

**Stolen Generations Advisory Committee Meeting  
3 December 2018**

**Communique**

The Stolen Generations Advisory Committee met in Sydney on 3 December 2018. This meeting followed a preparation meeting of Stolen Generations Organisations (SGO) representatives on 30 November 2018, supported by the independent facilitation of Mr Grant Sarra.

During the meeting survivors and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Sarah Mitchell, discussed a number of issues. Survivors raised concerns about the operation of the National Redress Scheme and particularly the impact any prior compensation payments Stolen Generations survivors may have received would have on Redress payments. Survivors requested an urgent response on this issue.

Survivors also raised that the Funeral Assistance Fund payments, paid as part of the Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme, do not adequately cover the costs of survivors being buried on country.

**NSW child protection issues**

The Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) provided an update on priority work being undertaken following the Stolen Generations Organisations (SGO) and FACS roundtable meeting held on 23 – 24 November 2018. This includes funding for a FACS service coordinator for each SGO to assist survivors to access FACS services, and for a Stolen Generations policy framework to be developed by FACS. FACS and the SGOs will continue working together outside of the Advisory Committee on these and other priority issues.

**Acknowledgement in Parliament**

The Committee was provided with information on an acknowledgement of Aboriginal culture and heritage to be made in Parliament in 2019, including the Aboriginal Affairs consultation approach. The SGOs will have further opportunity to provide input as the wording of the acknowledgement is developed.

**Health and Aged Care – NSW state areas of influence**

The NSW Ministry of Health discussed with the Committee opportunities for the NSW Government to improve survivor's access to aged care at the state level, including input into the training and capabilities of the Aged Care Assessment Teams to work with Stolen Generations survivors.

The survivor representatives raised concerns that there is insufficient support through Home Care packages for elders to attend survivor-led recreational and healing gatherings, such as for transportation, accommodation and meals costs. SGOs expressed they need more funding and resources to support survivors who are ageing and need increased assistance to participate in these healing gatherings.

The survivor representatives emphasised that reunions and healing gatherings are part of wellbeing in ageing and important aspects of addressing intergenerational trauma.

The NSW Ministry of Health agreed to a roundtable in 2019 with the SGOs to discuss a Stolen Generations policy framework to ensure the needs of ageing survivors can be better supported by the NSW Government.

## **Social and Emotional Wellbeing Counsellors**

The survivor representatives reiterated concerns with the Commonwealth about the design and implementation of the Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Program, and continued to advocate for improvement to the service design to ensure it is meetings survivor's needs.

It was highlighted that programs aimed at Stolen Generations survivors need to be delivered by, or in close consultation with, the SGOs. To do this, the SGOs should be adequately resourced to deliver SEWB programs for survivors and by survivors, which should include operational funding as well as SEWB counsellor/program funding.

The Commonwealth committed that PM&C will arrange the collective meeting with SGOs as a matter of urgency to discuss how PM&C can better fund survivor organisations to deliver social and emotional wellbeing supports to their members.

PM&C will also meet with each SGO to discuss improvements to current funding arrangements, as a matter of priority.

## **Other Commonwealth issues, including the Healing Foundation and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) Report into demographics and outcomes for Stolen Generations survivors**

The Committee heard from the Department of Premier and Cabinet on the Commonwealth's intended approach to use the findings of the Healing Foundation and AIHW report about the service needs of Stolen Generations survivors.

The survivor representatives highlighted that survivors need access to subsidised health supports, given the higher rates of chronic health and disability that survivors experience.

Survivors raised that Government agencies need to consider the holistic ageing needs of survivors and families, but the Commonwealth government has so far been siloed in its approaches.

The survivor representatives requested the Commonwealth provide information to the Committee on how research from the Healing Foundation on the impacts of trauma and intergenerational trauma is being embedded in Commonwealth policies and program delivery, such as a national reparations framework.

The survivor representatives also requested a formal mechanism to have their voices heard directly by the Commonwealth, similar to the NSW Stolen Generations Advisory Committee. They also asked for a direct meeting with Minister Scullion, given he was unable to attend the 3 December 2018 Advisory Committee meeting.