



Leslie Williams

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Minister for Early Childhood Education
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MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE THAN \$73 MILLION FOR REPARATIONS TO STOLEN GENERATIONS SURVIVORS

The NSW Government has reaffirmed its commitment to working with the Stolen Generations to address the trauma and harm from forced removal of Aboriginal children by providing a reparations package worth more than \$73 million to survivors, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Leslie Williams has announced today.

The reparations scheme offering one-off payments to survivors, a healing fund to address intergenerational trauma, and direct financial support for survivors' groups form the foundation of the NSW Government's response to the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Reparations for the Stolen Generations.

Mrs Williams, who delivered an apology to the Stolen Generations in June, said the NSW Government's response tabled today in the NSW Parliament goes beyond mere words to deliver a comprehensive package of support backed by more than \$73 million in funding.

"With this response, the NSW Government officially acknowledges the real and heartbreaking trauma caused by historic government policies and practices of removing Aboriginal children from their kin and country," Mrs Williams said.

"We have accepted the vast majority of the Parliamentary Committee's recommendations and together with the Premier I will establish a Stolen Generations advisory committee to ensure our response is implemented swiftly, effectively and respectfully but most importantly in partnership with Aboriginal people.

"A Stolen Generations reparations scheme will offer payments to survivors without the need for a lengthy and arduous legal process and a \$5 million Stolen Generations healing fund will seek to address the impacts of trauma not only for survivors but also for their families, descendants and communities.

"It is my sincerest hope that by acknowledging the wrongs of the past and providing enduring and meaningful support for the future, we can avoid such a tragedy ever being repeated."

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Fact sheet – Stolen Generations

- In NSW, under the *Aborigines Protection Act 1909*, the Aborigines Welfare Board had wide-ranging control over the lives of Aboriginal people, including the power to remove children from their families under a policy of assimilation. This policy was enacted until the Aborigines Protection Act was repealed in 1969.
- The four independent organisations formed by NSW Stolen Generations survivors are the Cootamundra Girls' Aboriginal Corporation, Kinchela Boys' Home Aboriginal Corporation, Children of the Bomaderry Aboriginal Children's Home Incorporated and NSW/ACT Stolen Generations Council.
- These initiatives will be developed in consultation with Stolen Generations Organisations in early 2017 and will commence by 1 July 2017.
- Ongoing direct financial support for these Stolen Generations Organisations will be provided over the next ten years.
- The NSW Premier and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs will establish a Stolen Generation Advisory Committee including representatives from the Stolen Generations Organisations.
- Child removals had individual and widespread impacts on families and communities - children separated from their parents suffered trauma, as did their parents, siblings, grandparents and extended family members. This trauma has been passed down to their descendants and continues to be felt today.
- The NSW Government will establish a grant-based Stolen Generations Healing Fund, supported by \$5 million over 10 years, to fund healing activities, including healing centres, keeping places and memorials.
- The NSW Government will establish a Stolen Generations Funeral Fund, providing payments of up to \$7000 to assist with the costs of funeral for members of the Stolen Generations.
- The NSW Government will work with Aboriginal organisations to identify records that may assist survivors and descendants in proof of Aboriginality, as well as streamlining access to Aborigines Welfare Board records and establishing a new ongoing role – Aboriginal Research Historian.