

HealingFoundation

From Sorry to Action

A plan to act on
Bringing them home (2026–2028)

May 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

The Healing Foundation acknowledges Country, Custodians and Community of the lands on which we live and work.

We pay our respects to Elders and to Stolen Generations survivors, of the Dreaming and of the here and now and to those who never made it home.

We recognise the ongoing nature of trauma experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and commit each day to survivor-led intergenerational healing.

Cultural advice

Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this document may contain images or names of deceased people.

About The Healing Foundation

The Healing Foundation supports Stolen Generations survivors — the many thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people taken, as babies and children, from loving families, communities, culture and Country under previous government policies.

We work closely with Stolen Generations survivors, descendants and organisations, as well as governments, service providers and other stakeholders to address the priority needs of the Stolen Generations.

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Overview

From Sorry to Action: A plan to act on Bringing them home (2026-2028) (Action Plan) outlines critical priorities and tangible actions to support leaders and policy makers in actualising a number of the long outstanding recommendations of the 1997 *Bringing them home* report. The Action Plan, developed by The Healing Foundation, highlights the ongoing needs of Stolen Generations survivors across health, wellbeing, records access, redress, sector sustainability, education, and research, that remain unmet three decades after they were called for.

Forcibly removed from their families, communities, culture and Country under past government policies, Stolen Generations survivors have suffered immense trauma, which continues to affect individuals, families, and communities today.

Federal, state and territory governments, police, churches, and other agencies and organisations all have a responsibility to create meaningful change for survivors, and their descendants. This Action Plan provides a framework for realising these changes in the lead up to and the year following the 30th anniversary of the tabling of *Bringing them home: Report of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from Their Families (1997).*

The landmark *Bringing them home* report platformed survivor voices and detailed the Inquiry's findings of the intergenerational impacts of removals, investigating laws, practices, and policies that allowed for forcible removals across all Australian jurisdictions — laws, practices, and policies that were designed to eliminate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The report included a suite of recommendations designed to address what was concluded to be a 'gross violation of human rights'.



"The report has been out for thirty years, there's still a long way to go. It has to be bigger than an acknowledgement – our families are disenfranchised."

Aunty Bronwyn Smith,
Stolen Generations survivor
(Wakka Wakka)

In 2025, The Healing Foundation released the report *Are you waiting for us to die? The unfinished business of Bringing them home,* which found that only five of the original 83 recommendations made in the *Bringing them home* report had been clearly implemented — just 6 percent. This equates to almost 30 years, an entire generation, of systemic inaction.

The consequence of this inaction is ongoing and measurable harm to Stolen Generations survivors and their descendants.

Survivors experience significantly poorer outcomes than other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across health, wellbeing, and socio-economic measures, creating impacts which persist across generations.

Despite this, survivors have not been consistently or explicitly recognised within national policy priorities. The 2025 *Closing the Gap Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Led Review* reinforced the urgent need to explicitly recognise Stolen Generations survivors in these policy frameworks with visibility across shared monitoring systems. This Action Plan aligns with Closing the Gap Priority Reforms to ensure consistency across research, data management, policy development, service delivery, and critically, accountability.

National Sorry Day in 2027 will mark 30 years since the *Bringing them home* report was handed down. In these 30 years, many survivors have passed away without receiving justice for what was inflicted upon them. The survivors still with us today are running out of time to see the justice, healing, and reparations they deserve.

The Action Plan is a clear and time-bound roadmap for decisive action from May 2026 – May 2028. It establishes the priorities for improving the lives of survivors and their descendants with a framework to shift the systems that have failed survivors for decades. It doesn't aim to address every *Bringing them home* recommendation, but takes the voices of survivors, descendants, and organisations that support them and puts them into tangible policy actions. Addressing this plan cannot happen without the accountability, resourcing and problem solving of governments and other stakeholders.

This plan has been designed to encourage those across multiple sectors to investigate and expediate the *Bringing them home* recommendations relevant to them.

Immediate and coordinated action is urgently needed across five interrelated priority areas. Together they form the essential conditions for genuine intergenerational healing:

1. **Health, social and emotional wellbeing, and ageing**
2. **Records, redress, and acknowledgements**
3. **Education, research, and data**
4. **Sector support and workforce development**
5. **Governance and accountability**

Overview of outcomes

Priority area	Vision
1 Health, social and emotional wellbeing, and ageing	**1.1** All survivors have access to culturally safe, fully subsidised and equitable aged care, health and community services. **1.2** All survivors and descendants are supported through intergenerational healing and wellbeing.
2 Records, redress, and acknowledgements	**2.1** All survivors and descendants have prioritised access to records. **2.2** Stolen Generations records are identified, protected and preserved. **2.3** All survivors have equitable access to redress. **2.4** All agencies involved in the removal of Stolen Generations deliver apologies to survivors. **2.5** Commemorations for Stolen Generations are held and memorials are established across Australia.
3 Education, research, and data	**3.1** Every Australian has an increased awareness and understanding of the history of Stolen Generations and the ongoing impacts. **3.2** There is ongoing research into the needs of survivors and their descendants to ensure evidence-based and effective immediate and longer-term support.
4 Sector support and workforce development	**4.1** There is a strong and ongoing network of Stolen Generations organisations (SGOs). **4.2** SGOs are building their capacity, are well supported in fulfilling their mandate and are assured of funding continuity. **4.3** A skilled, sustainable, culturally safe and trauma informed workforce operates across sectors and industries.
5 Governance and accountability	**5.1** There is strong accountability for the delivery of the Action Plan through the Joint Council on Closing the Gap and National Cabinet. **5.2** Data collection and reporting on Stolen Generations and their descendants is strengthened.

Alignment with Closing the Gap

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap is an existing process and systems approach that could address these actions. The actions and outcomes in this plan are aligned with the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms. This ensures the ongoing impacts of forced removal on survivors and descendants are properly recognised and addressed across policy, systems, service delivery, data and research. Survivors must be visible in Closing the Gap governance and reporting, with strengthened accountability for progress through the Joint Council on Closing the Gap.

Priority Reform 1:
Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Ensure Stolen Generations Organisations (SGOs) and survivors are represented in policy partnerships and decision-making in relation to access to records and redress, health, social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB), and aged care, along with monitoring and accountability on implementation of the National Agreement and the *Bringing them home* report recommendations.

Priority Reform 2:
Building the community-controlled sector

Ensure sustained, long-term capacity building and investment in SGOs and workforces to deliver community-led healing services and other supports for survivors and descendants, including reunions, records access, and SEWB support.

Priority Reform 3:
Transforming government organisations

Promote truth-telling, recognition, awareness, and culturally safe, trauma informed support for survivors across government organisations and systems, including records, redress, education, health care and aged care.

Priority Reform 4:
Shared access to data and decision-making

Facilitate information sharing between governments and SGOs, survivors, and descendants by improving Stolen Generations records access, and analysis and sharing of data on survivor and descendant experiences and outcomes.

Implementation of the Action Plan will support progress towards Closing the Gap targets by improving healing, social and emotional wellbeing, and health of survivors and descendants.

Emerging analysis indicates survivors and descendants comprise up to half the adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, meaning targeted action could make a tangible difference for whole communities.

Further strategy and action will be needed beyond the scope and timeframe of the Plan to ensure full implementation of the *Bringing them home* recommendations, and healing and reparations for survivors and descendants.



"It's time to take the necessary actions to ensure that no one is left behind, especially Stolen Generations survivors. They deserve recognition, support, and a future where their health and wellbeing are prioritised. Survivors and descendants comprise a large percentage of the adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population: targeted action could accelerate whole-of-community gains."

Professor Steve Larkin,
Board Chair, The Healing Foundation (Kungarakan)



"The Bringing them home report was grounded in rigorous inquiry, community consultation, and clear human rights obligations. It found that the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children constituted a gross violation of human rights and international law. However, decades of inaction from successive governments have stalled meaningful progress and entrenched a "gap within the gap" for the Stolen Generations. Survivors and descendants continue to experience poorer outcomes and inadequate recognition within Closing the Gap implementation and accountability frameworks. This sustained inaction reflects a persistent failure of government accountability and a deeper governance failure to honour commitments made to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Katie Kiss, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner (Kaanju and Birri/Widi)

1 Priority Area 1 – Health, social and emotional wellbeing, and ageing

Most survivors are now aged over 50 and eligible for aged care. Appropriately designed, culturally safe, trauma informed health and aged care must be delivered for survivors. Survivors deserve care that meets their needs, and supports them to age with dignity.

The final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (2021) found that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are under-represented in aged care services despite having significant health needs.

The Royal Commission and the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner's report *Transforming Aged Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People* (2025) reported that survivors face administrative, financial, and systemic barriers to accessing aged care, including the lack of trauma aware, culturally safe services, along with rigid eligibility assessment and identity document requirements at the point of entry.[2]

Stronger investment is also needed in community-led services to improve the health and wellbeing of survivors and descendants, and support intergenerational healing.

1. Australian Government 2021. Royal Commissioner into Aged Care Quality and Safety Final Report: Care, Dignity and Respect, Volume 2 The Current System, Commonwealth of Australia.
2. Australian Government Department of Health Disability and Ageing 2025. Transforming aged care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Report from the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner, Commonwealth of Australia.

"The current system requires transformation from generic, one-size-fits-all approaches to care that is designed by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The research concludes that effective aged care for Stolen Generations survivors must support healing, maintain connections to culture and family, and provide care with dignity and respect."

Research findings from Murawin



→
Pictured:
Aunty Josephine Smallwood (left), Stolen Generations survivor and Aunty Valerie Wenberg, Stolen Generations survivor



Bringing them home recommendations

The *Bringing them home* report recommended that reparations to survivors must include measures of rehabilitation (recommendation 3), recognising the lasting trauma of forced removal. These recommendations focused on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing model for providing services and programs for survivors, emphasising local healing and wellbeing perspectives, and delivery by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services (recommendations 33A–33C).



***Bringing them home* report (1997)**

How far have we come?

The *Are you waiting for us to die?* report found that governments across Australia have failed to invest strongly enough in services and supports for survivors and descendants, who have unique and complex needs and experience significant barriers to accessing health, SEWB, and aged care services.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has reported that survivors experience significantly poorer health and social and emotional wellbeing outcomes compared with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the same age. Survivors are more likely to experience violence, homelessness, poor mental health and substance use, and to have chronic diseases, including kidney disease, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease and asthma.[3]

3. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2021. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations aged 50 and over: updated analyses for 2018–19. Cat. no. IHW 257. Canberra: AIHW; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024, *Intergenerational trauma and mental health: summary paper,* Indigenous Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Clearinghouse, Canberra.

"I'd much rather end up in hospital than an institution — I wouldn't want to go through that again. You've got to listen to what they say, you've got to eat when they tell you, you've got to stay within the boundaries of where they want you to stay.

"At home, it's your castle, it's your home – as long as I can stay in my own home, I'm better off."

Uncle Wayne Garlett,
Stolen Generations survivor
(Ballardong)





"30 years has passed since the Bringing them home report — Stolen Generations survivors deserve better.

The government must act to deliver properly funded, survivor led, culturally safe and trauma informed aged care, with priority access and flexible models that allow them to age with dignity, connection and healing."

Andrea Kelly,
Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner
(Warumungu and Larrakia)

Priority Area 1 – Actions

Vision	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
1.1 All survivors have access to culturally safe, fully subsidised and equitable aged care, health and community services.	1.1.1 Provide alternative access pathways, with flexible identity verification options, for survivors to access My Aged Care.	Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA)	December 2026
	1.1.2 Exempt any redress or compensation payments made to Stolen Generations or descendants from asset testing for services under the *Aged Care Act 2024*. 1.1.3 Exempt survivors from Support at Home co-payments.	Minister for Aged Care and Seniors, DHDA	September 2026
	1.1.4 Establish a permanent, independent statutory First Nations Aged Care Commissioner. 1.1.5 Include within the First Nations Aged Care Commissioner's remit: a) Improving access to aged care by survivors. b) Establishing clear performance measures and reporting on access and uptake to Aged Care by survivors. c) Monitoring the impact of the new *Aged Care Act 2024* on survivors. 1.1.6 Ensure clear performance measures and reporting on access and uptake to Aged Care by survivors are in place.	Minister for Aged Care and Seniors	July 2026
	1.1.7 Undertake a rapid review of the policy and program supports needed for survivors to age with dignity to inform policy standards and monitoring.	NeuRA Aboriginal Ageing Team, The Healing Foundation	September 2026
	1.1.8 Work with The Healing Foundation and SGOs to co-design a Stolen Generations Access and Prioritisation Card for primary health and aged care services and supports to ensure survivors have equitable and universal access to these services. 1.1.9 Develop a process and timeline for implementation of the card, including identifying any legislative changes required.	Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, DHDA	December 2026
	1.1.10 Expand the Elder Care Coordinator workforce through specific funding of roles dedicated to supporting survivors to access services through SGOs and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs).	DHDA	September 2026
	1.1.11 Establish a formal escalation pathway for survivor aged care complaints, delays and enquiries, to ensure timely responses and culturally safe handling for survivors. This should include: a) Named escalation contacts b) Agreed complaint timeframes c) Trauma informed processes for urgent matters.	DHDA, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner, Australian Aged Care Complaints Commissioner	December 2026
1.2 All survivors and descendants are supported through intergenerational healing and wellbeing.	1.2.1 Work collaboratively to improve the mapping, coordination and reporting of health and wellbeing services and programs for Stolen Generations survivors	DHDA, NIAA	September 2026
	1.2.2 Provide SGOs with Social and Emotional Wellbeing dedicated funding: a) Social and Emotional Wellbeing positions b) Project funding to deliver supports that facilitate intergenerational healing.	DHDA, NIAA	July 2027
	1.2.3 Support SGOs to respond to the disproportionate impacts of institutional child sexual abuse on survivors through: • Additional funding for survivor led, culturally safe healing. • Additional workforce supports for SGOs delivering on the National Redress Scheme, recognising the impacts of vicarious trauma and the complex support needs of survivors on workforce wellbeing and retention.	Department of Social Services (DSS)	December 2026

Vision	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
	1.2.4 National mental health policies, including the *National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan* explicitly recognise and prioritise the enduring impacts of forced removal, including high levels of psychological distress and poor wellbeing outcomes, with a commitment to improving data and services.	DHDA, Gayaa Dhuwi	Ongoing
	1.2.5 Improve mental health data collection and service delivery for survivors by: • Co-designing with survivors voluntary identifier/s to support monitoring of service reach and outcomes. • Using the data to prioritise access to mental health and wellbeing services and initiatives for survivors.	DHDA	Ongoing



"The more we talk, the stronger we get, and we can't heal unless we do talk about it."

Uncle Michael 'Widdy' Welsh,
Stolen Generations survivor of Kinchela Boys Home, Wailwan



"We're not looking back to cause a problem....we have all these issues, and it's not because of us, it's because of the past, and we're still trying to fix and band-aid all of the things that have been done wrong to us. And intergenerational trauma, it exists.

"Because, if you're to understand intergenerational trauma....it's not intentionally passed on....people do things a certain way, because they're affected by trauma."

Uncle Greg Tait,
Stolen Generations survivor, Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation Board Director



"My Nanas weren't very open about discussing those type of things, what was going on in those institutions. And when I met other elders that were in those places, I kind of got an idea of how they were treated and why they were the way they were, because I was carrying a lot of hurt during that time... And I understood my mother more and my dad more...it made me realise the impact of intergenerational trauma..."

Jacinda Blurton,
Nyoongar, Ballardong, Willman, Yuet and Menang,
The Healing Foundation Youth Reference Group Member

2 Priority area 2 – Records, redress, and acknowledgements

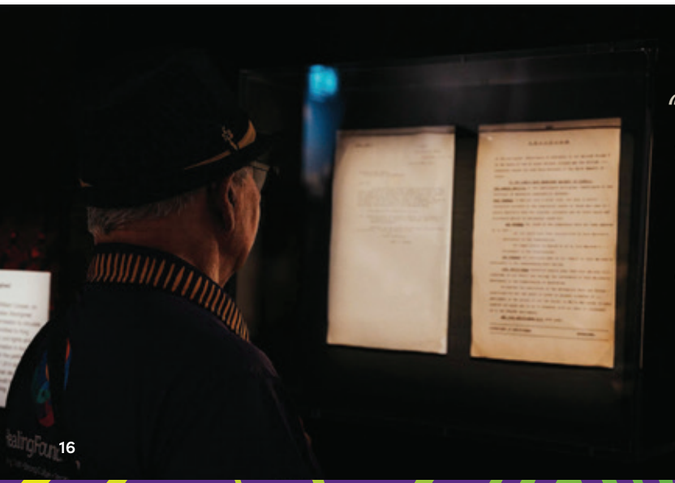
Access to records is a critically important part of healing for survivors. More than just a piece of paper, they are the link, often containing crucial information, that can support them to reconnect with their families, culture, identity and Country. Many survivors and descendants face ongoing barriers that prevent them from accessing records held by government and non-government institutions, with some churches and non-government institutions refusing to release records.

Reparations are an essential aspect of healing for survivors and descendants. They are necessary to acknowledge the harm, trauma and gross human rights violations caused by forcible removal policies to Stolen Generations children and families, as well as the ongoing and intergenerational harm, trauma and disadvantage that survivors and descendants still experience today.

It is vital that survivors and descendants have equitable access to records, redress, and acknowledgements, apologies and commemorations, to accelerate progress towards meeting the *Bringing them home* report's recommendations.

Bringing them home recommendations

The *Bringing them home* report made a series of recommendations on the need to maintain records and improve survivors' access to personal and family records, and family tracing and reunion services, recognising the critical importance of restoring their connections with family, culture, and Country (recommendations 1, 11, 13, 21, 22a-b, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29a-b, 30a-b, 31, 38a-c, 39). The report also recommended that reparations be made to all who suffered because of forcible removal policies, which must include establishing and acknowledging the truth about the past, formal apologies, commemorations, and monetary compensation (cultural, symbolic and financial compensation or redress) (recommendations 5a-b, 6, 7a-b, 15, 16a-b, 17).



"Legislation continues to cause harm; it is not keeping up with the needs of the Stolen Generations."

Participant at The Healing Foundation Records Symposium, 2025



"This is what happened to our kids, our families, my mother, me, my sister, my grandmother. We're tired. We need to have access to those records. Without it we can't heal. Our kids can't heal. So I feel angry. I feel sad. And I'm sick of telling this story."

Dr Kath Apma Penangke Travis (Arrernte), Stolen Generations survivor

"For all the years I spent in the dormitory, for everything we suffered. The government owed us – we should never have had to fight for that. All those years in the dormitory don't end when you leave – they stay with you. From four and a half to 14 is a long time for any child – you carry it with you all your life."

Aunty Ruth Hegarty (on right), Stolen Generations survivor (Gunggari); also pictured (on left): Aunty Gloria Sumner, Stolen Generations survivor



How far have we come?

The *Are you waiting for us to die?* report (2025) found that nearly half of the *Bringing them home* recommendations on records access, family tracing and reunion have not been fully implemented. A range of records are required to support survivors and descendants to heal and reunify, including Births, Deaths and Marriage records, hospital and police records, government held archival records, and privately-held records. These records are held across different jurisdictions, with inconsistent policy and legal frameworks determining access conditions, including application processes, wait times and fees. This means that the process to access records for survivors can be cumbersome, bureaucratic, expensive and geographically limiting.

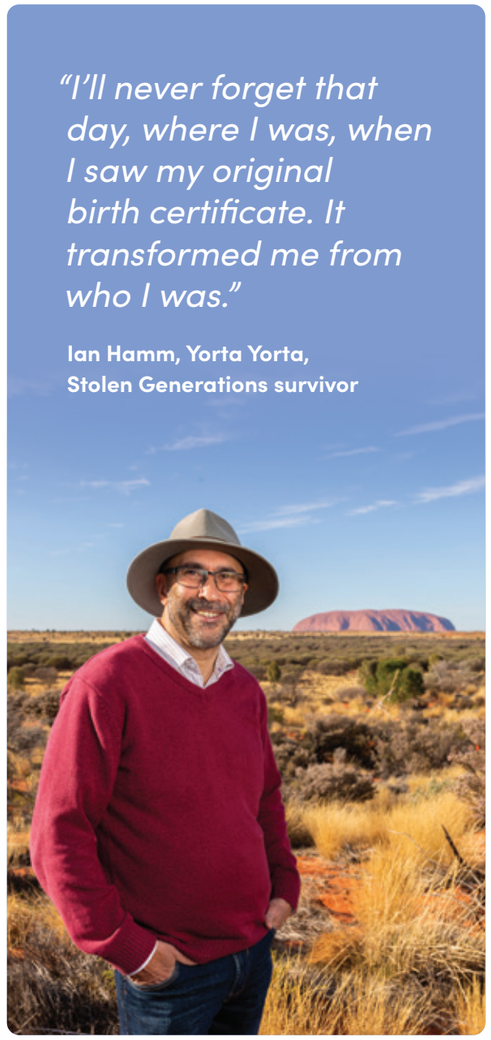
The review also found that recommendations on monetary compensation have not been met, and recommendations on acknowledgements have only been partially implemented. Redress schemes are largely administered by states and territories. Queensland has never had a scheme.

There are also significant discrepancies between schemes across jurisdictions, resulting in survivors having unequal access to redress, or varying amounts of compensation, with some schemes still in operation (Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Western Australia) and others having ended (New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania).

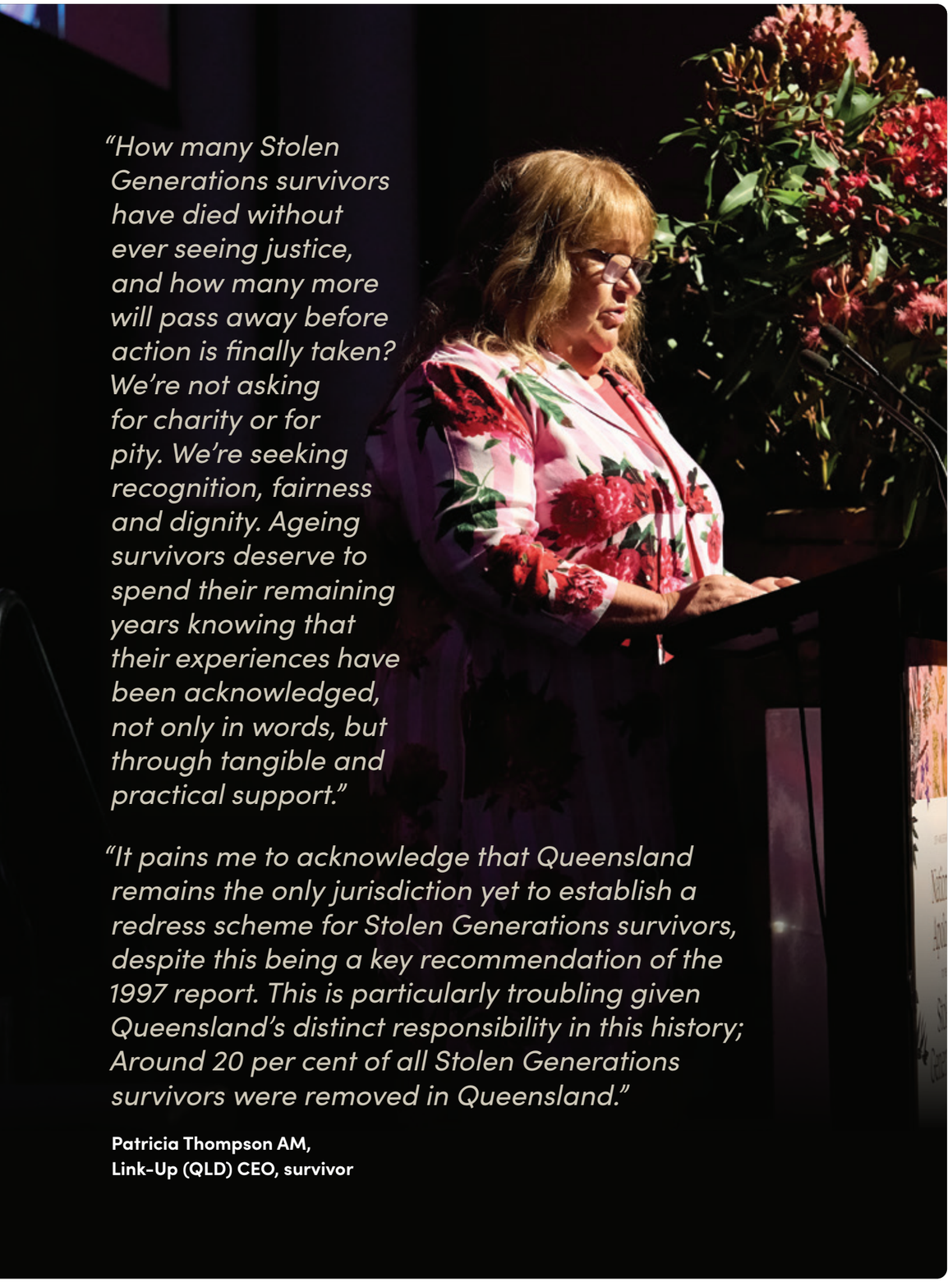
Priority Area 2 – Actions

Vision	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
2.1 All survivors and descendants have prioritised access to records.	2.1.1 Create a high-level body with the remit of leading and overseeing records access policy reform, including developing and implementing mechanisms for monitoring and accountability.	NIAA, The Healing Foundation, Link-Ups, Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities (CAARA)	September 2026
	2.1.2 Create a single 'front door' for Stolen Generations record requests with a simple, standard application used across jurisdictions. 2.1.3 Progress quick administrative fixes (such as fee waivers, expedited timeframes, administrative release, and priority processing) while pursuing longer-term legislative change. 2.1.4 Harmonise agreements and processes across government archives and agencies to ensure consistent, permissive access and streamlined administrative release.	NIAA, Link-Ups, record holding institutions	December 2026
	2.1.5 In consultation with Link-Ups, provide additional funding for training and wellbeing support for staff.	NIAA	February 2027
	2.1.6 Undertake a review of Commonwealth and state/territory legislation and recommend reforms to ensure survivors and descendants have prioritised access to records. 2.1.7 Standing Council of Attorneys-General considers the legislative review and provides a response to the recommendations.	Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG)	October 2026
	2.1.8 Ensure all records sector workforces, including Right to Information (RTI), Freedom of Information (FOI), and records holding institutions, undertake updated training developed by The Healing Foundation on Stolen Generations history and records access.	CAARA, Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, state and territory information commissioners, libraries, Birth, Deaths and Marriages	Ongoing
	2.1.9 Create a survivor focused resource as part of Better Access to Stolen Generations Records training.	The Healing Foundation	December 2026
	2.1.10 Undertake an analysis and develop a list of how private collections are being managed and which private institutions are sharing and withholding records. 2.1.11 Resource a dedicated function to build relationships with private records holders, including missions, churches, and NGOs. 2.1.12 Explore levers such as transparency reporting, funding conditions, and legislative reform to improve access to private record collections.	NIAA	December 2026
2.2 Stolen Generations records are identified, protected and preserved.	2.2.1 Invest in creating a national, cross-sector cataloguing framework to standardise metadata and enhance searchability. 2.2.2 Establish a secure, centralised national database to ensure records related to the Stolen Generations can be located quickly, accurately, and safely. 2.2.3 Invest in culturally safe recording and storage of survivor stories, with strong consent and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) protections, Support on Country options and local partners. 2.2.4 Explore and support the establishment of safe central record keeping places.	NIAA, The Healing Foundation, SGOs	June 2027
	2.2.5 Establish a community outreach program to fund and support research and recording of localised Stolen Generations family histories.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, NIAA	December 2026

Vision	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
2.3 All survivors have equitable access to redress.	2.3.1 Engage with state and territory governments on improving equity of redress schemes, including existing and closed schemes, based on international best practice.	State and territory governments, NIAA	Ongoing
	2.3.2 Deliver an independent review and analysis of access and uptake of all Stolen Generations redress schemes and the National Redress Scheme by Stolen Generations survivors. 2.3.3 As part of the review, DSS, NIAA and state and territory governments to examine and share information on barriers to accessing schemes for survivors (e.g. through data samples and case study analysis) to inform recommendations on strengthening processes.	DSS, NIAA, state and territory governments	December 2026
	2.3.4 The Queensland Government commits to a process and timeline for co-developing a redress scheme with survivors and SGOs. 2.3.5 The Queensland Government implements the redress scheme.	Queensland Government	May 2027
2.4 All agencies involved in the removal of Stolen Generations deliver apologies to survivors.	2.4.1 Police forces involved in the removal of Stolen Generations deliver apologies if they have not yet done so.	Australian Federal Police, ACT Police, Queensland Police Service, Tasmania Police and South Australia Police	February 2027
	2.4.2 Churches and non-government organisations involved in removing Stolen Generations children deliver apologies if they have not yet done so.	Churches, non-government organisations	February 2027
2.5 Commemorations for the Stolen Generations are held and memorials established across Australia.	2.5.1 Develop a memorialisation program or funding stream to increase SGO- and survivor-led memorials, and commemorative or truth and healing sites in each state and territory in Australia. 2.5.2 Commonwealth and state and territory governments fund projects to track, identify and mark all unmarked and unknown graves of Stolen Generations across Australia.	State and territory Indigenous Affairs Ministers	May 2027
	2.5.3 Hold commemoration and awareness raising events and support other organisations and agencies to do so on the Anniversary of the National Apology (13 February).	Australian Government	13 February each year
	2.5.4 Support communities and agencies to hold National Sorry Day events (26 May).	State and territory governments, local councils, The Healing Foundation	26 May each year







"How many Stolen Generations survivors have died without ever seeing justice, and how many more will pass away before action is finally taken? We're not asking for charity or for pity. We're seeking recognition, fairness and dignity. Ageing survivors deserve to spend their remaining years knowing that their experiences have been acknowledged, not only in words, but through tangible and practical support."

"It pains me to acknowledge that Queensland remains the only jurisdiction yet to establish a redress scheme for Stolen Generations survivors, despite this being a key recommendation of the 1997 report. This is particularly troubling given Queensland's distinct responsibility in this history; Around 20 per cent of all Stolen Generations survivors were removed in Queensland."

Patricia Thompson AM,
Link-Up (QLD) CEO, survivor

3 Priority Area 3 – Education, research, and data

Education about the history of the Stolen Generations and the impacts of forcible removal, is fundamental to truth-telling, accountability and preventing the ongoing policies and practices that continue to cause harm to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Ongoing research into survivor experiences, intergenerational impacts on descendants, and the effects of forcible removal is critical to ensure policy and services are evidence-based, trauma informed and culturally safe.

More must be done to ensure Australia's history is taught across a wide range of settings, and that research and data are consistently collected, shared and used to support learning, accountability and change.

Bringing them home recommendations

The *Bringing them home* report recommended that education about the history and effects of forcible removal be part of the core curricula for schools, undergraduate degrees and traineeships, and training for professionals working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities (recommendations 8a-b, 9a-b). It also recommended an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led program of research and consultation to identify the range and extent of harms of forcible removal (recommendation 32).

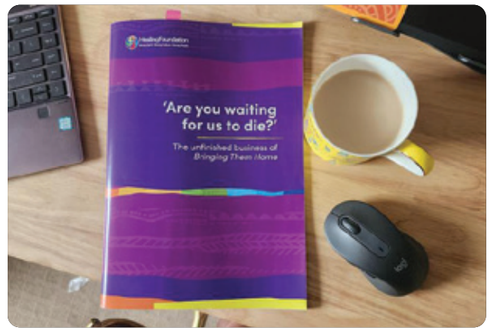
How far have we come?

The *Are you waiting for us to die?* report (2025) found that the *Bringing them home* report recommendations on education and research have not been systematically implemented.

Stolen Generations education has been included in the Australian Curriculum since 2010. However, it has not been mandated in primary and secondary school curricula in all states and territories.

It has also not been mandated or systematically included in relevant vocational and university curricula, and progress is uneven across the university sector.

To address these gaps, governments and funders should also provide coordinated support and funding for research and data collection on the experiences and effects of forcible removal. This is necessary to enable culturally safe, survivor-driven research that informs understanding of survivors' needs, and policy and service responses.



***Are you waiting for us to die?* report (2025)**

Priority Area 3 – Actions

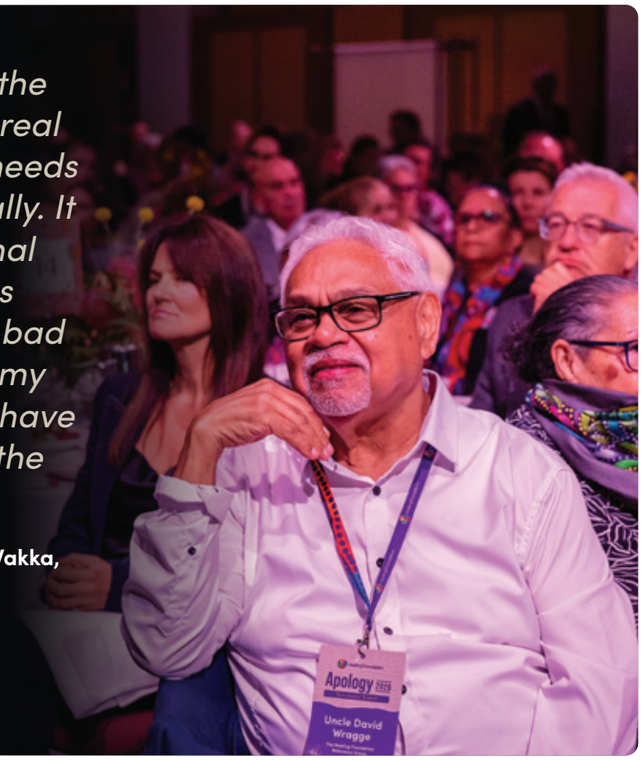
Vision	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
3.1 Australians have an increased awareness and understanding of the history of Stolen Generations and the ongoing impact.	3.1.1 Ensure the First Nations Education Policy: a) Reflects the importance of accurate education on Stolen Generations and intergenerational trauma as critical to belonging and positive experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children. b) Sets out a framework for culturally responsive and trauma informed teaching practices to ensure effective delivery of content. 3.1.2 ACARA to monitor and review the extent to which Stolen Generations education is being appropriately embedded and prioritised in learning in all schools. 3.1.3 State and territory education departments: a) Ensure Stolen Generations education is prioritised in learning and delivered effectively. b) Increase the uptake of the curriculum-aligned resources that are included in The Healing Foundations' *Stolen Generations Resources Kit for Teachers and Students*, in class learning for children and young people across Australia. c) Identify and co-design any additional support, resources or professional development needed for teachers and schools to improve the delivery of Stolen Generations education.	Federal, state and territory Education Ministers, Federal Department of Education and state and territory education departments, Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)	May 2027
	3.1.4 Australian universities to: a) Integrate Stolen Generations history into compulsory units across relevant disciplines, including integration in learning outcomes and assessments. b) Co-design curriculum and teaching resources with survivors and relevant organisations, and include survivor-led guest lectures or storytelling sessions. c) Incorporate Stolen Generations history into professional development programs (e.g. health, education, social work) and provide ongoing staff development on culturally safe, trauma informed approaches. d) Establish KPIs and reporting mechanisms to track implementation and secure funding for survivor-led curriculum development and resource creation.	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), Universities Australia	May 2027
3.2 There is ongoing research into the needs of survivors and their descendants to ensure evidence-based and effective immediate and longer-term support.	3.2.1 Produce an update of analyses of available demographic data of survivors and descendants, including health and socioeconomic outcomes and determinants, and analyses disaggregated by jurisdiction.	The Healing Foundation, AIHW	September 2026
	3.2.2 Work with AIHW to establish a reporting framework for ongoing collection, measurement and reporting on Stolen Generations survivors and descendant health and wellbeing outcomes, including service use.	DHDA, NIAA, ABS, AIHW	February 2027
	3.2.3 Undertake survivor-governed research into improving access to records including survivor interviews and a sector survey. 3.2.4 Translate research outputs into training, information and resources for record holders and survivors.	Jumbunna, University of Technology Sydney, The Healing Foundation	December 2026



Stolen Generations Resources Kit for Teachers and Students

"I'm passionate that the real curriculum, the real history of Australia needs to be taught nationally. It needs to be a national curriculum. Atrocities and massacres and bad things happened to my people, and people have got to admit that in the curriculum."

Uncle David Wragge, Wakka Wakka,
Stolen Generations survivor



"Formal recognition of the hurt caused by past government policies is critical. It should be taught as history in schools because we don't want to repeat things. We want to be a nation that sets the standard for the rest of the world to follow."

Sonny Morey,
Stolen Generations survivor

"The education around the past removal policies and the impact that this still has on families now is so important. The education kits that were done are great and much needed as part of the truth-telling process."

Tania Bin Bakar,
Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation CEO
(Noongar)

"There's a tendency to think that because we've said sorry, that somehow we've magically resolved all of the issues... and that's simply not true. I think there's a massive misconception about the work that's still needed. I think there's a whole lot needed around education and awareness raising, that these issues continue to affect families, continue to affect the day to day lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. That trauma is ever present, no matter how in the past we perceive it to be in terms of historical policies."

Kirsten Gray,
The Healing Foundation Board Director
(Muruwari/Yuwaalaraay)



4 Priority Area 4 – Sector support and workforce development

Stolen Generations Organisations (SGOs) are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led bodies supporting Stolen Generations survivors, their families, and descendants. These organisations are typically survivor-led and centred, community-controlled, and focus on healing, connection, and advocating for the needs of those impacted.

SGOs have a critical role in supporting survivors and their descendants by providing culturally safe, trauma-informed, and healing-focused services.

Priority Reform 2 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap emphasises the importance of building the Aboriginal community-controlled sector through sustained investment and capacity building, recognising that community-controlled services achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Governments must invest in a skilled, sustainable, and culturally safe workforce across the SGO sector and other sectors and industries supporting survivors and descendants.

"As a sector, we know what we need for service delivery. Clients need wrap-around holistic services. Healing is so important for survivors.

"We need to capture our Aunties and Uncles stories, as part of healing, and to make sure these stories are kept safe for future generations."

Raelene Rosas,
Northern Territory Stolen Generations Organisation CEO

Bringing them home recommendations

The *Bringing them home* report recommended that services for Stolen Generations survivors recognise local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives on healing and wellbeing (recommendation 33A) and that government funding for mental health and wellbeing services be directed exclusively to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based organisations (recommendation 33B).

The report also recommended that all professionals who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities receive in-service training about the history and effects of forced removal (recommendation 9A) and government health services develop training for all employees on the history and effects of forcible removals of Stolen Generations children in consultation with relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations (recommendation 34A).

How far have we come?

The *Are you waiting for us to die?* report (2025) found that funding for SGOs is inadequate to meet survivors' needs for healing and support.

Short-term and limited funding undermines the sector's ability to provide long-term, culturally safe, and community-led healing and support programs.

Recommendations on workforce training have also not been fully implemented. The recommendation on education and training for health professionals has been partially met with national legislation that mandates education on cultural safety under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy. However, there is a need for further specific training on working with survivors and descendants across sectors and workforces, including health, aged care, records, and redress.



Stolen Generations survivors Uncle Greg Duffy (left) and Uncle Paul Sandow (right)

Priority Area 4 – Actions

Vision	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
4.1 There is a strong and ongoing network of Stolen Generations organisations (SGOs).	4.1.1 Develop a long-term investment strategy for the SGO sector that focuses on strengthening the sector to deliver local community-led healing initiatives, grow their programs and build holistic, long-term, sustainable and flexible service models.	NIAA	May 2027
	4.1.2 Hold gatherings of SGOs and survivors to share information, determine priorities and opportunities and build capacity.	The Healing Foundation, SGOs	Ongoing
4.2 SGOs are building their capacity, well supported in fulfilling their mandate and are assured of funding continuity.	4.2.1 Scope and provide a funding proposal for long-term funding for SGOs to support their operations and ensure sustainability in providing urgently needed support to survivors nationally.	NIAA	June 2027
	4.2.2 Survey SGOs to gain an understanding of the sector and projected future needs to ensure continuity of resources to enable them to offer quality supports for survivors and descendants.	The Healing Foundation, SGOs	May 2027
	4.2.3 Provide SGOs with support, through scholarships and paid study leave, for staff to undertake the Family History Certificate IV.	NIAA	July 2027
4.3 A skilled, sustainable, culturally safe and trauma informed workforce operates across sectors and industries.	4.3.1 Develop and disseminate trauma informed factsheets and resources to support aged care and other community and health organisations to be trauma informed in the delivery of care.	The Healing Foundation, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Australian Dental Association, Coalition of the Peaks, Aged Care, Dental and GP peaks and relevant bodies	March 2027
	4.3.2 Work closely with The Healing Foundation and key health and ageing peaks to: a) Co-design cultural safety training for the health and aged care workforces with survivors and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. b) Embed training requirements in health and aged care accreditation standards, funding contracts and role-specific competencies. c) Implement and monitor the delivery and uptake of training across the health and aged care workforces.	DHDA, Aged Care Research & Industry Innovation Australia (ARIIA)	June 2027

"Commemorative and healing events are essential to acknowledging the truth of the Stolen Generations and supporting lifelong healing for survivors and their descendants. Sustained support for these gatherings ensures that culture, connection, and resilience continue to thrive across generations."

Lynne Kinghan,
Link-Up (NSW) CEO



5 Priority Area 5 – Governance and accountability

Government, non-government organisations and other relevant agencies must commit to implementing the actions in this plan to take responsibility for past human rights violations and ensure accountability in delivering those actions.

Good governance will ensure recommended actions are progressed and that there is finally progress in actioning against the outstanding recommendations of the *Bringing them home* report.

Bringing them home recommendations

Mechanisms are embedded in the *Bringing them home* report to ensure governance and accountability for implementation of its recommendations, including a working party to establish a process for implementation (recommendation 2A), a National Inquiry audit unit to monitor and report on implementation (recommendation 2B), and requirements for all governments to provide annual information on implementation progress to the audit unit (recommendation 2D).

How far have we come?

The *Are you waiting for us to die?* report found that the requirement for a 'whole-of-government policy response with immediate targets, long-term objectives and a continuing commitment' has not been fulfilled, and there has been 'no systematic government response to the needs and rights of Stolen Generations survivors and their descendants'. Failure to implement *Bringing them home* recommendations on governance and accountability means that responsibility has not been met, contributing to the overall lack of progress on the report's recommendations.

"There have been decades of reports, research and inquiries, but too little action. With only one year until the 30-year anniversary of Bringing them home, there is no excuse left for inactivity. Survivors have already done the hard work by sharing their truths – leaders now need to do their part and move from sorry to action."

Professor Steve Larkin,
Board Chair, The Healing Foundation (Kungarakan)

Priority Area 5 – Actions

Vision	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
5.1 There is strengthened accountability for the delivery of the *Bringing them home* report recommendations through the Joint Council on Closing the Gap.	5.1.1 States and territories include relevant actions within their Closing the Gap jurisdictional implementation plans	State and territory Indigenous Affairs Ministers	Ongoing
	5.1.2 The Joint Council on Closing the Gap considers The Healing Foundation's report on progress against this action plan annually.	Joint Council on Closing the Gap	December 2026
	5.1.3 The Joint Council on Closing the Gap includes Stolen Generations as a standing item in all meetings, to enable discussion about progress against the Action Plan.	Joint Council on Closing the Gap	Ongoing
	5.1.4 Under the leadership of The Healing Foundation Board and Reference Groups, a network/s of SGOs and survivors is established to more broadly inform the Action Plan and next steps post 2027.	The Healing Foundation	May 2028
5.2 Data collection and reporting on Stolen Generations and their descendants is strengthened.	5.2.1 NIAA undertakes a review of the data collected on Stolen Generations, their descendants and SGOs in consultation with The Healing Foundation and survivors.	NIAA	May 2027
	5.2.2 Include data on survivors and where possible, their descendants, in the Closing the Gap reporting dashboard.	The Productivity Commission, Co-Chairs of the Data Policy Partnership	February 2027
	5.2.3 Include as a priority of the Data Policy Partnership reporting of data on survivors and their descendants in regular reporting on health, wellbeing and other measures.		

We cannot wait another generation for justice, action must be taken now

This Action Plan highlights the ongoing needs of Stolen Generations survivors across health, wellbeing, records access, redress, sector sustainability, education, and research. These are the ongoing needs that remain unmet three decades after they were called for.

This is unacceptable. However, with immediate and coordinated action, we can support intergenerational healing.

The Healing Foundation is calling on all responsible agencies to commit to the actions in this plan to support survivors across the priority areas:



1. **Health, social and emotional wellbeing, and ageing**
2. **Records, redress, and acknowledgements**
3. **Education, research, and data**
4. **Sector support and workforce development**
5. **Governance and accountability**

By committing to these priority actions, we will see an acknowledgment of what's needed, clear steps towards true and genuine progress, and a better future for remaining Stolen Generations survivors and the many thousands of descendants across the country.

While we know this doesn't solve all of the *Bringing them home* recommendations, we've set out tangible actions that are needed to get this country further to the commitment to survivors that was made almost three decades ago.

Actions speak louder than words. It's time to move from Sorry to Action.

Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACARA	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
ACCHO	Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AITSL	Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership
AM	Member of the Order of Australia
ARIIA	Aged Care Research and Industry Innovation Australia
CAARA	Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DHDA	Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
DSS	Department of Social Services
FOI	Freedom of Information
GP	General Practitioner
ICIP	Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
NACCHO	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
NATSIAACC	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NLA	National Library of Australia
NSW	New South Wales
QLD	Queensland
RTI	Right to Information
SCAG	Standing Council of Attorneys-General
SEWB	Social and Emotional Wellbeing
SGO	Stolen Generations organisation

Supporting Stolen Generations survivors and organisations



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