



Don Harwin
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 20 May 2019

STOLEN GENERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE EXTENDED

The NSW Government has extended the operation of the Stolen Generations Advisory Committee providing a forum for survivors to advise the government for another two years.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Don Harwin said the Committee which will now operate until May 2021 has been instrumental in driving better outcomes for Stolen Generations survivors in NSW.

“I’d like to give a special thank you to those on the committee who are themselves survivors. We have so much to gain from your experiences, and your generosity in sharing your truth has been essential in informing our work,” Minister Harwin said.

“The Committee has achieved a substantial amount since it commenced in May 2017, playing an integral role in developing the Unfinished Business Progress Report for Parliament.

“Most recently the Stolen Generation Organisations were involved in supporting the Government to open this new Parliament with the delivery of a statement on the importance of Aboriginal culture and heritage.”

The Advisory Committee has played a principal role in building relationships between the Stolen Generations Organisations and the NSW Government.

One of the key achievements of the Committee has been strengthening the relationship between the Department of Family and Community Services and the Stolen Generations Organisations.

“There has been significant progress in implementing the NSW Government’s Response to Unfinished Business since the Advisory Committee was formed – however, there is still more to be done,” Minister Harwin said.

Head of Aboriginal Affairs NSW, Jason Ardler, said that “continuation of the Committee is immensely important in ensuring that survivor voices are heard directly by the NSW Government. This means that government can work in a way that is guided by, and meet the needs of, Stolen Generations survivors in NSW”.

A focus of the Committee in 2019 will be working with the Commonwealth to progress improvements in aged care and disability services for Stolen Generations survivors.

Uncle Lester Maher, Chair of Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation said the Minister’s re-appointments were pleasing and he urged the Government to continue

working alongside survivor organisations.

“We have come a long way as survivor organisations and we are being heard, and we appreciate the opportunity to speak frankly with the Government on issues impacting ourselves, our families, communities and organisations.”

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