



BringingThemHome

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a Healing Foundation project

Media Release

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Trauma continues for Stolen Generations in WA

Stolen Generations need a new national policy approach to address the ongoing impacts of unresolved trauma, according to a report released by the Healing Foundation.

The new report was provided to the West Australian government today at an event at Parliament House to mark the 20th anniversary of the landmark *Bringing Them Home* report. The event paid respect to thousands of children who were forcibly removed from their homes in WA during the period of the late 1900's right up until the 1970's.

Speaking at the event, Healing Foundation CEO said: "Our Stolen Generations haven't been able to heal because Australia has failed to address their needs in a coordinated and holistic way.

"Most of the recommendations made in the original *Bringing Them Home* report were never implemented which has led to a ripple effect into current generations."

Research shows that the people affected by the forced removal of children – the Stolen Generations and their children and grandchildren – are 50% more likely to be charged by police, 30% less likely to be in good health, and 10% less likely to have a job.

"Unresolved trauma is an underlying cause of many social and health issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities today, which is why it's so important that we break the trauma cycle now.

"If we don't take action, the problems will keep getting bigger and the cost of fixing them will continue to spiral out of control," said Mr Weston.

The Healing Foundation presented their action plan for change to the Federal Government on Tuesday but Mr Weston said support from all states and territories would be essential to repair the damage of the past and build a better future.

He said commemorative remarks made by West Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ben Wyatt, in the House today, showed a commitment to addressing intergenerational trauma issues in WA communities. Similar events are being held in NSW and Queensland today.

The Healing Foundation's report calls for action on four key priorities:

- A federally coordinated reparations scheme, including financial redress and healing services
- A full analysis of the Stolen Generations changing needs as they age
- A national study on the impacts of intergenerational trauma, and the best ways to address it
- Ensuring all professionals who work with Stolen Generations are trained in recognising and addressing intergenerational trauma.

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WA Stolen Generations stories, captured on film by the Indigenous Community Stories Project, are available: www.healingfoundation.org.au