are able to (re)connect with their families and their family stories.

To support reunification and healing, survivors, their descendants, as well as researchers acting on their behalf, need **special access provisions** to historical and contemporary records – archival records, library collections, birth, death, and marriage records, and privately held collections. Without facilitated access that is **culturally safe** and **trauma-informed**, survivors will continue to be at risk of re-traumatisation as they seek to locate personal and family history information that was lost as a direct result of their forced removal.

Consistent and Culturally Appropriate Records Access

There is no standard prioritisation for research requests by or on behalf of survivors, meaning survivors face **inconsistent access provisions**, including right to information processes, varying time frames, inconsistent return practices (including redactions, various costs, and access refusal), compounded by no right of reply processes to correct records that can be disparaging, inappropriate, incorrect and/or offensive.

Survivors have talked about how accessing their family history records can be traumatising for themselves and their families. Professionals working in the archives, records management, and family history sectors often do not have adequate trauma-informed training, nor a specific understanding of Stolen Generations history and how removal practices were documented. Properly trained, **culturally aware** staffing of services is critical to reducing the likelihood of re-traumatisation.

The Healing Foundation is calling on the Federal Government to act through policy and legislative commitments to create consistent and culturally appropriate records access by:

- Overseeing the national implementation of the **Principles for Nationally Consistent Approaches to Accessing Stolen Generations Records**. Released in 2022 and endorsed by all Information and Privacy Commissioners, these principles outline principles for permissive access: the **right of every person** to receive personal and identifying information about themselves, and to identify family members, and what that looks like for Stolen Generations survivors.
- Committing to the development of **traineeships** and **scholarships** to build an **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce** within the archival, information management, and family history sectors. The need for this was identified in the *Bringing Them Home* recommendations and has been consistently called for by Stolen Generations survivors and organisations.
- Build opportunities for records holders and memory institutions to support **knowledge transfer** with Link Ups and other Stolen Generations organisations to support their family history and reunification work, including through traineeships, secondments, MOUs, repatriation, and **story recording**.

Access to Privately Held Records

Inability to access privately held record collections remains an **ongoing** and **immediate barrier** for Stolen Generations survivors, and efforts to do so are often highly traumatising for survivors and their families.

The extent of privately held collections relevant to Stolen Generations survivors is not known. Records are held by churches, pastoral stations, in personal papers, local history collections, and by individuals – **there are relevant records across the country that survivors are unable to access**.



The critical importance of these records was identified in *Bringing Them Home*, yet the recommendations made to ensure access to private and church collections remain unaddressed.

There is no legislated mechanism or legal instruments to ensure privately held collections, in particular **church records relating to former missions and church run institutions, are adequately stored, managed, conserved, appropriately indexed, accessible, or repatriated**. Further, records holders can claim destruction, refuse access, and deny community repatriation, with no recourse for survivors and communities, and no accountability for the record holder.

To facilitate the identification and return of these records, The Healing Foundation is calling on the Federal Government to:

- Build a **National Private Records Taskforce** in collaboration with the Stolen Generations sector to identify relevant records and scope acquisition and repatriation options. Survivor and community need must be centred, with co-designed approaches and transparency around processes of identifying relevant collections.
- Lead a coordinated national approach to the development and implementation of **legislation** designed to ensure the **protection, conservation, availability, and appropriate ownership** of relevant private record collections.

Theme Four: Self-Determination – sector building

“Survivor-specific needs include community centres or hubs for survivors; ongoing funding for memorials, commemorations, and grave site marking; upfront funding for Sorry Business and burials; the urgency of identifying intergenerational and family funding outcomes; and [addressing] difficulties in accessing specialised services for survivors.”

The Gathering participant, September 2024

In alignment with the **Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2**, The Healing Foundation calls on the Federal Government to provide critical sector investment that **recognises the specialised skills and services offered by Stolen Generations Organisations**.

The Federal Government responded to *Bringing Them Home* with early investment in Link-Up services, counselling, and expanded regional social and emotional wellbeing centres. These were, however, insufficiently resourced with funding poorly coordinated and measured. Many survivor services such as counsellors and social and emotional wellbeing supports were seemingly absorbed into generalist programs with little accountability around survivor related services or activities.

Despite this Stolen Generations Organisations have continued to grow, with The Healing Foundation currently working with **19 known organisations**, with other smaller groups needing capacity building and ongoing support. The organisations that make up the sector are diverse, ranging from predominantly volunteer-driven operations to longer standing Link-Ups, all running critical survivor-centred, structured, and responsive services in community. They carry with them a workforce that is **specialised, dedicated, and committed** to trauma-informed healing services and practice.



The Productivity Commission's review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap¹¹ pointed to the growing body of evidence that Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) can improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Today many Stolen Generations survivors receive tailored, trauma-informed, and culturally safe healing and support services ranging from housing and aged care, through to reunions and on-country activities – holistic supports that meet the '**gap within the gap**' addressing the complex issues that result from forced removal.

However, **inconsistent funding** from federal, state and territory, and local governments, means many critical areas remain underserved. Key issues created by this lack of focused sector support include a legacy of **inadequate operational funding** with impacts on staff retention, program gaps and geographic challenges to service access.

We are calling for **future proofed sustainable sector funding** with CPI adjustments, alternative funding models for smaller and volunteer-based organisations, and survivor-led funding priorities.

Ensuring that Stolen Generations Organisations are funded to maintain a core operational model as a basis for sustained and holistic survivor-led services.

The funding must address the need for **trauma-informed** and **culturally aware** staff to provide **survivor-led** services with support for workforce and training needs.

Recognise the **value** of the **knowledge created by these organisations on intergenerational trauma and healing services, including individual and collective healing and support knowledge capture and transfer.**

For survivors, their descendants, families, and communities to address the ongoing impacts of removal and intergenerational trauma, and to build the community-controlled sector in alignment with the **Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2**, it is vital for all governments to urgently provide ongoing **core funding for community-controlled healing and support services.**

- A legacy of **inadequate operational funding** with impacts on staff retention and geographic challenges.
- A need for **future proofed sustainable sector funding** with CPI adjustments, alternative funding models for smaller and volunteer-based organisations, and survivor-led funding priorities.
- A need for **trauma-informed** and **culturally aware** staff to provide **survivor-led** services, including training needs.

Core Operating Model Capacity

Stolen Generations Organisations need access to **stable, minimum five-year operational funding support** to ensure **staff retention, overheads, flexible projects**, and services as **determined by survivors and their families.**

Funding should **in addition to** existing funding from states or territories. A scale of funding between \$0.25- \$ 0.5m would help to ensure Stolen Generations Organisations deliver for survivors, including through ensuring key workforce positions, governance, business and management systems, and

¹¹ Productivity Commission 2024, *Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap*, Commonwealth of Australia, <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/closing-the-gap-review/report>



organisational planning. This allows for the sustained development and implementation of projects and programs to support the needs of survivors and communities.

The funding should be additional to any current funding and allocated on a category system based on current organisational size, capacity and service need. Supporting solid operating models that can deliver sustained services.

Operational Funding Model	2025-26 (\$m)	2026-27 (\$m)	2027-28 (\$m)	2028-29 (\$m)	2029-30 (\$m)
Category One (small)*	\$1.25	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75
Category Two (medium-large)**9 orgs 2025-2026 , expanded to 12 2026-2030)	\$4.50	\$6.00	\$6	\$6	\$6
Sub Total:	\$5.75	\$7.75	\$7.75	\$7.75	\$7.75
Total	\$36.75million				

*costing assumes 5 orgs funded in 2025-2026, expanded to 7 in 2026-2030

** costing assumes 9 orgs 2025-2026 , expanded to 12 2026-2030

Workforce Development and Training

The Stolen Generations Organisations workforce is **localised, specialised, dedicated, and committed** to trauma-informed practice. The workforce is commonly drawn from the local community, including descendants and often relies on a strong volunteer base.

Organisations tell us that **funding is urgently needed** to support staff and volunteer retention, professional development, and training.

We are calling on the government to invest in workforce development by investing in Stolen Generations Organisations to pilot **innovative workforce development** and **training** approaches that are **co-designed** and **co-evaluated** with Stolen Generations survivors.

Pilot program for 3-4 SGOs	2025-2026 (\$m)	2026-2027 (\$m)	2027-2028 (\$m)
Base program funding	\$1	\$1	\$1
Evaluation	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1
TOTAL	\$3.3 million		

Healing: Knowledge Transfer and Education

Stolen Generations Organisations know first-hand the **ongoing intergenerational impacts of forced removals**, ensuring they are generating knowledge of, and evidence for, community-led healing.

We urge the Federal Government to invest in flexible funding for **culturally appropriate models of healing intergenerational trauma, individual and collective knowledge transfer** and **projects aimed at education and information** for descendants and families of survivors.

We are calling for a minimum three-year funding commitment to Stolen Generations Organisations in each state and territory for them to develop knowledge transfer projects, including education and



memorialisation projects, tailored to the needs of survivors and local communities, overseen by survivor governance committees in each state or territory.

Knowledge Transfer	2025-2026 (\$m)	2026-2027 (\$m)	2027-2028 (\$m)
Funding per SGO	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.3
Sub-total (\$m)	\$6	\$6	\$6
Total	\$18.9 million		

“Governments have acknowledged that in a broad range of service delivery areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services achieve better results for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and so they have agreed that more services should be delivered by Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) (Priority Reform 2). While some transfer to ACCOs is occurring, efforts are slow (or ad hoc) and do not reflect the systemic changes that are necessary to transform service systems and improve outcomes.”

Productivity Commission, Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, 2024

Theme Five: Monitoring and Accountability

‘Whilst the Bringing Them Home report and the testimonies of the Stolen Generations survivors left an enormous legacy, progress against its recommendations has been woeful. It is hard to conceive that gross human rights violations, documented and bravely retold by survivors in public forums, can be met with systemic inaction in so many areas. Yet that is the confronting reality that exists in Australia.’

Alison Gerard and Maureen Bates-McKay, ‘Discussion paper on the Unfinished Business of *Bringing Them Home*’, 2024

Since the *Bringing Them Home* report was handed down in 1997, there has been **no nationally coordinated mechanism to monitor the implementation of its recommendations. We know that just 6 percent of the recommendations have been adequately implemented.** This lack of oversight has led to **systemic and repeated failures**, the consequences of which continue to be borne by Stolen Generations survivors, their families, and communities.

In response to this whole-of-government failure, The Healing Foundation is calling on the Federal Government to urgently establish a **coordinated national framework** to monitor the implementation of the outstanding recommendations, including building accountability expectations for relevant organisations, agencies, departments, and governments.

This can be realised through the existing structures of the Priority Reforms set out under the **Closing the Gap National Agreement**, between governments and the **Coalition of Peaks**. The framework should be linked to the Closing the Gap targets and outcomes, and implementation tracker to ensure survivors are adequately represented as a unique and prioritised group as part of the agreement. It must ensure community input, and survivor-led evaluation mechanisms. **Survivors know what has worked**, and they must be centred in any measurement of success.

The ad-hoc, uncoordinated, and uncommitted approach to implementing the *Bringing Them Home* recommendations cannot continue.



Role of The Healing Foundation

The Healing Foundation plays a key role in ensuring accountability for the implementation of *Bringing Them Home* and engagement and support of Stolen Generations survivors, families, communities, and organisations and should be funded accordingly.

We have a unique role forming policy advice, procuring original research, building evidence, translating knowledge, supporting and capacity building Stolen Generations organisations, engaging survivors and the sector, and delivering survivor-led healing programs and service support. In recognition of this vital work, The Healing Foundation is seeking a **sustained federal funding commitment of \$15 million a year**, to be built on KPIs and objectives that clearly reflect survivor and sector priorities and outcomes.

“When you put aside the anger and rage over the lack of implementation, the simple answer is ‘get on with it – implement all the recommendations’.”

Professor Mick Dodson, The Gathering, September 2024

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