

Prioritise Stolen Generations survivors before it's too late, a collective call for action from a national gathering

Over 100 people from Stolen Generations organisations, including Stolen Generations survivors, came together in Garramilla (Darwin) this week to connect and create collective knowledge on the work being done across Australia to support ageing Stolen Generations survivors.

The group of 19 organisations reaffirmed its commitment to the *Bringing them home* report recommendations, and called on governments, churches and NGOs to respond to the unfinished business of *Bringing them home*.

"This is the first time that this group of organisations dedicated to supporting Stolen Generations survivors has come together like this," said Professor Steve Larkin, Chair of The Healing Foundation board.

"All Stolen Generations survivors are now aged over 50, where access to the right care as they age is crucial. Our current aged care system is not fit for purpose and risks retraumatising many and denying them a quality of life they are not only entitled to but deserve."

"We all committed to **galvanising as a sector** to bring together knowledge from across the country and hold governments and institutions to account. We have no time to waste, we can't lose anymore survivors before they see justice," said CEO of The Healing Foundation Shannan Dodson.

Together the collective called for:

- Adequate and sustainable **funding** for Stolen Generations organisations to continue to provide services and support to survivors, their families and communities.
- The continuation of the important **truth telling** process Stolen Generations and the *Bringing them home* report commenced, until all Australians know the truth and reparations have been made.
- The **collective and intergenerational nature of our healing** is recognised. Our young people must be at the centre of all we do, we can only be healed when our families and communities are strong in their culture and identity.

Our gratitude to the Larrakia People for welcoming us to their lands for this important occasion and for keeping us safe and supported. We pay respects to their Stolen Children, and all the Stolen Generations whose voices and advocacy we carry with us.
Ends.

Learn more about [The Healing Foundation](https://healingfoundation.org.au). Photos are also available upon request.

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Additional Information:

QUOTES

“This event has been a healing moment for a lot of people. There has been a lot of listening to what survivors and organisations are saying about our needs as we age, about the issues we are facing in accessing our records, about the funding challenges for our volunteer-run organisations.”

Aunty Jenni Caruso, Eastern Arrente woman and survivor

“Something big is happening for our survivor organisations and for the country. Momentum is here, the fire is burning. We are organising together as a sector, to speak as one voice and push for the finalisation of the *Bringing them home* recommendations and to bring about the change we so desperately need.”

Raelene Rosas, CEO NT Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation

CALLS TO ACTION

- Adequate and sustainable **funding** for Stolen Generations organisations to continue to provide services and support to survivors, their families and communities
- The continuation of the important **truth telling** process Stolen Generations and the Bringing them home report commenced, until all Australians know the truth and reparations have been made.
- The **collective and intergenerational nature of our healing** is recognised. Our young people must be at the centre of all we do, we can only be healed when our families and communities are strong in their culture and identity
- Consistent and urgent **redress for all survivors as part of a broader reparations package** that includes survivors, family and community healing and cultural restitution
- Funding and policy in place to support **culturally safe and survivor led aged/elder care** – that means
 - survivors are able to choose when, where and how they are cared for as they age
 - their physical, spiritual and cultural needs are met
 - they are held in a place of respect and able to pass on their knowledge
 - descendants are able to support survivors as they age and not retraumatised
 - the culturally based healing workforce provided by SGOs is recognised and supported by adequate training and resources that recognise the weight of vicarious trauma and the value of specialist knowledge and healing work being done
- All institutions, organisations and individuals holding records relating to the forced removal of Stolen Generations, public and private, provide **prioritised and open access to the collections and progress agreements to hand back records** to survivor and descendant led groups
- SGOs are supported with training and resources to manage records and collections relation to Stolen Generations survivors
- SGO-driven **research** to support the important work we do and the histories that we hold

ORGANISATIONS

- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- Cherbourg Boys and Girls Dormitory Ltd
- Children of the Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home Inc.
- Connecting Home Ltd
- Coota Girls Aboriginal Corporation
- Katherine Region Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation
- Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation
- Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation
- Link-Up NSW
- Link-Up QLD
- Northern Territory Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation
- Nunkuwarrin Yunti of SA Inc.
- Sister Kate's Home Kids Aboriginal Corporation
- South Australia Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation
- Stolen Generation Council NSW/ACT
- West Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation / Yokai
- Woolkabunning Kiaka Inc. (Roelands Village)
- Yorgum Healing Service